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Memoirs

4th Open Data Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

AbreLATAM ConDatos

An Open Meeting

For an open region

November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2016

Bogotá, Colombia

INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

In 2016, Colombia had the privilege of hosting the most important open data regional event: AbreLATAM + ConDatos 2016, which brought together representatives of the government, civil society, experts and people interested in the topic in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Such spaces of interaction enriched the debate around policy, innovation and public challenges of open data in the region.

The country was chosen as the host of *AbreLATAM + ConDatos 2016* in recognition of the efforts made in terms of open data. These efforts materialized in results such as the consolidation of a comprehensive and rights-based regulatory framework, guidelines and instruments to facilitate its openness and use, a platform with more than 3,000 data sets and more than 1,000 institutions committed with the publication of information, as well as a data-based entrepreneurial model to consolidate sustainable solutions that respond to public issues.

It was constructive and gratifying for Colombia to be the host country of this meeting which convened open data followers in the region. It was also an interesting turning point which recognized the maturity of the initiative and highlighted new challenges ahead. The meeting invigorated topics related to open data in the region by fostering horizontal cooperation, transferring knowledge and promoting the development of joint projects.

The creation of a comprehensive academic agenda of OpenSpace conferences -more than 14 panels and 10 workshops- is among the main results of the conference which was developed in collaboration with the citizens and agreed upon the civil society and the government. The main open data topics addressed included access to information vs. privacy, business models based on open data, infrastructure and new technologies, territorial development, etc.

AbreLATAM + ConDatos 2016 managed to turn open data into the means, rather than the end, to contribute to local development, the achievement of sustainable development goals, building peace, and evolving into Open States - what is currently known as Open Government. The aforementioned was reflected both in broad participation of territories from Colombia and from other cities in the region and in the range of experts on the academic agenda who activated the topic.

This version was the first one to have a space exclusively dedicated to children and adolescents who interacted with open data and identified ways to include it in their daily life; the first version to promote networking based on the activity “*A qué sabe Sur América*” (What does South America taste like?), an exchange of typical sweets from the countries of the region; and last but not least, the first version to create a regional network of open data female lovers who seek to promote the opening of gender-related-data and aim at achieving equality goals, greater visibility of women’s leadership and capacity building for new female leaders.

An open meeting for an open region

ABRELATAM November 1st, 2016

Based on the collective development process of *Abrelatam Colombia 2016* agenda, 26 topics were identified and analyzed during the day in three sessions, as presented below:



Three questions were answered in each dialogue:

1. What experience or opinion would you like to share on this topic?
2. How do you expect this topic to advance in 2017?
3. What are the existing challenges related to open data in this topic?

A total of 167 challenges were identified from the dialogues on the 26 topics outlined:

| | Topic | Number of challenges |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Human Rights | 11 challenges |
| 2 | Entrepreneurship | 12 challenges |
| 3 | Open Washing | 4 challenges |
| 4 | Campaigns | 7 challenges |
| 5 | Membership and empowerment | 13 challenges |
| 6 | Data literacy | 3 challenges |
| 7 | Corruption | 10 challenges |

| | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 8 | Cartography | 8 challenges |
| 9 | Data Visualization | 9 challenges |
| 10 | Cities | 6 challenges |
| 11 | Peace | 3 challenges |
| 12 | Environment | 6 challenges |
| 13 | Regional challenges | 4 challenges |
| 14 | Impact | 4 challenges |
| 15 | Data journalism | 5 challenges |
| 16 | Security and justice | 4 challenges |
| 17 | Civic technology | 4 challenges |
| 18 | Gender | 6 challenges |
| 19 | Data culture | 3 challenges |
| 20 | Sustainability | 7 challenges |
| 21 | Standards | 4 challenges |
| 22 | Sustainable Development Goals and Open data | 11 challenges |
| 23 | Government | 4 challenges |
| 24 | Privacy | 3 challenges |
| 25 | Open data and communities | 13 challenges |
| 26 | Collaborative economy | 3 challenges |

Finally, the challenges were clustered and 8 of them were identified, consolidated, and grouped into three main types of challenges:

People-related Challenges:

1. Raise awareness among public servants and civil society on data use and regulations.
2. Develop capabilities to structure, transform, capture, release and use data.

Data-related Challenges:

3. Relevant data to provide an answer to the needs of the society and the government.
4. Data that generates a local impact based on context characterization and sub-national needs
5. Data for change and social inclusion in order to enhance the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals, human rights, and open government principles.

Partnership-related Challenges:

6. Promoting data-driven entrepreneurship through easily identifiable opportunities for financing and incentives for the sustainability of business models.
7. Community development for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices – data use network: journalism, startups, academia, organizations, and initiatives.
8. Data opening, release, and use strategies with clear regulations that increase data use success cases and address privacy issues.



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES OF THE OPEN SPACE CONFERENCE

Two additional activities were carried out on the Abrelatam event day in addition to the topics addressed in the OpenSpace conference and as differentiating factors of the event in Colombia:

Open data workshop for children and adolescents

AbreLATAM + ConDatos 2016 became the first version of this event to have a space dedicated exclusively to children and adolescents.

This event was conducted by the Colombian government in collaboration with the civil society and was held on November 2nd and 3rd with 50 children and adolescents between the ages of 8 and 18 and inhabitants of *Bosa* and *Suba* localities. The activity was aimed at raising the new generation's awareness about the importance of accessing and using open data and at bringing such generations closer in a more useful and exciting way.

About the methodology used in the workshop for children and adolescents

First of all, dynamic activities were carried out with the purpose of obtaining basic data such as age, number of siblings, pets, etc., in a play-oriented way. The activity was carried out by splitting the participants into groups which allowed showing figures in different ways.

After the activity, a talk was given to raise awareness on open data and the main concepts were explained in a play-oriented way. This was the input prior to the creation of a data survey with the participants of the event.

This stage of the workshop had the support of the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE, acronym in Spanish). Children were given a data capture device set up with the following survey:

Age of respondent

Gender of respondent

Rate the Abrelatam + Condatos event from 1 to 5

Which place in Bogotá do you like best?

Which Colombian dish do you prefer or recommend?

What do you expect to achieve when attending an event?

Children toured the venue - the *Murillo Toro* building- and interviewed different participants of the event in order to collect information by means of the survey to subsequently carry out an analog display exercise.

The results obtained showed that most of the participants were within the 21-30 years of age range and 49% of male participation. *Monserate* was the most interesting place in Bogotá for the participants and *Ajicaco* was



the most voted typical dish followed by *Bandeja paisa*. Also, they expressed that creating alliances is their main purpose for attending an event. The global rating of the event was five.

Children also had the opportunity to share and socialize in the given space; in addition to displaying the collected figures, concluding that a space like this teaches them that information can be seen, obtained, and even presented in different ways, they also learned about the importance of knowledge and data management which benefit everybody.

Data analog display workshop with all participants

Many policies have been designed based on intuition and subjective comparisons. Undoubtedly, experience is a great ally humans can use to synthesize qualitative information for decision making. However, intuition and experience would be enriched greatly if measurable and comparable facts could be contrasted.

This is where data brings a whole new universe for supporting decision making at different levels, from the citizen who wants to check the status of his/her environment compared to other moments or places to the social planner and policy maker.

The reality is that data continues to be unattainable for the common citizen due to various reasons such as:

- Limited data availability in friendly and actionable formats.
- Citizens' lack of education about data.
- Lack of means that communicate concepts and figures more visually and less textually.

The project called "Urban Datasketch" is a way to tackle all three issues at the same time.

The project involves the delivery of kits with different materials to a group of citizens, including samples of displays made out of data with different issues. Citizens can use tape, thread, and vinyl to recreate different displays in public spaces.

This project provides citizens with the opportunity of getting close and interacting with data; an opportunity not exclusive for citizens who recreate the displays actively but also for bystanders who end up getting involved in the project itself or the results.

Something interesting about the project is that through its implementation, citizens are being educated playfully in different topics of the everyday work with data, namely:

- Availability and reliability of information sources.



- Visualization types that can be used for specific types of data.
- Variety of ways to tell stories through data.

The initial version of the project was implemented within the context of the most important data conference of Latin America: AbreLATAM 2016.

On this occasion, several displays were implemented behind closed doors in the main hall. Population pyramids, timelines related to violence in Colombia, and visualizations of gender issues in Latin America were conducted. The “Urban Datasketch” kit was handed over to conference participants who left their data fingerprint at the National Park of Bogotá.

Many of the participants are data savvy which made the experience memorable, not only because they had the opportunity of experiencing data in a tangible way, but also because it was an innovative exercise to approach different concepts.

Nevertheless, the main result was getting people without any previous knowledge on data work to pose different questions. Such was the case of a lady who works in the Logistics department asking why men work more than women in Brazil; or an elderly woman in a bus stop who took pictures of the data display about internal displacement in Colombia and said she thought that the displacement figures were actually higher.

The project was a success, though the task of measuring its direct impact is pending. The real challenge is to democratize this kind of interventions; for this purpose we are currently working on the edition of an e-book with “Creative Commons” licensing including detailed documentation of the whole process so that the project can be easily replicated. The process is being documented in its entirety, from the lists of materials and costs to the visualization exercises and data sources.



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Lessons learned

1. The early involvement of target audiences during the weeks prior to the development of these activities was key to the promotion and attendance to the conference.
2. The management of public space use is crucial for the participants so that they are able to perform their activities with confidence.
3. Public space visualizations are a unique opportunity to attract offline audiences toward topics that are usually published in specialized online portals.
4. Comments made by the attendees confirmed bystanders' interest in the activity while it was taking place.
5. The audience in the AbreLATAM exercise was highly trained in data topics. It is recommended to conduct a workshop on data sources and visualization types when working with untrained audiences.
6. The responsible use of materials is essential to prevent littering in a public space.
7. An online copy of data, sources, and suggestions of the visualizations as well as photo galleries of interventions in other places may serve as an inspiration to the participants.



CONDATOS November 3rd, 2016

First plenary session. Open Data Strategy in Colombia

David Luna – Minister of Information and Communication Technologies

“We are absolutely convinced that we are helping the economy and fostering transparency and participation through the use of open data”

The experience Colombia has had in the path to obtain better open data and extend its use is based on a dynamic ecosystem in which the commitment of institutions and the activism of the civil society have resulted in continual development; therefore, the Colombian initiative now has regulations, guidelines, tools, and strategies for data appropriation and use which allow transparency, ensuring access to public information and generating social, economic, and political value.

Colombia's open data initiative took two steps forward: the first one was the launching of the new Colombian state platform to facilitate the publication and strengthen the use of open data. The portal has over 3,000 data sets and 1,000 institutions, and a monthly average of 80 open data sets uploaded; this is an indicator of high openness which in turn makes quality and use even more challenging. The second one was the signing of the International Open Data Charter by which the country adhered to this world declaration of quality transparency and openness.

The main challenge is to bring about greater openness and use of open data in the regions by contributing to territorial development, where open data has the power to transform lives. Likewise, the effort to make more strategic information available in open formats must continue, as must the work to improve the quality of existing data and data about to become open in order to promote its appropriate use, and ultimately fulfill the common commitment established in the open data charter in the future.

Second plenary session. Achievements and challenges of both open data and access to information in the region

Participants: Felipe Estefan (Omidyar Network) - Phillipe Schönrock (CEPEI, Center for International Strategic Thinking) - Ana Paulina Sabbagh (Secretary for Transparency) - Carlos Prada (DANE, National Administrative Department of Statistics) - Lucia Abelenda (AVINA)

Moderator: Daniel Quintero – Vice-minister of Information Technologies of Colombia

The fact that there is a vibrant open data community in Latin America and the Caribbean represents an important advance in regulatory frameworks and in an organized civil society. Having said that, there is still a long way to go to build living state infrastructure that enables interaction between citizens and government.



Open data should permeate all layers of the government and the society both to generate tangible changes and to establish alliances to enhance its use and incorporate knowledge on this matter. The challenge to guarantee access to information and, at the same time, to defend the right to privacy, remains.

Data represents a pillar of development, innovation, and progress, but when used in the wrong way it may cause disasters too; for that matter, enabling governance and laws for the use of data and financing for the data agenda of the region should exist.

Open data implies a cultural change and it is essential for its publication to satisfy the demand in order to have a significant impact. The success of a country is not measured by the quantity of data but by its quality and use and by the number of existing incentives to encourage data-driven entrepreneurship that can become sustainable in time. In this context, the role of Statistics Institutions is of great importance since they are major producers of information.

Third plenary session. From local to global spheres, the open data agenda for an open government

Participants: Fabrizio Scrollini (ILDA) - Sofia Ruiz (Hivos) - Ginna Morelo (El Tiempo) – Camilo Romero (Nariño Governance)

Moderator: Fernando Perini (IDRC)

The panel draws from the challenges generated in the OpenSpace conferences conducted the previous day when a joint agenda that gave prominence to civil society was constructed. The importance of opening data and generating capacities in the use of technology was emphasized.

Journalists' role is crucial in this ecosystem; for this reason, the “*Consejo de Redacción - Editorial Board*”, an organization formed by communicators that promotes the open data topic and seeks to empower citizens on open data through education, is present in the region.

The importance of open data was locally demonstrated through the experience of the Government of Nariño, in Colombia; it proposed to create an open government agenda through which open data would gain more value in time. The fight against corruption, administrative efficiency, and open data are directly related since they allow citizens to follow-up on their rulers in aspects such as public expenses, government contracting, etc.

It is critical to foster open data-driven entrepreneurship in different areas in order to move from the regional to the local sphere by involving the civil society in spaces for dialogue. Boys, girls, and teenagers should be included in the data ecosystem; the role of women should be strengthened in such ecosystem as well.

Panel. How to generate open data?

Participants: Jimena Romero (Ecuador) - Paola Camargo (Colombia) - Susana Soto (Costa Rica) - Mario Rosett (Argentina) - Dairo Escobar (Colombia)

Moderator: Daniel Carranza



Data management strategies were addressed through short inspirational stories to increase the production of public information and to ensure its availability in open format for its reuse and usage. Among the key points set out by the panelists, first comes the need to engage civil society in the identification, collection and use of open data; then, it is necessary both to generate capacities to enable its replication in communities and to engage citizens in the management of public information.

Recognizing citizens as producers of information may be the key finding of data generation and thereby the main challenge. Being the beneficiary, the end user and the producer of information requires the government's management of tools, mechanisms, capacities and transformations in order to build information collaboratively; an example of this model is taking place throughout the continual construction and update of Colombia's biodiversity inventory.

In addition to this challenge, it is worth pointing out the need to transform vast amounts of information that is currently in analog formats. Thus, the quantity and quality of available data can be increased in order to build or complete historical series, trends, amongst others, which add value to its study and use.

Lastly, the need to advance in the generation of primary data in open format that contributes to the consolidation of an efficient and sustainable data publication model that aids in the interoperability of public information is highlighted.

Panel. Which are the information access gaps? How can they be bridged?

Participants: Silvana Fumega (Argentina) - Emmanuel Letouzé (United States) - Jorge Hernán Flórez (United States) - Raúl Perilla (Colombia)

Moderator: Sandra Barrón

The right to guarantee access to public information for all citizens usually faces a series of obstacles that make its fulfillment difficult. The identification of these obstacles and the search for formulas to eliminate them were the objectives of this session.

Language complexity used by information producers versus the complexity used by its consumers was identified as one of the major information gaps; hence, it is required to simplify language, to use everyday life terms, and to generate capacities in citizens in order to broaden the prosumer circle and, as a result, accelerate the use of information. Another factor identified as an information access inhibitor is the apparent rivalry between the opening of data and the protection of privacy; consequently, changing this conflictive relation for a complementary one in which all rights may be guaranteed is being considered. Also, said obstacles are magnified in rural areas and in smaller development units since complexities increase and capacities decrease the lower one goes in the local scale.

In terms of normativity, a call was made to recognize the regulatory tools available in each context and to overcome the legalistic vision that identifies the generation or modification of normativity as a gap-bridging solution. The challenges faced by the region concerning access to public information are linked to the



implementation of the existing regulatory framework. They focus on the necessary transformation of the democracy structure towards a more open one and on the empowering of citizens' cultural characteristics to create a personalized and contextually suitable use of information; thus, the call for a cultural change that transforms and individual is surpassed by the use of such individual's cultural features.

Panel. Institutions and data

Participants: Jorge Umaña (Costa Rica) - Álvaro Ramírez-Alujas (Chile) - Gustavo Suárez (Uruguay) - Nubia Santofimio (Colombia) - Juan Manuel Casanueva (Mexico)

Moderator: Mike Mora

Access to public information has transformed the conception of hierarchical, exclusive and concentrated institutionalism on few actors that centralize decision-making processes to an ecosystem of multiple actors in which everyone is the main character of their own reality, and, as a result, they assume several roles, generate information, take advantage of it for decision-making and monitor the dynamics of data openness and the use of public information.

This institutional transformation has occurred at different speeds and different depths in Latin America and the Caribbean; therefore, institutions in the region have different maturity levels in terms of open data. Such gradation determines the dynamism of the open data ecosystem and consequently generates value based on this information.

Some of the components identified as indispensable for the required enhancement of institutionalism in order to invigorate open data seek the existence of a complete regulatory framework and some indicative guidelines. Likewise, other actors and their association with different roles or responsibilities are to be identified and linked in order to have more integral and representative institutionalism on the side of the State and Civil Society. Interaction among these actors can be the means to generate information and interaction flows, complementary roles in order to accelerate processes, and a better use of language so that citizens can connect with the open data subject.

Panel. Open data quality

Participants: Ana Zoraida Quintero (Colombia) - Carolina Cardona - (Colombia) - Juan Pane (Paraguay) - Daniel Mackenzie (United Kingdom) - Emiliano Rojido Fiori (Brazil)

Moderator: Liliana Acevedo

Open data availability has been one of the main achievements concerning public information; nevertheless, the quality of this information is one of today-s challenges because of the dichotomy between availability and timeliness of information.

As far as quality is concerned, there is a need both to adopt a common language among the producers and users of information as the result of initial structuring of information set by a few contextual standards and to document open data completely and clearly.



An interesting exercise to enhance data quality takes place through the “Bogota Protocol” by which all producers of information about homicides are gathered together and aim at standardizing criteria in order to have quality information.

Some of the challenges identified are oriented towards availability of tools that can help to enhance the quality of existing information as well as to have comprehensive metadata that allows describing open data so that citizens are able to interpret it correctly. Finally, while quality is associated to perfection, this attribute should not be strictly linked to the publication of data since data quality enhancement may occur as a series of steps with help from citizens.

Panel. Technologies for open data use

Participants: Adriana Elizondo (México) - Fernando Uval – (Uruguay) - Alejandro Utreras (Chile) - Octavio del Favero (Chile) - José García (Mexico)

Moderator: Juan Pablo Marín

Technologies -as tools for the use and utilization of open data- appear as a solution booster to provide for citizen’s needs; such technologies should not only permeate citizens but also impact their quality of life. Also, the open data have allowed democratizing the markets and confronting the development and use of the technologies, leading them to find roads and utilities.

On the one hand, challenges for open data technology use are oriented to incorporating social sense to technological development or solutions based on open data. Concrete problems to be solved by scalable projects that make use of open data are to be identified among other sources of private and public information. This implies assuming higher risks while developing or acquiring technology, namely, it implies deciding whether to consider partial or scalable solutions or not.

On the other hand, challenges are oriented to deepening administrations’ technological governance; this refers to the need for technological sovereignty and the necessary turn towards the use and production of public and free software.

Panel. New business models

Participants: Juan Soto (Chile) - Marina González (Mexico) - Nagore De los Ríos (España) - José Rojas (Colombia)

Moderator: Oscar Ramírez

The main engine and, at the same time, requirement to achieve real use of data by citizens is the promotion of data culture oriented to value generation by which data opening and use impact citizens’ reality. Similarly, available information must constantly be excellent. In order to advance in the area of open-data-based entrepreneurship, it is imperative to be conscious of the real value of information, the damage information



asymmetries can cause, and the opportunities to solve public problems based on analysis, intersections, comparisons and predictions.

Nevertheless, start-ups and start-up plans diagnoses have pointed to the need to create sustainable business models. Open data use should produce enough profit both to remain in the market and to reinvent itself constantly; such reinvention requires permanent mentorship in order to strengthen business methodologies.

The use of open, public and proprietary data to channel and enhance existing start-ups constitutes one of the main challenges given the fact that market analyses can guide unsatisfied needs and offer saturations; the latter may be one of the factors that leads to failed data start-ups. Likewise, other challenges include achieving higher information opening, using said information in a broader manner, and not limiting oneself to open data provided by the government but resorting to other data that the industry, the academy and the civil society may possess and provide for everyone's use.

Panel. Privacy in open data times

Participants: Carolina Botero (Colombia) - Vladimir Garay (Mexico) – Maria Teresa Rojas (Colombia) - Diego Espitia (Colombia)

Moderator: Fabrizio Scrollini

Open data availability poses a disjunction between data opening and guaranteeing information privacy. Open data can only be published when citizens are certain of the fact that such opening will not jeopardize their right to privacy. Thus, the great challenge is to establish clear limits and harmonic relationships so that two allies who at first sight seem to be in opposite shores can actually come closer.

It is important to establish an opening culture that guarantees privacy not only through legislative or political actions but through an awareness and appropriation strategy addressed to governments, the civil society and private sector representatives. The aforementioned strategy should allow knowing the benefits of public information available in re-usable formats so that the right to data protection is guaranteed.

Therefore, first, it is necessary to establish information anonymization protocols prior its publication; they allow removing sensitive data without losing the opportunity to disclose information and without affecting its quality. Second, it is necessary to observe local laws and internationally-recognized standards, especially laws related to security, privacy, confidentiality, and intellectual property.

The main challenges are oriented to moving forward towards information generation which guarantees citizens' privacy; it is necessary to be aware of the fact that privacy infringement endangers guaranteeing acquired rights such as the freedom of expression, the freedom of association, or the right to non-discrimination. Said main challenges are also oriented to having open data systems in which privacy is considered from the moment it is designed and not after it has been created, to advance in terms of protection through design and to establish an opening culture which respects privacy. The last challenge is oriented to



identifying tools which allow keeping track of access to data considered sensitive and to seeking prevention of privacy vulnerability.

Panel. Open data revolutionaries.

Participants: Pablo Collada (Chile) - Ximena Lara (Colombia) - Caio Tendolini (Brasil) - Marcela Eslava (Colombia) - Natalia Sampietro (Argentina)

Moderator: Fabrizio Scrollini

One of the big barriers for those who want to revolutionize using open data has been access to data; specifically to microdata (anonymized). The need for entrepreneurs, government, academy, and society to have good quality information is evidenced. Another aspect which is a step ahead and at the same time a challenge in the region is the implementation of mechanisms to involve citizens in data opening and usage. The civil society and entrepreneurs are also involved in order to generate changes.

“We are more” (“Somos Más”) presents a collective intelligence project in communities and organizations through the cultural Entrepreneur project. The experience with the transparency platform in Chile is presented along with the initiatives that arose in the country about the creation of a regulatory framework, the financial and statistical information, and data comparison. Similarly, the Argentinian data experience encourages opening and generation of capacities; the Argentinian Ministry of Energy’s case is recognized for being at the forefront in terms of open data publication.

In this context, and in order to create increasing dynamics of data availability and usage, it is necessary to create an innovation map in Latin America. Furthermore, it is key to improve and boost mechanics and citizen participation. All this will have an impact as long as innovation initiatives are transferred to the public sector and do not remain as exercises lead and executed by the private sector.

Panel. Open data in the municipal scope

Participants: Yamila García (Argentina) -Gerardo Pérez (México) - Harold Ballén (Colombia)

Moderator: Sergio Martínez (Bogotá)

Many local governments in the region have already started working on initiatives which aim at one of the open government components (transparency, involvement, and collaboration). However, there is still some way to go and it is necessary to strengthen the three axes all together in the territory and not just to focus on one initiative.

Regarding the municipal scope, open data provides territory governance because it allows understanding policy dynamics and building specific solutions to challenges in cities. It also promotes citizen control, allows performing the social-mapping exercise, and combines information from different sources (including information produced by citizens) in order to provide an answer to common problems. However, it is convenient to structure a strategy which considers data opening and usage before considering a data portal or repository.



Communities in municipalities have to be included in dialogue and evaluation spaces so that they can be motivated to work towards generating open data policy. There are many informal communities made of citizens who work on open data issues and create changes in their environment; thus, it is important to include them in local explanation plans. The best way to integrate citizens is through experience and/ or clear explanations about benefits that are obtained when opening and using data.

Moreover, municipality challenges are related to diagnosing the status of open government axes (transparency, collaboration, involvement) and seeing how guidelines which in many regions are set by the central government can be adapted and adopted in municipalities and territories.

Panel. (Smart Data) It is not about the size but the intelligence.

Participants: Pablo Prado, Angel Arellano, Javier Jacome, Ana Cecilia Olaya, Sandra Moren, Yineth Acosta.

Moderator: Julieth Solano

In Colombia, 469 statistical operations are produced by 109 national entities as part of the National Statistical System (NSS) framework. The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) as NSS's coordinator produces 92 statistical and research operations which cover economic, social, and environmental issues.

Contrary to the information contained in the NSS, there is a large amount of non-structured data, such as the information stemming from social media, machine to machine (M2M), large transactional data, biometrics, and data generated by people. However, the country and its municipalities still require more and better information for decision-making in terms of public policy design and follow-up by the government and citizens.

A strategy that takes into consideration not just a large amount of data but also the integration of administrative records and traditional and non-traditional information sources is required in order to provide an answer to information demands and to challenges that this region is facing.

Therefore, data size does not matter, its intelligence does. Since 2015, DANE structured the "Smart Data" strategy which is focused on using data in a smart way regardless of its origin.

The "Smart Data" strategy execution consists on exploring how traditional and non-traditional sources can provide input or contribute to the strategic statistical information production process; it has four stages: identification of work lines and development of pilot projects, interoperability, standardization and incorporation and knowledge management.

Panel. Data visualization as tool for open data distribution and its usage and access promotion

Participants: Sebastián Dimunzio (Development Gateway) - Ricardo Valenzuela (Colombia) - Walter Gálvez (Colombia) - Juan Pablo Marín (Colombia) -

Moderator: Erika Mosquera



The data visualization is a trend on the rise; it is one of the most effective mechanisms for citizens to come closer to information. This mechanism also helps to invite different actors, such as the academia, journalists, and public servants, among others, to use data in an effective and friendly way.

The data visualization experience was presented in this space and it covered: open procurement; data for smart cities; visualization of citizen collaboration mechanisms related to aspects of any city ordinariness, such as fuel refiling and figures presented by statistics institutes. This information sometimes seems complex and difficult to understand but it is essential for citizens to come closer to it.

There are two fundamental variables to take into account in said visualizations: who the product is being produced for and what we want to highlight in it. Thus, the maximum potential of data usage can be reached through visualizations.

The region has a great challenge: make citizens come closer to data; visualizations are the bridge to achieve it. Data diversity contributes to solutions; finding connections that provide value is what really matters. Similarly, Latin America has its own challenge: visualize not only all initiatives related to visualization issues but also the absence of data so that entities can produce it.

Panel. Innovation for open data opening

Participants: Jesús Cepeda (México) - Tatiana García (Colombia) - Jaime Torres (Colombia) - Cristian Reynaga (Argentina)

Moderator: Santiago García

When a different way of doing things is required since the traditional way does not work (there are unsolved problems), or when opportunities for information usage are seen, challenges that should be seen from the innovation perspective arise.

Panel experiences are analyzed under the *CoCreAr* methodology (**C**omprehension as the first phase of empathy and challenge creation; **C**reation: a moment for creation of ideas; and **A**rmed: prototype production.) Under this methodology, innovation initiatives from the District Supervision Office of Bogotá are presented through their innovation laboratory. Different experts who belong to the civic technology sector contribute to “One Smart City”, a collaboration platform that has social impact and is the georeferenced data portal of the city of Medellín. It focuses on strategic information publication and on ways to show it to interest groups in order to find solutions to local problems altogether.

From an innovation perspective, there are several challenges to boost open data scope. One of the challenges is data without solutions; such data does not make any sense. It is necessary to move from comprehension (understand that data is useful and should be used) to action. The good news is that it is not always necessary



to start from scratch; enhancements to existing solutions can be made; they can have a great impact and can incorporate innovation processes.

Actors who are part of the ecosystem need to take advantage of open data in a systematic way; they need to see how mechanisms - that allow making data available according to ecosystem needs, not according to public institutions' will - are created. This also implies being able to structure non-structured data such as the data managed by IBM. It is said that humanity produces close to 1, 2 *hexabits* of information per day; 80% of that information is not structured.

Private sector, civil society, and the academia should take ownership of data usage by means of understanding that this information is very useful and valuable for citizens. This implies that people not only understand open information but also provide participatory initiatives which create value in society.

Panel. Data journalism

Participants: Roberto Acuña (Costa Rica), Romina Colman (Argentina), Alex Rayón (España), Luis Alejandro Uruña (Colombia), Sol Lauría (Argentina)

Moderator: Juan Manual Casanueva

Data journalism is increasingly important. Even though definitions vary, in general, they aim at a new way of telling stories in which the challenge of combining traditional journalism with new technologies and structured data is latent every day.

This new way of performing this craft requires a multidisciplinary team along with the development of new abilities of those who are part of said team; it implies taking advantage of all existing digital tools to tell more and better stories.

Data journalism and some media in the region face diverse challenges. National and local newspapers have created their data units provided with both tools in order for readers to achieve data appropriation and mechanisms to create inclusive and appealing messages so that the readers take data ownership.

There is a journalism initiative in the Americas called "Connectas", a non-profit project which promotes collaborative journalistic production, training, and information dissemination about key issues for development in the region. *Data journalism* (as it is worldwide recognized) provides tools which allow tackling complexity and getting government information close to citizens in order to inform, train, and report.

American Countries which have regulated information access and guarantee this right to its citizens have also advanced greatly in terms of the exertion of data journalism.



Panel. Access and Accountability

Participants: Eduardo Borregón - PODER (Mexico) - Camilo Quintero (Ministry of Environment) - Elizabeth Ungar (Transparency for Colombia) - Moisés Sánchez (Regional Alliance for Freedom of Expression and Information of Chile) - Oscar Montiel - (Chile)

Moderator: Ana Paulina Sabbagh

Open data improves information flow within States and among States and citizens. Open data makes government decisions and processes more transparent and it promotes accountability processes.

It is possible to enhance public debate and help tackle corruption only when greater transparency leads to accountability. An example is evidenced in the “MexicoLeaks” case which has revealed corruption in that country through anonymously-provided information by citizens through a platform.

In fact, open data encourages better development as well as assessment of public programs and policies. Governments understand which kind of data is in great demand based on the collaboration from and consultation with citizens and civil society and private sector organizations; thus, they can lead better data prioritization practices along with better publication and standardization.

Open data liberation strengthens governance and trust in public institutions, reinforces the government’s obligation to respect the Rule of Law and provides a transparency and accountability in order to improve decision making processes and increase provision of better quality public services.

When data is used this way, it becomes a key public good that people can use to generate value, knowledge, ideas, and services to promote better quality of life for everyone and reveal any problems in the country in order to generate solutions.

Providing training programs, tools, and designed guidelines for government officials to ensure their effective use of open data when developing policies and guaranteeing an effective way for citizens to access information is proposed as a challenge.



ABRELATAM - CONDATOS

November 3rd

Workshop- Data for Peace

Workshop Guide: Foundation Ideas for Peace (*Fundación ideas para la Paz (FIP)*)

Achieving stable and long-lasting peace and initiating plans and programs to assist victims of the armed conflict in Colombia is only possible if data is available. This workshop aimed at presenting different experiences of the government and civil society in relation to data production and usage; derivatives of the information file related to transitional justice is one of such prominent experiences.

The central message of the data workshop for peace was to empower local leaders so that, from their region, they may know and manage information related to peace building.

Workshop: Open data for Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs

Workshop facilitator: Phillipe Schönrock (CEPEI)

The world's agenda for the next 15 years aims at reducing poverty, combating inequalities and climate change, among other issues. The workshop is divided into different spaces that account for the Latin-American context, future challenges of data ecosystems for SDGs.

In order to meet the world's agenda, it is necessary to have information on the 17 SDGs to enable identification of the areas with greater challenges. The foregoing is possible only if open data is considered holistically and for that, the following is required:

- Make data available to all citizens
- Conduct analysis relevant to researchers and citizens in general.
- Involve media to generate stories based on data.
- Generate information systems to target the most vulnerable population.
- The local SDG agenda needs to be taken into account.
- Having harmonized language among local information sources to foster better interoperability and the fulfillment of the SDGs is essential.
- Produce credible and comparable data.

Workshop: Analog Data Visualization

Workshop Facilitator: José Duarte

Data is not simply a spreadsheet. A picture can be a datum and it should be understood in its highest dimension because it is a way to represent data.

Data visualization had its peak a decade ago and since then the ways to present graphic information has evolved. The digital discourse used to be hegemonic and it was believed that data measured by Communication and Information Technology was the only way available to visualize it. However, when design



is done exclusively to disseminate data through digital media, the population who does not have access to this media is being excluded.

Urban interventions are feasible and effective using data, not for the sole purpose of providing information (e.g., how far a public park is from a capital city in another continent) but also to collect more data. In that sense, the best places for data interventions are those in which people stop doing any activity.

In most cases, the data visualization community is discriminatory, thus it must become more inclusive. The need to make this data available to all must be taken into account. One of the strategies identified to make interventions more accessible is to create multidisciplinary teams to complete all the work and make it more effective.

Workshop: Open State

Workshop Facilitator: Avina

An open government should foster the use and utilization of information through government's transparency in action, process, and data, internal and external cooperation, citizen engagement when formulating and executing transparency and social control public policies, and innovation to create products and services highly valuable for society.

There is a variety of questions for which the government does not have an answer, or that cannot be addressed in the traditional way. Therefore, a paradigm shift is required in regards to how the State manages information and relates it to citizens, it must assume the role of manager rather than the role of owner of the information.

Access to information is essential input to reduce information asymmetries, especially power asymmetries. On the other hand, an open government should not be deemed as an Electronic Government nor as open data; the latter two are means for a higher end.

Open Government principles include openness, democratic legitimacy, quality of public service, mainstreaming and inter-institutional coordination, efficiency and effectiveness, public innovation, inclusion and multiculturalism, and public responsibility and joint responsibility with citizens.

Workshop: Visualization with Carto and Qgis

Workshop Facilitator: Eduard Martín - Borregón.

Both free and paid data visualization platforms have become increasingly relevant because they bring users together and allow the combination of different sources of information. Data storage in the cloud and the development of the open source favors the emergence of different kinds of initiatives.

The workshop focused on the two basic parts of Carto functions. The first one is a web editor to import data, create thematic maps and publish them. The second one is a platform that allows using of different APIs to build more complex geospatial datasets and create proprietary applications. The workshop also covered the use of SQL to manage the database, cartoCSS to customize thematic maps and cartoDB.js to create applications and visualizations, which increase considerably the possibilities of the tool.



In addition to doing some exercises with open data available in Colombia, the importance that development of free code solutions has for data ecosystem progress and dynamization was also discussed.

Workshop: Opportunities and challenges for the use of State procurement and purchase data.

Workshop Facilitator: World Bank: Luis Vélez Pretelt - Norma Garza. Partnership for Open Contracts: Katherin Winters - Tim Davies. Moderators: Julio Fajardo, Andrea Barenque, and Juan Pane.

State contracting is fundamental for any nation; citizens follow and observe it since often such transactions are susceptible of corruption given the usual hermetism they are conducted in. In this context, a wide range of interested organizations and individuals joined in promoting a movement focused on greater transparency in government purchases. Hence, the Open Contracting Partnership (ACA, acronym in Spanish), part of the World Bank, entered into effect in 2012.

This initiative evolved by 2014, and was consolidated as a non-government organization having the World Bank as an implementing partner. The Open Contracting Partnership currently operates in 36 countries and its objective is to cooperate with governments and non-state actors in creating and meeting transparency objectives in State procurement and in the implementation of data disseminating standards.

The open data international agenda had focused on the dissemination of information, but not on the massive and systematic way to use it. In this sense, open contracting is a way to provide open data and ensure its use since it offers the possibility to participate during all stages of the procurement cycle and in all types of contracts. It refers to both data and information without the complexity of contracts or the procurement process.

State procurement intends to improve dissemination and analysis of procurement information as well as to generate greater opportunities to use such information, especially for monitoring activities and the use of cooperation mechanisms among stakeholders. This effort has been complemented by the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), a supporting mechanism for governments that wish to disseminate State procurement data in a more accessible, interoperable and useful way. The OCDS was developed by the World Wide Web Foundation for ACA through a project supported by Omidyar and the World Bank.

Several countries in the region are already implementing the OCDS, including Colombia, Mexico, and Paraguay. During this workshop a brief presentation was given on State procurement systems and the platforms to visualize the aforementioned countries' data. Then, system capacity to address use cases identified was discussed based on the needs and interests of participants from different sectors of society (government, private sector, civil society, journalists, academia, control agencies). Among the common challenges of these systems, the following were identified: i) quality and timeliness of information ii) data usability iii) link to other data sets, (iv) Data literacy (what data it is and how it is analyzed).



Workshop: How to develop skills for open data use?

Workshop Facilitator: National Administrative Department of Statistics –DANE (Colombia)

There is a great amount of information available in open formats; however, it is necessary for citizens to develop abilities so that they can “use” the public information available.

It is a challenge for States to foster data analysis and processing abilities in order to design visualizations. Statistics institutes in the region face the greatest challenge as producers of large volumes of information on different topics. As far as Colombia is concerned, anonymized microdata from household surveys (labor market, cultural consumption, etc.) is available; it is a source of rich information available for citizens.

Workshop: Data and cities

Workshop Facilitator: Corona Foundation

Citizen participation is hindered partly due to the lack of trust citizens feel towards public entities. Participation labs, a strategy that has turned out to be effective, rely on access to information. These labs are spaces dedicated to developing applications, using data, and empowering a community in terms of open data.

The “*Ciudatos*” project, which is being conducted in Colombia, is a private initiative to visualize information: www.ciudatos.com. The aforementioned repository provides information on the *¿Cómo vamos?* (How are we doing?) cities’ network. 16 capital cities of Colombia are part of said network which exerts citizen control of local governments and delivers primary information and situational analysis to citizens so that each one of them can exert his/her right to control. This project has been used by journalists, researchers and other parties interested in getting to know and developing a comprehensive study of citizens’ situation; it has impacted the scope of information and has added value to it.

Workshop: Urban data emission

Workshop Facilitator: Emmanuel Letouze (United States) – Andrés Clavijo (Colombia) - Angeles Navarro (Mexico)

In Colombia, an initiative that involves the Mayor’s Office of Bogotá (Director of the Secretariat of Economic Development) and Bogota’s Chamber of Commerce is being developed. A urban laboratory is being created with the purpose of promoting citizen innovation, optimizing the use of information technology to understand citizen’s needs and generating collaboration networks for future and existing initiatives in order to offer solutions for the four prioritized sectors: mobility, safety, education and health, relevant issues for cities.

Since data is a means to resolve issues and not the end itself, it requires further experimentation. In addition, private parties should be actively involved in the ecosystem; interoperability among public and private data is needed as well.



PRIORITIZED CHALLENGES OF OPEN DATA FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN- 2017

Workshop: Collective construction of the steps to follow in order to solve six prioritized challenges.

Attendees: Mike Mora (OAS); Fabrizio Scrollini, Gustavo Suárez, Román Sugo (Uruguay); Fernando Perini (Canada); Natalia Sampietro, Yamile García, Mario Rosett, Romina Colman (Argentina); Eliana Quiroz Mariela Padilla - (Bolivia); Juan Manuel Casanueva, Andrea Barenque (Mexico); Jorge Umaña (Costa Rica); Jorge Alzamora, Pablo Collada (Chile); Felipe Stefan (USA); Lucía Abelenda, Marina Gonzáles (México); Susana Soto, Ana Sofía Ruiz (Costa Rica); Juan Carlos Álvarez, Audrey Mena, Carlos Fernández, Erika Mosquera, Daniel Rodríguez, Ximena Lara, Adriana Vargas (Colombia)

The main result of AbreLATAM- ConDatos Colombia was to establish the open data agenda for the region during 2017 based on the identification of essential challenges that Latin America raised in order to continue moving forward, just as the region has been doing. Therefore, about 8 challenges were identified in AbreLATAM and 13 in ConDatos in two of the sessions conducted by the civil society and the government; they were integrated into 10 challenges which were voted on in the plenary session on the last day.

The civil society and the countries part of the open data working group of the Gealc Network - based on voting results and through the collective construction of required actions in order to solve challenges chosen - agreed upon not only eight regional challenges based on those identified and voted for but also the main actions to implement and disseminate the following challenges:

1. To develop capacities in order to capture, transform, release and use data.
2. To generate local and regional impact through the use of relevant open data.
3. To raise awareness in public servants and civil society on digital government, open government and open data.
4. To promote entrepreneurship with data and to foster the appropriate environment for its sustainability.
5. To promote an open state that generates and uses data in order to prevent and fight corruption.
6. To generate and use open data to promote and measure fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals.
7. To use open data to protect human rights.
8. To build data infrastructure that promotes public data opening and protection of the right to privacy.

After the 2017 open data agenda for the region was defined, the steps below were established to implement it and make it a reality. The first step aims at promoting the inclusion of these eight challenges in global and regional multilateral forums so that Latin American agreements can gain visibility and strength. The second one aims at creating an action plan for the Open Data Regional Working Group (Gealc Network) which can define actions for each one of the prioritized challenges. Finally, the third step aims at constructing the first regional theme set.



DESAFÍOS FINALES DE ABRELATAM + CONDATOS



Desarrollar capacidades para la **captura, transformación, liberación y uso de datos**



Generar **impacto local y regional** a través del uso de **datos abiertos relevantes**



Sensibilizar **servidores públicos y sociedad civil** sobre el gobierno digital, gobierno abierto y los datos abiertos



Fomentar un **estado abierto** que genere **y use datos** para la prevención y lucha contra la corrupción



Impulsar el **emprendimiento con datos**, fomentando **un ambiente propicio** para su sostenibilidad



Generar y utilizar **datos abiertos para impulsar y medir el cumplimiento** de los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible



Utilizar los **datos abiertos** para salvaguardar **los derechos humanos**



Construir infraestructura de **datos que promuevan la apertura de datos públicos** y la protección del **derecho a la privacidad**



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