



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

1ST PART: BASIC DATA

Title of the experience: Montevideo Decide		
Name of the city/region: Montevideo		
Country: Uruguay		
Institution presenting the candidacy: Intendencia de Montevideo		
Start date of the experience: Enero 2018		
End date of the experience:-		
Type of candidacy	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	
Type of experience	Participatory budgeting	X
	Urban planning	X
	Council	X
	Workshop/meeting for diagnose, monitoring, etc.	X
	Audience/forum	X
	Poll/referendum	X
	Citizen jury	X
	E-government/open government	X
	Citizen initiative	X
	Others (say which one): It is a platform that is open to a lot of initiatives such as participatory budgeting, Montevideo Lab, contests, etc., and has the potential to incorporate new ideas and proposals.	x
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



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	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	X
Territorial area	All the territory	X
	District	X
	Neighbourhood	X
Thematic area	Governance	X
	Education	X
	Transport	X
	Urban management	X
	Health	X
	Security	X
	Environment and/or urban agriculture	X
	New social movements and associationism	X
	Culture	X
	Housing	X
	Job creation	X
	Decentralization	X
	Local development	X
	Training/learning	X
	Economy and/or finances	X
	Legal regulations	X
	Social inclusion	X
All	X	
	Others: It covers all the areas mentioned, including others that may arise from citizen initiatives, policies, university initiatives, etc.	X

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

Objectives



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Main objective of the innovative experience:

Choose one of the objectives mentioned in part 1, the one that you think is the most important
"Montevideo Decide" considers all the objectives listed, one of the main ones being: "To improve the quality of public decisions through mechanisms of participatory democracy", through a channel of direct and permanent participation with citizens, to decide on the issues that they make to the city.

How have you achieved this objective?

The statistics demonstrate the acceptance of the proposal and the scope of objectives on an ongoing basis. In just six months since the launch of the platform, 5,000 users have registered, 122 debates, and there are 148 ideas put forward. 9000 votes and 70,000 visits have been received. This gives the guideline that a citizen participation mechanism was achieved, direct and permanent, which improves public decision making when considering what citizens want. It is important to bear in mind that in Uruguay there is universal access to digital media, since the Ibirapitá (free tablets for older adults) and Ceibal (free computers for school and high school students) programs were integrated into the platform, thus guaranteeing access to almost totality of the population. This is a difference with platforms in other cities where only one sector of the population can participate, which is the one that has access to technology.

To what extent has this objective been achieved?

Montevideo Decide is the first 100% digital tool that is used in the country, which in itself is an innovation. In just 6 months, many ideas, debates, citizen consultations and proposals were made. Some of the consultations carried out and with which actions were decided: 1) What is the best popular scenario of Carnival 2018? 2) Where should the mobile stage close the Carnival 2018? 3) What new physical or sporting activities do you consider that the Municipality should offer on the beaches? 4) What free services do you consider that should be included in public spaces to improve the practice of physical activity? 5) In what places do you think the circuits for the 10k, 21k, and Marathon races should be developed? 6) What is the best drum design in the calls 2018 (typical event of the Uruguayan carnival)? 7) What services do you think can be incorporated into the Creoles 2019? Another example: In the month of May and within the framework of the activities of the World Environment Day, a Contest was launched under the slogan "Montevideo más verde", on the platform to define how the lyrics of MONTEVIDEO are intervened. Welcome to the city on our Rambla. 29 proposals were presented on the digital platform.

Dimensions of the experience



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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.

It is the first 100% digital tool that is used in the country, which is innovative in itself. It is a digital platform adapted to the Uruguayan context and to the strategic guidelines of the Municipality of Montevideo (Annex 1), with the concept: "Your ideas can change the city". "You debate, you propose, you participate, you decide". The platform has different participation modules: Citizen Consultation, Debates, Ideas, Participatory Budgeting and also Collaboration Spaces ("volunteering", to execute actions such as supporting a task, cleaning a place, etc.). All are innovative elements. Another innovative element is the incorporation of electronic voting in the Participatory Budget. So far, the only areas of direct participation that Montevideo had, was the vote every two years of Neighborhood Councils and Participatory Budgeting. With Montevideo Decide, an innovative area of direct participation is added, a permanent communication channel, easily accessible, that democratizes citizen participation, promoting community strengthening. The most innovative thing is that from the palm of your hand with a cell phone, a personal computer or any tool that allows you to connect to the internet, you can participate in the construction of the city you want. Other innovations have been articulated with the new Montevideo Decide tool. Highlights: Montevideo Lab: www.montevideo.gub.uy/mvdlab My Montevideo Portal: www.mi.montevideo.gub.uy Open Montevideo: www.montevideo.gub.uy/institucional/montevideo-abierto

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 experience is based on free software, which has been adapted in several cities, and is part of the "Consul" community that is made up of more than 50 cities around the world. This software allows you to create a 100% replicable tool. Although our experience has unique characteristics, because it considers our context, there are general elements that can be replicated without problem and adapted to other realities. Raising debates, ideas, consultations, and promoting the participatory budget (experience that exists in many cities) through this platform, is replicable in every way. Even many of the "own" characteristics that we are executing are adaptable to the realities of each place. The concept of participation through "volunteering", Montevideo Lab. And other articulations made of innovative elements, are transferable experiences. Surely in Uruguay will not continue to be the only experience, since they have contacted us from other municipalities, for example the Intendencia de Paysandú, to internalize our experience. The Agency for Digital Government and the Information and Knowledge Society of Uruguay (AGESIC) has



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made its 4th Open Government plan with this modality, based on our experience. On the other hand, our team, both in the area of computer science and in the development and monitoring, is open to provide the information and support necessary to realize the experience in other places.

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?

The proposal is framed within the Guidelines and Strategic Objectives 2018 - 2019 of the Municipality of Montevideo (Annex 1); result of joint work between the political and technical teams; that state the objectives and goals to be achieved. Specifically, guidelines 4, 5 and 6 deepen with respect to enhancing the relationship with citizenship and participation, promoting a sustainable and innovative development model, making a cultural transformation, towards an efficient, innovative and transparent management. This offered a fundamental economic, technical, organizational, and socio-political context for the success of our proposal, since it allowed consolidating the political decision on the importance of this development for the institution. On the other hand, the development of the platform and its adaptation to our context was mainly carried out with the human resources of the institution, which was fundamental for the commitment and empowerment of all development officers. A work team was formed and trained to develop the tool and its continuous follow-up is committed to this experience. All this has allowed the experience to be feasible and a reality.

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.

Although Montevideo Decide is the result of an intense work of articulation between the political and technical actors of the Municipality of Montevideo, to promote and create a culture of direct citizen participation, and to promote the collective construction processes in the main issues of the city, through digital media, the experience starts from a free software inserted in the "Consul" community. The Consul community has a permanent articulation, on a daily basis, that facilitates solving any inconvenience or doubt that may arise with the tool. The platform was presented in the Commission of Decentralization of the Departmental Board of Montevideo, in the Space Link, and in other related organisms, feeding back and articulating with them the tool. It was also articulated with other experiences: Montevideo Lab, Mi Montevideo , etc.

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 central team of development and monitoring of the platform and its content, has a political coordination and is completed with the technical area. There are a couple of "political advisers" who participate when the coordination of the platform requires it. Given that this brings citizens closer to the decisions made at the level of the departmental government of Montevideo, providing a



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space to raise initiatives, concerns, and changes; Workshops and focus group (Annex 2) have been carried out to assess and know what the citizenship is not organized and organized. On the other hand, the role of political actors is relevant, motivating participation. For example, a new challenge that is the construction of "Montevideo del Mañana" has already been reflected in the platform. The actors of the initiatives articulated in the platform are also involved (Social Volunteer, MVDLAB, Cowork public Enlace, Participatory Budget).

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?)?

There is not yet an evaluation of the tool in its entirety due to the short time of existence, but periodic reports are made by the work team of partial evaluations that measure different indicators. The information comes from the daily monitoring of the operation and dissemination of the platform, which helps to adjust the tool. This allows us to make public and in a reliable, accessible and timely manner, information and everything that is generated and performed, as well as relate to the need for funds, goods and public resources related to the project. Regarding the rendering of accounts, the current forms that the Intendency has, are before the Departmental Board of Montevideo, in the realization of Open Cabildos, in the Participatory Budgets. Now this new platform is added with its communication tool to citizens, but given that the Ideas cycle culminates on October 31 with the feasibility studies, and on December 1st, the ideas that go to the final stage will be known. of validation; there is still no evaluation of a complete cycle with its accountability, scheduled for April 2019