



Local Government in Argentina

Responses to Urban-Rural Challenges

edited by

Lucas González and Romina Del Tredici

Universidad Nacional de San Martín and Universidad Católica de Córdoba





Partners



Eurac Research
Institute for Comparative Federalism
Italy



LMU Munich
Research Center for Public Procurement
Law and Administrative Cooperations
Germany



Autonomous University of Madrid
Institute of Local Law
Spain



Institut für Föderalismus
Institut du Fédéralisme
Institute of Federalism

University of Fribourg
Institute of Federalism
Switzerland



NALAS
Network of Associations of Local
Authorities of South East Europe
France



Ximpulse GmbH
Switzerland



KDZ
Center for Public Administration Research
Austria



Council of Europe
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
France



Faculty of Political Science
and International Studies
University of Warsaw
University of Warsaw
Institute of Political Science
Poland



ZELS
Association of the Units of Local Self-Government
North Macedonia



University of the Western Cape
Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional
Law, Governance and Human Rights
South Africa



Addis Ababa University
Center for Federalism and Governance Studies
Ethiopia



UNIVERSIDAD
NACIONAL DE
SAN MARTÍN

Universidad Nacional de General San Martín
School of Politics and Government
Argentina



SALGA
South African Local Government Association
South Africa



जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Jawaharlal Nehru University
India



University of Technology Sydney
Institute for Public Policy and Governance
Centre for Local Government
Australia



National University of Singapore
Centre for Asian Legal Studies
Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law
Singapore



University of Western Ontario
Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance
Canada



November 2021

The Country Report on Local Government in Argentina is a product of the LoGov-project: “Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay”.

The H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018 project aims to provide solutions for local governments that address the fundamental challenges resulting from urbanisation. To address these complex issues, 18 partners from 17 countries and six continents share their expertise and knowledge in the realms of public law, political science, and public administration. LoGov identifies, evaluates, compares, and shares innovative practices that cope with the impact of changing urban-rural relations in major local government areas (WP 1-5).

LICENSE

CC BY 4.0

INFORMATION

Eurac Research
Viale Druso/Drususallee, 1
39100 Bolzano/Bozen – Italy

logov@eurac.edu
www.logov-rise.eu

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

Eurac Research: Karl Kössler

WP 1 – Local Responsibilities and Public Services

LMU Munich: Martin Burgi

WP 2 – Local Financial Arrangements

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid: Francisco Velasco Caballero

WP 3 – Structure of Local Government

University of Fribourg: Eva Maria Belser

WP 4 – Intergovernmental Relations of Local Government

NALAS – Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe: Elton Stafa

WP 5 – People’s Participation in Local Decision-Making

Ximpulse GmbH: Erika Schläppi

EDITORIAL TEAM

Universidad Nacional de San Martín and Universidad Católica de Córdoba: Lucas González, Romina Del Tredici
Eurac Research: Karl Kössler, Theresia Morandell, Caterina Salvo, Annika Kress, Petra Malferttheiner

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Eurac Research: Alessandra Stefanut

COVER PHOTO

Sadie Teper/Unsplash



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 823961.



Contents

1. The System of Local Government in Argentina	1
2.1. Local Responsibilities and Public Services in Argentina.....	5
2.2. <i>Access to Public Services in Two Patagonian Oil Towns</i>	8
2.3. <i>City-Planning Agreements in Córdoba</i>	14
2.4. <i>Córdoba Connectivity Plan: Government Deployment of Infrastructure to Equalize Territorial Opportunities</i>	19
3.1. Local Financial Arrangements in Argentina: An Introduction.....	24
3.2. <i>Financing School Canteens to Fight Child Malnutrition in Urban and Rural Chaco</i>	25
3.3. <i>Trust Fund UniRSE, Santa Cruz</i>	31
3.4. <i>Local Government's Taxing Power</i>	35
4.1. The Structure of Local Government in Argentina: An Introduction	40
4.2. <i>Local Government Cooperation against Climate Change</i>	42
4.3. <i>Micro-Regions in the Province of Catamarca</i>	46
4.4. <i>Local Cooperation for Agroecology</i>	50
5.1. Intergovernmental Relations of Local Governments in Argentina: An Introduction	55
5.2. <i>Multilevel Government Cooperation for Open Pit Mining Projects</i>	57
5.3. <i>Intergovernmental Relations in Environmental Policy</i>	63
5.4. <i>When Governors Resist in their Territories: Intergovernmental Conflicts Related to Federal Labor Legislation</i>	70
6.1. People's Participation in Local Decision-Making in Argentina: An Introduction	74
6.2. <i>Participation in an Environmental Conflict in Malvinas Argentinas, Cordoba Province</i>	77
6.3. <i>Government Goals Plan: Citizen Participation in the Control of Compliance of the Mandates in Cordoba (Action Plan of the Government)</i>	83
6.4. <i>Community Participation in Local Decision-Making Regarding Lithium Production in Jujuy</i>	87



Local Responsibilities and Public Services



2.4. Córdoba Connectivity Plan: Government Deployment of Infrastructure to Equalize Territorial Opportunities

Melisa Gorondy Novak, *Universidad Católica de Córdoba*

Relevance of the Practice

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) created a 'Digital Revolution',³⁴ in which Internet has become a human right.³⁵ Public policies to extend connectivity along territories are fundamental. Internet penetration is still a challenge for the peripheral and rural areas of Argentina.

The selected practice, based on the Province of Córdoba Connectivity Plan, provides evidence about different strategies of territorial connectivity and digital inclusion. The case is an example of a public policy in which the development of infrastructure is linked to a process of digital inclusion. It seeks to provide citizens with knowledge of the use of the internet as a tool for social and local development.³⁶ The practice highlights the interconnection between public policies in the quest to make resources more efficient.

The case also reveals the dependence on infrastructure investment of the local level and the need of territorial articulation with multiple stakeholders, including private sector and civil society, to cover a highly fragmented and diverse territory.

Description of the Practice

The Province of Córdoba has a high degree of administrative fragmentation compared to other provinces, encompassing 427 local governments, while the average number of municipalities

³⁴ Martin Becerra, 'Revolución digital: ciudadanía y derechos en construcción' (Cuadernos SITEAL 2015) <http://www.tic.siteal.iipe.unesco.org/sites/default/files/stic_publicacion_files/tic_cuaderno_ciudadania_20160210.pdf>.

³⁵ Alix Aguirre and Nelly Manasía, 'Derechos humanos de cuarta generación: Inclusión social y democratización del conocimiento' (2014) 14 *Télématique 2* <<https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/784/78435427002.pdf>>; Pedro López López and Toni Samek, 'Inclusión digital: un nuevo derecho humano' (2009) 172 *Educación y Biblioteca* 114 <<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/11886312.pdf>>.

³⁶ Juan Benavides and others, 'Impacto de las Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones (TIC) en el Desarrollo y la Competitividad del País' (Fedesarrollo 2011) <<http://www.repository.fedesarrollo.org.co/handle/11445/180>>.



per province in Argentina is 91.³⁷ This fragmentation is related to a diversity in socioeconomic indicators and geographic regions, which become the basis for inequalities among localities in the province.

In relation to connectivity, 69.5 per cent of households in Córdoba have access to broadband internet. However, within the universe of households that do not have broadband access, 50.6 per cent only have mobile connection.³⁸ Although the software industry in the province has grown significantly,³⁹ most ICT companies are still concentrated in urban areas, mainly in the capital. That leaves rural and peripheral areas out of the opportunities offered by the development of technological sectors.

The 'Córdoba Connectivity Plan' is a public policy aimed at 'educating creative and innovative citizens capable of developing their localities in the context of the digital revolution'.⁴⁰ This plan consists of, first, infrastructure investment (e.g., a fiber optic network) to guarantee connectivity throughout the provincial territory, linking rural and urban schools, hospitals, and public buildings of the 427 local governments of the province. Second, a digital inclusion initiative which seeks to reduce the digital gap in access, use, and appropriation of technologies.

A previous infrastructure investment built the first fiber optic network in the City of Córdoba in 1999. The Secretary of Connectivity created the Córdoba Connectivity Plan in 2018 and, in 2020, the Córdoba Connectivity Agency, a public-private state unit. Its main goals were to expand connectivity infrastructure, integrating it with other national and provincial fiber optic networks, and to promote digital literacy.⁴¹

To optimize the allocation of resources, and achieve greater penetration in the territory, the government used the gas pipeline to lay the fiber optic network. This strategy highlights the alternative of interconnection between public policies when the execution of two or more political actions requires considerable investment, in the quest to make resources more efficient.

The Government of Córdoba also coordinated efforts with the Provincial Energy Enterprise, the national government, cooperatives, and private entities to take advantage of previous infrastructure investments.

³⁷ OECD, 'OECD Territorial Reviews: Córdoba, Argentina' (OECD Publishing 2016) <<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264262201-en>>.

³⁸ Dirección General de Estadísticas y Censo de la Provincia de Córdoba, 'Hogares con acceso a banda ancha' (*Dirección General de Estadística y Censos*, 2019) <<https://estadistica.cba.gov.ar/marco-de-bienestar-2/>>.

³⁹ Córdoba Technology Cluster and Economic Trends, 'Monitor TIC' (March edition, 2018) <https://files.gfiles.me/uo/aps2812/_u/2018-4/monitor_estadistico_tic_-_2018_04_v02.pdf>.

⁴⁰ Connectivity Córdoba Plan, Law no 10,564/2018.

⁴¹ Law no 10,737/2020.



The connectivity plan has been complemented by two other initiatives. First, Citizen Connection Spaces, which are places where citizens have free access to the internet in waiting rooms of provincial public hospitals, museums, cultural centers, and other public offices and open spaces in towns of the provincial countryside. The provincial government provided internet connection to public offices and spaces in the 427 local governments of the province. These actions provided internet access for peripheral and rural areas of the province.

Second, the digital inclusion initiative democratized access to ICT, seeking to reduce the digital gap in access, use, and appropriation of technologies, strengthening digital knowledge and skills, mainly in vulnerable sectors of the population. It includes training courses in basic abilities to use ICT, and hackathons for digital alphabetization for older adults, women, people in rural areas, and with disabilities. These actions are carried out in collaboration with universities, civil society organizations, and technological entrepreneurs.

Assessment of the Practice

The Córdoba Connectivity Plan laid out a network of more than 2,300 km of fiber optic. It connected 100 per cent of the provincial hospitals, more than 3,000 schools, more than 200 open spaces and more than 300 public agencies. In addition, more than 65,000 people have already accessed digital literacy programs.⁴² The challenge is to deepen those training initiatives for citizens in order to make them capable of participating in the growing digital economy, not only appropriating existing technologies, but also contributing to the generation of technological development in their localities.

References to Scientific and Non-Scientific Sources

Legal Documents:

Connectivity Córdoba Plan, Law no 10,564/2018

Connectivity Cordoba Agency creation, Law no 10,737/2020

Scientific and Non-Scientific Publications:

Assumpção R, 'Política Pública de Inclusión Digital' (Ministry of Planning, Budgeting and Management 2008)

⁴² Government of the Province of Córdoba, 'Memoria de Gestión Gubernamental 2019' [Government Management Report 2019] and 'Memoria de Gestión Gubernamental 2020' [Government Management Report 2020] <<https://gestionabierta.cba.gov.ar/>>.



<http://www.residuoselectronicos.net/archivos/boletin/boletin_11_ppt/11_assumpcao_mpo_g_arg_ocampo_1208.pdf>

Gendler M, 'Globalización y tecnologías digitales: un estado de situación' (2016) 6 Unidad Sociológica 30 <<http://unidadsociologica.com.ar/UnidadSociologica64.pdf>>

Lago Martínez S, Gendler M and Méndez A, 'Políticas de inclusión digital en Argentina y el Cono sur: cartografía, perspectivas y problemáticas' (2016) 2 Revista Interritorios 155 <<https://www.aacademica.org/anahi.mendez/27.pdf>>

Peres W and Hilbert M (eds), *La sociedad de la información en América Latina y el Caribe: desarrollo de las tecnologías y tecnologías para el desarrollo* (CEPAL 2009) <https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/2537/1/S0900902_es.pdf>

Government of Córdoba website with information on connectivity, <<https://www.cba.gov.ar/conectividad-cordoba/>>

Secretary of Connectivity website, <<https://conectividad.cba.gov.ar>>



Contacts

Local Government and the Changing
Urban-Rural Interplay
www.logov-rise.eu
logov@eurac.edu



This project has received funding from
the European Union's Horizon 2020 re-
search and innovation programme under
grant agreement No 823961.

