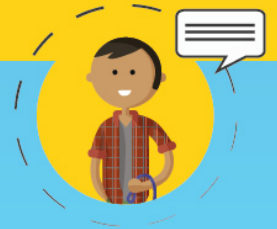



Midterm Self-Assessment Report

City of Buenos Aires in the Pilot Program for Subnational Entities
of the Open Government Partnership

Action Plan 2016-2017





Autonomous City of Buenos Aires
Mid-term Self-Assessment Report
Action plan 2016-2017

1. Introduction and background

Due to its large track record in transparency, participation and accountability, Buenos Aires is considered to be a pioneer city in terms of Open Government. This is reflected in the fact that the City of Buenos Aires counts with one of the first laws on Access to Public Information (1998), which was recently updated (2016.) Moreover, in the last 6 years, it has deepened the direction into an open government with the creation of the Ministry of Modernisation (2011) and the Government Laboratory (2012); the approval of the open data decree: data.buenosaires.gob.ar¹ (2012,) the publication of information in digital format (2013,) and the implementation of the System of Distance Processing (TAD by its acronym in Spanish), 2013.

Furthermore, in 2015, two months after taking office, the Mayor, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, announced 20 government commitments² due between 2016 and 2019 - during 2016 and 2017, more commitments were added resulting in 50 commitments up to date-. These commitments are aimed at building, together with the citizens, a human scale city, socially integrated, creative and enjoyable. The Government commitments seek to establish specific and measurable goals at the beginning of the term for constant accountability.

The government encouraged an Agenda for Transparency and Institutional Innovation³, having institutional quality as a main management thrust. It is an initiative which proposes measures aimed at promoting a responsible, smart and open government. A transparent government which fosters citizen participation, access to information and accountability. This agenda includes important initiatives for a greater openness of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires. Among these measures, we can find the participation of Buenos Aires in OGP⁴; the publication of the information on Buenos Aires' purchases and hiring in an open format, the publication of the affidavits of government officials, the creation of a citizen budget platform with detailed information by topics, communes, ministries, etc.


In the context of an institutional strengthen agenda, the government implemented a participatory work scheme that includes diverse citizenship actors to formulate public policies connected to the access to public information and electoral processes. The methodology of "*Dialogando BA para fortalecer instituciones*" - "*Dialogando*

¹ See: <https://data.buenosaires.gob.ar/>

² See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/compromisos>

³ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/agendadetransparencia>

⁴ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/agendadetransparencia/gobierno-abierto/buenos-aires-en-alianza-para-el-gobierno-abierto>



BA⁵(Dialoguing for the reinforcement of public institutions) is open and horizontal. It consists in calling to thematic dialogue tables which will seek to reach consensus on the two topics mentioned above, Access to Public Information and Political Reform (electoral process.) The dialogue tables on Access to Public Information reported on the elaboration process of the reform bill 104/98.

It was also at the end of 2015 that the Open Government Partnership (OGP) launched the first pilot program for subnational governments. In February 2016, Buenos Aires officially applied to the pilot program, based on the belief that transparency, participation and accountability can enhance a more efficient governance. By applying, Buenos Aires committed itself to involve the three branches of government– executive, legislative and judicial- under the Open Government paradigm, to seek for sectoral commitments of impact on the citizens and to share its experience with other provinces, cities and municipalities of Argentina.

For us, an open government is a government near to citizens' needs, opinions, perceptions and ideas. It is a government that does not govern for the citizens, it governs together with them. In this sense, the participation of the City of Buenos Aires in the Pilot Program for Subnational Entities, allows us to add a new channel to address citizens' concerns – through collaboration and co-creation with civil society. At the same time, it represents a reference framework to enhance the connection between institutional reforms and sectoral efforts to ground the concept of an open government in the specific issues identified by the population.

2. Subnational Action Plan Process


a. Participation and co-creation during the process of the Subnational Action Plan

In mid-April 2016, Buenos Aires was accepted into the pilot program of subnational entities. At that moment, the news was communicated to the civil society organizations (CSOs) which had supported Buenos Aires application, and whose work is related to transparency and open government in the city of Buenos Aires, and/ or had participated in the OGP at national level.

Simultaneously, the General Secretariat of the City of Buenos Aires, acting as the contact agent with the Open Government Partnership, coordinated an intern round-table for the definition of the governance.

At the beginning of May 2016, it was resolved to create a tripartite round table composed of representative agents of the General Secretariat, the Ministry of Government (responsible for the access to information) and the Ministry of Modernisation (responsible for the management of the open data portal.) Furthermore, a round table was held with the mentioned CSO by mid-May. Diverse internal governance

⁵ See: <http://www.dialogandoba.com/>



alternatives and proposals were taken into consideration and discussed in face-to-face meetings and by online platforms. The first topics raised and to be resolved were the following:

Call. It was discussed how to launch the call for other civil society organizations. It was resolved to launch the call in social networks and by e-mail, with the support of government and participant CSOs' networks. In addition, a “snowball sampling”⁶ methodology was implemented, this technique introduced information on CSOs interested in taking part of sector round tables, at the same time it was requested in the meetings to extend invitations to other CSOs.

Governance: Civil Society. It was discussed whether to create a mechanism based on the principle of representation, other one based on the rotation principle or to lean towards a governance based on the organizations with a track record on open government, which are already a part of the process. These models had been taken from governance mechanisms from other Latin American countries. Due to the pilot program nature and the concise deadlines, after several weeks of deliberation, it was decided to create an internal governance mechanism based on the participation of the CSOs that were already participants, allowing the possibility of incorporating other CSOs that desired to participate. In the case of having many organizations willing to join, alternative ways were to be explore so that the Round Table linking the government and the civil society did not lack enforceability. At the end, this did not occur.


Governance: Round Table. The Round Table (RT) was composed by representative agents of the government (General Secretariat, Ministry of Government and Ministry of Modernisation) and Civil Society Organizations (*Fundación Directorio Legislativo*, *ACIJ – Civil Association for Equality and Justice-*, *ADC -Association for Civil Rights-*, *Fundación Conocimiento Abierto*, and *Poder Ciudadano*⁷.) The General Secretariat was in charge of the coordination of the RT. From the very beginning, the aim of the governance mixed scheme that was finally adopted was to meet the requirements of co-creation.

Dissemination of information and direct communication mechanisms. In order to disseminate the activities and the progress achieved during the process of the

⁶Snowball sampling is a non-probability sampling technique that is used by researchers to identify potential subjects in studies where subjects are hard to locate.

⁷ The Foundation *Poder Ciudadano* participated in the process at the beginning, however, it ended its active participation averaging the process of co-creation of the action plan. Once the process was finished, *Poder Ciudadano* informed the OGP about its decision to abandon the governance scheme due to a pending litigation with the government of the City regarding access to public information. For further information, see:

<http://poderciudadano.org/poder-ciudadano-suspende-su-participacion-en-el-proceso-de-gobierno-abierto-de-caba-hasta-que-se-garantice-efectivamente-el-acceso-a-la-informacion-publica/>




Subnational Action Plan, it was created a section in the government's website to provide information on Open Government Partnership as well as on different aspects of the participation of the City of Buenos Aires in the Pilot Program of Subnational Entities. The objective of this webpage is to act as a data repository of minutes, work documents, commitments templates, and other documents relevant to the process. The webpage address is: www.buenosaires.gob.ar/agendadetransparencia/gobierno-abierto/buenos-aires-en-alianza-para-el-gobierno-abierto

In addition to the webpage and the on-site events of the 25 multi-sectoral meetings (conducted during the period May 2016 – June 2017), different channels are used to sensitize and diffuse the process progress. In this sense, a specific e-mail address was created to disseminate and communicate news and terms of the process, provide different actors with an official direct contact channel with the coordination team, and answer their questions on the process of the Action Plan. The e-mail address is: baogp@buenosaires.gob.ar. Moreover, the e-mail addresses of the officials working in the government areas responsible for each commitment were also published in the Action Plan; the contact information of the Contact Point⁸ is described on the website. At the same time, information is also diffused through social networks, using the Twitter and Facebook accounts of the General Secretariat and International Relations (@BAinternacional), the “hashtag” #BAenOGP was established to reference and consolidate the large amount of the Action Plan-related information circulating in the social networks.

b. Participation and co-creation during the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Subnational Action Plan.

Methodology. In terms of methodology, it was resolved to begin with sector round-tables for brainstorming. The aim of these round-tables was to generate a first mapping of concerns, needs and issues. After identifying the issues, the RT would contact the government areas that a priori could settle them. The goal of the brainstorming round-tables was to quickly identify the areas of government capable of responding to take them to the following round-tables. Five round-tables were established: of three branches of government (gathering the RT and the other branches of the government), of health, education, habitat and transport. Other round-tables were proposed (environment and safety), however they could not be organised due to the limited number of possible commitments allowed in the pilot program context. Sector civil society organizations which deal with the topics of the tables, and CSOs members of the RT participated in these tables. It is important to highlight that representatives from the Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires, the High Court of Justice and the Magistrates Council, joined the Three Government Branches Table. The Public Defence Office also joined the table by the end of the process. Diverse areas of these three ministries

⁸ The Contact Point of the Open Government Partnership is the person in charge of coordinating the activities of the OGP at national and international level. This person is the operational counterparty of the representative at ministry level. Its role is paramount and multi-dimensional: contact points are at the forefront of the transparency, participation and accountability efforts of the OGP member countries.



participated in the tables of Transport, Health and Education. Officials of the Undersecretariat of Habitat and Social Inclusion took part in the Habitat table.

On-site and virtual review. Drafts on commitments were drawn up once the sector tables moved forward with the deliberation processes. These documents were discussed, in some occasions face to face and, in some others, virtually. The mentioned drafts, once ready for a final version, were reviewed and validated by the RT, the CSOs that participated in the respective sector tables, and the government areas responsible for enforcing them.

The round-tables were developed between July and October 2016. During that period, the work was conducted in terms of consensus and investigation. The issues debated were registered on public minutes and the bilateral dialogue with government areas was led by the General Secretariat. The result of this methodology was wide: in some cases, it was possible to rapidly call responsible areas open to dialogue and collaboration; however, in other cases these links took more time.

In some cases, the links were incorrect, i.e. the identified areas did not have jurisdiction over the issue raised. In some other cases, the bilateral dialogue was held with the General Secretariat acting as intermediary, trying to narrow gaps from outside the formal round-tables (this happened, for instance, with the education table.)

Diverse topics were discussed in the sector tables: the commitments do not express them all. In some cases, there was not an agreement between the areas of government and the CSOs that participated in the process. The topics discussed during the process are represented in the meetings minutes, which documented the concerns, needs and issues raised by the civil society, as well as the responses offered by the government officials. Such minutes, are public and can be found on the web site of the General Secretariat⁹.


For the process of the round table meetings, personalised invitations were sent and an open public call was held during 2 to 3 weeks before the meetings.

As regards the public consultation prior to handing in the plan, it was held during two weeks in November. It was conducted through the platform *Medium*¹⁰, since the City's webpage had limited capabilities. Finally, the Plan was circulated one last time through the governance table before being sent to the OGP.

C. Participation and co-creation during the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Subnational Action Plan

⁹ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/agendadetransparencia/gobierno-abierto/bsas-en-alianza/cronograma>

¹⁰ See: <https://medium.com/@baogp>



The first virtual communications and on-site meetings with the Round Table in charge of the governance of the process were held during February and March 2017. A methodology to follow up the implementation of the plan was established, conducting quarterly on-site meetings for the monitoring of progress, sectoral meetings by commitments with the areas and organizations interested in the progress of the implementation of each commitment, and establishing constant virtual follow-up channels through emails, networks and web boards, using the tool Trello. These boards are established as a collaborative follow-up mechanism, where different actors are invited to comment, consult and report progress. The boards can be accessed through a specific link, diffused among the involved actors, or through the webpage, in the Follow-up section¹¹ (“*Seguimiento*”).

As a next step, a web platform will be launched in order to strengthen the process of diffusion, co-creation and follow-up. It will centralise the initiatives of the ecosystem of the Open Government of the City of Buenos Aires, and it will have a specific space for the process of the City of Buenos Aires in the Open Government Partnership. The platform will count with tools to improve the visualization of the progress and the status of the Action Plan, it will ease the access to historic documentation of the process, and it will count with online co-creation and consultation spaces.

3. IRM recommendations

So far, we do not count with recommendations of the IRM, since the external evaluation process is in its initial stage. The advances made in this sense consisted in the appointment of the IRM researcher for the Pilot Plan of the City of Buenos Aires, by the Open Government Partnership. The appointed researcher is María Soledad Gattoni, during April and May 2017 she held meetings with the Under-secretariat of Strategic Management and Institutional Quality and POC (Alvaro Herrero), the General Director of Institutional Quality (Ramiro Álvarez Ugarte), and the coordination team for the participation of Buenos Aires in the Open Government Partnership (Maricel Lonati, Renato Berrino Malaccorto.) In those meetings, it was possible to reach a consensus on the work plan presented by the researcher, which represents a reference framework for the follow up, evaluation and analysis of the commitments.

4. *Implementation of the Subnational Action Plan commitments*

Commitment Completion Template

¹¹ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/agendadetransparencia/gobierno-abierto/bsas-en-alianza/cronograma>


1. Government transparent functions ¹²	
Start and End date (January 2017 - November 2017)	
Institution responsible for the implementation	General Directorate of Institutional Quality - General Secretariat. / General Directorate of Institutional Strengthening and Legislative Modernisation / Secretariat of Coordination of the Magistracy of the City of Buenos Aires / Communication Area. High Court of Justice of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (CABA)/ Public Defence Office, CABA
Commitment description	
Which is the issue addressed by the commitment?	<p>Improve the access to information on the functions of each of the three branches of government, presented as a necessary condition to improve accountability of their performance to the citizens.</p> <p>That transparency could be useful to improve the civil society capability of monitoring the actions of the government branches, to generate virtual places for citizenship participation and to bring the work of the three branches closer to the city residents. This would ease the effective participation in the decision-making processes, since it would facilitate the monitoring of how the three branches carry out their executive, legislative and judicial functions.</p>
Which is the commitment?	Make transparent the intrinsic processes of each of the Government branches, with the aim of offering information in open formats that strengthen the citizen capacity to monitor, assess and participate in the decision-making process regarding the executive, legislative and judicial functions.

¹² See: <https://trello.com/b/5oEgWssT/estado-abierto-compromiso-funciones-transparentes>



<p>How would it contribute to resolve the issue?</p>	<p>Each Branch commits itself to move forward an Open Government paradigm. The Legislature Branch will publish, in an open format, all the information related to the life cycle of the legislative process, it will implement and/ or enhance virtual participation channels. The Magistrates' Council commits itself to co-create, together with the Civil Society, a progressive open data plan, build management indicators for courts and publication. The High Court of Justice will publish resolutions and electoral data in open format and coded to the standard of international best practices. The Public Defence Office adheres to the commitment through the publication in open format of information on procedures and complaints received. Lastly, the Executive Branch will conduct a pilot program on open life cycle of public policies.</p>
<p>Why is it relevant to the OGP values?</p>	<p>The transparency of the exercise of executive, legislative and judicial functions will strengthen the capacity of the civil society of monitoring the exercise of the three functions, assessing the performance of government officials and participating in the decision-making processes. In this sense, the openness of information on the functions of the three branches will ease the follow up and control by the civil society, since it will be presented in friendly and reusable formats, which will allow the possibility of setting up public or private initiatives to improve the participation, evaluate, and monitor the performance of the three branches of government.</p>



<p>Additional Information</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relation to the SDG <p>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p> <p>Goals:</p> <p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p>16.7 Ensure the adoption of inclusive decisions at all levels.</p> <p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This commitment was highlighted in the OGP Newsletter - January 2017, as an innovative commitment: <i>"...civil society organizations involved hope to shine a light on the actions of the judiciary, as well as restore trust in a system that many view as broken."</i> 			
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started</p>	<p>Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of results</p>		<p>x</p>		
	<p>Legislature: It is currently working on the following items: Publication in open format of all the information related to the legislative life cycle, and Publication in open format of statistics and yearbooks of the Legislature. In order to achieve these goals, the Legislature met the Administrative Secretariat and the General Directorate of Informative Systems, furthermore we are organising a meeting with the Coordination Secretary. Likewise, the Legislature is discussing another meeting with the Ministry of Government for the delivery of projects from the</p>			

executive branch to the legislative, in a more open format.

It should be noted that the Legislature webpage is under modification process, with the aim of unifying the provided data. Thus, it will count with a simpler search engine, where deputies' profiles, projects, and everything related to the topic of interest can be found. In this way, citizens access to information will be easier, and it will allow a greater transparency.

Magistrates' Council: The datasets established for the first trimester are published on its website. (2017 budget and execution of the first trimester¹³, datasets of 2017 agreements, and PDF search¹⁴.) The datasets for the second trimester are under process: the resolutions of the plenary of Council's members- 2017¹⁵ and the text in PDF from 2002¹⁶ can be found in open format.

High Court of Justice: The milestones of the first and second semester are completed: Creation of a specific sub-site for the publication of open data¹⁷; Definition of the new conditions for generation of court rulings for their publication in open format according to the technical standards and principles of open data; Publication of the court rulings of 2016 in open format, organised in datasets; Publication of the court rulings issued during the first semester of 2017 in open data; First Meeting with Civil Associations to create a progressive open data plan. Likewise, datasets were published regarding Court decisions from 1998 up to the present; *en banc* decisions from 1998 up to the present; and Presidential resolutions from 1999 up to the present.

¹³ See: <http://jusbaresabierto.gob.ar/gestion/presupuesto-compras-y-licitaciones/>

¹⁴ See: <http://jusbaresabierto.gob.ar/acceso/convenios/>

¹⁵ See: <http://jusbaresabierto.gob.ar/acceso/plenario-consejeros/>

¹⁶ See: <https://consejo.jusbares.gob.ar/institucional/secretaria-legal-y-tecnica/resoluciones-de-plenario>

¹⁷ See: <http://datos.tsjbares.gov.ar/>



	<p>Executive Branch: In the framework of the pilot program for openness of the life cycle of public policies, the mapping of practices of citizen participation performed in the City is currently being finalised. The selection of areas to be opened to participation, to study, are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Dialogue Round Table on addictions* <i>Dialogando BA</i> (Buenos Aires Dialoguing)* Processes for dialogue in Slums* Citizen Participation* Dialogue for the Urban Code <p>At the same time, in order to sensitise and provide technical and practical knowledge to the government areas in charge of citizen participation policies, on July 6th it was held the event “To govern with the citizens: innovative strategies for participation, co-creation and collaboration in public policies.” It was aimed at officials, technicians, and specialists of the civil society who work on the topic. The objective was to reflect upon the barriers and challenges faced by governments when incorporating innovative mechanisms of citizen participation in the creation and implementation of public policies. In order to achieve this, international experts on the topic worked with us, and panels and workshops were organised.</p> <p>Public Defence Office: The PublicDefencesubmitted a Protocol which states the criteria for the publication of data involving personal and/or sensitive data. In the framework of the openness of the data on complaints and procedures received, the Office is currently working on: Elaboration of internal regulation for the publication of data; Publication procedure (datasets, formats and periodicity.)</p>
Next steps	Legislature: Publication in open format of all data related to the legislative life cycle, and Publication in open format of statistics and yearbooks of the Legislature + Implementation



	<p>and enhancement of online participation mechanisms.</p> <p>Magistrates' Council: Publication in open format of the pending data of the second trimester of 2017 (Status on the covering of Judges, Public Prosecutors and Public Advocates positions; Vacant positions for Judges, Public Prosecutors and Public Advocates – Status of Public Contest) and third trimester of 2017 (“Purchases and hiring of the year; Call for Tenders; Won Tenders) + Implementation of the measurable and participatory judicial management program.</p> <p>High Court of Justice: publication of data of the third and fourth trimester (electoral data, update of published data and reception of suggestions of the Civil Society/ publication of requested data.)</p> <p>Executive Branch: After mapping the practices and selecting the areas to work with, each project will: Document and visualise the practices (topic identification, agenda setting, development of the policy, implementation and evaluation.) Moreover, the Executive will work with the material generated in the event, with national and international role models of citizen participation to raise awareness on the topic. A Tool-kit on good practices will be created with the experiences and the work done throughout the year.</p> <p>Defence Office: Publication of the documents under preparation (Elaboration of intern regulations on data publication; Publication procedure); Publication of authorised datasets.</p>		
Milestones Status	Start date:	End date:	Completion level:
Milestone 1 Publication in open format of	January	June 2017	Limited

all information related to the legislative life cycle, as well as to the Legislature statistics and yearbooks to set up datasets and facilitate its reuse. The openness of information will be accompanied by the implementation and the empowerment of online participation mechanisms in that cycle.	2017		
Milestone 2. Co-creation by the Judicial Branch and the CSO of the progressive plan for openness of information [1], set up of performance indicators for courts [2] and publication (through a schedule). Publication of sentences and electoral data of the High Court of Justice in open formats and with the codification of relevant information in accordance with international best practice.	March 2017	November 2017	Substantial
Milestone 3. The executive branch commits itself to design a pilot program for the openness of public policies life cycle. The objective is to develop three projects on public policies, which open one of their stages (problem definition, agenda, setting, policy development, implementation and/ or evaluation) to citizen participation through different participation mechanisms.	March 2017	September 2017	Limited
Milestone 4. Public Defence Office commits itself to share, in open formats, information on the procedures and claims that it receives.	January 2017	June 2017	Limited

Contact Information

Person/ Institution responsible for the implementation Email address and telephone number	Ramiro Álvarez Ugarte. General Directorate of Institutional Quality. General Secretariat. ralvarezugarte@buenosaires.gob.ar +54 5091 7750 Silke Arndt. General Directorate of Institutional Strengthening and Legislative Modernisation.
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		<p>silke.arndt@legislatura.gov.ar</p> <p>Mariano Heller. Secretariat of Coordination of the Magistracy of the City of Buenos Aires. meheller@jusbaaires.gov.ar</p> <p>Adela Pinzón. Communication Area. High Court of Justice of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. apinzon@tsjbaires.gov.ar</p> <p>Dolores Gandulfo. Public Defence Office, CABA. dgandulfo@defensoria.org.ar</p>
Other actors involved	Government Ministries, departments, institutions	<p>Executive Branch: areas which join the pilot program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Dialogue Round Table on addictions* <i>Dialogando BA</i> (Buenos Aires Dialoguing)* Processes for dialogue in Slums* Citizen Participation* Dialogue for the Urban Code <p>·Legislature, Directorate of Modernisation.</p> <p>· Magistrates' Council, Under-Secretariat of Coordination.</p> <p>·High Court of Justice of the A. City of Buenos Aires</p>
	CSO, private sector, multilaterals, work groups	<p><i>ACIJ</i></p> <p><i>Fundación Conocimiento Abierto</i></p> <p><i>Asociación por los Derechos Civiles</i> (Association for Civil Rights)</p> <p><i>Fundación Directorio Legislativo</i></p>
Additional information		



Commitment Completion Template

2. Coordination for the production and publication of data in an Open Government¹⁸

Start and End dates (January 2017 - November 2017)

Institution responsible for the implementation	General Directorate of Institutional Quality. General Secretariat. General Directorate of Innovation and Open Government. Ministry of Modernisation, Innovation and Technology. General Directorate of Institutional Strengthening and Legislative Modernisation of the Legislature. Secretariat of Coordination of the Magistracy of the City of Buenos Aires. Communication Area - High Court of Justice of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires
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Commitment Description

Which is the issue addressed by the commitment?	Substantial volume of information and data is handled and generated continuously by each of the Government branches. So far, the interoperability among those information resources is limited. Some of the most relevant causes are (a) the lack of shared standards for the record, normalization and publication of data,
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¹⁸ See: <https://trello.com/b/YU068pYv/estado-abierto-compromiso-coordinaci%C3%B3n-en-la-producci%C3%B3n-y-publicaci%C3%B3n-de-datos-en-un-estado-abierto>



	<p>(b) the absence of a catalogue of information that the branches need to share among them and (c) the lack of institutional spaces of collaboration.</p>
<p>Which is the commitment?</p>	<p>Improvement in the coordination of production, exchange and publication of data and information among the three branches of the government, through a permanent Coordination Round Table.</p>
<p>How would it contribute to resolve the issue?</p>	<p>By improving interoperability of information that the three branches share through the creation of a permanent body of coordination and collaboration. The mechanism is expected to lead to (a) a more efficient use of the public resources; (b) an improvement in the service delivery and performance of the processes and (c) an improvement in the levels of transparency of the three branches of Government.</p>

Why is it relevant to the OGP values?

So far, many of the efforts anticipated in the frame of the OGP have been focused in the Executive Power. Nevertheless, the path to a real Open Government requires a constant dialogue and a coordination body between the three branches of government. With this approach, the creation of a coordination table would offer the space to meet both needs. On the one hand, it would allow the coordination between the three branches of Government resulting in a better efficiency in the investment of public funds, an improvement of processes and tasks optimization. On the other hand, it would generate a permanent channel of participation for the civil society that would channel citizen claims to improve the quantity, quality and type of information that is produced and shared.

Additional information

● Relation to the sustainable development goals



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Goals:

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Completion Level

Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
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<p>Description of results</p>	<p>The first on-site meeting of the Round Table was held on March 03rd 2017.</p> <p>It was created a list of all the data and information which is necessary to be shared and articulated between the branches of government, in a “wish list” style. This list includes the information desirable to be shared between the branches to achieve a better efficiency and avoid duplicity of efforts. The Civil Society drew up a list on the needs they identified too.</p> <p>The list was disseminated and there was a call for a technical round table for members with knowledge of informatics from each branch of government.</p>		
<p>Following steps</p>	<p>Development of standards for harmonisation and unification of criteria regarding data and information.</p> <p>Creation of a mechanism to identify needs in terms of citizens information.</p> <p>The Defence Office will collaborate with the commitment on the Coordination Round Table through the development of a guideline regarding the standardisation of data, and a good practices manual regarding protection of personal data.</p>		
<p>Milestones status</p>	<p>Start Date:</p>	<p>End Date:</p>	<p>Completion level:</p>
<p>Milestone 1. Establish a diagnosis of the data and information that the branches shared among them and/ or gather from the others in the exercise of their functions [1]. This diagnosis must (a) identify at least 5 datasets to be gathered, produced or built; (b) produce a publication schedule and (c) create a list of priority information</p>	<p>January 2017</p>	<p>March 2017</p>	<p>Completed</p>

to share and/ or publish.				
Milestone 2. Develop standards for the new homogenization of the production, systematization and publication of data and information in the three branches. At least 10 variables, that allow to unify the criteria used by the Governments to produce, store and publish information, will be discussed.		April 2017	June 2017	Limited
Milestone 3. Provide a mechanism that allows to gather citizen needs in data terms, with the objective of creating a dialogue and interaction channel with other organizations and/ or citizens non-members of the RT of OGP. This mechanism will be created by the Coordination Table.		July 2017	November 2017	Limited
Contact Information				
Person/ Institution responsible for the implementation Email address and telephone number		<p>Matías Zubiría. General Directorate of Innovation and Open Government. Ministry of Modernisation, Innovation and Technology. mzubiria@buenosaires.gob.ar</p> <p>Silke Arndt. General Directorate of Institutional Strengthening and Legislative Modernisation. silke.arndt@legislatura.gov.ar</p> <p>Mariano Heller. Secretariat of Coordination of the Magistracy of the City of Buenos Aires. meheller@jusbaire.gov.ar</p> <p>Adela Pinzón. Communication Area. High Court of Justice of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. apinzon@tsjbaire.gov.ar</p> <p>Dolores Gandulfo. Public Defence Office, CABA. dgandulfo@defensoria.org.ar</p>		
Other actors	Government			

involved	Ministries, departments, institutions	In December 2016, a committee was created with representative actors of each of the Government branches, working in areas of information openness and citizen participation, as well as representative actors of the civil society organizations that form part of the Round-Table (RT) of the OGP in Buenos Aires. This committee is called “Coordination Table”.
	CSO, private sector, multilaterals, work groups	In December 2016, a committee was created with representative actors of each of the Government branches, working in areas of information openness and citizen participation, as well as representative actors of the civil society organizations that form part of the Round-Table (RT) of the OGP in Buenos Aires. This committee is called “Coordination Table”.

Additional information

Commitment Completion Template	
3. Openness of transport data in GTFS format. ¹⁹	
Start and End date (January 2017 – November 2017)	
Institution responsible for the implementation	Under-Secretariat of Transport and Traffic, Innovation and Development Team

¹⁹ See: <https://trello.com/b/OtLTNCtd/compromiso-apertura-de-datos-de-transporte-bajo-est%C3%A1ndares-internacionales>

Commitment Description	
Which is the issue addressed by the commitment?	The usage and exploitation of massive volumes of data to plan public polices in matters of transport and to generate new services for the citizens is a global trend rapidly expanding. The City of Buenos Aires is making use of these tools. The commitment hereby introduced, addresses the need of expanding these polices to the inclusion of buses, something essential for city public transport.
Which is the commitment?	Increase and improve available public information on public transport of the City of Buenos Aires, through the openness of information in General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) format, the worldwide standard for openness of transport data, linked to the buses that run around the city.
How would it contribute to resolve the issue?	Gather, store and publish information in GTFS format about bus services operating in the City of Buenos Aires. The GTFS format will be adjusted to the particular characteristics of CABA (Buenos Aires City) using the format GTFS-BA, defined by USIG (Unit of Geographic Information Systems). The difference lies in the inclusion of the variable of bus branches within the mentioned modified format. Data provided by the feed will specifically consist in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line • Branch • Bus stop • Company • Service (specific trips each bus branch does every day) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency (operating frequency at specific timings) • Itinerary (link between branch and



	<p>set of stops)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timetable (the time when the bus arrives to a stop)• Schedule (days of the week that the service is available)• Mapping (sequence of points in a map that sets the mapping route of a bus branch)
<p>Why is it relevant to the OGP values?</p>	<p>The commitment that the City of Buenos Aires will take on will represent a positive impact on the production of specific solutions to one of the main concerns of citizens of mega cities, like Buenos Aires. In fact, public transport is one of the most important services local governments offer, whether directly or through third parties. In this context, the gathering, storage and publication of information on bus transport (schedules, routes, stops, etcetera) will allow to (a) improve the development of transport public policies; (b) make transparent the information related to decision-making, empowering the non-government actors involved in the accountability processes and (c) enable information that might be useful to third parties for the delivery of innovative services that improve citizens' quality of life in their daily life in the city.</p>

Additional Information

One positive externality of this commitment relies on the fact that by 2018, in the framework of the Government Commitments program²⁰, a system for predicting arrivals will be implemented, it will allow users to know when the next bus is arriving, for this reason the openness of transport information in GTFS format is a key input. The system will include the development of mobile applications, signage in the *Metrobús* and installation of smart bus stops.



Relation to the sustainable development goals

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Goal

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Goal

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		x		

²⁰ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/compromisos>

Description of results	<p>The Milestone regarding gathering of standard information on bus lines that run the city of Buenos Aires is in the process of implementation. So far, the following has been completed: gathering of information on bus routes, gathering of information on bus lines, companies, branches; validation of information on bus lines, companies, branches; creation of the app to gather information on bus stops; gathering of data about services.</p>		
Next steps	<p>Regarding the milestone of gathering of information, the pending steps are: validation of information on routes; gathering and validation of information on bus stops; validation of data about services.</p> <p>Set up of the databases (in CSV format)</p> <p>Publication of the information on the website data.buenosaires.gob.ar and in the site of the Secretariat of Transport.</p>		
Milestones Status	Start date:	End date:	Completion level:
Milestone 1. Gathering of standard information of the GTFS-BA format on bus lines that run the city of Buenos Aires.	January 2017	July 2017	Limited
Milestone 2. Set up of data bases (in CSV format)	August 2017	November 2017	Not started
Milestone 3. Publication of information on the website: data.buenosaires.gob.ar , as well as on the website of the Secretariat of Transport.	November 2017	November 2017	Not started

Contact Information		
Person/ Institution responsible for the implementation Email address and telephone number		Hernán Gonzalez. Under-Secretariat of Transport and Traffic. Innovation and Development Team. Address: Av. Martín García 346 1º piso CABA Tel: (5411) 5030-9100 int:1462
Other actors involved	Government Ministries, departments, institutions	National Commission for Regulation of Transport (CNRT for its acronym in Spanish) Unit of Geographic Information Systems (USIG for its acronym in Spanish) Ministry of Modernisation of the City of Buenos Aires General Directorate of Institutional Quality
	CSO, private sector, multilaterals, work groups	<i>Directorio Legislativo</i> <i>Fundación Conocimiento Abierto</i> <i>ACIJ</i> <i>Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (Association for Civil Rights)</i> <i>EnElSubte.com</i>
Additional Information		

Commitment Completion Template
4. Comprehensive portal for the provision of information and reporting channel about sexual and reproductive health services in the City of Buenos Aires. ²¹

²¹ See: <https://trello.com/b/BUcb3X9R/compromiso-portal-integral-de-provisi%C3%B3n-de-informaci%C3%B3n-y-canal-de-reporte-sobre-servicios-de-salud-sexual-y-reproductiva-en-la-c>

Start and End Date (January 2017 – November 2017)	
Institution responsible for the implementation	<p>Sexual Health, Aids and STI Coordination, Ministry of Health.</p> <p>General Directorate of Institutional Quality. General Secretariat.</p> <p>General Directorate of Innovation and Open Government. Ministry of Modernisation, Innovation and Technology.</p>
Commitment description	
Which is the issue addressed by the commitment?	The delivery of health services to adolescents represents some practical difficulties related to cultural patterns. It is necessary to deal with these patterns for adolescents to have access to full and appropriate health care services in reserve and celerity conditions, thus guarantying an efficient service delivery.
Which is the commitment?	To ensure the access to information about sexual and reproductive health service delivery and healthcare in the City of Buenos Aires, through a portal and reporting channel, treating adolescents and young people, in particular.
How would it contribute to resolve the issue?	By collaborating in the transparent supply of contraceptive methods, to guarantee the access to sexual and reproductive health to all population, especially oriented to adolescents and young people, in accordance to the governing law. Generating effective mechanisms for reporting the quality of the service with the objective of providing an appropriate diagnosis of the service quality in all the healthcare centres of the city, to the competent health authorities and civil society



	<p>organizations that work on the improvement of these services.</p>
<p>Why is it relevant to the OGP values?</p>	<p>In accordance with the regulation in force, every child or adolescent has the right to request information, healthcare and contraceptives, and healthcare professionals are responsible for responding to their request. Nevertheless, the quality of service delivery is not necessarily the same in every contact point, between the healthcare service and the users.</p> <p>The commitment presents a facet related to the access to information and innovation through the generation and/ or feeding of a platform with a geolocation map of information about different sexual and reproductive health services.</p> <p>Furthermore, a reporting and rating mechanism is incorporated, which will allow the civil society organizations to monitor the completion of the Government obligation and the health authorities will count with a diagnosis tool on service delivery. This will facilitate accountability and will incorporate a collaborative and participatory element that is especially suitable for improving the quality of health service delivery.</p>

Additional Information

As of the follow-up meetings conducted in April 2017, it was decided to explore: a) Regular update on the information about distribution places, suppliers, general stock and types of contraceptive methods that the City Government distributes, as well as which other places offer other sexual and reproductive health services; b) Link with the USIG (Unit of Geographic Information Systems) to reflect this information in the maps of the City; c) Possibility of publishing the information gathered in the first milestone as a dataset in open format.



Relation to the sustainable development goals

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Goals

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Goals

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Completion Level

Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
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		x	
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Description of results	<p>The first milestone, regarding gathering of information on distribution places, suppliers, general stock and types of contraceptive methods that the City Government distributes, as well as indicating which places offer other sexual and reproductive health services, is completed.</p> <p>As regards the second milestone related to the creation of a platform with a geolocation map of the information and information channels oriented particularly to young people and adolescents, which is divided into service levels offered by the centre (if it just provides information or there is also access and supply of contraceptive methods), type of contraceptive method (generic), and the requirements needed to access to them, it is implemented by <i>Fundación Huésped</i>²².</p>		
Next steps	<p>The possibility of publishing the information gathered in the first milestone as a dataset in open format is being explored. Moreover, it is proposed to explore a regular update on the information on distribution places, suppliers, general stock and types of contraceptive methods that the City Government distributes, as well as which other places offer other sexual and reproductive health services. The best level of detail will be sought. In addition to deciding the database/s to be published, a name, description, area of information production, update frequency, etc, will be assigned.</p> <p>It still remains to develop a State response and reporting mechanism, the third milestone of the plan.</p>		
Milestones status	Start Date:	Date end:	Completion level:
Milestone 1. Gathering of information on distribution places, suppliers, general stock and types of contraceptive methods that the City Government distributes.	January 2017	March 2017	Completed

²² See: <https://donde.huesped.org.ar/#/>

Highlight also the places that offer other sexual and reproductive health services, e.g., consulting services, information centres, and legal termination of pregnancy methods (ILE for its acronym in Spanish).				
Milestone 2. Creation of a platform with a geolocation map of the information and information channels oriented particularly to young people and adolescents. It is divided into service levels offered by the centre (if it just provides information or there is also access and supply of contraceptive methods) and type of contraceptive method (generic), and the requirements needed to access to them.		April 2017	June 2017	Completed
Milestone 3. Establish a reporting mechanism for the healthcare service consumer to be able to report his/her service delivery experience, rate its quality and lodge complaints if there was any shortfall during the service delivery. The mechanism will act as a source for the assessment of the service, by both the civil society organizations and the government. The State commits itself to respond to the complaints received through this mechanism.		July 2017	November 2017	Limited
Contact Information				
Institution responsible for the implementation		Dr. Fabián Portnoy. Sexual Health, Aids and STI Coordination, Ministry of Health. fportnoy@intramed.net		
Other actors involved	Government Ministries, departments, institutions	General Directorate of Institutional Quality. General Secretariat. General Directorate of Innovation and Open Government. Ministry of Modernisation, Innovation and Technology.		


	CSO, private sector, multilaterals, work groups	Amnesty International; <i>Fundación Huésped</i> <i>Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer -FEIM-</i> <i>Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género-ELA-</i> (Latin-American Team for Justice and Genre.)
Additional Information		

Commitment Completion Template	
5. Education Map of infrastructure works in schools ²³	
Start and End date (January 2017 – November 2017)	
Institution responsible for the implementation	Cabinet Office, Ministry of Education, Government of the City of Buenos Aires.
Commitment description	
Which is the issue addressed by the commitment?	The maintenance of the schools of the city of Buenos Aires presents several challenges, it is a relevant concern of parents of children and adolescents who assist daily to schools of the city.

²³ See: <https://trello.com/b/iZzcBTaZ/compromiso-mapa-de-obras-de-infraestructura-en-escuelas>

Which is the commitment?	Generate an information and accountability platform about infrastructure works of the schools of the city of Buenos Aires, through a platform that georeferences works and establishes reporting channels for education community members.
How would it contribute to resolve the issue?	It will generate information and accountability mechanisms regarding the infrastructure works carried on by the Government of the City, it will strengthen the relationship within the education community in every school. Additionally, the generation of reporting mechanisms that includes parents active collaboration will improve the internal follow-up processes of the Infrastructure Directorate.
Why is it relevant to the OGP values?	Currently, information on infrastructure works in public schools of the city is one of the most requested topics by the citizens through the access to public information mechanism, prescribed by law 104. The generation of a platform to access to detailed, georeferenced and proactively updated information would improve transparency and accountability, and it would contribute to an efficient usage of public resources, under the paradigm of active transparency. Moreover, the commitment counts with a participatory facet since an online reporting mechanism is incorporated for the citizenship, regarding the infrastructure works. Furthermore, this will allow the civil society to monitor and follow up the actions taken by the State.



<p>Additional Information</p>	<p>Relation to the sustainable development goals</p>  <p>SDG 4: Quality Education</p> <p>Goal 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.</p> <p>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p> <p>Goal 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p>			
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started</p>	<p>Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
			<p>x</p>	
<p>Description of Results</p>	<p>The gathering of information on infrastructure Works in schools of the City of Buenos Aires is completed.</p> <p>Generation of a platform including a geolocation information map that allows to link directly the infrastructure work to the school, thus generating information channels and visualizations accessible to service users and the citizenship in general. The map in beta version can be accessed by the website of the Ministry of Education of Buenos Aires City²⁴.</p>			
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Improve the disaggregation of information included in the map.</p> <p>Implementation of a reporting mechanism for the citizenship regarding the infrastructure works,</p>			

²⁴ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/educacion/gobierno-abierto>

	which allows the Government to receive information from education community members, and at the same time facilitates answers to requests as well as accountability.		
Milestones status	Start Date:	End date:	Completion level:
Milestone 1. Gathering of information on infrastructure Works in schools of the City of Buenos Aires, specifying level of execution, whether it is a new project, reform or maintenance; individualization by school, district, level.	January 2017	March 2017	Substantial
Milestone 2. Generation of a platform including a geolocation information map which allows to link directly the infrastructure work to the school, thus generating information channels and visualizations accessible to service users and the citizenship in general.	April 2017	June 2017	Substantial
Milestone 3. Implementation of a reporting mechanism for the citizenship regarding the infrastructure works, which allows the Government to receive information from education community members, and at the same time facilitates answers to requests and accountability.	July 2017	November 2017	Not started
Contact Information			
Institution responsible for the implementation	Joaquín Peire, Cabinet Office Advisor, Ministry of Education. Av Paseo Colón 255, 1063 CABA Telephone: 011 4339-7607 Email: joaquin.peire@gmail.com		
Other actors	Government	Directorate of Institutional Quality.	

involved	ministries, departments, institutions	General Secretariat. General Directorate of Innovation and Open Government. Ministry of Modernisation, Innovation and Technology
	CSO, private sector, multilaterals, work groups	<i>Directorio Legislativo</i> <i>Fundación Conocimiento Abierto</i> <i>ACIJ</i> <i>Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (Association for Civil Rights)</i>
Additional information		

5. Peer Exchange and Learning

The Government of the City of Buenos Aires, together with */NAI/* - Mexico (National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection,) co-organised the Regional Meeting of Subnational Entities of the Open Government, sponsored by *CAF* – Developing Bank of Latin America. The goal of the event was to examine opportunities and challenges faced by subnational governments when implementing openness policies for citizens, and to share related experiences and tools.

It was held on November 10th 2016, at the *Centro Metropolitano de Diseño* (DesignMetropolitan Centre), located in *Barracas* neighbourhood. More than 300 national and international participants attended the event, they reflected and exchanged good practices and experiences of government openness in the context of local governments.

The agenda and documents related to the event can be found on the website of the City of Buenos Aires for the Open Government Partnership.²⁵

²⁵ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/agendadetransparencia/gobierno-abierto/bsas-en-alianza/cronograma>

6. Conclusion, other initiatives and next steps

A. Lessons learned: What were overall lessons learned and challenges encountered with respect to the 1stCity Action plan development and implementation?

In terms of general learning, we have realised that it is necessary to include the activity of reflection and constant evaluation into the development process, to be able to improve while we move forward. In this sense, the following observations reflect the main lessons learned:

Limited Resources of the Civil Society to take part on an equal footing. It is necessary to bear in mind that Civil Society's resources might be limited in comparison with Government's resources, to participate in the process. This, in practice, could translate into the Government driving the process and generating the need to explore mechanisms which involve the Civil Society, as well as the academic and private sector, into participation and governance, with no waste.


To increase civil society participation. The co-creation process as well as the follow-up process show us that, even though 24 civil society organizations and academic institutions participated actively in the processes, we need to continue working on increasing the participation and involvement of organizations that normally do not take part in these spaces. Especially, we consider necessary to involve organizations specialised in the thematic axes addressed, as well as ordinary citizens who are users of the targeted services, into the dialogue and co-creation processes.

In this sense, during the co-creation and follow-up processes, we have adopted new call, diffusion and consultation strategies, by growing social media presence, enabling online boards and forms, *developing slight changes into the methodology of the roundtables to reach new actors*, and participating in spaces like the *COPE* (Council of Strategic Planning)²⁶, formed by different civil society organizations.

We are aware of the fact that we share this concern with the organizations of the RT, and we hope to keep on working in a collaborative way to achieve a greater and more diverse participation. This participation would grant even more legitimacy to the process, and it would allow a more fruitful dialogue. In order for the program to be successful, the diverse actors must trust each other, this trust must be built up.

Lack of information on Open Government concept. The work experience of co-creating the plan showed us that, even though it is not new, the open government concept is not that widespread as we assumed. For this reason, we understood that in addition to the round tables and meetings proposed by the process of the Open Government Partnership, we need to include actions of pedagogical dimension in our work plan, as well as using other previously worked spaces to raise awareness on open government in general and on the process for the Open Government Partnership in particular.

²⁶ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/cope>



The dialogue between government branches is paramount: specific improvement opportunities.

Moving towards an Open Government paradigm will allow the branches to have a better coordination for data and information production, exchange and publication. In this sense, it is paramount to make transparent their functions, through progressive plans for openness of information and the creation of indicators. This constant dialogue is key for achieving a more efficient use of resources and to avoid duplication of efforts.

B. Other initiatives (optional): *Write here any other initiative or reform that contributed to the OGP values, not included in the 1st Action Plan of the City.*


“OGP Community”. When we applied to join the group of pioneer cities of the Open Government Partnership, one of the results that we were seeking was to continue improving through the exchange with other cities, and the nexus to initiatives and international organizations which promote good practices in terms of open government. In this sense, the participation in the Open Government Partnership provided us with three concrete results:

1. Implementation of the platform *Decide Madrid* to launch *BA Elige*²⁷. The association with Madrid’s City Council within the pilot program of subnational entities led to a collaborative and exchange process, which resulted in the design of the initiative *BA Elige* (“Buenos Aires Chooses”). The successful project, driven by the area *Participación Ciudadana* (*Citizen Participation*) of the City of Buenos Aires, was based on the *Decide Madrid*’s platform of open software.
2. *Collaborative work with Open Contracting Partnership*. During the last year, we have been normalising and standardising *BAC*²⁸ data for its publication. Thanks to the participation in the pilot program, we are collaboratively working with the *Open Contracting Partnership* in order to achieve the transparency standards promoted at international level.
3. Community of Practice “311 / 147”. We are taking the first steps towards the formation of a community of actors who implement systems for the reception and management of complaints, together with other three cities in the Pilot Program – São Paulo, Madrid, Austin-.

Buenos Aires Pioneer City. Furthermore, one of the pillars of our application was the commitment to share our experience in the Pilot Program with other provinces, cities and municipalities of Argentina. In this sense, we can highlight the following initiatives:

²⁷ See: <https://baelige.buenosaires.gob.ar/>

²⁸ *BAC* is the purchasing and hiring system of the City of Buenos Aires, which contemplates the processes of purchases, public tenders, private tenders, hiring and direct hiring, stipulated in accordance with the regulations.

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1. Meeting of Subnational Entities Open Government (November 2016)
 2. Module on Open Government during the Course for Urban Strategists at *COPE*. (November 2016 and April 2017.)
 3. Participation in the elaboration of contents and teaching of the Virtual Course on Open Government of the “*Centro de Colaboración entre Ciudades*” (Centre of Collaboration among Cities) – Government of the City of Buenos Aires (June 2017.)


The City of Buenos Aires joins the 3rd Open Government National Action Plan. During 2017, in the framework of the participation of Argentina in the Open Government Partnership, the City of Buenos Aires committed itself to participate in the 3rd Open Government National Action Plan by means of the incorporation of a goal co-created with the civil society in the Subnational Commitment of the Plan.

Methodology: The process of co-creation of the goal consisted in virtual and on-site participation stages. In February, we took part in the Federal Round Table organised by the National Government. During March and April, an online form was established to receive proposals. It was disseminated through emails and social networks of the Government of the City and the National Government. From the online consultation, we received 17 goal proposals submitted by civil society organizations, individual citizens, and different areas of the Government of the City. On April 28th, we conducted the first Co-Creation Round Table at the headquarters of the civil societies *ACIJ* and *Conocimiento Abierto*. At this on-site stage, we evaluated all the proposals, taking into consideration the temporality, institutional complexity and resources use criteria. During the following weeks, we held bilateral meetings to introduce the proposals selected as viable to the responsible areas of government. As a result, three (3) goal proposals were considered at the 2nd on-site Round Table. The three (3) proposals were recorded in “goal drafts”, however, due to limitations of the National Plan, only one of them could be added to it.

Goal of the City for the Third Open Government National Action Plan. The selected Goal was submitted by the General Directorate of Institutional Coordination and Communication of the Ministry of Urban Development and Transport (*Coordinación Institucional y Comunicación del Ministerio de Desarrollo Urbano y Transporte*), it is denominated “Observatory of Open Urban Works: accountability and citizen participation” (“*Observatorio de Obras Urbanas Abiertas: rendición de cuentas y participación ciudadana*” in Spanish.) It consists in adding a participatory dimension, as well as an inter-ministerial collaboration dimension to the accountability digital platform, which is currently in beta version. The goal’s form can be found on the National Open Government²⁹ website or at the repository of the process documents³⁰.

²⁹ See: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/mesasogp>

³⁰ See: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B7_IkwilX2v9ZnJfQTVPeEtFVXM



City's Open Government Ecosystem. The commitment of the City towards the values of the Open Government Partnership goes beyond the Action Plan, this is reflected in the City's Open Government Ecosystem's initiatives, which have been launched or updated recently.

The development of a platform regarding Open Government is being finalised, it gathers all the initiatives, and facilitates citizens' access to them. The objective of the website is to involve all the citizens in the decision-making process, allowing them to participate in the management of the city's challenges and it offers useful information for the active citizens, who live and work in Buenos Aires.

Open Government Ecosystem's initiatives

Re-launch of BA Data³¹. BA Data now counts with more than 180 government data bases, we displayed them in order to boost research, team work and City development. After developing an in-house tool, named *Odin*, we launched the new platform for open data. It features spaces for interaction with citizens, as well as displays, which allow a better reading and comprehension of information.

Collaborative management of applications³². It is a tool to manage neighbours' applications in a fast and simple way. The new *BA147* platform provides citizens with information on existing applications, so they can join in and manage the services provided by the government in a collaborative way.

Openness of Government Plan³³. Publication of the Government Plan by axis, goals and projects, to monitor, together with the citizens, the administration and ensure accountability.

Government Commitments³⁴. Government's Commitments (*Compromisos de Gobierno* in Spanish) constitute a new way of governance. They consist of specific and measurable goals announced by the Mayor, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, for which the Government of the City is constantly accountable, so all of us can measure the progress together.

Open Public Works³⁵. An online platform on information about tenders and works, their progress, budgets and people in charge of them. It is a portal which seeks to increase transparency in the administration through a real time monitoring of the works carried


³¹ See: <https://data.buenosaires.gob.ar/>

³² See: <https://gestioncolaborativa.buenosaires.gob.ar/prestaciones>

³³ To be launched soon.

³⁴ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/compromisos>

³⁵ To be launched soon.



out by the government, with updated and structured data in accordance with international transparency standards, integrated reporting, and with a clear and organised update frequency.

Open budget³⁶. The Open Budget website introduces information on City's budgetary execution, it displays it in a simple manner, so everyone can have access to it.

BAC open purchases³⁷. BAC data was normalised and standardised for its publication. BAC is the purchasing and hiring system of the City of Buenos Aires, which contemplates the processes of purchases, public tenders, private tenders, hiring and direct hiring, stipulated in accordance with the regulations.

"Participación Ciudadana" (Citizen participation)³⁸. It presents a conversation, dialogue space between the citizen and the Government. Its aim is to open the debate on citizens' proposals and ideas which might improve the city.

BA Elige³⁹ ("Buenos Aires Chooses"). An online platform which allows the citizens to propose and choose ideas to improve their neighbourhoods, communes as well as the City of Buenos Aires. Citizens will be able to decide on how to allocate part of the City's budget by using the webpage, social networks, by calling to 147, or on-site. The process consists in four stages which revolve around the creation of proposals, a support stage, analysis of the proposals and, as a last stage, the best projects are voted.

C. Next steps: What are next steps with regard to OGP generally?

Process-related next steps to follow during the next months:

- Continue the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of commitments.
- Launch a new Open Government web platform, which centralises all the initiatives of the City's Open Government ecosystem, including the new website of Buenos Aires in the Open Government Partnership.
- Collaborate with the IRM researcher in the implementation of the work plan.
- Alvaro Herrero (POC) participation in the Subnational Entities Workshop organised by the Open Government Partnership, in Washington DC (July 2017.)
- Explore which alternatives can be developed so those initiatives and commitments derived from the OGP processes, which could not be included into the Action Plans, can be incorporated to the reference framework of the Open Government Partnership.
- Carry on co-creation innovative experiences with the objective of developing and testing methodologies which reach new actors, and increase and deepen participation.

³⁶See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/presupuestoabierto>

³⁷ To be launched soon.

³⁸See: <http://bapc.buenosaires.gob.ar/>

³⁹See: <https://baelige.buenosaires.gob.ar/>

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- Follow-up the implementation of Buenos Aires City's goal in the Third National Action Plan.


D. Conclusion: *Report on the positive impact of the activities and related outcomes with respect to each commitment; including a broader assessment that may detail actions taken outside the 1st City's Action Plan itself, such as political/electoral developments, cultural changes, and plans for the future unrelated to last year's commitment.*

An open government is a government which broadens and eases access to information to all citizens in order to promote accountability and diverse stages for co-creation of public policies. It represents a change of paradigm, implying a new way of relating citizens to their representatives. It is a transparent government, accountable for its actions, which involves citizens in the decision-making process.

Certainly, each paradigm change sets out considerable challenges for complex organizations. Many times, change agents are dispersed, it is possible to face issues related to resistance, unawareness and lack of prioritisation, even when there is support from the leadership positions. In Buenos Aires, we have faced many of those difficulties, typical of this kind of changing processes.

In our opinion, we arrived at the time of this evaluation -June 2017- with a substantial progress on the implementation of the Action Plan, which was co-created together with the civil society during 2016. 3 out of the 5 commitments assumed in such plan, have reached a substantial progress degree, and 2 a limited progress. This constitutes a positive outcome, since it implies that we have successfully overcome the barriers and challenges related to the implementation of every initiative, at the same time, concrete achievements have been made.

In this sense, in order to begin with the process of implementation and follow-up of the Action Plan, it was necessary to renew the impetus among participants, organise ourselves and decide collectively – government and civil society together – on the most appropriate monitoring scheme and the tools to be used to maintain a fluid communication. Thus, during the first months of the year, the General Directorate of Institutional Quality, which acts as the articulator, held bilateral and multi-sectoral meetings with the areas responsible for the commitments and the organizations which took part in the process, coordinated the reporting mechanisms for the completion of the Action Plan with the Round Table, and improved the information and diffusion channels during the whole process. As a result of this work, Follow-up boards were generated in the platform Trello, where all parties can check the progress of the commitments, comment, and add information on actions performed by themselves. They can also verify that the implementation of the 5 commitments is well on track. Moreover, all the 8 milestones with completion scheduled for June (or prior months) are initiated, 3 of them are completed, 2 had a substantial progress, and 3 a limited progress. At the same time, 4 milestones, due on the second semester, are already making progress.




As regards the visible outcomes achieved within the framework, we can summary them as it follows:

- Education: The Ministry of Education launched the beta version of the *mapa interactivo*⁴⁰(interactive map), which displays the works performed in education institutions of the City. The next step will be including detailed information on the works, and other data which might be interesting for the citizens, as well as a reporting channel.
- Health: It was established a channel to provide information between the Government of the City and the *FundaciónHuésped*. The application *#Dónde*⁴¹(Where?) counts with information on distribution points, suppliers, general stock and types of contraceptive methods distributed by the government of the city, as well as the places that offer other sexual and reproductive health services. Furthermore, steps are being taken to publish datasets which feed the open format platform in the *BA DATA*⁴² site.
- Transport: The final product of this commitment will be the publication of the dataset under international standards. One important milestone, currently under execution, regarding bus lines that run the city of Buenos Aires, due in August, is already showing substantial progress. It has been gathered information on: bus routes, stops, companies, lines, branches and services. In the meantime, progress is being done regarding validation of information. Once the process of gathering information is completed, a database will be set up in CSV format (the information will be crossed with data from the *CNRT* – National Transport Regulation Commission,) and it will be adapted to the GTFS format. Once these steps are completed, the data will be published.
- Open State: The first achievement to be highlighted is the creation of the Coordination Round Table, which generated a space for coordination and collaboration between branches of the government and the civil society. Moreover, all the actors who are part of the commitment “Coordination in the production and publication of data” (government bodies and civil society) established a diagnosis and conducted an internal study, which resulted in a list of certain data and information, which denotes the need for sharing and articulating between the branches of government to achieve a greater efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts. Lastly, a Technical Round Table was created, it will be in charge of assessing the list and defining standards for harmonisation and unification of criteria.

⁴⁰ See: <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/educacion/gobierno-abierto>

⁴¹ See: <https://donde.huesped.org.ar/#/localizar/all/mapa>

⁴² See: <https://data.buenosaires.gob.ar/>



Furthermore, in the framework of “Transparent Functions in an Open Government”, each branch of government designed a roadmap or plan of activities, which will allow them to move towards an Open Government paradigm, with the actions taken. They are currently implementing the first milestones (mapping, diagnosis, openness of data, etc.)

In addition to the outcomes achieved due to the progress on the implementation of the Action Plan, taking part in the Pilot Program of Subnational Entities of the OGP led us to evince that belonging to the Partnership has allowed us to promote and consolidate a change in practices towards the openness of government and collaboration with the civil society and citizens.

Throughout this year, we could observe that the areas of government which deal with government reform require a scheme which provides them with visibility and impetus for the changes and initiatives that they propose in terms of Open Government. We believe that for them OGP has represented the framework which underpins their actions, acting as a tool to frame initiatives and enhance them.

Moreover, as the proposal of the Program of Subnational Entities of OGP is aimed at actions, it raises a scheme for collaborative work and relationship between the government and the civil society, which turns out to be useful since it provides the actors who implement the policies with a path and concrete standards to follow.

We have six more months to continue working towards the completion of the Action Plan co-created in 2016. In July, we will participate in the Subnational Entities Workshop of the OGP, in Washington DC, we hope to exchange learning experiences and challenges of the process with the other 14 cities and civil society representatives. Furthermore, we also want to introduce the proposal of exploring the alternatives that could be developed to include the initiatives and commitments of the OGP processes into the reference framework, which previously could not be incorporated into the Action Plans.

Moreover, we intend to facilitate user’s access to the City’s open government initiatives, and to improve the follow-up and accountability system by launching the new Open Government web platform and the new website of Buenos Aires in the Open Government Partnership.

The latter website will count with a space specially designed to encourage participation and with tools which will supplement the processes of co-creation of a potential new action plan as well as the co-creation innovative experiences to be implemented during the second half of the year.

We are convinced that the open government includes tools that will help us to be closer to citizens and to become better public servants. To produce concrete solutions to concrete issues. To exploit collective intelligence scattered across our communities. To

develop stronger bonds of trust with citizens and the civil society organisations, which think about our city with the same commitment as we do.



**Buenos
Aires
Ciudad**

Under-Secretariat of Strategic Management and
Institutional Quality
General Secretariat and
International Relations
Buenos Aires City Government
E-mail: baogp@buenosaires.gob.ar
Tel: +54115091-7286