

Leandro Echt

Currently based in Florida, United States.
Nationality: Argentinian-Italian / Email: leandroecht@gmail.com

Biography

Leandro is an international consultant and evaluator with more than twelve years of experience in the international development field. He engages with think tanks, researchers, NGOs and government agencies interested in linking evidence with public decisions, through capacity building, mentoring and consultancy activities including evaluation of multi-country initiatives and organisational assessments. His experience includes international projects in Latin America, West Africa, South East Asia and the United States. He is also Associate at Politics & Ideas, Research Associate at On Think Tanks and member of the International Support Group. Previously, he was the coordinator of the Influence, Monitoring and Evaluation Program at the Argentinean think tank Centre for the Implementation of Public Policies promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC). He also worked as Research Assistant on Social Protection Program and Civil Society Influence Program at CIPPEC. His areas of expertise and interest are evaluation, evidence and policy, policy influence and gender analysis.

Languages: Spanish (mother tongue); English (full professional proficiency); Italian (professional working proficiency)

Main country experience: Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Ghana, Timor-Leste

Posts held

2015 – Present	Research Associate, On Think Tanks (www.onthinktanks.org)
2014 – Present	General Coordinator, Politics & Ideas: a new think net
2013 – Present	Independent Consultant
2011 – 2014	Coordinator of the Influence, Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Center for the Implementation of Public Policies promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)
2010 – 2011	Political Information and Parliamentarian Observatory, FOIA Agency
2009	Research assistant of the Social Protection Program, CIPPEC
2008	Research assistant of the Civil Society Influence Program, CIPPEC

Qualifications

2020	Specialization in Public Policies and Gender Justice, Latin American Council of Social Sciences
2018	Political Economy Analysis in Action Training Course, Overseas Development Institute and The Policy Practice
2016	MA. Development Management and Public Policy. 2016. Thesis: Partisan think tanks: between politics and knowledge. The case of Fundación PENSAR and PRO in Argentina, Georgetown University and National University of San Martín
2014	Diploma in Evaluation of Public Policies, National University of San Martín
2011	Professorship in Political Science, National University of Buenos Aires
2007	BA. Political Science oriented to International Relationships, National University of Buenos Aires



Project experience

On Think Tanks (www.onthinktanks.org)

2019	Support to the strategy of the Economic Justice Program. Client: Open Society Foundations.
2019	Research and evaluation of a think tank/thought leadership concept for the American Institute of Physics. Client: AIP.
2018	Consultancy: Support to the set up and development of the new think tank Regional Center for Energy Studies in Colombia. With support of Fundación Esso Mobil.
2018	Member of the Evaluation Forum of proposals of the Public Tender to Support the Strengthening of National Thinking Centers 2018, of the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (Senacyt) of Panama
2018	Winterschool for Thinktankers 2018. February 4-10, Geneva. Coordinator. In partnership with Foraus and the Think Tank Hub.
2017 – 2018	Consultancy: Electoral platforms: strengthening the capacities to influence the electoral cycle. In partnership with Iniciativa Latinoamericana Investigación para las Políticas Públicas (ILAIPP), with support of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).
2017	Consultancy: Assessment on the Establishment of a Public Policy Institute for Timor-Leste. Supported by The Asia Foundation.
2018	Consultancy: Strengthening the financial sustainability of ILAIPP and its members. With support of IDRC.
2016 – 2017	On Think Tanks School “Evolving Think Tanks Series”. Coordinator of the School.
2016 – 2017	On Think Tanks School “Evolving Think Tanks Series”. Courses “Designing a policy relevant research agenda” and “Rethinking funding models”.
2017	Fellowship Programme “Integral Leaders for Global Challenges”. Coordinator.
2014 – 2017	Editor at large for Latin America.
2014 – 2015	Research: How are we doing? Performance Self-Assessments for Think Tanks.
2014 – 2015	Research: Unravelling think tanks business models.

Politics & Ideas: a new think net (www.politicsandideas.org)

2019	Workshop on Monitoring, evaluation and learning of policy influence. Client: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
2019	Independent Evidence Diagnostic of two UNICEF Regional Offices: South Asia and East Asia and Pacific.
2017 – 2018	Consultancy: Assessment of the Environmental Protection Agency’s capacity to produce and use of evidence in policy making in Ghana. In partnership with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP).
2015- 2016	“Going beyond ‘Context Matters’”, an action framework to promote the use of knowledge in policy making. In partnership with INASP.
2015 – 2016	Online courses "Leaders of change: helping African policy makers develop their capacity to promote the use of knowledge in policy" and "Leaders of change: developing the capacity of Latin American policy makers to promote the use of knowledge in policy." With support of INASP.



- 2015 – 2016 Online courses “Policy relevant research for think tanks”, “Think tanks’ funding models in Central and Eastern Europe” and “Monitoring & Evaluation & Learning of policy influence in Central and Eastern Europe”. Developer, trainer and coordinator. With the support of the Think Tank Fund (TTF) and TTI.
- 2014 Design of the capacity development strategy for the second phase of the Think Tank Initiative. With support from IDRC.

Independent consultant

- 2020 End-term evaluation of the five- year Civic Engagement Alliance (CEA) strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Dialogue and Dissent programme framework (2016-2020). Country focus: The Netherlands, Benin, Myanmar and Uganda. 2020.
- 2018 Evaluation of the influence of the Project “Transforming Territories” in Chile, Colombia and Mexico, by Rimisp- Latin American Center for Rural Development. With support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).
- 2018 Research project: “Understanding the Civil Society Organisations’ strategies to influence public policy in Latin America: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay”. Coordinated by Grupo FARO, under Innovation for Change.
- 2016 Development of the “Policy evaluation framework” for the Ministry of Culture in Argentina. 2016.
- 2016 Final evaluation of the Program “Impactos a gran escala (2013-2016)”, by Rimisp – Latinamerican Center for Rural Development.
- 2015 External evaluation of the program “Territorial Cohesion for Development”. With support of IDRC.
- 2015 Evaluation of the public program “Training and Inclusion for Employment”, implemented by the Social Economy Direction of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2015 Development of the toolkit “10 steps to influence public policies” for the think tank CEDICE, Venezuela.
- 2015 Workshop “Planning, monitoring and evaluation in public policies” for Tourism Local Agencies, by the National Ministry of Tourism. Trainer.
- 2015 A comparative study of institutional designs of the economic areas of five cities: Barcelona, Chicago, New York, Rosario and Sao Paulo. For the Ministry of Economic Development of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2014 Design and implementation of the Community of Practice systematization of experiences of Plan ABRE, for the Social Cabinet of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina.
- 2014 Yearbook 2013 of the Global Compact in Argentina, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- 2013 Evaluation of the influence of the Project “Knowledge and Change in Rural Poverty and Development” in Colombia, by RIMISP. With support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Center for the Implementation of Public Policies promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)

- 2012 – 2014 Policy Influence Monitoring of impact evaluations. Coordinator for Latin America. With support of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie).
- 2014 Evaluation of the Influence of the Economic and Social Council of the City of Buenos Aires.
- 2011 – 2013 Spaces for engagement: using knowledge to improve public decisions. Six-year program with support of the Global Development Network (GDN).



- 2011 – 2013 Linking Research and Public Policies in Latin America (VIPPAL).
- 2011 – 2013 Online courses for Latin America, Asia and Africa: “How to build a policy influence plan”, “Monitoring and evaluating policy influence”, “Research communication” and “Improving childhood care policies in Latin America”. Coordinator and trainer.
- 2013 Technical assistance to the design and implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES).
- 2013 Technical assistance on diversification of funding sources from the private sector: Grupo FARO (Ecuador) and CADEP (Paraguay).
- 2013 Evaluation of the Think Tank Initiative. Team for Latin America. With support of IDRC.
- 2013 Evaluation of the Social Development Program of the Province of Córdoba, Argentina.
- 2012 Platform: Think tanks’ Executive Directors in Latin America (DEAL).
- 2012-2014 Workshops for Argentinean, Latin American and worldwide think tanks and civil society organizations: public policy influence, its planning, monitoring and evaluation, research communication and fundraising.

FOIA Agency

- 2010-2011 Research and communication of political and parliamentary information.

CIPPEC – Social Protection Program

- 2009 Research project: “The influence of political and institutional variables in public management: relevance and scope of programs to combat poverty in Argentina. An analysis of the main programs in Argentina since 2002”.
- 2009 Seminar “Dialogues of Social Protection”.

CIPPEC – Civil Society Influence Program

- 2008 – 2009 Towards new bonds between State and Civil Society. With support of Ford Foundation.
- 2008 – 2009 Technical assistance in the implementation and systematization of the Participative Strategic Planning Process of the Government of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina. Implementer.
- 2008 Book Construyendo Confianza. Hacia un nuevo vínculo entre Estado y Sociedad Civil. Volumen II. Edited by CIPPEC and the Undersecretary for Institutional Reform and Strengthening of Democracy, Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, President's Office. Collaborator.
- 2008 Platform “Towards new bonds between State and Civil Society”. Coordinator.

Teaching experience

- August 2018 – Present Tallahassee Community College. Division of Behavioral, Social Sciences and Education. Department of Political Science. Adjunct Faculty for National Government courses. August 2018-Current.
- 2008 – 2009 and 2016 National University of Buenos Aires. Teaching assistant. Introduction to Political Sciences.
- 2011 – 2012 High School “Instituto San Francisco de Asís”. Professor. Subjects: “Literature”, “Interpersonal Relations and Group Dynamics” and “Workshop of Historical Research of Cultural Movements”.



Miscellaneous

- Secretary of the Board of the International Support Group. International network registered in the Netherlands.
- Advisor of Think twice UA. Based in Ukraine
- Member of EvaluAR, Argentina Evaluation Network

Selected Publications

- 2019 Echt, L. (2019) Partisan think tanks: between knowledge and politics. The case of Pensar Foundation and PRO Party in Argentina. On Think Tanks Working Paper 7. On Think Tanks.
- 2019 Echt, L. & Mérola, M. (2019). Transforming from civil society: CSO strategies to influence public policies in Latin America. Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Innovation for Change. (Available in Spanish.)
- 2018 Echt, L. & Ball, L. (2018). Think Tanks: why and how to support elections. On Think Tanks.
- 2018 Echt, L. & Hayter, E. (2018). Supporting organizational change to improve the use of evidence in environmental protection in Ghana. Case study. INASP and Politics & Ideas.
- 2017 Phipps, D. J., Brien, D., Echt, L., Kyei-Mensah, G. and Weyrauch, V. (2017) 'Determinants of successful knowledge brokering: A transnational comparison of knowledge intermediary organizations'. Research for All.
- 2016 Weyrauch, V.; Echt, L. & Suliman, S. (2016). Knowledge into policy: going beyond context matters. Politics & Ideas and INASP.
- 2016 Weyrauch, V.; Echt, L. & Suliman, S. (2016). Starting from context: how to make strategic decisions to promote a better interaction between knowledge. Politics & Ideas and INASP.
- 2016 Echt, L. & Ashari Cahyo Edi (2016). Unravelling think tanks business models. On Think Tanks.
- 2016 Arellano, A.; Dalaqua, R.; Echt, L.; Guruli, I. & Reszketó, P. (2016). Learning together: Performance Self-Assessment for think tanks. On Think Tanks.
- 2015 Weyrauch, V. & Echt, L. (2015). Online course promotes the use of knowledge and evidence in policy. Politics & Ideas.
- 2015 Romero, H. & Echt, L. (2015). Case study on the use of knowledge in the public sector in Latin America: The design of the General Directorate of Social Policy Analysis and Evaluation of the Secretariat of Social Development of Honduras. Politics & Ideas. (Available in Spanish.)
- 2015 Echt, L. (2015). Think tanks and elections. On Think Tanks.
- 2014 Echt, L. & Aquilino, N. Communication as a tool to influence public policies. Cycle of Reflection on Sustainability with NGOs, United States Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Argentina. 2014. (Available in Spanish.)
- 2013 Echt, L. & Eskenazi, A. (December 2013). Promoting a national policy forum: CIPPEC's "Agenda for the President 2011-2015". Buenos Aires: CIPPEC.
- 2013 Aquilino, N.; Arias, E.; Estevez, S. & Echt, L. (2013). Towards an evaluability assessment of social policies. A study of 16 national programs. Buenos Aires: CIPPEC.
- 2013 Weyrauch, V.; Echt, L. & Arrieta, D. How to communicate research for policy influence. Toolkit. CIPPEC, Buenos Aires, junio de 2013.
- 2012 Weyrauch, V. & Echt, L. How to design a policy influence plan? Toolkit. CIPPEC, Buenos Aires, mayo de 2012.
- 2012 Aquilino, N.; D'Agostino, J. & Echt, L. (2012). Can all public policies be evaluated? An analysis of 15 national programs. Buenos Aires: CIPPEC.



- 2012 Shaxson, L.; Bielak, A.T.; et al. Expanding our understanding of K* (KT, KE, KTT, KMB, KB, KM, etc.). A concept paper emerging from the K* conference held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, April 2012. United Nations University, Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (2012).
- 2009 Weyrauch, V.; Díaz Langou, G. & Echt, L. Los vínculos entre Estado y sociedad civil en el proceso participativo de Planificación Estratégica. Santa Fe, 2008. Aprendizajes del eje socio institucional, 2008, Working Paper N° 26, CIPPEC, Buenos Aires, July 2009.

