ELLA conducts comparative, context-sensitive, policy-relevant research through the synthesis of existing research, original data collection and analysis, and comparative analysis.

**RESEARCH CENTRES IN LATIN AMERICA**

**RESEARCH CENTRES IN AFRICA**

**RESEARCH TOPICS**

1. **Identifying the Topic**
   - Research Centres with paired interests brought together to identify a policy relevant topic on their regions’ agenda. Research questions are firmed up, engaging policymakers and other likely users of the research.

2. **Designing the Research**
   - Good practice in research design and methods is reviewed with each research pair - with a focus on causal research approaches, rigorous evidence-based literature reviews and the use of mixed methods for original research.

3. **Collecting and Analysing the Evidence**
   - Regional research is carried by each partner in the pair, but within a framework common to both: comparable methods and data as far as possible, careful attention to explanatory, contextual variables.

4. **Comparing the Findings**
   - Regional evidence is brought together and compared – using methods of difference and similarity – to extract inter-regional lessons.

**Research Areas**

- **Land Tenure**
  - Land tenure policies in many countries have focused on promoting individual property rights, but these have not always delivered the expected results. This research looks at the conditions under which collective access rights might be an attractive alternative (GRADE-TEGEMEO).

- **Accountability**
  - In many countries, the ability of the Legislature to fulfill its democratic role of holding the Executive to account is limited. This research looks at the conditions and mechanisms through which Executive accountability can be enhanced (CIPPEC-OSSREA).

- **Crime Prevention**
  - As state led attempts to tackle crime have met with many failures, Community-Based Crime Prevention (CBCP) has become more common. This research looks at the conditions under which CBCP is more likely to succeed (FUNDACON-Ibadan).

- **Informality**
  - In many emerging countries participation in the formal economy is low and people miss out on many benefits, but informal employment is usually better than unemployment. This research looks at this paradox, and at promoting beneficial transitions between unemployment, informality and formality (FEDESARROLLO-DPRU).

- **Domestic Violence**
  - Domestic violence (DV) laws have proliferated in the last decade, but implementation has been variable and DV survivors are often left dissatisfied. This research looks at which aspects of DV programmes are most valued by the survivors (FUNDACON-Ibadan).

- **Extraction Industries**
  - Many countries seek to add value to their extractive industries through forward and backward linkages. This research looks at policies to promote local content – local employment, skills development, and national industry participation – in the oil and gas sector (Grupo FARO-Acode).

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