

Regional Cooperation for the Advancement of Electronic Government

Introduction.

The Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (RED GEALC) was created in 2003 as a joint initiative between the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS) and International Development Research Center (IDRC), with the purpose of promoting horizontal cooperation in the field of electronic government between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to facilitate the exchange of solutions and experts between the two regions. In 2005, the Inter-American Development Bank joined the aforementioned institutions and began providing support to RED GEALC through its Regional Public Goods initiative, and in 2006 the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) also joined the effort.

The annual Assembly of Members, within the framework of the Annual Meeting of Red Gealc, is the highest decision-making body. The authorities of the Red GEALC are elected by member countries annually, based on a subregional balance criteria. Every year, in addition, countries approve a work plan that has public software, open data, measurement of digital government and knowledge management as principal axes.

The executive committee is the body responsible for implementing the decisions taken at the Annual Meeting and the implementation of the Annual Plan. The committee is shaped by 8 countries: 2 from Mercosur Area, 2 Andean Area, 2 Mesoamerica and 2 Caribbean.

The presidency is held by the Ministry of Public Administration of Mexico with the Support of the National Digital Strategy Coordination within the Office of the President. Therefore we are committed to:

- Promote the development of electronic government in the region;
- Promote the institutionalization of local digital agendas and increase the region's competitiveness in e-government;
- Strengthen the cooperation ties between the member countries of the Red GEALC;
- Position the Red GEALC in the international mechanisms of Information Society and Knowledge, as well as an international horizontal cooperation mechanism that serves as a reference in other regions of the world.

The IX Annual Meeting of Red GEALC was held on October 26th and 27th, 2015 in Mexico City. At that meeting, the 21 participating countries were: Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Uruguay And Venezuela, approved the Commitment of Mexico City, which establishes the determination to continue promoting the use of technology to increase efficiency, transparency and openness in public management, participation in policy formulation, strengthening of governance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

Nowadays, 14 years after the conformation of Red GEALC has generated:

- **4** e-Government studies
- More than **900** public servants have taken part of workshops and meetings approaching topics like cross-border interoperability and customs modernization
- More than **100** experts have been exchanged for countries to advise each other through the so-called horizontal cooperation fund.
- More than **350** e-government excellence solutions have been identified and the developers have been awarded with training missions to Canada and Korea.
- **5** regional public software workshops
- **Simple- Lat**, chilean public software improved with the support of Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay and used now for their process automation.
- **5 working groups** on Open Data, Measuring e-government, Public Software, Management and knowledge sharing and Local Governments

Tags: Digital government, LAC region, ICTs for Sustainable Development Goals

Objective:

The main objective of the open forum on Regional Cooperation for the Advancement of Electronic Government is to share, promote and boost regional cooperation as a mechanism to accelerate the digital development of our countries. Likewise move towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda, with citizen centered e-Government policies and exchange of solutions and experts among the members.

Therefore sharing this experience with other countries attending this forum will demonstrate the benefits from this mechanism.

Moderator: Victor Lagunes, CIO of Mexico/Ms. Yolanda Martínez Mancilla, Digital Government of Mexico

Potential speakers:

Ana María Rodríguez Ortíz - Inter-American Development Bank

María Fernanda Trigo - OAS

José Clastornik - AGESIC Uruguay

Eber Betanzos - Ministry of Public Administration of Mexico

Brazil representative

Colombia representative

Peru representative

Chile representative

Barbara Ubaldi - OECD