

UNICATA UPDATES



Photos taken by Felipe Palma

EXOCATADORES 2023 CONFERENCE



UNICATA participated in the Exocatadores conference, a significant inclusive circular economy event in Latin America from the 19th to 22nd of December. Organized by the National Waste Pickers movement in Brazil (MNCR), this conference brings together waste experts, federal and state governments, public managers, companies, and universities, with the aim of promoting efficient management of solid waste through social inclusion and improved working conditions for waste pickers.

UNICATA students traveled by bus from Sao Paulo to Brasilia, accompanied by graduate student Felipe Palma, who covered the event as a photographer. Recent graduates (16 from Sao Paulo and 17 from Brasilia) were awarded certificates for their completion of module one, and presented the findings from the research projects they conducted during the course. Representatives tabled at the event and resources were made available, including a booklet of research conducted by Sao Paulo graduates in the August 2023 session, and the finalized book of module one with all the teaching material developed.



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The 10th edition of Expocataadores represents a milestone of struggle and resilience, and a celebration of the journey of waste pickers in the search of inclusion, dignity, and visibility. The theme of this year was to emphasise the urgency of the current situation, where waste picker work is losing value, resulting in the inability to financially support themselves and pay their bills. Cutting edge discussions took place during the conference, including topics such as: the social implications of closing down landfills, and climate justice issues such as identifying how waste pickers are more vulnerable to climate change.

A meeting with the secretariat of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) took place to present the UNICATA project, which led to the project garnering official support to build continuity.

