Smarter Crowdsourcing to Combat Corruption

The Governance Lab (GovLab) and the Yale Law School Open Government and Open Data Governance Innovation Clinic are launching an effort to rapidly convene global experts to assist with the identification of innovative approaches to combat corruption in Latin America.

Building on our experience using new technologies to curate and convene experts intent on solving hard problems, the Smarter Crowdsourcing Team will organize a series of online sessions during 2017 to brainstorm innovative and practical ways to help governments fight corruption, increase transparency, and improve public trust. The goal of the initiative is to generate innovative and implementable solutions to the challenges posed by corruption at the federal, regional, and local levels and to bring measurable improvements to citizens' lives.

Instead of a handful of people meeting once at great expense in a conference room, we will use the Internet to make it easy for people to lend their time and know-how and deliberate with one another to identify, design and iterate upon implementable ideas that governments can use. The aim is marry the agility and diversity of crowdsourcing (also called open innovation) with curation to target those with relevant know-how and bring them together in a format designed to produce effective and implementable outcomes. This more targeted form of crowdsourcing, which quickly matches the demand for expertise to the supply of it, is what we call "smarter crowdsourcing."

We have recently completed a Smarter Crowdsourcing initiative focused on Zika in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and the governments of Argentina, Colombia, Panama, and Rio de Janeiro (see link here) and are looking forward to applying similar methodology to aid in the fight against corruption.

PROJECT PHASES
1. **Partner and Problem Identification:** The Smarter Crowdsourcing Team and partner governments at the federal, state and local levels formalize the partnership and identify core challenges to address. Those challenges with the greatest potential for government innovation are then prioritized for this project.
2. **Problem Definition:** The Smarter Crowdsourcing Team briefs each challenge in English and Spanish and posts the briefings online for public comment. These briefs will help to guide the online conferences that follow.
3. **Curating Guests:** Diverse experts and innovators – from practitioners and technologists to policymakers and researchers – are identified and invited to participate in one or more online conference. Guest lists are posted online for public input and for recommendations on additional

experts to invite. The focus is on finding those with innovative yet practical approaches to tackling identified problems.

4. **Online Conferences:** Each two-hour discussion is focused on a specific problem. After the conference, videos, transcripts and post-conference briefings of each discussion are posted online for comment. The most promising ideas are identified and prioritized.

5. **Implementation Planning:** The Smarter Crowdsourcing team consults relevant experts and develops high-level implementation plans to aid governments in executing priority recommendations. Through this process, the Smarter Crowdsourcing team also mobilizes the support of subject-matter experts willing to help governments to put these ideas to practice.

RESULTS AND IMPACT: The project aims to generate innovative and implementable solutions that help governments to counter corruption. It will also create an informal, rapid, and agile network of experts for future consultation and partnership.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
Identify a champion within the government organization to support the efforts Name a project lead to coordinate work and participate in the Steering Committee Sign the Letter of Agreement for partners	Prioritize topics Provide detailed on-the-ground information on selected problem areas to inform briefing Provide comments on problem definitions	Identify national and other experts for guest list	Select government decision-makers to participate in each online session based on topic Select officials with knowledge of on-the-ground conditions to participate in each online session Promote results of online sessions Participate in debriefing sessions	Use implementation plans to enable a local execution of desired solutions Report back to the Smarter Crowdsourcing Team on progress
Participate in ongoing steering committee meetings				

THE SMARTER CROWDSOURCING TEAM
Professor Beth Simone Noveck, Project Director: Director of The GovLab, first US Deputy Chief Technology Officer, and director of the White House Open Government Initiative (2009-2011).
Dinorah Cantú-Pedraza: Coordinator the GovLab Academy, an online institute aimed at helping government and social innovators take innovative projects from idea to implementation. Lawyer and former director of the Human Rights Center of the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey. Also holds an MPA in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy from the NYU Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.
Jesse Marks: J.D. Candidate at Yale Law School. Previously worked as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company and as a team leader in the strategic advisory arm of the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture.
Erik Woodward: MA candidate at the Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, with a background in human rights policy in Latin America. Prior to Yale, Erik spent four years living in Guatemala where he worked with communities filing human rights claims before the Inter-American System on Human Rights. He holds a B.A. in cultural anthropology from the University of Arizona.
Joel Ramirez: J.D. Candidate at Yale Law School. Previously worked as a neuroscience researcher in the Brain Physiology & Stimulation Laboratory at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.
Roberta Allport: M.A. Candidate at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. Previously worked in international development for Nathan Associates London ltd. and has spent several years working on sustainable community development in the Caribbean.

About the GovLab: The GovLab is an action research center based at the Tandon School of Engineering at New York University. Our mission is to improve people's lives by changing the way we govern. Our goal is to strengthen the ability of institutions – including but not limited to governments – and people to work more openly, collaboratively, effectively and legitimately to make better decisions and solve public problems.

About the Yale Law School Open Government and Open Data Governance Innovation Clinic: The Governance Innovation Clinic is a public policy clinic that supports the strengthening of democratic institutions by using legal and technological innovations to transform and improve how we govern. The goals of the clinic are three-fold: to help institutions innovate and become more effective using both big data and collective intelligence; to promote the public's right to participate in governing in ways that access people's talents, creativity, and interests; and to empower students to become 21st century public leaders and problem solvers armed with a diverse and powerful toolkit for social change.

February 27, 2017