OPENING THE CITIES: OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY

Why?
• Much of the focus about OGD has been given to federal/national level
• Cities are becoming crucially important but under-researched
• Some Latin American municipalities, where 84% of people live, have started to implement OGD policies. Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Sao Paulo are among those cities.

Methodology and tools
Case studies; Interviews; Joint workshop

Framework
Looking at different aspects of city-level open data initiatives: Emergence; Policy design; Main characteristics; Policy implementation; Users & Impact.

Table 9: Models of Open Data Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Characteristics</th>
<th>State led environment</th>
<th>Civil Society led environment</th>
<th>Entrepreneur led environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>Promote the use of social services, transparency and accountability</td>
<td>Use of social services, transparency and accountability</td>
<td>Profit Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Data already available, if in open format; intra-agency and inter-agency; innovative; Private contractors and in-house teams carrying on the work</td>
<td>If data is available, civil society is able to improve current services and develop new ones based on volunteer work, or specific grants</td>
<td>If data is available entrepreneurs devote their own time or funds from investors to projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>Provision of Public Goods</td>
<td>Provision of Public Goods</td>
<td>Provision of private and public goods if it is aligned with Profit making incentives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>If embedded in city’s strategic activities; applications can be sustainable</td>
<td>Depending on civil society resources and volunteer</td>
<td>Depending on data availability and profitability of the service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replication</td>
<td>Ideas replicable and technology as well depending if public software was used.</td>
<td>Ideas replicable and technology as well depending if public software was used.</td>
<td>Ideas replicable depending on business model and scale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions & recommendations
• Cities bring together many of the actors and resources needed for open data eco-systems;
• In cities actors are close enough to each other to support innovation and participation;
• There are different models and approaches for city-level open data, including top-down and bottom-up, and state led, civil society led and entrepreneur led;
• Comparative analysis is necessary to better understand the different models, and the impacts each leads to;
• Further emphasis on cities in open data research is needed.

Rio de Janeiro (additional case)
• Historically opened in some areas (urban plan);
• Top Down initiative by City hall;
• Usage of data by civil society, enterprises and journalists is crescent;
• Demand for open data was increased at Data.Rio;
• Biggest portal in Brazil (30.000 datasets);
• Public policy of open government and data created.

Buenos Aires:
• Demand for Open Government data is still limited
• Community building is key for this type of policies
• Difficulties to measure impact
• Information disclosed in the framework of open data initiatives in cities is focused, often very successfully, on providing information about city services such as transport, cultural activities, etc. Yet, in terms of a main Open Data goal, “transparency towards accountability”, open data initiatives don’t seem to be as successful.

Sao Paulo:
• Legislative initiative;
• Top-down decision with small contribution of society;
• Failure of political sponsorship of the initiative (change of mayor and president of City Council)

Montevideo:
• Pioneer policy in Latin America
• Bottom up and state driven process
• Based on basic administrative regulation and FOI
• Limited demand for open Data
• New forms of collaboration between public sector and civil society

Source: Scrollini, F, Open Cities: The case of Montevideo (forthcoming 2014)

www.opendataresearch.org