

INFOBRAS

in partnership with the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Network on Governance (GovNet)



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Organisation: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Country: Peru

Level of government: Central government

Sector: Economic affairs

Type: Digital, Public Service

Launched in: 2012

Overall development time: 2 year(s) 6 month(s)

Link to the innovation's website

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Description

INFOBRAS is an online portal developed to strengthen transparency, management and control of public works, as well as citizens participation. It is designed and implemented by the Comptroller General of the Republic of Peru (CGR) with the support of the Governance and Inclusion Program of the German development corporation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Peru.

The system displays, in real-time, information on public works gathered from other national information systems, as well as information on the physical progress and location of public works provided by public agencies at the national, regional and local level throughout the country.

It provides financial information on public infrastructure to citizens and public institutions. The platform contains information on budget allocations, progress of on-going works, and information on private contractors

INFOBRAS is linked to other public budget, expenditure and procurement systems, including the National Public Investment System (SNIP), the Integral Financial Management System (SIAF), (both managed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), and the Electronic Procurement System of the State (SEACE).

This interfacing allows online tracking of investment projects, contracts, and payments made for the works throughout Peru and covers all stages of works development (pre-investment, investment, and post-investment).

Why the innovation was developed

- To provide information and auditing procedures of public works in Peru, which represents a significant percentage of the state budget.
 - To improve government transparency through greater openness.
 - To encourage active citizen participation.
 - To fight against corruption of public works expenditure.
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Objectives

Enhance public trust, Enhance transparency, Improve access, Improve effectiveness, Improve efficiency, Increase citizen engagement

- Improve public works management.
 - Strengthen the relation between public institutions and the community through greater transparency.
 - Store all the data systematically in one place.
 - Improve audit process of public resources.
 - Obtain real-time information about public works online.
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Main beneficiaries

Civil Society, General population, Government bodies, Government staff

- The Comptroller General's office: in reducing time, cost, and improving quality control process.
 - Citizens: in citizen oversight of public works.
 - Public agencies: improving management of public works and transparency to accomplish open government.
 - The Ministry of Economy and Finance: better coordination of information for physical monitoring of public works.
 - Supervising Agency of State Procurement: quality control of registered information about procurement.
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Existing similar practices

GEO-CGR Citizen Oversight of Public Works Portal

In other countries' public administrations

Chile

The digital platform provides online, geo-referenced information on tenders, bid openings, allocations, state of works, moneys and timelines, and seeks to encourage participation from civil society.

<http://www.contraloria.cl/geograppcgr/GEOCGR/index.jsp>

Results

Efficiency

- The Comptroller of Peru can now identify irregularities or deviations in the delivery/execution of public works, and can use this information to provide recommendations for improvement.
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Effectiveness

- Due to the information available on INFOBRAS, the Comptroller now has ready access to data on over 33,000 public works, and can use this information to improve oversight and control.
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Service quality

Accessibility:

- The Comptroller uses INFOBRAS to engage and encourage citizen participation in public works. As of late 2013, there were 200 comments from citizens on INFOBRAS.

Responsiveness:

- INFOBRAS houses key data for public servants to review and ensure that projects are on track and transparent and are responsive to citizen's concerns. As of November 2014, 341 projects (of over 29,000 at that point) had been suspended, with nearly a third of these being in the roads sector.

Development

Design

The CGR Peru needed a comprehensive tool to collate financial, contractual and physical progress of public works in Peru. The CGR wanted a tool that could generate, in real time, and could work compatibly with other national systems to collate this data.

Given this, the CGR requested support from the Good Governance and State Reform Program of the German Cooperation, GIZ.

The program supported CGR to benchmark the program; advise on the design and implementation of INFOBRAS; support back office processes; and, develop the communication strategy to link INFOBRAS with citizens.

Design time: 6 month(s)

Testing

- At the concept, design and implementation phases of INFOBRAS feedback was gathered from key actors, including local government public officials, regional government, and national government public agencies; citizens; and auditors of CGR. Data were gathered by the CGR through several workshops around Peru.

Testing time: 3 month(s)

Implementation

Tools used:

- INFOBRAS is a website for transparency surrounding public works procedures.
- While most of the information about public works existed in other governmental information systems, (like Procurement System called SEACE, Public Investment System called SNIP and Financial Management System called SIAF), these systems were built using different technologies and were owned by different institutions.
- INFOBRAS's challenge was to find a way to make them connected; this was done through developing an online portal that accessed and harmonised relevant data from the pre-existing systems.
- Using geo-referenced locations on Google Maps, the system can house and show infrastructure photos.

Resources used:

- At the staff level, a team from CGR and the German Cooperation were used to support the project. Consultation and in-kind contributions were also given (no value indicated).

Implementation time: 1 year(s)

Diffusion

- GIZ technical staff that supported the project was a key factor in the design and delivery of the project – they were very creative in the design, development and implementation of the system.
- The technical team had significant experience in systems development and understood the technical systems that INFOBRAS would use. These skills both facilitated and expedited all stages of INFOBRAS's construction.
- Technical assistance provided by GIZ to the INFOBRAS was through a variety of ways, including national advisors and an Integrated CIM Expert, who was part of the CGR staff and was in charge of the operational leadership of the project. Another key factor was the direct participation of the Comptroller General who closely followed the project.
- Beyond this, in November 2012, CGR Chile identified that INFOBRAS was a suitable model to support citizen oversight of public works to improve social transparency and accountability. The Comptroller of CGR Chile asked the Comptroller of Peru to transfer the knowledge and experience of INFOBRAS, with both applying for Triangular Cooperation support from GIZ/BMZ. IN December 2013, CGR Chile launched GEOCGR.

Diffusion time: 6 month(s)

Challenges and solutions

- The interoperability between INFOBRAS and the other national systems was an important challenge, not only for the technical operational side but also co-ordinating across institutions was challenging.
- As such, the INFOBRAS team used different strategies for each institution to achieve this. Another challenge was to internalize INFOBRAS in auditing processes.
- A final challenge was improving citizen and civil society participation in the project.

Partnerships

Ministry of Economy, Supervisory Agency of State Procurement

Other Public Sector

Both institutions provide information for the INFOBRAS to function, to enable this the Comptroller of Peru signed inter-institutional agreements with the Ministry of Economy and the Supervisory Agency of State Procurement, to ensure on-going access to information.

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

- Involve all stakeholders in the design and construction of the concept and subsequently, share the benefits of the project with all stakeholders.
 - Close coordination with key institutions is needed for successful project delivery.
 - Dedicated project team and committed support from top management in the CGR was required.
 - The technical assistance of the German Cooperation GIZ was crucial.
 - Implementation of pilot tests and project validations was critical.
 - Planned and ongoing training of users required.
 - Connectivity considerations needed thinking about in the design.
 - Simplicity is required.
 - Do not the duplicate others efforts and recognise their knowledge.
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Conditions for success

- The real will of the key institutions to participate and implement the project was critical because they believed in the results: a win-win project.

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