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ÉCHANGE DE L'INITIATIVE THINK TANK
INTERCAMBIO INICIATIVA THINK TANK

2015



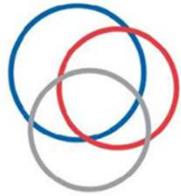
■ Istanbul, February 18-20 ■ Istanbul, du 18 au 20 février ■ Estambul, 18-20 de febrero

Research Quality: Approaches, Outreach, and Impact

February 18 – 20, 2015
Istanbul, Turkey

#TTIX2015





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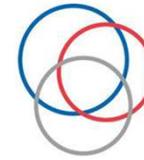


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Think Tanks and Elections: An opportunity for research, outreach and influence:

An exploration of initiatives to leverage research for impact during elections, as well as the effect that these electoral processes can have on research quality.

- Orazio Belletini, Grupo Faro, Ecuador
- Fernando Masi, CADEP, Paraguay
- Sanjay Kumar, CSDS, India
- Jean Mensa, IEA-Ghana
- Fernando Straface, CIPPEC, Argentina
- Javier Portocarrero, CIES, Peru

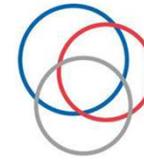


Outline of the panel

- 2 main types of interventions
 1. Research and outreach to influence electoral processes
 2. Research on electoral processes
- 4 main components:
 1. Research
 2. Training/outreach events
 3. Broad dissemination/communication
 4. Debates
- 3 regions:
 1. Latin America
 2. Africa
 3. Asia

For more info: <http://wp.me/PYCOD-1KH>

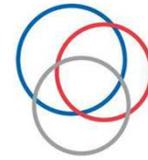




Outline of the panel

- “Origins” of the Latin American model: CIES (Peru) and Grupo FARO (Ecuador)
- “Consolidation” of the Latin American model: CIPPEC (Argentina)
- A focus on Debates: CADEP (Paraguay) and IAE (Ghana)
- Research on elections: CSDS (India)





“Origins” of the idea in Latin America

- Guiding questions for discussion (CIES):
 1. Where did the idea for Elecciones Peru 2006 come from?
 2. What are the main components of CIES' approach?
 3. What have been the main outcomes of the effort?
 4. How has CIES shared its experience with other think tanks in the region?
- More information on CIES's experience: <http://wp.me/PYCOD-1KH>

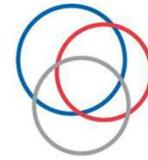




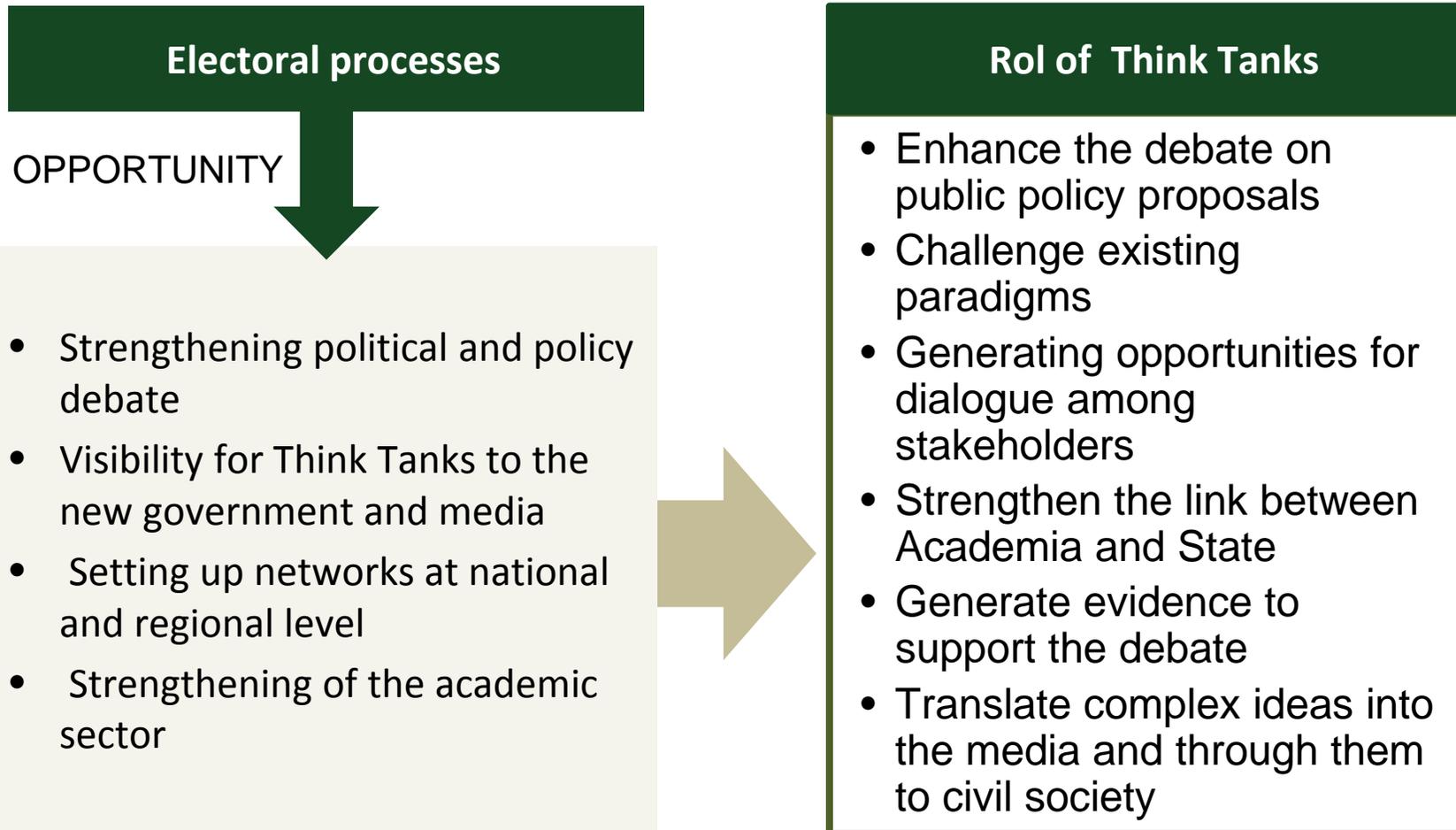
What inspired the approach: CIES

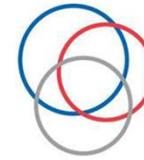
- Weakening of political party systems
- Paternalistic leadership (some times may be mafia style)
- Rise of populist practices
- Political process centered in media impact
- Political campaigns are not usually programmatic
- Bottle necks for promoting consensus
- Civil society is not aware of technical proposals of political parties
- Increased presence of international observers





Electoral processes as an opportunity





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When has CIES applied this approach?



- General Elections Project 2006
- Regional Elections Project 2007
- General Elections Project 2011
- Regional Elections Project 2014



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Project Objectives

1

Strengthen the role of political parties or movements as actors that represent social sectors and design government programs.

2

Promote socio political dialogue and raise the level of electoral debate, strengthening the programmatic discussion of policy proposals.

3

Provide new governments with public policy papers aimed at improving national and regional management.



What are the components of the approach?



1) Policy Papers



2) Parties committee of governmental plans

4) Presidential and programmatic debates



3) Dissemination





What has it achieved in Peru?

the State with Political Parties

- Agreement with National Electoral Board
- Legitimate public recognition and advocacy capacity of CIES
- Programmatic debate
- Roadmap for elected government

Political Parties with donors and partners

- Strengthened government plans
- Interest for Policy Documents
- Trust in government plan commitments
- Mediator capacity between content
- Links with political parties
- Relationship with newly elected governments

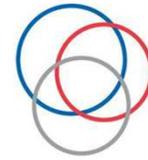
and partners

- Minimized duplication of projects
- Disseminate proposal at once
- Allowed funding
- Provided inputs for journalists ;
- Working in partnership and co

national

- Replicate the project in other Latin American countries
- CIES advised international experience

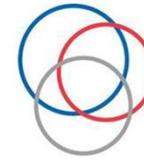




“Origins” of the idea in Latin America

- Guiding questions for discussion (Grupo FARO):
 1. What are the main characteristics of FARO’s approach?
 2. What was it about CIES’ experience that you felt was relevant for Ecuador? Why did you seek out their support in taking the initiative to Ecuador?
 3. What have you learned about the political role of think tanks through this experience?
- More information on Grupo FARO’s experience: <http://wp.me/PYCOD-1KH>





Objectives of the initiative: Grupo FARO

- Enriching the public debate with policy proposals that enhanced the quality of the Presidential Campaign and favoring a more informed vote
- Promoting a dialogue among:
 - Politicians from different political parties
 - Politicians and citizens
 - Civil society organizations working in different sectors
- Influence the policy agenda of the next government and generate an instrument to monitor the fulfillment of campaign promises

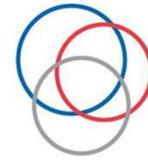




The benefits of collaboration with CIES

- The methodology developed by CIES enabled Grupo FARO to support other civil society organizations to develop and share their policy proposals instead of presenting our own
- The experience of CIES made it possible for Ecuadorian civil society organizations as well as donors to imagine the process and believe in its potential to enrich the quality of the public debate

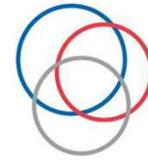




Main components in Grupo FARO's approach

- 1) Engaging civil society in the creation of concrete public policy proposals
- 2) Organizing forums in which presidential candidates and their campaign and technical staff, political party agenda-setting teams and civil society leaders debated the proposed policies
- 3) Promoting deliberation on the selected topics amongst the general opinion
- 4) Advocating the incorporation of civil society proposals into the policy agendas of the two second-round candidates; and
- 5) Generating an instrument to monitor the policy agenda of the elected government

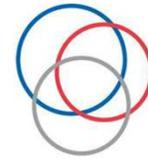




Lessons Learned: CIES

- Mapping electoral context is a key issue
- Linking supply and demand to set research agenda
- Quality control of research is crucial (strength of CIES are its partner centers)
- Use social capital and network of contacts: academia-state-academia
- Diversify and decentralize debates
- Press Unit is a key: invest resources and select the best press officer you can (better with experience in the State)
- Advice researchers on exposure to media and the State

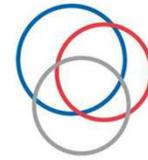




Lessons Learned: CIES

- Accomplishing the task requires:
 - Building trust of candidates and political actors
 - Interest and commitment of the national electoral board
 - Strategic alliances and network of partners
 - Participation of media
 - Early design and development of policy papers
- Debates are an opportunity to reengage citizens in politics
- Take advantage of the political cost of not participating in an electoral debate (it may affect the electoral outcome of a party)
- Long – term work

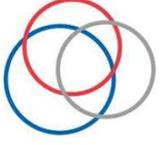




Lessons learned by Grupo FARO

1. Context matters: The importance of political competition
2. In fragmented societies, plurality is key in order to be considered an honest connector
3. Building capacities in CSO for developing policy proposals is key to increase the probability of success
4. The Democratizing Politics Initiative helped us to understand that think tanks are political actors because we:
 - Change power relationships
 - Provide a platform for policy-makers and politicians
5. After all, politics is not a zero sum game because the policy process is a top-down process (the sphere of the State) but also a bottom-up one (the sphere of the citizenship).





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“Consolidation” of the Latin American model

- Guiding questions for CIPPEC:
 1. What are the main components of CIPPEC’s efforts?
 2. What makes this a ‘technology of influence’? What makes it unique?
 3. CIPPEC’s effort is self-funded. Was this a conscious choice?
 4. Does CIPPEC always ‘speak’ with a single voice?

More information on CIPPEC’s <http://wp.me/PYCOD-1KH>



Main Components of CIPPEC's model



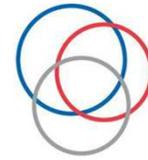
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Name/s and date/s	Agenda for the President 2011-2015	Argentina Debate 2014-2015
Objectives	Raise the quality of public policies and the public debate during the electoral campaign. / Internal objective: Consolidate the organization's work and identity	Achieve the first presidential debate in Argentina's history in the elections of 2015, around an agenda of development priorities , and shape the basis for its institutionalization.
Main activities/ components research Events Debates Other communication outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making of the Memos to the President (15) • Outreach campaign • Political Advocacy Campaign • The project was featured 142 times in print media; 50 in national newspapers, 29 in provincial newspapers, 43 in news portals and websites. 9 on TV and 29 in the radio. <p>-Agenda for the President's Website (which has been closed afterwards) - Video</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 documents focused on development priorities for the country • Launch of the initiative, with international experts. "Presidential Debates around the world". Several specialists from USA, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru were invited to share their countries' experiences on Presidential Debates. • Meeting with ministers, civil servants and referents of presidential pre candidates • Thematic Forums on social/human capital (2014), physical capital (2015) and institutional capital (2015). <p>-Argentina Debate's website www.argentinadebate.org</p>
Funding sources	Donor: Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)	Donor: Argentinean young entrepreneurs
Allies and supporters	Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), Fundación Vida Silvestre (FVSA), Poder Ciudadano.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Committee • Coalition for the Debate, which includes media partners, universities, business associations, civil society organizations. • Argentinean Publicity/Advertising Council (Consejo Publicitario Argentino).



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Think in terms of supply and demand and come out with Technology of influence

Policy Instruments

- Political appeal of the strategy
- Knowledge management capacity
- Traceability / Legitimacy of the organization
- Strategic Alliances
- Combined silent+ visible dialogue
- Celebrate public policy debate
- Balanced funding strategy
- Digital strategy , social networks, website, etc)

Conditions of electoral competition

- Dynamic of the Political Party System
- Issues at stake
- Media attention to policy issues
- Evidence value in policy debate
- Density of the market for ideas



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Demand variable example



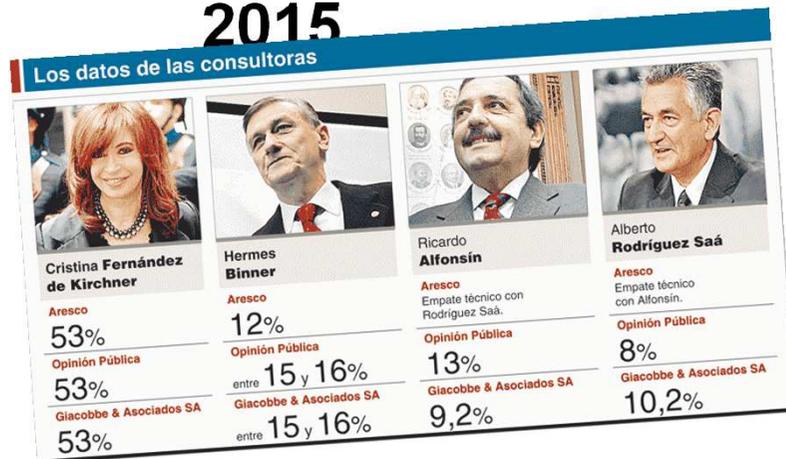
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Conditions of the Political Context → Receptivity of the Political System

2011

2015



Candidates' parity favors more receptivity

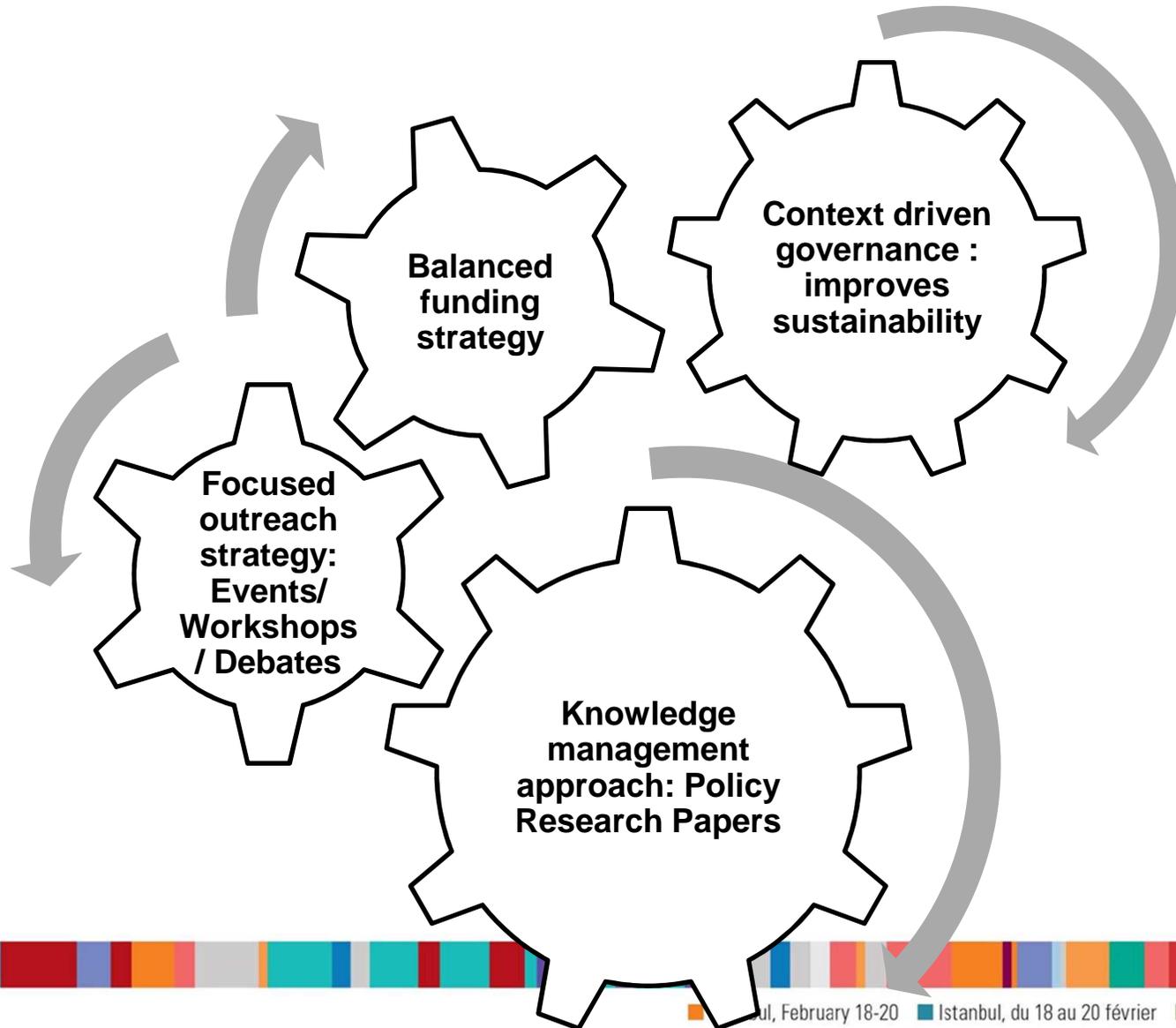


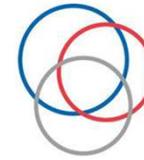
- Low competitiveness of the system
- The opposition is more receptive than the governing party



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Main components of the Technology of Influence

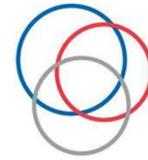




Leading questions

- What are the pros and cons of different sources of funding? Is it better to use one's own funds, to use domestic funds, or to seek foreign funding?





A focus on Debates

- Guiding questions for CADEP:
 1. Why Paraguay Debate? Origins of the idea
 2. What type of engagement Paraguay Debate proposed for the political leaders and the public opinion
 3. What tools of communications were used?
 4. The debate: just with presidential candidates or different levels?

More information on CADEP's <http://wp.me/PYCOD-1KH>



INCIDENCIA Y EQUITAD TRIBUTARIA EN PARAGUAY: EL CASO DEL IVA

Walter A. Zúñiga R.



LA REFORMA EDUCATIVA



NOTA DE POLÍTICA

SÓLO EL CONTROL CIUDADANO ES POSIBLE EL CAMBIO DE POLÍTICA

Además de la información pública, una ley para mejorar desde una política de Estado

Diego Francisco Saragallo

EL CAMBIO DE PARADIGMA

Es hora de que el estado se haga por sí mismo... El cambio de paradigma se hace con la voluntad ciudadana...



AGOSTO 2014

PARAGUAY DEBATE

EL CAMBIO DE PARADIGMA... Proponemos un modelo de gestión, que implique un cambio de paradigma...

Es hora de que el estado se haga por sí mismo... El cambio de paradigma se hace con la voluntad ciudadana...



EL AGUA EN EL DEBATE ENTRE DESARROLLO Y GOBERNABILIDAD

Diego...



El agua es un recurso esencial para el desarrollo... El agua es un recurso esencial para el desarrollo...

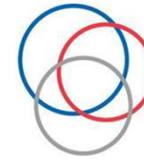
paraguay debate

POLÍTICA

POBREZA Y VULNERABILIDAD SOCIAL EN PARAGUAY

Diego...

Diego...

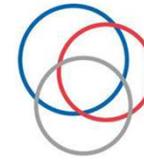


A focus on Debates

- Guiding questions for IEA Ghana:
 1. Why get involved in the organisation of debates?
 2. What does IEA Ghana's work in debates involve?
 3. What has been the impact of the debates?
 4. Have there been any unexpected risks or challenges that IEA Ghana has faced as a consequence of organising the debates?

More information on IEA Ghana: <http://wp.me/PYCOD-1KH>



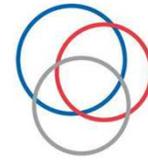


Origin of the IEA Initiative

- Our work on Debates is based on the premise that:

“those who wish to govern must subject themselves to probing questions by the people, to ensure that they understand their concerns, and have the capacity to address them.”





What does the IEA approach involve?

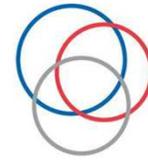
- 2000 Presidential Debate – 1 Debate Held; All Parties participated
- 2004- New Criteria set; Only Parliamentary Parties could participate. Incumbent didn't participated
- 2008 – All 4 Parliamentary Parties participated; No incumbent for that election; Introduced Evening Encounters/Veep Debates; 2 Presidential Debates held
- 2012 – Historic First; sitting President participated; Evening Encounters & Veep Debates; 2 Presidential Debates held



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What have been the impacts of the effort?

- Lowering Political temperature and tension
- Promoting Issues-Based Campaigning and Voting
- Creating a Level Playing Field for Aspirants
- Serving as Accountability Platform



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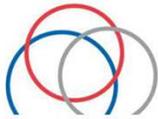
DAILY GUIDER

Big In News, Big In Spread

NO. 269/08 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008 70GP

THRILLER INTAMALE

•Candidates In Hot Exchanges



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NO. 18988. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2012. www.graphic.com.gh

Presidential debate, a plus for democracy

Story: Kofi Yeboah

THE Head of Research and Programmes at the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), Kofi Asante, has described last Tuesday's presidential debate as a plus for the country's democratic development.

He, therefore, suggested the organisation of more of such programmes to deepen the country's democracy.

"The more we create more of such platforms, whether they say something good or not, the better for our democratic development," he remarked as he shared some thoughts with the Daily Graphic on the presidential debate organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in Ilesale.

Mr Asante said the four presidential candidates lived un-

Since 2000, the IEA has been organising the presidential debates every election year exclusively for flag bearers of political parties with representation in Parliament.

The aim is to create a platform for direct interaction between the presidential candidates and the electorate.

Mr Asante gave plaudits to the IEA for the well-planned and well-organised presidential debate last Tuesday, adding that "the moderators were great."

He said the debate was a marked improvement over the previous ones in respect of the responses delivered by the four presidential candidates.

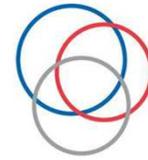
Mr Asante said the high expectation ahead of the event was due to the involvement of the president, considering the fact that it was the first time a sitting president was taking part in the debate.

presidential candidates whose political parties do not have representation in Parliament in order to give equal opportunity to all.

In the view of Mr Asante, if the principle is to create a platform for presidential aspirants for Ghanaians to assess them, then such call is justified and it is only fair to include the other aspirants.

He, however, noted that given that the programme was designed and planned by a civil society organisation (CSO) with a limited budget, the organisers could not be faulted for the criterion to work with political parties with representation in Parliament.

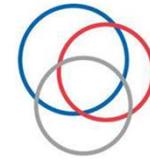
Mr Asante did not also subscribe to suggestions that the presidential debate should be limited to the flag bearers of the two major political parties—the National Democratic Congress



What is the advantage of think tanks hosting presidential debates?

- Neutral as against the bias posturing of media
- Media not fully mature and developed
- Convening Power of IEA
- Goodwill, Respect and Credibility of The IEA
- Think Tanks are research focused- Well versed in policy issues

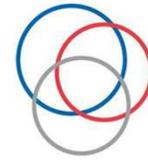




Lessons learned from the IEA experience

- Neutrality & objectivity vital
- Forming a credible debate organizing body (PDC)
- Partnering with key bodies including the Trades Union Congress, Civil Society etc
- Partnering with the media

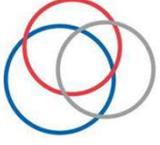




Leading questions

- When it comes to politics and elections, think tanks can aim to remain party-neutral but not policy-neutral. They should use elections to put forward their policy proposals on key policy issues. Doesn't this make it hard to host presidential debates? Is this a job for the media?
- Does the Latin American experience resonate with the IEA approach? Are there any specific elements from their effort that could be adopted and adapted for Africa?





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Research on Elections

- Guiding questions for CSDS:
 1. When and why did CSDS begin its work on elections in India?
 2. What does it involve?
 3. How is CSDS' research used to influence decision making?

More information on CSDS: <http://wp.me/PYCOD-1KH>





Origin of CSDS research on elections

- First study took place in 1965
- (Possibly) largest database on elections outside North America and Western Europe

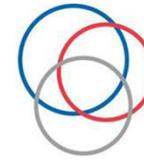




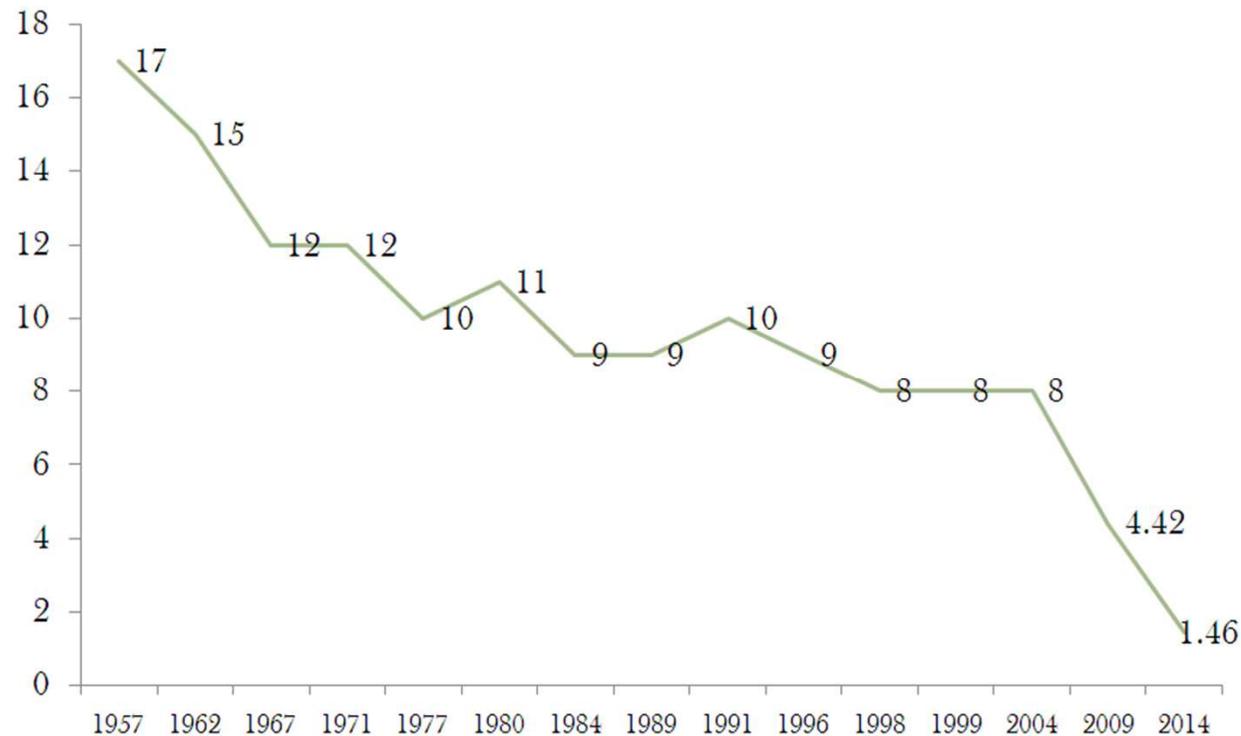
CSDS's research on elections

- CSDS is primarily engaged in **analyzing democratic and electoral trends** spanning a period of 5 decades, using survey as a research tool.
 - voting behaviour,
 - mobilization patterns,
 - issue of voters registration,
 - reasons of non- voting,
 - electoral reforms and related issues.



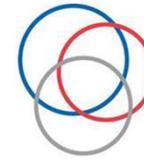


Research such as:



Declining gender Gap in voting turnout between Men and Women. In early elections the Gap between men and women turnout was very big (women voted in lesser numbers), the gap has reduced substantially and in the most recent 2014 National Elections this was almost negligible





Usefulness of research on elections

- CSDS' research on elections is useful to the media, political parties and the State for many purposes:
 - Development of policy agendas
 - Electoral reform, for instance, to address campaign expenses, Electronic Voting Machines, and lower voter turn out





CSDS works with others

- Dissemination of findings through print and electronic media, conferences, seminar, round table, publication in research journals, reports and books.
- Research partners: Media, stake holder the Election Commission of India responsible for conducting the election at national and state level, civil society organizations.

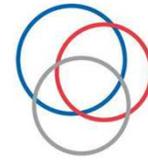




Leading questions for a discussion

- When it comes to elections think tanks are like most citizens, informed, but rather clueless. More research needs to be done on the nature of elections and politics generally so that think tanks may take a greater advantage of their opportunities. What would a comparative research agenda look like?





Leading questions for all –and participants

- The context affects the nature of the initiatives. How have the contexts in each country affected which elements/components of the ‘technology’ have been adopted?
- Would this ‘technology’ work in Africa or Asia? Would it work in the US or in Europe?
- Does funding matter? Would it be ok for a think tank to target an election supported by foreign funding? Is it any different to what it does all the time?





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