



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

Public Sector Innovation in Mexico

Three new ISS case studies highlight recent efforts in Mexico to improve [police services in Mexico City](#), help employers and job applicants match skills to positions more efficiently, and increase fairness in political campaign periods. (Spanish versions of each case will appear in July.)

Police Reform in Mexico City

When Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador became mayor of Mexico City at the end of 2000, reducing crime was a priority. Lopez Obrador tapped Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon to head the Secretariat of Public Security of the Federal District and, together, they introduced new systems and practices that enabled more efficient allocation of police resources and more effective preventive policing strategies. Ebrard also instituted new strategies to improve police-citizen relationships and build a neighborhood police program. A decade later, Mexico City had greater capacity to combat crime and greater political control over high-crime areas of the city.

Helping Firms & Job Applicants Match Skills to Jobs

Before 2007, it was hard for firms in Mexico to assess the strengths of job applicants because there was not system of skills certification. In 2007, the Mexican government began to reform and standardize the country's systems of vocational education and training to better fit the needs of workers and employers. It also helped launch public-private collaboration to set standards for job skills. The new model attracted a broad base of users from more than 100 industries and, by 2013, it attracted interest from other emerging countries.

Restoring Credibility to Mexico's Electoral Process

Following a close and highly contested 2006 presidential race, Mexico faced a crisis of credibility in the management of its elections. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of Mexico City in protest, demanding a full recount, while an opposition party cited fraud and unfair treatment by broadcast media. Legislators in Mexico's three largest political parties formed a coalition to address long-standing

Featured Interview

In an interview with ISS, [A. Plata](#) discusses the measures taken by Colombian leaders to improve the efficacy of the police force. Plata had served for more than two decades as a member of the Colombian National Police Force. He also describes how Colombia established rural community policing and took steps to regain the public's trust.

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problems in the country's electoral process and restore public trust in the electoral process.

Improving Government Accountability and Leading Reform

Innovations for Successful Societies (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. Interview-based case studies facilitate these exchanges and provide a basis for scholarly research. To date, ISS has published [124 case studies](#) and [370 interviews](#), all of which are available for free on a [web repository](#). Governments use the materials to learn from each other, inspire discussion in their ranks, and recall the steps they took to implement a reform. Universities and training programs use the case studies in the classroom to engage students in the operational and strategic aspects of public sector reform.

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