# Science, Technology and Innovation in Uruguay: The Evolution and Role of ANII

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Regional Dialogue on STI Policies in the Caribbean

October 15, 2025

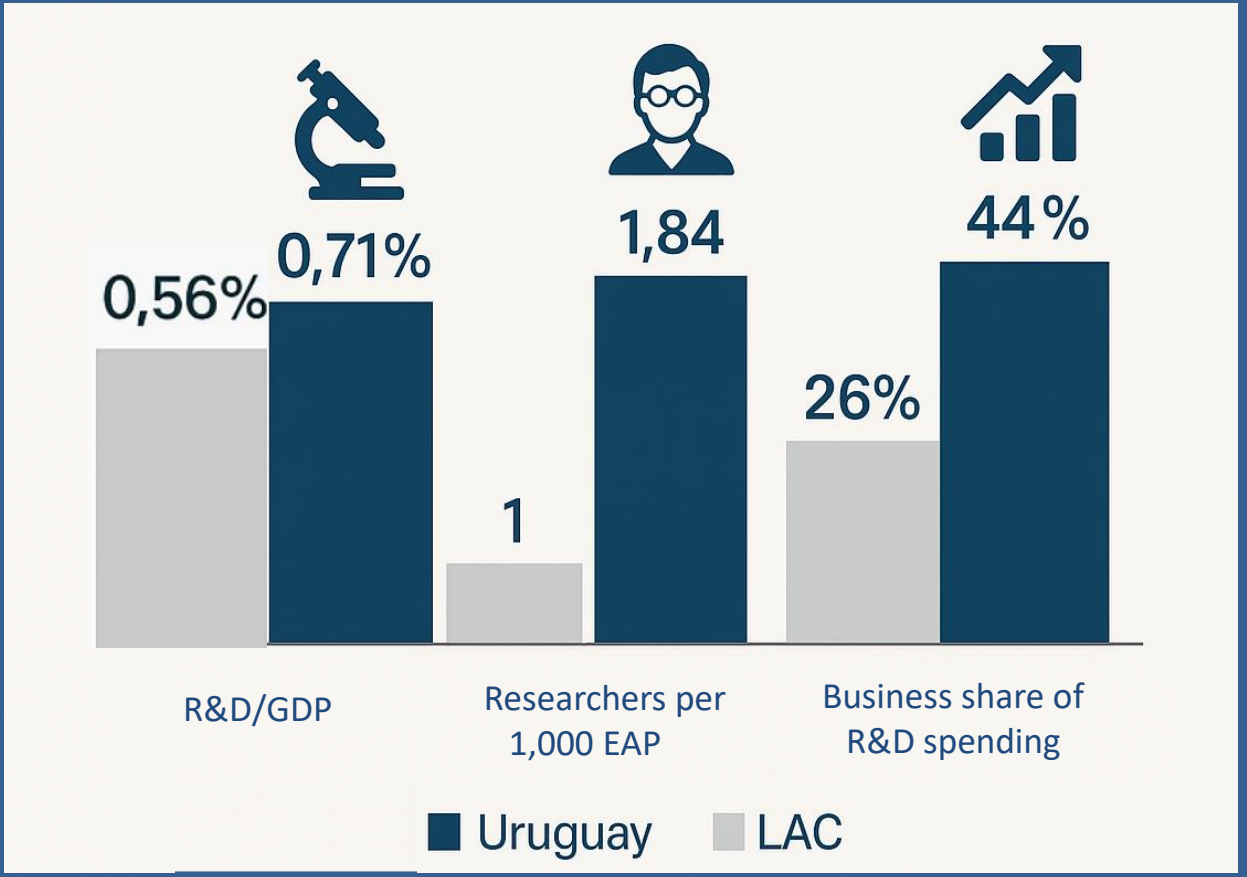
# URUGUAY


PANAMA
COLOMBIA
VENEZUELA
Caracas
Georgetown
GUYANA
SURINAME
FRENCH GUIANA
ECUADOR
Andes Mountains
Amazon River
Belem
PERU
Cruzeiro do Sul
Porto Velho
Fortaleza
Lima
BRAZIL
Recife
BOLIVIA
La Paz
Santa Cruz
Brasilia
Goianaia
CHILE
PARAGUAY
Rio de Janeiro
Porto Alegre
Santiago
URUGUAY
Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

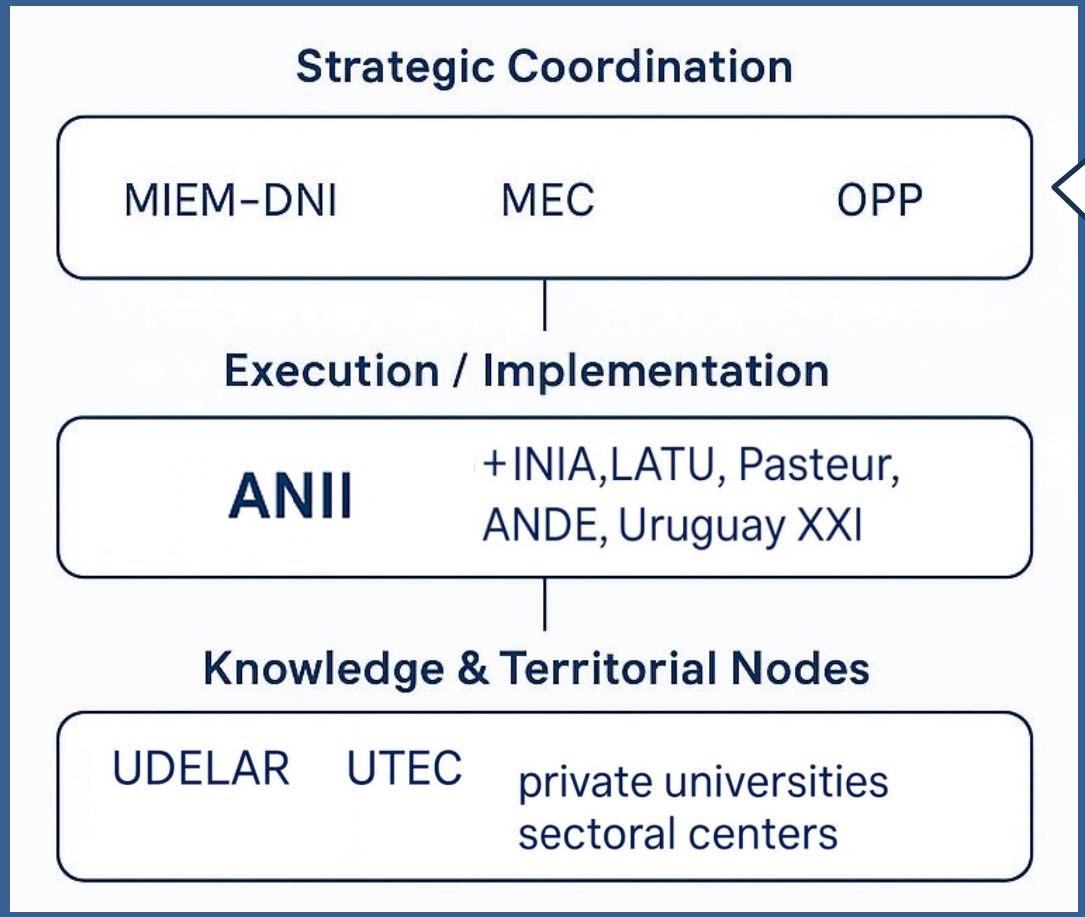
# URUGUAY'S STI LANDSCAPE AT A GLANCE

**Strengths:**
- stable institutions
- human capital
- digital infrastructure

**Challenges:**
- low private investment
- fragmented governance
- territorial concentration

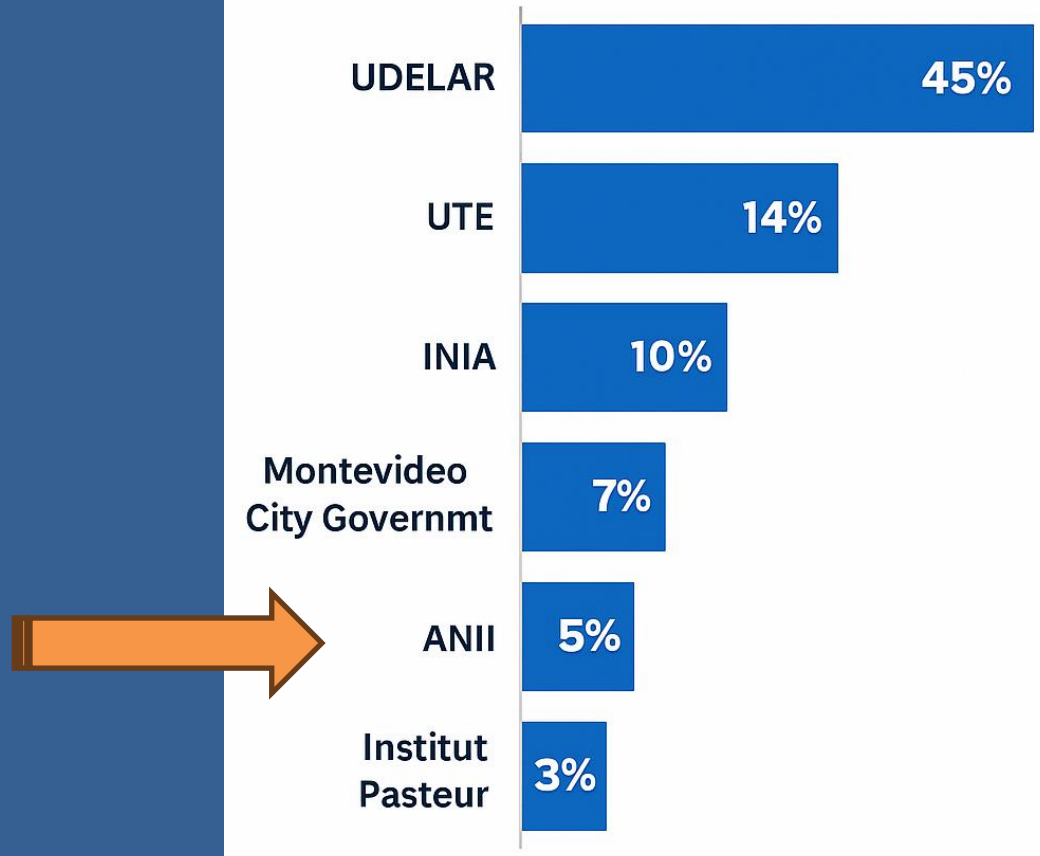


# STI Governance and Institutional Coordination




NEW in 2025:
- Uruguay Innova
- Secretary for Science and Knowledge Valorization

# TOTAL R&D INVESTMENT (TOP 6, IN THOUSANDS OF USD)




| Institution | 2023 |
|---|---|
| UDELAR | 135.569 |
| UTE | 41.300 |
| INIA | 30.965 |
| Montevideo City Government | 20.067 |
| ANII | 15.685 |
| Institut Pasteur | 7.853 |

# Creation and evolution of ANII (and the Ecosystem)



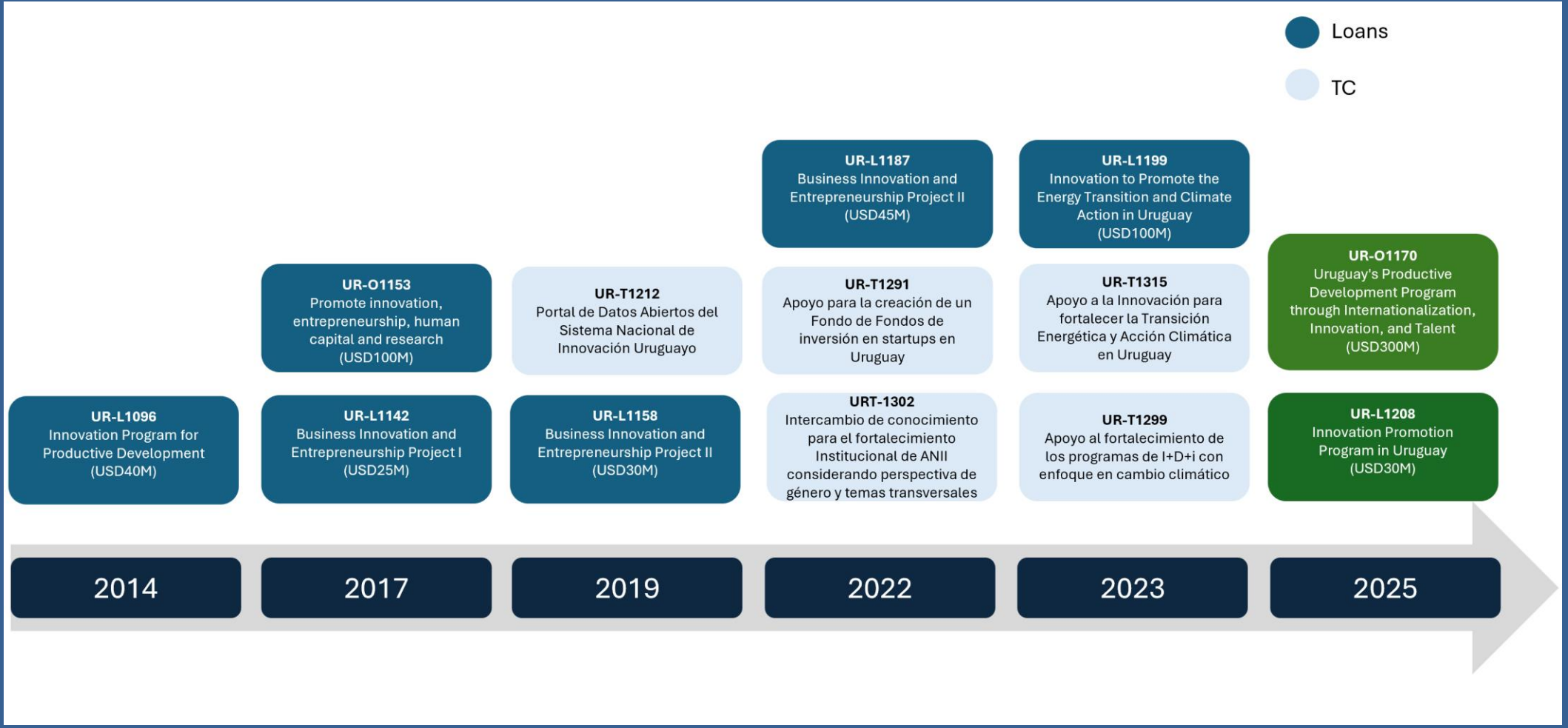

- STI reform launches; new policy vision and coordination
- ANII: Set up ethe agency and basic mostly horizontal instruments

- Capacity expands; more researchers, labs, programs
- ANII: Deploy full toolbox—scholarships, R&D & firm innovation; evaluation standards

- System matures; coordination gaps; closer ties to firms
- ANII: Expand applied/sector calls; partnerships; implementation hub

- Push to boost private R&D, talent, VC; aim for hub
- ANII: Missions & co-investment; startups/scale-ups; thematic talent; Uruguay Innovation Hub

# ANII AND THE IDB – A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

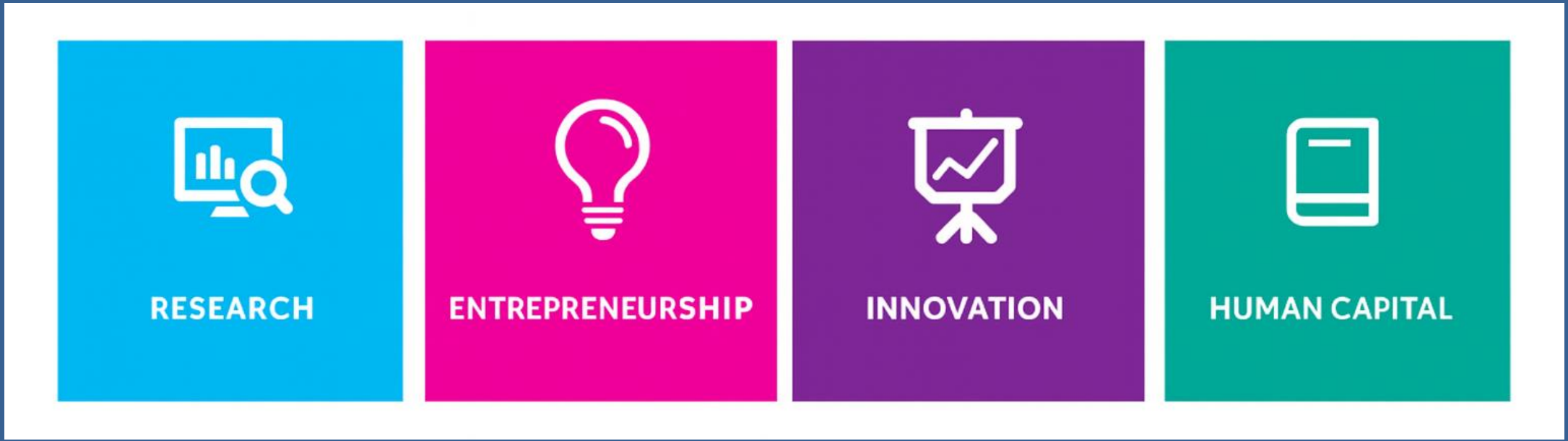


# ANII'S MANDATE

The National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII) is a governmental entity that fosters and promotes research and the application of new knowledge to Uruguay's productive and social context.

ANII contributes to connect and coordinate the different players involved in knowledge development, research and innovation, strengthening the synergy generated and maximizing available resources.

# ANII'S AREAS OF WORK



RESEARCH

**GOAL**

To build research capabilities in high- priority areas of science and technology.

| RESEARCH GRANTS | NATIONAL RESEARCHERS SYSTEM | MISION ORIENTED RESEARCH |
|---|---|---|

**+2000** RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED

**SINCE 2007**

**+80** MILLION USD

BID

RESEARCH

# timbó

**100%**

All resident in Uruguay have free access to the latest scientific bibliography

**+95,000** REGISTERED USERS

**+3,200,000**

INTERACTIONS

http://www.timbo.org.uy/

BID

HUMAN CAPITAL

**GOAL**

To develop human resources of excellence.
Strengthen local capabilities in S&T and poblem solving oriented to local needs.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT

+6,300 SCHOLARSHIP FELLOWS

SINCE 2007

+76 MILLION USD

BID




- **Initial model:** open, discipline-agnostic scholarships (national and abroad) to expand Uruguay's researcher base.
- **Shift to strategic focus:**
  - Creation of calls in "áreas estratégicas" (Doctorates/Master's abroad in strategic areas) and co-branded tracks (e.g., Fulbright–ANII) to align training with national priorities
  - National scholarships now also include thematic lines

INNOVATION

**GOAL**

To promote innovation in companies, improve competitiveness, and boost iinkages with global markets.

OPEN INNOVATION

**+1947** INNOVATION PROJECTS SUPPORTED

SINCE 2007

**+112** MILLION USD

BID

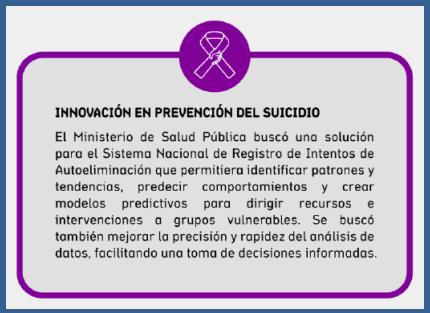
INNOVACIÓN EN SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS

ANII BID | LAB

## Public Services Innovation Program in 2024

- Seven Public Open Innovation Challenges were launched with the participation of various Uruguayan public institutions.
- These entities identified problems or needs related to the services they provide to citizens and invited private companies to develop innovative solutions.




BID

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**GOAL**

To promote 'entrepreneur' culture and the creation of innovative and successful companies.

**13 INCUBATORS**

**+21 MILLION USD IN PROJECTS**

THAT CHANNELLED ALMOST

**2 MILLION USD OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**+1315 SUPPORTED INNOVATION PROJECTS**

BID

# SPRINT UY




New *softlanding* program co-organized with Uruguay XXI.

Objectives:

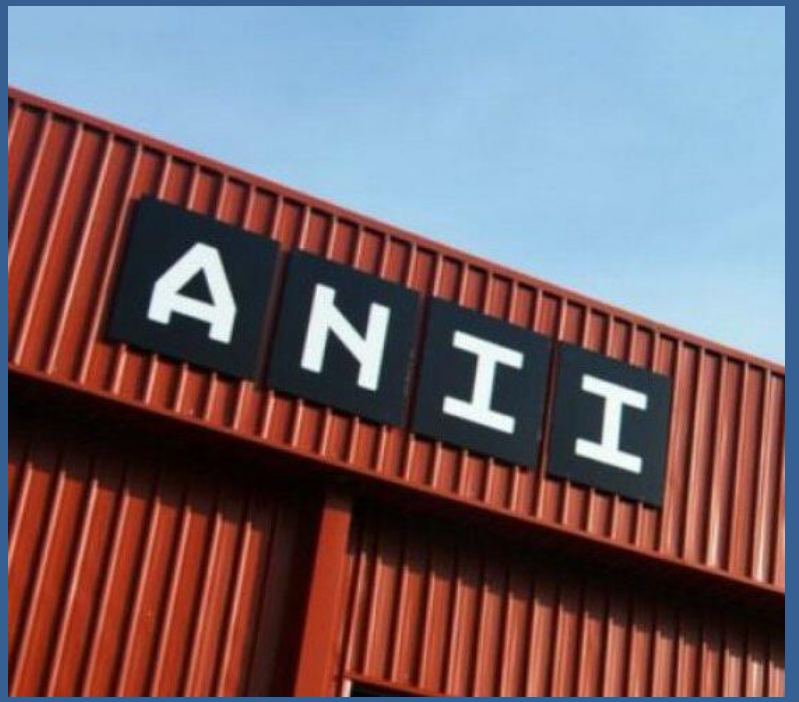
- Establish strong connections between startups, investors, and industry leaders
- Offer a detailed overview of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and business opportunities in Uruguay.

2024: 13 foreign startups selected

- 4 of them now operate in Uruguay

# SOME THOUGHTS ON WHAT MAKES ANII WORK

- Transparent governance and independent evaluation committees.
- Multi-stakeholder funding model (public + private sectoral funds).
- Robust monitoring and evaluation unit (annual follow-up and impact reviews).
- Learning culture and feedback loops to inform policy design.




**Lesson**: Autonomy + data systems build trust and policy continuity beyond political cycles.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES GOING FORWARD

- Digital and green transitions
- Territorial expansion
- New financial instruments (e.g. guarantees)
- Inter-agency collaboration
- System-wide M&E unit for CTI policy evidence

**From funding individual projects to shaping innovation in strategic areas for Uruguay's future.**





# THANK YOU!