



Regional Integrity Week: Collective ReActivation in Latin America

Launch Event of the Alliance for Integrity in Ecuador – Key Takeaways

#Ecuador #IntegrityWeek #Regional #Exchange

24 November 2020 | Latin America

The active presence of the Alliance for Integrity in Ecuador helps strengthen the capacities to prevent corruption in the country, expand the scope of the initiative's activities and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices at the regional level. The new office of the Alliance for Integrity in Ecuador was created in cooperation with the GIZ Ecuador bilateral project, Ecuador SinCero - Prevention of Corruption, Transparency and Citizen Participation. During the event, the most relevant challenges and opportunities regarding integrity within the Ecuadorian context were addressed.

Speakers:

- Leila Isaurralde, Director of Accountability Control of Transfers at the General Control Office of the Republic of Paraguay (Presenter)
- María Fernanda Ordóñez, Sub-Secretary of Public Administration and Transparency of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador
- Pablo Zambrano, Chief of the National Federation of Chambers of Industries of Ecuador
- Evangelina Gómez-Durañona, Executive Director of the Ecuadorian Consortium for Social Responsibility
- María Elvira Olmos, Director of Ethics, Risk and Compliance, Novartis

Main Challenges

- Corruption is an obstacle to the efficient and fair distribution of public and private resources; it undermines democracy by creating public distrust in institutions.
- The fight against corruption requires the commitment of every individual; however, making the right decision is not always as easy as it may seem at first glance, especially in times of crisis.
- The pandemic leads to many dilemma situations where decisions have to be made between business advantage and acting with integrity; however, in the long run, it never pays off to sacrifice one's integrity.



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Best practices

- Preventing corruption is an integral part of an open, transparent and participatory governance system.
- Integrity is not only an important competitive advantage, but also an indispensable element for sustainable economic recovery; companies with principles, values and committed leaders have a good reputation and create optimal conditions to do business with trust and sustainability.
- Companies that lead with good integrity practices also transfer this spirit to their supply chain, contributing significantly to a transparent and fair ecosystem.
- The Alliance for Integrity offers practical compliance solutions to Ecuadorian private sector companies and their supply chains.
- The [exchange platforms](#) provided by the Alliance for Integrity allow to share experiences, best practices and lessons learnt across countries and sectors, making it possible to develop holistic approaches to complex problems.

Recommendations

- Preventing corruption and promoting transparency are essential to contribute to Ecuador's economic recovery.
- Integrity is closely linked to trust; trust attracts private investment, which in turn boosts the economy and creates jobs.
- There is a need to establish integrity measures in the economy, especially among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to help them build resilient business models.
- Corruption is a very complex problem that cannot be solved by individual actors alone; it is therefore necessary to bring together all actors from the private and public sectors as well as civil society to work together on solutions; it is important to think holistically and initiate partnerships, drawing on existing networks.
- The engagement of civil society is crucial to promote Collective Action; Collective Action aims to address the enormous challenges of economic recovery, cultural change and integrity in this 'New Normal'.