

Regional Project “Disclosure of Political Financial Information in Latin America”

Transparency International
The Carter Center



REGIONAL PROJECT: Disclosure of Political Financial Information in Latin America

Civil society contributions

- Independent monitoring (add to the activities of local official electoral management bodies)
- Positive impact on processes of political reform
- Increase transparency in the system of financing politics
- Civil society (major stakeholder) inclusion broadens debate



TI initiatives in the area of political financing monitoring efforts

- Political financing (PF) is an integral part of the national integrity systems (NIS)
- Focus of the 2004 Global Corruption Report 2004 (GCR)
- PF is part of TI standards
- PF is contemplated in TI's Business Principles
- PF is one of the themes in the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)
- PF was focus of two studies aiming to compare norms and practice (2002, 2005)
- **PF is the focus of the regional study, undertaken in partnership by TI and the Carter Center. It will result in an index of transparency in political financing systems**
- Key topic in TI chapters' regular activities
- Task forces in Monitoring Political Finance in Central America



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1. Objectives

General: Generate and steer reform in financing politics in Latin America, aiming to raise democratic standards in the area

Specifics:

- Source of information about the weaknesses and strengths of PF systems in each country and in the whole region.
- Increase transparency and improve reporting practices among political actors (for ordinary party and campaign activities).
- Lobby decision makers to undertake necessary reforms and/or implement and adhere to norms already in place (enforcement).



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2. Basic Information about the project

- Partners: Transparency International and the Carter Center
- First round of research to develop and test methodology, as well as to assess the impact of the research mechanism in national and regional debates on political reforms
- Donors: USAID, BID, DANIDA (approx. 160,000 USD)
- First round of research from October 2005 to February 2007
- First round of countries studied: Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala
- 8 local research teams (one expert + junior researchers)



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3. Novelty aspects

- Specific index to measure transparency in financing politics (least controversial aspect in PF debate; pre-requisite for state and social oversight as well as for research and analysis)
- Index integrates both legal norms AND practice
- Quantitative index (allowing comparison among different countries)
- Assessment of different aspects of transparency in PF, bringing it closer to the existing debate on political reform
- Several data sources (beyond evaluation of legal norms, it presents general perceptions of relevant stakeholders through a survey and measures accessibility through a set of empirical tests)



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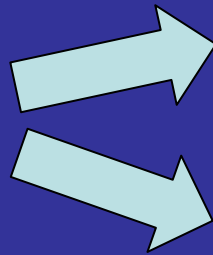
CORRUPTION RUINS LIVES.
TAKE ACTION.



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4. Index of transparency in each country

10 dimensions
evaluate



Legal norms

Practices

1. Bookkeeping
2. Reporting
 3. Comprehensiveness of reporting
 4. Depth of reporting
 5. Reliability of reporting
6. Disclosure
7. Prevention
8. Sanctions
9. State oversight
10. Civil society oversight

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5. Transparency in Political Finance Index

	Ordinary Party Finance	Campaign Party Finance	Campaign Candidate Finance	AVERAGE
1. bookkeeping	7.0	4.0	4.0	5.0
2. reporting	9.0	7.0	2.0	6.0
3. disclosing	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0
4. comprehensiveness reporting	7.5	2.0	2.5	4.0
5. depth reporting	3.0	7.0	8.0	6.0
6. reliability reporting	2.0	4.0	4.5	3.5
7. prevention	7.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
8. sanctions	3.5	5.5	4.5	4.5
9. state oversight institutions	7.0	6.0	2.0	5.0
10. civil society oversight	5.0	4.5	7.5	6.0
AVERAGE	5.3	4.4	4.0	
TOTAL COUNTRY SCORE				4.6



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6. Sources of data

- Evaluation of legislation and legal norms: official data (questionnaire to be completed by research teams with information from analysis of current legislation)
- Analysis of the country context: non-official data (questionnaire to be completed by each team leader/ expert in the country, with information obtained from actors involved in PF)
- Survey with experts (such as party accountants, congressmen, electoral judges and auditors, NGOs...): total of 40 questionnaires distributed among 6 areas of expertise
- Empirical tests on access to information by citizenry: 6 tests undertaken by a group of citizens (volunteers) and by the research teams



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7. Plans for the future

- Disseminate data gathered at the first round of research at the international and local level (8 countries studied)
- Review methodology to allow modification identified at first round
- Deepen national debate in each country based on research findings (feed into reform proposals)
- Generate and follow concrete cooperation and reform processes
- Broaden coverage to include new countries in the research effort (Latin America and elsewhere)

