



# Building Cities of the Future through Govtech

The case of the city of Córdoba, Argentina

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# Resistance to change in the public sector: Causes

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- Bureaucracy and rigid structures.
  - Outdated procedures and regulations.
  - Political pressure (fear of error).
  - Risk-averse organizational culture.
  - Lack of incentives for innovation.
  - Limited resources and talents.

# Resistance to change in the public sector: Costs

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- Disconnection with technology.
  - Difficulties in attracting talent.
  - Operational inefficiency.
  - Bad reputation.
  - Lack of adaptation to changes in the environment.
  - Low citizen participation.

# Córdoba Govtech Program: 9 initiatives for a Smart Local Government in the city of Córdoba



Secretaría de  
Ciudad Inteligente y  
Transformación Digital



Municipalidad  
de Córdoba



CÓRDOBA  
GOVTECH

## Action 1: Creation of the Govtech Innovation Lab, CorLab

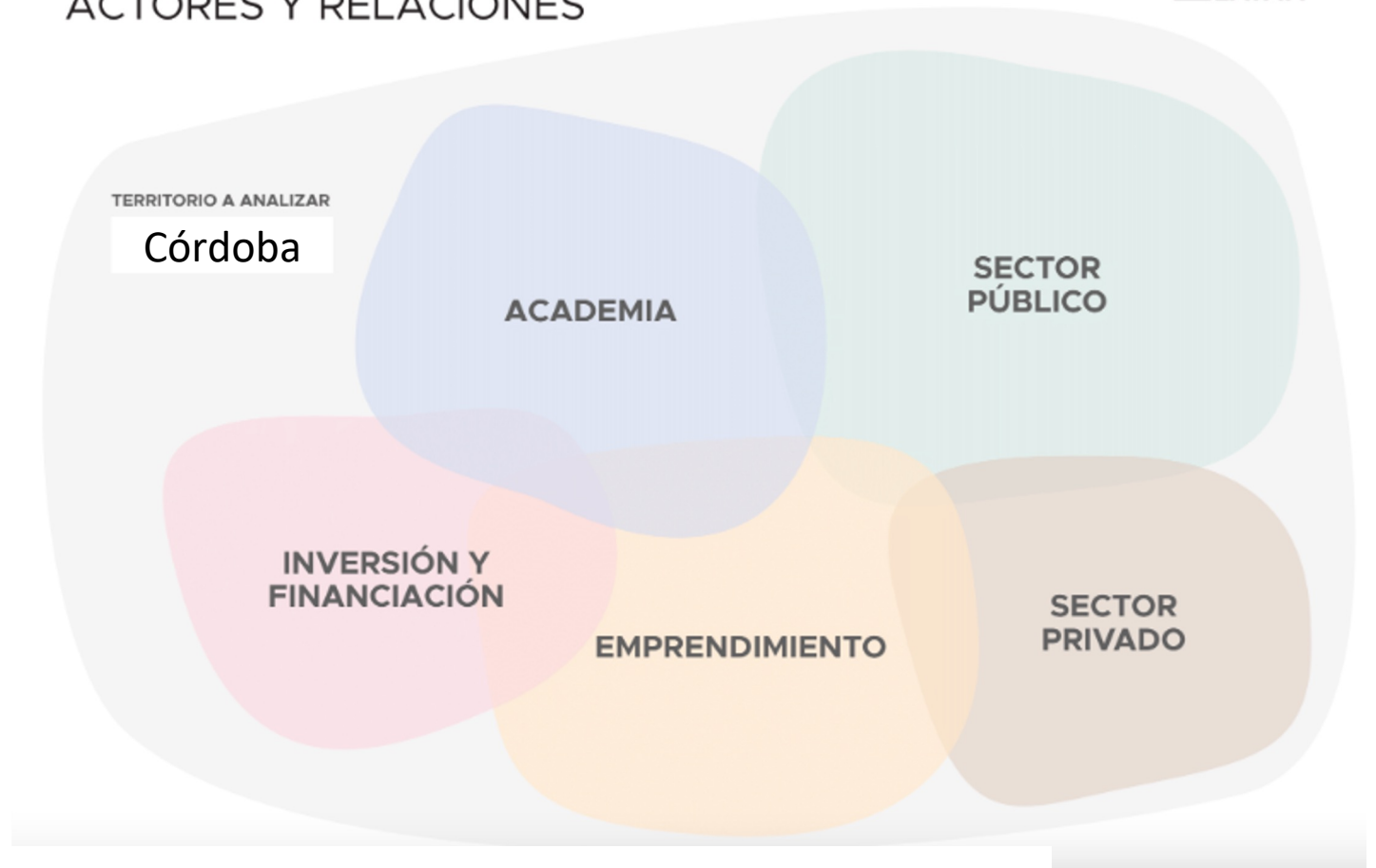
CorLab, the first govtech lab in Argentina, was born in May 2020 with the aim of building a bridge between the new public, social and environmental challenges that arise in the city, and the technological solutions developed by the ecosystem of entrepreneurship and innovation in Latam.



## Action 2: Mapping of the Govtech Ecosystem

HERRAMIENTA DE MAPEO  
**ECOSISTEMA GOVTECH**  
ACTORES Y RELACIONES

GOVTECH  
LATAM



## Action 3: Govtech Demo Days

The govtech startups presented their innovative solutions for the city in front of local public authorities of education, health, environment, mobility, accessibility, security, finance and culture.



## Action 4: Public Innovation Challenges

We have launched 7 innovation challenges with different government areas.

The startups presented more than 500 proposals with innovative solutions.

The most relevant proposals received financing and technical support for their implementation.

In 3 years, more than 80 innovation projects were implemented in the city of Córdoba with a budget close to USD 500K.





## Action 5: Public Procurement of Innovation

At the moment, a draft of local law was designed and presented to update the regulatory framework for public procurement and contracting to favor Public Procurement of Innovative solutions (PPI) and Entrepreneurial Public Procurement (PPE).



## Action 6: Innovative culture in the public sector

During 2023, 31 public agents from different areas of Local Government were trained in Open Innovation. Now they are innovative champions of the Municipality. Also, we raise awareness among 600 public agents about govtech and open innovation. 38 networking meetings were held between govtech entrepreneurs and public agents.



## Action 7:

Promote and  
support Govtech  
Startups

During 2023, 52 local govtech startups were supported for their growth through bootcamp, incubation and acceleration programs provided by the Incutex Company Builder.



## Action 8: Cordoba Smart City Fund



The first experience of a Government in Latam investing in startups with risk capital like a venture capital fund. Invested startups are implementing their solutions in our city. These solutions contribute to building a smart city.

# Córdoba Smart City Fund: Objectives



Promotes public-private partnerships for the implementation of innovative solutions in the city.



Promotes open innovation in the public sector.



Boosts the city's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.



# Córdoba Smart City Fund: Features



It was created through the legislative regulation by Ordinance 13,156 in 2021.



The Development Bank for Latin America (CAF) provided technical assistance to CorLab for the design.



It is funded annually with 1% of the city's commercial and industrial taxes (USD 1M).



It allows the incorporation of external investors. IDB Lab provided funding of USD 600K to co-invest with the Municipality.



# Cordoba Smart City Fund: Milestones



Year 2021: Creation of the Fund.



Year 2022: Investment in 10 startups for USD 1M.



Year 2023: Implementation of 10 innovative solutions developed by invested startups in areas like Environment, Accessibility and Education.



Year 2023: Investment in 6 ventures for USD 700K.



In total, we have invested USD 1.7M in 16 govtech startups.









## Action 9: Cordoba Smart City Fund



## Implementation Cases of the first 10 ventures invested by the Córdoba Smart City Fund



# Main Recognitions to Córdoba Govtech

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- Recognitions from Multilateral Organizations: IDB, CAF and SEGIB.
- Recognition from the Public Innovation Observatory of OECD, 2023.
- Digital City and Govtech Award, 2022 (RECIA).
- Sadosky Award for Regional Innovation, 2022.
- Local Innovators Award (RIL), 2022.





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