

CROWDLAW FOR CONGRESS

INTERVIEW WITH MARYAN HENRIQUES

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Why did you decide to use/engage in a process that engaged citizens in different ways to make policy and law? What was the problem you were confronting?

The objective of incorporating citizen participation in the ex-post evaluation of the laws was to be able to complement the regulatory cycle with the opinions of the citizens regarding the impact that the law had after being in force.

What was the outcome? What were the results? Was it expected or unexpected?

Among the main results that we have obtained regarding the 12 laws that we have evaluated in these 6 years of implementation have to do with the way in which citizens are able to incorporate themselves again into the legislative process, by identifying which are the critical issues of the law and also proposing from their own voice solutions to modify the norm.

What were the 'old' approaches you were using? Why were these insufficient or unhelpful?

One of the most outstanding elements of the ex-post law evaluation process that we do is that legislators see it as a tool to be able to generate legislative amendments that are already supported by the citizens, that is one of the main successes.

How did you begin the process? What were the first things you did? What were the big initial obstacles to overcome? How did you find a way around these?

There are three more or less clear obstacles that arose when implementing this evaluation. The first relates to the institutional framework in which this was going to be carried out due to the characteristics that the technical team should have when performing the law evaluation. The second is, how the legislators observed this tool first and how they could go from fear of being analyzed and evaluated to seeing that it is a tool of them and for their legislative work, which is a contribution.

What particular capabilities did you need to have in place? What circumstances helped/hindered?

The key resources for this project to be functioning in the Chamber of Deputies relate first to having a multidisciplinary team, which reports directly to the Chamber of Deputies and, on the other hand, to have a Law Evaluation Committee composed of Deputies who It allows interaction and facilitate the work of this technical team and integrate this technical work in the legislative work to be able to subsequently generate amendments to the norm based on what the citizens themselves and the actors have raised.

What did you learn about these processes overall? Is there key advice you'd have for other people, especially politicians taking these up?

Among the recommendations that we highlight is to be able then to have a parliamentary committee that supports the technical work that is being developed as part of the ex-post evaluation, that validates this work with the citizens. Additionally, to open spaces for participation where citizens can deliver their contributions and visions on the implementation of the norm and finally be able to generate from this work amendments to the law, in such a way that it can have a clear and evident result.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely, it is a process that is highly recommended and we would do it without thinking again and strengthening it even more.