

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic project data

▪ Country/Region:	LAC Region
▪ TC Name:	Open Government for Citizens
▪ TC Number:	RG-T2399
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Nicolás Dassen (IFD/ICS), Team Leader; Maria José Jarquín (IFD/ICS), Alternate Team leader; Pedro Farías (IFD/ICS); Miguel A. Porrúa (IFD/ICS); Paolo Valenti (IFD/ICS); Roberto Fernandez (ICS/CUR); Melissa González, project assistant (IFD/ICS); TBD (LEG/SGO); Nieves Rodríguez Lopez (consultant, IFD/ICS)
▪ Indicate if: Operational Support, Client Support, or Research & Dissemination.	Research & Dissemination
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	9/11/2013
▪ Beneficiary (countries or entities which are the recipient of the technical assistance):	All borrowing IDB country members
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	IDB
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US \$ 750,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	N/A
▪ Disbursement period (which includes execution period):	42 months (including 36 months of execution period)
▪ Required start date:	January 15, 2014
▪ Types of consultants (firm or individual consultants):	Firms and Individuals
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/ICS
▪ Included in Country Strategy (y/n);	N/A
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Institutions for Growth and Social Welfare (GN-2587)

II. Objective and Justification

Objective: The general objective of this TC is to contribute to more efficient and transparent public service delivery by supporting open government (OG) efforts (policies, strategies, action plans and tools) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries. Bearing in mind the concept and scope of open government, and the adherence of 15 LAC countries to the recently created initiative of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the specific objectives of this TC are: (i) support countries in designing and monitoring OG policies, strategies and action plans; (ii) strengthen countries' capacities to effectively implement OG action plans; (iii) promote south-south and extra-regional cooperation and regional policy dialogue.

Justification: Open Government is an old concept (Chapman and Hunt, 1987) that gained a new momentum in recent years due to citizen demands for more accountable governments and better public services. New technologies on information and communication (TICs) play a key role in this matter for leveraging the expected impact. For the OECD, the concept OG has evolved as a platform for resolving how government can work with society and individuals to co-produce public value inspired by the principles of transparency, participation and collaboration (OECD, 2005 and 2010) and the use of new technologies; understanding co-production as the direct involvement of individual users and groups of citizens in the planning, designing, delivering, monitoring and/or evaluating public policies and services services (OECD 2011).

Not implementing public policies and delivering public services in accordance with the core values of OG mentioned above may imply higher transaction costs and inefficiencies, lack of accountability and integrity risks, at the institutional and sector levels. Although there is no single indicator to measure comprehensively how countries perform in implementing OG solutions, there is a variety of widely accepted indicators, which closely inform of OG, that suggest the existence of an important space for improvement in LAC.

The recently launched Open Government Partnership (OGP) provides the region with the opportunity to work on the design and implementation of concrete OG actions, jointly with civil society. As of today, 15 LAC countries have joined the OGP, and 14 have submitted action plans containing concrete commitments addressing five areas¹: (i) improvement of public services; (ii) enhancement of public integrity; (iii) increase of efficiency in managing public resources; (iv) creation of safer communities; (v) and strengthening of corporate responsibility. An overview of the action plans, indicate that about 80% of the commitments fall under the first two areas (IDB, 2013):

	Public Services	Integrity	Management efficiency	Safer Communities	Corporate Responsibility
Total Commitments 328	75 (22.86%)	177 (53.96%)	63 (19.09%)	1 (0.30%)	12 (3.65%)

Interestingly enough, from the total of 328 commitments, 62.2% of them would require TICs solutions (mostly transparency or open data web portals, or other Government 2.0 platforms to provide services and create a stronger engagement with civil society). Some of the public services that were included in country-specific OGP action plans were in education²; extractive industries³; health⁴; and identity registries⁵.

The Bank recognizes in the Report on the Ninth General Increase in the Resources of the IDB (GCI9, AB-2764) that the presence of strong and effective institutions is a determining factor of a country's development, as well as in other relevant Bank strategies. See also the Sector Strategy of Institutions for Growth and Social Welfare (GN-2540) and the Action Plan to support countries in their efforts to fight corruption and foster transparency (PAACT, GN-2540).

¹ Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The other 4 countries out of 15 that are in the process of drafting their commitments are Argentina, Costa Rica, Panamá and Trinidad and Tobago.

² **El Salvador** proposed an online course for public officials about the access to information law in its OGP action plan; **Honduras**, the implementation of the Education Law; **Mexico**, the publication of school performance based on a national exam that students must take, and information on the distribution of students per school; **Brazil**, the development of a social management planning methodology that seeks to assist institutions in the effort to expand the quality of education; **Uruguay**, the development of a digital literacy national plan; **Peru**, the development of a program to teach social monitoring of government and ethics.

³ **Colombia** proposed a system to publish information about the royalties perceived and the use they were given; in **Mexico**, transparency in the hydrocarbon sector; **Peru**, the strengthening of the national EITI commission and the publication of the EITI national reports.

⁴ **Costa Rica** proposed the creation of a sanitary electronic register of natural medicine products.

⁵ **Paraguay** proposed the development of a national system of identity registry.

Following this mandate, the Bank support member countries in their efforts to prevent and control corruption by promoting institutions that are transparent and accountable to citizens for better public service delivery (1628/OC-BR, BR-L1223, CO-L1011, CO-L1126, UR-L1042, UR-L1065, BO-L1047, BR-T1146, EC-T1185, BL-T1034, and RG-T1311, among others).

III. Description of activities and outputs

In accordance with the objectives stated above, this TC will provide a comprehensive package of support on OG issues through three components:

Component 1. Design and monitoring of open government policies, strategies and action plans:

This component seeks to assist governments in setting an OG policy and operational framework by financing the following activities: (i) draft of OG policies, strategies and action plans, including consultation with sub-national governments and civil society; and (ii) draft of different types of assessments (i.e. legal, economic, social, institutional, on human resources, and/or technological) to better identify the readiness and gaps for the design and implementation of an adequate OG strategy or policy. In the case of countries willing to join OGP or that have already joined OGP, this support will include financing for the following activities: (i) implementation of specific activities which will enable countries to meet the eligibility criteria to join the OGP (e.g. Bolivia); (ii) self-assessment reports and design of monitoring tools to follow up on the compliance of OGP commitments; and (iii) draft new, review, or refine existing OGP action plans in consultation with civil society organizations (CSOs), as per request of Governments and OGP Support Unit (e.g. Peru, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Trinidad & Tobago) and taking into account general and country-specific recommendations resulting from OGP's Independent Review Mechanism (IRM).⁶

Component 2. OG Capacity Building: This component is intended to support countries in building or strengthening their institutional capacities and creating innovative solutions for the implementation of specific OG activities within the three branches of Government, either at national or subnational levels. OGP activities to be financed are mainly, but not exclusively, the following: (i) implementation of access to information laws, open data policies or transparency portals. Specifically, with the Government of **Peru**, it is foreseen to implement friendlier transparency portals containing information about each Agency (authorities, legal mandate, budget spending, and details about how to apply for the different services to which the citizens are entitled to), following an assessment financed by the TC RG-T1311⁷; (ii) re-design and implementation of efficient administrative processes and e-government systems for improved public service delivery; (iii) implementation of participatory and collaborative processes for the co-production of public value between Government and different stakeholders. Particularly, with the Government of **Uruguay**, resources will finance a competitive civic hackathon, to explore technological solutions to key public service problems. The event will harness the energy and the creativity of the programming community to ultimately make specific public services more transparent, inclusive, and innovative; (iv) strengthening of integrity and accountability systems; and (v) enhancement of the effectiveness and transparency in managing public resources, including the budgetary cycle. Along these lines, in

⁶ The IRM is the follow-up mechanism created to monitor the implementation of OGP Country Action Plans.

⁷ The objective of this technical cooperation was to foster democratic governance in the LAC region by mainstreaming the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC). The technical cooperation provided methodological support to prepare the country-specific implementation plans.

the case of countries that have already joined OGP, this support will focus on financing the implementation of specific commitments included in their OGP Action Plans; specifically those under the categories of improvement of public services and enhancement of public integrity.

Component 3. Knowledge production and dissemination: This component is aimed to promote south-south and extra-regional cooperation (e.g. South Korea, Norway, Spain, UK, US) and strategic policy dialogue, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders such as the OGP Support Unit and Networking Mechanism; and multilaterals also supporting OG in LAC. Activities to be financed or co-financed with other partners under this component include: (i) Contribute with the organization of both OGP regional and annual meetings during 2014 and 2015, respectively, to be hosted by **Mexico** (this might include inviting keynote speakers and panelists, as well as hiring simultaneous translation services for our counterparts from the Bank's borrowing member countries; priority will be given to vulnerable countries, particularly IDB's C and D country groups, etc.); (ii) cutting-edge knowledge on different OG topics both at the theoretical and practitioner's level (e.g. impact evaluation of access to information laws; OG manual for citizens and practitioners); ; (iii) online courses, webinars or communities of practice to share experiences on open government practices (eg. open data, open parliament, best practices on civil society participation, budget and fiscal transparency, e-government solutions), in collaboration with the Organization of the American States (OAS); (iv) videos or other modern dissemination and visualization tools to better showcase OG solutions.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component 1	Design and monitoring of OG policies, strategies and action plans in at least 2 countries	\$ 75,000	--	\$ 75,000
Component 2	OG Capacity Building (Uruguay, Peru)	\$ 500,000	--	\$ 500,000
Component 3	Knowledge production and dissemination	\$ 145,000	--	\$ 145,000
Impact Evaluation		\$ 30,000	--	\$ 30,000
Total		\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000

Executing agency and execution structure

Executing Agency: In accordance with GN-2629-1, this Research and Dissemination (R&D) TC will be self-executed by the Bank, through IFD/ICS.

Execution structure: The TC also intends to support at least three countries in designing and implementing OG solutions on a demand basis. In doing so, before its final approval, an official letter of assistance request will be required in accordance to Bank policies and practices (Uruguay sent the letter, and Peru is in the process of sending it).

With respect to the engagement with the OGP, the Bank signed a Letter of Agreement with the Chairs of the OGP Steering Committee last October 31, 2013, during the Annual OGP Summit.

Monitoring arrangements: The team leader will coordinate monitoring activities with the corresponding COF ICS's specialist, including: (i) performing annual reports on activities, products and results; and (ii) prepare a completion report within six months from the date of completion of the operation to be sent to the donor.

- V. **Audit and Evaluation Reports:** The project will be evaluated externally, in accordance with the Bank's policies, at the end of execution. This evaluation will focus on the results and impact of the TC activities outlined in the results matrix. Resources from the TC will be budgeted for this evaluation as reported in the indicative budget. No financial audit will be required, since this TC will be executed by the Bank. **Project Risks and issues**

No significant risks are foreseen with the implementation of this TC. All activities proposed are consistent with the mandate of the Bank in supporting countries' efforts to strengthen governance in general. In all cases, technical support to specific countries will require a letter of request or no objection from corresponding Government, in accordance with Bank rules.

VI. **Environmental and Social Classification**

Environmental and Social Classification (ESG) of this TC is "C", since there are no environmental or social impacts associated with this TC activities ([IDBDOCS-#38025044](#)).