CIES Experience in Electoral Processes

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Electoral processes in Latin America

- 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

**Electoral processes**

- Strengthening political and policy debate
- Visibility for Think Tanks to the new government and media
- Setting up networks at national and regional level
- Strengthening of the academic sector

**Role of Think Tanks**

- Enhance the debate on public policy proposals
- Challenge existing paradigms
- Generating opportunities for dialogue among stakeholders
- Strengthen the link between Academia and State
- Generate evidence to support the debate
- Translate complex ideas into the media and through them to civil society
CIES Elections Project

- General Elections Project 2006
- Regional Elections Project 2007
- General Elections Project 2011
- Regional Elections Project 2014
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.
Stages of the Project

1) Policy Papers

2) Parties committee of governmental plans

3) Dissemination

4) Presidential and programmatic debates
Presidential Elections 2006

- Partners: Acuerdo Nacional, JNE, Transparencia, Propuesta Ciudadana and Instituto de Defensa Legal.
- Basket Funding: IDB, NED, IDRC, CIDA
- 10 policy papers to enhance the debate and promote “voto informado”

Dissemination:
- 19 workshops with government teams
- 9 press conferences
- 112 interviews and newspaper articles
- 65 TV interviews
- 92 radio interviews
- 650 spots / radio spots
- 1,000 copies E & S CIES magazine
- 30,000 flyers
- Programmatic Debate
- Presidential Debate in 7 channels and 3 radios
Regional Elections 2007

- Coordination with CIES partners in Arequipa, Piura and Cusco to compile perspectives and planning on Regional Agenda 2007-2010.
- Contributions to the design of public policies in Arequipa, Piura and Cusco.
- Link universities and research centers with their respective regional governments.
- Presentation to regional political parties.
- Workshops, seminars, press conferences, interviews and promotional materials.
**Presidential Elections 2011**

### Results

- 15 policy documents
- 25 Workshops with political parties
- 8 Seminars in Lima and regions
- 8 Press Conferences
- 1,000 copies of policy papers
- 3,000 copies of E&S CIES Journal
- 55 interviews in newspapers
- 1,675 radio spots in urban and rural areas
- 142,000 flyers for national distribution
- Social networks (Facebook, twitter, youtube)
- 3 Debates: Programmatic and Presidential

### Stakeholders

- **CIES Partners**
  - Political Parties: 5 out of 11 in competition
- **Int. Coop**
- **Strategic Partners**
  - Policy Papers Authors
  - Journalist + Opinion leaders
Meetings with political parties and the National Electoral Board
Programmatic Debate - Presidential Elections 2011 (Second-round Phase)
Presidential Debate 2011 - First – round Fhase

Presidential Debate 2011 - Second – round Fhase
Regional Elections 2014

• 26 policy papers for regional governments on 12 themes
• Support the National Electoral Board in organizing workshops and debates with candidates in Lima and regions
• Thematic workshops to key managers in new elected regional governments
## Project Outcomes

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

### With Political Parties
- Strengthened government plans
- Interest for Policy Documents
- Trust in government plan committees
- Mediator capacity between contenders
- Links with political parties
- Relationship with newly elected governments

### With donors and partners
- Minimized duplication of projects
- Disseminate proposal at once
- Allowed funding
- Provided inputs for journalists and media
- Working in partnership and common goals

### International
- Replicate the project in other Latin American countries
- CIES advised international experience
Lessons Learned

• Take advantage of elections to strengthen engagement and visibility
• 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

• Long – term work
• 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)
Many Thanks

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