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Implementing Hirschman: The Social Observatory Experience

The World Bank's Development Economics Research Group's Social Observatory was established seven years ago as an attempt to "implement Hirschman." It designs and implements systems such as better decision-support systems, and "embedded" research projects, for large-scale micro-level interventions to learn-by-doing and operationalize the "hidden hand." It also develops methods, such as Participatory Tracking, to improve the exercise of voice and agency by giving citizens the ability to make better collective decisions and gain control over their own lives. This talk will draw on the experience of the Social Observatory to demonstrate the practical challenges of operationalizing Hirschmanian ideas within large organizations. More information about the Social Observatory is available here (please view the site in Google Chrome): <http://socialobservatory.worldbank.org>