

Yachay 'City of Knowledge': Ecuador's Billion-Dollar Innovation City and Its Governance Failures

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Ecuador

Quality score: 19/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Ecuador's USD 1bn+ 'City of Knowledge' at Yachay opened in 2014 with 187 students; a 2018 state audit found USD 31.4m embezzled and structural failures in half its buildings, and by recent counts the university had reached just 1,429 students against a 10,000 target.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	0/3
Scalability	0/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[Yachay EP / Yachay Tech University](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[Wikipedia: Yachay University](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

[Ecuador Times: Yachay corruption findings](#) — accessed 2026-08-25

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