DEVELOPING EVALUATION CAPACITIES
The ReLAC´s experience

Luis Soberón A.

Red de Seguimiento, Evaluación y Sistematización en América Latina y el Caribe
Year of foundation 2003

http://noticiasrelac.ning.com/
Mission

To foster evaluation culture and practice as a fundamental social and political process to achieve better policies, programs and projects, within a context of greater transparency and citizen participation.
Objectives

Foster, support, promote, develop, contribute

Interchange and reflection spaces

Capacities

Principles, procedures and ethical criteria for good practices

Development and diffusion of concepts, methodologies and tools adapted to region’s cultural diversity
Objectives

Foster, support, promote, develop, contribute

Transparent, participative and equitable use of resources by national and international organizations

Development of an international community informed by region cultural diversity and experiences

Development of national and sub national organizations and networks
Conferences

2004 Lima, Evaluation, Democracy and Governance: Challenges for Latin America

2007 Bogotá, Monitoring and Evaluation contributions to Democracy and Governance in Latin America

2010 San José, Social Reforms, Evaluation and Citizen Participation in Latin America: Forum and Possibilities
ReLAC capacity building program
First steps

- Context: 2004 Conference and Assembly

- Constitution of evaluators group with academic involvement

- Aim: design and implement a program to promote and enhance capacities on evaluation in the region

- Countries with universities represented in the group: Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Honduras, Ecuador
Strategy for capacity building adopted

Design and implementation of an

E-Learning Master Degree Program on Evaluation

A modality accessible to evaluators and professionals interested in the field of evaluation across the whole region
Support

For this initiative, since the start, ReLAC counted with the support of UNICEF, particularly from the Evaluation Office directed by Jean Quesnel and Ada Ocampo, both with an active participation in group’s discussions.

The group counted also with the advise of Arnold Love and Saville Kushner.

UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America gave support for a inventory and situational study of training programs on evaluation conducted by Welmer Ramos and Ronny Muñoz.
Meetings for elaboration

Lima  2004
Tegucigalpa  2005
Bogotá  2006
Panama  2007
Bogota  2007 (Conference)
Program components

Evaluator’s profile for LAC evaluation
Criteria and pedagogical principles
Curricula
Evaluators profile: Capacities

- Knowledge of LAC societies’ reality
- Understanding and response to cultural and social diversity
- Approach social change in social contexts of exclusion, power asymmetry, and predominance of legalism and economicism
Evaluators profile: Capacities

- Perform evaluations with autonomy in contexts characterized by particularism and low transparency
- Knowledge and commitment with human rights
- Assuming M&E strategic role to achieve developmental goals
CORE COMPETENCES

Knowledge about evaluation function
Program and project cycle
Development change

Contextual analysis, stakeholders, power relations
Interpersonal relations

Guided by values and ethic principles

Self reflection, commitment to professional development

Knowledge, skills for research and analysis

Knowledge about evaluation function
Program and project cycle
Development change
Learning principles

- Learning community
- Learning centered in the person
- Learning as permanent process
- Interaction and dialogue
- Creative tension in learning situations
- Learning by doing, reflection on real experiences
Learning principles

- Challenging cases and simulations
- Collaborative work
- Aperture to complexity and uncertainty
- Flexible curricula with options that respond to diverse interests of students
Curricula structure

I Introduction and contexts
II Conceptual frames

IV Synthesis and application
III Methodology and tools
I: Introduction and contexts

- Evaluation and development in LAC
- Evaluation and public policies
- Dilemmas in evaluation
II: Conceptual frames

- Theory of evaluation
- Evaluative reasoning
- Types of evaluation
- Management based in results and logic models
- Rights approach
- Principles, norms and standards
III: Methodology and tools

- Mixed methods: an integrated approach
- Qualitative and quantitative methods
- Indicators
- Socio-economic, financing and technical components
- Institutional and political components
- Evaluation of processes and outcomes
- Impact evaluation
IV: Synthesis and application

- Evaluation design
- Management of evaluation
- Evaluation project (practical application)
From design to practice

Preparation for E-learning (FLACSO Ecuador)

Looking for universities allies

FLACSO Chile opportunity to start

Alejandra Faúndez and Andrés Palma, two members of ReLAC group, with key positions as Academic Coordinator and Program Coordinator.
FLACSO-Chile
Latin America Faculty of Social Sciences

Social Management and Public Policy Program

Magíster in Management for Development

Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Programs (FLACSO – ReLAC)
Modality

Regular

3 weeks, exclusive dedication

Application work
Cycles offered

January 2008

January 2009

November 2009
Students institutional origins

Predominance of public sector: Ministries, regional and provincial governs, municipalities

60 students completed the Diploma
Discontinuation of FLACSO diploma and not new opportunities and alternatives for the implementation of ReLAC Program

Change of Government in Chile, brought a change in FLACSO’s authorities and cancelation of the Diploma

Attempts to establish and alliance with other university failed

Lack of legal status seen as a limitation to establish agreements of institutional collaboration
Need to review the Program after the experience carried out with FLACSO

A proposal was elaborated for this purpose with the support and encouragement of Belen Saenz and Cecilia Rocha and presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC – Spain Government), but without the concretion of the expected financial support.
EvalPartners a new opportunity to renew the ReLAC initiative

Lost of momentum and impulse after the FLACSO experience (latency)

Renewing the impulse with EvalPartners initiative

Currently working in the preparation of an E-Learning course
Acknowledgments

Institutions and persons that contributed to make possible the ReLAC experience in designing and implementing the program for education on evaluation

UNICEF Office of Evaluation
UNICEF Latin American Regional Program
FLACSO – Ecuador
FLACSO – Chile
AECID – MAEC
Canadian Evaluation Society

Jean Quesnel
Ada Ocampo
Arnold Love
Saville Kushner
Belen Saenz
Cecilia Rocha
Andrés Palma
Alejandra Faundez
# List of participants in the ReLAC Academic Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ada Ocampo</td>
<td>Oficina Evaluación UNICEF</td>
<td>USA - Perú</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alejandra Faúndez</td>
<td>FLACSO Chile</td>
<td>Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrés Palma</td>
<td>FLACSO Chile</td>
<td>Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteban Tapella</td>
<td>Universidad Nacional de San Juan</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloria Vela</td>
<td>Corporación Universitaria Minuto de Dios</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Quesnel</td>
<td>Oficina Evaluación UNICEF</td>
<td>USA - Canadá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jorge Orbe</td>
<td>Universidad Católica del Ecuador</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Ponce</td>
<td>FLACSO Ecuador</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopoldo Font</td>
<td>Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luis Soberón</td>
<td>Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú</td>
<td>Perú</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martín Spraggon</td>
<td>Universidad de Québec</td>
<td>Canadá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nerio Neirotti</td>
<td>IIEP - UNESCO</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pablo Rodríguez</td>
<td>Universidad de San Juan</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricio Zurita</td>
<td>Universidad APEC - UNAPEC</td>
<td>R. Dominicana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergio Martinic</td>
<td>Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile</td>
<td>Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Víctor M. Quintero</td>
<td>Universidad de San Buenaventura Cali</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xinia Picado</td>
<td>Consultora</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Institutional affiliations correspond to the date of conclusion of the design (2007)
Thank you for your kindly attention