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Submission

Application

Participant: Dominican Republic Team

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS:

As you consider which initiative to put forward for the Open Government Awards, please consider the following questions:

(1) Does the initiative seek to improve a public policy or service?

● Yes ○ No

(2) If yes, does the initiative seek to improve the ability of citizens to provide feedback and/or to make decisions in the design or implementation of a policy or service? For examples of initiatives, see: http://www.opengovguide.com/topics/citizen-engagement

● Yes ○ No

If you have answered "Yes" to BOTH of these questions, please proceed with your application.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration by the judges of the 2014 Open Government Awards (under the inaugural theme, Citizen Engagement). If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

IPAC Initiative

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative. Please offer your explanation of this process in 200 words or less.

In June 2010, IPAC Initiative was created as instance of the Presidency of the Republic to counter the perceived lack of transparency linked to corruption within the public administration.

The initiative provides; (A) collect information on successful experiences in promoting transparency; (B) identify information gaps in the field and how to meet them; (C) collect and analyze information, and (d) make specifics recommendations to the President.

The initiative had an organizing committee comprised of key stakeholders from government, private enterprise, multilateral organisms, and Dominican civil society, ensuring a national initiative coupled with international experience.

IPAC is a mechanism for dialogue and decision making space, carried out in tables workshops and general assemblies based on multisectoral themes and representation where both, Government and civil society, are represented.

To postulate this initiative the DIGEIG launched an extended scheme of IPAC Assemblies. That bring a wider support for this postulation and ensures a participation of citizenship at all levels.

Our goal is to continue this citizen participation iniciative and make it a permanent organism, guaranteeing the space of interaction between government and citizens.

It is currently preparing a draft law for the IPAC function as a permanent mechanism.

For more information http://www.ipacrd.org

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name and title of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the most senior individual responsible for overseeing the application submission. Provide the phone number(s), email address(es), and physical address of your designated point of contact. You may provide alternate contact information, if it is a direct means for reaching the designated point of contact.

General Direction for Ethics and Government Integrity (DIGEIG in spanish).
General Director, Dr. Marino Vinicio Castillo Rodriguez.
Dr. Miguel Suazo, Executive Director

Designated point of contact:

Dr. Berenice Barinas, head of the Transparency Department
(809) 6857135 x 7020
berenice.barinas@digeig.gob.do
Calle Moisés García No. 9, esq. Galvan, Gazcue
Santo Domingo, República Dominicana

Alternate contact :

Lic. Julio Simon Castaños

(809) 6857135 x 6003

julio.castanos@digeig.gob.do

Calle Moisés García No. 9, esq. Galvan, Gazcue

Santo Domingo, República Dominicana

CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT (strongly recommended)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society partner. If submitting a joint application, please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the partner organization. If not, please be sure to focus on the "validation of claims" in Section B (see pg. A-3).

Lic. Pedro Matos V.
President
Institute of Authorized Public Accountants of Dominican Republic.
(809) 688-7080
e-mail: gerencia@icpard.org

Giselle Scanlon
Executive Director
INSALUD
(809) 472-3613
e-mail: gisellesf@yahoo.com

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media, or other organizations, please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership, including the roles that each partner assumes in the initiative.

Each table workshop had identified focal points of civil society that were part of the so-called IPAC Citizen Observatory. The Government had its focal point as well.

Focal points of civil society :

1. Contracting and procurement. ANJE: Patricia Bobea y Lara Guerrero

2.Civil service. Participación Ciudadana: Juan Montero y Carlos E. Pimentel

3. Financial management. Comisión de Economistas de la mesa de Política Social de Foro Ciudadano: Feipe del Rosario Toledo

4. Access to information. Foro Ciudadano: Jose Luis Morrillo

5. Infrastructure. Ciudad Alternativa: Román Batista, Marianela Pinales

6. Health. INSALUD : Giselle Scanlon

7. Education. EDUCA: Aida Consuelo Hernández

8. Energy. AEIH: Ernesto Vilalta, Julissa Almonte, Nafta Chain Hasbun

9. Water. ADEAGUA : David Toribio, Luis Morilla

10. Government Control Bodies. Instituto de Auditores, Colegio de Contadores, Instituto de Contadores Autorizados Públicos Autorizados. Yovanny Feliz

For further informationhttp://www.ipacrd.org/observatorio-ciudadano---responsables-del-seguimiento-puntos-focales

Focal points of Government :

Ministry of the Presidency

General Directorate for Public Purchasing and Contracting

Ministry of Public Administration

Ministry of Finance

MEPYD

Comptroller of the Republic

Chamber of Counts

Ministry of Public Health

Ministry of Education

CDEEE

Energy Commission

INAP

DPCA

DIGEIG

For further information https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxwcm95ZWN0b2lwYWN8Z3g6NjkyOTgxMTZlMTU1M2I2MQ

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants to the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is "citizen engagement." To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success for your initiative and its sustainability over time.

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and for the particular context in which you are working?

The IPAC Initiative aims to eliminate the perception of lack of transparency in the government, by creating a space where citizens may interact with the public administration and communicate their concerns about transparency, management of State funds and the the improvement of public services in general.

A bad perception from citizens towards the way their government spends public funds causes distrust and disbelief in the democratic system.

Our goal is to ensure the trust of society in their governments by making this direct contact instances where the general population can go an make inquiries about the functioning of public services, participatate in public policies design, and denounce the miss use of taxpayers funds.

TARGET POPULATION (required)

In 100 words or less, please identify the target population who may benefit from this initiative. Highlight your understanding of the needs or demands of the target population that were addressed by your initiative.

The target population for this initiative is the general public. All of the citizens who are worried about corruption in the national government and who wishes for more effective public services.

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 350 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. Focus specifically on how the initiative was designed to meet those objectives. For example, identify stage(s) of the policy/service design or implementation when you solicited citizen participation. What kind of participation did you seek from citizens (e.g., feedback, consultation, joint decision-making, monitoring of activities, etc.)? Explain why this particular approach was best suited to achieve the initiative's goals. How did you encourage citizens to participate? Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

The ultimate objective of the IPAC Initiative is to improve the quality of life. The IPAC has functioned as an open and direct space of citizen's participation. Through this mechanism people can make proposals and articulate, coordinate and monitoring the initiatives and commitments that arrives in consensus between the government and society through an open conversation.

The IPAC initiative is designed in four stages:

STAGE 1:

Call for the first general workshop with the aim of establishing the working groups.

The call attempts to bring together people representing government agencies, business organizations and civil society.

Workshop participants will select ten tables based work (if needed other tables can be implemented):

Contracting and procurement
Civil service
Financial management
Access to information
Government Control Bodies
Infrastructure
Health
Education
Energy
Water

The tables are central to the IPAC; are the generator space for multisectoral consensus and recommendations. The dynamics of the tables workshop will continue in the follow-up period of implementation of the recommendations.

All work tables will target the central purpose of the IPAC: improve transparency, efficiency and quality of people life.

STAGE 2:

Phase of reflection and analysis in six-week workshops. In this stage takes place individual thematic calls in order to participate at the multisectorial tables. Government and citizens will dialogue and study the material available, inquiry by the information still missing and finally will construct together the recommendations.

STAGE 3:

Call for the second general workshop with the aim of give the opportunity to link the findings and recommendations of the tables that may lead to a prioritized list of actions that can be taken, emphasizing the higher priority.

STAGE 4:

Phase to implement the recommendations. People will be monitoring the process of implementation each commitment. The dynamics of the tables workshop will continue in this follow-up period of implementation of the recommendations.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 250 words or less, describe the intended outcomes and the actual outcomes that the initiative achieved. Who were the ultimate beneficiaries, and what benefits did they experience? For example, list any concrete improvements in policy, services, behaviors, or power relations between the government and citizens. Try to present your case from the perspective of the various stakeholders involved (e.g., your agency, citizens, Civil Society Organizations, media, et al.). If there are any baseline indicators or standards to measure the outcomes of the initiative, such as the breadth of depth of engagement, please describe them in detail.

The IPAC had 30 outcomes which had been called recommendations (R). At February 2012 twenty of those 30 had been complete. In December 2013 the initiative had achieved completely seven more. That does 27 recommendation realize by this participatory initiative.

Some of the outcomes were:

R2- Transform the Dominican Government Purchase Portal into Transactional.

R3-Creating a Permanent Mechanism for Social Monitoring to ensure compliance with the procedures set forth in the regulations of procurement and contracting

R.12-Realization of different actions to increase the level of citizen awareness of the right of access to public information

R.16-Create a monitoring system that would support the management and monitoring of construction contracts which handles the Dominican State. The system would be mandatory for all contracts and would have a unique identifier for a record of each contract. This will enable the effective implementation of Law No. 340-06 on Purchasing and Procurement of Goods, Services, Construction and Concessions

R.19-Strengthened capacity of PROMESE / CAL to unify all purchases of medical supplies

The ultimate beneficiary was the people. For example through the implementation of this initiative the government experiences a huge savings in public procurement of medicines (63% saving feb-dic 2013). This benefit the citizens who could buy these products at a lower price in the public pharmacies, and because of the savings government could increase units shipped to users.

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up and/or sustaining the initiative in the future. Base your description of the strategy on information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you intend to manage those risks on a regular basis.

The General Direction for Ethics and Government Integrity (DIGEIG) has within its functions monitoring the continuity of IPAC. The IPAC has been a positive experience, in which government and society have shown that they can work together in finding solutions.

The DIGEIG has developed a proposal to convert the IPAC into a permanent mechanism by Law.

DIGEIG is conscious that internationally there is a common preoccupation the fact of achieve the participation of the citizenship in a more comprehensive way. Because of that, we have the goal to ensure an enlarge participation of citizens, not only those who are concentrated in big cities, but especially those in the most remote areas of the country. To do so, we have launched in May 2014 an expansion project of IPAC conceive to be implemented through provincial governors allover country.

In each provincial governor we are establishing a point of contact. We had been making calls for an Open Government IPAC Assembly where all can participated not only the organized civil society, also the academia, business, and individuals that feels concerned and want to participate in the improvement of their living conditions and the quality of the public service.

For more information http://digeig.gob.do/w/es/news/direccion-etica-en-politica-de-expansion-provincial-de-gobierno-abierto-ipac/#.U62bk_l5PmI

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes partners, such as Civil Society Organizations, private sector agencies, media entities, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from one or more credible nongovernmental actors who can attest to the veracity of any claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

validations.zip

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, please present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others, that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

IPAC Initiative should be recognized because it is a revolutionary mechanism that engages civil society participation and collaboration for the construction of a new responsible relationship between government and citizens. No other initiative promotes open government like this one.

The idea of a permanent official mechanism that gathers civil society and governmental representatives/agencies hasn't been tried before this.

IPAC sets itself in 10 work tables that will address most public services provided by government and give response to concerned citizens who want these services to

be better. Instead of an 18month/2 year project, IPAC is intended to be a permanent mechanism that will ensure civil society-government collaboration.

The result will be:

-.Citizens trust more in their government/democracy.

-.Public services are more efficient due to permanent feedback society-government

-.Public funds better spent, therefore, government budget that could last out for other citizen benefit project.

-.More transparency from the government due to the constant vigilance of civil society.

-.More integrity in public officials.

-Citizens participation at all levels, including remote regions.

VIDEO SUBMISSION (recommended*)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.
Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.
Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.
If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process.
If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another Internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

- Include the following:
  - Introduce yourself and your initiative.
  - Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective.
  - What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach?
- Hone your content:
  - Keep your description and language simple.
  - Demonstrate passion through your words and enthusiasm.

*If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.