

Impact and challenges of open government in infrastructure in LAC

Open Government Week

Online event

Thursday 19th May, 9:00 am (GMT-6)

Introduction

From May 16th to 20th, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) organises the Open Gov Week, a civic space in which CoST has played a leading role during the last years sharing experiences and participating as an actor of change in the countries where CoST has programmes. CoST currently works in 21 countries spanning four continents, being the Latin American region the one with more members.

This offers an opportunity to share and promote research and strategic leadership with key actors from different countries around the Latin American region, based on our impact histories.

CoST works globally, disclosing, validating and interpreting data on infrastructure projects so that decision makers are held to account. Since 2015 our achievements include: 76,767 projects disclosed in line with the CoST Infrastructure Data Standard, 625 projects reviewed by CoST members and 8,177 government representatives trained.

Investing in public infrastructure is a vital part of efforts to meet pressing global challenges such as climate change, poverty, rapid urbanisation and ageing populations and CoST is helping governments to ensure quality infrastructure that meets people needs.

It is estimated that up to a third of public infrastructure investment could be lost through corruption, mismanagement, and inefficiency¹. With US(\$) 78 trillion expected to be invested in infrastructure between 2014 and 2025², the financial losses could be enormous, the full social and economic benefits unrealised and poor construction a threat to public safety.

As partners CoST and OGP share principles and values around transparency, accountability, participation and use of technology and the Open Government Week is an opportunity to show how both initiatives work together towards similar goals.

Aim

To show the impact of the work of CoST Latin American programmes in terms of cost-benefit when governments adopt open government commitments on infrastructure, aligns to the OGP Action Plans. To present, by programmes, the catalytic experiences of countries such as Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

Considering the online event, CoST aims to share the value of infrastructure transparency to large audiences and expand our partners in the government, private sector and civil society, bilateral and multilateral organisations, academia and others.

Objective

Share CoST stories so they can be a bright spot for the Latin America region and that our work methodologies, that involve the private sector, civil society and government, promote open government in infrastructure can be echoed by other agents of change.

Goals long term

1. Emphasise the nature of the CoST approach and the four core features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working and social accountability and how this approach has an impact in opening governments..

¹ Stansbury, N. (2005) 'Corruption in Construction', *Global Corruption Report Transparency International*

² Oxford Research (2014) 'Capital project and infrastructure spending Outlook to 2025', *PricewaterhouseCoopers*

2. Demonstrating how the CoST approach aligns with the OGP principles and with the OGP Action Plans in Panamá, Ecuador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Proposed format, speakers & moderator – 90 minutes (85 minutes as planned below, 5 minutes contingency)

Timings	Title	Who
c5	Introduction	Moderator: Mario Cerna
c10	Overview cost-benefit when governments adopt open government commitments on infrastructure (impacts in 4 countries)	CoST Experience in Latin America: Manuel González, Senior Regional Manager for Latin America
c20	<p>Member insights 1:</p> <p>What has been the experience and contribution of each CoST programme in the region under the principles and objectives of enacting and strengthening more open governments and what is the role of the CSO's and private sector</p> <p>5 mins each</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CoST Ecuador Mr: 2. CoST Panamá: Aída Martínez Mórtola, CoST Manager. 3. CoST Guatemala Heizel Padilla, CoST Manager. 4. CoST Honduras Yudina Castillo, CoST Manager.
c5	Analysis of topic 1 and introduction to topic 2	Moderator: Mario Cerna
c20	<p>Member insights 2:</p> <p>What are the challenges considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Covid pandemic ● natural disasters ● limited access to technology (audiences and users of information) ● public procurement system <p>And how you faced them with open government and CoST approaches</p> <p>5 mins each</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. CoST Ecuador Mr: 6. CoST Panamá: Aída Martínez Mórtola, CoST Manager. 7. CoST Guatemala Heizel Padilla, CoST Manager. 8. CoST Honduras Yudina Castillo, CoST Manager.

c15	Q&A	<u>Via chat or raising hands</u>
c5	Wrap up	Moderator
5	Contingency	

Project plan – TBD

Date	Activity
Tue 3rd May	Members' speakers confirmed
Wed 4th May	SI approval
Thu 5th May	Complete the OGP registration form
9th-18th May	Event promotion in digital channels
11th May	Preparation reunión with Country Manager
Web 18 May, 2pm	Practice Session (logistic and agenda aspects)

Tues 19th May,

14:00pm – pre meet

15:00 – 16:30 Event

Event