

Introduction

We are pleased to present the National Observatory Network's first informational bulletin, five years ago, when the Network was first presented, it had 10 Urban Local Observatories, nowadays the Network is integrated by 33 Observatories in 15 of 32 States of Mexico, with over 140 collaborators, including academics, local authorities and civil partnerships. The Network is worldwide considered as a "Best Practice"; therefore, our main interest is to use this bulletin as a media to share among a wide audience the Urban Observatories Network's work and this way enhance the implementation of better practices in urban development and management in our cities. This is also an opportunity to recognize the work done by all the Observatories, which makes possible this bulletin, and to invite all to follow-up this project and embrace as enthusiastically as the beginning.

Salvador Gómez Rocha

Network's Coordinator/Social Development Ministry

United Nations Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, recognizes the work done by the National Observatory Network and its consolidation a long these years, making of it an essential referent worldwide.

As leaders breaking ground, UN-HABITAT will enhance every effort made by its partners to achieve the common goal of sustainable urbanism. In this spirit UN-HABITAT is committed to divulge this bulletin, pursuing the goal of sharing the Mexican experience among other countries.

Domestically, the Urban Observatory Network has had an invaluable contribution in urban development, due its incidence in orienting public policies for a better future of our cities, accomplishing the initial objective for which they were created.

It is an honor to present this synthesis of the achievements that the Network has done, our recognition to all of them.

María Dolores Franco Delgado

Habitat Programme Manager/UN-HABITAT-Mexico

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National Urban Observatory Network Participation at the V World Urban Forum, at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March, 23, 2010.



Within the participation of the General Director of Urban and Land Development of the Social Development Ministry of Mexico, José Luis Llovera Abreu, highlighted the strategies and results obtained by Mexico. They participated at the Networking event “Desafíos emergentes e novas perspectivas para o monitoramento dos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento do Milênio”.



Parral Urban Observatory Manager: MSc. Julia Aragón First Multidisciplinary Dialogue of Parral's Urban Observatory

Dialogue's objectives: 1) to promote Parral's Urban Observatory research lines, 2) to strength the relation between the Chihuahua University and local authorities, 3) to support the creation of other Urban Observatories in Chihuahua State, as well as to build up a State's Local Urban Observatories Network.

This dialogue took place at the Chihuahua's University International Economy Faculty, Chihuahua del Parral, Chihuahua, on January 28 and 29, 2010.



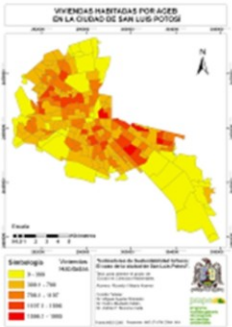
Cancun Urban Observatory Manager: MSc. Celina Izquierdo Municipal Comprehensive Plan of Action to Prevent Insecurity in Benito Juárez, Q. Roo, México.



Identify community strategies to promote a retraction of crime and present felony behavior is the main objective of this plan.

The general strategy consist in a role of public space enhancement to promote positive social behavior, strengthening social networks, and cultural activities, guaranteeing the Right to the City.





San Luis Potosi Urban Observatory Manager: MSc. Ricardo Villasis Keever

Some of the projects that the Urban Observatory has delivered are: "Study for the quantitative assessment of San Luis Potosi's urban development", study made for the Social Development Ministry and UN-HABITAT Mexico; "Demographic change study in urban areas of San Luis Potosi State, from 2000-2005"; "Mobility study of Santa Maria del Rio, S.L.P., 2009", article published in the IV International Congress of Land Planning Memoir; Santa Maria del Rio case study, elaborated by the Entrepreneurs Technology University Center. Also, the observatory has created several georeferenced urban sustainability indicators.



Guadalajara Metropolitan Observatory, OMEGA Manager: Arch. Alejandro Mendo

Legislative improvements in urbanism: Urban Observatories at Jalisco's Urban Code



Jalisco's Urban Code in its articles 51 to 53 of the social participation title, specifies Urban Observatories standards, as well as the roles of Municipal and State governments towards enhance urban observation.

In December 2004, Guadalajara's Metropolitan Observatory was invited to participate permanently at the most important social participatory forum regarding urban development.

The Municipality of Guadalajara, was audited by the Guadalajara Metropolitan Observatory, in order to verify the accomplishment of goals established in the Municipal Plan. To do so, were used Guadalajara's Metropolitan Observatory indicators as a innovative tool of social audit.

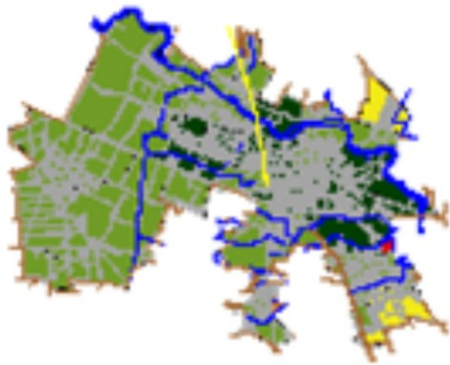


Colima Urban Observatory Manager: Arch. Gisela Mendez Observatory creation retrospective experience



Observatory's work methodology is to develop indicators through the dialogue, within institutional frameworks, incorporating information and opinions from the public and private sectors, integrating multiple approaches and technical perspectives, all of this oriented to guarantee the indicators effectiveness and objectiveness, to function as guidelines for governmental actions rather than mechanisms for criticize the government.



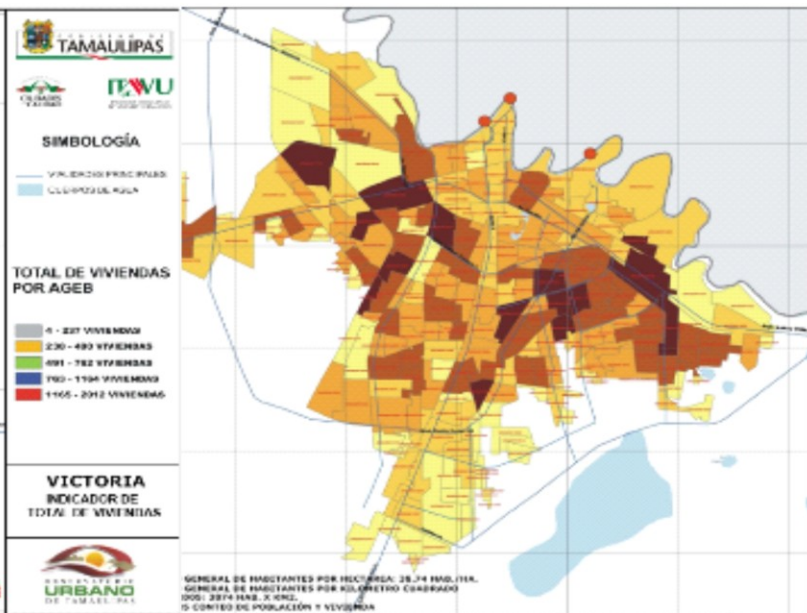
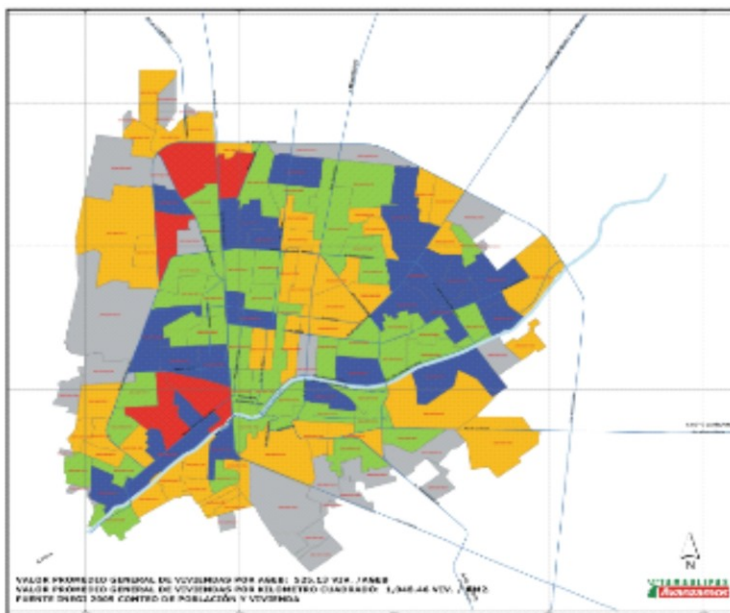


West Central Region's Urban Observatory (OURCO) Manager: Oscar Aguilar Juárez

The OURCO performed tasks about urban monitoring in the medium-sized cities and metropolitan areas in the West Central Region (Aguascalientes, Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Michoacán, Nayarit, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí y Zacatecas) through four thematic platforms (Social, Territorial, Environmental urban mobility and Economic) inside universities and research centers under the scheme of indicators system in order to establish living standards, available basic urban facilities, as well as socio-demographic, economic, environmental and territorial features.



Ciudad Victoria Urban Observatory Manager: Miguel Ángel Montalvo





Toluca Urban Observatory **Manager: José Antonio Álvarez Lobato**



In 2008 the Observatory published through the Mexiquense's College (academic headquarters of the observatory) the book "Urban Observatories in Mexico, lessons, proposals and challenges", product of a space for exchanging experiences and gather best practices in construction and operation of urban observatories. In which ten observatories made a self-criticism exercise that not only allowed identify the strengths of its observatories but also recognized their weakness in order to share their experiences and knowledge with other observatories to facilitate their progress and the creation of new ones.



Chihuahua Urban Observatory **Manager: Miriam Irigoyen Hernández**

Three participatory workshops were performed in "Park of Innovation and Technology Transfer (PIT2)" of the "Institute of Superior Studies of Monterrey" campus Chihuahua, as the first stage of the realization of the "Methodology for the Prioritization of Indicators" for the municipality of Chihuahua.



Puebla Urban Observatory **Manager: Moisés Ruiz Angel**



Two projects were realized with financing of Social Development Ministry's "Hábitat" Program, through the city council of Puebla's Municipality: "Urban Indicators and Millennium Development Goals" and "Urban local Observatory's workshop" in order to spread activities and benefits of the installation of an observatory. Its working plan for 2010 propose a more intense approach with the social sector and the link with more higher education institutions and government bodies through workshops, seminars and the web site, as well as the creation of the Local Agenda Indicators.



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