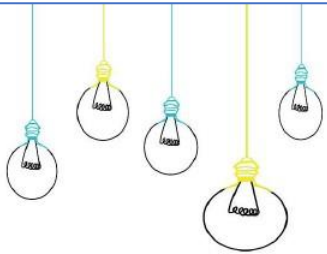


Press Summary





¿Por qué los **Think Tanks**
son importantes
para los **HACEDORES DE POLÍTICAS**
y para el **público?**


AGENDA


- ¿Por qué los *Think Tanks* son importantes para los hacedores de políticas y para el público?
- ¿Quién escucha a los *Think Tanks*? **Casos de éxito.**
- **Día y hora:** 31 de enero de 2019; de 08:30 a 11:30.
- **Lugar:** Sede del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo en Uruguay. Rincón 640
- **Moderador:** Nelson Fernández.
- **RSVP:** info@acadeco.com.uy

- 8:30 – Acreditaciones- Café.
- 9:00 – Apertura a cargo del Representante del BID en Uruguay, Sr. Morgan Doyle y de la Presidente de la Academia Nacional de Economía, Sra. María Dolores Benavente.
- 9:30 - Panel que desarrolla el tema: ¿Por qué los *Think Tanks* son importantes para los hacedores de políticas y para el público? ¿Quién escucha a los *Think Tanks*? **Casos de éxito.**
 - Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo (CED).
 - Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Económica y Social (CERES).
 - Centro de Investigaciones Económicas (CINVE).
 - Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (CLAEH).
 - EDUY21.
 - Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (ICD)
 - Pharos (Academia Nacional de Economía)
- 11:15 – Cierre a cargo del periodista Nelson Fernández.



 **BID**
Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo

 **TTCSP**
Tercer Seminario Económico Regional
Universidad de Palermo

 **Pharos**
Asociación de Economistas de la Academia Nacional de Economía

Last January 31st, Think Tanks & Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania proposed a simultaneous meeting in several countries of the world, to reflect on the impact of these institutions on policies and public opinion.

More than 257 institutions throughout the world accepted this proposal. For the first time, Uruguay joined the more than 75 host countries and held a meeting of Uruguayan Think Tanks, convened by the Inter-American Development Bank and the National Academy of Economics.

Throughout that morning, and with journalist Nelson Fernández as moderator, seven Uruguayan Think Tanks presented their success stories in bringing a topic to public opinion, or in getting some proposal to be carried out by the authorities.

Nelson Fernández began by pointing out the importance of an event of such characteristics, specially with the “celebration of democracy” by all the Political Parties presenting their government programs this year.



Fernández, Doyle, Benavente

The Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Uruguay, Mr. Morgan Doyle, began his presentation by thanking those who attended and commenting that there is no development that does not result from the thinking of civil society and governments. The big challenge, in his opinion, is to achieve a balance between these actors. He understands that Think Tanks are at the forefront of creating social innovation as well as they help governments and development organizations to disseminate and generate knowledge. He pointed out that the Bank is adapting its approach to increasingly incorporate civil society, to the point that, as of 2019, there is a new IDB-Civil Society Strategy that seeks to add shared value in common development agendas with Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society. Face-to-face and online training programs aimed at Civil Society Organizations and Think Tanks will be developed, among others.

The President of the National Academy of Economics, María Dolores Benavente, thanked the IDB and Nelson Fernández for the support since this event started to take shape, as well as the institutions present. Later, she read a letter from the President of the Republic and Academician of Honor, Dr. Tabaré Vázquez, sent specially for the event, where, among other aspects, it was stated: "In any of their forms, the Think Tanks play an important role when creating and strengthening spaces for dialogue. They force us to think, to take into account different points of view, to debate and improve our arguments. There lies their fundamental value. "



Hernán Bonilla - Center of Studies for Development (CED)

He commented that since CED was a relatively new Think Tank, its success stories referred to papers presented, researches, indexes developed for Uruguay based on international methodologies, as well as the organization of debates and round tables with Uruguayan politicians, and foreign technicians and politicians. By 2019, they will elaborate proposals in the three main areas in which they have been working: International insertion, Social fragmentation and Ease to do business.



Guillermo Tolosa - Center for Economic and Social Reality Studies (CERES)

He began his talk with a quote from Yuval Noah Harari: *"In a world deluged by irrelevant information, clarity is power."* To that phrase he added two of his own: *"In a world deluged with fake news, rigor is power"*. *"In a tense and polarized world, the power resides in measured analysis."*

These three reflections are correlated with three characteristic aspects of CERES' work: clarity in the research, rigor in the analysis and balance in the proposals.

As for a success story, he referred to the role that CERES played in the successful exit from the crisis of 2002, in a joint work with authorities of the Ministry of Economy and international advisors.



Diego Aboal - Center for Economic Research (CINVE)

This institution has been established 44 years ago. Aboal stressed the technical independence of the center, its funding coming from international sources or support agencies. He also commented that the works have been focused on very rigorous research, training of researchers and students, and influence on public policies.

He highlighted a publication they made for high school students: *To understand the economy of Uruguay*.

He also mentioned the team work they develop, and recalled the significant number of CINVE researchers who have held decision-making positions in public policy matters.



Andrés Lalanne - CLAEH University

He presented a success story with the "Let's Think Juan Lacaze" program. This is a pilot case for the development of territories; the CLAEH technicians coordinated an inter-institutional work where, among other organizations, the Municipal Government, the OPP, the Development Agency, the Commercial and Industrial Center, the Unions and the living forces of the area were involved. The program promotes a new development model, given the closure of key industries in the area, betting on value chains, commercial and sports port, tourism, knowledge and education. He understands that it is a replicable experience for other areas and in fact its application for the Department of Salto is already being analyzed.



Juan Pedro Mir and Virginia Piedra Cueva - EDUY21

They commented that the work of EDUY21 is part of a citizen initiative in 2016 and consists of contributing to develop proposals in educational matters that involve the political system.

They were divided into five working groups and elaborated documents related to evaluation of learning,

curricula, teacher training, management of educational centers and financing of education.

An Open Book was presented with approaches in these subjects and they are preparing proposals for a new Education Law, a new teaching Statute, a new structure of educational centers, a new teacher training and financing methods.

"It's always those who succeed that speak; the challenge is to be able to listen to those who didn't", reflected Mir.



Analía Bettoni - Institute of Communication and Development (ICD)

This institute was established in 1986 and has always had the vocation of Think and **Do** Tank. Its purpose is the strengthening of civil society. For this they began with a mapping of the organizations.

She understands that the success they have achieved is to have put an issue on the public agenda: transparency and accountability in civil society institutions. This subject has permeated all countries and all civil society organizations.

They developed regional programs regarding this issue and even published a book on it: "See through", with results of the research on transparency and accountability of civil society carried out in Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Spain.

The regional initiative "To be Accountable" was carried out, where each country evaluates its own actions in the matter. In Uruguay, this report is released every two years since 2010.



Carlos Saccone - Pharos - National Academy of Economics

The Academy is now 62 years old and its Think Tank, Pharos, was established in 2015. Saccone reviewed a success story of the Academy for its work “State Enterprises and Efficiency, ownership relevance”.

This work was entrusted by Pharos to IEEM team (University of Montevideo): Ignacio Munyo, Pablo Regent and Carlos Delpiazzo.

In the paper, a proposal is presented to improve the corporate governance of state enterprises: to transfer to a new entity all the rights inherent to the property with the exception of the sale of the state entity itself. This entity could coordinate the performance of all public companies, appoint and remove the directories of each, discuss and approve strategic decisions that exceed by regulation the powers of the directories of each company, and perform the task of control of the directories.

Recently, the authorities have announced a bill to create a centralized area within the Executive Power to "exercise the role of owner", with executive management and a specific mechanism for their appointment. In this area, several of the recommendations outlined in Pharos' work would apply.



Reaching the end of the event, Nelson Fernández reviewed the main conclusions of each presentation and Mr. Morgan Doyle referred to Uruguay as having an enormous wealth that lies in the quality of its Think Tanks. He urged to continue working and stressed the importance of carrying out regional research projects and proposals.