

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

1ST PART: BASIC DATA

Title of the experience: Municipal Council for Women		
Name of the city/region: San Antonio de Areco		
Country: Argentina		
Institution presenting the candidacy: Municipality of San Antonio de Areco		
Start date of the experience: 11 th march 2015		
End date of the experience:-----		
Type of candidacy	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	
Type of experience	Participatory budgeting	
	Urban planning	
	Council	X
	Workshop/meeting for diagnose, monitoring, etc.	
	Audience/forum	
	Poll/referendum	
	Citizen jury	
	E-government/open government	
	Citizen initiative	
	Others (say which one):	
Objective of the experience	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation and to incorporate diversity as a criteria for inclusion	
	Community empowerment	
	To empower non-organised citizens	
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation	x
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"	
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	
	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	
Territorial area	All the territory	

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	District	x
	Neighbourhood	
Thematic area	Governance	
	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	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	
	Others: gender	x

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
Improve the quality of public decisions through mechanisms of participatory democracy

How have you achieved this objective?

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With the creation of the Women's Municipal Council, a space of fundamental dialogue is opened for women to discuss together with the different political and social actors (education, security, politicians / as) the different problems inherent to the patriarchal society that exercises different types of sexist and gender violence.

To what extent has this objective been achieved?

The first encounter had as a trigger the macho violence, that is, the different cases of physical, symbolic and psychological damage exerted by men towards the women of our community. In this sense, the advice of women became a kind of cathartic space, in the sense for the first time women felt that the stories of their own experiences were heard and that their desire for improvement and protection was validated by the State, and society.

However, there is still much to improve. The participation of women should be greater, the meetings more frequent, and it is still difficult to reach concrete conclusions, given the complexity of the plots of experiences and discourses that constitute the meetings.

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.

It is an innovative proposal because it is a participatory practice, because it integrates different actors from the community, from politics, from the executive and legislative sectors, from security forces, from neighbors, from health personnel, from education personnel to work on local gender issues in search of consensual solutions. In addition, it is not only held at the head of the political party that is San Antonio de Areco but also in Duggan, Villa Lia, so it is also given the participation to the neighbors who were not taken into account. No previous practice included so many members with different opinions and visions to create and solve a problem that is so important and important socially speaking.

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 transferable given the importance at international level on the debate that happening on the role of women in society and the struggle for their rights. In this context, women take on a much more active and participatory role, not only

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through entering the labor market or access to higher education, but also through their involvement in political life.

The women's council does not require too much infrastructure, but is the result of a political decision and the articulation of different actors around a common goal.

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?

In Argentina 3 out of 10 women are in a situation of gender violence, which is why there is national law No. 26,485 that guarantees Comprehensive Protection to Prevent, Punish and eradicate violence against women. In San Antonio de Areco, in particular, there is a high percentage of the complaints made at the local police station that are linked to gender violence. This demonstrated the imperative need to generate an institutional space of containment and counseling for women that facilitates the effective exercise of their rights.

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 Council is made up of a) two representatives of the municipal executive power b) two women councillors that integrate the Deliberative Council c) representatives of social organizations whose objectives and actions are carried out with the gender issue.

At present, not only these actors are members, but also neighbors of different ages and social sectors.

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 members of the council fulfill their ad-honorem function. The council has a coordinating board that functions as a consultative and advisory body for planning public policies.

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?)?

The information is disseminated through the different local media, in addition to the social networks of the municipality. The Coordinating Committee is in charge of evaluating the participation of the neighbors in terms of number of attendees and participation in the discussions.