CORRUPTION

DIGITIZING PERMITS AND BUSINESS LICENSES

PROBLEM

For many local governments, including Guadalajara, Mexico, **permitting and licensing new businesses is a lengthy, complicated, and opaque process**. As a result, residents have a harder time doing business, which hurts local economies. The system risks inconsistency, subjectivity, and even potential fraud, and local governments miss out on tax revenue because they don't have clear visibility into business activity.

SOLUTION

Visor Urbano is an open-source, fully customizable digital platform that streamlines business permit processes and grants public access to information such as business requirements, development plans, licenses, and payments. It was first piloted in Guadalajara, Mexico, and has since been successfully adopted in 50+ cities within Mexico.

Successfully adopted in

50+

cities

IMPACT

Visor Urbano speeds up permitting processes, improves the ease of doing business, and increases local governments' tax revenue.

In Guadalajara, Visor Urbano led to:

80% reduction in license processing times

21% ↑ increase in collected tax revenue

74% ↓ decrease in bribe requests

CHALLENGES THIS IDEA CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE

- Inefficiency in business permitting
- Unrealized tax revenue due to unlicensed, informal businesses
- Unclear and cumbersome processes for residents seeking to open a small business

ADOPT THIS IDEA: 3 KEY STEPS

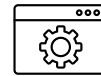**Start by** Mapping out the business permitting processes in your city

1 Adapt the software

Form a core team that includes key departments—GIS, Licensing, IT, Urban Development, and Treasury— and customize the open-source code to your local permitting regulations.

2 Align with spatial data

Georeference urban regulations using mapping tools.

3 Launch the platform

Train internal teams to use and launch the tool and inform residents of the new permitting process.

Learn more and register to be a part of the Idea Exchange **here**