**Case Study Template for Panels**

- Please provide your input in the boxes below. Format as you wish. Please aim for a ~2 page case study, but if you go longer that is not an issue.
- Your input will be provided to K* conference attendees and to those participating via Webex. It will also eventually appear in the Green Paper.
- Please return to your session chair with copies to alex.biellak@unu.edu and furqan.asif@unu.edu

| **Case Study Title:** “Spaces for engagement: using knowledge to improve public decisions” |
| **Case Study Presenter:** Leandro Echt and Vanesa Weyrauch |
| **Presenter Affiliation:** Civil Society Directorate, Center for the Implementation of Public Policies promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC) |

**1. What is/was the context and key challenge(s) in your K* case study?**
   - When, where and how long did this initiative occur, or is it ongoing?

   - Joint initiative between GDNet and CIPPEC
   - Long-term engagement: 5 years of intense program (developing the sixth year)
   - First years working in Latin America
   - Objective: promote the links between research and policy in Latin America
   - Promote South – South collaboration between Latin America, Asia and Africa
   - Improve both supply (researchers, policy research institutes or think tanks, and CSOs) and demand (policy makers) capacities to better use evidence to inform public policies

**2. Who are/were the players and why did/do they need to come together?**
   - What was/is the reach of the initiative?

   - The project seeks to improve both supply (researchers, policy research institutes or think tanks, and CSOs) and demand (policy makers) capacities to better use evidence to inform and design public policies
   - Evidence, understanding not only as the findings emerged from academic, policy research institutes, civil society organizations international organizations’ researches, but also as the historical experiences, good practices form other contexts or expertise of a certain organization, could be a key resource to make policy decisions
   - Evidence can inform policies: achieve recognition of a policy problem that had gone undetected, inform the design and the choice of a policy, predict the future (long-term thinking), M&E policy implementation, evaluate policy impact, enhance technical capacities of politics and public officers as well as researchers to translate their knowledge into policy terms

**3. How did/does K* play a role in the story, i.e. tools/techniques/approaches.**

   - K* objectives: primarily to strengthen the ability of researchers to influence public policies, and increasingly to also foster that of policy makers use of evidence in their decisions
   - Mix of methodologies (mix between theory & practice): research and generation of local knowledge (funds for paper productions), networks and debates (VIPPAL – Bridging research and policy in Latin America, www.vippal.cippec.org; virtual communities on the use of evidence in childhood and climate change policies; Evidence Based Policy Development Network, www.ebpdn.org), on line and off line trainings (How to build a policy influence plan, How to M&E policy influence, Improving childhood policies, Research communications, How to write policy briefs), development of training materials (handbooks, how to guides, modules) and technical assistance (to CSOs, thinks tanks and government
4. What was/is the intended impact/contribution of K* and, if you can, tell us whether K* had an impact and how.

Through the years the project aimed to deepen and expand a Community of Practice (CoP) composed by researchers from think tanks and policy research institutes as well as policy makers who are strongly committed to improving the use of development research in policymaking in Latin America. It seeks to also extend its outputs and knowledge to Asia and Africa.

The programme seeks to improve both supply (researchers, policy research institutes or think tanks, and CSOs) and demand (policy makers) capacities to better use evidence to inform and design public policies, through a mix of methodologies: research and generation of local knowledge, networks and debates, on line and off line trainings, development of training materials and technical assistance. Some indicators of our work are:

- 17 countries involved in LA
- 22 countries involved in Africa and Asia
- 400 policy research institutes (PRIs) networking in a Community of Practice
- 1 on line platform. VIPPAL – Bridging research and policy in LA
- 1 newsletter for LA
- 1600 resources on line
- 16 publications
- 1 Community of Executive Directors of LA PRIs with 13 countries and 23 CEOs involved
- 2 communities on use of evidence on childhood and climate change policies
- 4 regional workshops on cutting-edge topics related to research and policy
- 6 on line courses for LA: 94 PRIs trained on critical issues for policy influence and M&E
- 4 on line courses for Africa and Asia: 48 PRIs trained on critical issues for policy influence and M&E
- 1 on line course for LA policy makers working on childhood policies
- 5 peer assistance in LA with 7 countries involved
- 1 peer assistance between Africa, Asia and LA

5. What are the lessons from this example that others should know about/could be transferred, in general and particularly in a resource-limited context?

- Importance of identity and continuity: 5 years program
- On line courses. Very cost-effective capacity building strategy in LA and open markets in Africa and Asia
- Development of an on line training platform: reduced costs with broader scope
- Production of local knowledge. Key to understanding the main challenges for the use of research in policy making in LA
- Peer assistance. High demand in LA, Africa and Asia for exchanging lessons learned, especially through face to face meetings.
- Socialization of knowledge. Effective way to reflect on current practices and improve individual and organizational capacities
- Importance of produce and provide adequate knowledge and skills to promote organizational changes
- High demand of initiatives in which the link between research and policy applies specific fields or policy areas (climate change, childhood)
- To build commitment within a community of practice it is necessary to provide its members with tangible benefits such as training, technical assistance, face to face meetings, fund their research, etc.
- Generate lessons learned by each activity, in order to improve them in the future and M&E the own work
- Need to better articulate the communication tools of the program initiatives and products. Better presence in networks and key virtual spaces which address the project issues
- Need to develop a specific strategy for capacity building, establishing clear goals, integrate efforts and ensure a continuous M&E of our work

6. Any other observations...

Key challenges:
- Create greater synergies between the various platforms, newsletter and other communication tools
- Strengthen the commitment of policy makers through the promotion of a culture of the use of evidence
- Strengthening the ability of researchers to influence public policies
- Sustainability of the network
- Develop a comprehensive methodology for the development of policy influence skill, including impact indicators
- Whether K* activities are associated with optimal evidence-informed decision making outcomes?