

Peñalolén, September 30, 2020

OGP Steering Committee

Dear Co-Chairs,

On behalf of the Local Government of Peñalolén, we would like to express our interest in joining the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Program. We are very excited to be part of this international network. We are deeply committed in collaborating with other municipalities sharing our experience on public innovation at the local level along with the experience in youth participation and the use of technological tools for this process. We strongly believe in peer group learning.

Peñalolén is located in Chile, in the Metropolitan Region, in the city of Santiago. Geographically our commune is at the foot of the de Andes mountains in eastern Santiago and has a population of 260.000 inhabitants, with an important social diversity. We have an important social structure, with almost 3500 social organizations in the territory. 26.3% of the population is under poverty.

Since 2013 we have been working in different initiatives of Open Government. Our commitment with this policy is clear. In 2019 we compiled 21 open government initiatives. Here you can find these initiatives: <http://transparencia.penalolen.cl/GA2020/BP2019.pdf>

We would like to highlight the following initiatives:

One of the commitments of the third action plan of Chile (2016-2018) was the creation of a pilot model of Open Government for local governments. Peñalolen implemented 4 commitments in the topics of Accountability, Transparency, Youth Participation, and Open Data. They were co-created between civil servants and the community. (<https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/es/planes/tercer-plan-de-accion-nacional-de-gobierno-abierto-de-chile-2016-2018>)

In 2017 in partnership with the NGO “Ciudadanía Inteligente” we implemented “ABRE Peñalolén (Open Peñalolén) for the co creation and implementation of public spaces. <https://abre.tumunicipio.org/>
<https://ciudadaniai.org/pt/proyectos/2017/09/22/de-cuando-abrimos.html>

In 2016 we were part of two training regional projects “A los Ojos de Todos, monitoreo social y contraloría ciudadana” (Social Monitoring and Citizen Control) and “Mirada Ciudadana” (Citizen Gaze) sponsored for the European Union along with local governments from Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. The topics were good governance and transparency.

Since 2018 we have been implementing the “Cuenta Pública Participativa” (Participative and public accountability) following the model of the Consejo de la Transparencia (Transparency Council). This initiative includes surveys to the community, online streaming and delivering information in a simple language.

The pandemic COVID 19 has revealed the importance of transparency in a timely and easy way for the community. We created a monthly report with information on the funding to support citizens with problems as a result of the pandemic.

Therefore as a local government we are strongly committed with Open Government principles. Hence we declare our endorsement and uphold the Open Government Declaration, with the commitment to “foster a global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens, and advances the ideals of open and participatory 21st century government.”

We have come a long way, but extra effort is still needed, specifically in new areas that we believe are necessary to advance with a policy of Open Government, especially with the new challenges regarding the pandemic COVID-19.

In this regard the Department of Control and Open Government had human resources with exclusive dedication to Open Government. The objective is to set up the Open Government in all the municipal structures. This department has been working with others departments, such as Participation, and Environment. Equally important is the yearly budget for our work in the projects for the development of the Open Government.

One of these challenges is supporting “Local Economic Development”. Unemployment rate is higher than ever. Through collaboration, transparency and innovation we will address this issue.

A second challenge is Urban Planning. The pandemic showed the difficulties with the use of the space, and the problematic with the form of the cities. People need to be part of the discussion about their own territory. A third element of interest is Gender Equality. We have as priority the objective of generating one local strategy for approaching this problem with all the administration, especially for the inequality shown for the pandemic. Furthermore, it is key for our municipality to support new community leaders

Lastly we need to strengthen our work in collaboration with OGP in the use of Public Space, thinking in new strategies with the community and the different stakeholders.

We are constantly working on formation and training with the employees of the municipality, in fact, today in conjunction with TRIBU fundacion, we have been working with 80 civil servants in formation of Open Government, then we have a diagnosis of the knowledge of these participants. Therefore the disposal to look for new challenges is real, in consequence, we want to continue to give to civil servants the capacities for generating process of co-creation and the implementation of new solutions in conjunction with the neighborhood community.

It is important to mention the networks who have been built in this process, with organization of social society such as Tribu fundacion, Ciudadanía Inteligente, Chile Transparente, etc. Additionally, we have an informal network with other municipalities who have developed an important work in Open Government. As well we have a network with

local governments from Latin American, as a result of our work in projects of international cooperation. Besides the past information, for this application we have the support of the most important local institution of citizen participation, called “Consejo de la Sociedad Civil” (Social society council), space with social leaders elected for the community.

Peñalolén has initiatives under the logic of Open Government, but is necessary to create a plan that gathers all the elements that promote OGP. We are aware of the need to improve Accountability and Collaboration.

We believe Peñalolén can be an important focus for the development of the Open Government from all of the Municipalities in the Metropolitan Region and some other partners.

Finally we would like to express two points. The first one is about the possibility of technical support from OGP. Is essential for us to have this possibility during all the process, we hope with that, increase the development of Open government. Secondly it is an immense challenge to continue with the implementation of Open Government in the future. For that we see in this opportunity better possibilities for having an evaluation in all the process, with recommendations and proposals for improving our work.

Best Regards,

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