

Editorial

A few days before the end of 2017, on the eve of the new year 2018, the Council of Bogotá issued Agreement 696 of 2017 by which it orders the issuance and collection of the stamp Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas 50 años. This agreement determines that any person or entity that signs contracts with the agencies and entities of the capital district must pay in favor of the same Universidad Distrital and the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, the Estampilla Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas 50 años, equivalent to one point one percent of the value of the contract. This is a tax designed to financially assist universities in the payment of their pension liabilities, for investment in physical development, endowment, equipment, and research. This stamp will be collected for 30 years and is expected to have a strong impact on strengthening the coverage, quality, and research of public universities in the Colombian capital.

The investment advanced by the Universidad Distrital for the year 2008 and previous years did not exceed 6% of the annual budget, this was because most of the budget was for operating expenses (largely payments of pension liabilities). This not only prevented institutional growth but also made it difficult to sustain the institution's operating costs, reducing its indicators of quality and coverage. This environment led to the creation of the stamp, a figure already known by other universities in the country. In 2001 the stamp was authorized to be issued, and it has now become the main source of investment resources, thanks to which new campuses have been built, existing campuses strengthened, academic programs and coverage in education increased, and in general, the different performance indices have been raised to the point of achieving institutional accreditation in the year 2016.

The two hundred billion Colombian pesos initially agreed in 2001 were exhausted, which is why this new 30-year agreement was established. These new monies guarantee the continuity of projects, a greater strengthening of the academy, and improvements in all its indexes and commitments, but also make the institution aware of its dependence, and of its need to generate alternative sources of self-financing that in addition to autonomy will allow it to grow even more in the national and international arena.

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