



**12TH "BEST PRACTICE IN
CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION" Award
AWARD APPLICATION FORM**

1ST PART: BASIC DATA

Title of the experience: OPEN PARTICIPATORY BUDGET		
Name of the city/region: Córdoba		
Country: Argentina		
Institution presenting the candidacy: Córdoba Municipality		
Start date of the experience: September 2017		
End date of the experience: Continue and growing		
Type of candidacy	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	X
Type of experience	Participatory budgeting	x
	Urban planning	
	Council	
	Workshop/meeting for diagnose, monitoring, etc.	
	Audience/forum	
	Poll/referendum	
	Citizen jury	
	E-government/open government	x
	Citizen initiative	
	Others (say which one):	Citizen open budget
Objective of the experience	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation and to incorporate diversity as a criteria for inclusion	X
	Community empowerment	X
	To empower non-organised citizens	X
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation	X
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"	X
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	X
	To improve the quality of public decision making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy	X
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	x



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Territorial area	All the territory	X
	District	x
	Neighbourhood	
Thematic area	Governance	x
	Education	
	Transport	
	Urban management	
	Health	
	Security	
	Environment and/or urban agriculture	
	New social movements and associationism	
	Culture	
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local development	
	Training/learning	x
	Economy and/or finances	X
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	x
	All	
Others		

2ND PART: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE (4 pages maximum)

Objectives

Main objective of the innovative experience:

Choose one of the objectives mentioned in part 1, the one that you think is the most important

To generate greater social empowerment and an active role of the citizen



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In the process of transforming cities, the Municipality of Córdoba developed a transparency and accountability tool unique in the country. Thus, the citizen can participate with a better understanding of the municipal budget without technicalities and easy to understand.

How have you achieved this objective?

Until September 2017 the Municipality of Córdoba published the annual budget in compliance with municipal regulations. However, requests for information from the citizenship about the annual budget composition were frequent.

As a result, the Municipality assimilated that the State's responsibility for the Government transparency must go beyond the mere publication of the data, which led to initiate a data opening process in 100% reusable formats.

Therefore, the Municipality of Córdoba developed and presented the "[Open Budget Citizen](#) ", a transparency and accountability tool designed so that the neighbor can understand how the municipal budget works without technicalities and easy to understand. Now students, civil society and neighbors in can easily understand what the municipal annual budget is about. With the citizen has a better quality social participation. This digital tool contains budget information and its normal execution on own and not own municipal resources, of the expenses with their different classifications designed to reflect disbursements by subject, quantitative exposure of the municipal participatory budget and the public works monitor in real time.

To what extent has this goal been achieved?

The goal was reached 100%. Currently, the 2017 annual budget and the 2018, the quarterly executions of those budgets, supported all in Blockchain, and The exhibition of public works in real time in all its states (In project, tendered, in process and completed). The release of the API is included in "Our Works" corresponding with the objective of encouraging entrepreneurs or developers of computer ecosystem of the city wishing to create potential tools.

Dimensions of the experience

Which is the most innovative aspect of the experience?

Explain what you think that is the most innovative aspect of the practice. It is not necessary for you to repeat what you have already presented in the initial candidacy through the PARTICIPATE OIDP platform (the jury will have direct access to that proposal). It is not enough to explain that it is the first time which this kind of practice is implemented in your city, village or region. However, it will be considered innovative if this involves a significant adaptation of this kind of practice to the particular context.



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This tool combines the participatory budgeting instrument and the budget economic policy with the principles of open government: Transparency, participation and collaboration. Control and transparency tools are added in real time on the public works linked to the budget. And in addition new technologies are used as security and trust element. The union of free software, blockchain and transparency with a high degree of openness (all downloadable in Excel and CSV and even the provision of the corresponding API) of this Open Budget Citizen is a unique product in the country.

To what extent is the procedure transferable?

Explain to what extent the experience has the capacity to allow the repetition of the essential elements which constitutes it in a different context to that of its creation, with a great chance of success. Which elements do you think that are replicable? How can other institutions access to these elements?

The procedure is 100% transferable, since in its development the central axis was the about free software and the vision of being useful to other governments. The municipality of Río Segundo is one of the municipalities that used free software that City of Córdoba made available without cost and without bureaucracy (See Rio website Second). In addition this municipality took several products from the city of Córdoba and with all that work came to rank among the top positions in the open data index of cities Argentina 2018.

Why do you consider that the experience is feasible?

Explain how the economical, technical, organizational and socio-political context were taken into account when designing the experience and how this improved the chances of success of the experience. Which measures were taken when considering the context?

When deciding to work on this tool, the municipality of Córdoba already published the annual budget in PDF (Scanned), complying with the transparency that the regulations require. Since the modernization secretariat was created and the intendant takes the policy of open government as one of the axes of its management much progress was made in terms of transparency, including fiscal transparency. Digitize the budget, open it in reusable formats, secure it in blockchain and explain it with the open budget citizen was to modernize the bases that already existed. It is considered a feasible experience because it is already in execution, being disposition of citizens and other municipalities and because their replication in others is quick and easy. In addition, the main input is an economic and accounting instrument with which every municipality or organization counts and is one of the most transparent instruments of transparency



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relevant that exist.

We believe that every municipality should have its budget exposed with a tool of equal quality and openness, and available to all neighbors.

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

Explain how the experience has been coordinated with simultaneous or pre-existing actors and processes. Explain the success rate of this coordination.

The project is 100% replicable since it is available since its first version as free software since it was designed with a collaborative spirit in order to be replicated

by other governments and institutions.

The Municipality of Río Segundo has its open budget in its open government portal citizen donated by the municipality of Córdoba for free with technical support necessary. A collaboration agreement was signed between both municipalities.

Today, we are also working with the Municipality of Villa del Soto so that it can implement its own Open Citizen Budget. Likewise, the team of the

The city of Córdoba is open to collaborate with other governments interested in these processes.

Which has been the level of co-responsibility?

Explain the kind of implication of other political or technical actors and citizens (organised and non-organised). Which roles did these participants undertake?

The Open Citizen Budget project was planned from its origins and embodied in another transparency and internal management tool that the municipality has:

Management Goals Plan (PMG). This PMG was made when the current management was started

Mayor of the city, is a strategic plan developed for years of management.

The Citizen Open Budget was proposed in this PMG 2016-2019 and was part of of the participation spaces that exist when developing this tool

strategic development, including the public hearing that opens at the moment of

present each Goal Plan and in each annual measurement.

In these spaces of participation civil society and neighbors in general have the possibility to comment and discuss the management goals that the municipality proposes, and in

this space was the Citizen Open Budget at that time.

Which evaluation and accountability mechanisms were used?

Explain the kind of evaluation and accountability which are part of the planning of the experience and how they have worked in practice. You can mention some results for exemplify it. How has the information been disseminated to the citizens? How was the feedback done once the procedure had finished? Which have been the conclusions of the evaluation (if they currently exist and, if not: when are they planned to be disclosed?)?

When talking about the evaluation of the project carried out it is worth mentioning which is an instrument used in the academic area of the city of Córdoba, both in middle and higher studies (See images). Without planning this consequence the use of



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this tool in educational sectors is clearly a positive externality that is played independently by the municipality with a high social impact, especially in the generations to come.

In the same line, the number of visits to the website since it was published in September

of 2017 amounted to 6,421 visits. Numbers that reflect the good social acceptance

that is given to the instrument.

The municipality disseminated this tool of transparency, participation and social empowerment through its digital means of communication, mainly by the twitter channels, [@GobAbiertoCba](#) [@MuniCba](#).