BACKGROUND

*Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (ICD)* is a non-profit civic association, based in Montevideo, Uruguay, with legal status approved by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The institution bears a vast experience of more than 30 years in the design and execution of projects aimed to contribute to the strengthening of civil society in its various forms and to strengthen citizen participation in democracy and development processes. ICD carries out dissemination of information activities; applied research; publications, seminars and campaigns; education projects and face-to-face and virtual training; technical advice and consultancy both at national level in Uruguay, at regional in level in Latin America and the Caribbean, and also at global level.

ICD has a long and demonstrated history of policy-relevant research and action-oriented research in areas related to governance, transparency and accountability of public and private actors. ICD has for example completed research projects in the fields of impacts, effects and measurements of corruption and institutional combat against corruption; impact of information and communication technologies; social information and communication; development and democracy actors; regional integration, international cooperation; social responsibility, volunteering and citizen participation.

ICD has carried out project evaluations and institutional assessments and has provided technical assistance to organizations in countries in Latin America and beyond. ICD has a reputation of being an objective, impartial, solid, and thorough institution at national level in Uruguay as well as at international level. Governmental bodies, civil society actors, private companies and international organizations can verify this assertion. In section IV a list of national and international references is presented, which can be expanded upon request.

ICD has a qualified multidisciplinary permanent staff and also works with consultants and specialists in different areas and both all permanent staff and consultants have Spanish as a mother tongue and very strong English language skills. Professional translators (Portuguese, French) also contribute upon demand to ICD’s work and activities.
MISSION

ICD’s mission is to produce knowledge and promote actions that contribute to strengthen citizen participation and civil society influence and impact in development and democratic life, at national and at international level. The organization’s primary objective is to strengthen an inclusive and equitable democratic development. As such, ICD seeks to strengthen civil society and drive active participation across all sectors. ICD pays special attention to the role organized citizens play in society in the consolidation and improvement of democracy.

STRATEGIC WORKING LINES 2017-2020

- Defending and promoting Human Rights and Civic Freedoms
- Promoting transparency and accountability
- Strengthening of civil society and citizen participation
- Influencing Public Policies

PRINCIPAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES (2010-2018)

DEFENDING AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC FREEDOMS

CIVICUS Monitor. Cutting edge research tool built by civil society that aims to share reliable, up-to-date data on the state of civil society freedoms in all countries. An interactive world map allows to access live updates from civil society around the world, track threats to civil society and learn about the ways in which the right to participate is being realised or challenged. ICD is responsible for monitoring 10 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean. www.monitor.civicus.org


Uruguay: civil society influencing Open Government. This Project was oriented to the promotion of the right to access to public information and fostering of citizen participation and influence. Training workshops with organizations of 10 provinces and the elaboration of a handbook were the principal actions during 2014. Financed by the Chief of Mission Fund New Zealand Embassy in Argentina.

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Rendir Cuentas (Regional Initiative and national activities). ICD is an active member and regional co-coordinator of this Civil Society initiative aiming to strengthen transparency and accountability practices in civil society. Organizations from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic are also part of the network, which develops activities with other actors such as governmental officials and the academic community. www.rendircuentas.org
Global Standard for CSOs Accountability (International). ICD, as a Rendir Cuentas member, participates in an international community of different organisations and actors from civil society working together to drive and spread the practice of ‘Dynamic Accountability’. http://www.csostandard.org

Regional Alliance for the Freedom of Expression and Information. In the field of access to public information and open government, ICD gives technical support to the Alliance since 2010, a coalition comprised of 22 organizations from all countries in Latin America. The Alliance defends and promotes freedom of expression and access to public information. http://www.alianzaregional.net

Capacity building for CSOs accountability (El Salvador). Training of civil society organizations in accountability and handbook for the development of good practices. Oriented to CSOs receiving public funds. 2015.

Online training on CSOS transparency and accountability (Spain). ICD developed an online course for umbrella organization Development NGO Coordination of Spain, with the support of the Obra Social La Caixa. Topics: transparency, accountability, social responsibility. 2015 http://formacion.coordinadoraongd.org

CSOs accountability (Ecuador). In the frame of the project “Constructing transparency in practice” (2012), ICD provided consultancy services to Ecuadorian Civil Society Organizations for capacity building in transparency and accountability. This was an initiative of the Ecuadorian Centre for Environmental Law supported by the National Endowment for Democracy.

Let’s be Transparent (Transparentemos) (Chile). In 2011 and 2012, ICD developed a training program and technical consultancy for 60 Non-Profit Civil Associations in Chile for the integration of transparency and accountability standards. The Avina Foundation in Chile and the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank commissioned ICD for this endeavour.

Regional Fund for the Promotion of Transparency, FONTRA (Regional). In alliance with the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF), the Multilateral Investment Fund and private companies in the MERCOSUR Region, ICD has managed since 2006 the Regional Fund for the Promotion of Transparency (FONTRA). Thirty social organizations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay were supported to execute programs aimed to reduce costs of corruption, especially at the public sector.

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Training course about civic participation for civil servants in El Salvador. Representatives of the Public Health, Education, Internal Affairs and Economy Ministries participated in the course, as well as delegates of the Anti-corruption and Citizen Participation Office and other offices of the Executive Power. 2015

Online training course about access to information and citizen participation, with Cláritas Foundation, Argentina. The 18 weeks ‘course was centred in citizen participation and Access to information as a tool for influencing public policies. More than 200 participants from all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean attended this regional virtual training course. 2015. www.fundacionclaritas.org

Capacity building of civil society organizations to monitor governmental commitments dealing with handicapped people. Workshops with organizations of 10 provinces took place during 2014 and 2015. In agreement with the Instituto Psicopedagógico Uruguayo (IPPU) and supported by the European Union.
Citizen consultation about the internationalization of Montevideo. Research done for the local government of the city of Montevideo to gather information and opinions among different actors about the international policies of the Montevideo. 2014-2015

Dialogues and Propositions (Diálogos propositivos). With the objective of assessing the participation of civil society in public policies, and identifying principal challenges, ICD conducted in agreement with UNDP a series of meetings with qualified representatives of civil society mainly to generate joint proposals. 2014

Civil Society at the Crossroads. International initiative and think tank. ICD worked together with PRIA in India, CDRA in South Africa, PSO in the Netherlands, INTRAC in the United Kingdom and EASUN, Tanzania to explore the shifting roles, capacities, contributions and challenges facing different segments of civil society nationally and internationally. The initiative generated stories in 16 countries (Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, India, Cambodia, Indonesia, UK, Netherlands, Greece, Russia and Ireland, plus a number of citizens’ movements in the North and South). Research papers and articles targeting decision makers and the academic community have been presented in national policy sessions and the international fora. http://www.pria.org/civil_society.htm

Systematization of actions and projects (2005-2010) of the Small Donations Program (PPD), which is funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and implemented in Uruguay by the UNDP. ICD was responsible for the systematisation and elaboration of the publication “Local solutions to global environmental challenges”. www.ppduruguay.undp.org.uy

CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI). Participatory needs assessment and action planning tool for civil society around the world, with the aim of creating a knowledge base and momentum for civil society strengthening initiatives. ICD implemented the CSI in 2003-2006 with the support on PNUD Uruguay and in 2009-2010 con with the support of the United Nations ONEUN program. www.civicus.org/news-and-resources/reports-and-publications/csi-reports

Mapeo de la Sociedad Civil (Civil Society Mapping). Platform gathering information of more than 21500 organizations all over Uruguay, with the support of the Inter-American Bank (IDB). www.mapeosociedadcivil.uy

Research about financing mechanisms of civil society in the South Cone and Brazil. This work was done within the framework of a project of the Mesa de Articulación de América Latina y El Caribe with the support of the European Union. The regional comparative research (South Cone, Brazil, Andean Region, Mexico and Central America) was also committed to ICD. http://mesadearticulacion.org/proyecto-regional/

Installed capacities in civil society organizations in Uruguay. The study and systematization was carried out within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between the National Association of NGOs (ANONG) and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI). http://goo.gl/UmmJes

Handbook for volunteer organizations. “Voluntariado(s)” a handbook for the management and training of volunteers was launched in 2011 with the support of the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), UNICEF and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) http://goo.gl/BydGLN

National survey of volunteering in Uruguay. In agreement with the Office of Planning and Budget (OPP), the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) and the UNDP, ICD carried out in 2009 a public opinion survey of national coverage. http://goo.gl/RxR92o
ICD created and manages since 2002 the **Virtual Community about Civil Society: Civil Society Online**. This is an information system including a virtual full-text library (articles, books, documents, other documents), electronic newsletters, opportunities for online training, social networking, among other features. ([www.lasociedadcivil.org](http://www.lasociedadcivil.org)) It is complemented with the **Rendir Cuentas Virtual Community**, specialized in transparency and accountability ([www.rendircuentas.org](http://www.rendircuentas.org)) and the **Mapeo de Sociedad Civil** ([www.mapeosociedadcivil.uy](http://www.mapeosociedadcivil.uy)) a platform gathering information of more than 2.500 non-profits in Uruguay.

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**INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICIES**

**Strengthening subnational governments’ capacities in Open Government and citizen participation.** Proposal led by UNDP for generating technical inputs aimed at the strengthening the capacities of subnational governments of Uruguay in open government. The research focused on the analysis of the current situation of local governments in Uruguay in the dimensions of the open Government and proposed a number of actions for strengthening of these dimensions. 2016-2017

**Training of municipal governments in Mercociudades network.** ICD has developed multiple virtual and face-to-face training activities for local authorities and members of the civil society organizations in the preparation of regional projects. ICD also supports the technical secretariat of Mercociudades based in Montevideo, in design and editing of publications and communication tasks. [www.mercociudades.org](http://www.mercociudades.org) From 2012 until now.

**Open to the Public Eyes: Social Accountability and Social Monitoring (International).** In the framework of this international project supported by the European Union, ICD trained local officers from municipalities in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and elaborated didactic handbooks and other educational materials. 2016

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**MEMBERSHIP AND NETWORKING**

ICD is a full member of diverse coalitions of multiple stakeholders at a regional and international level. ICD plays crucial role in the coordination and promotion of regional and global networks.

- ICD is part of ISTR, **International Society for Third Sector Research**, a global organization committed to building a growing global community of scholars and interested others dedicated to the creation, discussion, and advancement of the highest quality of knowledge pertaining to the Third Sector and its impact on human and planetary wellbeing and development internationally ([www.istr.org](http://www.istr.org)) and has coordinated its Latin American Network for 25 years. ([www.istrlac.org](http://www.istrlac.org))

- Since 1993 ICD is a full member of **CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation**, a global alliance of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world. ([www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)).

- Member of the **Steering Committee in Uruguay of the United Nations Global Compact**, a voluntary Initiative that congregates some six thousand organizations around the world aimed to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. The Global Compact is a principle-based framework for businesses, stating ten
principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. (www.unglobalcompact.org)

- Since 2010, ICD is part of the ConSOC (Civil Society Consulting Groups), a permanent platform of dialogue and exchange between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and civil society organizations present in 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. (https://www.iadb.org/es/sociedad-civil/grupos-consultivos-de-la-sociedad-civil-consocs%2C7238.html)

- Member of the Board of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP International) 2012-2015. Established in 2003, HAP International is the humanitarian sector’s first international self-regulatory body. Members of HAP are committed to meeting the highest standards of accountability and quality management.

- Chair of the Board of the Partnership Transparency Fund (PTF), international organization supporting the fight against corruption. (www.ptfund.org) 2010-2014

- Active member of the National Commission for Dialogue on Volunteering and Social Commitment, a national coalition comprised by 17 institutions representing official bodies, private companies, the academic community and civil society, aimed to promote volunteering in Uruguay. ICD coordinated this network from 2010 to 2016. (www.mesadevoluntariado.org.uy)

- Founding member of the National Association of NGOs in Uruguay, a coalition comprised by some 90 non-governmental organizations in Uruguay and chair of the Board from 2006 to 2010. (www.anong.org.uy)

**DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

The list below presents ICD documents, articles and books published in the last 15 years (1998-2013). The title is given in the original language that the publication was issued (Spanish and/or English). ICD publications are issued in printed and/or electronic format.


- *Pequeñas Grandes Cosas. Informe Rendir Cuentas 2016*, Presenta los resultados del ejercicio realizado por las organizaciones uruguayas en el marco de la Iniciativa Regional Rendir Cuentas. ICD – Rendir Cuentas

- *Un camino para avanzar y crecer. Guía para el desarrollo de alianzas colaborativas en la sociedad civil*, ICD; CEDA, Quito, 2015

- *Manual de autoevaluación en transparencia y rendición de cuentas para OSC*, ICD; CEDA, Quito, 2015

- *Estudio sobre mecanismos de financiamiento de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en América Latina*, ICD, Mesa de Articulación, 2014

- *Aporte a la generación de propuestas de mecanismos de financiamiento de las ONG en el Cono Sur y Brasil*, ICD; ANONG; Mesa de Articulación, 2014
Coparticipación inteligente y gobierno abierto: Nuevos paradigmas para las organizaciones de la sociedad civil. Informe de rendir cuentas 2014, ICD, 2014.


Relevamiento de las capacidades instaladas en la sociedad civil en Uruguay, ICD; ANONG; AUCI, Montevideo, 2013.


La sociedad civil en la encrucijada. Transformaciones, desafíos y alternativas. CDRA, EASUN, PRIA, INTRAC, PSO e ICD, 2012.


La corrupción y su freno: ciudadanía, instituciones y normas, ICD, 2009.

Ver a través. Poder, rendición de cuentas y sociedad civil / Anabel Cruz e Inés Pousadela (editoras), ICD-CIVICUS-Fundación W.K. Kellogg, 2008.


Informe Uruguay. Proyecto rendición de cuentas y transparencia de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en Iberoamérica, 2007


Brillos e impurezas de un diamante. Resultados del Índice CIVICUS de la Sociedad Civil en Uruguay, ICD; CIVICUS, 2006

Las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación para la integración social en América Latina, ICD-Programa Frida, 2005.


Voluntariado en Uruguay: perfiles, impactos y desafíos, Analía Bettoni y Anabel Cruz, Montevideo, 2001

Sociedad Civil en Uruguay: Desafíos cruciales y un vasto potencial. Informe preliminar del Índice CIVICUS de la Sociedad Civil en Uruguay, ICD-CIVICUS, julio 2001

Voluntariado en América del Sur: perfiles, impacto y desafíos, Analía Bettoni y Anabel Cruz, ICD, 2001


Con-fin Solidario (Directorio de organizaciones no gubernamentales), ICD- Embajada de Reino Unidos, Montevideo, 2000.

Interacción Estado - Sociedad civil en el sistema de políticas públicas de infancia. María Elena Laurnaga (ICD, en cooperación con Gurises Unidos, Vida y Educación y El Abrojo), 1999

Filantropía empresarial en el Uruguay. Encuesta a empresarios. ICD, Montevideo, 1998

Guía de la Solidaridad Ciudadana, ICD-MTSS, Montevideo, 1998

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