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Survey: [Proposals from members](#)

Date: Wed, 25 Mar 2026 17:48:51 -0400

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Questions

1. Name of Proponent(s)*:

Lead proponent:

Estefanía Hernández-Pineda, member, Student section

Support from section leaders:

Stijn Van Ewijk, Chair, Public Policy section

Dominik Wiedenhofer, Chair, Sustainable Circular Economy section

Simron Singh, Chair, Islands section

Support from 4thISIE Americas & the Caribbean Conference:

Bart van Hoof, Co-chair, 4thISIE Americas & the Caribbean Conference

Glenn A. Aguilar-Hernandez, Co-chair, 4thISIE Americas & the Caribbean Conference

Ramzy Kahhat, Organizing Committee, 4thISIE Americas & the Caribbean Conference

Alessia Linares Capurro, Organizing Committee, 4thISIE Americas & the Caribbean Conference

2. Country(ies)*:

Latin America and the Caribbean

3. Title of Proposal*:

A Science–Industry Pilot to Advance Industrial Ecology in Practice in Latin America

4. * WHAT IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE PROPOSAL?

As part of the ISIE Americas & the Caribbean conference 2026 conference in Colombia, we propose a pilot workshop to strengthen the science–industry–policy nexus. The workshop will bring together scholars from across Latin America with Colombian small and medium enterprises, public servants, and business associations that bridge industry and public policy in practice, while generating lessons for ISIE to strengthen this nexus globally.

Participants will attend a full-day facilitated workshop guided by experienced consultants and accompanied by leading scholars from the region. The workshop explores opportunities for industrial symbiosis and circular economy within the Colombian

industrial ecosystem and across sectors while identifying key policy-relevant barriers and drivers.

The proposal builds on groundwork established by the engagement of active scholars in the region, including Bart van Hoof, Glenn A. Aguilar-Hernandez, and Ramzy Kahhat, whose work has advanced the field through material databases, policy engagement and community building fostered in previous conferences. As the fourth edition of ISIE's regional conference, this meeting provides a valuable opportunity to continue previous efforts and further strengthen the science-industry-policy nexus, in line with the Society's strategic mission statement and the creation of its new policy section.

5. * WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERS?

ISIE conferences are valuable spaces to connect scientists with businesses and policymakers, but meaningful exchange requires better alignment with business language, decision-making processes, and time constraints. This proposal pilots a facilitated workshop format to bridge that gap, offering a replicable structure for future conferences grounded in academic knowledge and practical consulting experience. It responds to the 2024 annual report's call to strengthen partnerships that translate research into real-world solutions. By fostering the science–industry–policy nexus in Latin America, it advances ISIE's mission while expanding engagement in the region that represents only 2% of its membership.

Expected outputs for ISIE include: (1) a roadmap identifying Colombia's key circular economy opportunities, alongside policy-relevant insights for the region and research agenda for ISIE sections; and (2) a blog with a short, embedded video showcasing workshop insights. This pilot can inform similar initiatives across the Global South while strengthening collaboration across sections.

6. * WHO WOULD GOVERN OR OPERATE THE PROPOSAL?

Estefanía Hernández-Pineda – student section
Bart van Hoof – Industrial Symbiosis section

7. * WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL (e.g. Administrative, Financial, personnel)

This initiative is supported by the efforts of the organizing committee of the '4th ISIE Americas & the Caribbean 2026: Advancing a Circular Economy in the Global South' and University of los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. The venue and access to classrooms and required technologies are already secured by the university thanks to the organization committee's support.

Since the workshop will take place the day before the conference, the University will extend all the support that it is giving to the conference to this initiative and it will provide

(a) financial support by leveraging its partnerships with local hotels to offer discounted accommodation for attendees, and (b) administrative support in designing and running the website for registration to the workshop and the university logistic personnel will also support in coordinating snacks, lunches and all material required for the event.

8. * IS THIS PROPOSAL DEFINED WITHIN A SINGLE ISIE SECTION OR ACROSS SECTIONS?

Across sections: policy, symbiosis, and circular economy sections.

9. EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL (FROM WITHIN OR ACROSS SECTIONS OR REGIONS)

Among the proponents are the leaders from policy, symbiosis, circular economy and islands sections. As well as all the members from the 4th ISIE Americas & the Caribbean 2026 conference organizing committee.

10. IF ISIE MEMBER FOR <2 YEARS, PROVIDE NAME OF SUPPORTING ISIE BOARD MEMBER OR SECTION LEADER

- Stijn Van Ewijk, Chair, Public Policy section
- Simron Singh, Chair, Islands section
- Bart van Hoof, Secretary, Islands section
- Dominik Wiedenhofer, Chair, Sustainable Circular Economy section

11. APPROXIMATE BUDGET IF APPLICABLE (Financial estimates and explanations)

5,000 EUR

- Workshop development and execution = 2,000 EUR
 - Catering = 1,000 EUR
 - Materials = 200 EUR
 - Audio and visual documentation = 300 EUR
 - Webinars and advertising for the workshop = 300 EUR
 - Product development and design (Roadmap, blog, and video) = 1200 EUR
- This budget is an estimate; however, actual expenses will be based on receipts.

12. OTHER

Two preparatory webinars will be held in the preceding months to the workshop to promote the event, engage potential participants, introduce key concepts, and ensure a shared baseline of knowledge. Industry and public servants will be invited to these sessions share the value generation opportunities involved in circular economy for businesses in Colombia.

Schedule draft:

- June – First Webinar
- August – Second Webinar
- November – Facilitated Workshop Day
- December – February – Roadmap, blog and video development for ISIE.