Uruguay has achieved significant progress in promoting merit-based recruitment for its civil service

The civil service merit index measures the degree of effective protection against arbitrariness, political capture or clientelism when recruiting for the civil service. The index score of Uruguay increased from 53/100 to 73/100 between 2004 and 2013, above the average regional level, which increased from 33/100 to 54/100 during the same period. This improvement could be explained by the development and implementation of the recruitment and selection system and the launching of the online recruitment portal “Uruguay Concura”, as well as by substantial increase in the number of merit contests for government positions.

Chapter 6: Human Resources Management

Uruguay is at the forefront of digital government efforts in the LAC region

Like the majority of LAC countries, Uruguay has adopted a national strategy for digital government and is among the LAC countries that use performance indicators to monitor progress in digital government. Reaping the full benefits of digital technologies requires effective co-ordination to avoid duplication, ensure that new technologies are widely adopted and that their importance and benefits are understood. Uruguay stands out as an example of effective digital government co-ordination. The Agency for Electronic Government and Knowledge and Information society (AGESIC) is in charge of managing relationships with other public institutions and seeks to monitor and support the implementation of digital government policies, co-ordinate cross-cutting projects and perform change management. AGESIC is also in charge of providing a centralised follow-up and support mechanism for digital government projects.

Chapter 8: Digital Government
8.1. Existence of a national strategy for digital government or the use of ICT in the public sector, 2015
8.2. Use of performance indicators to monitor progress in digital or e-government, 2015

Government data is generally available to the public but it could be more accessible

The OECD’s composite index on the Openness, Usefulness and Reusability of data (OURdata index) measures governments’ efforts to proactively release government data. In 2015, Uruguay (0.72/100) achieved the second-highest score of the LAC region in OURdata index, above the regional (0.43/100) and OECD (0.56/100) averages. Uruguay scores particularly well on data availability (0.27/33), while on data accessibility (0.22/0.33) it has a lower score, indicating the possibility to further improve to the national data portal, by for example including a ranking function for datasets and a voting button for visitors.

Chapter 8: Digital and open government
8.21. OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data, 2015
GOVERNMENT INPUTS: FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Public Finance & Economics

Government revenues (2014) % of GDP

Government expenditures (2014) % of GDP

Government investment (2014) % of GDP

Government gross debt (2014) % of GDP

Fiscal balance (2014) % of GDP

Breakdown of tax revenues (2014) % of total taxation

How to read the figures:
- Country value in green (not represented if not available)
- Range of LAC country values in grey
- Average of LAC country values in purple
- Average of OECD country values in blue
- n.a. refers to data not available

Values have been rounded.

Public Employment & Compensation

Public sector employment as % of total employment (2014)

Public sector employment filled by women (2014)

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook database

Source: OECD Revenue Statistics in Latin America (database)

Source: International Labour Organization (database)
Government Institutions

Level of influence of the Centre of Government over line ministries (2015)

- Uruguay: Moderate
  - 33% High
  - 47% Moderate
  - 20% Low

Source: OECD 2015 Survey on Centre of Government

iREG: Composite indicator on stakeholder engagement (2015)

The max. score for each category is 1, and the max. aggregate score for the composite is 4

- Uruguay: 1.61

Source: OECD Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance for Latin America

Civil service merit index (2012-2015)

Composite index from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest)

- Uruguay: 73

Source: Inter-American Development Bank, 2014

Public Procurement

Government procurement (2014) *

- Uruguay: 7.7% of GDP

Source: IMF Government Finance Statistics database. * See Notes

Development of strategic public procurement by objective (2015)

- Green public procurement: n.a.
- MSMEs: n.a.
- Procure innovative goods and services: n.a.
- Women owned enterprises: n.a.

Support to
- Green public procurement (2015)
- MSMEs (2015)
- Procure innovative goods and services (2015)
- Women owned enterprises (2015)

Digital Government

Existence of a main national citizens portal for government services and a legally recognised digital identification mechanism (2015)

- Main national citizens portal for government services: Yes
- Legally recognised digital identification mechanism: Yes

Source: OECD Survey on digital government performance

OURdata Index:
Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2016)

Composite index from 0 (lowest) to 1 (highest)

- Uruguay: 0.72

Source: 2016 OECD Survey on Open Government Data
GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

Health Financing Systems And Budget Formulation

Health care financing schemes and percentage of population covered (2015)

Uruguay

Before After

Government financing scheme: 24% 63%
Social health insurance: 69% 39%
Voluntary private insurance: 7% 6%
Compulsory private insurance: 7% 2%
Other: 0% 2%
Not covered by any explicit arrangement: 0% 4%

Source: 2015 OECD Survey of Budget Officials on Budgeting Practices for Health in LAC countries

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Gini coefficient: Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2012)

Indicator from 0 (low income concentration) to 100 (high income concentration)

Uruguay

Before After

0.53 0.46
0.52 0.50
0.47 0.29

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Notes

* Costs of goods and services financed by general government are not included in government procurement because they are not accounted separately in the IMF Government Finance Statistics (database).

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: http://www.oecd.org/gov/government-at-a-glance-lac.htm

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2017 are available via the Stat-Links provided throughout the publication: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264265554-en

Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2017

Government at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2017 is the second edition of a joint publication between the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators to inform policy making and benchmark specific interventions. The model is the OECD Government at a Glance, which is a fundamental reference, backed by a well-established methodology for OECD member countries. Compared to the previous edition that had a special focus on Public Financial Management and alongside with indicators on public finances and public employment this second version covers a wider range of public management areas including the role and influence of the Centre of Government, Open Government and Open Data policies, Digital Government, Regulatory Governance and practices for Budgeting in health systems.