

# SUCCESS STORY – COOPERATIVA MAGIS

## Argentina, Latin America

### General Information

Cooperativa Magis is an organisation that works as a social enterprise incubator, researching and promoting entrepreneurial development in northern Argentina. It is a small enterprise with ten employees.

### Status Quo

Before working with Alliance for Integrity, we had no strategic approach on how to effectively prevent corruption in our company. Therefore, it was essential to develop a Code of Ethics and implement specific processes for our organisation and suppliers to ensure high integrity standards and compliance with existing regulations.

### High Integrity Standards Ensure Economic Survival

Since our foundation, we have done a lot of work on the Millennium Development Goals and later the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, so it was a consequential step for us to join the UN Global Compact. Against this background, we had the opportunity to participate in the Integrity Journey of the Alliance for Integrity. Much of our work is funded by government, so we didn't want to miss the chance to improve our compliance mechanisms and learn from experienced experts in the field. Transparency and integrity are critical criteria for the kind of funds we receive. Accordingly, high integrity standards also ensure our economic survival.

### How to Identify Possible Conflicts of Interest

The main challenge in implementing our integrity programme was recognising and preventing conflicts of interest, especially with regard to our relation with local public administration, which has no corresponding regulations in place. In this sense, the training programme was key to learning, understanding and implementing compliance policies related to conflicts of interest. Especially the practical case studies and interactive role plays during the Integrity Journey helped us a lot.

### Implementing Clear Guidelines

As our company had not implemented an integrity programme before, the change after completing the Integrity Journey was enormous. Previously, managers and employees were not aware of the serious damage corruption can cause in our work environment. Therefore, it was an important step to improve our compliance mechanisms. Our staff now know how to deal with conflicts of interest and have clear guidelines to lead them in dilemma situations.

### Transparent Communication with all Stakeholders

A best practice we learnt from participating in the Integrity Journey was to commit to documenting all communications with our business partners. This is to discourage customers and suppliers from making unethical deals. Bringing light and formalisation to an environment where a lot was done without written agreement is a great benefit and helps to make the whole business more transparent.

### Our Advice for Other Companies

Fair, moral, transparent and sustainable business is possible. We can all make a difference, but we have to start with ourselves. An effective integrity programme offers the opportunity to build a reputation as a company committed to transparency and integrity, leading to more and better business opportunities.

