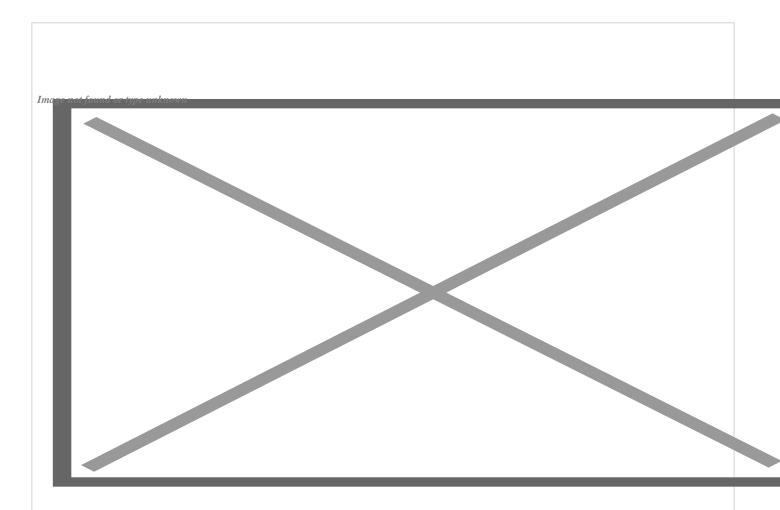# *Twenty years of Fidel's strategic project*

More than 15 thousand engineers and technicians have been trained in its classrooms.

By María Josefina Arce

In the process of informatization of Cuban society, the UCI, University of Informatics Sciences, plays an essential role. It was described as strategic for the life and economy of the country by the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, the architect of the birth of this Higher Education center in 2002.

More than 15 thousand engineers and technicians have been trained in its classrooms, with a high level of specialization in the work with information technologies and communications.

The center also currently offers opportunities for improvement and guaranteed employment for all its graduates.

They are young people who today contribute to the advancement of the nation, to its technological independence and cybersecurity, in the face of the constant cyber-attacks, each time of greater scope and diversity, to which our country is subjected from the United States.

For two decades the institution has devised various projects to bring new technologies closer to the population, an aspect contained in the Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution.

The applications created by the UCI have a great impact, since they are present in sectors such as education, science, health and culture.

Since its foundation, the University of Informatics Sciences has participated in the development of computer applications and services for the Cuban health sector. Thus, it has created and implemented the Medical Imaging Platform, the Hospital Informatization System and the Clinical Trials Data Management System.

The arrival of COVID 19 meant a new challenge. It became necessary to detect possible cases in time for rapid medical attention and to prevent their spread. Thus was born the Virtual Screener, developed by the UCI together with the Ministries of Public Health and Communications.

The center of higher education also devised the audiovisual content platform PICTA, which allowed, in the midst of the pandemic, the live broadcasting of television channels, timely information from the government on the behavior of the virus and teleclasses aimed at students at different levels of education.

The creation of the University of Informatics Sciences, thanks to the efforts of Fidel Castro, is an example of Cuba's effort to connect knowledge, science and technology to everyday life, to respond to the needs of society to advance in a better country.

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