
ERICH DE LA FUENTE

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International Development, Governance, Anti-corruption, Rule-of-law, Strategic Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert.

Ph.D. – Governance and Policy Analysis, Maastricht University.

M.A. – Government/Latin American Affairs, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.

B.A. – International Relations, Florida International University.

Extensive experience in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Key Qualifications:

Erich de la Fuente is a **senior governance and strategic communications expert with over 25 years of experience working in international development with a focus on anti-corruption, access to justice, rule-of-law strengthening, and judicial reform issues**. He has specialized in designing, implementing, and evaluating projects for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, Transparency International and other international organizations throughout Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. He has also counseled private companies in government and corporate affairs.

Erich earned a Ph.D. in Governance and Policy Analysis at Maastricht University. His research and recently published book focused on how governments use instruments to curtail news media freedom in democratic states. He also holds an M.A in Government/Latin American Affairs from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a B.A. in International Relations from Florida International University. Erich is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and proficient in Italian and Russian. He is currently a **professor of international relations and political science at Florida International University**.

In the area of international development, Erich has been a lead advisor for **USAID** programs around the world, including the Mobilizing Action Against Corruption Activity (Armenia), Youth Violence Prevention Program (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador), Justice Reform and Modernization Program (Colombia), Criminal Justice System Strengthened Project (Dominican Republic), Democracy Strengthening Program (El Salvador), Transparency and Integrity Program (Guatemala), Haiti Recovery Initiative (Haiti), Judicial Reform Project (Jordan), Institutional Development and Training Program (Nicaragua), Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Threshold Country Plan (Paraguay), Duteze Imbere Ubutabera (Let's Promote Justice) Activity, and the MCC Justice Strengthening Project (Rwanda), and the State-Owned Enterprises Reform Activity, and Oversight and Accountability of U.S. Government Direct Budget Support (Ukraine). He has also conducted trainings for organizations fighting corruption, including chapters of Transparency International in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, the Balkans, and Latin America.

A firm believer of giving back, Erich dedicates much of his personal time to various nonprofit organizations, including Operation Smile, an international children's medical charity that performs safe cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries, and Junior Achievement, a global nonprofit organization that offers work readiness, literacy and entrepreneurship programs to students. He regularly volunteers to speak to and counsel high school and college students.

Summary of Relevant Experience:

CEO, EDF Consulting Inc. (2001-Present)

- Oversees the consulting firm's strategy and operations.
- Provides senior strategic counsel to USAID and various multilateral organizations operating in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East in the areas of good governance, anti-corruption, rule-of-law, judicial reform, and strategic communications.
- Select projects:
 - Mobilizing Action Against Corruption Activity (Armenia)
 - Youth Violence Prevention Program (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador)
 - Justice Reform and Modernization Program (Colombia)
 - Criminal Justice System Strengthened Project (Dominican Republic)
 - Democracy Strengthening Program (El Salvador)
 - Transparency and Integrity Program (Guatemala)
 - Haiti Recovery Initiative (Haiti)
 - Judicial Reform Project (Jordan)
 - Institutional Development and Training Program (Nicaragua)
 - Millennium Challenge Corporation Country Program (Paraguay)
 - Millennium Challenge Corporation Justice Strengthening Project (Rwanda)
 - Duteze Imbere Ubutabera (Let's Promote Justice) Activity (Rwanda)
 - State-Owned Enterprises Reform Activity (Ukraine)
 - Oversight and Accountability of U.S. Government Direct Budget Support (Ukraine)
 - Media Trainings - Transparency International (Ukraine/Georgia/Armenia/ Slovenia)
 - World Bank Corporate Governance/Procurement Strategy (Washington DC/Global)

Education:

- 2022** Ph.D – Governance and Policy Analysis
Maastricht University, The Netherlands
- 1995** Master of Arts – Government/Latin American Affairs
Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service
Washington D.C., United States
- 1993** Bachelor of Arts – International Relations
Florida International University
Miami, Florida, United States

Languages:

English (fluent) / Spanish (fluent) / Portuguese (fluent) / Italian (proficient) / Russian (proficient)

Countries of Work Experience

Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Rwanda, Spain, Slovenia, Philippines, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam, and the United States.

Selected Recent Publications:

de la Fuente, E. (2022) – *Limiting Media Freedom in Democratic Societies: How Governments Use Instruments to Curtail Media Freedom*. Boekenplan Publishing.

de la Fuente, E. (2021). *U.S.-Latin America Relationship: What we can expect from the Biden Administration*. IDEAS.

de la Fuente, E. (2020). *The Possible Impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 U.S. Elections*. IDEAS.

Personal:

Adjunct Professor – International Relations and Political Science, Florida International University
Board of Directors – Junior Achievement Americas
Board of Directors - National Academy Foundation (NAF)

U.S. Citizen
