

EMPOWERING INNOVATION AND CITIZEN COLLABORATION THROUGH PUBLIC DATA IN PANAMA











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INTRODUCTION



Access to information is a right guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Panama, which supports citizen participation with the opportunity to co-create policies that promote transparency, accountability, and restoring trust for institutional strengthening. The "Empowering Innovation and Citizen Collaboration through public data in Panama" project, funded by the United States Embassy, focused on boosting and strengthening the open government and open data ecosystem as a mechanism that promotes transparency and accountability, cross-sectoral and social innovation.

During 2019 and 2020, The Trust for the Americas and the Department for Effective Public Management of the Organization of American States (OAS) worked with the government of Panama, supporting the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information (ANTAI) and the Government Innovation Authority (AIG). Similarly, alliances were generated with different sectors of civil society, private sector, and local public universities.

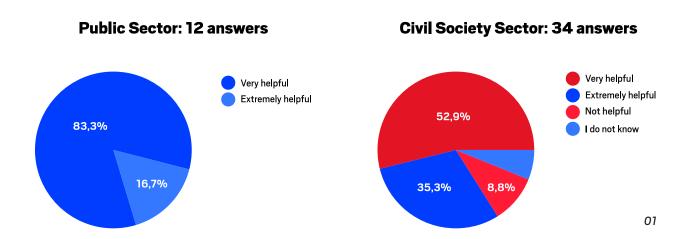
The project consisted of three key components:

- **1.** Capacity building in the public sector and civil society.
- **2.** Support to the public sector in the implementation of open government initiatives.
- 3. Incubation and seed funding for the implementation of social innovation projects and data.



Upon completion of this project, visibility and recognition of the practical importance of open data and open government were increased. Sectors that had not previously worked collaboratively established permanent dialogues, the academia was actively involved in the open government ecosystem, the public sector developed new capabilities, and the project became an example of good practices in the generation of collaborative relationships between the public sector and the private sector in terms of transparency, democratic strengthening, and trust building.

An independent report prepared for The Trust for the Americas assessed whether the tools taught had been useful in the professional work of the participants. 88.2% of the sample of participants representing civil society considered the tools learned to be very useful. Within the public sector representatives, 83.3% of respondents show that the tools learned are very useful.



Total number of participants in the project

Group	Man	Woman	TOTAL
1. State Agency	63	96	159
2. Social Development	29	62	91
3. Academia	114	112	226
4. Private sector	53	59	112
5.Local governments	5	9	14
7. Others	56	60	116
TOTAL	320	398	718

02

In 2020, the pandemic that changed the way we live and interact also required adjusting the way the different components of the project were executed. Events that were initially planned in person, were held in a virtual format. This represented an opportunity for more people to participate from the comfort of their homes, as the need to move to a different location was restricted.

Also, projects incubated by The Trust for the Americas during the pandemic, such as the Social Security Fund Open Data Portal (CSS by its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Social Development's (MIDES for its acronym in Spanish) Transparency Portal for Donations, improved interaction between citizens and public services and strengthened the information systems for better decision–making.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of civil society organizations to advocate for improvements in government services.

To strengthen the technical capabilities of different actors in society, The Trust for the Americas, in collaboration with the OAS Department for Effective Public Management, held a series of workshops with international experts on various topics related to open government and open data. These workshops addressed topics such as: what is open government, what is open data, national and international legal frameworks of open government standards, use of tools for the implementation of data projects and the use of data in the private sector for social innovation.

See Seminar Guide: <a href="https://www.thetrustfortheamericas.org/media/press-room/kits/versions/es/seminar-room/kits/version

2. Promote the use of best practices for publishing and creating social and economic value through open data.

A series of thematic workshops, discussion tables, and dialogues were held to promote the use of open data. Additionally, through projects developed by trained participants, data demands were lifted to be considered in the publication and creation of economic value using open data.

An example of this is the Youth for Open Data (Y4OD) component, which stood out for promoting the national participation of young people in open government and open data ecosystem. The intensive technical training and the support for the generation of projects received by the 25 young participants were geared towards promoting citizen participation, territorial representation, and training of leaders on how to use data to foster a social and economic impact in their communities.

3. Promote collaboration between civil society and government through coalitions and small donations for social innovation, for the improvement of public services.

The project encouraged the creation and development of public innovation projects and civic collaboration through the use of data. It offered technical assistance opportunities and a seed funding for those projects with the greatest potential for impact.



<u>Video: CADE 2019: Democratic Governance - A Transparent and Open Future.</u> Linda Eddleman, CEO of The Trust for the Americas. The call for projects was open to the public. The selected projects had to meet specific criteria such as: generating alliances, using data to improve services, using data to facilitate accountability, and promote transparent public management processes.

Three winning projects were selected and each received a \$7,500 seed fund to develop its initiative.

The Trust for the Americas received **10 project proposals** for the evaluation stage. **5** of these proposals met administrative requirements to be considered as minimum viable projects (MVP) or prototypes. The projects that completed the requirements were:

Data Social Security Fund

The proposal of this prototype consisted of opening data of Panama´s Social Security Fund, the improvement of the presentation of the data, and the redesign of the institution's open data portal. This project was part of the theme "health". **Winning Project**

Water Leak Information System

The prototype proposal consisted of mapping the places where water leaks may exist, utilizing a geographic information system. This project was part of the theme "improvement of public services".

Panama open and transparent

The proposal consisted of the development of a communication and teaching plan to raise awareness of the importance of transparency in public management. This project was part of the theme "transparency".

Innovation Ngäbe Buglé

This prototype proposal consisted of the demand for data on the scholarship granting system, focused on populations with low human development index in the country, such as in the indigenous Comarcas. This project was part of the theme "education". **Winning Project**

Budget Transparency System

This prototype proposal consisted of the development of an open-access portal that breaks down the current expenditures and budgets of government institutions. This project was part of the theme "transparency". **Winning Project**

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

The legal framework underpinning all public policy on transparency and access to information is established in Law 6 of 2002, and the open data policy adopted in the **Executive Decree No. 511** of **24 November 2017** and developed by resolution **No. DS-3513-2018 of 17 January 2018** by ANTAI. This policy establishes its mandatory compliance in all State institutions, autonomous entities, semi-autonomous entities, local governments, enterprises, and companies to which the State.

As well, Panama has been a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2012. During 2021, it is developing its fourth national action plan, **composed by the following thematic areas:**

- **1.** Transparency and public integrity.
- 2. Natural resources and environment.
- **3.** Social and education policies.
- **4.** Open justice.
- **5.** Modernization of the State.
- 6. Parliamentary transparency.
- 7. Access to information and agricultural transparency.

Through the project, The Trust for the Americas provided technical assistance to ANTAI for the development of a portal for transparency and tracking open government commitments of the Fourth National Action Plan to the OGP. Any citizen can follow up and review the status of the thematic areas using the following link: https://cid.antai.gob.pa/

Panama currently has a National Open Government Commission represented by groups of civil society and the private sector, its members are democratically elected. Its objective is to generate consensus and promote dialogue between the different sectors to achieve progress in the public policy of open data and to build trust between the parties.

The National Open Government Commission of Panama is currently composed of **11 members**: **3 governmental**, **6 non-governmental**, and **2 observers**.

Government:

- National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information (ANTAI)
- National Government Innovation Authority (AIG)
- Ministry of the Presidency

Civil Society:

- Fundación para el desarrollo de la libertad ciudadana
- Centro de incidencia ambiental
- Fundación Generación sin Límites
- Organización Juntos Decidimos
- Kernel Community
- Movimiento Independiente (MOVIN by its acronym in Spanish)

Observers:

- Alianza Ciudadana Pro-Justicia
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Panama also has an Open Data Working Group, selected under specific technical criteria. Its principal function is to establish the technical mechanisms for data opening. This working group currently consists of 10 non-governmental members and 2 government representatives.

Government:

- National Government Innovation Authority (AIG)
- National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information (ANTAI)

Civil Society:

Ana Maria Pinilla / Freelance journalist

Katiuska Hull / Panamanian Association of Law and New Technologies (APANDETEC by its acronym in Spanish)

Jose Troyano / APANDETEC

Maria Arrocha / APANDETEC

Russell Bean / Independent professional

Luis Carrasquilla / Generación sin Límites

Ulysses Calvo / Student

Alvaro Aguilar / Lombardi Group

Diego Santamaria / ISOC Panama

Santiago Beltran / APPIF

The Open Data Working Group presented the update of the Panama Open Data guide in October 2020. This is a document that will allow all State institutions to implement the general guidelines that lead to the publication of open data.

https://www.antai.gob.pa/panama-cuenta-con-la-guia-actualizada-para-la-apertura-de-datos-abiertos-de-gobierno/



ANTAI seeking to provide a follow-up to its Institutional Strategic Plan 2020-2024, has implemented an information request and reporting platform called ANTAI Smart CID, launched during the 2020 Access to Information Week.

This open government tool seeks to guarantee the right of access to information to citizens and enable them to make their requests and complaints from anywhere, at any time. Thus, improving the management of institutions, helping information officers to respond to citizens promptly, and at the same time obtaining relevant data that will support institutions to generate data inventories to achieve its opening.

According to Law 33 of April 25, 2013, one of ANTAI's capacities is to train public servants and civil society on ethics, values, transparency, access to information, personal data, government, and open data. Various virtual programs have been created such as webinars and Facebook Live sessions to achieve this goal, which is a fundamental pillar for the institution. More than 2,700 people have been trained from March 2020 to date in webinars.

We thank The Trust for the Americas for all the support in training both public servants and civil society on government and open data topics. It is also important to mention that, within the Strategic Plan, we have the objective of automatizing the transparency monitoring carried out by ANTAI. We seek to improve compliance with Law 6 on Transparency and that citizens are provided with a central repository with the information that requires to publish from institutions and municipalities.

Mgtr. Elsa Fernández

Director General of the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



The overall objective of the project was to strengthen the open government ecosystem and the use of open data by increasing the number of active organizations from civil society, the private sector and academia participating in the different areas of work.

As part of the mapping of actors and needs, a series of face-to-face meetings and video calls were carried out with different actors involved in the open government and open data agenda. Specifically, discussions began with representatives of the Government Innovation Authority (AIG) and the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information (ANTAI).

On civil society, representatives of the National Open Government Commission and other organizations that until then participated in the open data and open government processes. The participation of a greater diversity of actors was encouraged and strengthened. The co-creation processes and the contributions of organizations in the development of national action plans became visible.

The academia was empowered as well through capacity building to assimilate and replicate all open government concepts. And as a consequence, contributing to generating solutions for the problems that public services face.

During the implementation of the project, the importance of the use of data for the private sector and awareness to achieve publication aligned with demands was highlighted, with the impact on transparency, accountability, generation of trust in society, and the economic value of data for the generation of assets in industries.

To this end, a working methodology was established through awareness-raising of actors, capacity building, technical training for officials, and the incentive for innovative projects offering for public problems.

The Trust for the Americas, together with the OAS Department for Effective Public Management, held a series of hybrid workshops on 10 topics, which were subsequently structured as a virtual training component available and in ongoing consultation in The Trust for the Americas Virtual Classroom.



The first eight topics were focused on awareness-raising and capacity building.

Introduction to open government 20/6/2019

Civil society: **38**Private sector: **16**Academia: **17**

Public servants: 19

Youth: **41**

Citizens-Other: 40

Non-governmental actors in open government 26/6/2019

Civil society: **26**Private sector: **9**Academia: **13**

Public servants: 23

Youth: 13

Citizens-Other: 37

Digital Government 11/7/2019

Civil society: **43**Private sector: **15**Academia: **12**

Public servants: 28

Youth: 10

Citizens-Other: 33

Open Data 1 17/7/2019

Civil society: **25**Private sector: **5**Academia: **15**Public servants: **18**

Youth: 5

Citizens-Other: 23

Open Data 2 23/7/2019

Civil society: **23**Private sector: **6**Academia: **17**Public servants: **23**

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Youth: 6

Citizens-Other: 31

Transparency and Open Data Policy 25/7/2019

Civil society: **24**Private sector: **5**Academia: **11**

Public servants: 18

Youth: 6

Citizens-Other: 26

Leveraging Data 30/7/2019

Civil society: **13**Private sector: **3**Academia: **13**Public servants: **19**

Youth: 1

Citizens-Other: 20

Do it yourself 1/8/2019

Civil society: **28**Private sector: **5**Academia: **19**Public servants: **13**

Youth: 5

Citizens-Other: 26

TOTAL:

Civil society: **220**Private sector: **64**Academia: **117**Public servants: **161**

Youth: **87**

Citizens-Other: 236

Additionally, two workshops were held for the private sector that highlighted the importance of open data and presented some good practices for its monetization through public-private partnerships.

Generating Economic Value 22/8/2019

Civil society: **15**Private sector: **47**Academia: **4**Youth: **8**

Citizens-Others: 7

Business Opportunities 05/9/2019

Civil society: **8**Private sector: **19**Academia: **5**Youth: **5**

Citizens-Others: 7

TOTAL

Civil society: **23**Private sector: **66**Academia: **9**Youth: **13**

Citizens-Others: 14

The Trust for the Americas also held a series of thematic workshops with various local partners, including the use of gender-focused workshops and a co-creation exercise conducted in semi-urban areas outside the metropolis of Panama City.

The project developed a component (Youth for Open Data –Y4OD) targeted at shortlisted young people to raise awareness, bring together, and educate new actors who can be agents of change in their communities and maintain sustainable growth in the open government agenda in the years to come. These efforts were accompanied and supported by experts in the subject.

The Youth for Open Data (Y40D) selected 25 young people from 80 applications nationwide, who were trained and sensitized intensively. The modules of the training program were:

- **1.** General framework of open government.
- 2. Introduction to open data.
- 3. Opening and quality of data.
- **4.** Communication, use and leveraging of data.
- 5. Closing Project.





Website: Youth for Open Data (Y40D)

3.1 LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT

The project was officially launched within the framework of the open data week, in March 2019. A workshop was held in collaboration with local authorities to generate an open dialogue on the needs in this area in Panama. This initiative counted with the participation of all stakeholders involved in the data and open government ecosystem.

More than seventy people attended the workshop. The presence of international experts facilitated an inclusive discussion. During the workshop, the team sought a consensus to enrich the public policy building processes by analyzing multiple views in which knowledge, will and experience converge. As a result of the workshop, some guidelines for transparency policy and open data were established, important topics for the National Open Government Action Plan were identified, and the necessary inputs to develop the guide for implementing open data in Panama were obtained.

The methodology used during the workshop was as follows:

Plenary

Seeks to expand in more detail the points discussed. This first stage addressed the open data policy, the open data portal, and open data use cases in Panama.

Dialogue tables

Three sub-tables where debates were held on the following topics.

- 1. Strategic and institutional advances and challenges.
- 2. Advances and challenges of use and reuse by infomediaries.
- **3.** Advances and challenges of the national open data portal.

Collaborative final plenary

Sharing the conclusions reached from each dialogue table.

3.2 SENSITIZATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

A blended training methodology was conducted. Although international experts presented virtually, some participants attended in person, in public and academic spaces provided by the University of Panama, the Government Innovation Authority (AIG), and the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information (ANTAI) and coordinated by The Trust for the Americas. After each session, participants had a Q&A session and discussed to identify best practices.

Participants who attended the sessions virtually also had the opportunity to participate in the discussion space.

International experts were convened with the support of the OAS Department for Effective Public Management, in partnership with government allies.

Participants and Sectors

Public and Private Academia

Number of Organizations: **8** Number of participants: **70**

Government institutions

Number of Organizations: **59** Number of participants: **54**

Private chambers and guilds

Number of Organizations: **3** Number of participants: **62**

Civil Society

Number of Organizations: **38** Number of participants: **128**

TOTAL

Number of Organizations: **108** Number of participants: **314**

Seminars

June 20, 2019

"Introduction to open government" presented by Rosario Pavese (Senior Coordinator of OGP), Nicolas Martin Bekier (Somos Más Colombia), Luisa Barbosa (COLAB Brazil), Dalila Ramalho (COLAB Brazil). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTcgbQGxyNo&feature=youtu.be

June 26, 2019

"Non-governmental actors in open government" presented by Emilene Martínez (Coordinator of OGP), Yas García (Conocimiento Abierto Foundation, Argentina), Julio Herrera (Red Ciudadana, Guatemala). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZZME4u1azs&feature=youtu.be

July 11, 2019

"Digital government" presented by Armando García (Dominican Republic), Viviana Cristancho (MINTIC, Colombia), Lucia Abelenda (AVINA / ALTEC Foundation).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRBIqm2TQKQ

July 17, 2019

"Open data 1" presented by Fabricio Scrollini (ILDA), Eduardo Gonzales Yánez (Chile), Juan Pablo Marín (DataScketch, Colombia). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xH9lTkvXAE

July 23, 2019

"Open data 2" presented by José Manuel Casanueva Social Tic (Mexico), Oscar Agudelo (Colombia), Claudia Báez (Cuestión Pública, Colombia).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJK_6YObLUI

July 25, 2019

"Transparency and open data policy" presented by Marta Acosta (Panama), Rolando Becerra (AIG Panama) and Jorge Umaña (The Trust for the Americas, Costa Rica).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tadkVnXOrDM

July 30, 2019

"Use of data 1" presented by Daniel Carranza (DataUy, Uruguay), Camila Salazar (School of Data, Costa Rica). https://youtu.be/QN27UEb5LA8

August 1, 2019

"Do it yourself" presented by Juan Manuel Casanova Social Tic (Mexico), Pamela Rodríguez (Bolivia), Sofia Montenegro (Guatemala), Daniel Villatoro (Guatemala). https://youtu.be/tpvv3TYBm3g

For the private sector, two workshops were held with regional specialists:

August 22, 2019

"The private sector and open data - generating economic value" presented by Mike Mora (OAS), Berioska Torres (Director General of ALETI, Ecuador), Rodrigo Frías (CORFO, Chile). https://youtu.be/nlmq9enW4u8

September 5, 2019

"Private sector and open data - business opportunities" presented by German Retana (Ixpantia, Costa Rica). https://youtu.be/S9triaF6Ep0

3.3 MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION

Technological University of Panama (UTP) Hackathon



On September 28–29, 2019, the Technological University of Panama (UTP by its acronym in Spanish) and the student group EURUS carried out a Hackathon. Several organizations were part of the initative: The University of Panama, representing the academia; ANTAI and AIG, from the public sector; and other actors such as Panama's Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, the Open Data Working Group, and The Trust for the Americas.

A total of **60** participants, **16** groups, focused on proposing solutions to challenges linked to three topics:

- 1. sustainable energy and environment
- 3. transparency, accountability and democracy
- 4. digital security.

After 48 continuous hours of developing prototypes, the winning project was the prototype named "Budget Transparency System".

Regional workshop on government and open data in Santiago de Veraguas

He objective of the winning prototype was to:

- Review college budget expenses.
- Generate information on the efficiency of budget execution.
- Analyze the efficient use of spending in a way that it is possible to track the area of spending.
- Sensitize students about the importance of the university budget in quality of learning and training.



Video: Workshop on transparency, open government, and open data https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXufbtYa_-4



With an extensive agenda, the capacity-building workshop in **Santiago de Veraguas** was held on **February 12-13**, **2020** and was facilitated by the international specialist **Ana Gabriel Zúñiga Aponte**, from **Hivos Foundation**.

The workshop was divided into two parts:

- Capacity building.
- Co-design of the government innovation project for the promotion of open government.

As a result of the workshop, ANTAI authorities generated a demand for environmental and disability data. ANTAI compromised itself to track data opening processes in both areas.

The workshop brought the open government agenda to regional and local governments outside Panama City, seeking to increase the participation of actors whose needs and challenges are different from those that already had been considered and impacted.

Replicating training processes through the Virtual Classroom

Based on multisectoral collaboration with ANTAI and UTP, 166 young people were trained using The Trust for the Americas' online education platform and content previously developed. A short evaluation per module was designed as a requirement to certify the assimilation of knowledge. In this way, it was possible to adapt the needs of the project to the context of the pandemic, giving access to online resources and knowledge.

Within the same framework of collaboration and through the partnership with ANTAI, 75 information officers were trained. These public servants play a liaison role between institutions and citizens for the demand and opening of data and seek to comply with open data standards in their respective institutions.



Open data workshops with a gender perspective

On March 6, 2020, in commemoration of International Women's Day, we carried out a gender-sensitive data workshop. The importance of gender-sensitive data was discussed to better develop plans and programs focused on meeting the needs of girls, adolescents, and women. International expert Haseel Fallas (ILDA) introduced some tools that can be used to work with data on gender-based violence.

In collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), an additional webinar called "Women's Empowerment, an Opportunity for Equality" was held on October 29, 2020. It was attended by female leaders in the private sector: Lydia de Toppin, Vice-Chancellor of Research in the Technology University of Panama; Olga Cantillo, General Manager of the Panama Stock Exchange; and Maruquel Pabón, Director of the Institute of Corporative Government.

Open data seminar for economic reactivation

Given the social, political, and economic changes that emerged as a result of the pandemic and the urgent need for economic reactivation, on August 5, 2020, the webinar "Open Government Data for the Private Sector" was held in partnership with the ICC. The webinar addressed how open technology and data can positively impact the search for sustainable development in our region.

Two leaders in the information technology sector participated in the webinar: Dr. German Retana, Director of IT Products for PriceMart Central America; and Gustavo Canton, Analytics Leader People and E2E Supply Chain and Operations at Starbucks.





Video: Seminar on Open Government and Data for the Private Sector https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYelTREI2FI&t=45s

3.4 SOCIAL INNOVATION

Government and open data have proven to be pragmatically beneficial in advancing transparency and accountability agendas, and are very important tools for fostering public innovation, using a methodology for participation and co-creation of programs and projects in collaboration with civil society, academia, and private enterprise actors. This co-creation exercise creates a series of new opportunities for the improvement of public management and the creation of new services for citizens, which must be developed by innovators and entrepreneurs. Under this principle, The Trust for the Americas made an open call to apply to seed funds for the development of prototypes for social innovation. The application had some requirements that were evaluated by ANTAI, AIG, and the Morgan Foundation representing civil society.

Three projects received \$7,500 each to run their prototype and bring it to production. **The projects were:**

#DataSeguroSocial: Open Data Portal in the Social Security Fund (CSS)

Open Data Panama Social Security Fund: developed by the company INCO Group, consists of opening the data of the Social Security Fund, in addition to managing geospatial information about the location of the different care centers. During the COVID 19 pandemic, open information was added on the epidemiological situation attended by the Social Security Fund of Panama.





Online news article about the transparency portal and open data:

https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/2020/07/29/css-publica-estados-financieros-nuevo/3086012.html



Enrique Lau, director of the Social Security Fund presents the Open Data Portal https://twitter.com/TReporta/status/1288280292944470017

The objective of this initiative was to implement the Open Data Portal of the Panamanian Social Security Fund, whose model was based on the requirements of external users regarding data and the data available for publication in the institution.

http://cajadelsegurosocial.opendata.junar.com/home

Although Panama's Social Security Fund did not have an open data portal, the institution published important data on its performance as an institution on its website and other sites, in PDF and CSV format, thus making its management transparent to the public. With this project, the implementation process was carried out using data found and selected from the health website of 2018 and 2019, with information prepared and published by the Panama's Social Security Fund.

The general director of CSS, Dr. Enrique Lau Cortés, said that this open data platform aims to increase the transparency of what is done in the institution, as part of a project that seeks to hold the government accountable on an ongoing basis for the allocated resources.

"CSS website features an open data portal funded by The Trust for the Americas, which will publicize valuable information including COVID-19 topics, Economic Benefits, Health, Medicines, and CSS Contact Center, related to the number of calls and access to information. In this portal, the financial statements from 2005 to 2019 are included, so that all citizens can access this information in the following formats: PDF, EXCEL, CSV, XML, JASON and API, among others".

_

Mgtr. Kathia Quiel Carreira

Director of the Technical Secretary of Responsibility and Institutional Support, CSS.



Link: https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/2020/07/29/css-habilitara-pagina-datos-abiertos/3084288.html

Innovation Ngäbe Buglé

A portal developed in partnership with the Institute of Training and Use of Human Resources (IFARHU by its acronym in Spanish) and Natura Foundation. The project focuses on indigenous peoples living in the Comarca Ngäbe Buglé. The portal provides information on available scholarships and information from previous years. It also facilitates access to scholarship opportunities for people of indigenous communities, grant of scholarships transparent, and allows the traceability of the impact on this population in years to come.



Educational scholarships for people from the Ngäbe Buglé region, through the Institute of Training and Use of Human Resources (IFARHU).

Considering that an Open Government promotes transparency through access to public information, accountability, data opening, and the use of technologies; encourages the participation and collaboration of citizens to improve public management and public services; and provides a space for the development of public policies, the project aims to increase transparency and accountability for scholarships at university level granted by IFARHU to students living in the Ngäbe Buglé Comarca, by using open data. https://becascomarca.info/

"The use of open data, open government, and Digital Government principles, opens the door to new and more opportunities to those who have a desire to improve but who live in hard-to-reach areas. Our proposal aims to benefit these people from a system that already exists but has not been given due importance. Scholarships for the completion of university studies online maximize time, reduce costs and expenses and allow the preparation in specialties in Higher Education needed at the University of the Comarca and Public Institutions."

-

Libieth Quintero De Reyes

Adviser, Deputy Office Adam Bejarano.

Budget Transparency System

UTP Hackathon winners presented their prototype at a larger scale through an open system to access information in a simple and broken-down way of current expenditures in the Panamanian Executive Body. The project was developed in collaboration with the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information (ANTAI).

Sistema de Transparencia Presupuestaria

La data que te mereces

PRUÉBALO YA

The objective of the initiative, implemented by students of the Technological University of Panama (UTP), was to develop a system that can be used by any citizen to monitor the expenditures of public funds at an atomic level, that is, that they can know on what each approved fund of all government entities of the State was invested in, with a set of data that will validate its authenticity and registration.

This tool exposes through an app and can generate a public API so that any independent **entity**, whether particular, business or non-governmental organization, can consult the data managed by the system and be used, without any justification to the government, for any type of scrutiny or transformation, including but not limited to reporting, presentation and analysis; respecting the free publication and ownership.

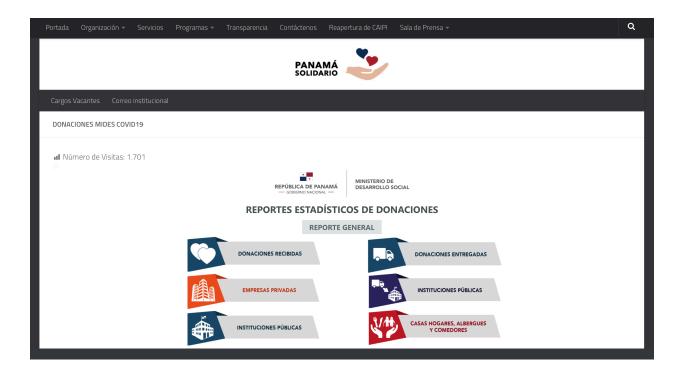


Website: https://stp-transparencia.netlify.app/

Technical Cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES)

The Trust for the Americas in collaboration with the former Minister for Social Development, Markova Concepción, implemented an open data portal to make the donations received transparent.

The project's objective was to strengthen partnerships between actors from different sectors to strategically and jointly serve the most vulnerable populations. The objective was achieved through an exercise of transparency managing donations received and guaranteeing delivery to truly vulnerable populations.





Website: Open Data Portal of the Ministry of Social Development



Interview with Markova Concepción, Former Social Development Minister: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHOVJIQExjo&t=38s

SYSTEMATIZATION OF THE YOUTH FOR OPEN DATA COMPONENT



The need identified in the Panamanian context to empower civil society and specifically young people to use and create value from open data motivated the design and implementation of the Youth for Open Data (Y4OD) initiative. The Trust for the Americas emphasized the importance of supporting the Transparency and Access to Information policy with concrete collaborative actions involving different actors and social sectors.

From July to December 2020, the objective was to provide concrete opportunities to 25 young people who are technology enthusiasts from the different sectors, provinces and regions of the Republic of Panama (Comarcas; Ngäbe-Buglé, Kuna Yala. Provinces; Panama, Chiriquí, Veraguas, Herrera, Los Santos, Coclé, Colón, Darién), to develop capabilities and implement innovative initiatives that use open data to improve their communities and promote the participation of diverse groups during the eighth edition of the Abrelatam–Condatos event in Panama City.



Y40D participants

The training phase lasted four months and contained four modules with nine virtual training sessions on open data, open government, transparency, among other relevant topics. These modules were complemented by virtual workshops between July and September taught by local and international experts. **Training program.**

Starting in November, under the "Data Challenge" scheme, young people were encouraged to design projects using open data to reduce the disinformation gap and promote social good. As a result, three projects stood out for their innovative, sustainable, and efficient use of at least one open-source data.

Panama Online Impact area: Social inclusion

A campaign that promotes dissemination and education on internet access points closest to citizens.

Watch video here
Watch video here

Citizen Awareness Impact area: Gender

An initiative that proposes the construction of an online platform or app named "PanaConsulta", through which people can access information on sex education, contraceptive methods, medical services, and location of health centers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXxVjK8QKpQ

My money in public works Impact area: Economic growth and Infrastructure

A space on social networks and a website that facilitates access to information and control of public works to avoid their abandonment.

Watch video here

The Y4OD program was implemented in partnership with the Panamanian Institute of Law and New Technologies (IPANDETEC, by its acronym in Spanish), in coordination with the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information (ANTAI), and the Governmental Innovation Authority (AIG).

LESSONS LEARNED, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY



At the end of the project, The Trust for the Americas conducted an independent evaluation by an external consultant. The final report included lessons learned, recommendations and sustainability strategies. This evaluation, together with the experience obtained in the field during two years of implementation, allows us to present the following conclusions:

Lessons learned:

- The existing dichotomy, in particular on the demand and quality of data between civil society organizations and public servants, is indicative of the need for greater dialogue between the parties to achieve the consensuses needed to boost demands for open data.
- The project was largely implemented during the pandemic period, flexibility and adaptability were some of the most important challenges. Access to the internet and collaborative technologies were of great importance for the implementation of the project. This new virtual modality opened up a world of opportunities to reach and impact more people simultaneously, despite the challenges resulting from social distancing. These opportunities reduced project costs and achieved greater efficiency at reaching the target population and generated widespread and strategic impacts.
- The participation of the private sector in some phases of the project was very important, especially during the awareness-raising efforts and implementation of virtual seminars (webinars). These were oriented to present the monetization opportunity that open data can generate, promoting an economic and social impact on the generation of quality technical jobs, with benefits of increased productivity and efficiency, and with improvements in the profitability of companies' operations.
- Engaging the largest number of civil society organizations provides an opportunity for the open data and government agenda to be broad and comprehensive enough to generate more participation and oversight in peer dialogue processes and between government representatives.



Video: <u>December 17, 2020. Closing event of the project "Empowering Innovation and Citizen Collaboration through Public Data in Panama"</u>

Recommendations:

- Engaging with government allies is important for the success and convening of the different actors involved in these topics. In the project in Panama, the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information was the key ally. This partner will facilitate and promote progress on upcoming data access and transparency projects.
- It is relevant to allocate resources for a media plan to give visibility and promotion to projects at the local level.

Sustainability:

- Although the scope of the project is defined, monitoring and follow-up to subsidized projects is recommended. The Trust for the Americas' team sought and encouraged partnerships with other organizations so that once The Trust for the Americas' support concludes, projects still can continue receiving support from other organizations.
- The technical training of the different actors is important to promote the sustainability of projects of this nature. This training should be focused more on technical areas.
- Ensuring that the open government agenda includes the participation of local governments is vital for the sustainability of public policies, which needs an intensive component of training, support and lifting of a baseline for its subsequent implementation.

To achieve sustainability in the open government agenda, the academia participation is key. Some schools, such as the School of Public Administration, because their graduates are more likely to be part of public management occupying technical positions, should be aware of the Open State paradigm shift.

COMMUNICA-TIONS



One of the project's main goals was to increase open data visibility as a practical resource for communities. The communications strategy was a tool to pursue this endeavor.

At the beginning of the project, the local partners played a key role in connecting the project activities to the right audiences to increase participation in all activities. With the onset of the pandemic, most events and activities were also online outreach opportunities to showcase the project's scope. Some components of the project focused on developing useful tools during the covid–19 crisis, which allowed them to enter the news cycle in 2020. We also produced two trailers to compile all activities carried out during the two-year implementation.

During the two years of the project, the project was featured in several local media outlets and major international conferences such as the Open Gov Week –Panama and Ecuador–, Abrelatam, Condatos, and the OAS General Assembly.

Highlights covered by media included: The Social Security Fund Open Data Portal (CSS by its acronym in Spanish), and the Ministry of Social Development's (MIDES for its acronym in Spanish) Transparency Portal for Donations.

Lastly, we produced knowledge-based content to make it readily available to our contacts database of Open Data events' attendees. All original content, including this report is accessible in both English and Spanish at The Trust for the Americas' website.

2019

During the first trimester of 2019, we were part of the Open Government week in Panama. At this event, we presented the project "Empowering Innovation and Citizen Collaboration through Public Data in Panama".

These are some excerpts from the media coverage:

The Trust for the Americas y la Organización de Estados Americanos -OEA, impulsan la agenda de Gobierno Abierto de Panamá | The Trust for the Americas.



The Trust for the Americas y la Organización de Estados Americanos –OEA, impulsan la agenda de Gobierno Abierto de Panamá

2019/03/12

En el marco de la Semana de Gobierno Abierto se organiza "Panamá Abierto" junto con autoridades locales y miembros de la sociedad civil. Al cierre se lanzará un nuevo proyecto de "Innovación pública a través de los datos abiertos en Panamá"

Panamá

Leer más >



Title and link: <u>The Trust for the Americas y la Organización de Estados Americanos –OEA, impulsan la agenda de Gobierno Abierto de Panamá | The Trust for the Americas.</u>

ANTAI - Conmemoración de la semana de Gobierno Abierto





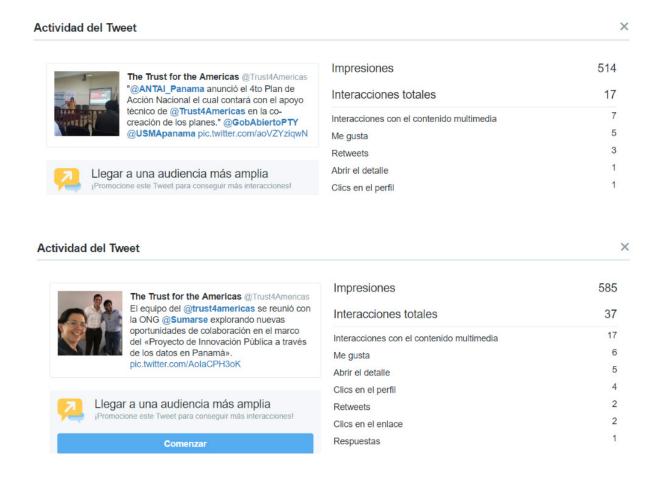
nicio Sobre ANTAI Trámites Medios Transparencia Memoria Anual Cooperación Técnica Internacional Gobierno Abierto Eventos Monitoreo Contáctenos





Link: http://www.antai.gob.pa/conmemoracion-de-la-semana-de-gobierno-abierto/

Through The Trust for the America's social media, we were able to reach and engage with +4,200 users in the region to learn about the best practices in Open Government and our project in Panama:



During the second trimester of 2019, not only we managed to increase our engagement with users interested in Open Government and Open Data initiatives, but also to showcase Open Government initiatives in three major regional events:

- CADE Annual Meeting in Panama
- XXV Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities in Miami, USA
- 49th OAS General Assembly side events in Medellin, Colombia.

The initiatives were covered by some major regional media outlets:

Cuando la ciudadanía deja de creer en Democracia, cosas malas pasan (Available only in Spanish)

Description: Interview to Linda Eddleman, CEO of the Trust for the Americas regarding the open government initiatives in Panama.



LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMÁ

Q



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Cultura //

'Cuando la ciudadanía deja de creer en democracia, cosas malas pasan'

Linda Eddleman, directora de Trust for the Americas, organización cooperante de la OEA, explica las bases de la gobernabilidad y el rol protagónico de los medios de comunicación en esta materia





Link: https://www.laestrella.com.pa/cafe-estrella/cultura/190506/deja-creer-cosas-ciudadania-democracia

Gobernabilidad democrática y gobiernos abiertos desde perspectiva de la OEA. (Available only in Spanish)

Description: Interview to Linda Eddleman, CEO of the Trust for the Americas regarding the open government initiatives in Panama.



Gobernabilidad democrática y gobiernos abiertos desde perspectiva de la OEA



Link: https://www.ecotvpanama.com/programas/eco-news/gobernabilidad-democratica-y-gobiernos-abiertos-desde-perspectiva-de-la-oea_1_32632/







ta Elsa Fernández retwitteó

The Trust for the Americas @Trust4Americas · 25 sept. El equipo de @Trust4Americas junto a la Directora de @ANTALPanama Elsa Fernandez, aliados en el proyecto Innovando con Datos Abiertos en Panamá. @R_Iriani @hamzahpty



In the last trimester of 2019, we focused our marketing efforts on producing knowledge-based content to make it readily available to anyone interested in the topic. We also made sure that all original content was available in both English and Spanish. Finally, the Open Data Week events in Ecuador were an outstanding marketing opportunity to show our Open Government portfolio.

Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina mentioned The Trust for the Americas' efforts in promoting Open Government to strengthen public policies and democracy in the region and in Panama:

Noticias CAF - Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina



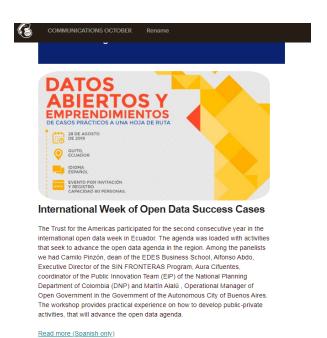
noticias





Link: https://www.caf.com/es/actualidad/noticias/2019/12/promover-una-agenda-de-integridad-el-reto-para-mejorar-la-institucionalidad-en-america-latina/

At The Trust for the Americas we instated a direct communication channel with our Board Members, partners and staff to highlight the milestones our projects have:



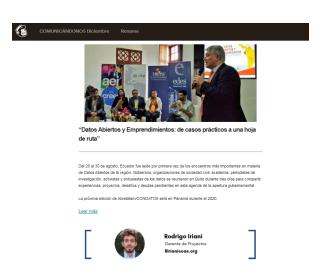


Casos de Éxitos en la Semana Internacional de Datos Abiertos

The Trust for the Americas participo por segundo año consecutivo en la semana internacional de datos abiertos. La agenda estuvo cargada de actividades que procuran avanzar la agenda de datos abiertos de la región. Entre los panelistas contamos con Camilo Pinzón, decano de la EDES Business School, Alfonso Abdo, Director Ejecutivo del Programa SIN FRONTERAS, Aura Cifuentes, coordinadora del Equipo de Innovación Pública (EIP) del Departamento Nacional de Planeación de Colombia (DNP) y Martín Alaiú, Gerente Operativo de Gobierno Abierto en el Gobierno de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires. El taller busca, desde una perspectiva práctica, sugerir y realizar acciones en común entre el sector público, privado y social, que permita avanzar la agenda de datos abiertos desde el sector emprendedor.

Leer más.





Finally, we opened a subgrants application for people with disruptive initiatives that wanted to provide innovative solutions with a high chance of impact in their communities.

SUBGRANTS



2020

The COVID19 pandemic began and at The Trust for the Americas we continued communicating that despite the lockdown.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, acknowledges the project and its importance during his visit in Panama



El Secretario General de la @OEA_oficial,
@Almagro_OEA2015 se refirió en su reciente visita a
Panamá a los talleres sobre Transparencia y
Gobierno Abierto que realizamos el 12 y 13 de febrero
en conjunto con @ANTAI_Panama en la provincia de
Veraguas. #PorUnPanamáTransparente
Translate Tweet





Link: https://twitter.com/Trust4Americas/status/1230603443083128833

We also held a **workshop with ANTAI** as part of the implementation of the first phase of the project "Public Innovation through Open Data in Panama" initiative sponsored by the United States Embassy in Panama. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the public officials, civil society, academia, media and the private sector of the central provinces of The Republic of Panama on the use of data to improve problems that overwhelm communities.



The Trust for the Americas ofrece taller de transparencia, gobierno y datos abiertos en el interior de Panamá

2020/02/11

Washington, D.C. (10 de febrero de 2020) — The Trust for the Americas junto con la Autoridad Nacional de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información (ANTAI) y la Autoridad Nacional para la Innovación Gubernamental (AIG), invitan al primer taller transparencia, gobierno y datos abiertos y participación ciudadana en la provincia de Veraguas, Panamá.

Panamá

Leer más >



Link: https://www.antai.gob.pa/antai-y-trust-for-the-americas-realizan-taller-de-formacion-de-lideres-en-datos-abiertos-y-acceso-a-la-informacion/

During the second trimester of 2020, we launched a digital training on open data and open government for government information officials:

Launch Public officials training



H.E. Markova Concepcion Jaramillo, Minister of Social Development in Panama sent a Thank you video to the Trust for the Americas in recognition of the collaboration during her tenure:

Agradecimiento de S.E. Markova Concepción Jaramillo, Ministra de Desarrollo Social de Panamá





Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DREadzR9enE&list=PLRCSe4mWDI-DtHtMr16Nb3lqAJUDzKKS4

We developed a microsite and a visual identity to launch the **Youth 4 Open Data** initiative focused on training students on the use and appropriation of data for social good:



Youth for Open Data Panamá

Description En el marco del proyecto "Innovación a través de Datos Abiertos en Panamá" implementado por The Trust for the Americas de la Organización de





Microsite: https://www.thetrustfortheamericas.org/events/cumbre-panama

On July 2020, we launched the Social Security Fund Transparency Portal which was covered by **9 local media outlets**:





Link: http://web.css.gob.pa/transparencia/2020/07/29/css-lanza-portal-web-detransparencia-y-plataforma-de-datos-abiertos/

Link: http://www.css.gob.pa/web/29-julio-2020ak.html

We also held Webinars on Open Data for Private Sector:

Datos Abiertos de Gobierno para el Sector Privado





Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYelTREI2FI&t=45s

The last months of 2020 we focused our communications on Open Government and Open Data awareness to showcase the importance and benefits of these initatives. We also covered the closing event of the project:

Innovación a través de los datos abiertos en Panamá





Video: https://youtu.be/RRRZKCjovRI

Youth and Open Data:

La participación de los jóvenes en los Datos Abiertos para combatir la corrupción en Panamá





Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DasnZaK9uUg





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