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GALCI-Jornada

General Comments

My overall rating of the event would be 'good'. My rating of the youth meetings would be 'very good'. My rating of the Santa Fe leg would be 'poor'.

Conference

At the conference itself, there was a real lack of procedure and self-control, maybe due to a lack of continuous communication and clear goals among the participants. The gaps, (technological, linguistic and financial) were looked at almost in hindsight, when they provide the methodology that for me is most suited to addressing the issues of poverty, health, education and economic rights throughout the Diaspora in the Americas and maybe throughout the TransAtlantic region.

Youth Meetings

The youth meetings were perhaps the most interesting. The opportunity to meet, discuss and network was provided by the organisers and was supplemented by the efforts of the participants over the course of the conference and the visit to Santa Fe. Especially in the youth meetings, it was clear that we needed the pre-conference period to prepare an agenda and possibly forward position papers so that the discussions could have gone beyond establishing goals.

Santa Fe

Wow. I'm not sure why there was so little preparation and background information on who the officials that we were visiting were, what their previous position had been or what exactly the Casa was trying to achieve. It's a minor miracle that it seemed to go so well after all. The post-flight visit to the Casa should have been short and sweet, especially if that type of negotiation and high-level meeting was to take place the next day.

Suggestions

My suggestions for future events (as I do think that an event of this type should be developed and sustained) would be the participation of Canadian youth and possibly representatives from Black Europe and Africa (even if these youth are resident in the Americas). Areas in the Americas, which are generally left out of discussions like these (e.g.

Martinique/Guadeloupe/Cayenne; Suriname; and the Dominican Republic) could be the source of some fresh ideas and debates on identity and development in the region.

With specific reference to the conference, my suggestions would be:

- 1) A seven-ten person working group that would produce and upload summaries during the conference and facilitate online participation from delegates unable to make the trip to x-place.
- 2) Provide space for thematic discussions and networking among the general group.
- 3) Media presence, publicity and outreach before and during the event.
- 4) Pre-conference follow-up plan. At least one sustainable project or activity should start directly after the conference to show concretely that the process is about change.

Summary

In spite of (or maybe because of) immense personal and institutional obstacles, the meeting in Argentina, in my view, was successful. I would suggest that the odds and obstacles to the success of the event could be lowered by a more intensive pre-departure preparation phase of at least one month. This may not be a simple task, but it would have prepared us better to continue interacting remotely after the conference.

Somos un equipo virtual? Cuales son nuestras prioridades? Que metodologia vamos a utilizar? Dentro de las tres semanas que vienen, creo, tenemos que definir como vamos a operar y proceder para los 2 o 3 anos que siguen. Tambien hay que consider como vamos a comunicar. Hay varios maneras de hacer la traduccion automatica para que todos tengamos una idea mas o menos clara de lo que contribuimos.