

## AN OVERVIEW

OF MY FEEDBACK TO EIGHT PROJECT PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE “SUMMER COURSE ON SOCIAL INNOVATION” OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBIA, carried out from July 15<sup>th</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup> at San Andrés, virtually connected to University sites in Bogota and Medellin

### **(1) General feedback to all<sup>1</sup>:**

*Dear colleagues,*

*I am very pleased and happy with the results of the group work :-)* [nine papers delivered in total –see the list below]- *You ALL have provided results of your respective documentation of work in writing - way beyond my expectation! It is, therefore, now my part to congratulate everybody and give you some feedback.*

*Actually these initial lines are the same for all groups, as all groups did a great deal of work and succeeded to present results relevant beyond their own group. This is why I want to let everyone to see the overview of what we received:*

#### **Overview of topics selected and authors:**

- **ANCESTRAL HEALTH CARE PROMOTION**  
Jenny Díaz Fernandez, Laura Isabell Cardona Bolivar, Nicolas Gaitan Albarracin, Phanor Mondragon Bustamante, Lina Nataly Alvarado Riaño
- **AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF WATER FOR A VULNERABLE COMMUNITY IN SAN ANDRÉS ISLAND**  
Carlos Pineda, Luz Arabany Ramirez, Hanny Newball
- **DECREASE OF IMPACTS ON URBAN COMPREHENSIVE INTERVENTION PROJECT, ON SPONTANEOUS URBANISMS IN SECTOR NUEVA VILLA IGUANÁ MEDELLIN ANTIOQUIA 2013**  
José Ignacio Maya Guerra, Ivonne Cuastumal Karol V., Deisy Julieth Vásquez P., Manuel Felipe Jaramillo S., Deiver Eli Riasco B., Marsela Linares Londoño, Luz Dinora Garzon Garcia
- **GAME OVER: End of STD and unintended pregnancy in teenagers**  
Sara Daniela Márquez Gutiérrez, Carlos Andrés Sarmiento Hernández, Antonio Valera Garzón  
Asesor: Profesor Iván Darío Hernández Umaña
- **MUSIC AND ART PROGRAM FOR ADOLESCENTS AROUND COLOMBIA**  
Diana Carolina Cubillos Avellaneda, Laura Maria Puerto Valencia, Jose Luis Puerto Valencia, Diana Constanza Monje Cuellar, Maria Alejandra Gonzalez Pareja, Alicia Elmira Mitchell Hunter
- **NETWORK OF YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS OF AFRO-COLOMBIAN BLACK COMMUNITIES**  
Angel Nelson, Arias Kennicher, Cruz Diego, Díaz Fernando, Estupiñan Juan Carlos, Forero Catherine, Pedroza Edwin
- **OBSERVATORY OF VIOLENT CONFLICT IN COLOMBIA**  
Carlos Morales, Francly Gomez, Juan Guarnizo
- **SOLID WASTE IN THE BEACHES OF SPRATT BIGHT IN SAN ANDRES ISLAND**  
Lucila Morelos Páez; Claudia Marcela Delgado, Edisa Lozada; Laura Mesa Herrera
- **APROVECHAMIENTO DE ALIMENTOS EN ESTADO DE MADUREZ AVANZADA Y DETERIO PARCIAL PARA EL MEJORAMIENTO DE LAS CONDICIONES DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA EN EL PAIS**  
Maria Carolina Martinez Reyes, Ana Beatriz Arciniegas

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<sup>1</sup> Except the last one in the list, as it was available only in Spanish

*I still refer to "draft versions" of project proposals for social innovation projects. This is meant to say the best: All 'drafts' qualify to enable the first steps into realising what is envisaged. Nevertheless, to be executed in practice, a lot of work, including intellectual efforts and management tasks, is waiting for you as proposers!*

*I suggest to exchange the documents between the groups, and - if feasible - to comment and provide feedback among yourself too.*

*If you allow, I will also post your paper(s) at the ZSI website where I already published a short note concerning the summer course: <https://www.zsi.at/en/object/publication/2734>*

*After completion I will add more information to make the Summer Course of UN de Colombia visible from our site. Since I consider your work as exemplary to show in how short time good ideas may be generated and to become further elaborated, I'd like to present them there as 'best practice examples'.*

## **(2) A few comments concerning each project in particular**

### **○ ANCESTRAL HEALTH CARE PROMOTION**

Jenny Díaz Fernandez, Laura Isabell Cardona Bolivar, Nicolas Gaitan Albarracin, Phanor Mondragon Bustamante, Lina Nataly Alvarado Riaño (San Andrés)

*You present a huge and fundamental programme, not really a focused social innovation. Leaving aside the fact, that the increase of average life expectancy (from below 50 by 1900 to more than 80 by 2000) and of quality of (healthy) life in industrialised countries is not due to the use of ancestral medicine, there are some major obstacles that will prevent success of the full programme idea:*

- the power of the pharma industry*
- the cultural framework of industrialisation, of which Colombia is part*
- and, maybe the most important one that you can deal with yourself: the programme simply is much to big!*

*I admire your optimism and the many arguments and thoughts you put together in the paper, but you should really try to be more specific and focus on a manageable issue.*

*My suggestion: The key topic which may serve as the critical lever to initiate a social innovation is - in my view - the continuing loss of herbs. This happens one the one hand because of diminishing usage and of the knowledge about their relevance. On the other hand this is also taking place because of the pharmaceutical industry is buying land where herbs of particular interest grow. As a matter of fact, the industry needs and uses most of the herbs and plants which were also used in ancestral medicine: They (the industry) know of the relevance! The ordinary people do not know.*

*Therefore I suggest the downsize your programme to - in fact - a 'garden project'. Gardening as such is socially very relevant, and 'urban gardening' has become a big issue in many countries. You could be maybe the first one to do such a project in Colombia - at least among the first, and with a focus on herbs for medical use. There are examples of which I'd like to point out two to you from my own knowledge:*

*In Austria there is a project (running since many years), called "Noah's Ark", as they are preserving old fruit trees, vegetables, herbs etc.*

*<http://www.arche-noah.at/etomite/index.php?id=249>*

*A pioneering urban gardening project has been started in Croatia (the very first one in this country; awarded third prize this year by 'SozialMarie':*

*[http://www.sozialmarie.org/projekte/urban\\_community\\_garden\\_miracle\\_gardens.2603.html](http://www.sozialmarie.org/projekte/urban_community_garden_miracle_gardens.2603.html) if you*

clickl on "Projektbeschreibung als Datei" you will find a short project description in English; the direct website is <http://gredica.wordpress.com/>

*I do not want to discourage you, rather to save you from frustration because of a 'sisyphos' experience ... you may and should keep your great idea and the wide perspective as a background concept, against which the development a concrete and viable project can be realised.*

- **Availability and distribution of water for a vulnerable community in San Andrés Island**

Carlos Pineda Electric Engineer (next to graduate) STUDENT Cod:222845

Luz Arabany Ramirez (Systems Engineer & Phd)

Hanny Newball (Historian & MSc Environment and Resource Management)

Again: a very impressive result of work done :-)

You actually carried out a very serious analysis of the current situation, even including interviews (in this short time). This is of very high value (even if unstructured interviews ... "de nada" because it is not about scientific quality, but for quick and practical purpose in this case). On the other hand you refer to literature and a diverse inter-disciplinary background.

I appreciate your approach of focusing on women as the (often literally) 'carriers' and carers of water. This is promising. On the other hand: I think you need support and 'backing' from the so called high places – at best the Governor!

As I mentioned to the other group on 'solid waste ...': I think the two most pressing issues on the island are to clean up San Andres and to improve the provision of health preserving water. So, to probably going to the Governor might be a good idea – if I could be of any help from abroad I'd be happy to either write a letter or provide further information.

Separating 'use water' and 'drinking' water in clearly differentiated systems of supply, use, and perception in the mind of the population is most critical!

The only aspect, I am not so sure whether you are right, is the assessment of time required : If you get support from top-down, and can assure involvement bottom-up within 6 months it would already be a success; if you can make more in six months: even more reason for celebration :-)

However: who might become supporter in terms of financial means? If you really start working on that project, it is of a quality and amount of effort that should be paid !!!

What you offer, if it came from an international consulting company, is worth millions (not only Pesos, but in \$ or €). They would calculate the value such a change would bring to the Island, and take a good share of it as payment.

Please look after yourself as well in working in such great projects!

- **DECREASE OF IMPACTS ON URBAN COMPREHENSIVE INTERVENTION PROJECT, ON SPONTANEOUS URBANISMS IN SECTOR NUEVA VILLA IGUANÁ MEDELLIN ANTIOQUIA 2013**

José Ignacio Maya Guerra, Ivonne Cuastumal Karol V., Deisy Julieth Vásquez P., Manuel Felipe Jaramillo S., Deiver Eli Riasco B., Marsela Linares Londoño, Luz Dinora Garzon Garcia (Medellin)

*As a matter of fact, your proposal puts me in a very sincere dilemma: You have good ideas to do the good ( = to mitigate a socially unacceptable process). But the alternative - taking simply and as in principle the side of the community does not look promising as well.*

Nevertheless, I need to first express my European view on the issue of relocation. This simply is out of scope when considering building a new road or any other major (building, infrastructure ...). In my home country such things are out of any discussion, and if somewhere land is needed it has to be bought from the people who own it. Yet I guess, that legitimate possession may be the key problem in the case you present: I understand "spontaneous urbanism" a process when people moving to or into cities, building houses or huts at unused soil, and then cannot defend their property because it is not located on land they own proper.

And I know from reading and stories told, that 'relocation' of this sort seems to occur quite often in Latin America - therefore, it certainly appears to be an honourable attempt to mitigate such a process. Government and enterprises involved may be willing to support such a project at least to some degree, and to the same limited degree it can be seen progress compared to pushing through projects of "macro social intervention".

Nevertheless, and even though there may not be funds to support really community based work: I think a social innovation in the field might be a seemingly more moderate attempt to provide measures to create awareness and concern of such issues by networking between many more cases of this sort throughout the departamentos of Colombia.

But as mentioned in the beginning: Perhaps this problem is beyond my European comprehension of what are the real big problems here I and do not want to appear and ignorant wiseacre ...

Moreover, the "4-i process" looks linear, which is good for the first embarkment on dealing with an issue and trying to solve it. However, in practice there will be recurrent set-backs and the need to 'work around' in many instances ...

- **GAME OVER: End of STD and unintended pregnancy in teenagers**

Sara Daniela Márquez Gutiérrez, Carlos Andrés Sarmiento Hernández, Antonio Valera Garzón  
Asesor: Profesor Iván Darío Hernández Umaña (Bogotá)

*The most important feedback to you is very simple. It is really excellent!*

*There is a serious analysis of the issue, a very good idea to deal with the problem identified, and making use of further results of the analysis of pre- and framework-conditions relevant.*

*To me it also is impressing that you could pick up all the essentials even via distance communication (which, in fact, was not making it very easy!).*

*The only items missing or thing I did not grasp: You refer to a Call for Proposals that already is closed. So, did you think of this just as an example - or did you already submit a project idea to this call? If this is the case and you think of submitting a project proposal at a later (similar) Call: This is certainly a promising idea. Yet then you also should include some examples of games you consider good practices, and ideas of how to develop a suitable game (and who in the project team would do it, etc.)*

*I wish you real good success in winning such a project, to also make the female teenagers win the 'game' of developing their concept of life (from a scientific point of view: one of the most important strengths of your project idea !!).*

○ **MUSIC AND ART PROGRAM FOR ADOLESCENTS AROUND COLOMBIA**

Diana Carolina Cubillos Avellaneda, Laura Maria Puerto Valencia, Jose Luis Puerto Valencia, Diana Constanza Monje Cuellar, Maria Alejandra Gonzalez Pareja, Alicia Elmira Mitchell Hunter (San Andrés)

*An important step forward is that you put 'group learning' in the focus. However, it did not appear very clear to me, how this should be organised: In one of the houses, where one of the kids is living, or in a specially selected family? For sure a very important part will be the training of family members, teachers, and civil servants / social workers involved.*

*Concerning the time assessment: You are the most realistic ones compared to other groups; it is very important to implement the 'pilot', because if this is operated with success it will trigger the accomplishment of further stages.*

*Overall, I think you are on a very good track, but even inspite of this: The "4-i process" looks linear, which is good for the first steps and activities in dealing with an issue and trying to solve it. However, in practice there will be recurrent set-backs and the need to 'work around' in many instances ...*

○ **NETWORK OF YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS OF AFRO-COLOMBIAN BLACK COMMUNITIES**

Angel Nelson, Arias Kennicher, Cruz Diego, Díaz Fernando, Estupiñan Juan Carlos, Forero Catherine, Pedroza Edwin (Bogotá)

*I appreciated a lot reading your thoroughly thoughtful proposal ! It start with facts and figures and has a clear focus on rights granted - but not practiced and fulfilled in real life. It takes diversity in consideration as an asset of society (often and by many people considered part of the/a problem).*

*You also made very clear how you want to proceed. Thereby the intention to first aim at running a pilot project is essential and the key to success: If you demonstrate the KN works in a certain community, enabling claiming rights that are approved by law, it will be possible to extend and replicate it (most likely in modified forms) in other communities and regions.*

*The sketch of your work plan is ok in principle, but you will need to put more emphasis on raising money. A few weeks foreseen in the middle of the project will be much too little efforts. I think - it is an odd thing, but indispensable - you need to create a 'task force' in the very beginning to work on assuring enough financial resource at least for the first stage (the pilot).*

*By the way. I read, of course, about the history and political developments in Colombia, including the Constitution of 1991 that is seen as a very good one in international comparison; thus I know of the hopes it created initially - and were disappointed because of the real world again developing differently. Every more so I congratulate you to your initiative and really hope that you may achieve what you want to !*

*It is also a very good experience for me to see that even per distance the structure of such complicated processes were taken up in such a productive manner as you did :-)*

*Yet even beyond that: The "4-i process" looks very linear, which is good for the first embarkment on dealing with an issue and trying to solve it. However, in practice there will be recurrent set-backs and the need to 'work around' in many instances ...*

○ **OBSERVATORY OF VIOLENT CONFLICT IN COLOMBIA**

Carlos Morales, Francy Gomez, Juan Guarnizo (San Andrés)

*Your project description is very well developed and I can hardly add much to it :-)*

*What I would like to emphasise is the following: Perhaps with the help of the University you should try to find international funding (you touch this issue anyways). Yet in order to be successful in that the proposal should include more explanation on the novelty and uniqueness of the idea to develop in particular this tool. It may seem obvious and clear to you. But for sure, possible international evaluators of the proposal will not know, and need to be told !*

*I think you are on a very good track, but even inspite of this: The "4-i process" looks linear, which is good for the first embarkment on dealing with an issue and trying to solve it. However, in practice there will be recurrent set-backs and the need to 'work around' in many instances ...*

○ **SOLID WASTE IN THE BEACHES OF SPRATT BIGHT IN SAN ANDRES ISLAND**

Lucila Morelos Páez; Claudia Marcela Delgado, Edisa Lozada; Laura Mesa Herrera (San Andrés)

*It is very concrete and most necessary. There are good ideas for its promotion and how to make it viable. However, the (very) big question remains: Who in fact should be doing the work (preparing, managing, supervising)? And, as it certainly goes way beyond the potential capacities of idealistic volunteers; moreover, who would invest money as it cannot be run without?*

*If I were Governor of this island, I'd consider two most pressing issues to be done first: a) cleaning up the island, and b) to improve the situation concerning water supply (and then many more issues, of course).*

*It might be a good idea to contact the Governor and present the idea (after doing some research about who he/she is, how to best approach, and who could provide a personal link ...). The issue here is to win 'ownership' by the public authorities.*

*Nevertheless, even if top-down and bottom-up ambitions may seem very 'logic', I do not share your optimistic view to realize the project in short time. Even though it seems obvious what should be done – why did it not happen until now?*

*Well, this should not discourage you, and I hope you may succeed, proving wrong my less optimistic view!*

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Josef Hochgerner, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

[hochgerner@zsi.at](mailto:hochgerner@zsi.at)

[www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)