

Editorial

2021 has been a very complex year for the country, where the economic challenges, aggravated by the pandemic, were joined by social protests, probably accumulated, and exacerbated by the pandemic and economic pressures. To this was added the significant decrease in the levels of acceptance of the government, which shows a panorama of weakening of governance in the country. However, it was also the year of massive vaccinations, practically all over the world, which contained the pandemic, and allowed the economic recovery to begin; In fact, in Colombia, transactional and commercial activities reached in June 2021 almost the same levels as at the end of 2019.

The social mobilizations are the most outstanding political event of the year, which begin in the month of April, with the call from various sectors for a national strike and extend practically throughout the year. The tax reform project originated the protest, but without a doubt the existing social inequalities in the country, the delays in the implementation of the peace process, and the scarcity of future opportunities perceived by young people, sustain, and feed the protest much beyond the day of April 28.

Likewise, economically, 2021 ends with an economy that registered significant growth despite the pandemic, there are still high rates of unemployment and growth in informal employment. In this sense, the National Association of Entrepreneurs of Colombia - ANDI (2021), asserts

that “consumption is driving the economy, which reflects an improvement in households; investment grows, indicating a confidence of the business community in the country and industrial exports register the highest growth in almost a decade. This is a clear transition to recovery”.

In the issue of the Administration & Development magazine, corresponding to the second semester of 2021 (Vol. 51, N°2), it presents ten (10) articles that, in one way or another, reflect the tensions, questions and reflections provoked in these two pandemic years.

In the first place, continuing with the concern about the impacts of non-face-to-face education to which we were pushed by the pandemic, the article *Distance education in times of pandemic: reflections from the ESAP Territorial Cauca*, presents the results of a project of research carried out in the six municipalities in which the Territorial Centers of Public Administration (CETAP) are in the Territorial Cauca. The results collect both the challenges and difficulties faced by the students, as well as by the teachers. In a reflective way, the article intertwines the findings with the characteristics of the territory.

Next, we find three articles that address, from a universal perspective, recurring questions in the public sphere, but deeply incisive. In this sense, insisting on unresolved questions is usually the most appropriate method to find answers. The first of the articles, with the characteristics, is the one titled *Global health and*

government, the first challenge of humanity, which presents a reflection on the challenges of global health, of long standing, but made visible again as a consequence of the COVID-19, and even more interesting, on the role of governments in building effective health systems; and, from research, it also provides clues about the characteristics of health systems that can be considered exemplary.

The second article in this block is *Phenomenology of Public Governance*, which constitutes a reflection, from a philosophical framework, on the distinctive properties and problems and principles of public governance; to, based on this analysis, propose a new governance model aimed at controlling institutional failures, and governmental managerial errors, to advance towards inclusive societies.

The third article in this line is *Notes on Physiocracy in the Enlightened World: Characteristics, Scope, and Reflections on Eighteenth-Century Society*, is another reflection text, from a contemporary perspective, on an economic theory of the Eighteenth-Century, centered on the agricultural production, in a world on the way to modernity, via the illustration.

The article *Corruption in Colombia* returns to a phenomenon that seriously affects the administration of the country's public resources, and that profoundly deteriorates the confidence of the constituent in the government authorities. The question that this article leaves open is whether it is possible to change a culture that

has "normalized" corrupt conduct. Likewise, and related to the issue of corruption, the article *Influence of the ethical principles of the public accountant in tax evasion*, shows, based on the existing evidence, the number of accountants sanctioned by the Central Board of Accountants for ethical offenses related with evasion, and reflects on the costs for the country of unethical behaviors that, although individual, directly affect the common good, to the extent that the greatest evasion is recorded in income taxes and at the value added VAT, which constitute the main source of collection of the Public Treasury.

The article *Feminization of poverty and migratory flows in Colombia*, addresses the issue of migration from Venezuela, with a gender perspective, and puts on the table the issue of the commodification of female bodies, their purchase and sale, and the total ignorance of people's rights. Venezuelan migrants, due to their own condition, are more vulnerable to this type of abuse, aggravating an already problematic situation in the country, such as the feminization of poverty. The closing call, in the article, points to the need for public policies that promote positive discrimination measures, aimed at eliminating the factors of gender discrimination and closing the inequality gap.

The article *White Protein Cluster: economic internationalization of Valle del Cauca*, an analysis of regional companies, shows the main results obtained with respect to the administrative, commercial, financial and internationalization

conditions of the organizations that make up the White Protein Clusters and that stimulate the business development of Valle del Cauca.

The article *Exogenous evaluation of institutional capacity in times of crisis (COVID-19): local government resilience*, collects the perception of the economic and productive sectors in the Department of Tolima (Colombia) about the institutional capacity of subnational governments to face the economic problems caused by COVID-19. The findings point, once again, to the lack of articulation between the different levels of government, and to the need for financing in accordance with the costs of the problems that are sought to be solved. The article mentions how the deficiencies in institutional capacity are much more exposed in crisis environments, and how perhaps these can promote the strengthening of relations between government entities.

The third article with reference to the local sphere is entitled *Research in governance and Public Policies: Territorial Public Administration*, which presents an analysis of the value of research as a component of the Career in Territorial Public Administration (APT) of the Escuela Superior de Administración Pública -ESAP-. The undergraduate program in the territories reinforced its research components in the

search to strengthen the capacity of those who are linked, in one way or another, to the solution of public problems in the territory. The educational gap in the country is one of the causes of the lack of development of the territories; therefore, educating to solve problems is a way to contribute to the improvement of society.

Finally, I want to express my hope that, in the year 2022, thanks to the legislative and presidential elections, our social contract with democracy will be renewed, even partially, so that the social unrest expressed in this year 2021 contributes to strengthening a citizenry committed, that transcends the protest and moves on to advocacy.

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