The engine of Quadruple Helix for Sustainable Human Development: the role of civicness and spirituality

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Research on transformative R&I have long argued that the involvement of constellations of actors belonging to different sectors of society is necessary to pursue a systemic approach that allows to obtain a real change in the society. Among the potential configurations of partnerships and networks on a local basis, the Quadruple Helix stands out as a collaborative governance mechanism capable of involving public administrations, companies, the third sector and the university in social innovation processes.

In this paper, we propose that QE processes and relations towards Sustainable Human Development (SHD) start as a deep individual/collective inner process manifested as a change of values stemming from a strong civicness and enhanced spirituality. This underlines that the motivation of diverse actors toward a common cause should be triggered by the expansion from an egocentric value system to one that includes care for others and the environment for integral well-being of all.

Therefore, this paper intends providing both a theoretical and policy-related advancement within the QE debate by discussing how the inner component of civicness and spirituality represent the real engine activating QE relations and triggering transformative R&I processes towards SHD.