Weathering the Storm: Calderón's Office of the Presidency

In 2006, incoming Mexican president Felipe Calderón had to work quickly to deliver on his ambitious campaign promises. A hands-on manager, Calderón sought to ensure policy coordination and follow-through by creating a strong Office of the Presidency. Changing circumstances revealed the limitations of an organizational structure that relied heavily on the chief executive's participation. This ISS case study traces how the structure and management of the office evolved during the president's six-year term.

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Featured ISS Interview

Gord Evans has worked with cabinet offices in more than 25 countries, helping them improve their effectiveness and efficiency. In a 2012 interview with ISS, he discusses his experiences working in Lithuania on center of government reforms. In an interview the following year, he reflects on some of the common impediments to center of government reforms and the importance of setting concrete priorities and communicating goals and accomplishments.

New Translated Case

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 a public-private collaboration to set standards for job skills. ISS recently translated its 2014 case study about this model in Spanish.
Anti-Corruption Education in Lithuania

In 2002, Lithuania struggled to defeat corruption, which had flourished during the Soviet occupation. Once viewed as the key to survival in an administered economy, offering gifts for services had become an accepted social norm. The Modern Didactics Center, an educational NGO, worked with a dedicated group of teachers to illuminate the ethical and practical downsides of corruption for students across the country. Despite resistance from educators that limited the program's scale, the initiative produced a curriculum and other materials that became a model for other countries facing similar problems.

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