



*SPACES FOR ENGAGEMENT:
Using knowledge to improve public policy in favor of the poor*

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ONLINE
COURSE ON HOW TO BUILD A POLICY
INFLUENCE PLAN**

*SHARING LESSONS LEARNED IN LATIN AMERICA,
ASIA AND AFRICA*

Launch of the call:

23/12/2010

Deadline for the reception of proposals:

23/01/2011

1. BACKGROUND

The project “Spaces for Engagement: Using knowledge to improve pro poor public policy” is a [GNet](#) initiative, implemented in Latin America by [CIPPEC](#). The program builds on the results of four years of intense work that aimed at improving the bridge between research and public policies. The project started by unifying efforts to strengthen the capacity of Latin American policy research institutes (PRIs) on their influence in public policies through diverse activities such as: research, practical handbooks, workshops, face to face meetings and virtual exchange of experiences in a [Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#).

During these years, an increasing interest has been identified among researchers, organizations, and academic institutions to learn and improve their capacities to influence public policies. Therefore, to give respond to this demand, we studied the bridge between research and policy in its whole (not focusing solely on the supply –research- or on the demand –policy- side). This is based on the understanding that the dynamic process takes place in the constant interaction, creation and utilization of spaces shared by both sectors, and thus engaging both sides in a constant process of interplay. This process is a very complex one in Latin America and such spaces are still in inception.

A high amount of experiences and lessons learned have been developed in this CoP during these years. We believe it is not only useful but necessary to share them with other southern regions, such as Africa and Asia. Not only organizations in these continents are concerned with all of these issues but also donors and international community are willing to know how to improve the link between research and governmental decisions in order to enhance public policies. Thereby this course responds to the necessity of improving organizational capacity to influence public policies in developing countries.

Through this call, GDN and CIPPEC will support the participation of those who wish to expand their skills and knowledge to plan and implement public policy influence strategies.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective is to develop and improve current capacities of researchers, trainers and members of PRIs on their influence on decision makers regarding public policies in their countries in the regions of Africa and Asia. Scholarships will be given to participate in this course.

2.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To promote and strengthen a policy influence planning culture within PRIs.

To facilitate theoretical materials and reflections on the advantages and limitations of planning

To equip participants with practical tools and methodologies to improve the diverse stages of policy influence

To promote online discussion and exchange of practical experiences related to recurrent and crucial challenges in influencing policy in developing countries

3. CONTENT

The course consists of six modules that will focus on the main components of a plan for influencing public policies through research. The topics to be covered are:

1. Introduction and overall approach to public policy influence
2. The importance of defining the policy objective/s and actors involved
3. Designing and developing a concrete proposal for building a policy influence plan
4. Defining strategies and actions
5. Effective communication
6. What did we learn? Monitoring and evaluating our influence

4. DELIVERY OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE PARTICIPATION

- a.* Due to the fact that the quota for the participation at the online course is limited, postulants must send a brief essay explaining the reasons that motivate them to participate and the utility they will give to the learned contents.
- b.* The document's cover must include: postulant's name and organization he/she belongs to (if pertinent).
- c.* The document must be presented in A4 paper, using Book Antiqua font size 12 with simple space between lines and no more than 2 pages.
- d.* A résumé or CV.

5. SCHEDULE

Activity	Date
Deadline for postulant's presentation	January, 23 rd , 2011

Activity	Date
Selection and notification of winners	January, 28 th , 2011
Beginning of the course (duration: 6 weeks)	January 31 st , 2011

6. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Criteria to select the participants will include: 1) reasons exposed in the essay, 2) the experience of the postulant and/or his/her organization regarding public policies' influence, 3) the commitment of the participant and organization to share with others the generated knowledge.

7. REQUIREMENTS

- i. In order to be qualified to apply, all interested must be registered as a member of the Evidence Based Policy in Development Network (www.ebpdn.org) and at GDNNet (www.gdnet.org)¹.
- ii. Interested participants must also submit their résumés.
- iii. The reception of the document will be up until January 23rd, 2011 (7 pm GMT) via email to crichards@cippec.org.
- iv. Winners will be committed to participate in dialogue spaces organized by GDN and/or CIPPEC in order to socialize lessons learnt.

Contact us:
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¹ Those who are not registered can do it without costs.