Across the world, we observe efforts to promote radical innovations in the public realm being followed by the creation of different types of “authorizing environments” that foster these experiments. We call them Public Innovation Places. By this we mean experimental sites, agencies, or labs created to develop innovative solutions to pressing social problems, and dedicated to the creation of networks and partnerships by launching new projects, events, and platforms.

In this first map we pay particular attention to the rise of Government Innovation Labs, a range of organizations characterized by a direct connection with the public sector and developed to challenge complex public issues that more traditional governmental structures seek to resolve.
Given the growing interest and rapid expansion of Government Innovation Labs, the map was created to examine the existing structures and capabilities of GILs considering their different organizational models, main activities, and degrees of government participation. Initially, we identified 16 labs to be represented in the map. We will continue to monitor the development of new GILs around the world and periodically update the map.

A Government Innovation Lab (GIL) is a specific type of Public Innovation Place (PIP) which is a range of organizations characterized by a direct connection with the public sector and has been created to challenge complex public issues that more traditional governmental structures seek to resolve. In GILs, designers, public officials, and community members experiment with and propose innovative public services and policies, while at the same time, try to reform and change the way government operates. Some GILs are positioned within government, while some work with government as external collaborators.

The lab uses design to frame problems and to develop solutions, programs and services. The lab develops tests and prototypes before wide implementation. The lab creates connections and links among different actors. The lab is responsible for implementing and evaluation of new programs and services. The lab develops skills and competences, improves capacities within agencies, and working with and/or within them.

Activities
- Research: The lab develops studies, analyses and reports.
- Communication: The lab produces events and publications.
- Networking: The lab creates connections and links among different actors.
- Advisory: The lab gives expert advice to governmental agencies, citizens and community-based organizations.
- Capacity Building: The lab develops skills and competences, improves capacities within agencies.
- Challenge: The lab launches competitions and challenge to crowdsourcing ideas and projects.
- Design: The lab uses design to frame problems and develop solutions, programs and services.
- Piloting: The lab develops tests and prototypes before wide implementation.
- Implementation: The lab is responsible for implementing and evaluation of new programs and services.