

The Land Administration System Training Experience in Colombia from 2015 to 2021: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities

Maria Amalia Florez Huertas (Colombia), Daniel Casalprim (Spain) and Ivan Dario Carrillo Duran (Colombia)

Key words: Online Education; Hybrid Modality; Professional Development; Lifelong Learning; Training Strategy

SUMMARY

As a result of the Land Administration System (LAS) public policy being implemented in Colombia, the SwissTierras project and its partners designed a national training strategy that will impact approximately 50,000 Colombians. During 2020 and 2021, the strategic initiatives to improve the skills of those involved in land information management were designed and validated. These initiatives move forward and improve the training activities that started in 2015 when the Swiss Cooperation began providing support to Colombia.

The strategic initiatives are based on a framework of reference and include a series of projects that aim to: a) positioning the LAS to raise stakeholders' awareness of the design and updating of training activities; b) expanding LAS training programs offer with a regional and differential approach, including the training of national experts to improve the academic offer at the formal, non-formal (Education for Work and Human Development - ETDH in Spanish), and informal education levels; c) creating added value in LAS training programs aligned with the land administration national authorities, educational innovation factors, as well as student retention, success and continuity; d) mitigating tensions and disputes between academia, LAS stakeholders, the Colombian government, and the overall community in order to achieve shared goals for policy implementation; and e) transferring LAS knowledge that is gathered in Colombia to other arenas by venturing into financial benefits for those who create the training programs content.

Implementing the abovementioned strategic initiatives requires participation of LAS key stakeholders and decision makers from the formal, ETDH and informal education levels in Colombia. Regardless of individual interests, developing public policy requires that people can

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move more easily between training institutions and the job market in LAS economic sectors; therefore, the governance of LAS training is directly related to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as part of the National Qualifications System (SNC in Spanish), which was created by the 2018-2022 National Development Plan.

This paper will explain the progress that has been made by SwissTierras and the Colombian government in implementing the education strategy which was created based on the 2020 discovery study phase of human capital gaps in Colombia to implement the LAS. Opportunities and challenges will also be presented. Some of the results from the strategy implementation that have already been identified are a) in the formal education level: collaboration with Los Andes University; in ETDH (non-formal): alliance with SENA (National Training Service, SENA in Spanish); in informal education: the hybrid training model developed by SwissTierras Colombia for those in charge of implementing the new public policy.

LAS training has brought opportunities and challenges such as governance, budget allocation, modernization of academic portfolios, as well as the time needed to roll out and implement this public policy. Most importantly, lifelong learning, as the core of modern education, is the main challenge of the LAS training strategy.

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