

Chile: Citizen Participation and Public Politics Program

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The defining goal of the Citizenship and Public Management Program is to contribute to the improvement of democratic governance in Chile through the dissemination of subnational practices that encourage citizen participation, involving both governmental agencies and civil society organizations. The Citizenship and Public Management Program has operated since 1999, but 2006 was the first year that it distributed awards. Currently, this Program operates with the support of the Universidad de Los Lagos, the Corporation for Innovation and Citizenship, and the Ford Foundation.

The Program calls for award submissions every two years, directing its publicity to public administrators and civil society organizations at the local level. The award is primarily a mechanism to identify and recognize innovations that promote citizenship in Chile. In 2006, the Program received 279 applications, 35 of which were evaluated in greater depth, including a site visit, and ten of which won the final prize of U.S. \$4,700 each. Ten additional programs were selected for honorable mention and received approximately \$900 U.S. each. While the 2006 award winners share a common focus on citizen participation, their goals are diverse, with projects ranging from the protection of the Nonguén forest to the creation of a communal Children's Bank to improve the lives of youth in the poor community of Cerro Navia, in Santiago.

In 2006, several Award Partners joined the deliberative process in evaluating award applicants, including the Ministry of Health, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Sinergi@Regional (a network of regional universities), the Innovation Council of Coquimbo Region, and a private Bank. Each of these partners focused on a specific thematic element in reviewing applicants, such as local development, health management, and youth programming. By building partnerships with award-winning programs, the Citizenship and Public Management Program hopes to generate Regional Councils of Innovation, forming a network of institutes to gather best practices throughout the nation in a variety of different fields.



Gonzalo Delamaza is a sociologist at the Catholic University of Chile, with a *Diplome D'Etudes Approfondies* in the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris. He has worked in social development projects with Chilean NGOs since 1977 and is now Director of Citizenship and Public Management Program at University of Los Lagos Chile. In addition, he is a university professor and a consultant for public and international institutions in the area of design, evaluation and gender in social programs. Mr. Delamaza was also president of ACCION, a Chilean NGO Association, from 1991 to 1995. In 2003, he was a visiting scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. Mr. Delamaza is currently conducting Doctoral Studies at Leiden University, the Netherlands.