

Capacity building in Latin America and the Caribbean

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DIRSI's mandate

DIRSI is a network of professionals and academic institutions that seeks to create knowledge to support policymaking that promotes effective participation of poor and marginalized communities of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Information Society

Various approaches

- Training programs
 - Regular – like Courses, diplomas or degrees
 - Open – online and/or informal mentoring
- On-the-job training
 - Internships
 - Research Assistantships
- Research support
 - Scholarships
 - Thesis advisory
 - Thesis / Dissertation competition

Several tools

Most visible: *Young researchers competition (YRC)*

- Annual call for proposals
- Free topic within DIRSI mandate
- USD5000 per project
- Age: under 30-35 –issue to discuss
- Over 70 proposals in the two rounds
- Better results when advisors were formally appointed
- Series on DIRSI publications: Young Researchers Competition

Several tools (2)

- Less visible: *Research assistanships*
 - Each senior researcher is required to hire a RA
 - Training is done “on the job”
 - Some RAs as coauthors
 - RA were requested to work on a paper
 - New series on DIRSI publications: Research Briefs

Challenge: *Consolidation*

- YRC
 - External jurors to select proposals
 - Assign an advisor/mentor
 - Bring in external referees to judge publication quality
- Research briefs
 - Commit senior researchers to supervise Ras research initiatives