

Management of Social Transformations

mOST2 Tool

for Comparative Policy Research





The MOST Programme

Background and mission

- Established in 1994, an Intergovernmental Programme dedicated to:
- *“Promote the development and use of social science knowledge that contributes to better understanding and management of social transformations”*

Main activities

- International Forum on the Social Science - Policy Nexus
- Regional research-policy networks around select priority themes
- Regional Fora of Ministers of Social Development
- UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks; Summer schools

Knowledge dissemination

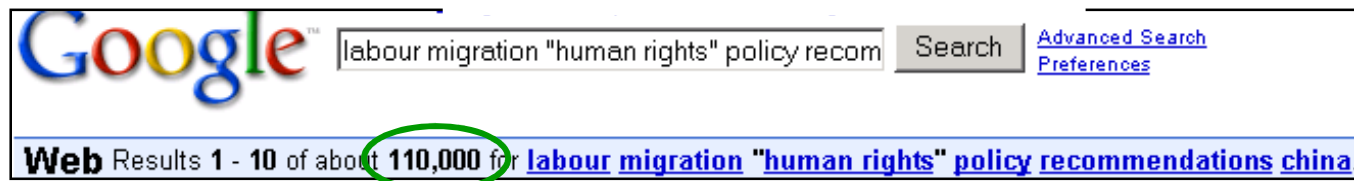
- Online Comparative Policy Research Tool
- Policy Papers Series

“Google is not enough”

Looks for words (not concepts) within billions of pages

©2005 Google - Searching 8,058,044,651 web pages

Returns quantity of *full heterogeneous* documents
(including noise)



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Tool Contributions



Improved support to decision-making:

- Online, free, multilingual access to scientific findings from policy analyses worldwide
 - High level of inter-experience comparability
 - Content recombination and customization
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- Assess the relevance of available policy options
 - Produce custom reports drawing on original documents

Comparability

Policy Briefs template

- Abstract
- Context and issue
- Programmes and projects
- Research results
- Recommendations
- Operational aspects *+ Indicators...*
- References *+ News feeds...*

Policy-sensitive criteria



UNESCO FORUM
on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge





Updates and Upgrades

Themes

- Poverty eradication and human rights
- Urban development and democracy
- Migrations and multicultural societies
- Prevention of youth violence
- Population, environment and development

Functionality

- Indicators and news
- Conceptual and geographical search
- User profiles



Application and Extension

Comparative research

- Sound policy analysis methodology
- Knowledge mapping and networking principles
- Experimented with various constituencies
- Can be adjusted/adapted

Conference reporting

- Rigorous capturing of debates
- Immediate restitution of outcomes
- Documents archived into above tool



Research and Development

Enhancing Functionality

- Visualization and animation (maps, graphics)
- Access customization (user profiles)
- “Q-squared” approach with contextual search

Meta-Networking

- Content from other knowledge networks
- Quantitative indicators and statistics

Further addressing Complexity

- Semantic analysis
- Modeling and simulation



Expected Impact on the Policy Cycle

Research-Policy

- Knowledge base updates and enriches as it is used on the ground and feedback on the experiences is made available (follow-up, evaluation)
- Alternative approaches are assessed over time (tracking, mapping)

Local-Global





- Policies link gradually to one another since initiatives are based on shared experience (lessons learned, mutual benefits)
- T=0: Options are contextual and comparable
- T=1+: Options are comparative, contextualized and 'refreshed'

Policy-Community


- Responsiveness is made accountable, traceable and adjustable

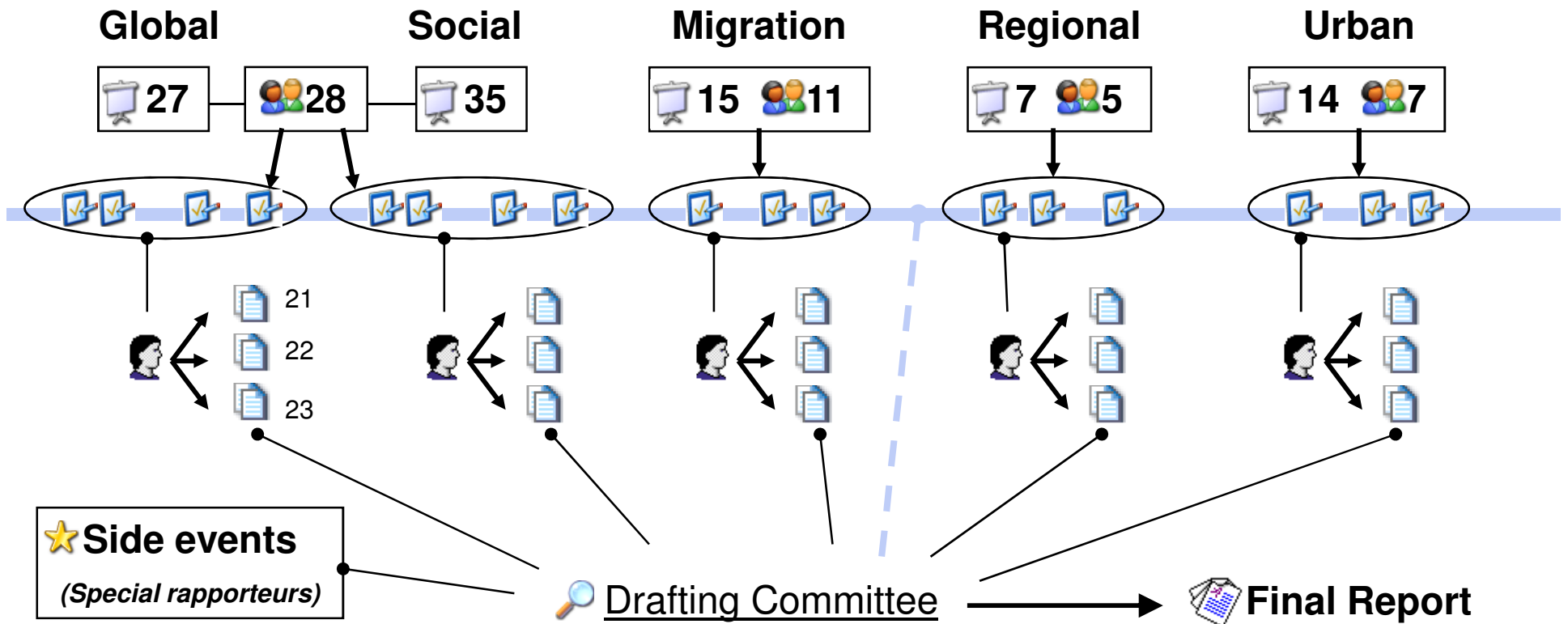
Int'l Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus

20-24 Febr. 2006, Argentina and Uruguay

-  Workshops (98)
-  Rapporteurs (51)
-  Workshop reports
-  Thematic coordinators
-  Daily thematic syntheses

Reporting Procedure

 **Drafting Committee**
 • ISC, SHS, CLACSO





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