

TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT: AN ASSESSMENT OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN THE EXTERIOR SOUTH OF BRAZIL¹

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Abstract: The present study aims to determine the reality of public transparency in the neighboring countries of the extreme south of Brazil and what are their differences and similarities in relation to Brazil. The study is justified in knowing whether these countries have electronic portals that aim to present the results in relation to public expenditures and how the population can access them, in view of the great importance of public transparency and access to information for public spending, the development of a country. In this sense, an exploratory and bibliographic study was carried out that addressed issues related to public transparency in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Given this context, the results of this study form a theoretical construction in order to better understand public transparency in the region. According to the results presented, it is possible to identify the differences and similarities in relation to public transparency in Brazil. It was found that, in a way, all the countries studied have a law that regulates public transparency and guarantees the right of access to information to citizens.

Keywords: Public Management; Governance; Transparency.

INTRODUCTION

Transparency is one of the pillars of governance, that is, to understand what transparency is, one must basically understand what governance is. The word governance soon refers to the idea of administration, so it is considered by many as a way of actually managing, organizing, as well as governing certain entities. The same can be applied to the public network, in this situation governance becomes applied to the administration of public and governmental bodies.

The present study reports that governance is supported by four pillars, these are identified as transparency, ethics, compliance

and accountability. These four pillars are interconnected, as the *accountability* or as it is commonly called in Brazil, accountability, is presented by many authors such as Pinho and Sacramento (2009), as a tool that involves responsibility with the use of public resources.

A transparency mechanism widely used by entities are the electronic transparency portals, which are nothing more than internet pages where organizations that seek to be accountable by themselves or because they are obliged to provide, end up disclosing information about their results. The use of electronic portals aims to facilitate control over the rendering of accounts by the State and the population in general.

Based on this, the present study aims to determine the reality of public transparency in the neighboring countries of the extreme south of Brazil and what are their differences and similarities in relation to Brazil.

METHODOLOGY

The present work has an indirect technique of data treatment, considering that the analysis and discussions of the study were carried out through a bibliographic survey. Regarding the procedure, the monographic and comparative method was used, and the nature of the research presents an applied character with the purpose of acquiring knowledge for application in a specific theme (MARCONI; LAKATOS, 2005).

In addition, the research is characterized by an exploratory nature, as it aims to establish greater familiarity and perception of the topic (GIL, 2010). In this sense, a survey of works and legislation that addressed issues related to public transparency in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay was carried out.

Given this context, the results of this study form a theoretical construction in order to better understand public transparency in the region. Such a methodological approach

has as limitations the fact of analyzing and presenting only theoretical considerations on the subject. Likewise, it is observed that its representation still requires further investigations about its application.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Table 1 presents information regarding the countries studied. This information comprises the country's history regarding transparency, current legislation, territoriality, that is, how the territory of the country studied treats public transparency, and finally data regarding access to information by citizens.

When analyzing the information collected by the researchers, it can be observed that Uruguay was the first country to regulate an access to information law, followed by Brazil, Paraguay and, finally, Argentina. The four countries have an access to information law, and the last three had the same regulated between the years 2011 and 2016, even though they have implemented the law very closely for years, the form of data presentation is very unique one of the other.

Compared to the others, Argentina presents the data in a confusing way, making it impossible to interpret the data clearly. Despite Uruguay having established the law longer than the others, it does not have the information presented so clearly compared to Brazil and Paraguay, both have the information in a clear way, as well as the form of requesting the data is simpler than that of Uruguay. However, Paraguay presents less information than it could actually be, among the four countries, Brazil is the one that presents more information and it is presented in a clear way, as well as access to it is easier than in the other countries surveyed. According to the Comptroller General of the Union (2013), through the transparency portal, citizens do not need a password or registration to access the data, the information generated is given on the expenses incurred by public bodies, as well as information regarding bids, budget executions, among other activities performed by organizations that generate inflows and outflows of values.

Despite having the law on access to

Feature	Brazil	Argentina	Uruguay	Paraguay
Históric	Brazil regulated the Access to Information Law in October 2011.	Since 2005, it has been crawling about the regulation of Transparency, becoming law only in 2016	In 1998 he created JUNTER. It was the first Mercosur member country to apply the Transparency Law.	The country took more than 20 years to have the Transparency Law regulated.
current legislation	Law 131 Law 12.527	Law 27.275	Law No. 18.381	Law 5.282/14
territoriality	Portal Federal	Portal Federal	Portal Federal	Portal Federal
Access to information	With regard to the Federal Government, the citizen can make the request physically or electronically. In electronic access, the person does not need to register.	It has the transparency portal and citizens can request information	The citizen must complete a form and send it as an attachment in the section that corresponds to the desired information.	All citizens have the right to access information of a public nature, without having to provide further explanations.

Table 1– Comparative data of Brazil with neighboring countries.

Source: survey data.

information regulated, there is a lot of difficulty in ensuring its full implementation, and to change this reality, countries tend to seek other tools that seek to improve control over the implementation of the law on access to information. Argentina does not present the information clearly, however government entities have made an effort to show the population the importance of access to information.

Uruguay, in addition to having laws aimed at public transparency, has other government sectors that seek to analyze accountability, that is, there are sectors that aim to analyze compliance with the law. Another point observed is that the country also has bodies whose function is to present to the population their rights of free access to information, while Brazil, in principle, does not have bodies whose purpose is to present to the population what their rights as citizens are.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Through the research, we sought to establish the reality of public transparency in the neighboring countries of the extreme south of Brazil and what are their differences and similarities in relation to Brazil. To answer this question, this article sought, through a comparative approach, to determine the differences and similarities of public transparency in the countries of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in relation to Brazil through a bibliographic and exploratory approach.

According to the results presented, it is possible to identify the differences and similarities in relation to public transparency in Brazil. It was found that, in a way, all the countries studied have a law that regulates public transparency and guarantees the right of access to information to citizens. In relation to Argentina, it differs from Brazil because there is no uniformity in relation

to the disclosure of its provinces, in Brazil it already occurs uniformly in its states. Paraguay identifies with Brazil in the sense of facilitating access to information for its citizens without further justification, unlike Uruguay, which has to request it.

It is understood that the countries studied are in an evolution regarding the greatest possible public transparency and seeking to ensure that their citizens have access and interest in this information, there is still a lot to evolve in terms of access to information, since sometimes it is not possible to identify in the transparency portals where the information is. It is highlighted as a limitation of this study the lack of scientific articles to corroborate the data and facts found in accordance with the current legislation of the countries studied, it is possible in a future study to approach other countries for comparison with Brazil, such as even raising this lack of publications in this area.

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