



Municipalidad de Rosario

Rosario, 29 March 2024

José María Marín
OGP Local Lead

Dear José,

As Mayor of Rosario (Santa Fe, Argentina), I am proud to renew the commitment initiated in 2020 with the incorporation of the city to the OGP Local program. Thanks to the assistance and advice of OGP, we will continue to advance in the implementation of best practices, upholding the principles of open and transparent government, as expressed in the Open Government Declaration.

In the last four years, the municipal government has promoted various policies aimed at transforming public administration and interaction with citizens in line with the values promoted by OGP.

We have carried out a process of renewal of the municipal Participatory Budget, which has been in existence for more than 20 years, in order to improve its implementation and compliance. We have incorporated new methodologies and processes, such as a Public Proposals Bank, which is a permanent instrument for active listening that guides the municipality's actions. In addition, Citizen Laboratories were incorporated as a tool for the co-creation of projects.

The incorporation of Citizen Laboratories into the Participatory Budget merited a mention in the "17th Distinction for Good Practices in Citizen Participation - OIDP" as innovative devices in the management of public policies. This instance of participation was not only applied to the Participatory Budget but, under the name of Citizen Acupuncture Laboratories (LAC), became a dynamic tool that allows intervention on various issues through a participatory process and concrete collaboration.

The Open Government Action Plan, within the framework of our Local Program, allowed us to promote participation and articulation with civil society organizations and citizens, while incorporating innovative tools and processes in a collaborative manner between different areas of the Municipal State.

As a result of this process, Rosario now has a Guide of Good Practices in Citizen Participation and a Guide of Data and Gender Approach. Also, Rosario has designed and implemented participatory processes for the creation of the Advisory Committee of the Local Climate Action Plan; improved the traceability of the processes of Access to Public Information and has moved forward in public procurement processes.

Regarding OGP, the city of Rosario was part of the Federal Open Government Program, part of Argentina's IV Action Plan, in which the city was distinguished for our Accessibility and Usability project of the municipality's citizen participation platform.

We implemented a Digital Transformation Plan for the municipality, with a focus on data and evidence-based decision-making. This was reflected in various policies. Among them, we highlight the construction of a new Data Portal to incorporate a space for consultation of public and open statistical data of the municipality.

In addition, within the Bloomberg City Data Alliance program, we made progress in two areas: Excellence in Procurement and Data Governance. In relation to the latter, we finalized the design and regulatory structure of a Data Lab that will be the focal point of the municipality's data governance.

This digital transformation also drives the Digital Profile, a tool that allows quick and secure access, in a single place, to all services and procedures carried out in the Municipality of Rosario, and allows citizens to have all the information of their interaction with the Municipality at their disposal.

Finally, with the renewal of the commitment to the citizens of Rosario for the period 2023-2027, we modified the functional structure with the creation of the Secretary of Proximity and Citizen Management. This department, in addition to the functions of proximity, incorporates the objective of improving the response of the Municipal State to the needs of the neighbors of Rosario.

This decision is evidence of the conviction to prioritize the impact and importance of Open Government actions in local public management, and to build and design - as a general objective - an active and transversal agenda in terms of transparency, participation and collaboration.

In this sense, in the next iteration of the Action Plan we hope to achieve the strengthening of civil society organizations, building a network that sustains and empowers them as a whole in accordance with the OGP Strategy 2023-2028 in that *"as a community focuses on cultivating a much stronger movement of such reformers and leaders who drive change and take action, both through and beyond OGP, to support them in their efforts to put people at the heart of their governments"*.

Much remains to be done to enhance active listening mechanisms, decision making, problem solving, active transparency and citizenship building. Undoubtedly, these are the means to rebuild a close relationship between the state and citizens. And it is with this conviction that we are putting all our efforts.

I trust that we will continue to work together to bring about transformations that will have a direct impact on every inhabitant of the city.

My best regards,



Pablo Lautaro Javkin
Mayor of Rosario