

Mexico

Open Data Readiness Assessment

September—October 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Federal Government of Mexico has a unique window of opportunity to leverage Open Data as a driver of real transformation within government and the economy. This was the consensus view expressed during the ODRA exercise.

The main findings and recommendations of the Readiness Assessment are:

1. The Federal Government of Mexico begins its Open Data efforts with a number of comparative advantages such as: nearly all important data is already digital; a large pool of technical talent and civil society; Open Data already happening at sub-national level; clear linkage of Open Data to President's top initiatives; and a designated team already working on Open Data. **This positions Mexico to establish itself as a leader in Open Data globally – if it can sustain the political will to execute and overcome a few key obstacles.**
2. **Open Data offers big opportunities to Mexico. The interest of government as a key user of open data was often expressed.** It can help transform the Government's "operating system" to make public investments and policy making more evidence-based and transparent. It can set an example for—and create pressure on—States to change how they do business. And it can elevate Mexico's status internationally as a leader in an emerging megatrend.
3. **The three biggest obstacles to launching and sustaining a best-in-class Open Data initiative are:**
 - a. Concerns by the Legal Council to an Open Data Policy and draft Open License designed to comply with established global best practices;
 - b. Inability of federal agencies to access some of the most important types of data—school level data, cadastral data, health spending per facility, all expenditures under Social Security programs—due to autonomy of State and local governments under Mexico's decentralized political structure; and
 - c. Senior leaders at key ministries and agencies have expressed interest in OpenData but are not yet champions committed to it.
4. **The situation regarding geospatial data in Mexico appears problematic.** This is unfortunate given that GIS data is the most commonly released and reused data among all governments in the world doing Open Data and because it has proven to generate substantial new business value. GIS data is not easily accessible, which severely inhibits innovation (especially by SMEs and entrepreneurs) and feeds a "black market" in government data.
5. **A Federal Open Data initiative can be designed to directly support and strengthen the key priorities of the National Development Plan (NDP).** Table 1 below identifies a small sample of datasets that, if released as Open Data, could drive improved service delivery and more effective performance monitoring under the NDP.

TABLE 1

OPEN DATA TO DRIVE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NDP COMPONENT	DATASET
GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION	Citizen-centric modernization of public administration for effective and more efficient open government.
Digital Management of National Territory	Release of core geospatial reference data on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Geographic boundaries o Administrative/political boundaries o Topographic Mapping (including height) o Geographic Names o Streets and addresses o Hydrology / Hydrography o Statistical Boundaries
UNIVERSAL AND EFFECTIVE HEALTH	System convergence and portability of health services that improves the quality of health services and broadens access.
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Incidents of major diseases (eg, cancer)
Health Services Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Health Infrastructure (SINERHIAS database) o Health care unit catalogues (CLUES database) o Health professionals per facility o Number of patients per facility
QUALITY EDUCATION	Adoption of ICTs in the teaching-learning processes to enable a successfully entrance to the knowledge society.
Information Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o National school census (once completed) with GIS for school locations o School exam results (anonymized) downloadable in bulk o CONAPO population data with projections (disaggregated) o Graduation rates o School expenditures per facility
DIGITAL ECONOMY	Assimilation of digital technologies in the economic processes to stimulate an increase productivity, economic growth, financial inclusion and creation of formal jobs.
Democratizing Productivity	Release of data on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Access to credit o Company registry, including unique ID numbers o Customs data o Macroeconomic statistics and microdata from INEGI o Procurement (each contract above a low threshold) o Transport (road usage) o Metrological/weather data (improves crop insurance)
CIVIL SAFETY	Use of digital technologies to prevent violence, prevent and mitigate damages caused by natural disasters.
Social Prevention	Release of data on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Injuries, accidents and violence (LESIONES database - SALUD) o Deaths (cause & location?) from URGENCIAS database o Crime data (disaggregated to level of individual incidents)

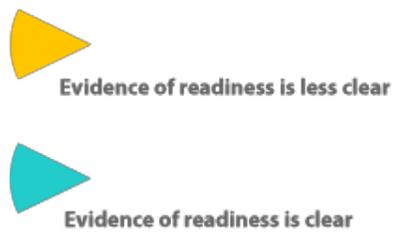
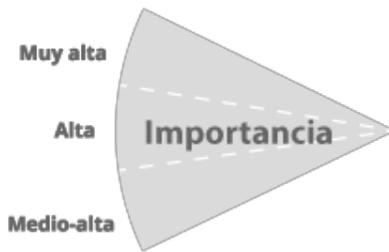
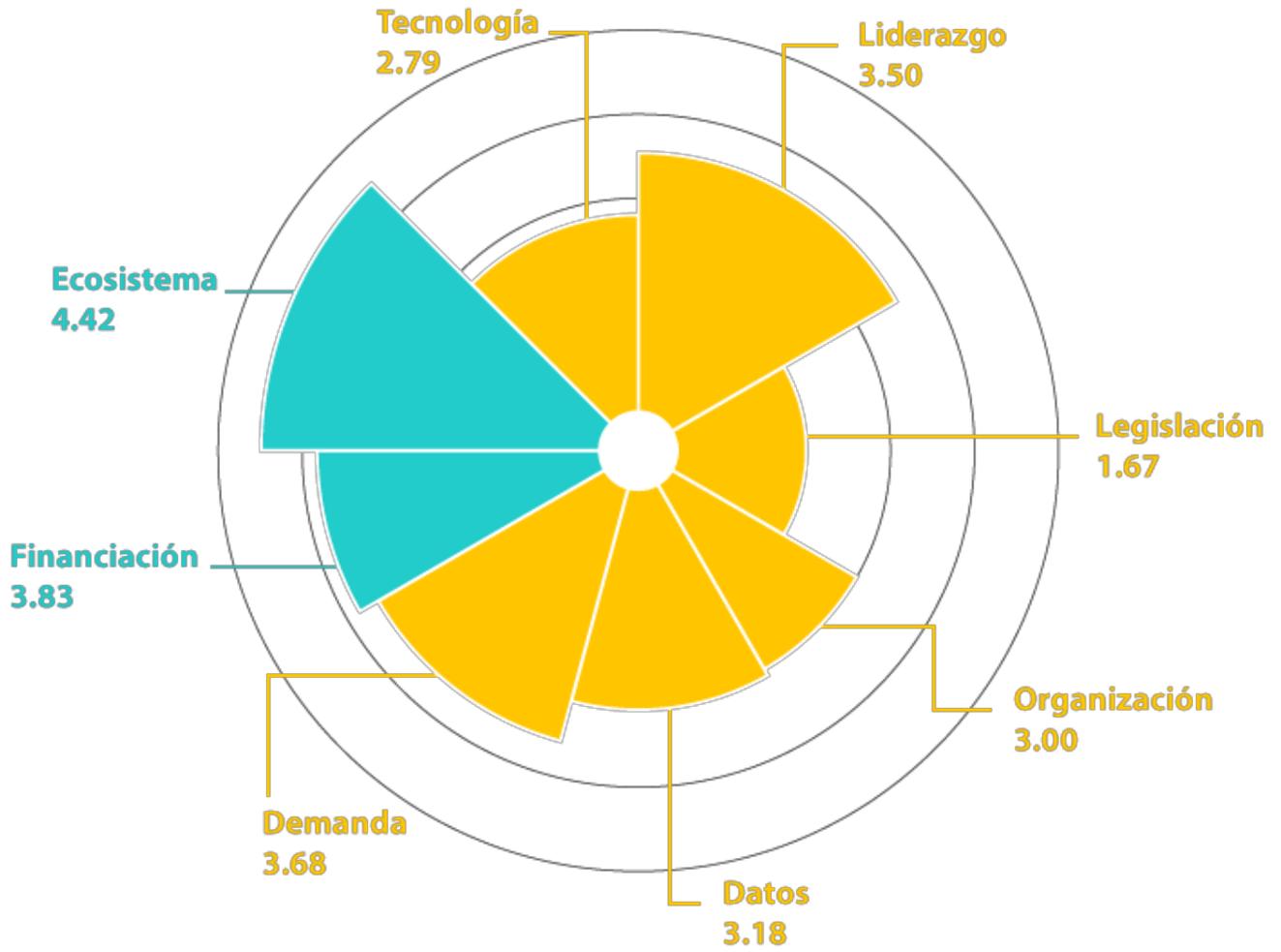
This study is designed to prepare for the opening of data and is oriented in producing a rapid evaluation on the readiness of the government in order to implement and maintain an Open Data Initiative. It is based on 8 dimensions; each one has different aspects that need to be considered.

The diagnostic consisted of the evaluation of the following aspects; leadership, policy/legal,institutions, data in government, demand for data, ecosystem and data communities, financing,infrastructure and skills.

Table 2: Open Data Readiness rating values

DIMENSION	IMPORTANCE	RATING
1. LEADERSHIP	Very high	Yellow
2. POLICY / LEGAL	High	Yellow
3. INSTITUTIONS	Medium high	Yellow
4. DATA IN GOVERNMENT	High	Yellow
5. DEMAND FOR DATA	High	Yellow
6. ECOSYSTEM & DATA COMMUNITIES	Medium high	Green
7. FINANCING	High	Green
8. INFRASTRUCTURE & SKILLS	High	Yellow

Graphic 1: General findings of Open Data Readiness Assessment



It is important to consider that this institution will encounter a combination of different challenges and advantages when looking to implement an Open Data initiative. At the same time, opening data offers governments the opportunity to innovate, improve public services and include the citizens in a new governance model.

The conclusion is that the Mexico City Government presents solid foundations to implement a successful initiative of Open Data and be positioned as one of the best global examples.