

rapid

Research and Policy
in Development

Research Policy Networks in Peru: Achieving and Supporting Change

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The networks

- CIES (general economic and social policy)
- Foro Salud (Health)
- Foro Educativo (Education)
- Participa Peru (Regional governance)
- CONVEAGRO (Agriculture)
- Peru 2021 (CSR)
- The Mesa (on the elderly)

Main Barrier for Policy Influence

1. High turnover of policy makers
2. The government is still closed to participation and receptivity depend on a few individuals with close ties to CSOs
3. Lack of understanding or interest of the key issues among the media
4. Lack of policy analysis
5. CSOs have no institutional memory
6. CSOs carryout mostly ad-hoc policy influence activities

Some best practices

1. Plan medium to long term communication strategies
2. Link the grassroots with the policymakers
3. Go after key individuals in the policy process
4. Create spaces for debate
5. Use the system and the spaces for policy engagement it provides
6. Are media savvy and employ media experts
7. Create networks to provide strategic support and agency

Some emerging themes

1. Institutional vs. individual membership
2. Policy influence alone vs. policy through empowerment
3. Partnership vs. sub-contracting relations
4. Centralised vs. decentralised
5. Legitimacy via representation vs. credibility
6. Creating networks to fill gaps and develop strategic partners
7. Research capacity at the secretariat vs. the members
8. Managing change

Some recommendations

1. Define the purpose of the network
2. Find the right structure for the network; given the functions it aims to fulfil
3. Strategic opportunism
4. Develop living institutional memories by introducing knowledge management tools
5. Strengthen internal relations
6. Develop inter network relations
7. Integrate consultation with the members and policy influence
8. Use affordable and friendly social technologies
9. Make sure that members are constantly motivated to participate in the network

How to support

- Civil Society Partnerships Programme (CSPP) Global Network
- Regional Network
 - For lessons sharing (CIES and FARO)
 - For networked action (CIES)
 - For resources
- Action Research Projects (CIES)
- Capacity development
- Improved communications (LACG)
- ...Partnerships Building

Further Information

- RAPID:
 - Website: www.odi.org.uk/rapid
 - Networks:
www.odi.org.uk/rapid/projects/ppa0103
- CSPP:
 - Website: www.odi.org.uk/cspp
 - D-group: www.dgroups.org/groups/cspp-al
 - Email: e.mendizabal@odi.org.uk