MUDAMOS

THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE APP

https://mudamos.org

BRIEFING NOTE

Owner: Institute for Technology and Society (ITS Rio)

Location: Brazil

Years in Operation: 2017-present

Implementation Level: Municipal, State and National

Platforms: Mobile

Method: Collaborative drafting

Participatory Task: Ideas, Actions

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How Does it Work?

Mudamos is a mobile application that enables Brazil's citizens to participate in lawmaking by proposing their own bills and signing onto one another's proposals using verified electronic signatures.

Mudamos comprises three parts: 1) The app's secure and verifiable digital signature technology; 2) the process for proposing, analyzing and improving proposed bills; and 3) in-person Virada Legislativa (legal draft-a-thon) events.

1. **Mudamos App -** Any citizen with a smartphone (Android or iOS) can download the app and register with his or her electoral ID, name and address, information which Mudamos keeps secure and verifies with Brazil's Electoral Court. The app issues what is known as a cryptographic key pair, a small piece of digital code used for verification. One half of the key is stored on the user's phone and the other with Mudamos, which makes it possible to authenticate a person's signature. In this way, members of the public can draft and sign petitions in a way that is verifiable and secure.

2. **Legal Analysis Team -** To address the volume and quality of submissions, Mudamos's creators have designed a volunteer lawyer program. Since January 2018, ITS Rio uses crowdsourcing to engage young lawyers to assist in the analysis of the proposals. The Mudamos volunteer legal team performs a legal analysis to verify whether the draft bill has all the constitutional requirements to be framed as a citizens' initiative bill. If it has all the constitutional requirements, the bill is uploaded on the platform and it is published for signature gathering immediately. If it has not, the bill's author receives a feedback report based on the analysis recommending changes or explaining why the proposal cannot be accepted as a citizens' initiative bill.

3. **Virada Legislativa Events -** To foster lawmaking literacy and help citizens to create their own draft bills, ITS organizes Virada Legislativa. The Virada Legislativa is a one-day in-person event to develop draft bills collectively -- a draft-a-thon -- addressing a single issue and within a timeframe.

What Are The Outcomes?

With the massive adoption within a few months after its launch, Mudamos has not only been leading, a technological turn in politics, but also fostering institutional and cultural changes by

making the once-theoretical possibility of direct democracy real in practice. Since Mudamos has been released, the platform has received more than 8,000 draft bill proposals. In its first month, Mudamos was downloaded by more than 250,000 people and by October 2018, more than 700,000 people had downloaded the app. Over half of those are active users. Since Mudamos's launch in March 2017, several legislative bodies have enacted new measures to recognize the use of Mudamos as an official channel for participatory lawmaking.

What Does It Cost?

Mudamos is a free application that can be downloaded from mobile application stores.

What Are The Benefits?

- Mudamos is a secure and affordable way for people to express themselves politically by drafting bills for legislative consideration or signing onto bills.
- The technology ensures that signatures are trackable and verifiable.
- Mudamos reduces the reliance on paper-based systems for signature collection, which in turn reduces costs.

What Are The Risks?

- Mudamos's electronic signature is not a national standard and the major risk to the Mudamos project is the contesting of the validity of its signatures by legislative bodies. Since an electronic signature standard is not established by law or even by a House of Representatives rule, the decision whether or not to accept Mudamos signatures is made subjectively.
- Another risk faced by Mudamos is the low adoption rate of the app (350,000 active users) in relation to the number of signatures required to propose a national level draft bill (1.5 million)

For more information, please contact: ***crowdlaw@thegovlab.org***