

## NEWS



Urban Innovation

## What is city innovation for?

Tuesday 29/06/2021

“What is innovation in cities, and what role do local governments play in it?”, Diana Lopez.

## Catalizadores de la innovación

## Talento humano con capacidades para la innovación

## Flexibilidad y cultura organizacional

## Cultura de datos

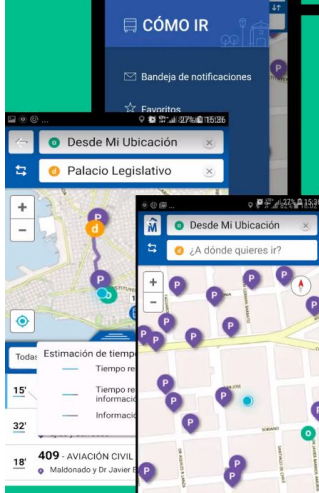


Natalia Currea Dereser

Providing an additional perspective, Maria Eugenia Corti, director of Sustainable and Smart Development in Montevideo, explained her view of what innovation means for the city—sharing as much of the information

generated by the city as possible, and creating programmes and contests so that this data can be directly used by citizens. All this created the appropriate climate in Montevideo for technological solutions to emerge that would facilitate life in the city. One of the examples of this innovation policy is Como Ir, a **web and mobile solution that proposes different routes from one part of the city to another**, and is updated and improved by comments and suggestions made directly by citizens and a community of beta testers.

Corti also highlighted the importance of **transparency** in any innovation policy. In the example case she gave, this transparency is materialised in publishing the data used by the city to design public policies in an open-data format, to act as a catalyst for technological solutions. It is also a strategy that allows for public scrutiny of city management. It was also interesting to see how this soft value is linked to the emergency governance principles mentioned above.

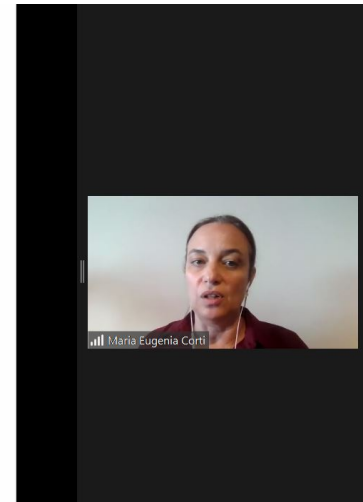


#### Circuitos virtuosos:

Existe comunicación directa con los usuarios que permite conocer aspectos de mejora y detectar fallas.

Existe una comunidad de *Beta Testers* interesada en probar y comentar nuevas funcionalidades.

Los ganadores del desafío iniciaron su propia empresa.



To wrap-up the session, Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis, pointed out how the pandemic has given a new meaning to certain words and concepts, adapting them to the city's needs. Some of those concepts have already been mentioned, such as trust and transparency, but others, such as the public policies detailed throughout the session, have become a new focus point for all city stakeholders (public, private and citizens) to find solutions to problems faced by citizens. However, if cities had to answer one single (although highly complex) question related to innovation, it should be: **“What is innovation for?”**. From this session, it was clear that one of the dimensions to the answer should focus on how innovation can ensure a healthy, inclusive and sustainable quality of life for all citizens.