

The Horizon team, a CIE-incubated startup that raised USD 3.5 million in 2025.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

ORT prepares graduates for decent, high-skill work and is a driver of Uruguay's entrepreneurial ecosystem. In 2025 the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship broke records in ideas submitted and companies created.

476

business ideas submitted to the CIE (306 in 2024)

18

new companies constituted with CIE support (11 in 2024)

75

companies and 5,000+ students at the first Employment Month

TEACHING & LEARNING

Employability

The average employment rate of university graduates over the last three years was 97%. ORT held its first Employment Month, expanding the Faculty of Engineering's 21-year-old fair into three days: 23 October (Engineering), 6 November (Communication and Design) and 13 November (Management and Architecture), with 75 companies and institutions and more than 5,000 students, plus workshops on personal branding and job search. A new employment portal was also launched. ort.edu.uy/novedades/mes-del-empleo-de-ort-2025

Decent work in the curriculum

Human Resources and People Management courses address gender perspective and wage agreements; New Digital Ventures and Social Innovation teach sustainable business models.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Entrepreneurship as science

Funded by ANII's María Viñas Fund, Dr. Marcos Segantini leads the Uruguayan arm of a global study, previously run in Italy, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Tanzania and the Czech Republic, testing whether training entrepreneurs in the scientific method improves their decisions; Uruguay is the first country in the Americas to take part, and the second stage focuses on sustainable business ideas. A complementary training programme is funded by INEFOP. facs.ort.edu.uy/novedades/fondo-maria-vinas-anii-financia-proyecto-...

Labour markets

Research on wages, market power and labour productivity in Uruguay was presented at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA).

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

Incubation pipeline

476 ideas were submitted; 53 pre-incubation projects reached the Business Idea Validation committee of ANII and the National Development Agency (ANDE); 24 were approved for funding. 25 incubated ventures received Seed Capital (18) or Innovative Entrepreneurs (7) funding, and 18 projects became companies. cie.ort.edu.uy/novedades/cie-reconocido-como-la-institucion-patroci...

National recognition and investment

ANDE recognized the CIE as the sponsor with the most approved Seed projects since 2016, in a year of record public funding for its ventures. Startups raised private rounds, including Horizon (USD 3.5 million), PayFlex (USD 800,000) and Kunstig Aero (USD 700,000).

Programmes for small businesses

INEFOP-funded programmes: Agility for SMEs (digital business models), Designing the Future (augmented and virtual reality), Eco-Entrepreneurs Driving the Green Economy and Innova Alimentos. The Co-founder Matching Day had 196 registrations. cie.ort.edu.uy/novedades/ecoemprendedores

20 course offerings linked to SDG 8 in 2025

- Nuevos Emprendimientos Digitales (Management)
- Bionegocios (Engineering)
- Electiva 7 (Emprendimientos en industrias creativas) (Design)
- Dirección de Negocios Sostenibles (Management)
- Creación de emprendimientos 1 (Architecture)
- Innovación Social (Management)
- Media Lab (Communication)
- Recursos Humanos (Management)
- Gestión de Personas (Management)

From the classroom to decent work and new companies



First Employment Month, October–November 2025: students meet employers at the university's stands.

For 21 years the Faculty of Engineering has held an employment fair declared of interest by the Ministries of Education and Culture and of Labour and Social Security. In 2025 ORT expanded it into its first Employment Month across all schools: 23 October for Engineering, 6 November for Communication and Design and 13 November for Management and Architecture. 75 companies and institutions, including Scanntech, Qubika, Sabre, Conaprole, El Observador, VML, PwC, KPMG, Santander and Zonamerica, met more than 5,000 students and graduates, and 210 students had professional profile photos taken in personal branding workshops.

Entrepreneurship is the other route to quality employment. In 2025 the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) received 476 business ideas, 56% more than in 2024. 53 projects reached the Business Idea Validation committee of ANII and the National Development Agency (ANDE), 25 incubated ventures received Seed Capital or Innovative Entrepreneurs funding, and 18 became companies, among them espor.ai, CellX, CropIA, Edifica and The Legal Tool.

ANDE recognized the CIE as the sponsor with the most approved Seed projects since the instrument was created in 2016. Private investors followed: Horizon raised USD 3.5 million, PayFlex USD 800,000 and Kunstig Aero USD 700,000, and Yeda, founded by a Biotechnology graduate, received the first USD 300,000 investment of OurCrowd LATAM Labs, a consortium that includes the CIE.

SELECTED 2025 PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS BY ORT FACULTY

1. Casacuberta, C., & Gandelman, N. (2025). Wages, market power and labor productivity: Evidence from Uruguay (Working Paper nro. IDB-WP-1682). Inter American Development Bank.
2. Casacuberta, C., & Gandelman, N. (2025). On the use of the factor share approach to measure labor market power. Economics Bulletin, 45(3), 1365-1375.
3. Segantini, M., & Dickes, L. A. (2025). Creative-entrepreneurs and new venture performance. Creative Industries Journal.
4. Matturro, G., Alpuy, S., & Riaño, F. (2025). Mentoring on common software engineering practices for software startups. En Information Technology and Systems. ICITS 2025. Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems, vol 1448 (pp. 49-59). Springer.
5. Gelabert, L., Pereyra, M., & Roldán, F. (2025). Public support prevalence and innovation behavior. Uruguay 2007-2015.
6. Aboal, D., Lanzilotta, B., Pereyra, M., & Queraltó, M. P. (2025). Regional development and convergence clubs in Uruguay. Economía Aplicada, 27(3), 351-381.