

Transparency Online

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The National Congress and the state and municipal courts of auditors join themselves to inspect and make an Internet portal available with all the actions regarding the civil works in the cities that will host World cup games in Brazil

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A network of information composed of the Federal Court of Auditors (TCU), the state and municipal courts of auditors, and the inspection committees of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies in active for over a month now. Yesterday, the group took an important step by presenting the internet portal. The web page will gather detailed information of all the actions implemented for the 2014 World Cup.

The portal will be a public site, that is, any person will be able to check the destination of the funds. The address will have a space to make charge books available. In the description of each page foreseen, the web users will be able to follow-up the execution phase. Another option will be to follow-up the actions per unit of the federation, by clicking on a Brazil map. The third option will be to follow-up the actions per area. There will also be a space for the citizens to make suggestions and denunciations.

Activities, purchase of fixed assets and civil works, for example, will be detailed for each action, either if they involve stadiums, inland transportation, health, safety, airport infrastructure or tourism. As suggested by members of the Court of Auditors, an area shall be included to evaluate the legacy of the actions, as well as another one, with restricted Access, to Exchange information between the courts of auditors.

“The Idea of making this information available to the public will reduce the number of irregularities,” ensures Hipólito Gadelha, Senate inspection and budget consultant, and responsible for the portal.

Tax Evasion Enforcement

In order to oblige all participants to make the site updated, there is an arising Idea of creating a Bill by which the responsible authorities undertake to pass the information on, under penalty, in case of omission, of the relevant city not receiving the Federal funds, in case any action is not disclosed. The TCU also intends to propose a normative ruling whose purpose will be to charge fines from those who deny information.

According to Gadelha, the portal will technically be fit to run in a month; however the ability to insert actual content depends on the Ministry of Sports. The Ministry will define the actions that are actually related to the World Cup. “I hope this happens until the end of the year” is Gadelha’s guess.

An Example not to be Followed

Before the portal is presented, the TCU external control secretary in Rio de Janeiro, Osvaldo Perrout, reported the greatest difficulties faced upon inspection of the Rio Pan-American Games in 2007. No specific group was developed whatsoever, and neither in the TCU, in the TCE or in the TCM. “Furthermore, the three authorities did not act jointly” he wails. The list was huge. Until March, 2007, not even the responsibility matrix had been defined, which made it quite difficult for inspection. The long time taken for the civil works to be carried out was also a problem. “Something that was expected to happen in three or five years, ended up, being carried through in six months,” recalls Perrout. The TCU is still accruing the evidences of over-invoicing, deviation of funds, and other irregularities. That experience, according to Perrout, must be used in order to prevent repetition. For that purpose, he presented over 20 suggestions of opportunities of improvement, among which, the creation of the portal. “In Brazil the team work culture is in scarce, but it is being reinforced with this network,” highlighted the TCU Secretary.

A Conceptual Problem

One of the greatest difficulties pointed out by the representatives of the courts of auditors is defining what are the civil works directly connected to the World Cup, above all regarding the infrastructure. One of the reference points will be the charge books. Another point for discussion, still not remedied, is if the inspection will be carried out jointly or simply standardized.