



Rosario, September 29, 2020

OGP Local 2020 Selection Committee

Dear members,

As Mayor of Rosario (Santa Fe, Argentina) I hereby request the incorporation of the city into the Local OGP program, with the hope that the candidacy will be accepted and with the assistance and advice of the OGP we will advance in the implementation of the best practices of Open Government, ensuring the commitment to defend the principles of an open and transparent government as indicated by the Open Government Declaration

Rosario is a city with great will to build its destiny, since its development took place progressively from the determination and hard work of its pioneer inhabitants. A city without a founder¹ that is not the capital of its province but that disputes the title of second city of the Argentine Republic and one of the most thriving cities in South America.

It is also a huge influence on its metropolitan environment, involving almost 2 million inhabitants and about 17 municipalities and 44 communes belonging to 5 departments of the province of Santa Fe. It is due to this municipal / metropolitan nature of the city that allows a better interaction between organizations and government areas given the proximity provided by the territorial level.

Beyond the geographic and population, the city is a pioneer in building communities of good practices between different local, national and international jurisdictions as an instrument for the development of public information systems, the co-creation of public policies, and the implementation of public procurement systems. Rosario is also one of the cities with the largest number of institutional participation mechanisms in Argentina, where Open Government policies were initiated long before this concept was defined.

With the change of administration in December 2019, the Secretary of Modernization and Proximity was created, whose mission is to work together with the secretariats and departments of the Municipality in the reengineering of administrative processes, the design and construction of interoperable platforms that allow opening data and use it for decision-making, carrying out territorial work, promoting participation actions and the development of new forms of interrelation between the municipality and the neighbors.

This decision evidences the conviction to prioritize the incidence and importance of Open Government actions in local public management, and to build and design -as a general objective- an active and transversal agenda in terms of transparency,

¹ <https://www.rosario.gob.ar/web/ciudad/caracteristicas/la-ciudad-sin-fundador-historia-de-rosario>



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participation and collaboration.

This Secretariat has a Proximity team led by the Undersecretary of Citizen Relations and made up of the Open Government Directorate, the Neighborhood Directorate, the Innovation Directorate, the General Participation Coordination and the directions of the six (6) Municipal District Centers. In addition to this Secretariat depend the Directorate of Digital Transformation, the Directorate of Continuous Improvement, and the General Directorate of Informatics. We have a General Directorate for Investigations, Public Ethics and Transparency, whose function, among others, is the development of plans and programs in order to comply with the Law on Access to Public Information.

Our management plan is also underpinned by the extensive experience in GA policies, among which are: (2002-Present) Participatory Budget, (2004-Present) Contracting Portal, (2004-Present) Regulation Portal, (2005 -Today) Youth Participatory Budget, (2010) Comprehensive Mobility Plan, (2010-Present) Public Software, (2014-Present) Open Data Portal, (2017) Rosario 2030 Strategic Plan, (2019) Rosario Urban Plan (Update), (2019) Creation for the first time of the Open Government Directorate, (2020-Present), Co-creation of the Open Government Dialogue Board with non-government stakeholders.

In addition, our city has a long history of multilateral relationships that cities establish. Participation in different networks has become an essential component in the internationalization strategy of the city of Rosario since they allow us to exchange successful experiences of local management, cooperate on issues of relevance to the city and attract technical and financial resources from the international scene that serve to raise the quality of public management.

The most relevant multilateral spaces where Rosario has an outstanding participation are: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Mercocities, Metropolis, International Association of Educating Cities (AICE), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Ibero-American Center of Strategic Urban Development (CIDEU), International Network Mayors for Peace, Global Network of Safer Cities of UN-Habitat, Argentine Network of Municipalities against Climate Change (RAMCC), Federal Network of Access to Public Information, Transparency Network and Access to Information (RTA), Federal Institute for Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data of Mexico (IFAI), Permanent Forum of Prosecutors and Anti-Corruption Offices of the Nation, among others.

Finally, the incorporation of the Municipality of Rosario to the OGP Local Program will place us in an excellent position to continue the objectives defined in the strategic plans of the city, and to deepen and frame the path started in this management that has as one of its objectives the incorporation of a mechanism for the co-creation of the Open



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Government Action Plan, the first step of which is already being taken with the design (in conjunction with non-government stakeholders) of an Open Government Dialogue Board which we hope to have in operation in the coming months.

The institutional support of OGP is essential for working in synergy and sharing experiences, work dynamics and different realities; would add - without a doubt - methodological and operational resources, and an impulse to continue working within the institution itself, adding wills in all levels of public administration.

Considering also that the program involves the Government and citizens as a whole, we understand the value that this link would imply to make the citizens and non-government stakeholders of Rosario aware of the real scope that involvement in this new form of public management would imply for the concrete control of government actions and the exercise of democracy in general.

The growth of this agenda in recent years has been possible thanks to the convergence of actors from different spaces, public and private sector, academy and civil society, and which has allowed the promotion of collective actions, diagnoses and proposals for improvements to the Open Government, to broaden the experience within the State, as well as by civil society.

In this way, we see favorable conditions for the participation and collaboration of social organizations and citizens in the creation of public policies, adding value from legitimizing and revaluing the entire journey in terms of Open Government in the city, with the work and trajectory of the collective of more than 20 civil society organizations² that energetically promote this agenda, represented by Acción Colectiva and Fundación Nueva Generación Argentina as co-applicants in the EOI, and their antecedents for the promotion and endorsement of this application.

I appreciate your attention, and trusting that our request will be considered positively and that our government will have the opportunity to participate in this project.

My kind regards,

Pablo Lautaro Javkin
Mayor of Rosario

² Acción Colectiva, ÁREA, CEDEFAM, Centro Cultural Parque España, Compromiso Vial, Fundación Apertura, Fundación Cimientos, Fundación El Desafío, Fundación Nueva Generación Argentina, Global Shapers, Gregaria, Grupo Trascender, Instituto de Estudios del Transporte, Observatorio Legislativo Local, Observatorio Urbano, NodoTAU, Observatorio Urbano, Polilab UNR, TECHO, UCEL y Viernes por el Futuro.