



## **Participatory Evaluation: a Method to Empower Communities**

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### **Abstract**

In 2009 a team of researchers of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain) worked with managers and technicians of Catalan Government to design a framework plan to the participatory evaluation of community development plans. This community development plans had been implementing in Catalonia since 1996. We developed the research project through a participatory methodology and designed the framework plan but never applied it. We worked on the indicators of evaluation, on the instruments to gathering data, and on the protocol to develop participatory evaluation in each community.

At the end of 2010 we got funding from Science and Innovation Ministry of Spain to develop a research, which takes as its starting point that previous work. The research team was formed by a group of researchers, coming from three different universities –Barcelona; Autònoma de Barcelona; and Girona- and a Foundation (Citilab), which is focused on research processes "Knowledge Society". All of these researchers converge from their scientific careers in a specific research line: participatory evaluation in the community. A methodology of educational work, through personal interactions and social networks technologically mediated, produces participants' learning and initiates processes of empowerment and social innovation.

This research called "Participative evaluation of community action as a learning methodology to individual and community empowerment" seeks to answer a question related to social education and community participation processes and socio-educational work in the community. We want to know if participatory processes -both physical and virtual- developed in the framework of Community actions generate learning that empowers people who develop them. To answer this question we are going to use an intervention methodology that has emerged strongly in recent years: the participatory evaluation.

In this paper we want to present the methodology we will use to develop this research project that will last next three years.