Climate Adaptation policies: closing the knowledge-action gap in Latin America

December 4 | 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm | Hub Brazil, Blue Zone - IFEMA, Madrid - Spain

DESCRIPTION
At this open roundtable, we invite practitioners to discuss and analyze the use and interface of scientific knowledge for the development of adaptation policies in Latin America. After initial reflections by panelists, we will open the floor for a participatory discussion about opportunities and ways to bridge the science-policy gap and strengthen the capacity of governments to implement adaptation policies.

The proposed discussion is framed in the LatinoAdapta project; a regional research project on the interface between science and policy on climate adaptation issues, that is underway in the 6 Latin American countries mentioned above. LatinoAdapta is implemented by the Regional Network for Climate Change and Decision Making - UNITWIN Program, lead by Avina and supported by IDRC.

SPEAKERS
- Daniel Ryan (ITBA, Argentina)
- Natalie Unterstell (Talanoa, Brazil)
- Local Government (tbc)

Moderator: Paula Ellinger (LatinoAdapta Leader - Fundación Avina)

Driving questions:
- What role does scientific knowledge play in the development and implementation of adaptation policies?
- To what extent is this role being fulfilled at local and national level?
What are the challenges in the use of scientific knowledge for policy development?
What strategies work in linking science and policy in adaptation? Can you share examples?
Key considerations for practitioners for researchers working to link climate science and policy.

CONTEXT OF ANALYSIS
LatinoAdapta is being implemented in six Latin American countries since 2017 by our Regional Climate Change and Decision Making Network - UNESCO UNITWIN Programme, and is led by Fundación Avina and funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

During the evaluation phase of the project, implemented in 2018, national teams produced Assessment Reports identifying the main knowledge gaps affecting the development of climate adaptation policies in their national contexts. These countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Uruguay. This research also allowed to identify gaps common to all countries, which were later addressed through the development of 12 Policy Briefs by experts in each one of these areas. (Three languages available: spanish, english and portuguese here).

At the same time, a comparative study at the regional level was conducted by researchers Daniel Ryan (Escuela de Posgrado- Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires - ITBA) and Eduardo Bustos (Centro de Cambio Global - UC de Chile). This work resulted in the publication of an open-access article in the Climate Policy Journal (Volume 19, Issue 10) entitled "Knowledge gaps and climate adaptation policy: a comparative analysis of six Latin American countries."