

Call for Papers

First Meeting of the IMPACT EVALUATION NETWORK at LACEA at Universidad de los Andes, October 3rd, 2007.

The evaluation of the effectiveness of programs began with welfare and job training programs in the U.S. and is now increasingly employed in developing countries. Many interesting lessons emerged from this literature with respect to how to conduct a rigorous evaluation. Scientifically sound evaluations are needed because they are crucial for generating political support for the continuation or expansion of the programs. Moreover, evaluation findings may also inform policy makers outside national boundaries. Their public good value justifies funding evaluations with resources beyond those available domestically.

However, consensus about the need of serious impact evaluation at the policy making level is not general yet. There are many programs whose evaluation would shed light to similar/new activities, but they either go unevaluated or they are evaluated using techniques which are far from best practices in impact evaluation.

Activities aimed at promoting impact evaluation methodology in terms of capacity building and bridging research and policy in the more disadvantaged countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are important in order to close the gap between state of the art evaluation techniques in developed countries and their application in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

The IMPACT EVALUATION NETWORK (IEN) is an initiative that aims to advance the state of knowledge and expertise regarding impact evaluation of different policies.

The meeting program will include the presentation of a keynote speaker and papers selected on the basis of academic merit, each with a formal discussant. Submitted papers will be reviewed by a program committee.

Final papers should be sent by August 20th 2007. Strict compliance with this deadline is required. Decisions about accepted papers will be made by September 3rd 2007.

Papers (Word or PDF files) and any inquiries concerning the meeting should be sent by e-mail to: malzua@ieral.org

Organizing Committee

Alzua, Maria Laura - IERAL de Fundación Mediterránea, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Barrera, Felipe - Human Development Network-The World Bank

Santiago, Ana - Evaluation Economist -Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE) Inter-American Development Bank