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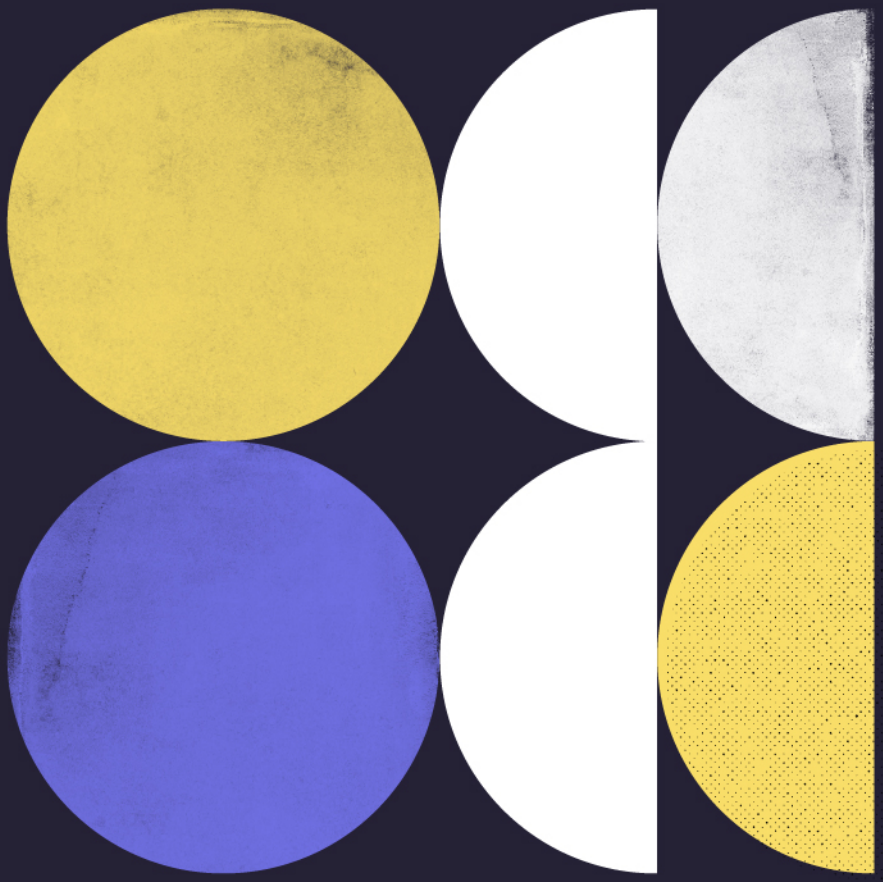
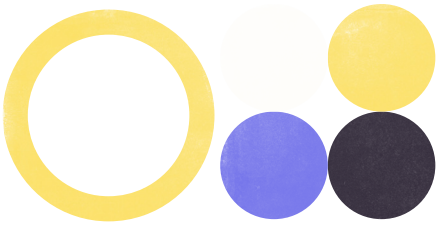


Civic Technology Mapping in Latin America

IL-DA



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Civic Technology Mapping in Latin America

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1. Introduction: The need for Civic Technology Mapping in Latin America.

Latin America is one of the regions where the open data and civic technology agenda has been thoroughly discussed, promoted and adopted.These debates are no longer framed as examples of developing countries trying to keep up with the agenda of more developed nations, but as instances that show Latin America's own equally significant contributions to the global dialogue. For example, the last International Open Data Conference (IODC[1]) was held in Argentina, even though it had previously always been organized in the Global North. Moreover, at least six countries in the region have been positioned among the 20 best in the world, according to the most recent editions of the two most important rankings on the subject (Open Data Barometer [2]and Open Data Index[3]). Latin America is also the region with the largest number of adherents to the Open Data International Charter. In addition, local governments have ready, to a greater or lesser extent, to work on the open data agenda to combat issues as complex as corruption, among others (Scrollini 2018, April 24th).

These developments in the open data and civic tech agenda have taken place due to the initiatives of different actors, including government leaders, civil society, social innovators, the private sector, academia, international organizations and social impact investors. The consecutive meetings of AbreLatam and ConDatos,[4] two regional events that have fueled the development of both an open data community in Latin America and civic technology in the region, are clear examples of progress in advancing the agenda. There is certainly a foundation of initiatives and policies that are already installed. However, there remains more work to be done: only 12 countries in Latin America (out of 33) currently have open data policies (Mora y Scrollini, 2018).

In this context, at the Latin American Open Data Initiative (ILDA) we think that it is important not only to explore the various projects and organizations working on open data and civic technology, but also to understand what value they have added—or have tried to add—or can add in the future, the kind of resources they have, and the challenges they face in their efforts to achieve the results expected in their region.

To that end, we need to diagnose the current state of open data in the region, identify the projects and actors and, at the same time, understand the criteria by which to measure success so that the region can move to a higher level of development as regards open data and civic tech. Importantly, we want to understand and learn not only from successes but also from failures so as to identify the structural problems that doomed the latter projects.

In this report, we argue the need for this measurement tool. First, we will address the issue of civic technology and organizations from a conceptual perspective. Second, we will present data relevant to the analysis of this ecosystem. Third, we will present case studies that represent these organizations. Finally, we will provide a list of suggestions for future research and further progress in this field.

2. The Need for a Map of Open Data and Civic Technology in the Region.

In Latin America, there have been some attempts to create a systematic inventory of open data initiatives, such as a map[5] with information collected during the Abrelatam/Condatos conferences (participation was optional) and based on research by Distintas Latitudes[6]. Our aim was to build on these existing initial steps to compile an inventory of projects and organizations that would demonstrate the value proposition of civic technology and open data. Furthermore,

1 https://www.opendatacon.org/
2 https://opendatabarometer.org/4thedition/regional-snapshot/latin-america/
3 https://index.okfn.org/
4 Fumega y Scrollini (2017, 12 September)
5 http://2015.abrelatam.org/mapa.html
6 https://distintaslatitudes.net/

there have been few attempts to systematize these initiatives at a comparative level once the ecosystem has a certain degree of maturity. Doing so would add value to our work and could aid other regions.

In this context, in ILDA, we have started a new research project with the objective of compiling in one place all the open data and civic technology initiatives in the region, as well as the organizations working on the subject. Our aim was to analyze what problems the initiatives and organizations are trying to solve, the sectors in which they operate and their geographical location, the capabilities, technologies and sustainability models they use, and what value they generate for the population in the region. Our objective is to be able to derive lessons that can help escalate or replicate successful projects and, at the same time, help gather evidence on the social, economic and democratic value open data and civic tech provides to regional communities. Our work was also directed towards informing future donors, companies, entrepreneurs, public servants and activists who develop or will develop projects,thus helping to nurture a new generation of actors in gthe field of open data and civic tech in Latin America.

3. Conceptual Framework: What We Mean When We Talk about Civic Tech in Latin America

The civic technology field has been developing for at least 10 years. Pioneer individuals and organizations in this field emerged mainly in the Northern Hemisphere more than a decade ago, and they were strongly optimistic about using this technology to solve existing problems in their democracies. Some clear examples of the disruptive use of technology to make government actions more transparent or to improve public services are organizations such as My Society and Open Knowledge Foundation (United Kingdom), Code for America (USA), and the Sunlight Foundation (USA). In Latin America, the pioneering work of Ciudadano Inteligente (now called Ciudadanía Inteligente) was also part of this first wave of organizations with a strong focus on improving accountability in the political world.

The term “civic” was initially used for phenomena strictly linked to electoral processes but, later, it began to include any type of technology that favors citizen participation in public decision-making. In that sense, civic tech aspires to improve and transform the government-citizen relationship. A report by the Knight Foundation explores the evolution of this field and its definition, identifying two major areas of work: government openness and community action (Patel et al., 2013). Government openness entails actions that enhance the availability, visualization and use of public information, as well as feedback concerning and control of government services. The term community action involves actions and technologies that support crowdsourcing, peer exchanges, organization of activities such as forums, and civic actions. The Knight Foundation identified at least 300 such projects operating in the United States, with different kinds of impact. A global mapping effort indicated that there are at least 3200 civic tech projects (Stampeck 2019).

How has civic technology evolved in the Global South? The evolution of the field’s agenda in the Southern Hemisphere has been irregular, as could be expected due to the different contexts and complexities of the developing world. On the basis of a study of five cases, Peixoto and Sifry (2017) conclude that civic tech has not solved problems of unequal access to technology by vulnerable populations. In other words, vulnerable populations continue to have the same (or worse) difficulties accessing civic tech as they have expressing their voice in other, more traditional ways. On the other hand, many initiatives come from the Global North and do not take into account the specificities of each region.

Latin America has a special model that has allowed the financing of civic technology activities to take into account the regional context. For example, the ALTEC fund (previously known as the Accelerated Fund for Civic Applications) has been a partnership between the Avina Foundation and Luminate Foundation (formerly an initiative of the Omidyar Network) to facilitate the promotion and adoption of civic technology in the region. Since 2013, the fund has financed more than 60 initiatives with a total investment of US $5 million. The fund developed a theory of change that has been evolving since its implementation in 2013, focusing on the diagnosis of public problems, the co-creation of solutions with communities, online-offline strategies and,

more recently, a gender dimension. Likewise, the Fund has promoted a mixed investment strategy of investing in startups, civil society organizations and journalists, and, occasionally, partnerships with governments. At a comparative level, this mixed and, consequently, more complex approach has been the exception.

In general, it can be said that the concept of civic technology that has prevailed in Latin America is broad. In Latin America, civic tech refers to a community of organizations and people that use different types of intervention—-based on the use of data, open software and civic action—to solve social problems in regional and local contexts.

The connection between work in civic technology and the open data agenda in Latin America has been vital for the development of the former. Much of the data that sustains civic tech applications or interventions come from national or local states. On the other hand, by creating applications, civic tech ensures this data is used and the sustainability of its publication is ensured (Scrollini 2018).

One of the classic questions within the civic tech community concerns the economic, social or political impact of these initiatives. In this sense, perspective is important. In 2010, discussions only centered on whether this field of activity would continue to exist, or was, instead, simply a passing fad. Almost 10 years later, it is quite clear that there have been four results:

Proof of concept: Many projects showed that services can be provided or improved in the digital age, forcing governments to take measures to emulate or recognize these projects. This has been the case, for example, after civil societies helped create many portals to channel requests for access to public information (Fumega and Scrollini, 2018).

Ecosystem construction: Progress in data publication enbaled new organizations (which follow non-traditional logic) to emerge in sectors such as the press and civil society as well as in business. In many cases, these organizations have more flexible structures, focus on products and specific niches of action and are oriented to the digital world (see next section).

Economic development: Although some studies have sought to quantify how much the open data agenda is really worth (or its real impact), this study has shown that the opening up of access to government data has led to the creation of new companies, some of which have grown exponentially.

Civic improvements: Depending on the case and context, some projects have helped elucidate complex problems or improve public services, always operating in controlled environments. In general, scalability and existence of "killer apps"[7] has not been a characteristic of the Latin American ecosystem.

4. What the Data is Telling Us: Latin American Map

The site that has been built for this project is called "Exploralat.am" (still in its beta version) and contains information from the databases collected during the Abrelatam meetings and also from those belonging to the ALTEC fund. Before they could be incorporated into the site, both databases had to be adapted to the categories defined by the work team. This process had two stages. In the first stage, the databases were categorized and organized and in a second stage it was necessary to clean up what had already been uploaded. These processes have been completed and the information is currently on the site, along with the map where they will be displayed. The NESTA map on social innovation in Europe was taken as the basis for the construction of this website. However, this process was not a mere adaptation of NESTA's source code. Along with the reformulation of the categories, a conceptual redesign was also carried out to fit the idiosynchrasies of the region; the site name was considered and the user interface, as well as the "paths" the different users would follow to be able to access the information. In

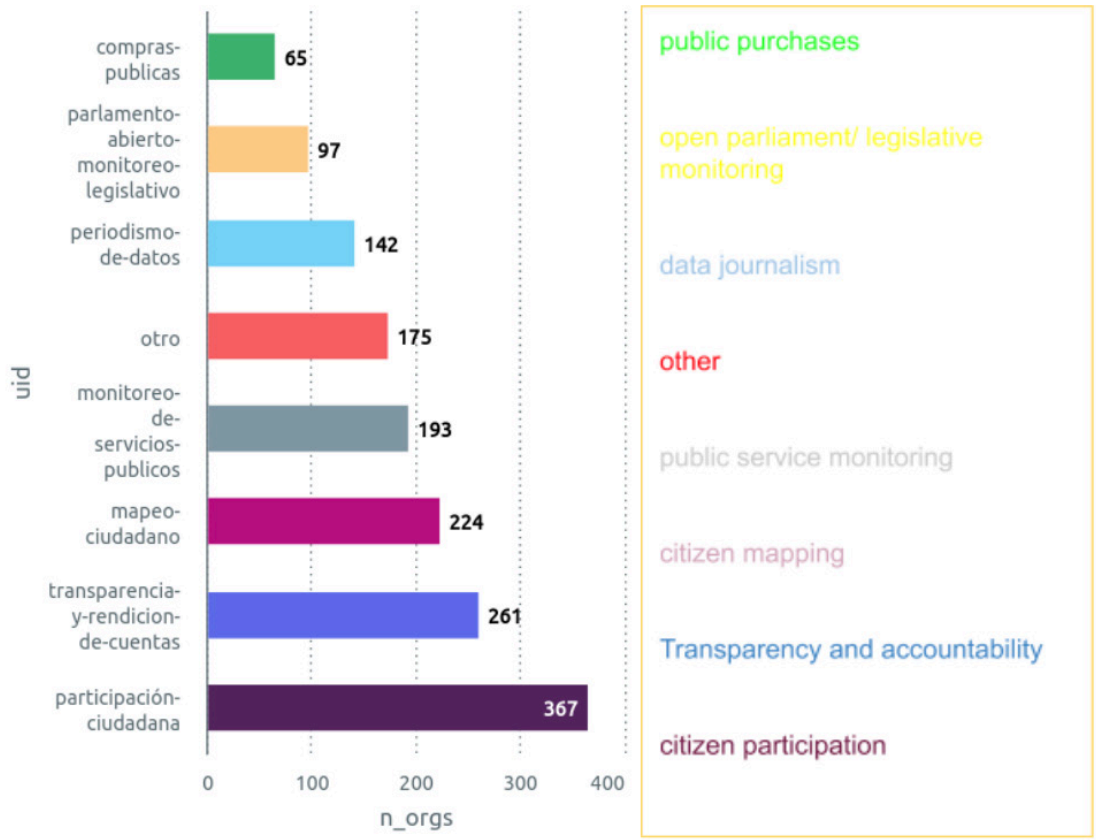
7 A "killer app" is an application that demonstrates and solves a given problem, usually with a large user base. The term comes from technology investment funds.

a subsequent iteration and with the collaboration of the social enterprise Datasketch, the user interface was improved and new information was added, resulting in a partial redesign of the site and its code.

Overall, in Exploralat.am, data has been gathered from more than 600 organizations and more than 695 projects. From these data it can be inferred that one of the characteristics of this ecosystem is the high degree of collaboration between organizations from different countries. There are 442 projects that involve at least two collaborting organizations.

As for the projects in which organizations collaborate, the following distribution can be observed:

Figure 1. Project Areas



Source: exploralat.am

As can be seen in the figure, "citizen participation and transparency" is one of the main areas of work for the organizations and groups represented in Exploralat.am. This is consistent with studies and surveys (such as the Latinobarometer[8]) that indicate that citizen participation and government transparency are among the most worrying issues for Latin Americans.

Table 1 shows the percentage of civic tech organizations at each of several different sizes.

8 http://www.latinobarometro.org/latContents.js

Table 1: Number of employees per organization

Percentage of total	Number of employees per organization
30%	0-5 employees
21%	6-10 employees
13%	11-25 employees
5 %	26-50 employees
5%	51-500 employees [9]
26%	No information

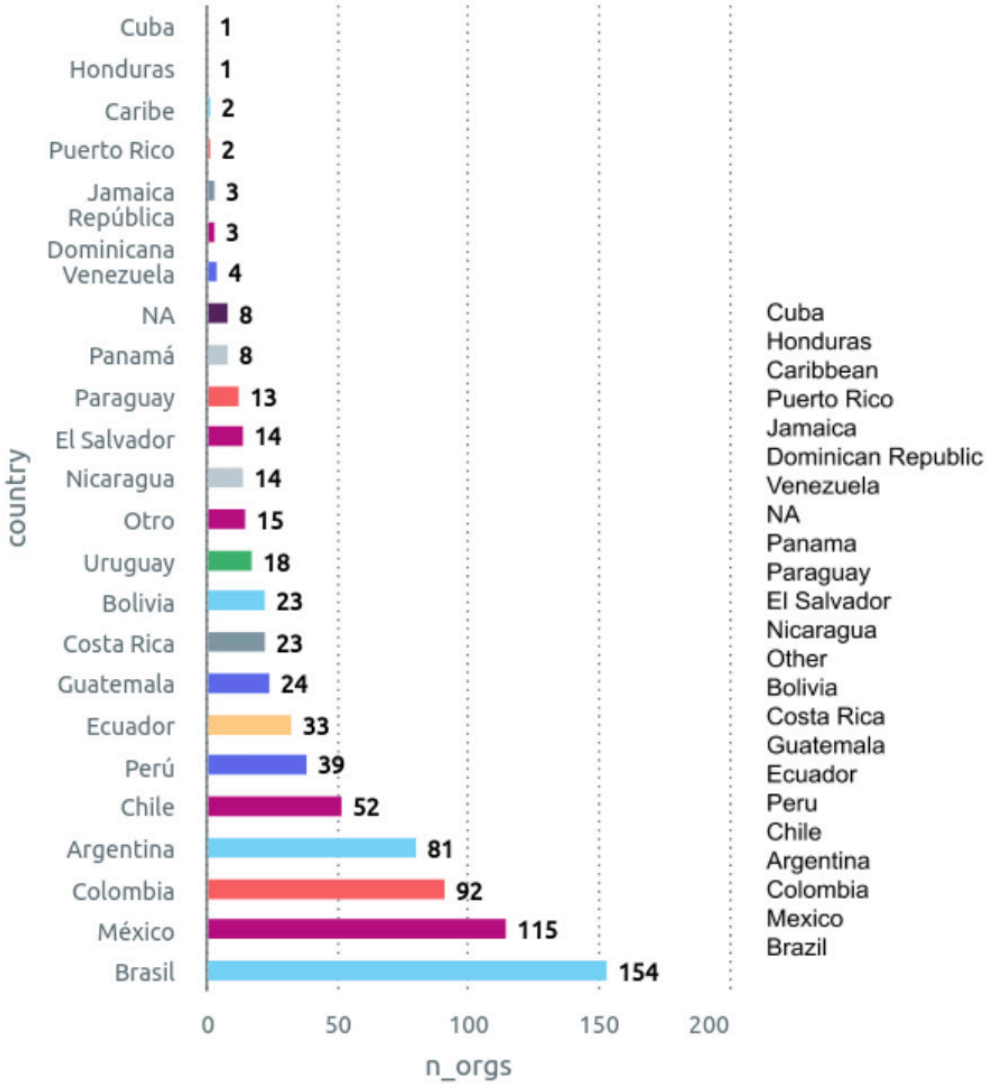
Source: Exploralat.am

In general, the organizations are small and have only a few employees. In this sense, they resemble their private sector peers working in the technology sector, where small groups of people with above-average qualifications generate products or significant disruption. However, we know little about the conditions in which civic tech workers are employed, about the quality and sustainability of this type of job or, in general, about how to sustain these organizations and enterprises.

Geographically, civic tech organizations are distributed throughout the continent, although the vast majority are in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Argentina, as can be seen in Figure 2.

9 A significant number of organizations (39%) did not include in their responses data on their number of employees, and others provided ambiguous information that make it difficult to determine in which size category to place them. Consequently, the estimates in the table are incomplete.

Figure 2: Countries in which civic tech organizations are based.



Source: Exploralat.am

5. Relevant Cases

In addition to designing the Exploralat.am website and making the information in the databases accessible to users, we began investigating some specific cases that helped us to understand the practical uses of open data and civic tech projects in the region.

We think that one of the best ways to understand and disseminate the value generated by the use of data and civic technology projects is through sharing the accounts of the actors themselves. To that end, we selected eight projects and five organizations that have managed to innovate in the use of public data or in the development of civic technology. The projects chosen are innovative cases that represent a diverse sample of counries in the region.

Five organizations from different countries were selected: IMCO (Mexico), DataUY (Uruguay), Datasketch (Colombia), Ojo Público (Peru), and LNData (Argentina). In addition, we studied the

following eight projects that use data and/or civic technology in innovative ways in various sectors: Open Energy, Properati, Junar, OPI, DymaxionLab, InfoAmazonia, Data Art and Prometea.

We carried out interviews with the actors in each project or organization and reviewed relevant published materials (if any existed). In each of the studies, whether of an organization or project, we focused on understanding the value proposition, the results achieved or desired and the challenges and next steps.

5.1 Structures

A common denominator of many of the organizations we analyzed is that they belong to the "post-bureaucratic/networked organizations" typology. Post-bureaucratic organizations have a more horizontal and distributed structure compared to the bureaucratic ideal (Drucker 1988; Powell 1990; Heckscher and Donnellon 1994). These organizations have a more flexible and adaptable structure to face a society with increasing levels of uncertainty and change, as defined by postmodern scholars, such as Harvey (1989), Giddens (1991), Beck (1992), Castells (1996), among others. Post-bureaucratic structures have increased in tandem with the growing influence of technology in communications and some of its features would not exist without the development of information and communications technology (ICT) (Drucker 1988; Powell 1990; Heckscher and Donnellon 1994; Gray and Garsten 2001). This adaptation of business concepts has been useful for understanding organizations that base their actions on technology (Fumega, 2016).

This idea of a network or post-bureaucratic organization is also closely linked to the concept of virtual teams, something that would have been unthinkable a couple of decades ago. Lipnack and Stamps (1994) have defined these "teams" (organizations) as nodes, i.e. individuals and independent groups, working together for a common purpose (Lipnack and Stamps 1994 p.173). Currently, these nodes, or teams, might be located in different places and time zones. They can communicate and interact with other groups, as well as among themselves, in most cases through virtual channels.

Although the above is the ideal, it helps us to understand how organizations are managed in the area of civic technology and data use. The vast majority of civic tech organizations have small and, in many cases, virtual teams (e.g., DataUY, DataSketch, Ojo Público). This is partly due to the advancement of communications technology, the limited budgets of organizations that are at an early state of development, and because of the influence of hacker ethics on the professionals that work in these areas (see Fumega 2016). This is the type of structure that exists in all the cases we studied except when it comes to small teams within more established organizations, such as LNData[10] or when organizations are more traditional entities that have adapted their research lines along with the advancement of technology (IMCO).

In this context, there are organizations and projects that work in different areas but are connected by the use of technology and data, in many cases to generate social value and, in some others, to also generate economic value.

5.2 Value Proposition

Each organization and project selected has a component that makes them unique, such as the topics they address, the use they make of the data or the way they have found to generate economic value from civic/social projects. Moreover, it is clear that many of the organizations and/or projects that have managed to stand out in the world of data use are those that relate in some way to journalism, to telling stories in an innovative way to reach different audiences with problems of public interest.

InfoAmazonia **is one such example.** It differs from other organizations due to the unique inter-

10 In general, the work dynamics of the team are horizontal. While members can share common projects with the team, everyone is free to choose the topics they want to investigate. An exception to this is the rare long-term project that has a single person assigned.

section in which it operates, namely environmental journalism, data journalism and development of technological platforms. InfoAmazonia's constitution as an independent network of O Eco allows for the development of projects that cover all three areas equally.

"We don't just continue building platforms that can be used journalistically. Rather we build journalistic products that can be used as platforms. It is the reverse process. We are interested in having an impact on issues about the Amazon, but we do it through research first; not only through a platform itself" (Wrobleski, personal communication, December 21, 2018).

Datasketch, a data-based services company as well as a digital investigative and data journalism platform which started in 2015, works on commercial projects to cover its operating expenses, as well as on other projects in the social area. According to Marín, Datasketch distinguishes itself as a data-based labor consulting company from other companies in the same area because it covers the entire process, which can entail constructing the data, if they do not already exist, or locating and requesting access to information if it already exists within the government. Subsequently, Datasketch performs the entire process from data-cleaning to analysis. For Marín, the value of Datasketch is that they do not work solely on the presentation of data.

In this way, Datasketch seeks "specific advocacy opportunities to innovate in the way we relate to data as citizens" (J. P. Marín, personal communication, October 25, 2018).

Similarly, one of the most recognized independent media organizations in the region, **Ojo Público,** was born in September 2014 in Peru as a completely digital non-profit media company. Under the motto "The stories that others do not want to tell you," it combines in its work traditional investigative journalism tools with new digital narratives. Their aim is to provide "relevant stories, true news, well-written articles and innovative tools on urgent issues of the national public agenda" (Ojo Público, website).

Additionally, the work of **LNData,** one of the pioneers in the use of data for journalistic purposes, should be highlighted. The team formation proposal was an idea of Angélica Peralta Ramos, a graduate in Systems, who had already been working at La Nación, one of the oldest newspapers in Argentina, since 1995 and who saw the emergence of the team as a "natural evolution of what technology could do to help journalism create stories, use public data and conduct research with original content."

On the other hand, in addition to journalistic organizations, it is important to highlight those projects and/or organizations that have managed to generate economic value from the use of data, as mentioned above. In general, authors emphasize the civic/social use of public data but rarely cite examples of business generation and new services that come from the use of that data. That is why it is important to highlight the cases of Open Intelligence (OPI) and Properati, among others.

OPI was established in Mexico in 2012 by Alejandro Maza and Alberto Tawil with the purpose of "offering institutions actionable information on public policies." OPI is a consolidation of the collaboration that Maza and Tawil started in 2010 through Yo Propongo, an exercise in citizen participation for which they developed data collection and data analysis tools. They constituted OPI as a company to develop these tools for the public sector, tools that would eventually also be useful for companies in Mexico's private sector.

Today OPI offers implementations of two products: Archimedes, software for data analysis and query, and Enrichment API for enterprise systems. Archimedes users can compare indicators, view historical trends, and search by geographical environment or indicator, as well as compare the same indicator in different states, or cross variables (El Universal, 2015). Also, predictive models can be generated based on the collection of data concentrated in this software. API allows its clients to enrich their data with OPI information; clients pay a fee to access certain agreed upon variables so that they can analyze the relationship between these and other variables. The companies that hire OPI to implement these products are in the banking, consumer goods, public insurance, sales and telecommunications industries.

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All the cases mentioned above refer to civil society or private sector organizations. There are also public bodies that make use of data in innovative ways. Energía Abierta and Prometea are examples of these uses of data within public bodies themselves. Some of the main users of the data, and of the laws that grant access to public information, are public bodies themselves. Units

within public bureaucracies usually work in silos, but this type of tool allows different agencies to access data produced by other public bodies. Although this use has not been the main justification for opening up access to data, it has become, in practice, a very important use that generates benefits not only within the public sector but also to society at large. Through the use of data and the development of technology, Energía Abierta and Prometea both help improve of the provision of certain public services in the areas of energy and justice, respectively.

Energía Abierta is an open data platform for the energy sector in Chile. The website consolidates more than three hundred sets of essential data for the design and evaluation of energy projects, including real-time prices and maps that show wind and solar energy potentials. For Mauricio Utreras of RODA Energía, it is about making data available on "factors that generate trust and facilitate the work of the investor" (M. Utreras, personal communication, November 30, 2017). That is, it is about providing access to strategic data as a solution to a specific problem.

Many of these data had been published in closed formats such as PDF, which were located on unique platforms of dispersed entities. The five Chilean institutions that publish the main data of the energy sector in Chile are the Ministry of Energy, the National Energy Commission (regulator), the Superintendent of Electricity and Fuels (regulatory agency), the Chilean Energy Efficiency Agency and the Solar Energy Research Center. The Energía Abierta team also collects data from the World Bank, the Ministry of Economy and the Institute of Statistics.

Prometea emerged in 2017 as a predictive artificial intelligence (AI) tool to prepare judicial opinions quickly, accelerating case resolution processes (Corvalán, 2017) in the City of Buenos Aires. The idea of the project was to expedite a set of repeated and routine tasks in judicial cases that are similar to each other. For a given set of cases, Prometea enables one to detect the appropriate judicial response in an average of 20 seconds.

5.3 Challenges and the Future

As is the case with many of these organizations, the main challenge for Ojo Público is sustainability. They need to find a business model that does not leave them dependent mostly on external financing. This would enable them to carry out research that is not necessarily on the agenda of international funders. Thus, they could address current issues that they see as essential to cover, such as corruption issues.

An opportunity for monetizing InfoAmazonia could come from collaborations with other media. For example, in 2015 and 2018, the Socio-Environmental Institute in Brazil made an alliance with InfoAmazonia to create "Annual Cycles of Indigenous Peoples in the Tiquié River" (2015) and "Looted Amazonia" (2018). Likewise, its most recent alliance is with El Espectador—the second largest newspaper in Colombia—to report news about the Amazon in Spanish.

Datasketch's future growth could involve expanding its audience within Colombia, collaborating with larger media entities, and expanding into all Latin American countries. To that end, Datasketch's current interest is in expanding its alliances outside Colombia to reach audiences in developing countries around the world. This would allow Datasketch data journalism projects to have an impact on anti-corruption and transparency struggles in different countries.

Forming alliances outside their home countries seems to be one of the main challenges for all the organizations we studied. Although up to now, LA NACION Data has made several journalistic productions collaboratively, all of them were carried out with non-governmental organizations in Argentina. One of the team's challenges was to carry out projects with journalistic organizations outside the country. Towards the end of 2018, they began working with the media organizations that make up Grupo de Diarios América (GDA) on a regional femicide project.

6. The Future of Civic Technology and Open Data in Latin America

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the ecosystem of civic technology and open data in the region. In this section we present a series of provisional points about the present and future of this field.

a. The ecosystem is aligned with the main concerns of Latin America

In general, the vast majority of initiatives are aligned with the region's concerns in terms of transparency, participation and improvement of public services. In other words, most organizations seek to have some impact on these issues. This undoubtedly reflects the tradition that this community has had in Latin America regarding complex social problems. Future research should strive to better understand the impact of particular projects on these problems, as well as the way in which governments in each region can change or adopt practices developed by their civil society or private sector counterparts. The latter is particularly important in aspects related to the improvement of public services. It would also be desirable to understand how these civic technology organizations connect with others that have worked on these problems from other perspectives.

b. The ecosystem is comprises small and medium organizations with diverse and fragile sustainability models

In the course of this investigation we have found very diverse profiles of social, public and private sector organizations. The cases that have sustainability models that ensure their operations, particularly in the social sector, are few. Because they may not have the capacity and/or assistance to develop sustainable models, the public sector could play a much stronger role in sustaining some of these initiatives, but there are legal and organizational barriers that prevent a more fluid relationship. Similarly, citizens could participate by supporting these initiatives (and in some cases they do) but not all countries have the infrastructure to provide this support. And not all organizations want or are able to base their sustainability on individual financing.

c. The agendas of open data and civic technology are complementary but different

Data is essential for many of the existing applications to work. However, the lack of open access to some government data and the poor quality of other data generates some frictions among the actors, which entails costs for organizations that, in general, are small and have few resources. A key group of users who demand open data from the public sector are technology organizations and companies. These organizations use the data as infrastructure (e.g., geographic data), to generate analysis, visualizations or, also, to generate economic or social value. However, it should be clarified that not all organizations working in the field of civic technology depend on and/or use open data.

d. Cooperation in the public sector: a challenge

Many efforts in the area of civic technology and open data aim to change the way in which the government works. Government cooperation has been obtained in exceptional situations and, in some cases, instances of co-production of initiatives have been achieved. However, these situations are exceptional and governments have generally failed to capitalize on the part of the work made by civil society. There are two key factors in this regard: capability and political will. Organizations vary in terms of their technical capability and influence on the government. Similarly, government capability is limited in many technical aspects. Open government processes have created a window where it is occasionally possible to discuss initiatives of this kind, but structured and/or standardized processes are nonexistent.

An additional problem that arises in the current Latin American context is the low level of reliability that many governments have. This sets up a clearly different climate from the one at the beginning of the open government agenda. Consequently, although there are new barriers to establishing spaces for dialogue, opportunities arise for those who are working on technologies that promote participation, transparency or public debate from a more adversarial perspective.

e. Making the gender dimension visible

The gender dimension traditionally has not been contemplated in this ecosystem until recently. On the one hand, there are projects that seek to make gender visible in the increased access to and use of data. This type of activity should be promoted because it allows us to consider how data is created and used, usually without taking into account gender issues. On the other hand, we know relatively little about gender parity in terms of wages and working conditions. More research is necessary to understand how to promote an ecosystem in civic technology that supports parity.

f. Inequality and the role of technology

In general, there is evidence that civic tech and the use of data do not necessarily help eliminate inequality gaps in our societies. However, these elements can be useful for intermediaries who can apply them for their advocacy tasks.

The debate over who benefits (or not) from civic technology requires even more research to inform theories of change that guide those who implement solutions. Although in Latin America in general there is awareness of these issues and of the importance of online-offline actions, we know little about their effectiveness.

g. Scalability

In the private sector product scalability is highly desirable, and it has been the basis for the development of platforms that today have generated disruption in entire sectors of the economy, relatively quickly. In any case, the evidence indicates that the scalability of civic tech and open data initiatives is limited and that it is necessary to rethink the meaning of replicating an initiative in different contexts. Although important, technology is not the only aspect to consider and consequently some solutions could be more ad-hoc even if they are inspired by similar processes or ideas in other countries.

This report has been only a first step in our effort to better understand the actors in the civic tech ecosystem of the region. The Exploralat.am project aims to be a tool that supports a more complete and thorough analysis of these actors. Without this tool, many efforts are limitated by a lack of data. On the other hand, this project also seeks to become a tool for sharing information among those actors who do not yet know each other (and should).

We hope to complete this platform in the coming months by adding more information about the organizations and projects already in the Exploralat.am database along with informtion about those that are not yet a part of it. As more data is included, more analysis can be performed and more knowledge gained, helping to advance the development of the civic technology ecosystem.

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