INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR PROJECTS

“ACCESSIBILITY AND AUTONOMY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES”

LABICMEX

16 - 28 June 2020
Guanajuato, Mexico
International call open to projects to be developed in the 7th Civic Innovation Laboratory - Accessibility and autonomy in disability and inclusion - to be held from June 16 to 28, 2020 in the city of Guanajuato, Mexico. This laboratory seeks new proposals and innovative solutions to guarantee basic rights and improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. Projects that will be developed collaboratively by multidisciplinary and intercultural teams, together with communities and local groups of people with disabilities. And that can be presented by citizens from any part of the world.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Civic Innovation project of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Government of Guanajuato through its Innovation Science and Higher Education Secretariat (SICES), together with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), call for the presentation of innovative proposals for its prototyping and development in the Civic Innovation Laboratory - Mexico (#LABICMEX)¹ to be held from June 16 to 28, 2020 in the city of Guanajuato, Mexico.

The #LABICMEX will count with the collaboration of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMECID), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Guanajuato’s Social and Human Development Secretariat, Guanajuato’s Institute for People with Disabilities, la Guanajuato’s Health Secretariat, Guanajuato’s State DIF, the National School of Higher Studies, CIATEC, Medialab Prado, Njambre and Silo - Art and Rural Latitude.

10 projects will be selected to be developed by work teams composed of the promoter and 9 collaborators (to be selected in a future open call), with the continuous support of a team of mentors, technical specialists and local mediators.

1.1. Registration and publication of results

All people interested in participating in the #LABICMEX must complete and submit the form available below. Registration is free.

Opening of the call: January 31, 2020
Closure of the call: February 23, 2020 EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 1
Publication of results: March 9, 2020 MARCH 13

The results will be published on the website of Citizen Innovation.

¹ LABIC is the acronym for the name of the laboratory in Spanish, Laboratorio de Innovación Ciudadana.
1.2. Citizen innovation

We understand Citizen Innovation as that process that experiments the resolution of social problems with open technologies and methodologies (digital, social, ancestral) that promote innovative practices while involving the affected community itself. This definition assumes that citizens cease to be passive recipients of institutional actions, to become protagonists and producers of their own alternatives, through an empowerment process that is much more democratic (bottom-up solutions), much more resilient by the effect of learning / doing and trial / error; and above all, much more agile and effective, because it has the knowledge of the communities themselves.

1.3. What is a LABIC?²

The Civic Innovation Laboratories (LABIC) are spaces created to experiment, systematize and accelerate those spontaneous innovations that arise from citizens, which transform realities and have the potential to replicate in other places.

At a LABIC, multidisciplinary teams of citizens from different backgrounds come together for a minimum of 10 days, making the laboratory a production space for projects developed collaboratively by citizens for citizens, generating a space for intercultural coexistence.

This will be the seventh edition of a LABIC; the previous ones were in Veracruz, Mexico in 2014; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2015; Cartagena, Colombia in 2016; Pasto, Colombia in 2018; Rosario, Argentina in 2018 and Liberia, Costa Rica in 2019. In each edition the LABIC adapts to the characteristics of each context where it will work and the central theme of the laboratory.

² The LABIC originally follow the production workshop format developed by Medialab-Prado, but to which throughout its 6 editions, adaptations and innovations have been made that make it a more adjusted model for working with communities facing real challenges.
1.4. People at a LABIC

Image 1. A promoter plus 9 collaborators, 4 mentors, three technical specialists, and 3 local mediators.

1.5. LABIC and the SDGs

This will be the third consecutive laboratory that puts itself at the service of contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linked to the inclusion and autonomy of people with disabilities from a citizen perspective.

What are the SDGs? On September 25, 2015, 193 countries adopted a set of 17 global objectives to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda to be fulfilled in the next 15 years. The interesting part of the SDGs agenda is that not only institutions or governments can contribute to these objectives, but also the citizens and their ideas.

For that reason, this civic innovation lab is focusing on eight of those goals that must serve as the inspiration for the specific proposals that should inform the projects:

Image 2. Sustainable Development Goals numbers 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17.
2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

2.1. Aims of the call

The aim of this call is to select a total of ten projects to be developed over ten days during the lab. The selected projects will be developed with the support of mentors, mediators, and technical experts, as well as a group of 90 contributors from different countries (who will also be selected through a separate open call).

This call is directed to any individual person or group of people interested in submitting proposals related to the selected topics, regardless of the candidate’s level of training, expertise or experience. For example, professionals working with disabilities, engineers, physiotherapists, doctors, nurses, sociologists, architects, artists, urban planners, educators, programmers, psychologists, journalists, informatics, graphic designers, cultural managers, bearers of ancestral cultural traditions, community leaders, or any other person interested in the proposed themes. We specially call on youth organizations, afro-descendants, members of indigenous communities, women, people from rural and fishing areas, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTI community, and others to submit their proposals.

In the selection process, we will be looking for proposals with a potential for social transformation, and also at innovative designs for objects, installations, platforms or methodologies, all of which can be adapted to the Costa Rican context, working in co-production with the local communities. The initiatives can include the use of digital, social or ancestral means to achieve their goals.

Projects could present concrete proposals to specific challenges on topics such as:

HEALTH AND WELFARE:
- improving the quality of life and autonomy of people with disabilities.
- developing low cost and high quality alternatives to vital medical elements (wheelchairs, prostheses, monitors and sensors, medication injectors, implants etc.).
- ensure that the technological devices used for measuring and monitoring medical data and teleservice are accessible.
- designing devices that improve the quality of life and everyday performance of people with disabilities and promote their autonomy.

EDUCATION:
- ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training.
- foster communication, knowledge transfer and new ways of learning
- adapt educational facilities to take into account the needs of all and to offer safe, accessible, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.
- promote access to science for people with disabilities.
- ensure that educational content is accessible to all people.
- include Design for All People as a cross-cutting subject in the training curricula.
- ensure access, both physical and virtual, to educational facilities, networks and infrastructure.

ART, CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM:
- foster access and participation for all in cultural initiatives
- accessibility to art.
- promote the artistic production for people with disabilities.
- ensure accessibility of museums and cultural facilities, as well as the artistic content and works.
- promote the use and enjoyment of tourist installations, cultural sites and places of interest for all people.
- accessible leisure activities and facilities.

EMPLOYMENT:
- achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as equal pay for work of equal value.
- ensure that jobs are accessible and workers have the necessary supportive products to perform their tasks.
- provide employers with the necessary information and tools to ensure that candidate selection processes guarantee equal conditions.

URBAN MOBILITY AND CITIES:
- provide access to systems of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for all
- provide universal access to green areas and safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces
- inclusive design of urban environments in general
- remove all physical barriers that hamper the mobility of people with special needs.
- design of technological systems that facilitate the orientation and guidance of people with disabilities.

PUBLIC POLICIES:
- promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all.
- guarantee the right to vote for all people.
- guarantee the equality of opportunities and reduce the inequality in the results, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices.
- guarantee the accessibility of the mechanisms for citizen participation
- ensure that all telematic means necessary for procedures with public administrations are accessible.

... AND ALSO, ANY OTHER PROPOSALS YOU CAN FORMULATE BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE OR CREATIVITY.

Projects may be submitted individually or collectively. Each participant or team can present as many projects as they wish.
Once selected, the projects must be open to the participation of all the team members and local communities, so that they can make their contributions to the development of the initiative during the lab.

2.2. General aspects of the laboratory

Methodology:

The teams will work on developing their proposals during the #LABICMEX. Although the lab has an established timetable, each group needs to manage their own work schedule, priorities, and way they operate internally and their material resources. The teams will operate in a collaborative and horizontal manner and will be supported by a group of mentors (specialists in the topics to work on and with experience in the labs), technical experts (in programming and electronics), and local facilitators (who connect the projects with the local communities).

If none of the team members have any connection to the local community, the organizers will help them get in touch. For some projects, the collaboration with local organizations and collectives is crucial for the participants to confront real situations on the ground and in order to meet the beneficiaries of the project.

The working day will spread over mornings and afternoons, and it will adapt to the specific needs of the projects as well as the activities and timetable of the event venue.

While much of the interaction happens in Spanish, the LABIC, as a multicultural meeting space, is multilingual, and communication flows naturally.

While the #LABICMEX takes place, there will be a number of other activities such as talks, presentations, seminars, or workshops opened to both the participants and the locals. The working schedule during the LABIC.CR will be as follows:
Image 3. Work schedule in the laboratory. On the 16th there will be a welcome night, on the 17th the opening session, on the 18th the first analytical session with the mentors, on the 20th a Pecha Kucha night, on the 21st a day of rest, on the 22nd the second analytical session with the mentors, on the 26th the rehearsal of the public presentation, on the 27th the public presentation and on the 28th the return of the participants.

Before the lab, the organization will put all the team members in contact with each other so that they can plan, exchange information and materials and advance any preparatory work to be developed during the event.

Resources and technical requirements:
The organization will provide all the resources and means necessary to build the projects. The promoters of the proposals must submit a request in advance to the organizers, for a maximum of 350 dollars per project.

The selection committee will carefully study the technical viability of the projects. For that reason, projects with clearly defined technical and material requirements will be valued very positively.

2.3. Accommodation, travel and food
The organization will cover the costs of accommodation, food and travel to Guanajuato of one person as a promoter per project. In the case of collective authorship, the expenses of only one person per project will be covered.

Accommodation will be in shared rooms (maximum 3 people per room) with full board for non-residents in Guanajuato. For Guanajuato residents, we will provide half board.

Selected promoters residing outside of Mexico must take out travel medical insurance on their own. Furthermore, they must inform themselves about the requirements to obtain a visa to Mexico, if necessary for their nationality (see here).

3. RULING
3.1. Selection Committee
The selection committee will be formed by the SEGIB Civic Innovation team, with the advice of the Government of Guanajuato and the mentors.

3.2. Evaluation of the projects
For the selection of the projects, the committee will consider:

- Adjustment to the theme of this lab.
- Clear and precise objectives, with intent to promote change.
- Quality, originality and high level of innovation.
● Clearly identifying the beneficiaries of the project.
● Best use of resources.
● Diversity of approach and origin will be valued and its integration with other proposals.

3.3. Promotion and continuity of projects

The developed projects will be publicly presented by the promoters and the contributors on the last day of the lab.

The full documentation on the projects will be published on the organizers’ website in order to share the knowledge generated.

The organization will study the viability of escalating and replicating the projects after the lab.

3.4. Obligations of the successful candidates:

● The successful candidates will commit themselves to attending the laboratory every day from June 16th to 28th, 2020.
● The teams commit to facilitating all the project’s documentation that could allow its replicability.
● The selected participants will be allowed to use all the equipment and material previously requested and allocated to them. Any unforeseen or not approved expense pertaining the material or the rental of equipment will have to be covered by the authors of the project.
● The finished projects will be under free licenses and we suggest to use the Share-Alike type (for example, in Creative Commons, it would be the BY-SA licence). Additionally, whenever these projects are shown at festivals and/or exhibitions, and whenever their images are reproduced in catalogs and/or websites, their relationship with the Civic Innovation Laboratory - Mexico (#LABICMEX) must be stated. Likewise, the names of the people who have collaborated in the development of each project must always be mentioned.

3.5. Legal disclaimer

The organization is not responsible for the information or data used by participants. The organization is not responsible either for any copyright infringement, affecting third parties, according to the laws of their respective countries.

The #LABICMEX is an event that takes place over several days. Therefore, we appeal to the individual responsibility of each participant throughout the lab. The organization will not be responsible for any thefts, losses, or personal injuries.
The #LABICMEX does not offer any financial remuneration to the participants, in the understanding that the lab is a forum for collaboration and contribution to the common good.

3.6. Interpretation and modification to this call’s terms

The members of the committee can make any modifications, adaptations or clarifications that they consider relevant.

Any circumstance not covered in this call will be resolved by the committee. The decisions, ratings and results are not subject to appeal.

3.7. LABIC Code of Ethics and Coexistence

1. We focus on collaboration, not competition.
2. Ideas have value in and of themselves, and not by who proposes them. We do not promote gurus, but the common good.
3. We defend the right to information, knowledge and participation. Dialogue and free exchange guide our activities.
4. At LABIC, we encourage free licenses and open repositories as a way to disseminate knowledge and promote its transparency.
5. Expressions of hatred or intolerance in matters of gender, race, ethnicity, degree of disability, social position, sexual orientation, religion or origin are not accepted.

Taking part in this call implies that you accept all the rules and contents.