2021

Annual Report
Accelerator Lab
Uruguay

PNUD
Uruguay
laboratorio de aceleración

Content

INTRODUCTION

To innovate is to influence the present to expand the possible and desirable futures. To this end, the 91 Accelerators Labs (AccLab) network of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was born, present in 115 countries.

In its first year in Uruguay, the AccLab has integrated new tools and methodologies, ways of working, and solutions to challenges of high complexity and uncertainty. It challenged what is known and tryed to serve as inspiration locally, regionally, and at a global level.

The Laboratory is made up of a team dedicated to testing different ways of working through:

- **Collective Intelligence** to broad the diversity of perspectives, ideas, and knowledge
- **Co-creation** to build new scenarios in a collective manner
- **Agility** to gain quick learnings
- **Focus on citizenship**, with people at the center
- **An openness** that stimulates collaboration

Below, we share some of the processes and learnings we have developed during 2021.

Our First Blog
"Innovate to expand possible and desirable futures"

"Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place", said the Red Queen to Alice in Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass.

Innovar para expandir los futuros posibles y deseables | El PNUD en Uruguay

"Aquí, es preciso correr mucho para permanecer en el mismo lugar, y para llegar a otro hay que correr el doble de rápido" le dijo la Reina Roja a Alicia en "A través del espejo y lo que Alicia encontró allí" de Lewis Carroll.

UNDP | 9 de feb. de 2021

AccLab Team

Álvaro Pena
Head of Solutions Mapping

He has a degree in Biological Sciences, a Master's Degree in Bioinformatics (UDELAR, Uruguay), and a Diploma in Innovation Management and Knowledge Transfer (Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain). He has directed national and international projects in science, technology, and society. He has worked at the Pasteur Institute in Montevideo, in the Ceibal Plan, and as a professor and researcher at the UDELAR and the Technological University (UTEC), becoming Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the UTEC. His areas of projects and research include open innovation; twenty-first-century skills in higher education; the role of the university in innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems for regional development.

Francisco Pons
Head of Exploration

He is a Civil Engineer, specialize in structures, graduated from UDELAR. He completed a master's degree in Transport Planning and Engineering at the University of Leeds (United Kingdom). He has experience in public and private institutions and non-governmental organizations. Before joining UNDP, he was working in a national agency as a knowledge management analyst, identifying opportunities to develop sustainability in the country's meat sector, through innovation, business, and education. Since his master's degree, Francisco has been interested in how mobility planning and design can drive development and reduce inequalities in urban and rural areas.
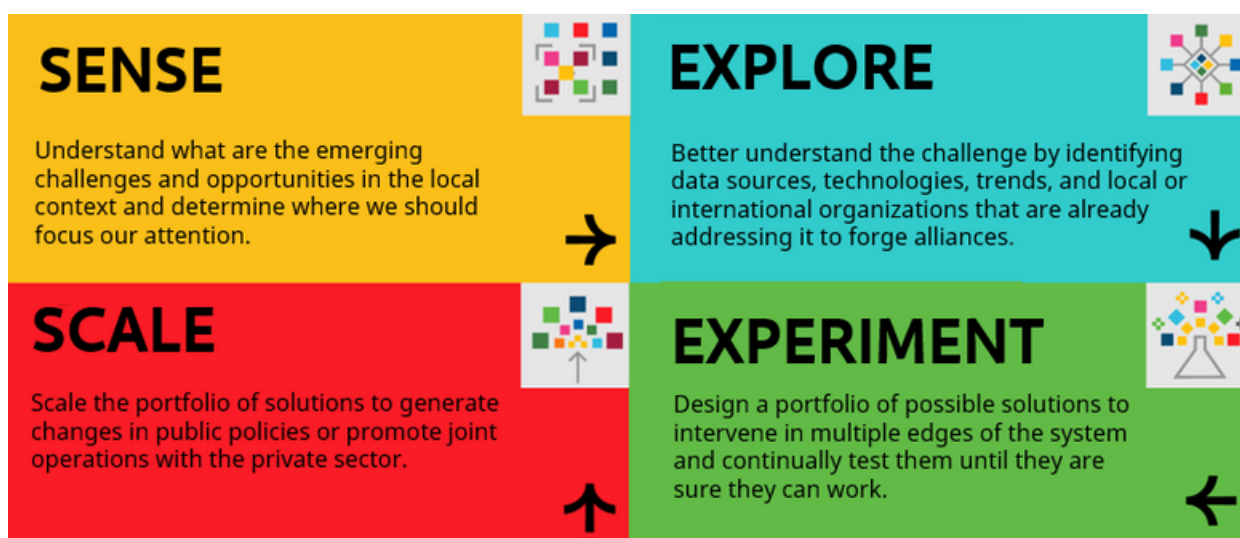
Paula Mosera
Head of Experimentation

She completed a master's degree in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The London School of Economics (LSE). He also completed a graduate degree in economics and management for inclusion at UDELAR and an executive program in Global Competitiveness and Leadership at Georgetown University. She is an accountant and has experience working in the private sector and with NGOs. She was Executive Director of Socialab Uruguay, a social incubator in Latin America, which supports social enterprises. She was a teacher through the Global Teach For All network in Uruguay. She is co-founder of an NGO that supports children and adolescents with non-formal education. She was a professor of social entrepreneurship at the University of Montevideo and mentored different entrepreneurs in Latin America.

Methodology

The Accelerator Labs work in 100-day learning cycles logics, where the main challenge and other exploratory ones are established, in order to obtain learnings that contribute to each process, using collective intelligence to achieve greater synergy between people and organizations.

Four stages of the Accelerator Labs methodology:

SENSE
Understand what are the emerging challenges and opportunities in the local context and determine where we should focus our attention.

EXPLORE
Better understand the challenge by identifying data sources, technologies, trends, and local or international organizations that are already addressing it to forge alliances.

SCALE
Scale the portfolio of solutions to generate changes in public policies or promote joint operations with the private sector.

EXPERIMENT
Design a portfolio of possible solutions to intervene in multiple edges of the system and continually test them until they are sure they can work.

The Acclab's members work transversally, being referents of different stages in different initiatives and learning cycles, seeking the complementarity of knowledge and experiences in each project.

3 responsibles for "explorimentation mapping" - play on words that combines the three roles.

Official Launch of the Lab
08.04.21

Virtual event with 160 participants from government organizations, academia, civil society, and members of other laboratories in Latin America.

100% evaluated it as a novel proposal.

Learning cycles

Nov - Dec
Start of Lab operations

- Constitution of the work team
- Workshops and and meetings with the entire office
- Intensive Global Bootcamp Training

Dec - Mar
First learning cycle

- Portfolio of actions against COVID-19
- Infodemic and vaccination challenge
- Beggining of the Collective Intelligence Workshops in the CO

Apr - Aug
Second learning cycle

- Public launch of the AccLab Uruguay
- Sensemaking process
- Crowdfunding campaign for sustainable development

Apr - Dec
Third learning cycle

- Sustainable urban mobility
- Tactical Urbanism Process
- Blockchain app in electric mobility

Aug - Dec
Fourth learning cycle

- Actions to diversify voices to face climate change
- Dialogues between academia and public policy for climate action

Sep - Dec
Fifth learning cycle

- Urban and socio-territorial segregation
- Addressing inequities for socio-economic recovery

First learning cycle

INFODEMIC

With the aim of addressing the challenges of misinformation and the so-called "infodemic", in the first 100 days, the lab worked to respond to:

What aspects and strategies help the population make informed decisions regarding vaccination against COVID-19, in a context of rapid and massive dissemination of inaccurate information?

SENSE

Identification in the field of initiatives from civil society, government, academia, and international organizations that are working on the subject. Conversations with different audiences: older adults, residents in institutions that address mental health, educators, and the general public.

EXPLORE

Exploration of different tools and technologies to be applied in order to combat disinformation. Examples: video games, data science, initiatives of other accelerator labs, social listening methods, collaborative platforms, among others.

EXPERIMENT

A portfolio of 4 experiments was carried out:

- <u>Behavioral experiment:</u> sending a letter with a message to raise awareness of covid care to 200 Uruguayan households that were compared with a control group of 200 households that did not receive the letter.

- <u>Q&A sessions:</u> In two instances, doctors and then citizens raised concerns regarding vaccines in a participatory platform that were voted on and later, answered by specialists in live sessions.

- <u>Gamification</u>: adaptation and dissemination of a game that seeks to familiarize the population with the dynamics of an epidemic, highlighting the individual and collective responsibility to control it.

- <u>Social listening tool:</u> Vaccine Acceptance Monitor that allows knowing what are the barriers and enablers that hinder or favor the acceptance of vaccines against COVID-19 among the active population on Twitter in Uruguay
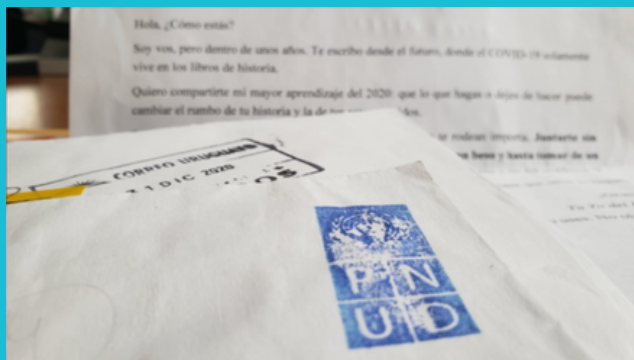
Portfolio of actions against COVID-19

Behaviors and perceptions of the Uruguayan population regarding COVID-19 | El PNUD en Uruguay

The use of media and specific messages aimed at different population groups contributes to raising awareness about individual and collective responsibility to control the spread of the Coronavirus.

UNDP / 12 mar 2021

A relic from the future | El PNUD en Uruguay

The Uruguayan Accelerator Lab's willingness to remind people of the emotion that comes from receiving a letter inspired them to run their first set of experiments.

UNDP / 11 mar 2021

How do sense, explore, and experiment help to overcome misinformation? | El PNUD en Uruguay

Infodemic is a word that combines information and pandemic and has gained popularity due to the dynamism and abundance of information about COVID-19 and its rapid spread. What about COVID-19 vaccines?

UNDP / 14 abr 2021

Second learning cycle

ALTERNATIVE FINANCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Can crowdfunding be an alternative to contribute to restoring the native forest in Uruguay?

The UNDP office in Uruguay did not have experience implementing collaborative financing mechanisms for projects developed on digital media (crowdfunding).

In 2021, we aimed to develop the first crowdfunding campaign for sustainable development in our country. This process involved joint actions between our country office and the Plantatón initiative. The objective was to raise awareness of the importance of our native forest and also mobilize and convene the society, public and private organizations for the collective financing of the plantation of 1.000 trees, their maintenance, and activities with the local community.

1.111 planted native trees

20 different species

152 people contributed from

14 countries

5 committed companies

2 influencers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ms6rjDEP3VA

Planting footprints of hope in Uruguay

Where the country's sun rises, the green recovery dawns | El PNUD en Uruguay

The first birds awaken the winter morning fog that covers the coast of Punta del Diablo, a small coastal town in eastern Uruguay, located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Black Lagoon

UNDP / 4 ago 2021

Planting footprints of hope in Uruguay

The first birds awaken as a winter morning fog covers the coast of Punta del Diablo, a small coastal town in eastern Uruguay.

Medium / UN Development Programme / 16 ago 2021

Bienvenidos a las Naciones Unidas

DERECHO INTERNACIONALES

Multimedia

Planting footprints of ho...

Sembrando esperanza en Uruguay

Solo el 4,8% de la superficie de Uruguay está actualmente cubierta por bosques nativos. Un grupo de lugareños ha decidido revertir este fenómeno y, a pesar del frío invierno, se ha reunido en un parque para empezar a restaurarlo. " La mayoría de las personas no conocen nuestros árboles nativos, no tienen ni idea", dice Katherine Muller, miembro de este grupo.

#Plantatón Punta del Diablo: crowdfundi...

The restoration of the native forest

youtube.com/watch?v=p3_cswZXLVI

Third Learning Cycle

ACCESS TO THE CITY

What type of processes may help people access, enjoy and govern public spaces in an equitable and sustainable way?

With the aim of building the city from citizen participation, with short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions, a Tactical Urbanism experience was developed in alliance with the Departamental Government of Canelones and the Municipality of Ciudad de la Costa.

It was done through teamwork at the UNDP Office in Uruguay in conjunction with Movés, a project implemented by UNDP that promotes an effective transition towards efficient, inclusive, and low-emission mobility in Uruguay.
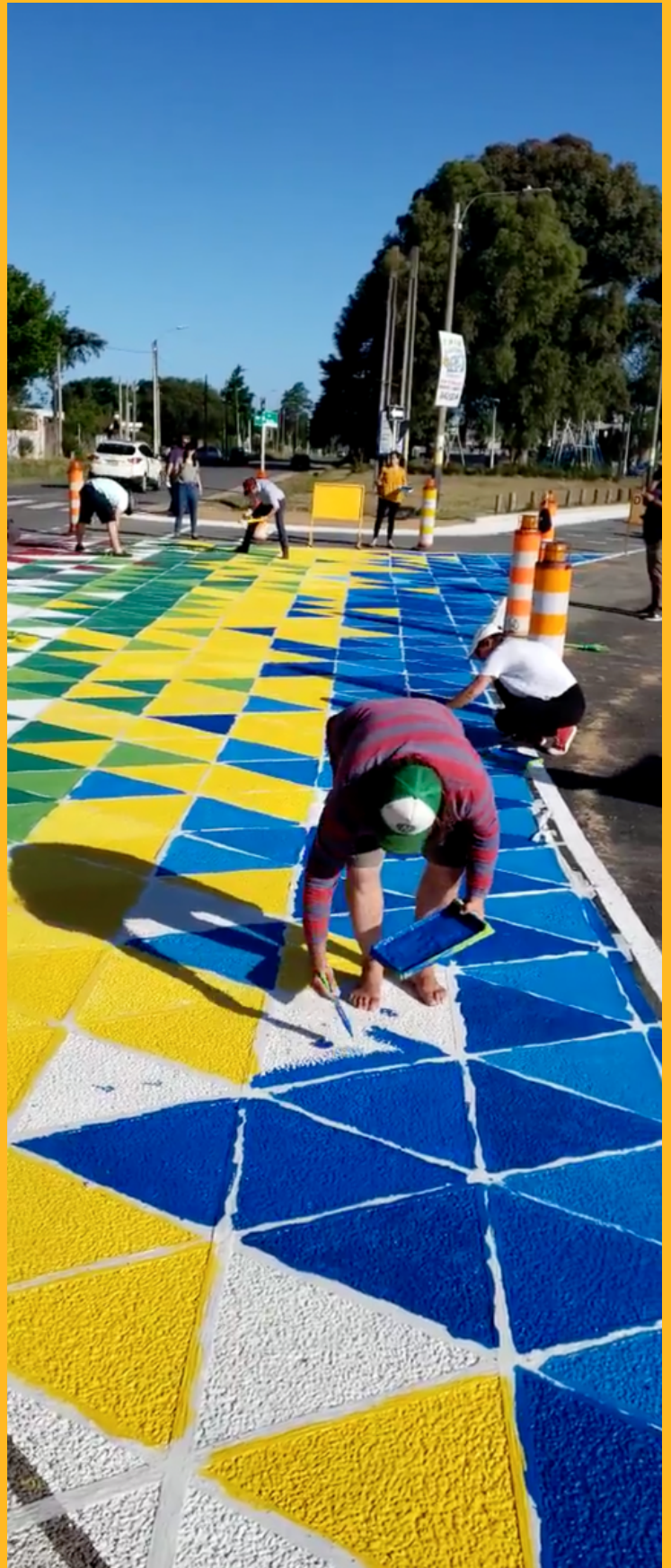
Territorial Mapping	Collective Intelligence Workshop	Co-creation Workshop	Co-design with relvant groups
Participatory Observation Interviews Dialogues	Workshop with neighbors and governments to identify urban challenges.	Workshop to co-create possible solutions to identified challenges	Workshop with groups of cyclists, skaters and rollers

Co-design with schools	Co-design with specialists	Prototyping and end of co-design	Execution
Visits and open street day Testing new street usages	Workshop with technicians from local government and municipality	Open street with neighbors to prototype and test the final design	Final design executed participatively with the community

Sustainable Urban Mobility

Inclusive and sustainable cities, built in community | El PNUD en Uruguay

By 2050, it is forecasted that two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities, a trend that includes Uruguay and those who live in Ciudad de la Costa know closely. How to achieve urban interventions that provide learnings on how to...

UNDP / 13 ene

TUCALLE: PILOTO DE MOVILIDAD URBANA SOSTENIBLE EN CIUDAD DE LA COSTA
Publicado el 30/12/2021

Tweet 6   Share 20   googleplus 0

El miércoles 15 de diciembre de 2021 se inauguró TuCalle, un plan piloto de movilidad urbana sostenible en San José de Carrasco y Lagomar. Aceleración del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) y el Proyecto MOVES.

Fourth learning cycle

CLIMATE CHANGE

How to generate more diverse, inclusive, and interdisciplinary exchanges to strengthen climate action? How to generate greater participation towards climate empowerment?

PROMESA CLIMÁTICA CON ADOLESCENTES

This initiative was developed with the purpose of highlighting the voice of adolescents (between 13 and 18 years old) regarding climate change, to inspire them, and give them a platform to express their feelings and ideas to build a better future together.

"Tu Mirada Importa" was the result of a co-design process together with the Environment Ministry, **UNICEF**, a group of 12 young leaders and environmental activists, and UNDP Uruguay.

A national event was held with inspiring talks, facilitated by young activists, and with innovative tools to highlight the voice of adolescents.

Total de adolescentes:
185 adolescentes

participantes de 16 departamentos

Liceos: **161**
UTU: **17**
CECAP: **1**
CERP: **1**
Universidades: **11** (educadores)
Educación no formal: **7**

INVESTIGACIÓN POR EL CLIMA

This initiative had the objective of supporting research that seeks to generate a positive impact in the mitigation or adaptation to climate change, as well as the reduction of its effects and early warning.

It allowed generating spaces for dialogue and building bridges between academia and public policy for climate action through a final event where a workshop for exchange, proposals, and discussion was held.

Participation for climate action

Accelerate learnings to face Climate Change | El PNUD en Uruguay

The pandemic has shown us that global problems test our ability to act quickly for the sake of our community, city, region, and humanity, leaving no one behind.

UNDP / 16 nov 2021

Coalitions activated by climate change | El PNUD en Uruguay

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense, and every time they happen, we are once again reminded that as with the Coronavirus, there is a challenge without frontiers and cannot be ignored: climate change.

UNDP / 28 ene

Informe Tu mirada importa | El PNUD en Uruguay

Este informe recoge los principales hallazgos y resultados de "Tu mirada importa", un evento online que reunió a adolescentes entre 13 y 18...
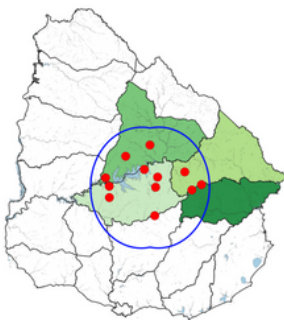
uy.undp.org

Fifth learning cycle

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES IN THE TERRITORY

How to contribute to the economic and social integration between geographies and populations to transform inequality into opportunities for growth and social cohesion?
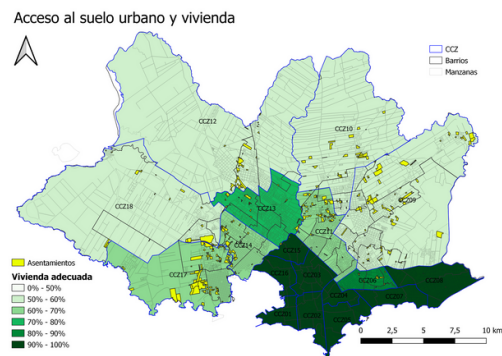
› Geographic inequality

AccLab supported the UNDP RFF project, which aims to contribute to post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery using a portfolio approach for the Central region in Uruguay.

Within the participatory strategy of social cohesion of the project, we developed an innovation marathon to strengthen the resilience of Santa Clara de Olimar, particularly its network of family gardens, promoting intergenerational exchange.

› Socio-territorial segregation

In order to gain learnings about possible ways to reduce urban and socio-territorial segregation, an intervention process is being carried out on public housing with residents of Barrio Los Bulevares.

These actions take place within the framework of the project "Localization of the SDGs: promoting inclusive and peaceful cities in Ibero-America"

› Territorial Development

Collective intelligence workshop with the Departamental Government of Durazno and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation to recognize, connect and promote actions carried out in the territory towards Sustainable Development.

Existing gaps were identified, in order to contribute to the design or adaptation of instruments that take into account local needs, the challenges present in the territory and public policy.

Addressing Inequalities

When tradition germinates innovation | El PNUD en Uruguay

Have you ever imagined an innovation marathon in a town of 2300 people? Is it possible to solve family garden challenges by integrating generations and knowledge? Is innovation linked to the territory?

UNDP / 7 ene

Durazno Sostenible
Análisis del Taller

VINCULACIÓN FUTURA

¿Con qué organización desearías trabajar más en conjunto en 2022 para desarrollar acciones que contribuyan a estos ODS en Durazno?

- A mayor tamaño en el gráfico, mayor número de intenciones de vinculación (ya sea desde o hacia).
- Las organizaciones con mayores menciones fueron: #1 Intendencia, #2 UTEC, #3 PNUD, #4 Sociedad Rural de Durazno, y #5 Fundación UPM.
- Esta red representa además, una mayor diversidad de actores, integrando nuevas menciones. De estas, la mayoría representan a organizaciones del sector privado.

https://pnudlab.kumu.io/durazno-sostenible

CONVERSATORIO
COMPLEJIDAD
SOCIO-TERRITORIAL
en
MONTEVIDEO

RED DE PROFESIONALES Y EXPERTOS
A DISPOSICIÓN PARA CREAR juntos

Other initiatives

At the Accelerator Lab, we work as a network and as a team, collaborating with processes and projects at a national and global level, beyond the defined learning cycles.

Uruguay

Examples of support to the programmatic area, beyond the learning cycles:

- Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Within the framework of the project: "Strengthening a gender and generational socio-economic response through analysis and promotion of evidence-based policies", developed jointly by UNDP and UNICEF, we contribute with the development of territorial interventions, demonstrations, and experiments.

- Blockchain App for sustainable development

Development of a Blockchain App To generate reliable and quality information that allows evaluating the scope of the technological tests of electric vehicles that are implemented through the MOVÉS Project; as well as its efficiency, derived savings, avoided CO2 emissions, and comparisons between different types of vehicles.

- Collective intelligence workshops with the UNDP Uruguay office

One workshop per month was held addressing topics of interest to the office such as methodologies for innovation, alternative finance for development, tactical urbanism, behavioral sciences, geographic information systems, among others.

- Application to competitive funds

We have supported the office in the application to different funds: Digital XScale Accelerator (UNDP), Ocean Innovation Challenge (UNDP), Green Shark Challenge (UNDP & UNICEF), social inclusion oriented projects (UDELAR), and "Fondo María Viñas" (ANII).

Global

> Sensemaking process with UNDP Strategic Innovation Unit
> Deep demonstrations with UNDP Strategic Innovation Unit
> Public Sector Innovation Mapping with UNDP Accelerator Lab Network
> Crowdfunding Academy with Innovative Digital Partnerships team, BERA-HQ & Alternative Finance Lab, Innovation Hub-IRH.

2022

Towards the 2022 we will be advancing in three next strategic lines that we begin to address in 2021

Line 1   Futures and Foresight

- Support for the Futures Commission of the Uruguayan Parliament
- Initial challenge: the future of Work and the work of the future

Line 2   Sustainable Finances

- Pilot rxperience with SDG Investor Maps
- Crowdfunding Uruguay
- Alternative finances in climate change

Line 3   Socio-territorial segregation

- Deep listening process in the field
- Deep demostration
- Pilots implementation in neighborhoods

Beyond these lines we will be exploring new areas of opportunities and collaboration in order to achieve new learnings.

We will also continue with two projects:

Innovation in the public sphere
Support for the civil service reform project of the Nationa Civil Service Office. ONSC, through the design of an experimental study together with the University of Warwick, with the objective of testing new strategies for improving civil servant motivation and productivity.

Mental health of adolescents in contexts of vulnerability
The AccLab supported the design of an experiment with adolescents with the aim of evaluating their chronic stress, aggravated by the pandemic. In 2022 the experiment will be running to obtain learnings.

AMPLIFY LEARNINGS

From the global network of Accelerator Labs, communication and dissemination of knowledge and learning actions are also promoted to accelerate sustainable development.

Events

- Exhibition at the virtual event DataFest Festival in Georgia
- Workshop at the Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología of Costa Rica
- Workshop within the framework of the Master of Public Administration and the Master of Public Policy of the Universidad Católica del Uruguay in Montevideo
- Virtual workshop with the Universad Católica de Uruguay in Salto
- Workshop at the Facultad de Ciencias Económicas, UDELAR in the Postgraduate course in economics and management for inclusion, Montevideo, Uruguay

Press

- Diario El Observador - 29.04.21: LINK
- Radio Carve 850 AM - 02.05.21
- La Diaria - 25.07.21 - LINK
- Montevideo Comm - 27.07.21 - LINK
- Radio Lacatorce10 1410 AM - 28.07.21 - LINK
- Telemundo - 01.08.21 - LINK
- El País - 03.08.21 - LINK
- Ambiente Radio - 19.08.21 - LINK
- Buen día - 25.08.21 - LINK
- Radio Lacatorce10 1410 AM - 16.09.21 - LINK
- Emisora del Sur 1290 AM - 01.10.21 - LINK
- TV Ciudad - 16.11.21: LINK
- La Diaria - 16.12.21 - LINK

Global Comms - UNDP
- UN Development Programme - 16.08.21 - LINK
- ONU Desarrollo - 19.08.21 - LINK
- ONU Développement - 23.08.21 - LINK

Acknowledgements

In our first year, the UNDP Accelerator Lab would like to thank all the people who have trusted our work and our organization to jointly achieve learnings, accelerate development, and leave no one behind.

Throughout this year, we have received the support, help, and motivation of agents of change in public and private organizations, educational centers and academia, civil society organizations, and local groups and communities, with whom we have learned in this shared route to accelerate the sustainable development.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the commitment, work, and dedication that our colleagues from UNDP in Uruguay have given us and the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, the global network of Accelerator Labs, and the different teams of the UNDP globally.

Thank you very much for learning and unlearning together towards sustainable development

Contact

PNUD Uruguay
Paraguay 1470,
Montevideo,
Uruguay

www.uy.undp.org

lab.uruguay@undp.org

@PNUDUruguay