

# First Technical Report - Project No 107574-001

## Basic Details

**Project Name:** *Harnessing Open Data to Achieve Development Results in Latin America and the Caribbean*

**Period covered:** March 2014- February 2015

**Full name of Research Institution:** Fundacion Avina

**Address of Research Institution:** Ciudad del Saber, Clayton, Ancón Ciudad de Panamá  
República de Panamá



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# 1. Executive Summary

The Latin American Open Data Initiative (ILDA) aims to act as research hub on open data usage to achieve development goals across Latin America and the Caribbean, and therefore to foster the accountability and legitimacy of public institutions, improving public services, and to boost economic growth of the region. ILDA is hosted by Avina Foundation, in coordination with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). This report provides information about the activities of the component coordinated by Fundación Avina.

ILDA has performed three basic activities: *research on open data, community building and outreach*.

ILDA carried research activities in 6 areas: open cities, public procurement, education, health services, open data intermediaries, open parliaments and open judiciary. ILDA researchers have partnered with Open North to study the use and impact of open standards in the context of the Open Government working group. Furthermore ILDA in partnership with Avina Americas set up a “mini-grant scheme” to promote the use of Open Data apps and learn from this process. Currently one mini-grant has been implemented in Uruguay with promising results.

In terms of community building ILDA has supported the development of two major events in the region CONDATOS and ABRELATAM in Mexico and currently supports the development of the next edition in Chile contributing to agenda-setting and community building in the region, acting as a secretariat of the process. ILDA has helped to create and shape the agenda of these events with other partners.

In terms of outreach ILDA has: developed an online presence promoting posts as research was carried forward. Furthermore ILDA developed a set of webinars to engage actors and supported groups across Latin America in the last open data Day. ILDA has also participated in several international events showcasing the regional perspective on opendata

## 2. Overview of the project

*The overarching objective of this initiative is to strengthen the accountability and legitimacy of public institutions, improve public services, and fuel economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean through research and innovation on open data initiatives*

This overarching objective will be achieved through 6 research objectives:

- Improve understanding of the demand and use of open data for development in Latin America;
- Support the collaborative development of products and services between government, civil society and entrepreneurs in these selected areas.
- Promote the development and adoption of emerging open data standards that enable open data initiatives to scale up;
- Explore mechanisms for open data to address the needs of marginalized groups, focusing particularly on youth, women and urban poor; and
- Build the capacity of the Latin American Open Data Institute to act as knowledge sharing platform fostering dialogue with governments that feeds to the initiative
- share knowledge and research on the demand and use of open data for development with governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, improving policy dialogue and consultation practices

The project was conceived in three execution phases:

- *Mapping:* Identifying key aspects of open data ecosystems to inform policy and strategic action in Latin America
- *Strategic Actions:* Based on information gathered in the mapping phase the project will develop initiatives or experimental designs around three strategic areas: co-creation, standard development and capacity building
- *Evaluation:* Formative evaluation towards building an open data agenda and field in Latin America

### 3. Objectives and Outputs

Objective:
<i>Improve understanding of the demand and use of open data for development in Latin America;</i>
Associated Output : 8 studies mapping open data ecosystems in Latin America (AVINA/ILDA)

**Status:** ILDA set up an open call to develop studies in the areas that were initially identified as relevant for the project. A total of 27 proposals were presented and 7 were selected by a Board composed by ILDA advisory board. The following table shows:

<i>Consultant</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Research Focus</i>	<i>Key preliminary findings<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Relevance for understanding use and demand of open data and agenda building</i>
Carla Bonina	Open Cities	To map and understand open data ecosystems in Buenos Aires, Mexico and Montevideo focusing on the interaction government and intermediaries	-Open Data policies have different levels of maturity in these cities - Key role of labs to support use of open data -Room to explore detailed use cases and business models	-Model citizen-government interaction in cities - Potential to set up open cities network to advance in these cities
Gisele Craveiro	Intermediaries and Local Budget Data	Characterising Open Data Intermediaries/users for local budget data in Montevideo, San Pablo and	-Lack of linkage between different intermediaries -Lack of government capacities to use its own data	-Advance user coalitions enabled by Open Data -Advance technology linking data to stories

<sup>1</sup> All these research papers are in the process of being finished. This information should be considered provisional.

		Mexico City	Lack of capacities in potential users of local budget data Lack of context and stories about use of budget data	
Natalia A. Volosin	Public Procurement and Open Data	Understanding Open Data Ecosystems in public procurement in Chile, Uruguay, Mexico and Argentina	-Different levels of maturity in all cases - Potential use detected -Identified complementarity with integrity policies	-Potential for innovation model between public sector and civil society
Juan Pane	Open Data and Vector transmitted diseases: The case of dengue	Understanding the importance of open data standards in vector transmitted diseases	-Identification of key datasets and actors for standardization of dengue related information -Prototype to model this data	-Model for dengue data collection, structure and use across the region
Yacine Khelladi	Open Data and Education	Outcome mapping of Mexico and Brazil Open Data Initiatives	-Contributions of open data initiatives to educative policy outcomes - Barriers to advance open data initiatives in this field	-Enhance open data education initiatives -Enhance quality of data
Juan Belbis	Open Parliaments	Understanding standards and use of open data in Parliaments in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile	-Lack of unified framework for open data initiatives on supply side - Potential for use and early use identified in all cases	-Enhance and promote open data policies in Parliament -Road map to advance this agenda through OGP working groups or other forum
Sandra Elena	Open Judiciary	Understanding of the Judiciary	-Evaluation of data available in all	-Potential for the creation of an index

		open data policies in Peru, Mexico, Costa Rica and Brazil	these countries	and road map.
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ILDA decided not to select studies in the area of natural resources and environment due to the lack of good quality proposals in this field. Reports will be finished during March and will eventually be disseminated through ILDA's websites. The work of the consultants played a key role helping to shape debates in the Unconference and Conferences in Mexico .

ILDA also ran 7 webinars to disseminate research findings and will run in the next session more webinars in preparation of the next Regional Conference. ILDA is also actively taking part in the Open Government DATA Working group about capacity building. Finally ILDA is partnering with Open North to deliver a study of adoption of open standards in the region by government and civil society and with Sunlight Foundation to run research on the social Impact of Open Data. Both projects are supported by IDRC.

Objective -Support the collaborative development of products and services between government, civil society and entrepreneurs in these selected areas
Objective -Promote the development and adoption of emerging open data standards that enable open data initiatives to scale up;
Objective Explore mechanisms for open data to address the needs of marginalized groups, focusing particularly on youth, women and urban poor;
Associated outputs. Output -at least 4 will support and research collaborative development of services and innovation using open government data (ILDA ) Output 4 b - at least 4 will support and research open data the production and development of open data standards in specific topics Output 4 c - at least 4 will research, test and foster mechanisms to expand data literacy and skills of excluded groups fostering and strengthening their participation in open government ecosystems (ILDA/COI)

Output 5 Four peer-reviewed quality research articles on how the selected initiatives lead to development outcomes (e.g. how open standards contribute to greater reuse and scalability, how broader participation leads to more effective open data programs).

### Status:

In partnership with Avina Americas through the Omidyar backed Civic Acceleration Fund ILDA selected in agreement with the Fund the following initiatives

Initiative	Focus	Status
Atuservicio.uy (DATA Uruguay and Ministry of Health )	Democratizing access to information about health providers promoting open data liberation and usage by the population	Delivered Early Assessment: Positive Impact: Data release, change in administrative process and usage by the population Partnership with Mexican NGO in process.
Open Cities	Liberation of open data by cities of Mexico, Montevideo and Buenos Aires fostering an already established network. Liberation aimed to a specific area to foster an app that can work in three cities based on a common standard.	Agreement by partners secured -Draft proposals in place

Local Budget (OKFN -Brazil)	Use of open data at a local level by NGOs and local people fostering inclusion	-Agreement with partners in process
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The partnership with the Fund establishes that these products are experimental but need to be designed to achieve impact. As a result these initiatives are action-research oriented with an assessment process included to demonstrate impact. In the selection process ILDA tried to focus on three key issues: *collaboration, standards and inclusion*. Due to the absence of resources to carry forward the outputs related to standards and inclusion it is unlikely those objectives will be met. Three papers are going to be produced and will potentially evolved according to plan in peer-reviewed papers.

Objective: Build the capacity of the Latin American Open Data Initiative to act as knowledge sharing platform fostering dialogue with governments that feeds to the initiative
A proposed governance structure for a Nodal entity (hub) in Latin America will be developed (ILDA)

ILDA helped to organise CONDATOS and ABRELATAM contributing in the process of Agenda setting and shaping the outcomes of the Conference. ILDA also supported groups of civil servants, policy makers and activists to attend the Conference. ILDA is also actively contributing to organise the next regional Conference in Chile. Discussions held in both events will help to shape

### *Intermediate outputs*

- Workshop with ILDA researchers in México (September, 2014): This workshop gathered public servants, several ILDA researchers and activists to share research findings and advances before the Conference
- Conference Agenda (Condatos-México) ( see references) and Collaborative Agenda : The Collaborative agenda was an experimental process ran as a participatory process to create a document establishing the priorities for the region. The experiment also



included using the software Democracy OS so people not involved in the Conference could participate.

- Documentation of Unconferences in México (in partnership with Avina): This process aims to help civil society organisations to gather practices, information and support the next Unconference.
- Support of the Open Data Day to 11 groups in Latin America through mini-grants.<sup>2</sup>

In the next workshop in Santiago ( 2-3 March) two important outputs are expected:

- A governance structure for the Conference and Un-conference in Latin America based on a protocol set up by ILDA, the Mexican Government and Social Tic
- A process to define agendas in the region based on the Collaborative Agenda building pioneered in Mexico
- An initial discussion about an Open Data policy framework for Latin America

#### **4) Next Steps**

In the next 6 months ILDA will deliver:

- a platform to share research and news in Latin America based on research already performed
- support for the International Open Data Conference and Unconference
- support for CONDATOS and Abrelatam in terms of agenda building, travel support and evaluation
- support for on-going discussions about a Latin American Open Data Charter

ILDA is actively seeking to coordinate with other projects in the OD4D sphere.

#### **5) References/Annexes**

-Condatos agenda

-Protocol for next Conferences

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<sup>2</sup> ILDA re-assigned resources to allow for this support.

- Santiago Workshop Agenda

- [www.idatosabiertos.org](http://www.idatosabiertos.org)

- [Collaborative Agenda](#)

List of Attendants supported by ILDA