



PART 1: BASIC DATA

Title of the experience: Empadronamiento automático de migrantes (Automatic registration of migrants)		
Name of the city/region: Buenos Aires		
Country: Argentina		
Institution presenting the candidacy: Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires		
Start date of the experience: 2018 / 2021		
End date of the experience:		
Type of candidacy	Innovation on an existing experience	X
Type of experience	Citizen initiative	X
Objective of the experience	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation and to incorporate diversity as a criterion for inclusion	X
	To increase citizen’s rights in terms of political participation	X
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy “ecosystem”	X
Territorial area	All the territory	X
Thematic area	Governance	X
	Legal regulations	X
	Social inclusion	X

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Objectives

<p>Main objective of the innovative experience:</p> <p>To increase citizen’s rights in terms of political participation</p>
<p>How have you achieved this objective?</p> <p>In 2018, the legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires passed the "Automatic Registration" law for migrant citizens with 42 votes in favor and 12 votes against of the total of 60 legislators. This means that every citizen residing in the City of Buenos Aires coming from another country of origin with 2 years of residence in the City will be automatically registered to elect local authorities. Until now, in order to be able to participate in elections, the migrant citizen had to carry out a personal procedure at the offices of the City Government. With this Law, they will no longer have to carry out such procedure to exercise their right to vote and to elect their authorities at the local level.</p>
<p>To what extent has this objective been achieved?</p>



The High Court of Justice of the City of Buenos Aires prepared and published the lists of citizens for the 2021 legislative election. Said roll already showed (in March) the result of 398,222 migrants able to vote against the 20,000 authorized to vote in 2019.

Dimensions of the experience

Which is the most innovative aspect of the experience?

Undoubtedly, the innovative element is the automated mechanism that guarantees the participation of migrant citizens in the elections. In addition, it is supervised by the Institute of Electoral Management in case of any inconvenience. This new process is one more step towards the consolidation of the political and social rights of all individuals and the strengthening of participatory democracy.

To what extent is the procedure transferable?

We could say that the transfer of the model is one hundred percent transferable, since it only appeals to the will of all the political forces that make up the legislative power. It is a bill that establishes a simple administrative mechanism. It is also very easy to implement. The bill is the fundamental tool to achieve this practice as long as the migrant as a subject of citizenship can elect authorities in the city or locality that wants to implement it.

Why do you consider that the experience is feasible?

The Committee on Decentralization and Citizen Participation of the Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires conducted a study on migrants who were able to participate in the electoral process. Then, a general analysis was made and a proposal was elaborated and agreed upon with other legislators, specialists in the matter and referents of migrant communities. Thus, the first proposal that would later be approved by the legislative body emerged. Its feasibility is given that it is a Law to be implemented for the legislative elections of the year 2021.

How has the experience been coordinated with other actors and processes?

The drafting and preparation of the Project was coordinated with the communities of neighboring countries, which are the vast majority of the citizens benefiting from this new mechanism. Forums and meetings were held among the communities to raise awareness and disseminate this Law. The coordination was carried out by the team of the Commission of Decentralization and Citizen Participation of the Legislature with the main referents of the communities, and a campaign was carried out to explain to the citizens in general the need to extend this right.

What has been the level of co-responsibility?

It can be said that it was the leaders of the different communities who were in charge of disseminating and explaining the content of this new law to their compatriots and summoning them to support this unique initiative in the Republic of Argentina. Dozens of neighborhood organizations from the different groups worked in each neighborhood. Their work was fundamental to achieve this law.

Which evaluation and accountability mechanisms were used?

This practice will be implemented for the first time this year 2021. Social and political organizations, the Government of the City of Buenos Aires and community representatives will be the overseers and guarantors to ensure that these elections are carried out normally in the middle of this year.



Summary of the experience

In 2018, a law was passed in the Legislative Assembly of the city of Buenos Aires that provided for the automatic granting of permanent residence to citizens who had lived in the city for more than two years. For the first time in 2021, in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires, all citizens with two years of permanent residence will be able to participate in local elections, regardless of whether they have completed the corresponding procedure.

The evaluation mechanisms are those provided by the electoral control bodies and guaranteed by the City State.