Think Tank Initiative
2018 Policy Community Survey

Final Report on Latin America

July 27th, 2018

Initiative Think tank

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Introduction and Objectives

In 2009/10 and 2013, GlobeScan, a global stakeholder research consultancy, was commissioned by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) to conduct a survey of policy stakeholders in three regions: Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

In 2018, the TTI once again engaged GlobeScan to carry out the Think Tank Initiative Policy Community Survey in the same three regions.

Through the Policy Community Survey, the Think Tank Initiative aims to:

- Develop an understanding of the policy community in specific countries
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of particular think tanks, as perceived by a subset of the policy community
- Understand what activities are associated with the success of think tanks in order to help prioritize support strategies such as funding, training, and technical assistance
- Benchmark and track broad changes in the policy community and perceptions of think tanks in selected countries

This report presents the results of the Latin American survey.

A global report will be prepared which presents an overview of the findings of the studies undertaken in all regions once they are completed.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Information needs of policy community have changed little, but ease of obtaining information has declined for some issues

The information needs of the policy community have remained fairly stable over the past three waves of the study, with topics relating to economic/fiscal issues and poverty alleviation continuing to be of most interest. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) rank second overall, while information related to education has fallen in importance. When prompted, stakeholders overwhelmingly agree that there is a demand for more information related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Meanwhile, the reported ease of obtaining information has slightly declined for most issues, particularly for gender issues, agriculture/food issues, and health care. While the information that stakeholders demand the most tends to be the easiest to obtain in relative terms, there is much room for improvement in general with regards to the accessibility of information.

Email, websites, and reports and publications continue to be top format/source of policy information, but social media is on the rise

Email, websites, and print remain the top formats/sources that are considered useful for receiving information for policy development by the vast majority of stakeholders. However, stated usage is somewhat lower than in the past, with some possibly now looking to social media which enjoys a considerable increase from last wave in perceived usefulness across all stakeholder groups, particularly those from trade unions.

Stakeholders utilize a multitude of sources when seeking information to increase their understanding of policy development. Publications/ reports, databases/statistical data banks, and discussions with colleagues/peers are the most commonly used sources, consistent with 2013.

Relevant government ministries remain the top organization that stakeholders turn to for information on social and economic policies, likely due to greater alignment; national think tanks rank second

Stakeholders generally rely on government ministries/research institutes and national independent policy research institutes (i.e., think tanks) as top sources of information on social and economic policies. Although the perceived quality of government ministries/research institutes is fairly low, they are used quite frequently which is likely due to the close proximity of such institutions to government stakeholders and close alignment with issues related to national policy development.

Executive Summary

National think tanks enjoy fairly strong ratings on quality, but have room to improve awareness of their services and the development of partnerships with actors other than government

Overall, the quality of research provided by national think tanks is seen as fairly good and this perception has improved slightly from the previous wave. Those from media, NGOs, and research/academia continue to rate national think tanks most highly in terms of quality. Government officials, who are most directly involved in policy development, are not far behind in their quality ratings for national think tanks. For the minority of stakeholders who say they do not turn to national think tanks, the main reason given is limited familiarity, followed by those saying they meet their research needs through other sources.

Across the region, the national think tanks tested are generally seen as performing well with regards to the quality of their research and researchers. Performance is seen to be lacking around having sufficient gender empowerment/equality research and developing partnerships with policy actors other than government.

Implications

On the whole, perceptions of national think tanks in Latin America are generally positive, although there is room for improvement:

- Most stakeholders learn about national think tanks from second-hand sources or by encountering their work in the media. This shows that there is an opportunity for national think tanks to engage more directly with stakeholders to improve awareness of their capabilities. National think tanks should also explore social media opportunities, as this appears to be a growing platform for all stakeholders when searching for information to help with national policy development.
- Information on agriculture/food security is perceived to be the least easy to access by stakeholders, although it is needed by a significant proportion of respondents. Supplying more policy related information in this area could boost the profile of national think tanks and increase the perceived relevance of their work.
- As in other regions, focusing energy on gender empowerment/equality research could also be an opportunity for some national think tanks, as it is an area where nearly all think tanks tested are lacking, but also where demand is fairly strong. Other areas of strong interest, where access is not optimal are education and the environment.
- Nearly all national think tanks continue to be viewed as not having adequate infrastructure to function effectively. This problem will likely become more acute as the Think Tank Initiative wraps up in 2019. Focusing more energy on partnerships with policy actors outside of government may help to counteract this challenge, and developing partnerships is an area where national think tanks have much room for improvement.

Methodology and Sample Composition

Methodology

The survey of policy stakeholders was conducted through online, telephone, and face-to-face interviews in 7 Latin American countries from September 26th, 2017 to June 5th, 2018.

The participating Latin American countries are Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru.

The survey was offered in Spanish.

		Latin America						
	Total	Bolivia	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Paraguay	Peru
Total	304	44	41	45	44	42	46	42
Online	82	15	6	8	16	5	19	13
Offline	222	29	35	37	28	37	27	29
Telephone	94	-	5	37	20	5	27	-
Face-to-face	128	29	30	-	8	32	-	29

Methodology: Respondent Description

Respondents are from the following sectors:

- ***Government:** Senior officials (both elected and non-elected) who are directly involved in or influence policy making.
- **Non-governmental organization:** Senior staff (local or international) whose mission is related to economic development, environmental issues, and/or poverty alleviation.
- **Media:** Editors or journalists who report on public policy, finance, economics, international affairs, and/or development, who are knowledgeable about national policy issues.
- **Multilateral/bilateral organization:** Senior staff from organizations run by foreign governments either individually (bilateral such as DFID, USAID) or as a group (multilateral such as UN agencies, World Bank).
- **Private sector:** Senior staff working at large well-known national and multinational companies.
- **Research/academia:** Senior staff at universities, colleges, research institutes, and/or think tanks.
- **Trade union officials:** Senior representatives of national trade unions.

Stakeholders surveyed are senior-level staff in their organizations and active members of the national policy community, meaning that they develop or influence national government policy. Efforts were made to ensure that no two stakeholders were interviewed from the same organization. For government stakeholders only up to two respondents could be from the same ministry, but must be from separate departments.

Stakeholder sample lists were provided by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a donor of the TTI, and TTI grantee organizations, and were supplemented by GlobeScan. GlobeScan stakeholder names were reviewed by the IDRC and grantee organizations. To minimize bias, interviews were conducted with a mixture of people – some sourced by grantee organizations and some sourced by GlobeScan.

*Note: Government officials are referred to as elected government and non-elected government throughout this report. Which category government stakeholders belong to is determined by their answer to a survey question.

Methodology: Sample Summary

Number of Stakeholders Interviewed by Country, 2018

	Total	Latin America						
		Bolivia	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Paraguay	Peru
Total	304	44	41	45	44	42	46	42
Government, elected	32	4	4	6	4	4	6	4
Government, non-elected	30	4	4	3	6	5	4	4
Media	34	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Multilateral/bilateral	33	4	5	5	6	4	5	4
NGO	47	8	6	5	6	7	7	8
Private sector	42	6	6	8	6	6	5	5
Research/academia	52	8	6	9	7	6	9	7
Trade union	34	5	5	4	5	5	5	5

Think Tanks Tested in Each Country and Number of Respondents Rating Each Think Tank

Latin America, 2018

Country	Think tank	Sample size
Bolivia	Fundación ARU, Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo (INESAD)	20, 25
Ecuador	Fundación para el Avance de las Reformas y las Oportunidades (Grupo FARO)	27
El Salvador	Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo (FUNDAUNGO), Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)	39, 41
Guatemala	Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES)	41
Honduras	Foro Social de Deuda Externa y Desarrollo de Honduras (FOSDEH)	27
Paraguay	Centro de Análisis y Difusión de la Economía Paraguaya (CADEP), Instituto Desarrollo (ID)	44, 39
Peru	Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE), Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP)	38, 39

Please see the companion document entitled “Think Tank Fact Sheets – Latin America Countries” for an overview of the key performance measures of specific think tanks in each country.

A Note on the Approach

Views are not representative of the whole policy community. The study was designed to gather views of *senior*-level policy actors within national policy communities on their research needs and their perceptions of think tanks' research quality and performance. The study was not intended to gather perceptions of a larger representative subset of the policy community which could generate statistically significant findings on demand for research. This approach was chosen consciously, recognizing the limitation it brings to the survey, but acknowledging the value of perceptions of individuals in senior positions within each national policy community who often are very difficult to reach.

These views provide the basis for reflection within the organizations supported by the TTI on how the organization's current performance is perceived by key stakeholders, and on ways in which the organization may enhance its organizational capacity to undertake policy-relevant research.

As was done for the Latin American survey in 2009/10 and 2013, we set a target of 40 respondents per country with a balanced quota of responses across different stakeholder categories.

Balanced quotas in each country were achieved with varying degrees of difficulty encountered in the data collection process.

A Note on Charts:

All figures reported in the charts are expressed in percentages, unless otherwise noted. Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to the rounding of individual response categories or due to the fact that respondents could give multiple answers to a particular question ("total mentions" is then reported).

Please refer to the notes section on each slide to review actual question wording.

Initiative Think tank

Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Type, Accessibility, Format

GLOBESCAN

Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Type, Accessibility, Format

Types of Information Required

Latin America Level

- The types of information that members of the policy community desire has remained fairly consistent over the past three waves of this study, with economic/fiscal issues and poverty alleviation continuing to rank highest. However, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new metric for 2018, has also placed among the highest (ranking second overall), while education has fallen from 60 percent in 2013 to 47 percent.
- When prompted, over three out of four respondents (78%) say that there is a demand for research relating to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Stakeholder Level

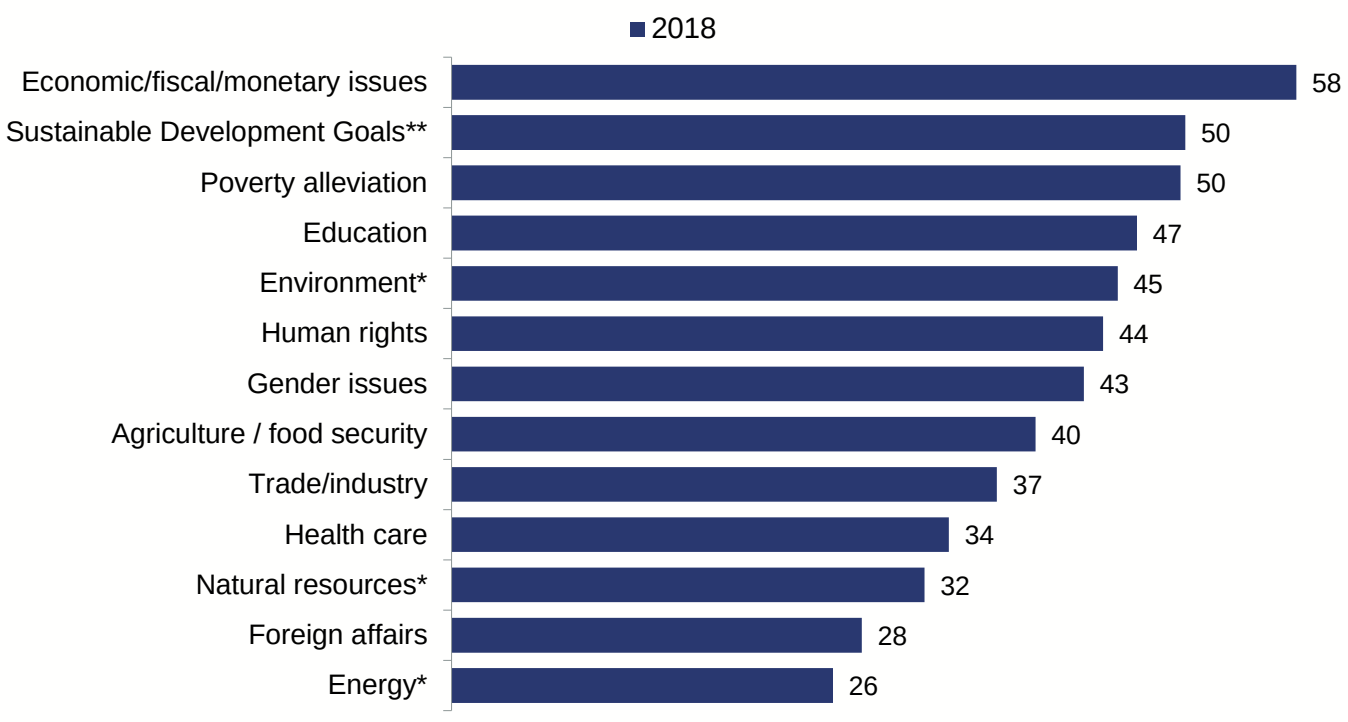
- Aside from NGOs and those from trade unions and research/academia, all stakeholder groups are primarily interested in economic/fiscal issues, while poverty alleviation is more likely to be of interest among those from multilaterals/bilaterals and research/academia.
- NGOs show the greatest interest in information on human rights and the SDGs, while those in the private sector are more interested in trade/industry information.

Country Level

- At the country level, respondents generally prioritize information on economic/fiscal issues with regards to policy making. However, respondents from Ecuador are far more likely to desire information on the SDGs than their counterparts in other countries. Similarly, respondents in Peru are more likely to seek information on gender issues and those from Paraguay are more interested in receiving information on poverty alleviation.
- Respondents from Ecuador have an above average interest in receiving information across all topic areas.

Types of Information Required for Policy Making

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, Latin America, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Economic/fiscal/monetary issues	66	77
Sustainable Development Goals**	NA	NA
Poverty alleviation	63	78
Education	60	64
Environment*	48	68
Human rights	48	56
Gender issues	43	49
Agriculture / food security	44	56
Trade/industry	45	58
Health care	43	55
Natural resources*	46	68
Foreign affairs	35	41
Energy*	41	68

While economic/fiscal/monetary issues remain in the top spot for information needs, the SDGs, a new metric for 2018, have placed second.

* "Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010 (selected by 50% of respondents), but were segmented in 2013.
** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

Types of Information Required for Policy Making

Initiative Think tank

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2010–2018

Top mention
Second mention

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia			Trade union		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Economic/fiscal issues	58	66	77	72	69	56	57	72	81	59	76	94	67	65	68	38	54	80	79	74	83	56	67	76	38	47	78
Poverty alleviation	50	63	78	47	69	62	47	61	78	47	66	91	67	61	88	45	76	94	40	54	67	58	62	74	47	50	73
SDGs**	50	-	-	47	-	-	57	-	-	35	-	-	61	-	-	64	-	-	43	-	-	54	-	-	35	-	-
Education	47	60	64	47	55	64	47	46	49	41	81	79	48	65	74	38	69	57	26	42	28	69	67	79	53	53	86
Environment*	45	48	68	53	52	56	53	46	59	53	62	79	67	49	68	47	60	71	36	46	69	31	37	66	35	30	78
Human rights	44	48	56	47	49	51	40	42	49	38	51	74	30	41	53	62	75	69	29	30	22	42	27	45	65	78	84
Gender issues	43	43	49	41	51	44	40	36	57	24	41	44	64	55	65	53	61	57	24	26	19	52	29	37	44	52	68
Agriculture / food security	40	44	56	41	38	64	33	39	68	38	53	62	61	37	53	47	61	74	29	38	39	33	47	34	41	32	54
Trade/industry	37	45	58	41	46	36	30	55	62	41	57	65	45	39	56	17	28	49	71	67	83	29	37	50	26	28	62
Health care	34	43	55	31	41	44	43	33	59	29	65	76	36	55	59	32	46	49	33	31	33	25	29	47	47	55	76
Natural resources*	32	46	68	25	46	56	40	43	59	41	54	79	45	43	68	34	54	71	29	47	69	27	42	66	21	32	78
Foreign affairs	28	35	41	47	38	38	33	54	46	32	49	50	33	37	41	21	37	40	31	38	28	17	19	42	18	17	46
Energy*	26	41	68	31	46	56	23	31	59	35	62	79	36	35	68	21	39	71	33	46	69	19	33	66	12	33	78

* “Environment,” “natural resources,” and “energy” were combined in one response option in 2010, but were segmented in 2013.
** ”Sustainable Development Goals” was added as a new metric in 2018

Types of Information Required for Policy Making

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018

Initiative Think tank

Top mention

Second mention

	Overall average			Bolivia			Ecuador			El Salvador			Guatemala			Honduras			Paraguay			Peru		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Economic/fiscal issues	58	66	77	50	63	72	78	63	73	60	79	75	55	63	88	55	83	70	52	60	83	55	51	79
Poverty alleviation	50	63	78	43	66	67	59	63	80	49	76	80	36	51	76	52	68	63	65	52	90	43	67	90
SDGs**	50	-	-	43	-	-	85	-	-	44	-	-	41	-	-	33	-	-	54	-	-	50	-	-
Education	47	60	64	34	57	48	49	51	58	53	69	70	34	49	71	52	73	63	52	56	65	52	64	79
Environment*	45	48	68	45	38	57	66	56	80	22	60	73	43	34	79	38	51	53	54	38	60	50	56	79
Human rights	44	48	56	23	29	39	56	56	50	33	52	50	48	54	74	57	63	35	41	29	58	55	53	83
Gender issues	43	43	49	39	38	30	56	49	33	31	48	55	32	44	69	40	56	33	43	21	50	62	44	71
Agriculture / food security	40	44	56	36	41	48	59	56	58	27	52	58	25	39	67	38	41	48	59	46	68	36	36	48
Trade/industry	37	45	58	30	28	46	63	58	53	40	67	60	27	41	76	31	63	50	37	33	58	33	24	62
Health care	34	42	55	16	38	37	51	33	48	31	57	63	23	37	67	40	54	35	33	25	63	45	56	76
Natural resources*	32	46	68	30	46	57	51	63	80	16	40	73	23	39	79	29	51	53	43	35	60	36	44	79
Foreign affairs	28	35	41	11	15	15	56	53	43	18	40	48	23	32	69	33	63	28	35	17	40	21	29	50
Energy*	26	41	68	23	35	57	51	49	80	13	50	73	11	32	79	19	61	53	35	27	60	31	31	79

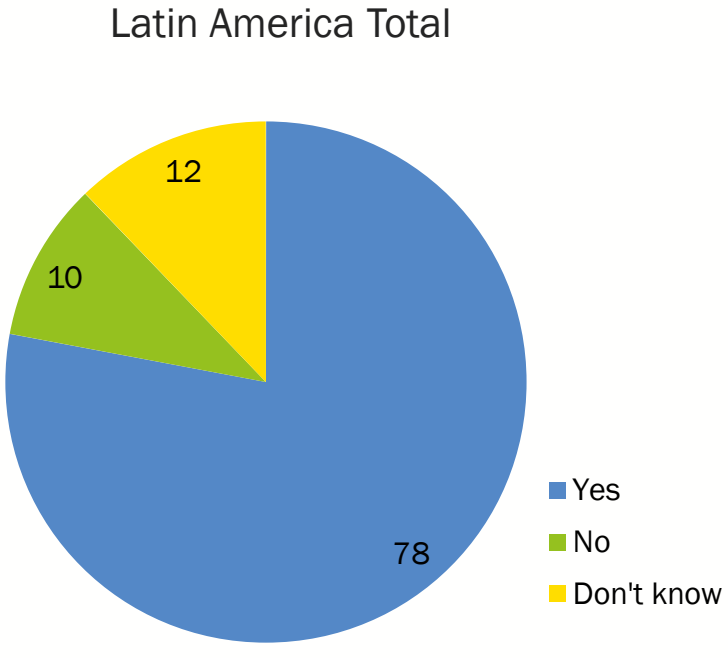
GLOBESCAN

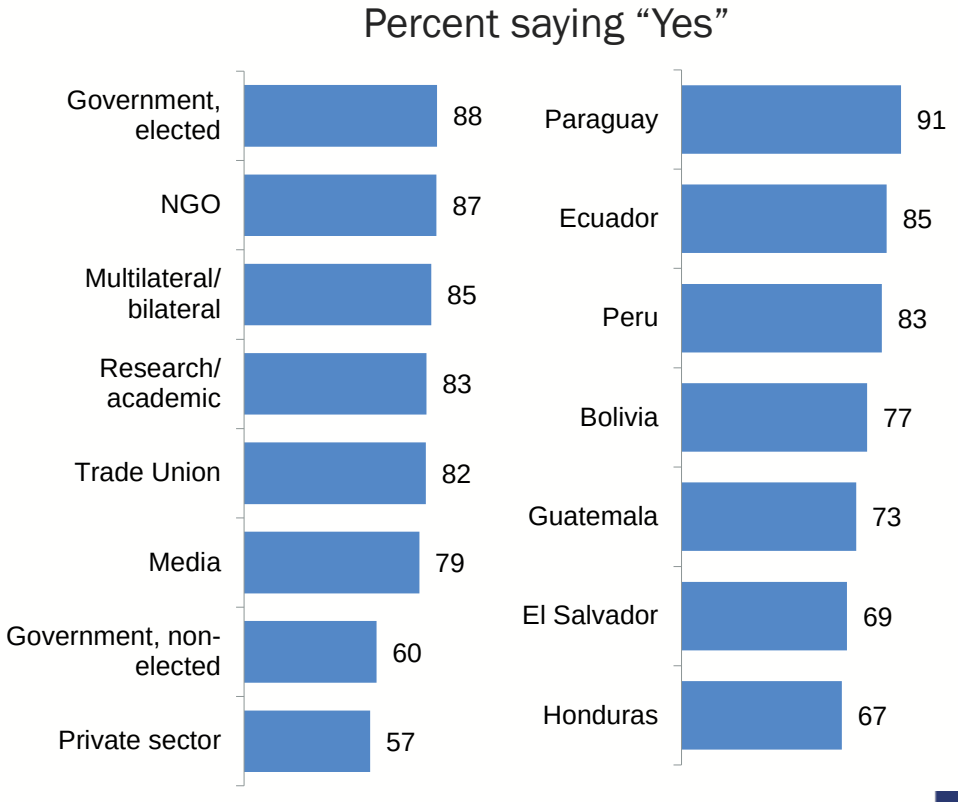
* “Environment,” “natural resources,” and “energy” were combined in one response option in 2010, but were segmented in 2013.

** ”Sustainable Development Goals” was added as a new metric in 2018

Demand in Your Country for Information on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Percent of Stakeholders, by Stakeholder Type and Country, Latin America, 2018





Is there a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research, and why?

Open-end Responses, Latin America, 2018

Those who say there is a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research in their country demonstrate interest in the following areas:

- The role of women in the economy and politics
- Eradication of discrimination and violence against women and young girls
- Equity among genders in the workforce, particularly around job opportunity and income
- Access to training and development for women, as well as long-term social security
- Healthcare access and reproductive rights
- Political representation and the impact of women in government
- The differentiated impact of social policies on women and young girls
- Access to bank credit for young women and inclusion in the formal economy
- Recognition of women's work, particularly manual labor and housework
- Female trafficking

Respondents who do not believe that there is a demand for this research give the following reasons why:

- The topic is only of interest to academics or professional researchers, but is not a priority area for government or the general public
- It is too difficult a topic to study or find information on
- Research resources are scarce and should be focused on other issues of higher priority
- It is not relevant to the national agenda or culture

> "Equality, equity, security, recognition of the work of the women in the house, greater opportunity for young women – *Multilateral/bilateral, Paraguay*"

> "Equity, prevention of gender violence, greater access to jobs and respect for women's politics – *NGO, Honduras*"

> "Violence, labor legislation for women, impact on the development of the country, gender equality in matters of development of the country – *Multilateral/bilateral, Ecuador*"

> "Most basic issues: violence against women, equal opportunities from childhood, access to labor market (how to facilitate it) – *Private sector/industry association, Peru*"

> "Although some organizations require it, the issue unfortunately is not yet of real relevance in the national agenda – *NGO, Guatemala*"

> "There are other priorities and resources are scarce. – *Government, Non-Elected, Paraguay*"

> "There is no need for this type of research, except for a small group of professionals and academics – *Peru, NGO*"

Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Type, Accessibility, Format

Accessibility of Information

Latin America Level

- Over the past eight years, the ease of obtaining information related to policy making has remained relatively stable or slightly declined for most issues, aside from a significant increase on the ease of obtaining information on energy related issues.
- The ease of obtaining information on gender issues, health care, and agriculture/food issues have dropped significantly from 2013.
- The majority of respondents do not considered it “easy” to obtain information across all topic areas.

Stakeholder Level

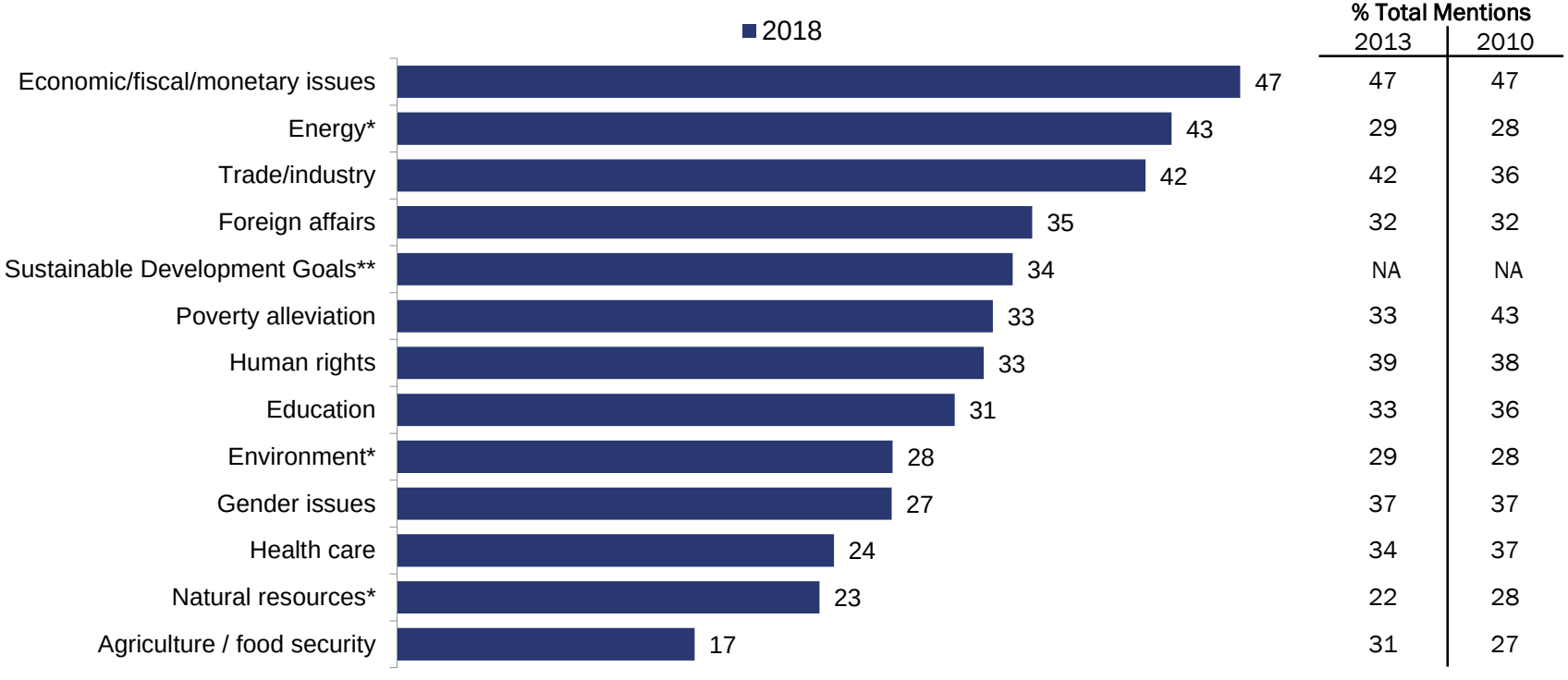
- Respondents from the private sector and multilateral/bilaterals are likely to view information on foreign affairs as most accessible, while media stakeholders report that information on trade/industry is easiest to obtain.
- Respondents from multilateral/bilateral organizations report that they find it much easier to find information on environment than other stakeholders.
- Media and private sector stakeholders report they have a more difficult time obtaining information on the SDGs than all other stakeholder groups.

Country Level

- Stakeholders from Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru find it relatively easier to obtain information on economic/fiscal issues, while stakeholders from Guatemala are more likely to find information on trade/industry issues most accessible.
- Stakeholders from El Salvador report it is easiest to obtain information on the SDGs while those in Peru say it is least easy to obtain.

Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development in Following Areas

Percent Selecting "Easy" (4+5), Latin America, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions 2013	2010
Economic/fiscal/monetary issues	47	47
Energy*	29	28
Trade/industry	42	36
Foreign affairs	32	32
Sustainable Development Goals**	NA	NA
Poverty alleviation	33	43
Human rights	39	38
Education	33	36
Environment*	29	28
Gender issues	37	37
Health care	34	37
Natural resources*	22	28
Agriculture / food security	31	27

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=120–226 in 2010 *n*=105–196 in 2013, *n*=79–175 in 2018)

"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010 (26% selected "easy" (4+5)) but were segmented in 2013.

** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development in Following Areas

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2010–2018

Top mention

Second mention

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia			Trade union		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Economic/fiscal issues	47	47	47	61	45	50	65	74	60	40	52	37	45	24	47	39	42	47	42	53	43	55	55	53	15	0	37
Energy**	43	29	28	30	36	32	57	29	32	33	33	37	50	50	17	40	20	24	43	38	36	50	14	12	50	20	28
Trade/industry	42	42	36	31	42	57*	44	46	30	50	56	27	53	15	21*	38	48	35*	43	50	54	47	27	48*	11	24	17
Foreign affairs	35	32	32	27	44	47*	40	37	41*	18	24	30*	55	32	29*	20	24	28*	54	39	30*	44	14	38*	17	40	12*
SDGs***	34	-	-	47	-	-	47	-	-	0	-	-	40	-	-	30	-	-	11	-	-	54	-	-	25	-	-
Poverty alleviation	33	33	43	40	29	25	43	40	58	31	44	48	45	45	43	14	29	48	41	27	17	30	40	57	25	7	37
Human rights	33	39	38	47	51	40	33	54	23*	46	49	52	30	24	23*	28	33	29	42	42	25*	45	40	71*	5	30	35
Education	31	33	36	47	46	36	50	48	33*	21	22	37	25	39	40	22	43	40	27	24	0*	31	24	40	28	31	34
Environment**	28	29	28	24	30	32	25	26	32	33	38	37	55	44	17	18	32	24	13	11	36	19	24	12	25	33	28
Gender issues	27	37	37	46	31	42*	50	17	39	25	64	46*	24	25	32	16	28	45	20	57	14*	22	34	28*	33	52	36
Health care	24	34	37	30	52	47*	31	54	36	20	18	35	17	61	40	20	37	35*	21	24	25*	31	16	56*	25	24	28
Natural resources**	23	22	28	25	30	32	33	21	32	14	22	37	40	23	17	13	25	24	25	26	36	21	17	12	14	11	28
Agriculture / food security	17	31	27	8	48	36	40	50	24	15	33	33	20	42	28*	9	30	27	17	19	14*	12	25	23*	21	0	25

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=120–226 in 2010, *n*=105–196 in 2013, *n*=79–175 in 2018)

*Small sample sizes for some issues within some stakeholder groups (n<20)

**"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010 (26% selected "easy" (4+5)) but were segmented in 2013.

*** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development in Following Areas

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5), by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018

Top mention

Second mention

	Overall average			Bolivia			Ecuador			El Salvador			Guatemala			Honduras			Paraguay			Peru		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Economic/fiscal issues	47	47	47	27	34	39	41	26	31	48	52	40	42	69	41	48	38	57	75	61	48	48	52	70
Energy**	43	29	28	30	18	20	43	19	28	50	48	17	40	38	33	63	32	48	44	8	21	38	36	27
Trade/industry	42	42	36	15	23	15	38	24	34	44	54	34	58	65	44	62	42	60	35	27	26	43	55	39
Foreign affairs	35	32	32	20	8	14*	39	13	41*	50	41	42*	10	38	24	21	42	36*	50	43	31*	44	31	28
SDGs***	34	-	-	32	-	-	34	-	-	60	-	-	28	-	-	29	-	-	32	-	-	24	-	-
Poverty alleviation	33	33	43	26	23	23	42	37	47	27	38	47	19	43	38	41	25	48	37	17	37	33	50	60
Human rights	33	39	38	40	30	50*	13	29	25	27	27	20	43	55	45	42	58	57*	21	21	30	43	42	40
Education	31	33	36	27	18	32	20	41	30	33	38	21	33	45	34	59	37	48	21	15	39	23	41	42
Environment**	28	29	28	20	17	20	37	29	28	30	36	17	32	29	33	25	48	48	24	17	21	24	24	27
Gender issues	27	37	37	18	20	21*	13	24	23*	21	40	45	43	39	44	41	61	38*	25	30	25	35	35	44
Health care	24	34	37	29	13	41*	19	29	16*	21	33	56	10	40	33	35	45	36*	27	33	36	26	36	40
Natural resources**	23	22	28	8	8	20	29	7	28	43	24	17	20	38	33	58	52	48	15	12	21	7	20	27
Agriculture / food security	17	31	27	6	6	14	17	13	17	25	41	39	9	44	29	25	53	53*	22	29	22	7	38	20

Subsample: Those who require information about this particular issue for their work (n=120–226 in 2010, n=105–196 in 2013, n=79–175 in 2018) *Small sample sizes for some issues within some stakeholder groups (n<20)

**"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2010, but were segmented in 2013.

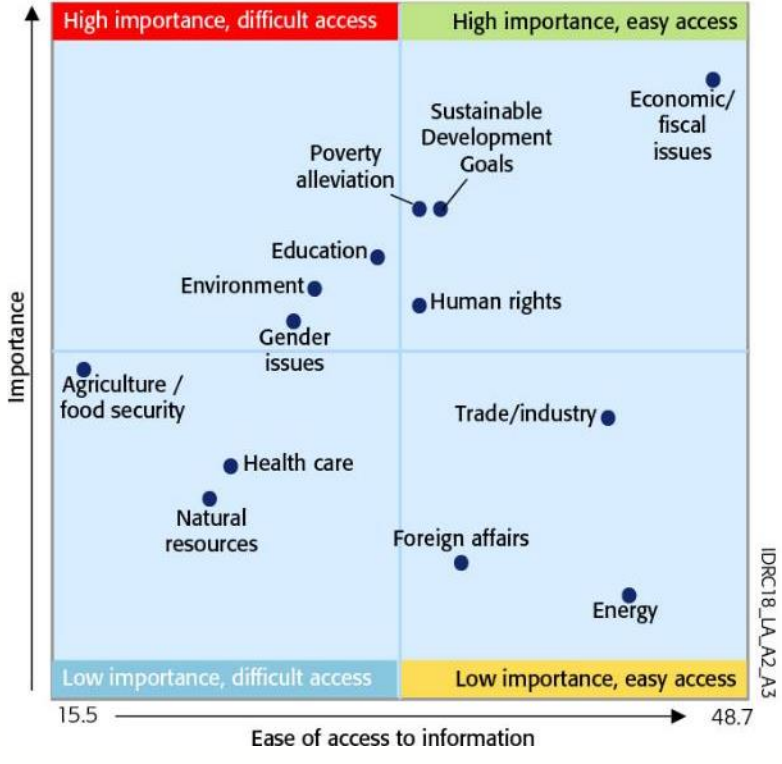
*** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

Importance vs Ease of Access to Information

Total Mentions of Information Topic vs Respondents Selecting “Easy” (4+5), Latin America, 2018

Overall, the information that respondents require the most for their work in national policy tends to be the information that is most easily obtainable.

However, information on education, the environment and gender issues, topics of relatively high importance, are relatively less easy to obtain than most other issues.



Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Type, Accessibility, Format

Preferred Format of Information

Latin America Level

- While websites, email, and print remain the most useful formats for receiving information for national policy development, interest in all of these formats has declined, with the most notable decline in print. Interest in social media, however, has increased (by 12%) since 2013.

Stakeholder Level

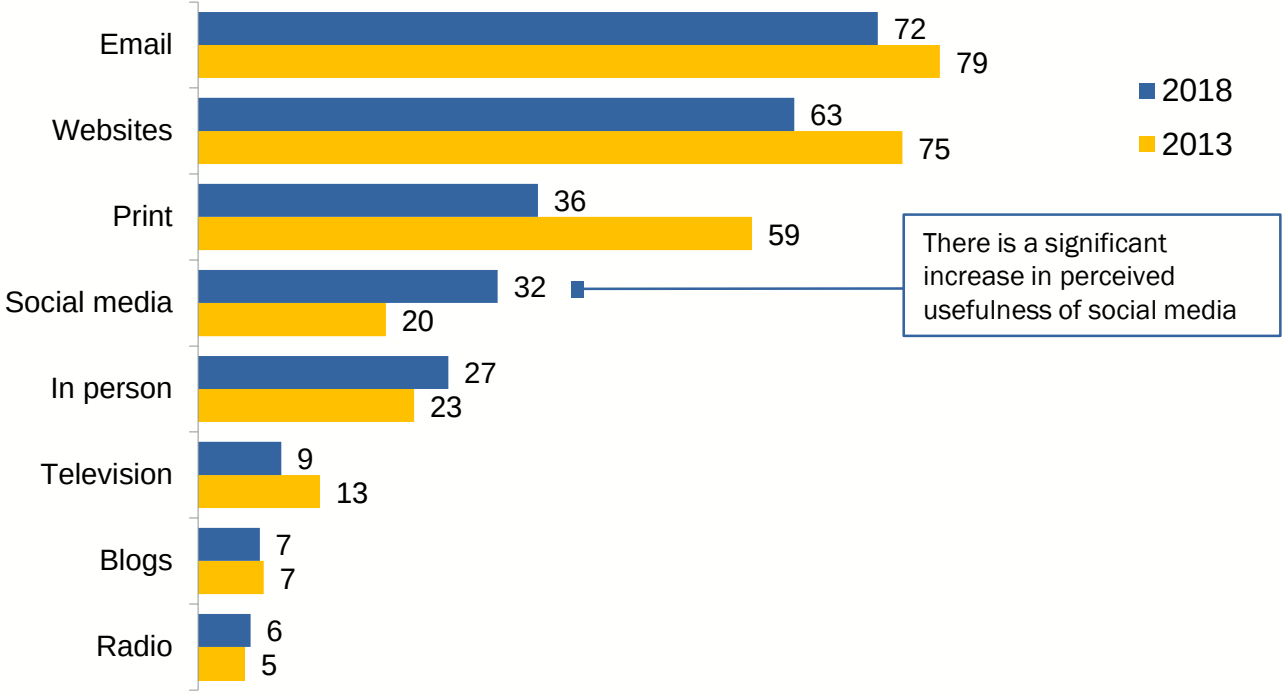
- Non-government officials, research/academics, trade union and multilateral/bilateral stakeholders are more likely to find information from email most useful for policy development, while those from elected government, media, NGOs, and private sector are more likely to favour websites.

Country Level

- Stakeholders in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru are more likely to prefer websites, while their counterparts in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Paraguay are more likely to favour email as the most useful format for policy development information.
- Respondents in Peru and Ecuador are more likely to prefer print as a format of information compared to those in the other countries surveyed, while stakeholder in Honduras are more likely to turn to social media.

Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, Latin America, 2013–2018



Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Elected government		Non-elected government		Media		Multilateral/ bilateral		NGO		Private sector		Research/ academia		Trade unions	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Email	72	79	66	80	80	82	65	57	79	94	72	76	60	80	81	82	76	82
Websites	63	75	69	63	60	78	68	60	61	78	77	79	67	74	73	92	24	67
Print	36	59	41	52	57	57	29	49	30	65	26	60	40	63	44	68	24	50
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	32	20	19	17	23	12	32	34	33	20	32	25	33	19	27	12	56	27
In person (face to face or telephone)	27	23	38	25	27	28	32	29	21	16	30	31	21	27	23	15	24	13
Television	9	13	16	21	3	9	6	26	3	4	9	9	7	12	8	0	21	28
Blogs	7	7	9	3	13	15	6	9	3	6	4	7	7	1	8	5	3	8
Radio	6	5	13	7	0	6	9	18	0	0	13	0	2	2	2	1	6	8

Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, by Country, Latin America, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Bolivia		Ecuador		El Salvador		Guatemala		Honduras		Paraguay		Peru	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Email	72	79	61	80	68	84	80	83	82	85	76	68	70	87	69	64
Websites	63	75	64	70	78	74	62	86	59	63	48	76	63	81	71	76
Print	36	59	30	61	51	51	36	62	25	76	29	51	24	45	62	67
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	32	20	30	16	29	28	27	14	34	12	43	29	33	19	29	20
In person (face to face or telephone)	27	23	16	20	29	26	29	29	27	29	31	15	26	17	29	29
Television	9	13	14	13	15	23	7	2	7	0	12	29	4	9	5	13
Blogs	7	7	11	11	7	0	9	2	7	12	2	2	4	6	5	11
Radio	6	5	11	6	5	5	0	0	11	2	5	15	2	4	5	2

Initiative Think tank

Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Source and Quality

GLOBESCAN

Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Source and Quality

Preferred Source of Information

Latin America Level

- Despite considerable declines across all information sources, the ranking of these sources has remained consistent since 2013 with reports and publications remaining the primary source. These declines likely indicate that stakeholders have become more focused in the sources of information they use.
- Books and newsletters are the two least-used sources.

Stakeholder Level

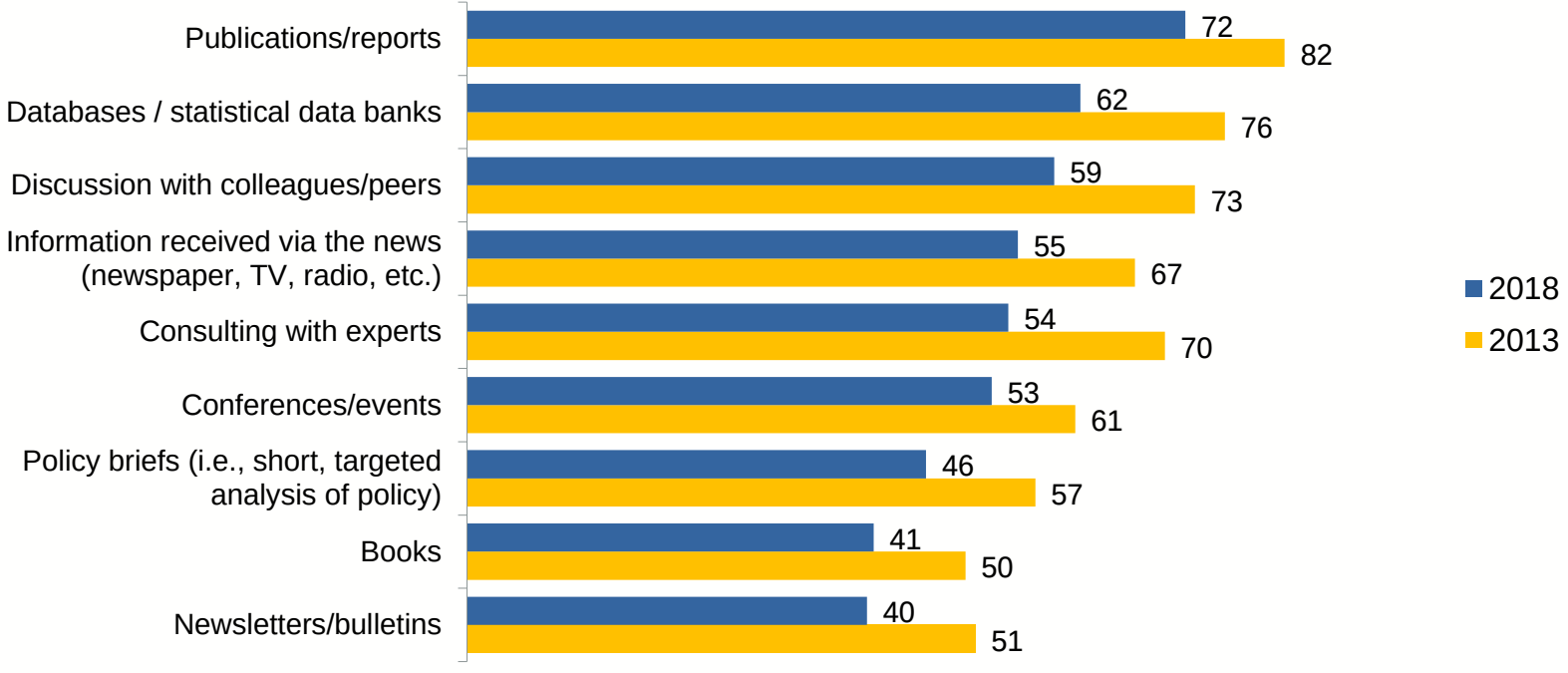
- Elected government officials are most likely to utilize discussions with colleagues/peers, while stakeholders from multilateral/bilateral organizations are more likely than other stakeholders to prefer consulting with experts, attending conferences/events, and utilizing policy briefs to increase their understanding of national policy development.
- Stakeholders from NGOs and the private sector are more likely than their peers to turn to information via the news, while those from trade unions have a strong preference for receiving their information via the news.

Country Level

- Stakeholders in Peru are more likely than peers in other countries to utilize books and information received via the news in order to gain knowledge on national policy development.
- Respondents from Ecuador and Paraguay are more likely to favour databases/statistical data banks than their counterparts in other countries.

Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, Latin America, 2013–2018



Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Elected government		Non-elected government		Media		Multilateral/ bilateral		NGO		Private sector		Research/ academia		Trade unions	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Publications/reports	72	82	66	83	70	88	71	85	88	82	79	81	74	80	75	88	50	62
Databases / statistical data banks	62	76	66	70	70	91	65	72	73	84	60	58	52	81	71	84	35	65
Discussion with colleagues/peers	59	73	72	63	67	90	35	68	58	63	60	83	62	74	71	70	41	72
Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.)	55	67	53	72	50	75	50	81	52	51	68	71	64	67	44	49	59	83
Consulting with experts	54	70	59	69	50	72	65	74	73	82	64	91	48	64	44	58	35	55
Conferences/events	53	61	41	52	53	72	32	68	73	61	57	52	48	54	62	69	50	57
Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy)	46	57	59	65	50	73	32	53	70	61	43	63	48	48	42	59	29	35
Books	41	50	53	47	50	61	29	44	48	35	34	58	31	43	48	58	35	47
Newsletters/bulletins	40	51	34	56	47	70	38	53	45	37	36	35	43	64	31	40	53	60

Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Country, Latin America, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

	Overall average		Bolivia		Ecuador		El Salvador		Guatemala		Honduras		Paraguay		Peru	
	2018	2013	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13	`18	`13
Publications/reports	72	82	80	82	78	86	73	74	64	78	48	90	72	70	90	93
Databases / statistical data banks	62	76	66	73	73	67	58	76	55	85	43	73	70	72	67	82
Discussion with colleagues/peers	59	73	45	62	66	67	64	67	57	63	50	88	70	74	60	89
Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.)	55	67	50	59	63	67	40	60	57	68	50	83	52	64	76	71
Consulting with experts	54	70	55	59	59	74	53	74	57	78	38	76	59	49	60	82
Conferences/events	53	61	34	58	54	56	62	57	43	61	40	66	65	49	69	78
Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy)	46	57	41	67	44	58	51	64	39	49	38	66	52	32	57	69
Books	41	50	32	59	54	58	36	40	30	44	21	59	46	28	69	67
Newsletters/bulletins	40	51	57	37	54	58	31	45	25	41	17	76	43	36	55	64

Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Source and Quality

Preferred Organizations for Research-Based Evidence

Latin America Level

- Consistent with the 2013 wave of this study, relevant government ministries/agencies are the most preferred institutions that stakeholders turn to when they require information related to social and economic policies.
- National independent policy research institutes trail only slightly behind, with just over half of respondents reporting they use these institutes as a "primary source."
- Quality and relevance of research are the top two reasons why stakeholders turn to national think tanks as their primary source of information. As in previous years, lack of familiarity continues to be the main reason why some stakeholders never use national think tanks.

Stakeholder Level

- Stakeholders from the media, NGOs, multilaterals/bilaterals, and research/academia are most likely to use national think tanks (>62%), while those from the private sector, trade unions or government are less likely (<41%). Both elected and non-elected government officials heavily rely on relevant government ministries/agencies and government-owned research institutes for their policy needs while those in the private sector rely more so on international agencies.

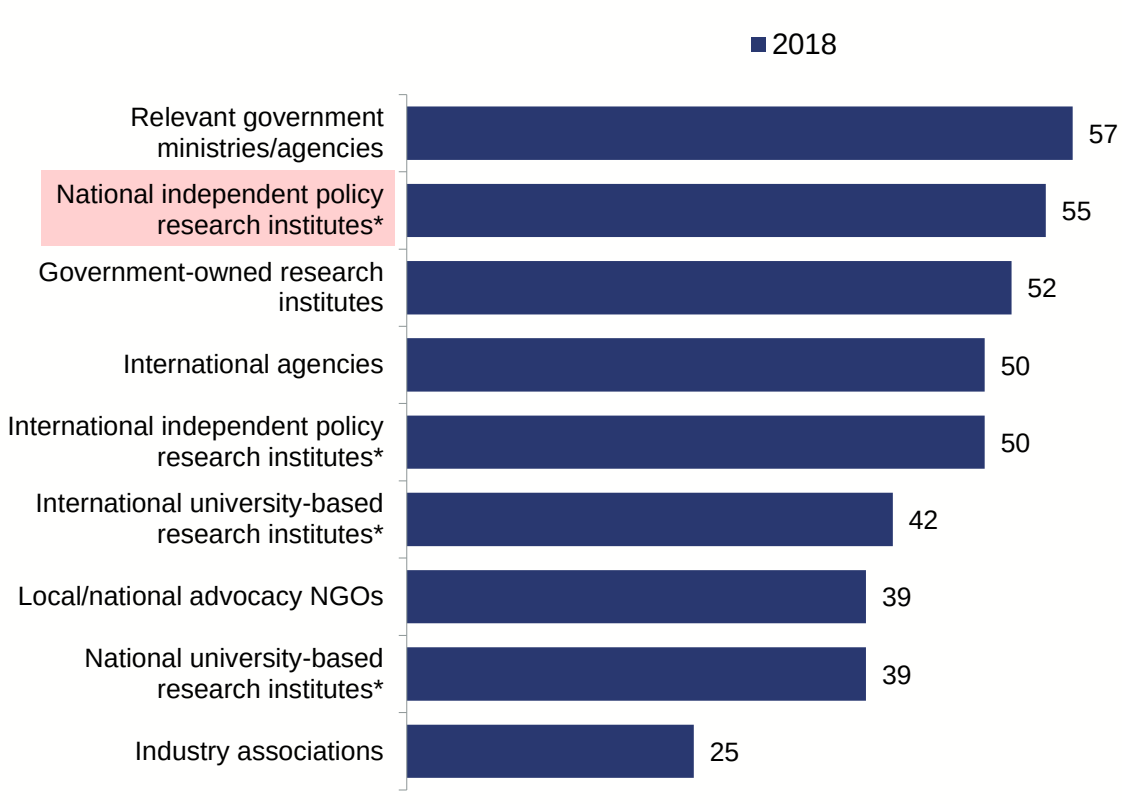
Country Level

- Stakeholders in El Salvador are most likely to use national independent policy research institutes for information regarding social and economic policy, while those in Paraguay are least likely to do so.
- Respondents in Ecuador and Honduras are more likely to turn to government-owned research institutes and government ministries/agencies for their policy needs.
- While respondents in Peru are slightly more likely to use relevant government ministries/agencies (64%), they still report relatively high usage of national think tanks (62%).

Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Primary Source” (4+5), Latin America, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Relevant government ministries/agencies	54	48
National independent policy research institutes*	52	55
Government-owned research institutes	49	47
International agencies	52	57
International independent policy research institutes*	46	55
International university-based research institutes*	37	27
Local/national advocacy NGOs	35	35
National university-based research institutes*	36	28
Industry associations	22	26

* “Independent policy research institute” was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into “National” and “International” options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International samples for general comparability.

Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2010-2018

Most used
Least used

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia			Trade union		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Relevant government ministries/agencies	57	54	48	75	52	41	77	75	51	65	46	61	64	61	59	43	58	65	45	60	36	54	48	42	50	28	32
National independent policy research institutes*	55	52	55	41	41	33	40	58	54	71	63	73	67	73	53	62	61	71	38	42	64	75	53	61	35	33	35
Government-owned research institutes	52	49	47	56	54	46	70	61	52	53	34	41	61	65	64	40	61	63	40	44	36	62	48	39	38	27	41
International agencies	50	52	57	47	48	36	60	66	70	53	47	56	55	69	73	47	54	74	48	49	50	56	55	69	32	33	35
International independent policy research institutes*	50	46	55	25	27	33	57	63	54	47	40	73	55	57	53	55	60	71	45	49	64	69	47	61	32	25	35
International university-based research institutes*	42	37	27	38	28	21	40	37	32	32	26	21	36	55	30	45	45	45	40	26	25	60	54	29	32	18	14
National university-based research institutes*	39	36	28	41	48	29	43	40	25	38	40	33	42	37	18	36	53	37	24	10	22	44	30	26	50	28	35
Local/national advocacy NGOs	39	35	35	28	24	28	43	22	27	56	54	53	39	27	30	47	60	60	19	27	30	46	27	21	35	30	36
Industry associations	25	22	26	22	13	23	17	9	25	47	50	44	24	20	18	15	19	23	43	46	58	15	15	11	18	7	11

* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018

Most used
Least used

	Overall average			Bolivia			Ecuador			El Salvador			Guatemala			Honduras			Paraguay			Peru		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Relevant government ministries/agencies	57	54	48	45	38	30	49	53	50	60	57	58	59	63	36	60	59	71	63	43	48	64	62	50
National independent policy research institutes*	55	52	55	52	51	35	46	37	56	73	69	78	61	61	50	50	37	53	39	47	53	62	67	67
Government-owned research institutes	52	49	47	34	51	48	51	60	70	64	50	55	50	49	29	60	46	43	52	43	43	52	47	48
International agencies	50	52	57	41	46	46	51	35	53	56	62	63	55	68	50	52	56	75	46	51	63	48	51	57
International independent policy research institutes*	50	46	55	36	49	35	44	35	56	67	71	78	55	44	50	45	41	53	50	38	53	50	47	67
International university-based research institutes*	42	37	27	32	43	22	37	44	41	62	43	31	48	39	26	52	22	38	26	32	16	36	38	19
National university-based research institutes*	39	36	28	25	38	39	44	42	43	51	21	31	52	56	35	52	46	25	26	9	8	26	40	15
Local/national advocacy NGOs	39	35	35	32	30	26	32	28	36	51	43	38	32	32	28	57	39	35	48	36	33	24	33	53
Industry associations	25	22	26	11	16	27	37	28	23	36	26	23	25	17	24	33	41	41	22	21	28	10	7	22

* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International samples for general comparability.

Reasons for Turning to Specific Organization Mentioned as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Prompted, by Organization Type, Latin America, 2010–2018

Top mention
Second mention

	Overall average			Government-owned research institutes (*n*=83)			National university-based research institutes (*n*=50)			International university-based research institutes (*n*=39)			National independent policy research institutes* (*n*=55)			International independent policy research institutes* (*n*=55)			Relevant government ministries/ agencies (*n*=81)			International agencies (*n*=56)			Local /national advocacy NGOs (*n*=40)			Industry associations (*n*=24)		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Relevance of research to needs	32	40	28	41	41	33	20	33	27	31	23	21	25	27	27	33	37	27	33	50	29	39	42	32	35	61	31	33	47	25
High quality of research	20	29	26	8	13	10	26	36	32	23	46	41	31	41	27	20	48	27	10	13	11	36	39	40	15	7	29	13	22	20
Credibility	17	-	-	11	-	-	18	-	-	18	-	-	24	-	-	27	-	-	10	-	-	5	-	-	15	-	-	29	-	-
High quality of staff/researchers	10	10	15	7	3	5	12	13	5	18	21	34	7	23	23	15	10	23	5	1	4	11	13	11	13	10	17	4	0	10
Only type of organization available	7	3	14	6	11	29	4	4	14	8	0	0	7	0	13	0	0	13	10	6	30	2	2	6	5	3	11	17	0	10
Only type of organization that is familiar	5	4	6	8	3	5	12	3	11	0	3	3	4	1	3	0	0	3	19	7	4	4	0	6	0	10	6	0	6	15
Personal contact	3	5	8	6	6	5	2	9	11	0	7	0	2	4	13	2	2	13	5	5	7	2	0	2	5	5	3	0	11	15

Subsample: Those who say they use type of institute as a primary source of policy information (5 on 5-point scale) (*n*=20–85 in 2010, *n*= 18–76 in 2013, *n*=24–83 in 2018)

* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International samples for general comparability.

Reasons For Turning to National Think Tanks for Research-Based Evidence

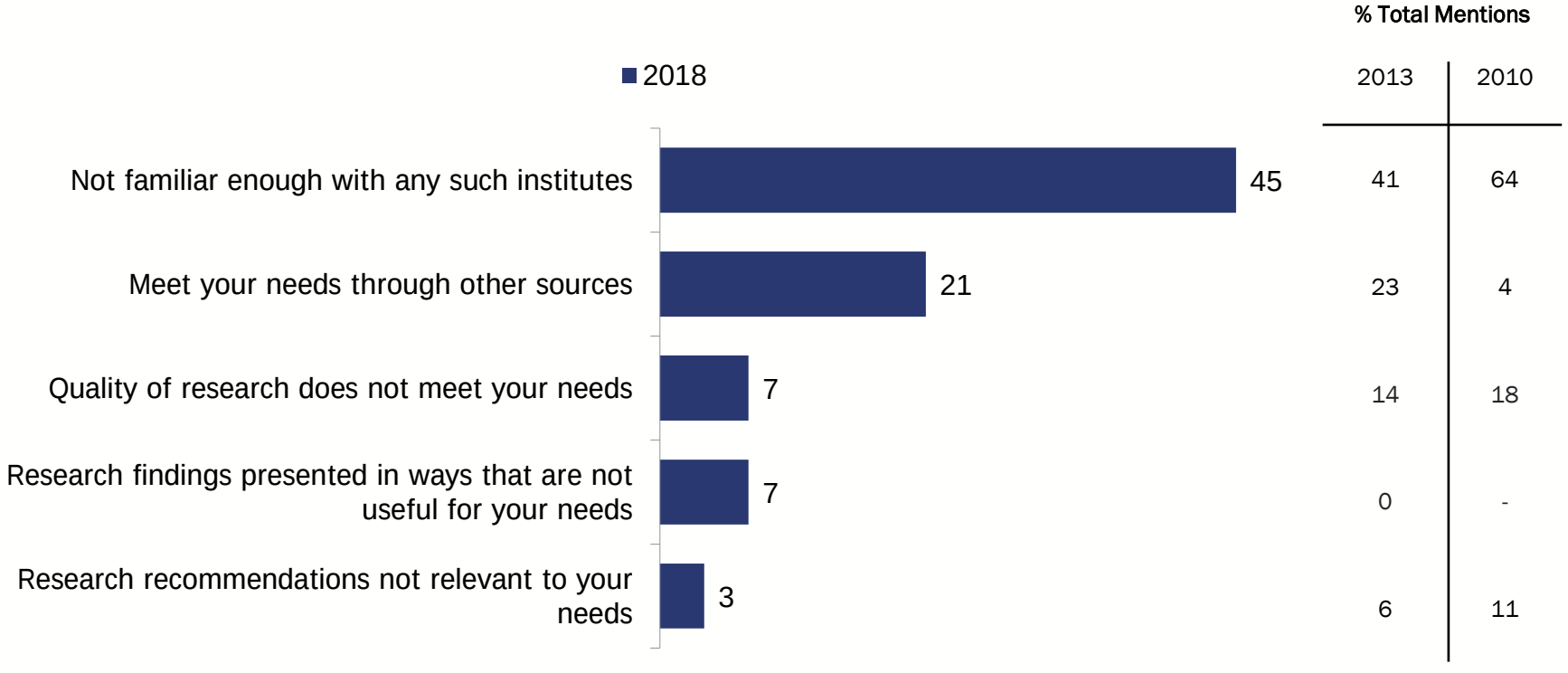
Prompted, Latin America, 2010–2018

	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
High quality of research	41	27
Relevance of research to needs	27	27
Credibility	-	-
High quality of staff/researchers	23	23
Only type of organization available	0	13
Only type of organization that is familiar	1	3
Personal contact	4	13

Subsample: Those who have used national independent policy research institutes when looking for research-based evidence (*n*=71 in 2010, *n*= 66 in 2013, *n*=55 in 2018)
Single mentions and "don't know" not included in the chart
* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey.

Reasons for Not Turning to National Think Tanks for Research-Based Evidence

Prompted, Latin America, 2010–2018



Subsample: Those who have never used national independent policy research institutes when looking for research-based evidence (*n*=28 for 2010, *n*=33 for 2013, *n*=29 for 2018)
Single mentions and "don't know" not included in the chart
* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey.

Information Required for Policy Making in Latin America: Source and Quality

Quality Ratings of Organizations Providing Policy Information

Latin America Level

- National think tanks are perceived to provide excellent quality research by well over (62%) of stakeholders, but trail behind international agencies, international think tanks and international university-based research institutes.
- Although government-owned research institutes and relevant-government ministries are among the most preferred sources for policy information, the quality of their research is rated lower than other institutions that are less preferred.

Stakeholder Level

- International university-based research institutes are given the highest quality ratings across all stakeholder groups except those from trade unions, who are more likely to favour international think tanks.
- Quality ratings of national think tanks are highest among those in research/academia, NGOs, multilaterals/bilaterals, and the media (>65% rating them as "Excellent"). Those from the private sector and trade unions give national think tanks the lowest quality ratings (<52%) compared to their peers.
- Non-elected government stakeholders perceive the quality of government-owned research institutes and relevant government ministries/agencies to be far higher than their counterparts in elected government.

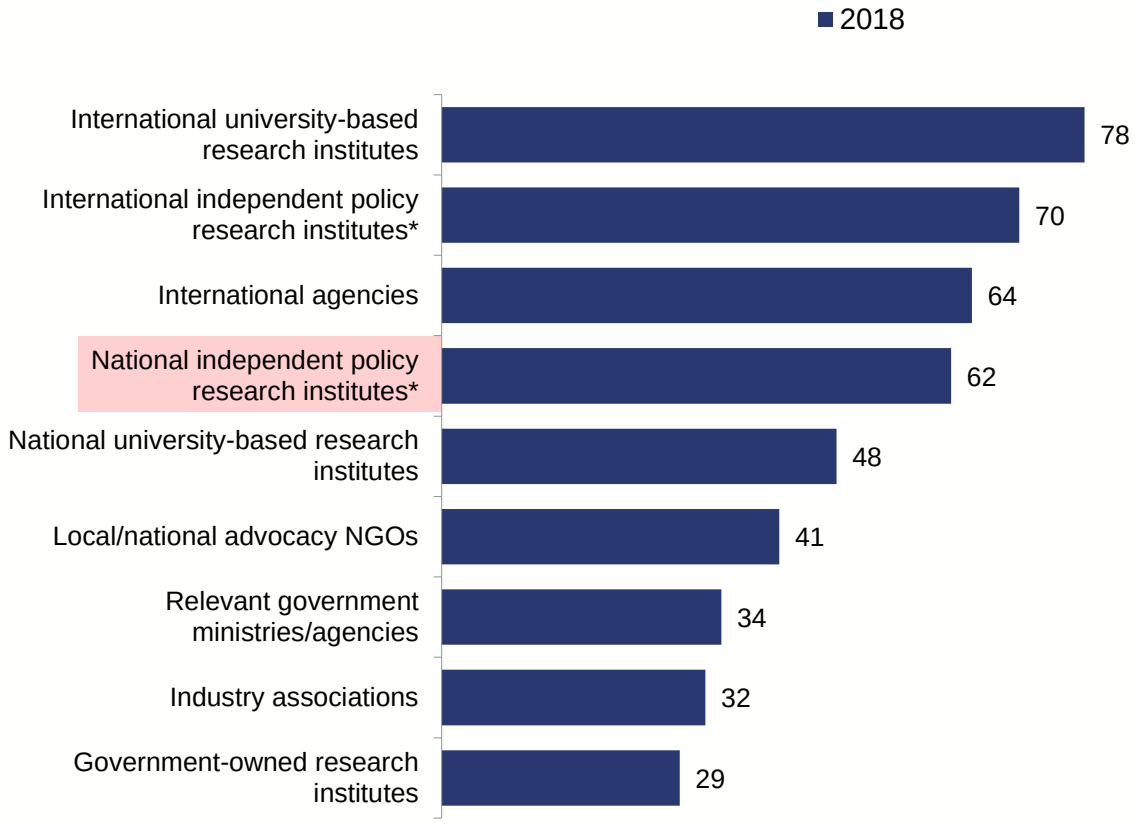
Country Level

- Stakeholders in El Salvador are far more likely to give higher quality ratings to national think thanks (74%), while their peers in Bolivia and Honduras are more likely to give them the lowest ratings (<56%).
- International university-based research institutes, international independent policy research institutes, and international agencies are rated among the highest in terms of quality across all countries despite comparatively low usage.

Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5), Latin America, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
International university-based research institutes	71	67
International independent policy research institutes*	70	68
International agencies	59	70
National independent policy research institutes*	58	68
National university-based research institutes	41	32
Local/national advocacy NGOs	40	34
Relevant government ministries/agencies	30	31
Industry associations	27	26
Government-owned research institutes	29	26

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=210–262 in 2010, *n*=205–276 in 2013, *n*=225–283)

***** “Independent policy research institute” was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into “National” and “International” options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2010–2018

Top rating
Second rating

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia			Trade union		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
International university-based research institutes	78	71	67	85	65	52	79	78	79	69	69	58	85	86	60	74	72	76	83	66	69	88	65	71	50	73	53
International independent policy research institutes*	70	70	68	64	69	60	64	76	66	56	71	78	73	87	59	71	72	71	73	67	73	81	66	80	68	54	57
International agencies	64	59	70	61	50	53	71	66	80	55	55	63	78	74	73	57	50	79	72	69	65	67	59	76	50	52	66
National independent policy research institutes*	62	58	68	61	60	60	55	53	66	69	72	78	65	57	59	67	64	71	52	45	73	75	57	80	40	51	57
National university-based research institutes	48	41	32	56	50	42	60	55	44	38	37	29	53	40	4	36	47	27	37	26	40	45	29	29	65	62	55
Local/national advocacy NGOs	41	40	34	36	43	34	41	34	26	44	62	42	52	33	22	46	46	46	24	29	33	36	32	30	46	41	36
Relevant government ministries/agencies	34	30	31	55	41	42	73	44	38	22	33	38	39	18	18	29	29	27	19	37	24	27	17	29	18	24	38
Industry associations	32	27	26	36	39	28	38	11	23	35	41	34	35	13	26*	24	22	17	52	51	51	15	4	20	26	30	9
Government-owned research institutes	29	29	26	39	53	31	66	46	44	18	19	24	23	24	22	9	28	15	21	32	35	32	19	13	33	13	25

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=210–262 in 2010, *n*=205–276 in 2013, *n*=225–283 in 2018)
* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International samples for general comparability.

Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018

Top rating

Second rating

	Overall average			Bolivia			Ecuador			El Salvador			Guatemala			Honduras			Paraguay			Peru		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
International university-based research institutes	78	71	66	72	75	64	84	70	66	90	75	73	78	67	54	81	68	75	74	64	69	68	78	65
International independent policy research institutes*	70	70	68	64	69	62	76	61	63	81	75	69	63	66	61	69	76	74	68	60	61	69	82	85
International agencies	64	59	69	51	55	67	65	44	59	76	66	76	65	72	56	74	69	83	62	51	81	58	55	64
National independent policy research institutes*	62	58	68	54	55	62	63	39	63	74	58	69	60	78	61	56	56	74	60	37	61	64	83	85
National university-based research institutes	48	41	32	44	39	46	54	50	33	49	26	21	54	56	31	65	50	42	41	22	23	29	43	24
Local/national advocacy NGOs	41	40	34	37	32	23	45	31	16	51	50	38	36	39	23	61	56	52	41	38	45	16	33	41
Relevant government ministries/agencies	34	30	32	36	15	24	28	28	16	40	35	36	32	35	14	44	38	51	36	23	43	22	35	37
Industry associations	32	27	27	16	18	14	42	27	20	41	29	25	38	38	24	44	45	38	23	18	34	15	12	30
Government-owned research institutes	29	29	26	27	20	33	28	41	13	40	26	20	20	30	12	26	27	38	38	24	41	22	33	28

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=210–262 in 2010, *n*=205–276 in 2013, *n*=225–283 in 2018)

***** "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International samples for general comparability. .

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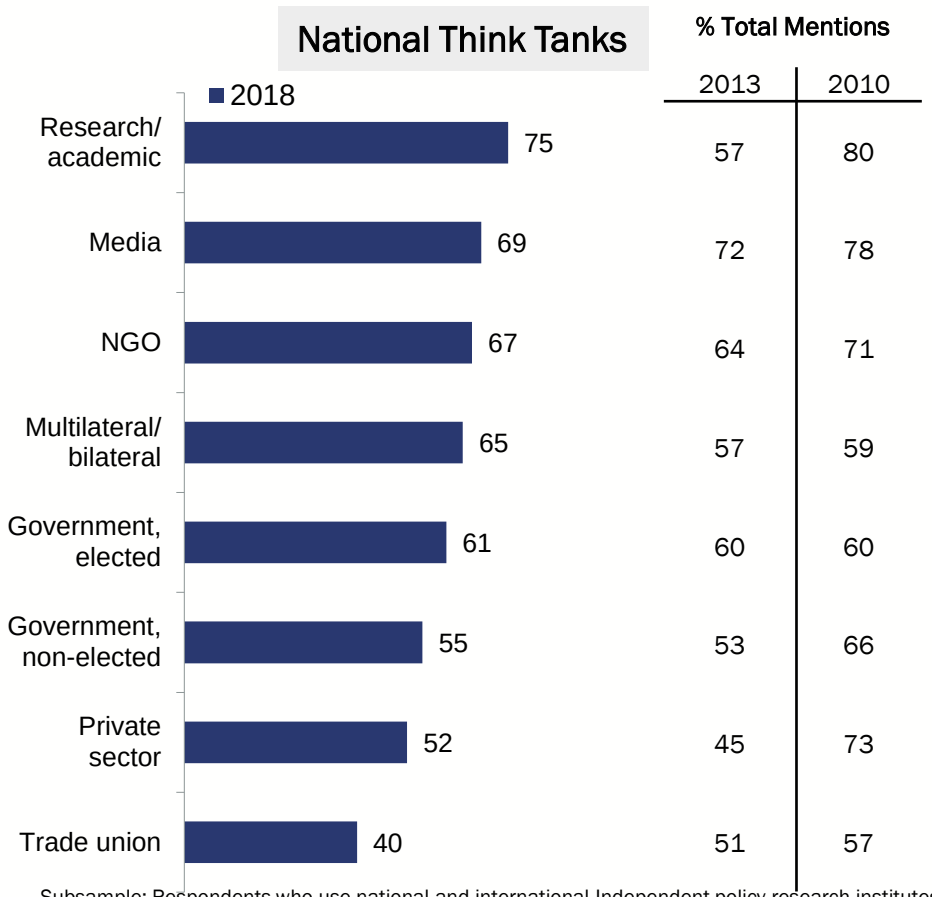
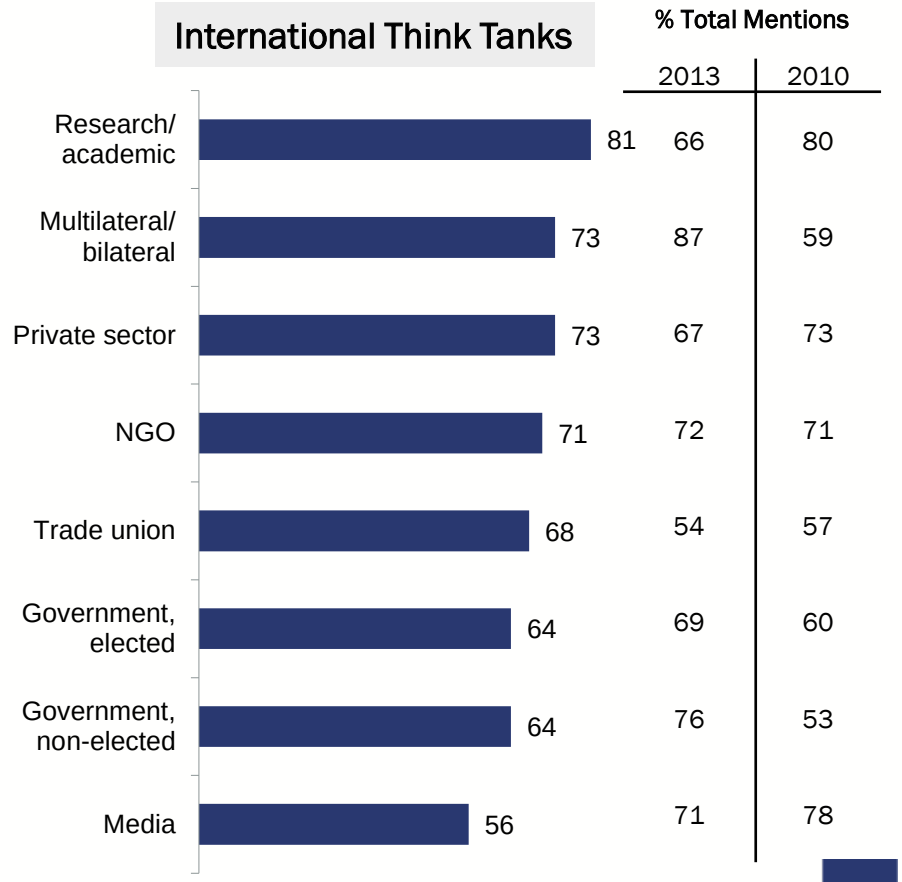
Quality Ratings of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2010–2018



% Total Mentions	2013	2010
Research/ academic	57	80
Media	72	78
NGO	64	71
Multilateral/ bilateral	57	59
Government, elected	60	60
Government, non-elected	53	66
Private sector	45	73
Trade union	51	57



% Total Mentions	2013	2010
Research/ academic	66	80
Multilateral/ bilateral	87	59
Private sector	67	73
NGO	72	71
Trade union	54	57
Government, elected	69	60
Government, non-elected	76	53
Media	71	78

Subsample: Respondents who use national and international Independent policy research institutes (*n*=262 in 2010, International think tanks *n*=258 National think tanks In=266 in 2013, International think tanks *n*=261 National think tanks n=275 in 2018)

***** "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International samples for general comparability.

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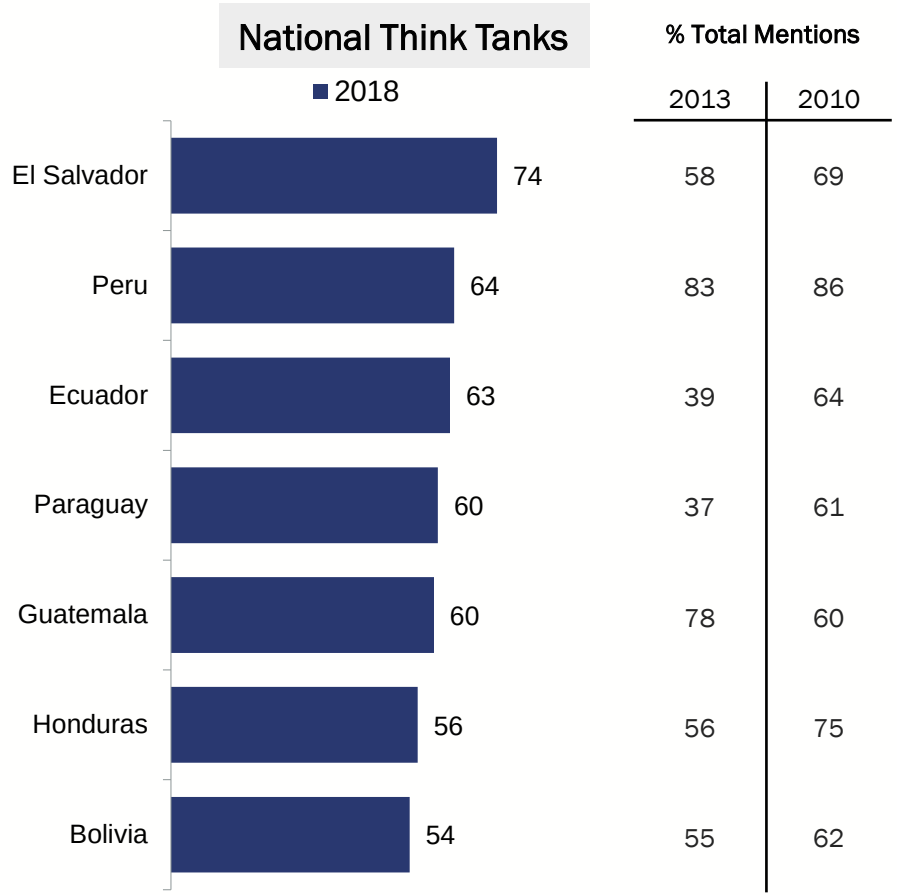
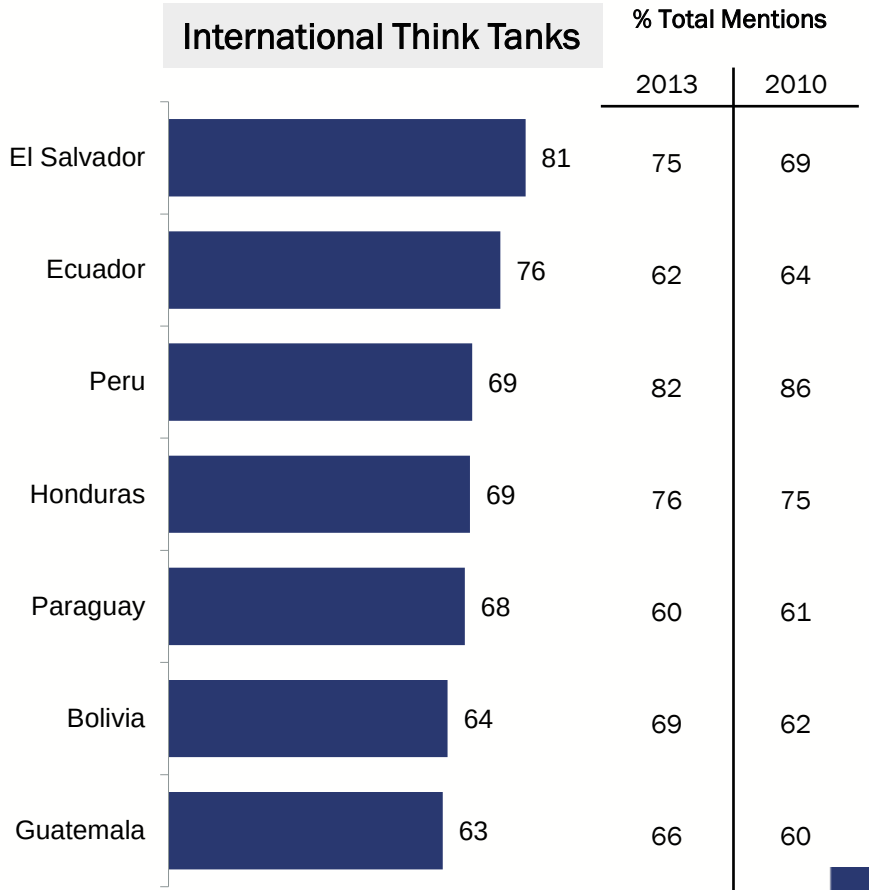
Quality Ratings of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018





Subsample: Respondents who use national and international Independent policy research institutes (*n*=262 in 2010, International think tanks *n*=258 National think tanks In=266 in 2013, International think tanks *n*=261 National think tanks n=275 in 2018)

***** "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2010, but was segmented further into "National" and "International" options in the 2013 survey. The 2010 data is therefore repeated across the National and International samples for general comparability.

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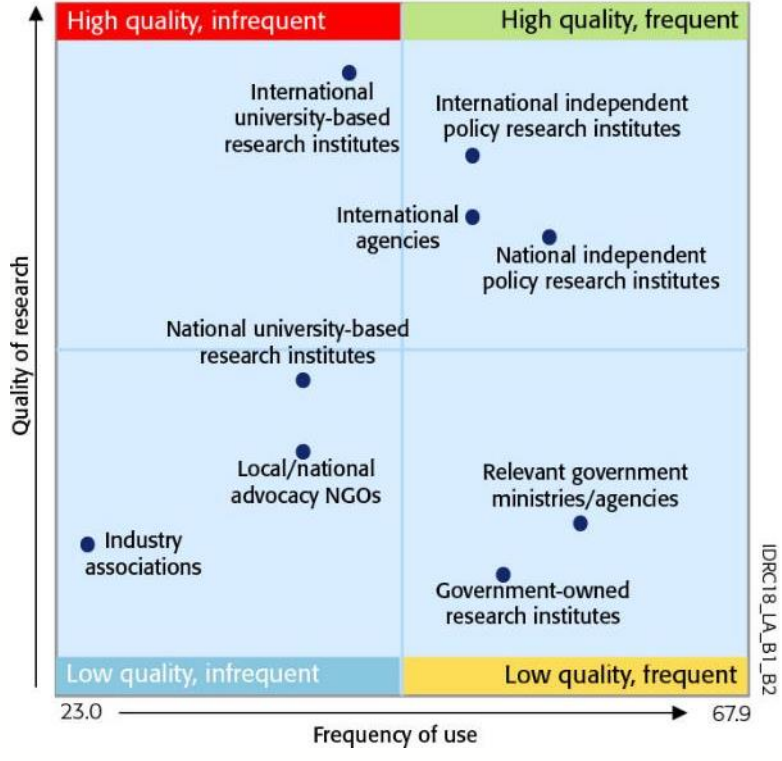
Quality of Research vs Frequency of Use

Percent of Respondents Saying Quality of Research "Excellent" (4+5) vs Use as a "Primary Source" (4+5), Latin America, 2018

As in other regions, international university-based research institutes enjoy high ratings of research quality, but they are used relatively less frequently than other sources which is likely due to lower familiarity, accessibility or relevance.

National think tanks are well positioned as they are viewed as being of high quality and usage is also high. Greater familiarity with national think tanks will likely increase their frequency of use, as this is the main reason given by stakeholders for not utilizing them.



B2 Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=283–225)

Quality vs Frequency of Use of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Saying Quality of Research "Excellent" (4+5) vs Use as a "Primary Source" (4+5), by Country, 2018

National Independent Think Tanks

International Independent Think Tanks

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B2 Subsample (*n*=261 for international independent think tanks, *n*=275 for national independent think tanks)

Familiarity and Level of Interaction with Think Tanks

Familiarity and Level of Interaction with Think Tanks

Initiative Think tank

Familiarity with Think Tanks

- Respondents in Guatemala and El Salvador are generally more familiar with the rated think tanks, along with those in Paraguay and Peru. Those in Bolivia and Ecuador are far less familiar. Familiarity with the prompted think tanks has increased in Paraguay relative to 2013, but declined in most other countries.

Level of Interaction

- Overall, stakeholders who are familiar with the think tanks rated are most likely to see or hear them mentioned by a trusted colleague or contact, or encounter their work in the media at least every couple of months.
- Only a minority of respondents familiar with the rated think tanks read their annual reports.

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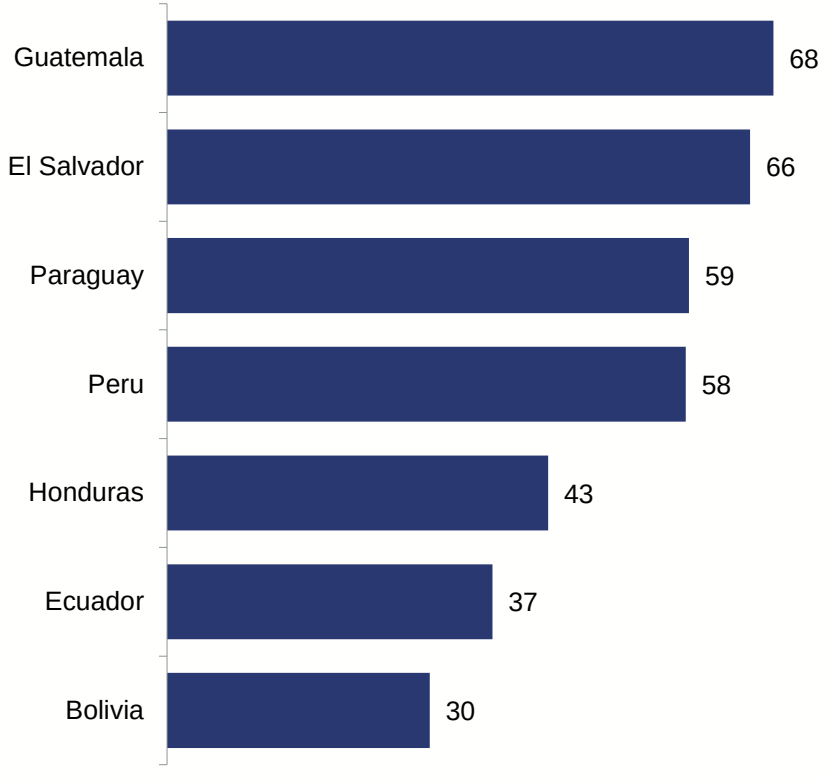
Familiarity with Prompted Think Tanks

Percent of Respondents “Familiar” (4+5) with Prompted Think Tanks, by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Guatemala	85	69
El Salvador	73	49
Paraguay	44	57
Peru	68	70
Honduras	59	57
Ecuador	32	41
Bolivia	33	23

Number of Years Familiar with Think Tank's Work

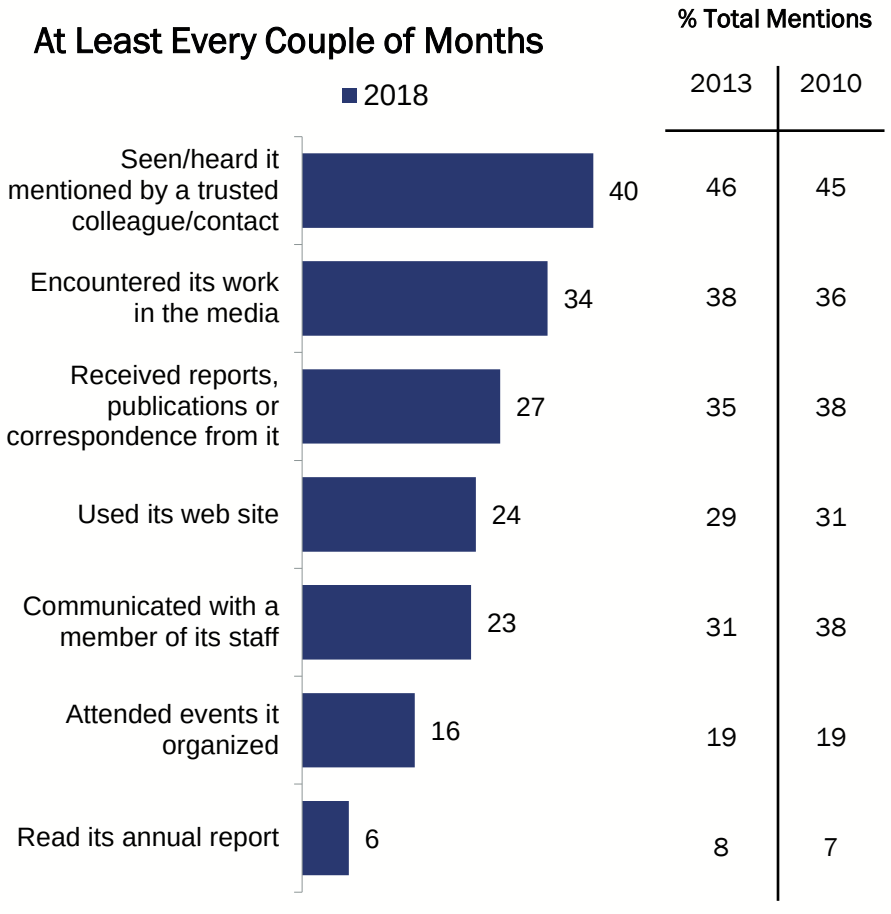
By Country, Latin America, 2018

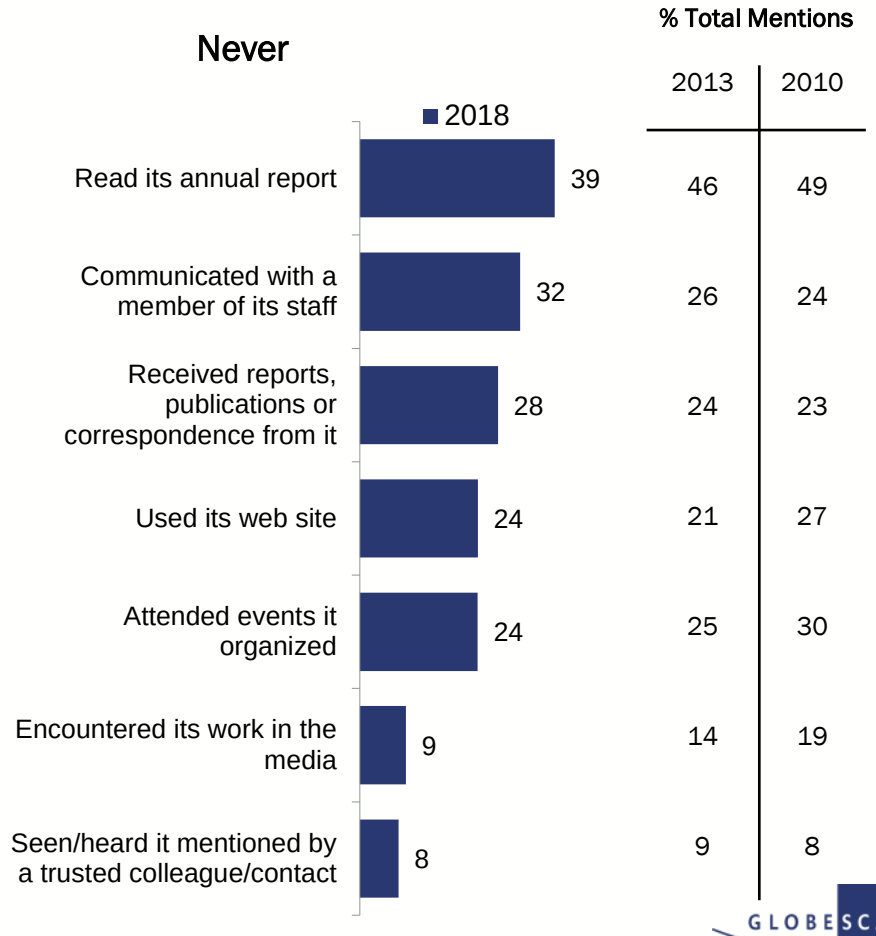
	Bolivia	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Paraguay	Peru
Less than one year	10	11	1	5	4	1	1
1 to less than 5 years	39	37	28	15	19	29	13
5 to less than 10 years	29	26	21	22	41	25	20
10 to less than 20 years	11	26	25	41	37	29	30
20 years or more	2	0	20	17	0	9	32

Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank
Table does not include those saying "don't know"

Frequency of Interaction with Think Tank via Various Channels

Average Responses Across All Rated Think Tanks, Latin America, 2013–2018





Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance Ratings

Think Tank Performance Ratings

Initiative Think tank

Latin America – overall average*

- Overall, perceived performance across all think tanks tested has remained relatively stable since 2013, with performance on quality of research and researchers rated highest. Research on gender empowerment and women's equality as well as partnerships with policy actors other than government are areas where perceived performance is considered lowest.

Bolivia

- Perceived performance of think tanks in Bolivia have declined across most metrics since 2013 and ratings trail behind the Latin America average on all attributes. The most pronounced negative gap with the Latin America average relates to performance on knowledge of policy-making processes and engagement with policy makers.

Ecuador

- Think tank performance ratings in Ecuador are mostly below the Latin America average, aside from transparency and gender equality/empowerment research, where performance is slightly above average. The most significant performance drops since 2013 are on informed critique of public policy, partnership with policy actors other than government, and engagement with policy makers. Since 2013, perceived performance has improved slightly on quality of research and research dissemination.

El Salvador

- The think tanks tested in El Salvador are perceived to perform well above average on all metrics, particularly on having adequate infrastructure to function effectively. Performance has either improved or remained stable since 2013, with the most notable improvements on partnerships with policy makers other than government, engagement with policy makers, informed critique of public policy, and clear communication of mission/programs.

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*To view individual ratings of each think tank test, please refer to the companion document to this study titled, "Think Tank Fact Sheets – African Countries" for an overview of key performance measures on specific think tanks in each country.

Think Tank Performance Ratings

Initiative Think tank

Guatemala

- Think tank performance ratings in Guatemala vary considerably relative to previous years and are fairly similar to the Latin America average, aside from engagement with policy makers, partnership with policy actors other than government, knowledge of policy making processes, and regional knowledge, where performance is well above the average. The most notable declines since 2013 are on value of in-person events, having adequate infrastructure, transparency, research dissemination, and partnership with policy actors other than government.

Honduras

- Performance scores of think tanks in Honduras are well above the Latin America average on almost all metrics, particularly on transparency and having an informed critique of policy. The greatest improvements in performance, relative to last wave, are on partnership with policy actors other than government and having an innovative approach to research.

Paraguay

- On the whole, performance ratings of think tanks tested in Paraguay are consistent or slightly below the Latin America average, aside from performance on transparency, value of in-person events, partnership with policy actors other than government, and gender equality/empowerment research, where ratings are well below the average. Since 2013, there have been notable increases in performance on quality of researchers and informed critique of public policy, and a significant decrease on partnership with policy actors other than government.

Peru

- Performance scores of think tanks in Peru have fallen considerably since 2013 across most measures, and are now fairly consistent with the Latin America average. The most notable declines since 2013 are on transparency, engagement with policy makers, clear communication of mission/programs, and adequate infrastructure to function effectively.

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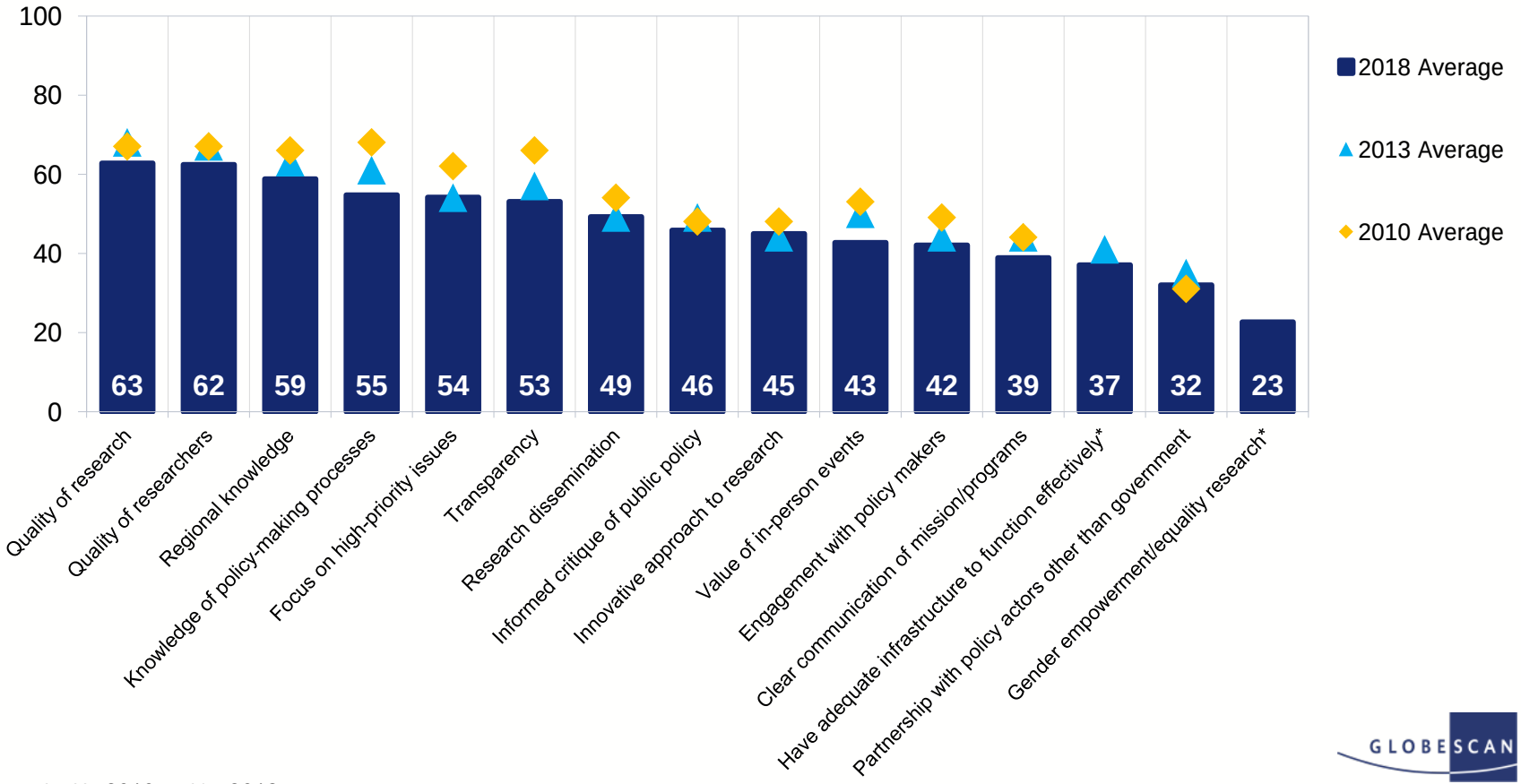
Think Tank Performance

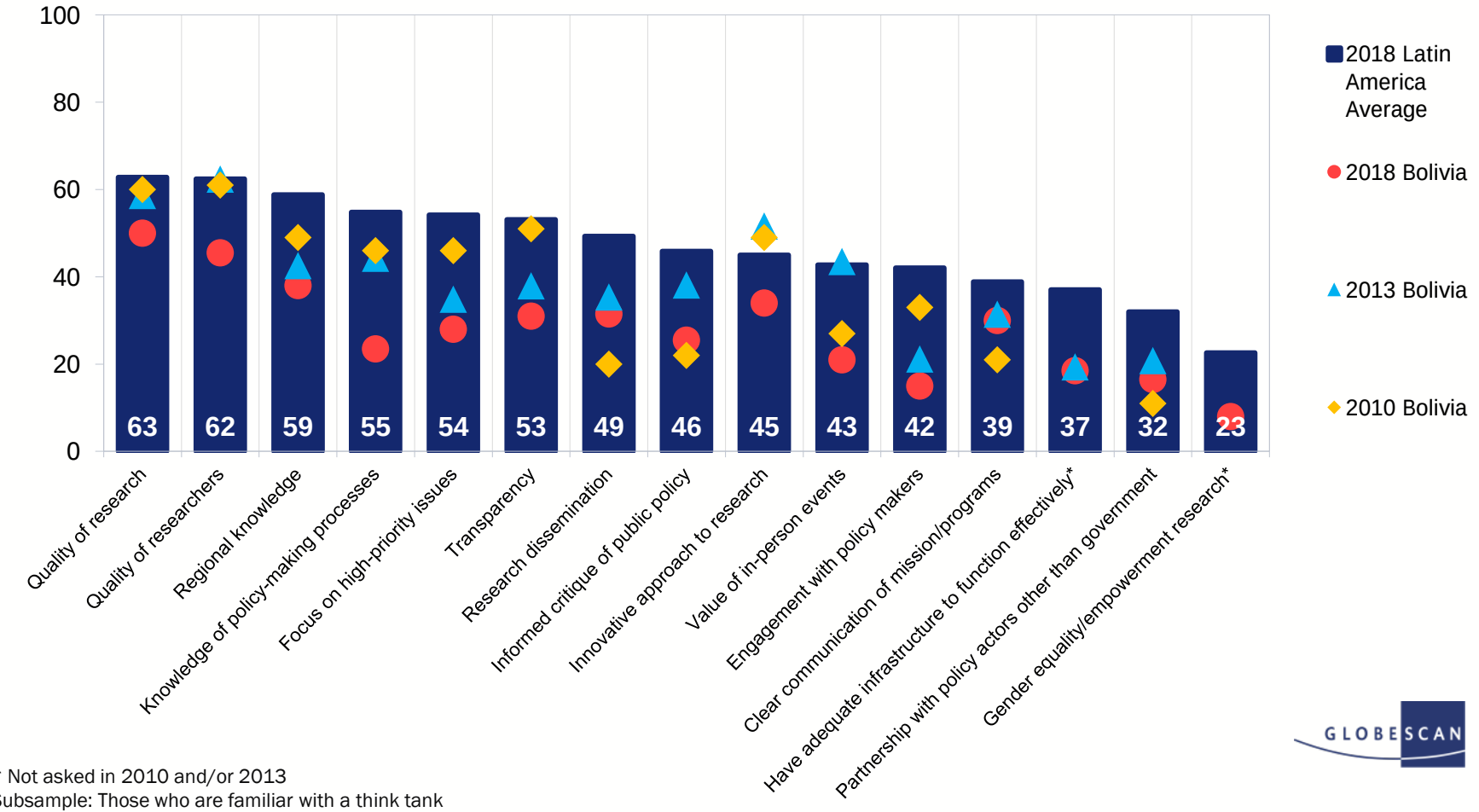
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Latin America, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

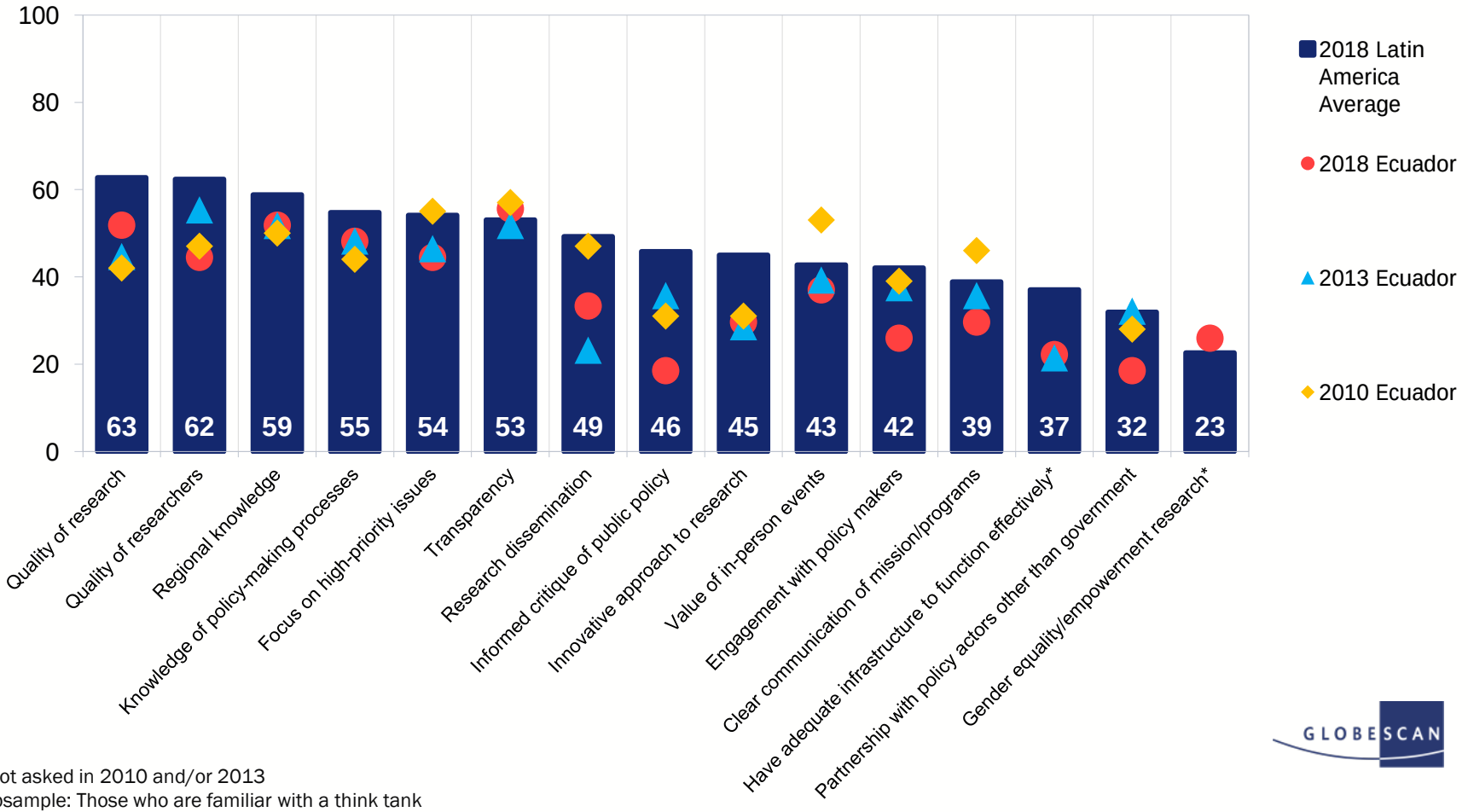
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5), Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Bolivia, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

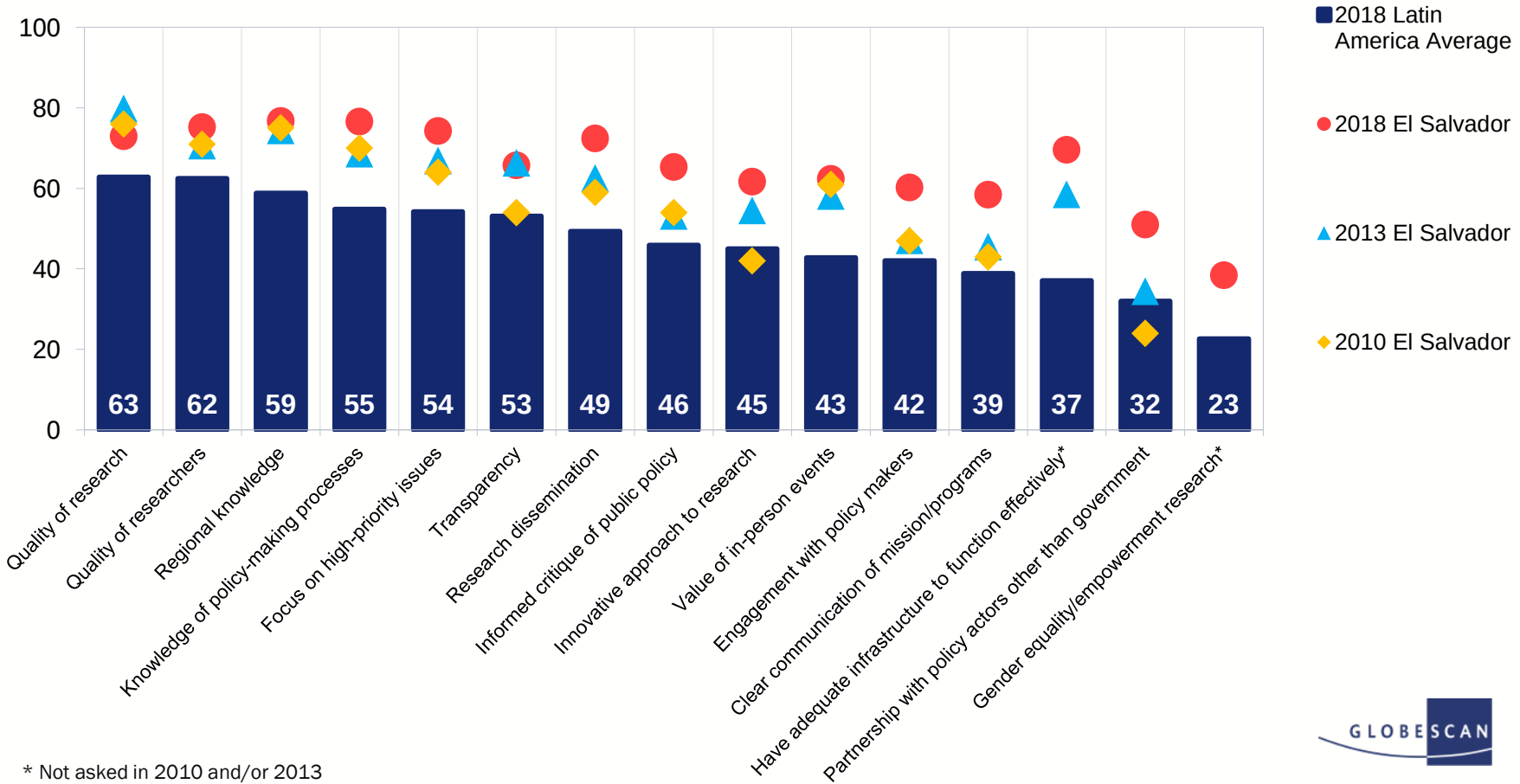
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Ecuador, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

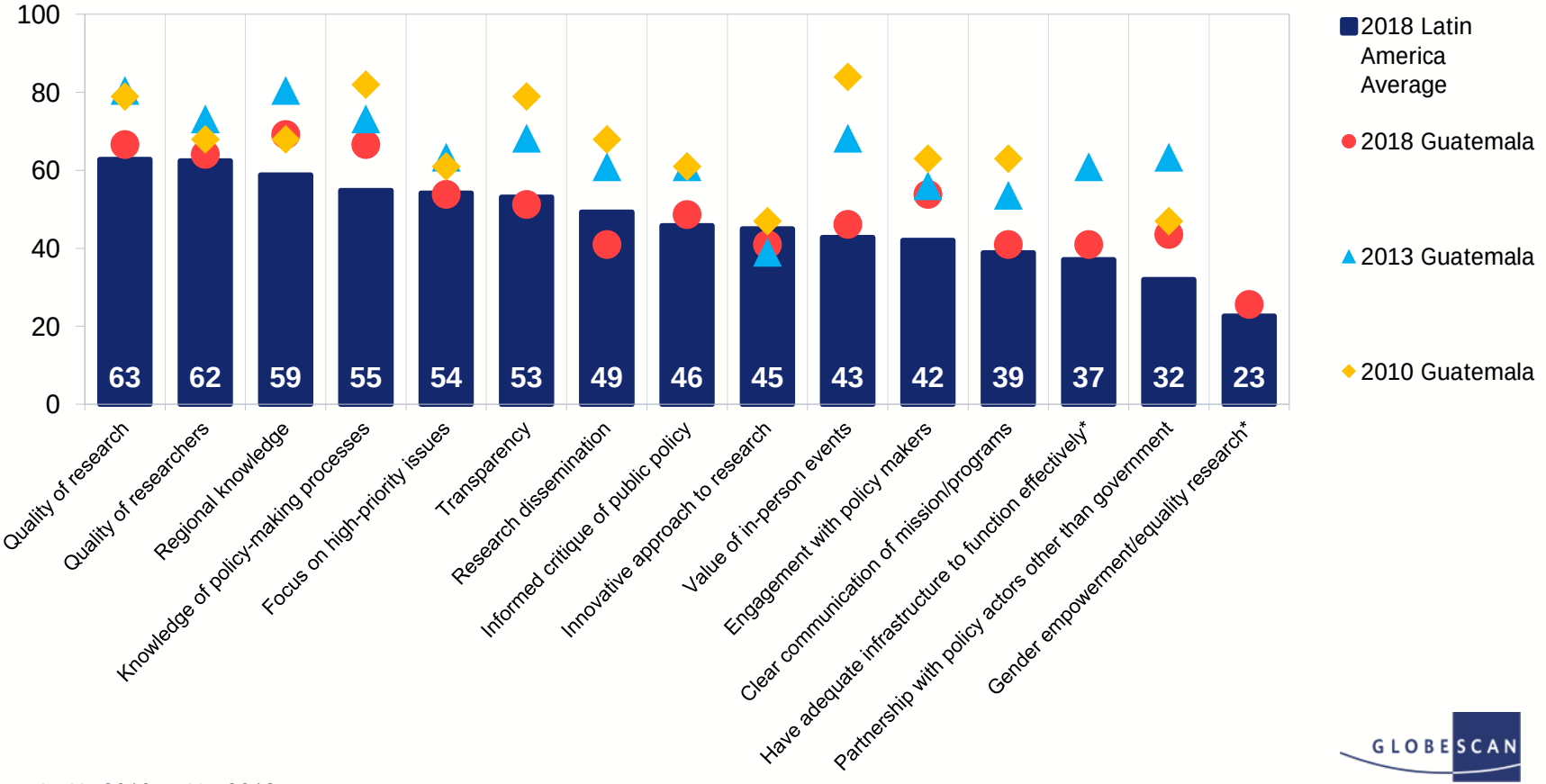
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, El Salvador, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

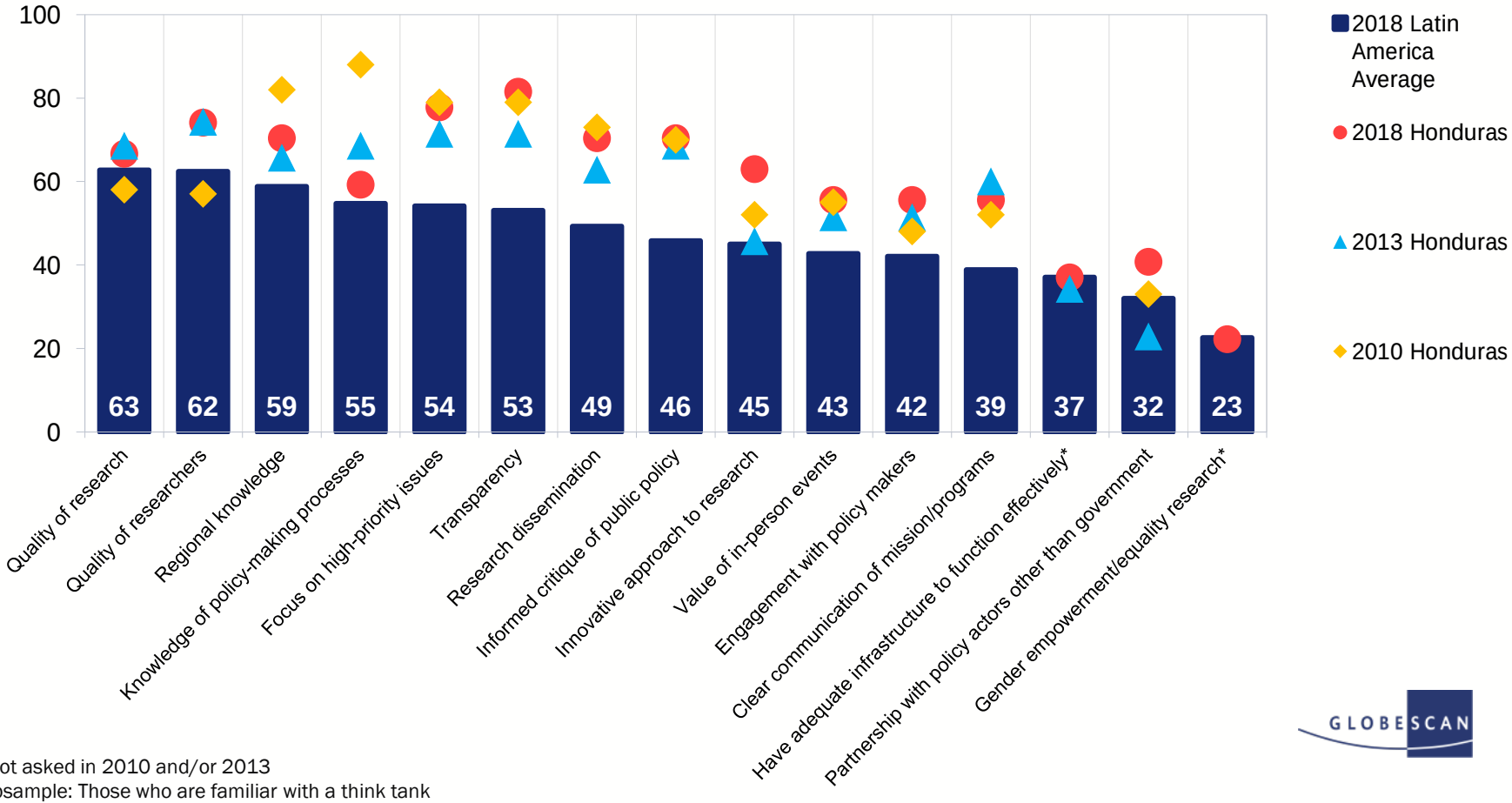
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Guatemala, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

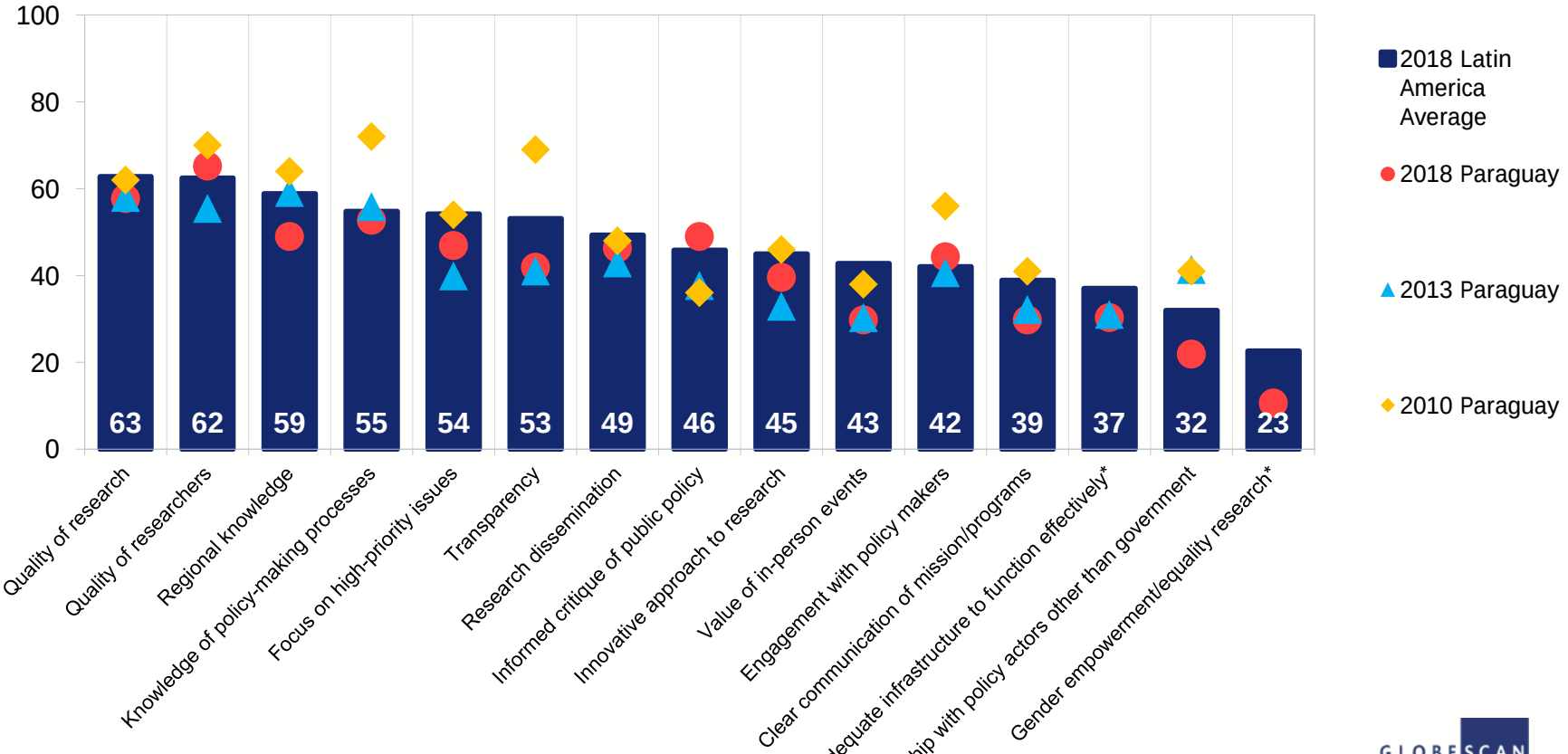
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Honduras, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

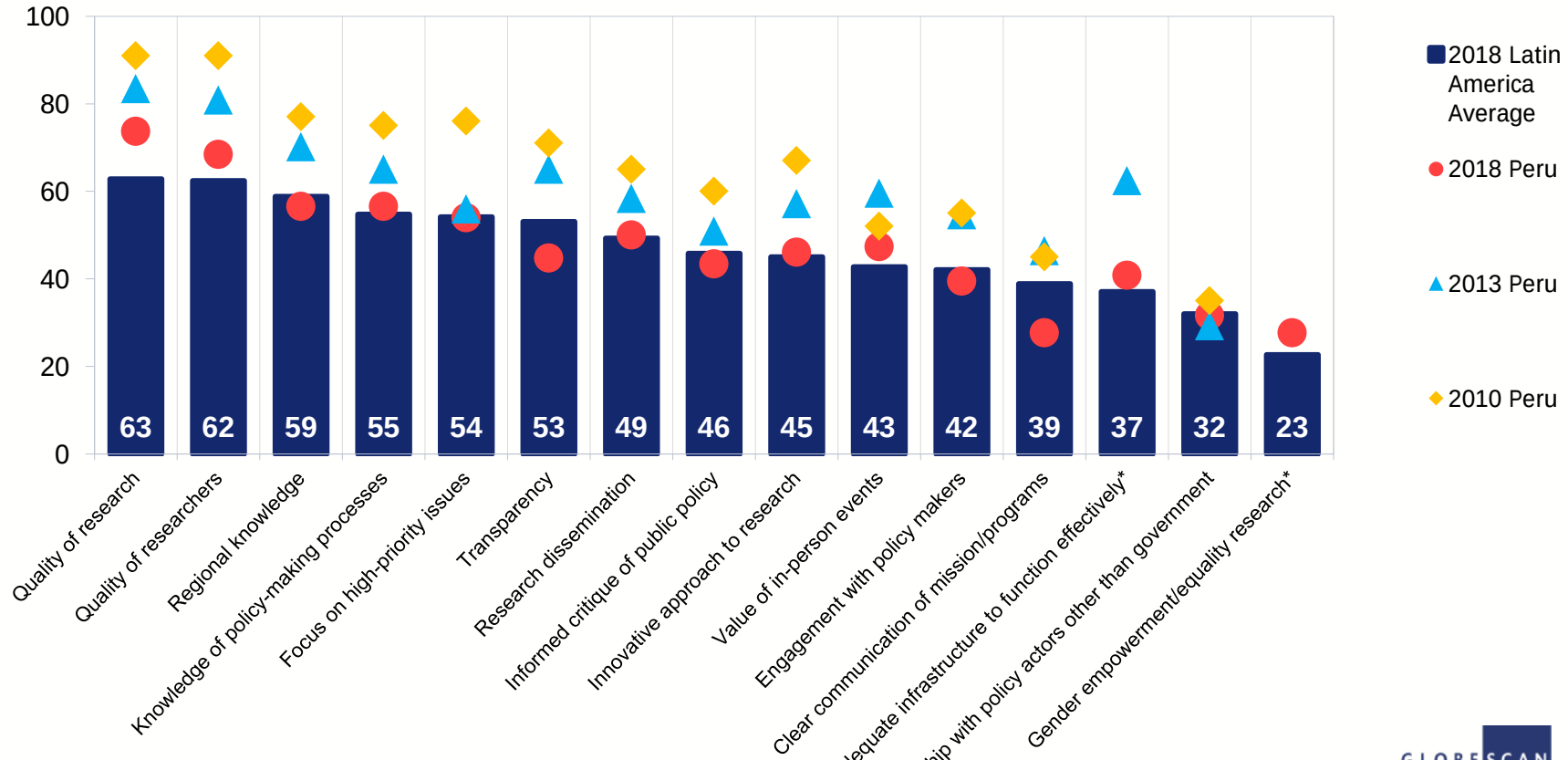
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Paraguay, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Peru, 2010–2018



* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

Think Tank Performance

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018

Top rating

Second rating

	Overall average			Bolivia			Ecuador			El Salvador			Guatemala			Honduras			Paraguay			Peru		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Quality of research	63	68	67	50	59	60	52	45	42	73	80	76	67	80	79	67	69	58	58	58	62	74	83	91
Quality and expertise of its researchers	62	67	67	46	62	61	44	55	47	75	71	71	64	73	68	74	74	57	65	55	70	68	81	91
Regional/local knowledge	59	63	66	38	43	49	52	52	50	77	74	75	69	80	68	70	66	82	49	59	64	57	70	77
Knowledge of the policy-making process	55	61	68	24	44	46	48	48	44	77	69	70	67	73	82	59	69	88	53	56	72	57	65	75
Focus on high priority issues	54	54	62	28	35	46	44	46	55	74	67	64	54	63	61	78	71	79	47	40	54	54	56	76
Transparency/openness	53	57	66	31	38	51	56	52	57	66	66	54	51	68	79	81	71	79	42	41	69	45	65	71
Dissemination of research	49	49	54	32	35	20	33	23	47	72	63	59	41	61	68	70	63	73	46	43	48	50	58	65
Providing informed critique	46	49	48	26	38	22	19	36	31	65	53	54	49	61	61	70	69	70	49	38	36	43	51	60
Innovative approach to research	45	44	48	34	52	49	30	29	31	62	55	42	41	39	47	63	46	52	40	33	46	46	57	67
Value of its in-person events	43	50	53	21	43	27	37	39	53	62	58	61	46	68	84	56	51	55	30	30	38	47	60	52
Effective engagement with policy makers	42	44	49	15	21	33	26	38	39	60	47	47	54	56	63	56	51	48	44	41	56	39	55	55
Clear communication of its mission, programs and activities	39	44	44	30	31	21	30	36	46	58	46	43	41	54	63	56	60	52	30	32	41	28	46	45
Have adequate infrastructure in place to function effectively*	37	41	-	19	19	-	22	21	-	70	59	-	41	61	-	37	34	-	30	31	-	41	62	-
Effective partnering with public policy actors	32	35	31	17	21	11	19	32	28	51	34	24	44	63	47	41	23	33	22	41	41	32	29	35
Research on gender equality/women's empowerment*	23	-	-	8	-	-	26	-	-	38	-	-	26	-	-	22	-	-	11	-	-	28	-	-

* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013

Factors for Improving Think Tank Performance

Factors for Improving Think Tank Performance

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance

Latin America Level

- Factors for improving national think tank performance have remained fairly consistent since 2010, with improved quality of research and more audience-friendly presentation of findings rated as most "important," while improved governance and increased media coverage are deemed relatively less important.
- The only significant change from previous waves of the study is a rise in the importance of greater awareness of services in improving think tank performance (73%, up 20 percentage points from 2013).

Stakeholder Level

- Across stakeholder groups the findings are generally consistent with averages, with all groups placing high importance on quality of research in improving performance of think tanks.
- Respondents from research/academia are most likely to consider audience-friendly presentation of findings as important to improve think tank performance.
- Government officials tend to place more importance on improved quality of research, increased availability of trained/experienced staff, and greater awareness of services, with all three rated higher than average (>88%).

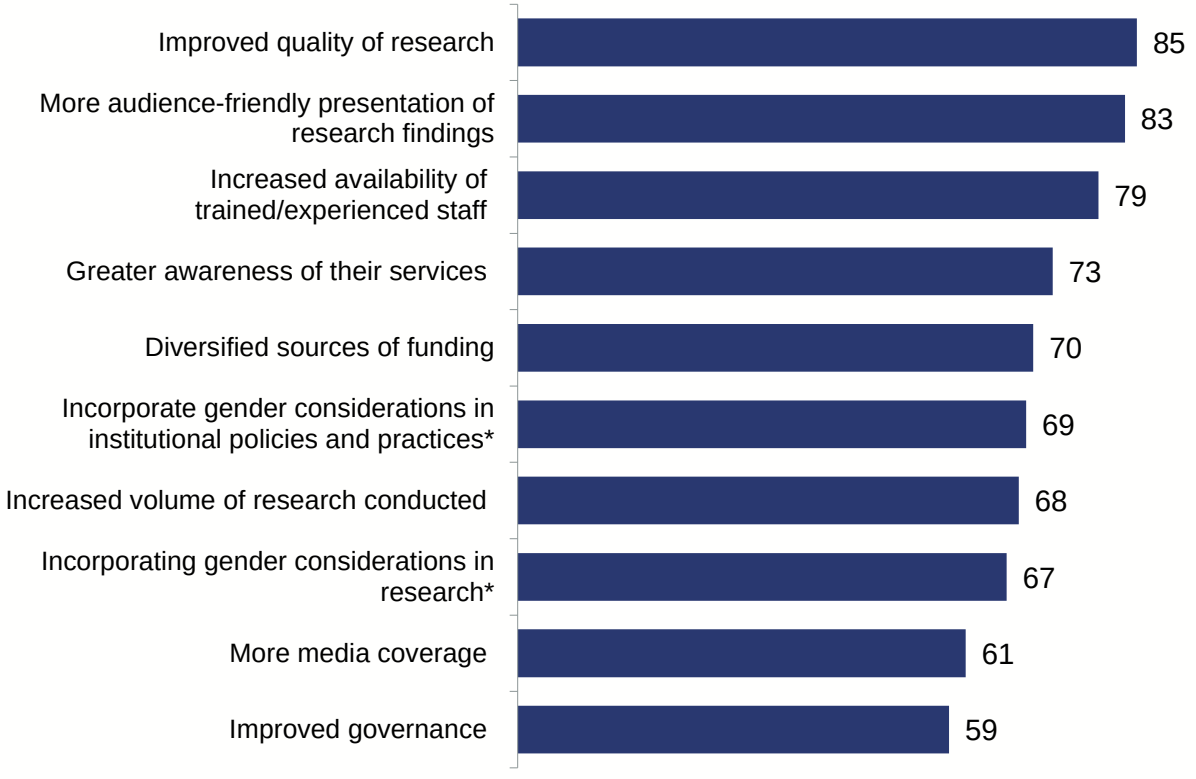
Country Level

- Overall, improving the quality of research and having a more audience-friendly presentation of research findings are considered the most important factors in improving think tank performance across nearly all countries.
- Respondents in Honduras and El Salvador are most likely to view increased availability of trained/experienced staff as an important factor for improving performance.

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), Latin America, 2010–2018



	% Total Mentions	
	2013	2010
Improved quality of research	87	87
More audience-friendly presentation of research findings	81	86
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	76	74
Greater awareness of their services	53	44
Diversified sources of funding	70	75
Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices*	NA	NA
Increased volume of research conducted	69	72
Incorporating gender considerations in research*	NA	NA
More media coverage	61	57
Improved governance	54	46

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* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, Latin America, 2010–2018

Most important factor

Second most important factor

	Overall average			Elected government			Non-elected government			Media			Multilateral/ bilateral			NGO			Private sector			Research/ academia			Trade union		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Improved quality of research	85	87	87	97	90	82	93	91	87	88	84	89	79	78	85	77	87	94	88	91	77	83	88	87	76	82	89
More audience-friendly presentation of research findings	83	81	86	84	85	75	83	81	87	85	86	95	76	84	94	79	75	91	83	88	89	92	71	82	76	87	84
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	79	76	74	88	68	72	93	72	71	71	65	82	79	82	76	66	79	72	81	77	67	85	81	79	76	85	70
Greater awareness of their services	73	53	44	91	60	57	90	43	38	62	67	53	64	37	27	51	54	38	83	39	41	71	51	34	82	80	62
Diversified sources of funding	70	70	75	63	58	82	80	69	71	68	64	64	70	62	76	60	72	88	79	76	70	75	75	84	71	77	62
Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices*	69	-	-	63	-	-	73	-	-	71	-	-	70	-	-	60	-	-	64	-	-	79	-	-	76	-	-
Increased volume of research conducted	68	69	72	78	65	72	83	65	86	68	72	62	58	69	56	53	59	75	71	80	78	69	72	79	74	68	68
Incorporating gender considerations in research*	67	-	-	69	-	-	63	-	-	71	-	-	67	-	-	57	-	-	57	-	-	73	-	-	79	-	-
More media coverage	61	61	57	56	69	72	63	61	38	68	76	74	52	36	41	49	61	54	62	57	58	65	54	60	76	76	60
Improved governance	59	54	46	75	38	54	73	53	33	56	56	53	36	42	32	36	60	51	69	66	39	58	43	48	76	77	60

* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013

Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Initiative Think tank

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), by Country, Latin America, 2010–2018

Most important factor

Second most important factor

	Overall average			Bolivia			Ecuador			El Salvador			Guatemala			Honduras			Paraguay			Peru		
	2018	2013	2010	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10	`18	`13	`10
Improved quality of research	85	87	86	86	91	89	83	77	85	91	93	98	84	90	79	83	91	95	80	81	75	83	88	83
More audience-friendly presentation of research findings	83	81	87	86	83	83	85	72	83	89	74	95	82	73	81	81	90	88	78	85	80	79	89	98
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	79	76	73	75	83	67	73	66	60	91	72	80	77	76	74	90	73	85	78	81	83	69	82	67
Greater awareness of their services	73	53	44	77	56	50	71	53	48	87	36	35	75	51	40	74	49	48	63	71	40	64	58	45
Diversified sources of funding	70	70	75	66	78	65	85	60	78	87	69	88	64	73	69	67	66	80	61	64	68	64	80	79
Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices*	69	-	-	68	-	-	61	-	-	78	-	-	68	-	-	74	-	-	61	-	-	76	-	-
Increased volume of research conducted	68	69	72	64	68	72	73	65	78	80	57	68	57	58	55	76	78	83	65	70	78	64	85	74
Incorporating gender considerations in research*	67	-	-	59	-	-	66	-	-	71	-	-	66	-	-	74	-	-	61	-	-	71	-	-
More media coverage	61	61	57	68	63	57	56	54	68	73	48	48	61	51	62	62	76	53	65	77	58	40	60	57
Improved governance	59	54	46	57	47	41	61	44	28	71	50	50	66	61	55	71	63	65	43	54	45	43	60	40

* Not asked in 2010 and/or 2013

Advice for independent policy research institutes to better assist stakeholders in their work

Open-end Responses, Latin America, 2018

Advice for think tanks is relatively consistent, with many people mentioning the same recommendations across the board. Advice for think tanks focused on the following:

- Increase the transparency and continuity of work while limiting potential bias
- Disseminate research in a manner that is accessible, timely, and easy to understand for all readers
- Develop strategic partnerships and alliances with international research centres, NGOs, government, etc.
- Prioritize issues that are relevant to the country or region and could have a demonstrable impact on local communities and policy
- Diversify sources of funding and limit political partisanship
- General improvement of the quality of research
- Gear studies toward actual application in society and public policy by focusing on relevant, practical issues and realistic conclusions
- Create more direct involvement with the public in research discovery and dissemination by holding public presentations and launches

> Systematize good public policy practices in the region. Provide analysis, data and models for the sustainable implementation of public policies that give results at the regional level. Promote critical debates and analysis of public policy plans for current governments – *NGO, Paraguay*

> Greater relevance of the research topics and depth in the analysis carried out, continuous monitoring of the situation and articulation of the analysis with structural issues – *Media, El Salvador*

> It would be great if they could provide their reports and information in friendly formats. It is also important to diversify their sources of funding – *Research/academia, Guatemala*

> Generate critical knowledge, participate in the construction of citizen agendas, promote strategic alliances with international research centers, deepen research based on a human rights approach, prioritize the analysis of the causes of social inequality that perpetuate poverty – *NGO, Bolivia*

> Ensure you always guard your independence and be as neutral as possible in researching – *NGO, Peru*

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