

Revista de Administración Pública



Presentation

The promotion of responsibility, transparency and accountability in Public Service is an important part of INAP's work. When discussing corruption we need to identify this phenomenon, its cultural patterns, its understanding, as well as legal and institutional strategies and policies carried out so as to raise citizens' level of trust of their government.

The latter is necessary to discuss the importance of transparency and accountability bodies; especially those in charge of the public agenda. Thus, they need to be redesigned to have a more efficient system in all levels of government.

Fighting and, above all, preventing corruption is one of society's greatest demands. The promotion of integrity needs all sectors (public, private, social and citizen) to reach an agreement and have a common strategy.

This is why this issue of the Journal of Public Administration presents research papers on the different aspects related to the fight against corruption and creating public policies. These papers will try to widen the comprehension of this phenomenon –especially the institutional and normative inclination of various public and social actors–, promote transparency and accountability to fight corruption in an effective manner. Maximiliano García Guzmán's "*Rule of Law and accountability*" states that accountability and the validity of the Rule of Law are important elements that shape the institutional bases of democracy. Based on this premise, he explores the interaction between both elements –which must to be efficient– and organizes the aspects that need to be present to establish its institutional bases, its scope and the need to include citizen participation in accountability practices.

José Juan Sánchez González presents the results of an investigation on the perception of corruption in Mexico. Two measuring instruments of two institutions Mexican Transparency (Spanish: Transparencia Mexicana) and National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Spanish: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía) dedicated to the collection of survey data

were used. This investigation shows reliable data on honest and corrupt procedures, services, behaviors, actions, costs and incident rates; which allows us not only to obtain useful information to consider their magnitude, but also helps people in charge of decision-making processes create specific actions and policies.

Gricelda Sánchez Carranza's *"Towards an articulation of accountability in Mexico"* analyzes one of the main challenges in the fight against corruption in our country. She analyzes carefully some of the key factors that affect, what the author considers to be, an open and participatory process of actors, institutions and public and private systems aimed at strengthening governance through the satisfaction of citizen demands. Her paper mentions Chile's experience, which currently has the best mechanisms to face this phenomenon.

Rommel C. Rosas writes a paper entitled "Transparency and public power in Mexico" establishes that society and government are both responsible for public issues; which need efficient information to know about decision-making processes, reasons to make such decisions and the impact they have.

The last article "The creation of the National Anti-Corruption Commission: Is it an administrative reform to fight corruption efficiently?" by Corazón Raquel Lozano González points out some observations regarding the creation of an anti-corruption body: its strengths and weaknesses as a public body to fight corruption efficiently. She also summarizes the basics of Public Administration reforms in Mexico, as well as the main characteristics of the anti-corruption administrative reform and reflects on the minimum elements required by public policies to fight corruption efficiently through an administrative structure proposed by the current government.

I am sure these papers will greatly contribute to the understanding of a problem which is discussed publicly nowadays: corruption—which has deep historical roots— and its relationship with transparency and accountability, strengths and weaknesses of public policies and the construction of institutions and functions to have better Public Administration in our country.

José R. Castelazo
President