



Proposal of an Economic Social Observatory with a vision from the territory

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Abstract

The research aims to develop a proposal for the achievement of transdisciplinary studies from the territory, which impact on the generation of knowledge of economic and social events. This will be achieved in the first place by investigating which are the indicators generated by specialized institutions such as IMCO and CONEVAL, in the following areas: economic, social and territorial. It is aimed at developing a matrix that allows to do specific analyzes of a multidimensional nature both at the level of the State of Puebla and the Municipality and its Metropolitan Area, thorough making an exhaustive review of the methodologies and indicators presented by the aforementioned institutions. The ultimate goal is to offer a tool that provides reliable information in order to achieve transdisciplinary studies that affect the generation of knowledge of economic and social events taking into account the territory, causing the formation of virtuous circles between academic researchers, civil associations and decisions makers, to make proposals that impact on the improvement of the quality of life. Through a social economic observatory will provide to the enterprises, entrepreneur, government and general public the basic information for the design of projects based on priorities and economic activities, through the timely monitoring of the proposed indicators. Thus, it can be considered that the information obtained will allow a better use of the opportunities of commercial activities, productive manufacturing and existing services for the benefit of citizens.

Keywords: Economic Social Observatory. IMCO. CONEVAL.

Introduction

Everyday life requires to make decisions of a personal, professional and family nature that have implications over time. In this sense, governments also makes economic, social and financial decisions that impact on the quality of life of the inhabitants.

That is why making decisions is the starting point, we need to have a minimal information to understand the nature of the decision that is being made, as well as the analysis of the environment and the probable consequences in the immediate future. The information is the center of any decision model that pretends to be efficient and effective. But the reality is that the decisions are made under conditions of poor information, in many cases there is a lack of minimum necessary information and in extreme cases it is under the predominance of misinformation or bad information that affects the decisions.

From another perspective, the lack of accurate information is related to the inability of governments to make decisions, but it is also unknown what should be decided as well as the analysis criteria to do so, this leads to no decision or inaction resulting in difficulties around simplistic information that is not built on scientific grounds or that are the product of ignorance and sometimes perverse issues.

So the only way to improve the ability of governments to decide, is with the realization of elementary processes of collection and analysis of information that serves to check ideas and opposing positions.

Development of the problem

The problem can be seen since the creation of the Federal Institute of Access to Public Information (IFAI), which responds to the need that Mexican society has in the first place to guarantee the exercise of a transparent government that is subject to the supervision of the society and that allows the rendering of accounts. Proof of this is that in 2015 more than 950 thousand information requests were made, they show a need for a mechanism that guarantees the access to government public information and attest to the social need that exists today. The information must also be efficient in two ways. The first is that citizens can observe, evaluate and monitor the actions of the rulers and know if the decisions that are being taken are tied to real problems, to give a solution to the demands of the society.

That is why the information issued by the government should be useful and meaningful for society as a whole, since the data and figures to which it has access must provoke the capacity of action of the various actors of society.

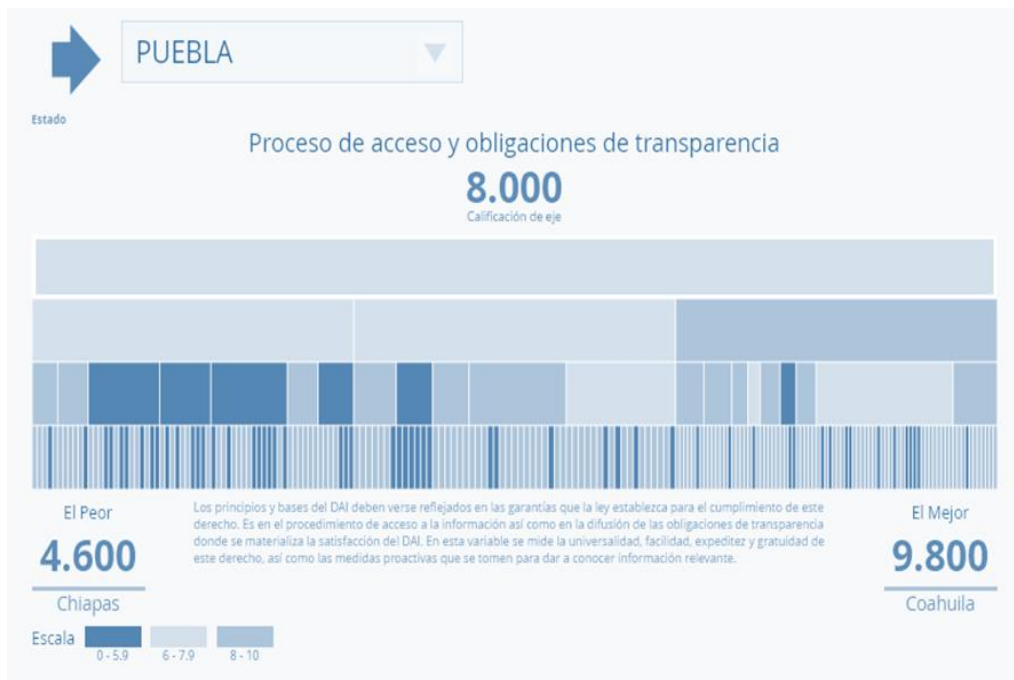


Figure 1 - Access process and transparency obligations

Source: Taken from the Right to Access to Information Index in Mexico, 2015.

The problem has several dimensions, for example, of the 33 laws that exist in Mexico on access to information, a grade of 5.7 is obtained (FUNDAR, 2015), data given by the Index of Access to Information of Mexico in which it is made a comparison of the best national and international practices and some results that are presented are those shown in Scheme 1 and 2.

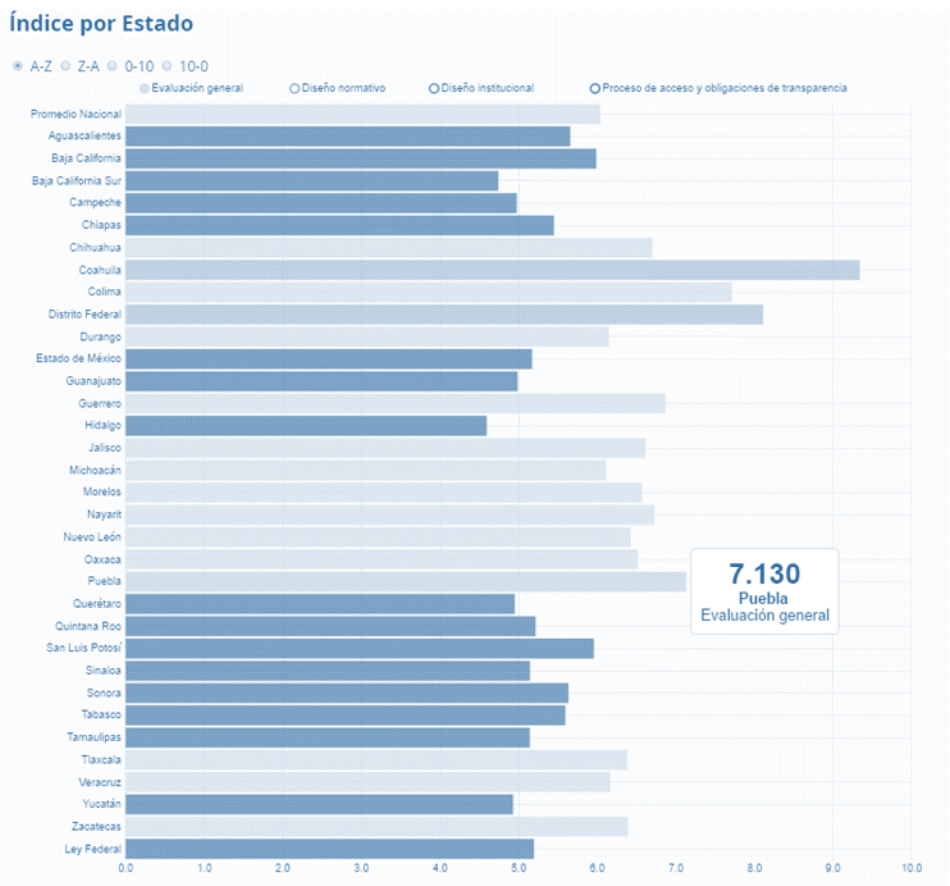


Figure 2 - Index of Access to Information of Mexico by State

Source: Taken from the Right to Access to Information Index in Mexico, 2015.

It can be said that in Mexico there is transparency but no accountability, since information requests have been multiplied to governments, but this does not translate into better management of governments, let alone accountability, since the conditions that facilitate the information are almost null. Specifying some data from 2003 to 2012, 822 thousand 511 information requests have been made to public administration entities at the federal level.

Graph 1 shows that the increase in requests for information was 30.2 percent between 2007 and 2011, from 94 thousand 723 requests to 123 thousand 293. In this sense, government transparency is a decentralized system of alarms, which allow these to be activate from different areas of society, however transparency is a means, not the end in itself since the degree of transparency is measured, but the impact of governments' management on the quality of life of inhabitants, you can have more governments but as long as there is no transformation of the institutions that are in charge of sanctioning the deviations, there will be no optimal results. Democracy lives not only in transparency (Ugalde, 2012).



Graph 1 - Number of requests for access to information in the federal sphere from 2003 to 2011.

Source: taken from IFAI Statistics, 2012.

That is why the amendment to article 6 of the constitution constitutionalized as a fundamental right access to public information, in the words of Paulina Gutiérrez Jiménez (2008), this represents a real power that is deposited in all people to demand the progress of the pending agenda of fundamental rights in our country. They are the cornerstone of a Democratic State, but in Mexico the State has not been able to protect fundamental rights, the result is that a greater number of Mexicans are left out of the relevant decisions. The right of access to information gives people the power to exercise control over the State, and it would provoke the requirement that it comply with its legal obligation to guarantee fundamental rights.

Transparency implies that information is accessible, comprehensive and of quality, so that citizens can give content to government actions, strengthening fundamental rights. In this sense, the right to public information is supported by:

1. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
3. Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
4. And Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

They recognize the right to information as an inclusive part of freedom of expression, which integrates the right to seek, receive and impart information. The right of access to public information is an instrument that can articulate the defense of fundamental rights in Mexico. If you have reliable information that allows for comparability, you will be in a position to verify if the government is complying with its obligations and at the same time be able to demand human rights.

This is how the right to information is a necessary condition for the exercise of fundamental rights, and has the necessary force to impose itself as an obligation of the State to respond to the requests of individuals.

It should be noted that the information to be official represents an instrument for involvement in public affairs, which generates the State accountability to society and guarantees fundamental rights, as well as input for the generation of knowledge of the events that concern the society.

So the objective of the research is to design a tool that provides reliable information in order to achieve transdisciplinary studies that affect the generation of

knowledge of economic and social events taking into account the territory, causing the formation of virtuous circles among the academia, civil associations and decision makers, to make proposals that impact on the improvement of the quality of life, through a social economic observatory. The previous one was guided by the question "How does the lack of accurate information affect the government's decision-making?" Since it can be predicted that the lack of accurate information in the government affects decision-making, since it is made from biased information or little attached to reality, so that an observatory that offers reliable information would achieve transdisciplinary studies that could affect economic and social events taking into account the territory, this would allow the generation of virtuous circles between the academy, civil associations and decision makers, in order to generate proposals for improving the quality of life.

Literature Review

Access to information is defined by the ability to respond and the strength to fulfill it, Gudiño mentions that it is the duty of the obliged subjects to inform and justify their actions; and the ability to sanction those who do not comply with this obligation (2016).

The World Bank mentions that one of the components in receptivity and is defined as the ability of officials to keep in mind the knowledge and opinions of citizens in the accountability, in this way access to information, is a This fundamental right is an instrument that protects the interests of citizens vis-à-vis the State, and favors political and social equity by forcing governments to create mechanisms to make public information accessible to all and not only to some groups. In this sense, in order for the right of access to information to be constituted as a key element in democratic consolidation, it is necessary to articulate the responsibilities of citizens and representatives of the State.

Fox and Haight (2007), point out some characteristics that the right to information should have:

1. The honest exercise of power requires citizen oversight.
2. Democratic participation requires an informed citizenship.
3. Access to information is fundamental to guide reformist reform strategies from within as well as from outside the State.
4. In addition to promoting the public good, the right to know also helps solve the problems of individual citizens.

Transparency of public information

Transparency is a quality that develops in a context of the right to access information, so the quality of transparency is not an element of the right to access to information, but is a characteristic of civic culture and legality.

According to Fox in 2008, the transparency of public information has two aspects:

1. Transparency opaque: refers to the dissemination of government information, not revealing the practical performance of institutions, nor the result of their actions, so the information disclosed from it is unreliable, it is likely to be managed according to particular interests
2. Clear transparency: it provides reliable and accessible information on institu-

tional performance, emphasizes the responsibilities of officials, disseminates decision-making, the destination of resources and provides the necessary conditions for interested actors to propose constructive changes in the institutions.

Observatories and their function

The creation of observatories of the different social phenomena, has had an important apogee, and whose central objective has to do with the study, recording and analysis of the situation and evolution of a certain problem. In 2004, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), determines that the work of an observatory is given in relation to the work areas listed below:

1. Compilation and elaboration of databases.
2. Methodologies to encode, classify and categorize data.
3. Connection of people / organizations working in similar areas.
4. Specific application of the new technical tools.
5. Analysis of trends / publications.

It is for this reason that the creation of an economic-social observatory favors the development of a structure whose activity has the purpose of gathering information from a social sector, the diagnosis of a situation, the forecast of its development and finally the production of research applied to serve as a basis for the decision making of the demands of the social sector that affect an improvement in the quality of life.

Natividad Enjuto says that the work of social observatories is basically done through the steps of the scientific research method:

1. Observation of the object
2. Hypothesis
3. Results
4. Data analysis
5. Conclusions

The importance of observing specific social problems could have an impact with the creation of social and economic observatories, from a territorial perspective, since from these the research process takes place, given that it is part of something essential in research as it is Observe. Apparently observing a social and economic phenomenon in a given context, actually involves a complex process that requires the integration of multiple dimensions in this case combine the quantitative and qualitative elements. Enjuto says that for an observatory to meet its objectives, it must support an efficient information system and must integrate different knowledge and professions. In the Observatory Observatory, New Agents in the Third Sector, it is mentioned that the global objectives of the Social Observatories are:

1. Knowledge production.
2. Delineate social complexity.
3. Centralization of data.
4. Diagnosis.
5. Anticipation.

In this way, the importance of creating an Economic Social Observatory with a vision from the territory lies in starting from a reality where a group of collaborators can transmit their know-how and make significant learning, guaranteeing to be objective, without biasing the reality, the generation of accurate data of current problems in

order to develop a research process in which the type of society to be built was considered. For the specific case of Mexico, there is only one Economic Social Observatory developed by the Anahuac University of Mayab. This is where the importance of research lies, since it can be the first step for the consolidation of applied research and the generation of virtuous circles that link different institutions, decision makers, academia and civil associations. With the passage of time, the concept of quality of life has been forming and taking hold, having its starting point in the 30's, where it was defined as a result of the possibility of consuming and accumulating that was closer to a concept of development, later the term began to be divided by areas of knowledge.

It is within the economic area that a concept as such has not been built, progress has been made in the quantitative analysis, with the objective of comparing nations, focusing on three main indicators: Income per capita, Standard of living and Quality of life. The problem of these developments arises from their lack of qualitative analysis, and elements that directly influence personal well-being (Cardona, Doris et al.: 2005; 82-83). It is important to emphasize that the existing definitions of quality of life are imprecise and that the variety of existing theories makes the search for a single concept accepted by all complex.

Citizen participation, within the political and public activity should be represented and taken care of through different means, one of the spaces to achieve this could be the observatories, which adopt as their main function the surveillance, evaluation and control of certain aspects of public life that are susceptible to being intervened and / or solved by the government and / or civil society.

If civil society were organized to analyze what happens in their environment, these observations would serve to propose solutions to the different problems that society experiences, mainly the most vulnerable sectors, which are those that do not cover the basic needs in their daily life (Silva; 2008, 191).

Therefore, the observatory would have as one of its main objectives, to denounce the situations, and to become the intermediary between the government and the official organisms and the citizenship that is not in agreement with the reality in which it is, therefore it is necessary that the observation be carried out by people who are neutral to the two sectors mentioned above, so that this way is a space for analysis and at the same time informants of the reality that society lives with in order to clarify the situation and be a base point to generate the change based on the indicators (Rodríguez and Correyero, 2008; 19).

Among the most outstanding features, the observatories serve to build a more inclusive citizen participation, because if the information generated by the government is analyzed, it will not only promote the transparency of the same, since it will also inform and generate greater knowledge to the people of the actions that go beyond what was promised by the politicians and in addition they would notice the deficiencies of the public policies with the aim of improving them and in this way help to improve the quality of life of the population (Foundation this country, 2008).

If the above is carried out, the indicators that are used to generate public policies for the general public, would be more representative of all the extracts of society, in addition to being analyzed so that the information is as accurate as possible and real, according to the current situation in the country. In this way, considering the new reliability of the information and access to it by all citizens without information biases,

the new public policies that would arise would result in the citizenship beginning to improve their quality of life, starting with it has the capacity to cover at least the basic subsistence needs.

Definition of indicators

One of the contributions that the research intends to make is the identification of the following types of indicators, defined from the analysis of the methodological aspects of IMCO and CONVEAL.

It will begin by defining the indicators as an element, data or information that is used to indicate or indicate something. This shows the reality of a given phenomenon, so that its interpretation in time and space becomes relevant when it is used in a specific investigation or diagnosis. Likewise, an indicator can be considered a reference point for the information it contains. Its main function is to indicate or guide the analysis or study of the phenomena that are in research; and its specific functions are:

1. To be able to create useful information that allows decisions to be made in an appropriate manner.
2. Carry out follow-up processes such as feedback processes on a given activity.
3. Evaluate the impact of a specific policy or activity on a society with specific characteristics.

It is important to specify that there are quantitative and qualitative indicators. The first show statistical or hard data about a specific reality or problem; while the qualitative data indicate an opinion and / or perception of an individual or a specific population according to a theme.

For analysis purposes, the general concept of indicator will be taken up again; together with a classification proposed by the Economic-Social Observatory based on the information presented by the IMCO and CONVEAL institutions.

According to CONVEAL (2013), an indicator is a quantitative and qualitative tool that allows to show signs or signals of a situation, activity or result.

In the case of the IMCO, the definition of indicator agreed by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) is used, in which it mentions that it is a tool that indicates characteristics of a situation, activity of a specific population.

With this, a proposal of classification of the indicators that will be used for the investigation is made:

Diagnosis Indicator

They are defined by the elements that indicate the general characteristics of a specific society; that is, they allow to establish the standard of living of a given population, so its design implies identifying the social, economic and territorial situation of it. For example, indicators that show the characteristics of basic needs (food, clothing and sustenance) give a general picture of the situation of the population. In the case of CONVEAL, most of its indicators are defined as diagnostic because they allow establishing the basic structure of how the population is.

Complementary Indicator

They are defined as the elements or characteristics that allow structuring a detailed panorama of the specific situation of a population; that is to say, every basic

characteristic has positive or negative externalities, so its signaling is adequate to diagnose a given problem in depth. For example, in the case of housing, complementary indicators; as it is the degree of polarization or the number of deficiencies per house; they allow us to make detailed diagnoses about the overcrowding in them, about the type of population by housing condition; among other. Therefore, as the name implies, they are secondary indicators for diagnostic indicators that allow the acquisition of more specific data on a particular topic.

Reaction-Action Indicator

It is a contribution that is being made on a specific topic to visualize what happens with two given characteristics; that is, it is an element that visualizes the impacts of an action taken.

For the case of the specific investigation, the reaction-action indicators will be elaborated according to the matrix that is proposed in order to reflect the dichotomies, segregations or effects that a specific action or activity has had within the population of according to a selected topic for diagnosis. With this, it is possible to carry out a process of feedback and evaluation on the policies, diagnosis or proposed design to mitigate a given problem.

Conclusions

The work generated by the institutions in Mexico has caused that in the last years the perception of the majority of the population qualifies it as "unreliable", in 2016 that opinion was cataloged as the lowest of the last eight years, a worrisome situation that these institutions are responsible for carrying out decisions that affect all areas of the country, ranging from universities, church, media, army, banks, businessmen, presidency, deputies, senators, political parties among others, The last four institutions are a fundamental part of the government that governs our country and present reprehensible confidence figures, an alarming aspect because the decisions taken by these institutions directly influence the quality of life of the population.

The lack of confidence reflected by the government takes two courses: mistrust in the information offered and distrust in the rendering of accounts, the latter is the worst rated by the population, a situation that worsens with the passage of time, as popular opinion goes down notably. The foregoing implies an evident failure in the creation of the law of transparency and access to public information, since it was created in 2002 with the intention of forming a close relationship between government and society, fifteen years after its creation. Clarifies that the objective of this law is far from reality, in addition to showing a clear break in social inclusion.

The occurrence of problems in Mexico raises questions about the way in which decisions are made and the way in which they direct these, in this sense the political discourses on which decisions are thought about the well-being of Mexicans, apparently they are exhausted and above all it is evident with greater presence that the decisions taken have neither direction nor future, before the inevitable discontent, those in charge must begin to act.

In view of the complicated situation in Mexico, decision-makers are required to vindicate the course towards the next challenges presented in economic and social matters. These challenges are resolved through actions that allow the inclusion of

what has been so lacking; as it is the citizen participation and that this goes beyond the electoral subjects, it must be a participation in which the society is taken into account.

Before an alternative decision-making mechanism, the way is opened to form a strong and inclusive society, the one that weighs the most before any institution. Therefore, the creation of this reliable tool will allow studies at the metropolitan, state and municipal levels to generate diagnostic, complementary and action-reaction indicators in the economic, social and territorial spheres from institutions such as IMCO and CONEVAL. Since the information available for IMCO is from 2008 to 2016, it is aligned with the information provided by CONEVAL from 2008 to 2014, since the data for 2016 are not disaggregated. In the investigation of the creation of the observatories it was detected that these have a wide proliferation from the years 2002.

Mexico requires an ethical and transparent behavior that allows the recovery the trust in the institutions that represent society, being these the responsible of the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies. In this sense, the multidimensional and orderly perspective of the Economic-Social Observatory will provide to the enterprises, entrepreneur, government and general public the basic information for the design of projects based on priorities and economic activities, through the timely monitoring of the proposed indicators, contributing directly to decision-making based on true information.

Achieving greater coherence among these actors in the economy is a key element for companies so they can articulate faster and easily. The above, directly informal economic activity and favors the definition of policies that encourage and promote formal economic activity. Thus, it can be considered that the information obtained will allow a better use of the opportunities of commercial activities, productive manufacturing and existing services for the benefit of citizens.

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