Introduction
The progress of a nation cannot be measured only through its real Gross Domestic Product or its economic wealth. People's quality of life (QoL) and their well-being are also key indicators of the progress and sustainable development of a country and its regions. For that reason, higher education institutions (HEIs) are great contributors, since, in addition to the economic returns for individuals and for society, higher education improves the QoL in a direct way. This research project uses an innovative approach for studying the impact that HEIs have on QoL of the regions where they are located, based on qualitative and quantitative analyses.

Objectives
(i) To analyze the state of the art regarding studies related to the efficiency of HEIs in terms of transforming resources (monetary and non-monetary) into outputs.
(ii) From this analysis, identify and collect the main inputs and outputs of HEIs that may have an impact on the influence region of the institution and indicate those that may have an impact on the QoL of the population of this same influence region.

Methodology
The methodological design comprises two main stages.
First, a review of the literature on the efficiency of HEIs was carried out, as well as the analysis of several frameworks related to QoL.
Second, a proposal of indicators and the U-Value analysis model is presented.

Results
In this research project, HEIs are positioned as organizations that require inputs to produce outputs. According to the relevant literature, we opted for using an input approach on the demand side (based on expenditure) and an output approach on the supply side (based on knowledge), incorporating qualitative and quantitative data. Regarding QoL, the studies developed by the OECD and the World Happiness Report were taken into account, and several indicators were found that focus on well-being in terms of material living conditions and well-being in terms of QoL of populations. From the previous, it results the design of the following analytical model titled: U-Value model.