TALEARN's Transparency, Accountability and Participation Nexus Group launches a Knowledge Repository

TALEARN's Nexus Group seeks to better understand and leverage the connection between transparency, accountability and participation. For this purpose, it has created a Knowledge Repository aimed at improving approaches to supporting citizens and civil society to contribute to transparency and accountability.

A timely initiative

Knowledge is rapidly accumulating from the dynamic development of TAP practices in the last decades. Accumulated evidence is giving place to an abundance of reliable knowledge. Yet, many initiatives still have unrealistic understandings and assumptions about the role of citizens in addressing government responsiveness and accountability. The TAP Knowledge Repository (KR) aims to correct this situation through collecting and systematizing current knowledge in the field.

A clear focus on attaining government responsiveness and accountability

With clearer guidance for understanding the TAP nexus, and tools for accessing and utilizing relevant evidence and experiences, funders and practitioners can improve their work with citizens and civil society to advance responsive and accountable governance

A comprehensive strategy

The repository will aim to provide practitioners with state of the art knowledge, and to promote research where is most needed.

Improving the design and implementation of TAP initiatives requires making knowledge timely and understandably available to:

- Practitioners who need knowledge for designing and developing initiatives.
- Donors who need knowledge to support practices known to be effective.
- Specialists who need to identify gaps in our current knowledge.

Better informed project choice and design will lead to better outcomes.

A platform for improving TAP practice

The KR will systematize and provide access to existing knowledge on citizen participation, prioritizing its relationships to transparency and accountability. It will:

- Connect available knowledge to current and future research and practice.
- Facilitate collaboration and dialogue between interested actors.
- Identify knowledge gaps as well as the methods and experiences that can help to fill them.

Systematically organized knowledge will inform more effective TAP practices.

Accessible experience and knowledge

The KR will not be restrictive in terms of the materials to be considered, and will include both structured and formal knowledge as well as practical evidence from related projects. Materials and information will be clearly organized around categories that will allow:

- Synthesizing and classifying existing and ongoing research and experiences
- Accessing knowledge related to specific problems, issues and fields
- Identifying where the evidence gaps are.

A user focused platform

The KR will be driven by the learning and knowledge needs of the TALEARN community, and draw on the experience of its members. It will promote direct learning and active engagement.

- Focused taxonomy will allow led learning and shared experience.
- Category pages will define fundamental concepts and synthesize current knowledge.
- Organized and cross referenced materials and resources will allow expanding and deepening knowledge.
- Distribution of materials will help identify areas of firm knowledge and research gaps.
- Comments and communication tools will allow shared learning.

For more information, please visit our platform: TAP Knowledge Repository: http://tap.cmi.no