



Learning Workshop on Developmental Evaluation with **systems play** Global Collaborative, Spain

From 5th to 9th February 2019, **systems play** conducted its annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain. During this period, in order to promote learning amongst change makers in the field of social innovation, a learning workshop on developmental evaluation was jointly conducted on 7th February by **systems play** global collaborative and “la Caixa” Banking Foundation at the CaixaForum, Barcelona. The “la Caixa” Banking Foundation is the third largest foundation in the world and promotes diverse social, economic, cultural and ecological initiatives to foster sustainable development across the world. The workshop saw the participation of 15 organisations active in the social innovation field in Spain, like Transition Towns, ITD-UPM, and Entreculturas, to name a few.

systems play provides single-window access to knowledge resources for change-makers and acts as a platform for stories in the form of case studies, tools, modules, and resources. These help to build evidence in favour of systems change as well as support the co-creation of solutions that reach out across sectors, stakeholders, and scales.

This global collaborative has evolved out of the Rockefeller Foundation Global Fellowship Program on Social Innovation. The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Cape Town is the institutional home of **systems play**, and three regional hubs in Africa, Latin America and Asia have been established in a connected, global network of practitioners. As the leader of the Asia Hub, Development Alternatives focuses on entrepreneurship and job creation. The annual meeting of the global collaborative is a time for all the geographical hubs to reflect on work done and develop a strategy going forward.

The learning workshop at CaixaForum was divided into two parts, of which the former was titled 'Learning together when things are complex'. Participants were encouraged to bring their project plans or proposals for a very interactive session which offered developmental evaluation-based methods to solve complex, systemic problems that they might be facing in their projects. The session also sharpened organisations' perspectives on the impact of their own work in relation to the work of other organisations through the concept of 'scale', identifying actors that were working at different scales from them. The question of developing effective project indicators was discussed, not just for the direct objectives of the project (e.g. for a job creation project, the number of jobs created) but also indicators developed on the basis of the organisation's value system (e.g. measuring the larger question of whether or not the programme is creating equal opportunities for a wider number of people).

The latter part of the workshop was a poster presentation and speed networking session in which participants could learn about each other's work and exchange information through a more informal and visual medium. The topic of developmental evaluation was significantly demystified through this workshop, and the interactive and participatory approach taken helped organisations understand the advantages of viewing their projects from a systemic, social innovation-based perspective.