

E-GOVERNANCE AND URBAN POLICY DESIGN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Technology democratizes information and promotes transparency in public management

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Biographical Details:

Oded Grajew, businessman and social entrepreneur, is the founder and general coordinator of Our São Paulo Network, an organization that focuses on engaging society and institutions in the public and private sector to follow an agenda towards a fair, democratic and sustainable city.

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Structured Abstract

Purpose & Scope

The Sustainable Cities Program is the first initiative in Brazil to propose an integrated set of tools for debate and intervention in municipalities, including diagnosis, planning, monitoring and accountability through guidelines and indicators.

The Program offers an agenda for cities sustainability that handles different areas of public administration, via 12 thematic foundations, which counts with basic and general indicators. To build a successful public management, capable of improving the quality of living, the cities need to use the platform/software designed for the insertion of the indicators and to adopt planning methods, as the Goals Plan. The ultimate goal is to make information, updated and accurate, a powerful management tool.

Design/methodology/approach

Iota Platform is offered by the Program and was intentionally built as open software, which ensures universal and adaptable use to many different realities and needs. The formulation of indicators proposed by the Program allows organizing the information, classifying the data collected and identifying problems as well as potential of each locality. The indicators enable monitoring municipalities' evolution and their accomplishments, besides a comparative analysis between them. Currently, there are 266 municipalities as signatories making diagnosis of their cities and committing with the goals of the Program.

Results/findings

Besides contributing with proposals and ideas and participate in debates and in some decisions, the participatory processes consolidate the ethics of co-responsibility and zeal by the collective, perfect scenario for population to monitor the public initiatives. In this sense, the indicators platform has also been offered and incorporated by civil society organizations which carry out such monitoring in their cities. Today, 53 social movements of Brazil and Latin America work actively in the survey indicators and social control.

Conclusions

Ergo, it's possible to create intelligent, participatory, sustainable and modern governance, significantly raising the quality of public management and, consequently, of cities and the living conditions of its population.

Keywords: *Sustainability, participation, transparency, governance*