

# City Innovation Snapshot | Medellín, Colombia

## Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Federico Gutiérrez
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Alejandro Franco Restrepo
- ▶ Population of municipality: 2.5 million (2017)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: <https://geomedellin-m-medellin.opendata.arcgis.com/>

## Spotlight on Medellín | Triple Helix Collaboration

Medellin has a **triple helix collaboration** between the public sector, the private sector, and academia. Every month the presidents from the main companies in the city, along with officers from the public sector and the headmasters of the universities get together at the University, State and Enterprise Committee (CUEE) to find common points and join efforts towards achieving greater economic development for the city.

## Vision and approach to innovation capacity

### The city's innovation strategy

Along with 44% of cities surveyed, Medellín has an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Big picture re-thinking

Experimentation

### Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to 40% of cities surveyed, Medellín approaches innovation capacity **both** from a **holistic/macro level**, as well as in **specific policy areas**.

The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Economic development

Social inclusion and equity

### Most common innovation activities

Medellin's most common innovation activities are **engaging residents in new ways**; **human-centred design**; and **rethinking the city's approach to financing and partnerships**. Its innovation activities also include **facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration**.



## Funding for innovation capacity

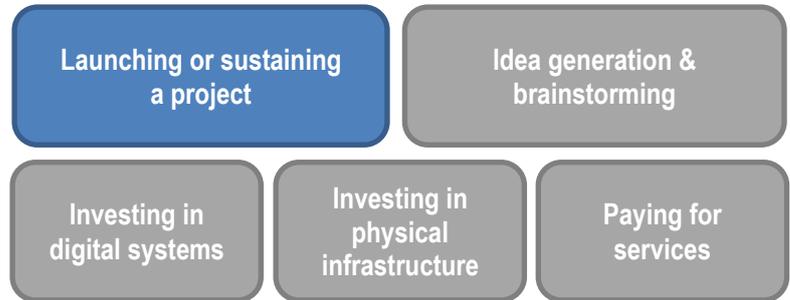
### Funding to support innovation capacity

Like 77% of cities surveyed, Medellín has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:

- ✓ **Municipal budget**  
(city council approved funds)
- ✓ **Innovative financing tools**
- ✓ **Non-financial resources**  
(in-kind contributions)

### Types of activities being funded

Medellín's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **launching or sustaining a project**, which is one of the two most commonly funded activities among all cities surveyed.



## Organisational structure & staffing



As an independent body, Medellín's dedicated team for innovation is led by the Executive Director, which consists of more than 100 people.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- ✓ **Project manager**
- ✓ **Data scientist**
- ✓ **Designer**
- ✓ **Engineer**
- ✓ **Sociologist**
- ✓ **Communication officer**
- ✓ **Community engagement staff**

## Partnerships for innovation & data



Medellín has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with other **public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents/resident associations.**

To improve data use, the city has also developed **data partnerships with the private sector, academia, and think tanks** to collect and analyse data.

## Measuring outcomes

Policy areas that **benefit from sufficient data**, or **lack sufficient data**, to support innovation capacity in the city:



*NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.*

Innovation is **helping the city** to:

- ✓ **Generate new sources of revenue**
- ✓ **Improve resident outcomes**

The most **critical success factors** in supporting the city's innovation work:

- ✓ **Dedicated funding**
- ✓ **Focus on measurement**
- ✓ **Dedicated innovation team**
- ✓ **Engagement with partners**
- ✓ **Support from outside city administration**