

The Great Upgrade

A practical guide for everyone

Start where people have been held back the longest.

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Start here

This book shares ideas for making daily life better. The six ideas are still being worked on. No city or country has approved them just because they appear here.

The main idea

Where people have been held back for the longest time, help should come first. We start with places where old rules, high costs or years of neglect keep people from living healthier, safer lives.

How it works

Look at what happens now. Put a clear new idea beside other possible fixes. Ask what each one costs and whom it helps or hurts. Invite someone to point out what could go wrong. Try a small, safe version only when the law allows it. Share the results. Keep what works, fix what fails and stop what causes harm.

Who gets to speak

Neighbors, workers, teachers, doctors, business owners, researchers and people who work in government all know different parts of a problem. We need to show who gave each opinion. One mayor cannot speak for every person in a city. One college leader cannot speak for every student. A group should say how it reached its decision.

Our idea does not have to win

People can choose to keep things as they are, support one of our ideas, pick someone else's idea or say they need more facts. If an idea changes a lot, we ask people to look at the new version. We keep the old answers so everyone can see how views changed.

The six ideas

The first six ideas cover drug laws and health, safer ways to walk and bike, neighborhood repairs, a city repair fund, fair short term building jobs across borders, and checks aimed at gun smuggling. Each needs more work before a city or country could put it into action.

How we know if something works

An idea begins on paper. Before anyone tries it, the people in charge need permission under the law, a budget, safety rules and someone outside the project to check the results. Only a good test would support trying it in more places. The ten year plan gives us a schedule to work toward; it does not promise that every idea will succeed.

1 A street we all know

Picture a broken sidewalk outside a school. A child has to step into the road. A parent misses work to take a safer route. The city fixes the sidewalk only after someone is hurt. We would ask why this keeps happening. Who checks the sidewalk? Who pays for repairs? Who comes back to see whether the work lasts? A fresh coat of paint would not solve the problem.

2 Ask what the fix will really do

Before saying yes to a new plan, ask simple questions. How much will it cost now and later? Who will do the work? Could anyone get hurt or lose something? How will we know after six months and three years if it worked? For a sidewalk, a public page could show a photo before the work, what the crew did, the cost and a photo months later. If it breaks again, we need to know why.

3 Make room for more voices

A web poll might get thousands of clicks while many neighborhoods never hear about it. We should show who was invited to take part, who answered and who is still missing. A neighbor can describe a daily problem. A college researcher can check the facts. A city council can make a formal city decision. Each helps in a different way. We should say clearly who made each statement.

4 Six ideas we are working on

Idea 1 is about drug laws and health care. Idea 2 looks at safer paths for bikes and walkers, including raised paths where they make sense. Idea 3, Evolucracia, brings neighbors, trained crews, tools and city workers together to repair and care for public places. Idea 4 asks how to pay for city repairs without putting the hardest burden on families with little money. Idea 5 looks at fair, temporary jobs across borders to build needed projects. Idea 6 asks whether better checks of vehicles going south could help stop gun smuggling without causing long lines or unfair searches.

5 The hard choice about drug laws

For Idea 1, we now have three choices to compare. The first keeps drug bans and tries to enforce them better. The second stops treating small amounts for personal use as a crime and offers help. The third would let some people with drug dependence get a controlled supply through medical care. Each choice has risks. Doctors, people who use drugs, families and others would need to help set the rules. Any test would need clear laws, protection for children and a way to stop it if people were harmed. A sign up fee, a pharmacy pickup or a machine that gives out medicine is only an idea to examine, not a rule that has been approved.

6 How you can take part

Pick one idea. Read what happens now, the suggested change and the best reason someone gives against it. Say which choice you prefer and what would change your mind. If no one asked your neighborhood, say so. Ask how much the plan will cost, who will keep it running and when the results will be shared.

Ask yourself: What would convince me that another choice is better?

7 What a good result would look like

People should be safer or have more chances in life. The money spent should be clear. We should know who benefited and who was left out. If a plan causes harm or another idea works better, we change course. The point is to find what works for people, even when our first idea loses.

Where these ideas come from

These ideas come from The Great Upgrade Master v4.0, the Spanish Master v3.2, and the September 2026 paper on three choices for drug policy. They explain our plans; they do not prove the plans will work. Doctors, lawyers and local experts must check the details before anyone tries them.