



Practical Example :

NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION SYSTEM MEXICO

Anti-Corruption Datathon

Since 2018, through collaboration with the National Digital Platform and the Executive Secretariat of the National Anti-corruption System (SESNA), each year, the Sistema Nacional Anticorrupción (SNA) of Mexico organizes anti-corruption Datathons which serve as a platform that bring together various individuals, including young people, to develop a proof of concept in addressing corruption using data from government systems. The gathered data encompasses information from multiple government institutions, such as public procurement and asset declarations. Each year, the Datathons attract over 70 participants, with a significant presence of women and young people. The Datathon lasts for 3-4 days, forming teams mentored by experts in specific corruption areas, and, by data engineers and data “crunchers”, with a recently significant presence of women and young people. Through innovative initiatives like IT-based data management systems, the Datathons foster quick identification of corruption. Participants pitch their solutions, and the best ideas are selected as winners, promoting the nexus between digital innovation and anti-corruption. The event garners support from national and international partners, including USAID, GIZ, UNODC, and different organizations from government, civil society, and private sector in Mexico, highlighting its significance in combating corruption through digital solutions.



Background

The National Digital Platform is an intelligence source based on the integration and use of strategic open data to tackle corruption. Since 2018, the first edition of the Anti-Corruption Datathon, young people in Mexico and from all over the world have shown how open data can be used to tackle corruption. Thanks to these young people - students, professionals, public policy analysts, data engineers, data scientists, among others – the public authorities in Mexico can find innovative ways to fight corruption.

How the young people contribute to the work of anti-corruption authority

- The active involvement of young people in the Datathon contributes to their increasing awareness of corruption challenges in society, and their ability to find workable solutions.
- The innovative ideas and creations generated by young people have been studied and are being successfully integrated into Mexico's National Digital Platform, reinforcing the significance of youth-driven innovation in combating corruption effectively.
- The initiative has garnered participation from a diverse array of individuals, including participants from different countries.
- This multinational collaboration underscores the collective action taken by young people globally to address corruption and emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural cooperation in this shared endeavor.
- Critical in this endeavor is the effective coordination of the contributions of different sectors, - public, private, civil society journalism, and ordinary citizens.

Mexico Anti-Corruption Datathon and the meaningful youth engagement themes

Diversity and inclusion:

- The anti-corruption Datathon promotes inclusivity by welcoming participants from diverse backgrounds, ensuring a wide range of perspectives and experiences in tackling corruption. There is an increasingly strong representation of women amongst the participating young people.

Enabling environment:

- Leveraging technology and innovation, the Datathon provides a conducive platform for young people to develop proactive solutions to combat corruption, harnessing their enthusiasm and interest in technological advancements.

Intergenerational collaboration:

- Through intergenerational collaboration, teams consisting of participants with different backgrounds, guided by adult mentors, facilitate knowledge exchange and the cultivation of innovative approaches to anti-corruption efforts.

Quality youth participation:

- Young participants actively contribute by proposing data-driven solutions, which have proven to be effective as they are integrated into the national digital system, further enhancing the country's anti-corruption measures.

Youth empowerment:

- The Datathon, through capacity building and mentorship, empowers young participants to develop their own proof of concept and to pitch their solutions, thereby nurturing their confidence and leadership skills.

Lessons Learned

The Datathon initiative showcase the effectiveness of leveraging technology to engage young people and foster their active participation in anti-corruption endeavors. By integrating digital platforms and technology-driven activities, such initiatives naturally captivate the attention of young individuals, who exhibit a heightened interest in technological advancements. Moreover, it is imperative to take proactive measures in reaching out and extending invitations to young people, thereby cultivating their confidence and trust in collaborating with government agencies. By establishing an inclusive and welcoming environment that values and encourages the contributions of young participants, agencies can instill a sense of ownership and empowerment among the youth.



For more information:

- <https://www.sesna.gob.mx/>
- <https://dataton2022.plataformadigitalnacional.org/>
- <https://www.plataformadigitalnacional.org/blog/dataton-anticorrupcion-2022cuarta-edicion/>