

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC85059

Project Name	Argentina Open Data Readiness Assessments
Region	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN
Country	Argentina
Lending Instrument	IPF
Project ID	P161164
Borrower Name	Ministry of Modernization
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Modernization
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	02-Aug-2016
Estimated Date of Approval	05-Sep-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Argentina, with more 41 million inhabitants, is one of the largest economies in South America. Today, more than 40 percent of the population remains at risk of falling into poverty. Poverty risks are highest among those with limited access to, and command of, human and basic infrastructure assets. The less well developed provinces have poverty rates two to three times higher than the national average, and lag behind the rest of the country in social services and basic infrastructure.

Argentina had presidential elections in late 2015 and the new administration plans to introduce important policy and institutional changes. In spite of recent progress made by Argentina, there are persistent delivery challenges in critical public services and significant regional disparities. According to recent surveys, satisfaction with public services is low and corruption is seen as damaging governance and service delivery. In addition, the international economic outlook has deteriorated, making it even more important for Argentina to look for effective and efficient ways to modernize its public sector.

The Worldwide Governance Indicators for 2013 illustrate that while Argentina's performance in different areas is uneven, it is always below the regional average. When compared with countries from Latin America and the Caribbean and emerging market economies from outside the region with similar populations and GDP per capita, Argentina's performance is lower than the average for the selected countries in indicators measuring control of corruption, government effectiveness, rule of law, regulatory quality, and voice and accountability. Argentina ranks slightly higher in terms political stability than the average for Latin American countries.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

According to Improving Public Service Delivery through Enhanced Public Sector Institutions Development Discussion Note, Argentina suffers from a lack of robust tools to support evidence-based policy-making and monitoring and evaluation systems - up-to date, relevant and reliable information has been identified as critical. On the other hand, Government spending is unpredictable and does not always reach the poor who need it most. There is a need to improve budget process, transparency and social accountability in the use of public funds. Budget transparency and accountability also remain as a Challenge. Argentina's Open Budget Index was 59/100 in 2015, which while higher than the score of countries like Malaysia and Turkey, was below countries like Poland, the Czech Republic and South Africa (see Figure 7). Although Argentina has improved its score from 50 in 2012, the budget information provided to the public is still being considered as limited. Moreover, the Government scored 27/100 in providing opportunities to citizens to engage in the budget process.

The National Science, Technology and Innovation Plan (Argentina Innovadora 2020) identifies the strengthening of information sources and analytical capabilities as crucial challenges to be addressed. Likewise, the use of data has been identified as a valuable input for the planning and targeting of public policy, as well as an articulated monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Moreover, the recently Data Opening Plan approved by the Executive Branch through Decree 117/2016 on January 13, 2016, establishes a 180 day deadline for all government agencies to present a Data Opening Plan to the Modernization Ministry, detailing the data under their jurisdiction as well as road map for its implementation.

The Ministry of Modernization and entities such as INDEC (National Statistics Office) will have a critical role to play in supporting and coordinating with ministries to collect and make data available. Efforts to institutionalize the use of policy and programs evaluations results in the policy making process will be important to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditures as well as to reinforce transparency and accountability by strengthening an outcome-based approach.

The Government of Argentina has requested the WBG's support to the Government's Modernization agenda. The proposed activity aims to contribute foster the Open Data agenda for a Public Sector Modernization, innovation and transparency.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The FY15-18 Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Argentina includes the strengthening of public sector management and governance for public service delivery as a key building blocks to enable a favorable environment for improved service delivery, contributing also to expand service coverage to the poor and excluded segments of the population and increasing public accountability and transparency. In line with the CPS, the promotion of Open Data proposed by the project will facilitate service access to a broad sector of the population as well as enhanced accountability while engaging poor segments of the population on an active way to improve the quality of public service delivery.

Open Data is one of the key pillars under the Busan Action Plan for Statistical Development. NSOs in developing countries and their NSDS have started to work on improved data dissemination, data documentation and data quality, all of which can be enhanced by the implementation of a national

Open Data initiative. By opening data from a variety of public agencies to the wider public, data producers pay more attention to their quality standards and increased scrutiny of data leads to create both further pressures for quality improvement and assistance in doing so from other actors, particularly if appropriate feedback mechanisms are in place.

The project will support the Government of Argentina in the establishment of a National Open Data Initiative that will set up such mechanisms. Overall opening statistical and administrative records data will extend their re-use and value, and will amplify the value of other improvements made as part of the NSDSs.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The objective is to support Argentina advance and strengthen the country's Open Data initiative, including open access to their national statistical data and other data. By opening data, Argentina will increase government transparency, provide information for evidence-based decision-making, improve public sector service delivery, increase economic opportunities and foster citizen engagement in public policies and projects. Open Data helps increase the use of statistics that governments produce, a key action item in the Busan Action Plan for Statistics.

Key Results

Outputs:

- An Open Data Readiness Assessment for Argentina
- An Open Data Action Plan
- An Open Data Action Plan Budget and Prioritization
- Inputs and lessons learned from ODRA

Outcomes:

- More transparent government
- Increased data reuse leads to better public services and new business opportunities
- Strengthened Open Data initiative

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

Open Data is one of the key pillars under the Busan Action Plan for Statistical Development. NSOs in developing countries and their NSDS have started to work on improved data dissemination, data documentation and data quality, all of which can be enhanced by the implementation of a national Open Data initiative. By opening data from a variety of public agencies to the wider public, data producers pay more attention to their quality standards and increased scrutiny of data leads to create both further pressures for quality improvement and assistance in doing so from other actors, particularly if appropriate feedback mechanisms are in place.

The project will support the Government of Argentina in the establishment of a National Open Data Initiative that will set up such mechanisms. Overall opening statistical and administrative records data will extend their re-use and value, and will amplify the value of other improvements made as part of the NSDSs.

The proposed project will include three activities:

Activity #1 - Open Data Assessment and Action Plan

The funds will finance preparation of Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) in Argentina and the development of the corresponding Open Data Action plan. The ODRA will be carried out in close collaboration with the recently created Ministry of Modernization which is also in charge of the Open Government and Innovation agendas. Additionally, the Open Data diagnosis will include the assessment of the availability of statistical data and provide priority actions for implementation with the Argentinian National Statistical Office during the loan project.

Argentina has recently requested the support of the WBG to prepare a new loan project for the Ministry of Modernization. During the identification mission conducted in early April 2016 for this upcoming loan project a subcomponent on Open Data was identified. The proposed ODRA help catalyze Argentina's Open Data agenda by providing (i) key diagnostic inputs, and (ii) an action plan.

Activity #2 - Open Data Action Plan Prioritization and Budget

This activity seeks to complement ODRA outputs by including a prioritization of actions and a detailed budget with estimated costs for quantifying the Open Data Action Plan resulted from the ODRA. This way, the design of the Government of Argentina's Open Data Program from will be informed in terms of (i) priority actions to be implemented according to impact and feasibility; and (ii) resources (financial and human) needed to implement the ODRA's action plan.

Activity #3 - Lessons learned from ODRA as a planning tool.

This activity will focus on extracting lessons learned from the experience of conducting an ODRA for catalyzing a National Open Data initiative. The objective is to provide inputs and inform governments about how ODRA methodology can be applied as a diagnostic and planning tool to support an Open Data initiative.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.09986	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount

VI. Contact point**World Bank**

Contact: Eva Clemente Miranda
Title: ICT Policy Specialist
Tel: 473-2868
Email: eclementemiranda@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Name: Ministry of Modernization
Contact:
Title:
Tel:
Email:

Implementing Agencies

Name: Ministry of Modernization
Contact: Bruno Domeniconi
Title: International Finance Directorate
Tel: 54-011-5985-8600
Email: bdomeniconi@modernizacion.gob.ar

VII. For more information contact:

The InfoShop
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 458-4500
Fax: (202) 522-1500
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/infoshop>