



Semana de la Evidencia 2024 - Concept Note

On Think Tanks + Hub LAC

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Background

The Semana de la Evidencia (Evidence Week) is an initiative born in 2016 from the (former) Alianza Peruana para el Uso de la Evidencia, a local alliance of researchers and practitioners in the field of evidence informed policymaking (EIPM). [On Think Tanks](#) (OTT) and the Alianza transformed a string of small periodic presentations by practitioners into a weeklong festival of events held in multiple locations, achieving greater participation and awareness of the importance of promoting EIPM and strengthening research capacities in the region.

In the three years preceding the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first three Semanas brought together over 2000 participants, across hundreds of events in 15+ countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Also from an organization standpoint, the Semana de la Evidencia proved to be an effective banner under which institutions dedicated to EIPM could rally.

In 2022, the Semana de la Evidencia embarked on a new chapter by establishing significant partnerships with hubs and organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance both communication and organization of the event. This reflects the ongoing commitment of OTT and its partners to promote a contextually aware use of evidence in policy formulation. Furthermore, the Semana de la Evidencia introduced

the Regional Conference on Evidence for Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean (EnLACe, from *Encuentro Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Evidencias para Políticas*), a



highly relevant event dedicated to discussing the current state and priorities surrounding EIPM in the region.

- In 2022, Semana de la Evidencia happened around the enLACe 2022 event achieved a registration of 368 people from 21 countries. Among the registrants were researchers (33%), students (16%), civil society members (12%), public policy managers (10%), government representatives (6%), and others (23%). It is worth highlighting the participation of women, who represented approximately 70% of the registrants. On the second day of the meeting, thematic sessions were held, during which we had 28 presentations of experiences using evidence in the sectors of Health, Human Rights and Environment, Education, Employment, and Public Service.
- In 2023, the Semana de la Evidencia, in a new partnership with Hub LAC, featured 13 events from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela. These events covered topics such as Health, Education, Evidence and Information Search, Sustainable Development, Gender, and Human Capital and Social Protection.

Event theme for 2024

The theme for Semana de la Evidencia 2024 is **Navigating Change: Evidence for Resilient Futures**. This year's focus is on exploring how the use of evidence can foster futures that are resilient, creative and inclusive. This includes critical areas such as climate change response, building sustainable economies, and disaster preparedness, as well as the fundamental roles of technology, health, education, and social engagement in strengthening our communities for these changes.

Policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders can look forward to presenting and participating in lectures, interactive workshops, and thought-provoking panel discussions that will serve as a platform to transform the way we address challenges and build a more resilient and sustainable future. This theme underscores our commitment to promoting the use of evidence in policy-making processes that are



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sensitive to local contexts and capable of addressing the pressing challenges faced by our communities.

In 2024, Semana de la Evidencia will take place on November 11-16.

What is our shared vision?

We envision a future where evidence is seamlessly integrated into decision-making processes across Latin America and the Caribbean. In this future, researchers produce high-quality knowledge without struggling for recognition, citizens rely on accessible evidence to inform their decisions, knowledge brokers play a vital role in bridging gaps, and policymakers naturally incorporate evidence into policy development and assessment.

While the path to this future is complex and requires collective effort, organizations like OTT and HubLAC are just a part of a larger ecosystem spanning countries, sectors, and governance levels. Entities such as the International Network for Governmental Scientific Advice (INGSA) and the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) are also dedicated to strengthening evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in various ways.

Within this ecosystem, Semana de la Evidencia aims to foster community, networking, and sense-making. Unlike initiatives focused solely on setting standards or building capacity, Semana de la Evidencia was designed to advance us toward our envisioned future in two main ways:

- By establishing an annual "celebration of evidence" that serves as a focal point for citizens, policymakers, academics, and knowledge brokers, fostering a sense of community among those driving change.
- By offering a platform where these stakeholders can convene to exchange ideas, share lessons learned, and identify synergies among their respective goals and projects.

In summary, we believe that a well-thought out and implemented Semana de la Evidencia, offering seamless participant experiences, thrilling events, and fruitful



outcomes in terms of connections and knowledge sharing, can spark conversations about evidence and encourage active engagement with it. As a short-term effect, we anticipate that participants will be eager to return to the Semana repeatedly, leading to increased visibility and discussion around evidence. As participants share their experiences and stories, they may inspire others to pursue their own initiatives in promoting Evidence-Informed Policy Making (EIPM). Furthermore, lasting connections formed during the Semana may blossom into new collaborations in the future. Over time, sustained Semana events can contribute to a broader belief in the importance of evidence and prompt increased action across society to support its generation, translation, and utilization.

Our principles

- Decentralization
- All-of-society collaboration
- Dialogue
- Equity

Partnerships and Support Opportunities

To enhance the success of Semana de la Evidencia 2024, we are seeking support to bring in qualified personnel or organizations who can assist in the event's execution, particularly skilled individuals who enjoy articulating and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders. This will enable better event coordination, expanding the impact, engagement, and reach of the event across the region. Organizations and individuals are welcomed to express their interest in co-chairing Semana de la Evidencia by writing to info@semanadelaevidencia.org.

Additionally, we are seeking funding to provide scholarships for underrepresented groups, making the event more accessible and inclusive. Investment in these initiatives will enrich participants' experiences and foster more equitable discussions on evidence-informed policies, costing, for instance, translation and online streaming of the events.



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Stakeholders interested in this topic can also engage by proposing specific programs within Semana de la Evidencia, such as lectures, workshops, and panel discussions, as well as inviting other interested parties to participate, promoting greater engagement and collaboration.

In recognition of these partnerships, Semana de la Evidencia will offer exclusive visibility and recognition opportunities, including promotion in materials, acknowledgments in speeches, and networking opportunities during the event.

Governance

The Semana de la Evidencia is co-chaired by a Working Group composed of members from different organizations, such as [OTT](#) and [Hub LAC](#). The governance framework is designed to accommodate the involvement of additional organizations seeking to

contribute to the execution of the Semana de la Evidencia, fostering a spirit of shared governance and collaboration.

With respect to the roles and responsibilities of the Working Group members:

- **OTT** members are Enrique Mendizabal, Estefanía Terán, Marcela Morales and Paula Martinez.
- **Hub LAC** members are Carolina Beidacki, Duber Osorio, Ingrid Abdala, Jessica Farias, Laura Boeira, Paola Ramirez, Pamela Velasquez, Raquel Cerqueira and Silvia Villatoro

Deadlines

- **June 28, 2024** - Deadline for partner individuals and organizations to express interest in co-chairing Semana de la Evidencia (contacto@hublac.org)
- **September 20, 2024** - Deadline for individuals and organizations to propose activities in the website <https://semanadelaevidencia.org/>
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- **October 11, 2024** - Final programme in the website <https://semanadelaevidencia.org/>
- **November 11-16, 2024** - Semana de la Evidencia 2024