

INSTITUTO NACIONAL ELECTORAL

COORDINACIÓN DE ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES



CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE CAPACITACIÓN E INVESTIGACIÓN ELECTORAL



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CONTENTS

<u>Introduction</u>	<u>P. 3</u>
<u>I. General Information</u>	<u>P. 4</u>
<u>II. Characteristics of the Programs</u>	<u>P. 12</u>
<u>2.1. International Workshops on Electoral Administration and Justice</u>	<u>P. 15</u>
<u>2.2. Internships</u>	<u>P. 17</u>
<u>2.3. Specialized Courses</u>	<u>P. 19</u>
<u>2.4. Seminars</u>	<u>P. 22</u>
<u>III. CICIE Results</u>	<u>P. 24</u>
<u>IV. CICIE 2016 Calendar of Activities</u>	<u>P. 36</u>

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INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the most used and newfangled expression of the NEI's efforts for participating in global exchange and technical cooperation networks in electoral matters is constituted by its initiative, brought together with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Mexico, and the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Power (TEPJF), to create an International Center for Electoral Training and Research.

The main purpose of this center is to support the strengthening, modernization and professionalization efforts from the electoral organs and institutions, through specialized exchange, training and investigation programs.

Despite the project started operating regularly in 2006 under a new inter institutional cooperation scheme, in 2010 it received a remarkable boost when the NEI's General Council encouraged and endorsed an initiative to endow it with the guidelines and resources that not only allow it to operate with greater certainty, but also to diversify its services and maximize its coverage and scope.

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I. General Information About the International Center for Electoral Training and Research

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What is the International Center for Electoral Training and Research (CICIE)?

The International Center for Electoral Training and Research (CICIE) is an instrument based on the new kind of horizontal international cooperation that gives a series of training, assistance and research tools in electoral matters, such as workshops on electoral administration, internships, international seminars, professionalization courses and technical support groups.

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 CICIE

Characteristics

The CICIE recognizes that there is no perfect electoral political system, and that each country has defined its system according to their national context, the demands from their social and political societies, and their process of historic development.

As such, the ICETR offers to expose the best practices in Mexico, as well as other States by comparing other countries' perspectives, about situations or problems encountered by electoral administration organs, related to the inherent functions of the organization and the conduction of free, transparent and reliable elections that guarantee the legitimate and legal access to power.

This is why, the key elements of the CICIE are:

- Horizontal cooperation, which implies the exchange of knowledge, experiences and abilities in the application of techniques and practices while organizing elections, respecting the national sovereignty.
- Consideration of the national context of the country.
- Design according to needs and interests expressed by the State's electoral authority that participates in these programs.
- Multidimensional program when including the electoral training and assistance, the compared investigation, and the diffusion of results and resulting investigations.

Objetives

To provide a series of capacitation and electoral technical assistance resources in order to contribute in three aspects:

1. The strengthening of democratic electoral institutions.
2. The authorities' professionalization and modernization.
3. The analysis and evaluation of processes and their legislations.

Such resources are defined as instruments oriented to encourage and strengthen the democratic governance as the basis for the countries' development.

Specific Goals

- To design and implement permanent training and research programs in electoral matters.
- To strengthen inter institutional efforts and initiatives for making electoral services more professional from an empirical-practical perspective.
- To generate analysis and compared studies about electoral processes and democratic governance.
- To contribute in the creation and articulation of national, regional and international support networks in electoral matters.

Who participates in the CICIE?

A. The founders and permanent members:

- I. INE
- II. TEPJF
- III. UNDP México
- IV. The Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID) from Mexico's Foreign Affairs Secretariat.

B. Representatives from national stakeholders linked to the political-electoral sector. According to the nature and themes of interest of the applicant electoral authority, the program also includes the participation of other sectors involved to the political-electoral:

- ✓ Representatives of the Executive branch, such as the Special Prosecutor for Electoral Crimes (FPADE).
- ✓ Representatives of the Legislative branch, such as deputies and senators
- ✓ Political parties
- ✓ Civil organizations
- ✓ Academics
- ✓ Media

C. International organizations and institutions specialized in electoral matters:

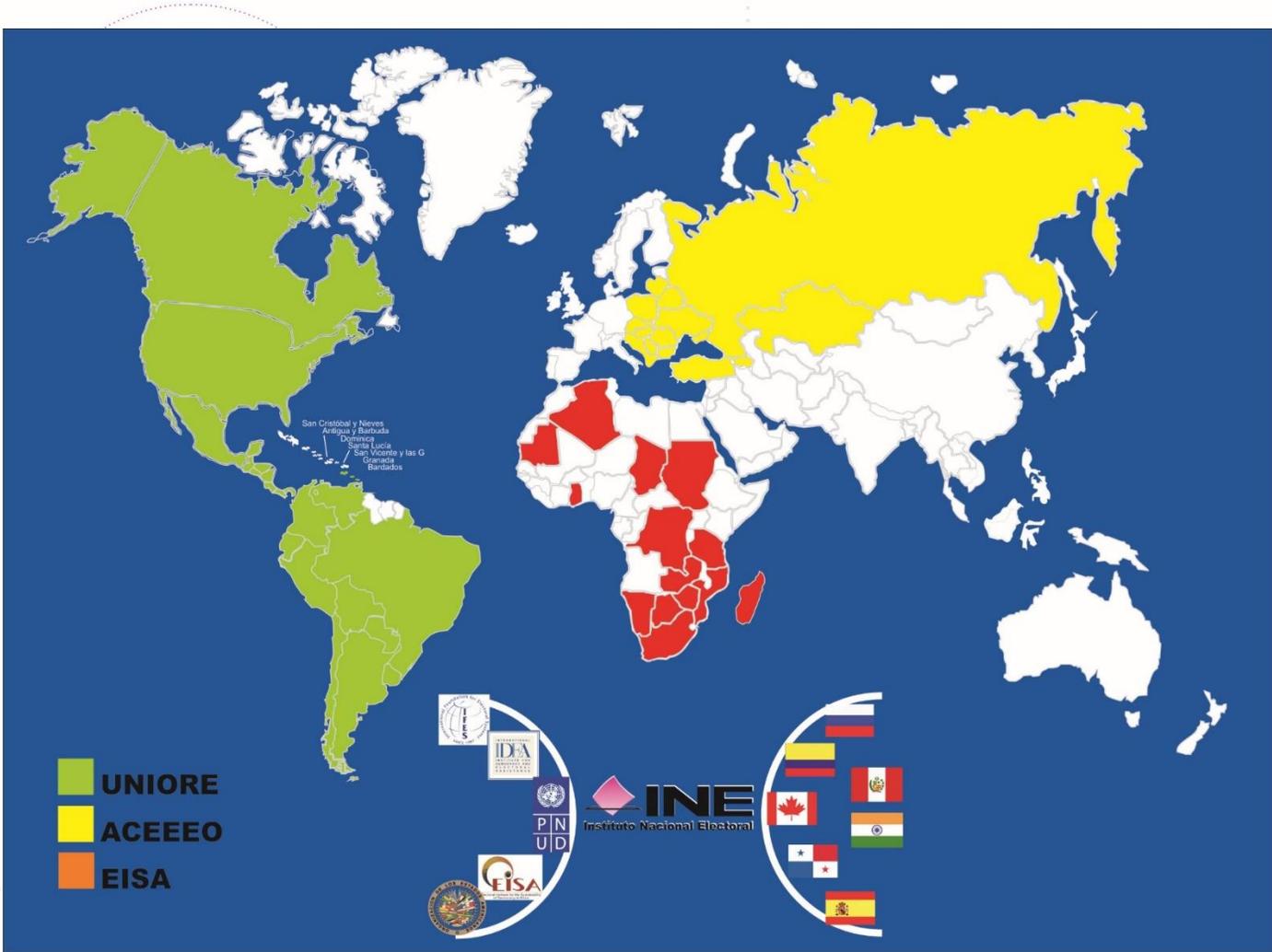
- ✓ The United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD).
- ✓ The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
- ✓ The Electoral Promotion and Assistance Center of the Inter American Institute of Human Rights, that serves as the Executive Secretariat of the Inter American Electoral Organisms Union.
- ✓ The Organization of the American States (OAS)
- ✓ The International Foundation for Electoral Systems
- ✓ Canada Elections
- ✓ The European Association of Electoral Authorities
- ✓ The Electoral Institute for the South of Africa
- ✓ The Democracies Community

The map shown next presents a world-wide vision of the reaching achieved by the INE with the signing of cooperation agreements, that constitute a legal framework in which the collaboration of participation of the CICIE is fostered.

COORDINACIÓN DE ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES

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The cooperation agreements' signed by INE have outreached EMB's countries from around the world



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CICIE

CICIE's Financing System

The CICIE is based on the cooperation principle of sharing costs among partners through the following criteria:

- Founders (INE-TEPJF-UNDP Mexico and S.R.E.):
 - Lodging and nourishments of the delegation of the visiting electoral authority
 - Local transportation
 - Organization, logistics and material for the workshops, technical assistance missions, courses, internships or seminars.
 - National and international specialists (electoral authorities, academics, political parties, media representatives)
 - Simultaneous interpretation

- Visiting electoral authority
 - Air ticket to Mexico City for every participating delegate.

- Associate partner:
 - Entailment among interested actors to participate in the programs.
 - Proposition of themes or specialists.
 - Collaboration in organizing events.
 - Payment of fees for international experts (academics, electoral authorities, political parties, media representatives)
 - Air tickets for international specialists.

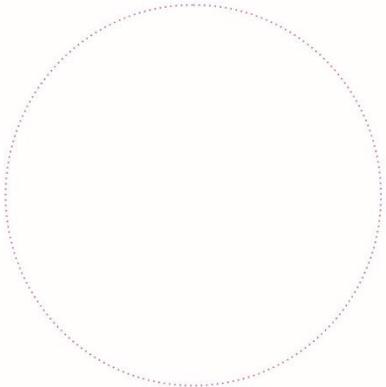
To whom are the Center's programs are addressed to?

At the beginning, the training programs were directed only to the officials from the Electoral Administration Organisms (OAE) through the international workshops about administration and electoral justice, with the main objective of building the capacity of the people in charge of planning, organizing and developing electoral processes, and in this way, contribute to the institutional strengthening.

This is still one of the main participation modalities in the programs developed by the CICIE, the spectrum of attention for requests from civil society and political parties organisms has widened, recognizing them as key actors in the electoral democracy, and for the roll they play in the context of democratic governance.

In consequence, the CICIE has extended the modalities of training, professionalization and specialization programs focused to diverse audiences

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II.

Characteristics of the training, professionalization and specialization programs

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>> CICIE Themes

The several training mechanisms of this program, such as workshops, international seminars, courses, internships or technical assistance missions, have been conceived from an integral and multidisciplinary perspective that includes the four great aspects involved in electoral administration:

- Ethical and institutional
- Administrative and managerial
- Legal and political
- Technical and technological

From these, the following general themes arise according to the needs of the electoral cycle:



Besides, the CICIE has included as an innovative element, the development of a Strategic Planning workshop, one of the key interest themes for the electoral authority of the solicitant State. This has the objective of collaborating in the instrumentation of this methodology in the diverse areas of the electoral administration and organization.

According to the themes requested by the electoral organisms, these are directly related to the degree of institutional strength they present; this is why this program has classified them in 5 blocks:

I. Institutionalization

Democratic Goals: Building institutional trust, legality and legitimacy of the electoral processes.

Themes: Representation systems, electoral legislation, electoral justice, polling officials' training, civic education and voters' participation programs.

II. Institutional Strengthening

Democratic Goals: Inclusion, integration, representation.

Themes: Civil and electoral record, electoral capacitation, electoral justice, organizing the electoral process, civic education and voters' participation programs.

III. The Cycle of the Electoral Process

Democratic Goals: Organization, equity in the race and participation.

Themes: Pre-electoral phase: a precise and reliable electoral record, electoral calendar; registration of political parties and candidacies; capacitation for the electoral officials organization, accreditation of national and international observers.

Electoral phase: voting booths installation, voting, vote counting, preliminar results and official results.

Post-electoral phase: audits and evaluation; electoral justice.

IV. Institutional Consolidation

Democratic Goals: Equity and transparency.

Themes: Public and private financing, access to mass media, financing and audit of the political parties' resources; electoral justice; voting from abroad.

V. Specialization

Democratic Goals: Efficiency and optimization.

Themes: Electronic vote, financing and accountability through electronic means, electoral record through electronic means, political parties and candidates registration via internet.

2.1.

International Workshops on Administration and Electoral Justice

The CICIE offers a dynamic and multidisciplinary meeting space for exchange, which allows to link the theory with practical experiences to benefit the officers from electoral authorities, as well as strategic actors of the electoral democracy.

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The methodology applied in the Workshops is developed through three stages:

1. Exposing the visiting electoral authority's main challenges and problems about each subject on the program, so each speaker can understand the invited country's national context and focus their presentations to the mechanisms that could be useful to face them..
2. Presentation of the Mexican experience regarding the subjects on the agenda.
3. Presenting the session's subject from an international comparative perspective that provides a spectrum of other countries' or international institutions' experiences.

In each working group, a space for exchanging ideas and widening information is provided. Depending on the addressed issue on every section, informative (books or publications) or sampling (i.e. material for observing security locks on voting cards, electoral ballots, indelible ink, voting booths, among others) material is shown.

Optimal criteria for participation

Even though the workshops on electoral administration and justice can be held at any moment, and in any any point of the electoral cycle, these are considered to be really useful in the following scenarios:

- Before elctions are held
- Previous to a political-electoral reform
- When electoral authorities are replaced or changed

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2.2. Internships

This specialization program follows from the International Workshops that present a wide and general aspect of the administration and electoral justice, while the Internships are focused on specific and specialized topics from the administration and electoral justice, equally attached to the schedules, interests and needs of the requesting Electoral Administration Body (OAE).

The internships have a bi-directional objective, both for the requesting OAE, and for the National Electoral Institute that will lodge the electoral officers.

On one hand, the requesting OAE will have the opportunity to get to know the activities, documentation and working mechanisms about the specific working area, so it can help on its creation, as well as the definition or instrumentation of functions or specific working groups.

On the other hand, the requesting OAE will generate a final report about the internship, which should highlight its experience and which aspects will be incorporated or adapted to their institution, and at the same time, will make observations or recommendations about the INE's work and procedures, that help to improve or make the work more efficient, as well as identifying elements to consider to be adapted.

CRITERIA to be considered to participate in an INTERNSHIP

- a. Incorporating new functions or attributions of the Electoral Administration Body (i.e. political parties' resources funding and auditing, voting from abroad)
- b. Demand to elaborate a program, working project or political reform for specific topics (civic education programs aimed to ethnic groups or population with disabilities)
- c. Developing new mechanisms or instruments to streamline and provide greater assurance of safety and reliability (electronic voting)

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2.3. Specialization Courses

These courses are part of a specialization and professionalization program for electoral officers, targeted in specific topics according to the analysis of their needs. Two courses are held every year and each one is for a different región.

The goal is to exchange information regarding common technical problems that electoral officers deal with about the specific subject of the course, and through the analysis and diagnose of problems and challenges.

For these courses, the efforts of bodies or international regional institutions, with whom collaboration agreements have been established, are combined to support electoral body members in generating capacitation programs.

The conversations with international partner institutions redound in defining the most convenient dates, the topics of interest in the region, and the joint efforts for the international experts participation who are aware of the regional problematics, as well collaborating in the course's organization and logistics for the corresponding delegations' participation.

CRITERIA to be considered while participating in SPECIALIZATION COURSES

- a. Participant's profile. The candidate that is directly involved with the central topic is selected to generate a dialogue at a technical, administrative or legal level. In some cases, the OAE absorbs the total costs for a second participant.
- b. Strengthen the institution through the problem's critical analysis and search for feasible solutions by exchanging empirical experiences with their counterparts that lead to the correction, perfection and greater efficiency in the institutional processes' development.

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Methodology

The dynamic of the Specialization Courses is characterized for linking the elaboration of an institutional critical analysis that the electoral administration body faces, as well as individual presentations per country, which requires a more active participation dynamic among the participants from diverse countries.

The working hours of the Specialization Courses are developed in five main stages:

1. The main topic's presentation under several perspectives: legal, political and technical but from an empirical and practical approach.
2. Plenary discussion on the addressed topics of each session.
3. Work in teams to discuss common problems that are faced, instrumented actions and their effectiveness, as well as feasibility of proposed solutions under the natural procedures of the institutional powers.
4. Presentations on each country's critical situation.
5. Sessions for recommendations and conclusions.

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2.4.

Seminars and international forums

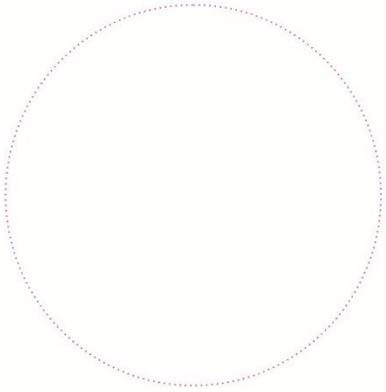
The dynamic of the Seminars and International Forums is a classical modality in which every expert is requested to provide the deliberation of a topic from several perspectives, as well as a series of questions and answers from the audience.

The relationship that the INE –now through the CICIE– has established, have supported the participation of electoral experts from several scopes: academic, political, civil society organizations, government and business institutions, etc., and, mainly, the officers' participation from Electoral Administration Bodies to provide an empirical and practical approach to the electoral democratic reality.

CRITERIA for selecting the topics for analysis:

- a. Main current concerning issues to both electoral management bodies for the state of democracy in the countries .
- b. Analysis of the main changes or tendencies in the international electoral system according to the impact that globalization and technological and communications innovation processes have in the organization and handling of electoral processes.
- c. Promote the democratic culture to several sectors in civil society and citizenship in political-electoral matters, providing the perspectives from several countries, sectors that allow analysis, debate, and mainly the citizen participation in the democratic building, as well as in public policies design.

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III. CICIE's Results

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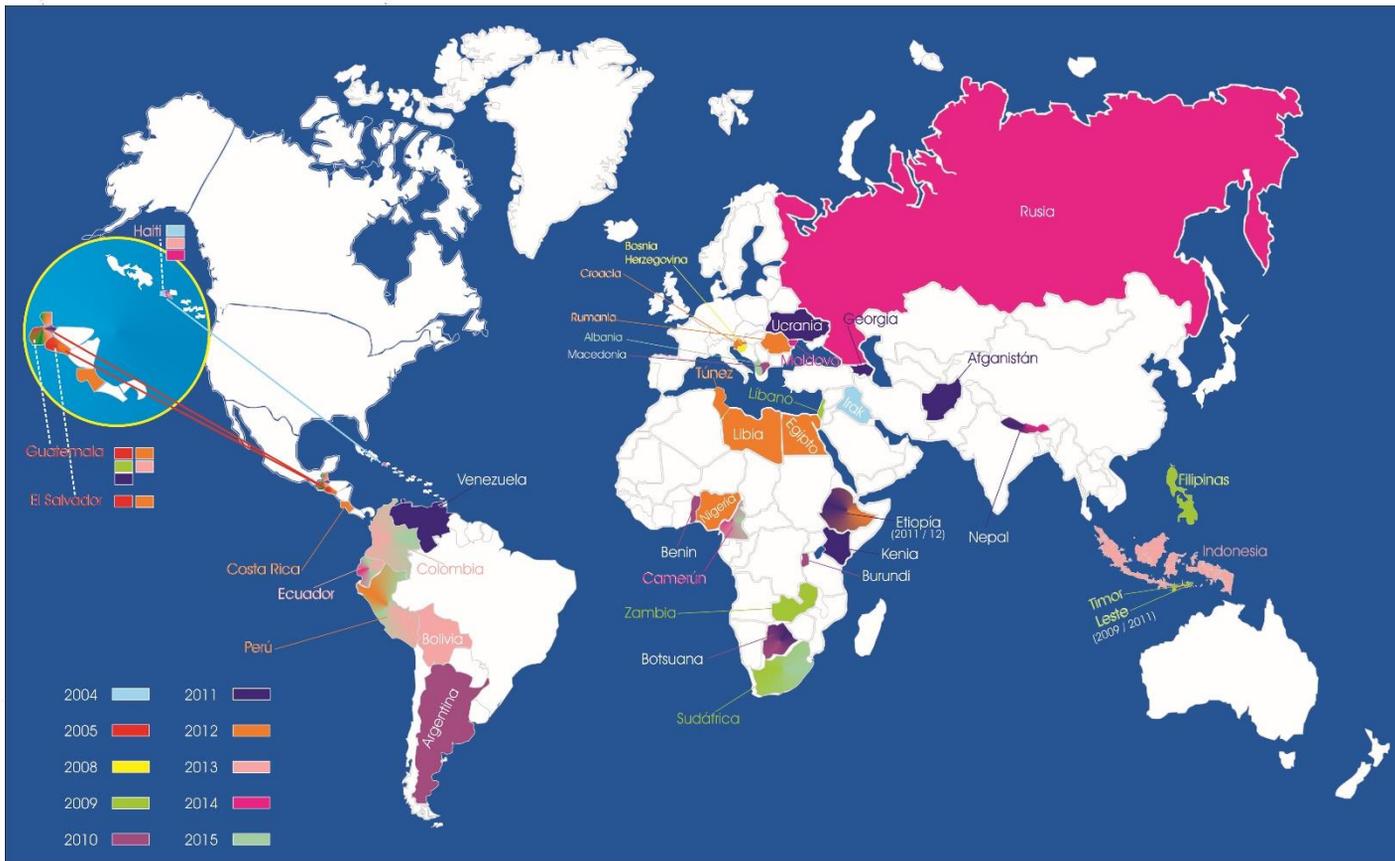


CONTENIDO



International Workshops on Administration and Electoral Justice

Six years ago, the PICIE, now CICIE, started with knowledge and experiences exchange pilots programs among electoral authorities. From 2004 to December 2015, 61 Electoral Administration Workshops for 40 countries, as its shown in the following map.



The CICIE has responded to the requests from electoral authorities in 4 of the 5 continents:

	África	América	Asia	Europa	Total
2004		Haití	Irak		2
2005		El Salvador (2) Guatemala			3
2008				Bosnia & Herzegovina	1
2009	Zambia South Africa	Guatemala	Timor Leste Lebanon Philippines		6
2010	Burundi Botswana Benin	Argentina (2)		Macedonia	6
2011	Ethiopia, Botswana and Kenya	Venezuela Guatemala	Nepal Timor Leste Afganistan	Ukraine Georgia	10
2012	Egypt; Egypt, Libya and Tunisia; Nigeria Ethiopia	Costa Rica Peru El Salvador Guatemala		Romania Croatia	10
2013	Nigeria	Ecuador (4), Bolivia; Peru and Colombia; Haiti	Indonesia		9
2014	Cameroon (2)	Ecuador (3), Haití	Nepal Palestine	Moldova, The Russian Federatioin	10
2015	Cameroon South Africa	Colombia Ecuador and Peru		Albania	4
Total	17	25	10	9	61

The topics of greater interest have been: voter registration, badging, organization and electoral logistics, security mechanisms for electoral material, electoral training and civic education.

SPECIALIZED COURSES

From 2011 to 2015

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2011

First Specialization Course on the **Financing and Auditing for Political Parties Resources** for Latin American electoral authorities. It was held from October 3rd to October 7th, 2011.



13 countries and 15 electoral authorities participated:

Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, el Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Uruguay, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

First Specialization Course on **Voter Registration** for authorities from Africa and Haiti. It was held on October 21st-25th, 2011.

11 countries and 15 electoral authorities participated:

Botswana, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Mauricio, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



2012

First Specialization Course on **Electoral Campaigns Regulation** for Latin American authorities. It was held from May 28th to June 21st, 2012.



18 officers from 12 countries participated:
Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Specialization Course on **Political Parties Regime** for European electoral authorities. It was held on November 5th-9th, 2012.

7 officers from 6 countries participated:
Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and Russia.



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2013

Specialization Course on **Voter Registration** for Latin American authorities. It was held from May 27th to May 31st, 2013.



20 electoral officers from 11 countries, including Mexico, participated: Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

Specialized Course on **Electoral Systems and Results Broadcasting**. It was held on December 2nd-6th, 2013.

20 officers from 11 countries participated in it:

Africa: Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia.

Europa: Georgia, Lituania, Moldova, Romania and Rusia.

Latin America: El Salvador



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2014

Dialogue about **Electoral Management and Resolution of Conflicts between countries of the Arab Spring and Latin America**. It was held from March 11th to March 14th, 2014.

40 electoral officers, UNDP officers and international experts participated:

Africa: Egypt, Libya and Tunisia

America: Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay

Electoral Systems and Results Broadcasting for Latin American authorities. It was held on July 7th-11th, 2014.

14 electoral officers from 11 countries participated: Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.



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2014

The Use of Technology in the Electoral Process. It was held on November 10th-14th, 2014.



24 electoral officers from 15 countries participated:
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador,
Estonia, Philippines, Georgia, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mexico,
Nigeria, Peru and Ukraine.



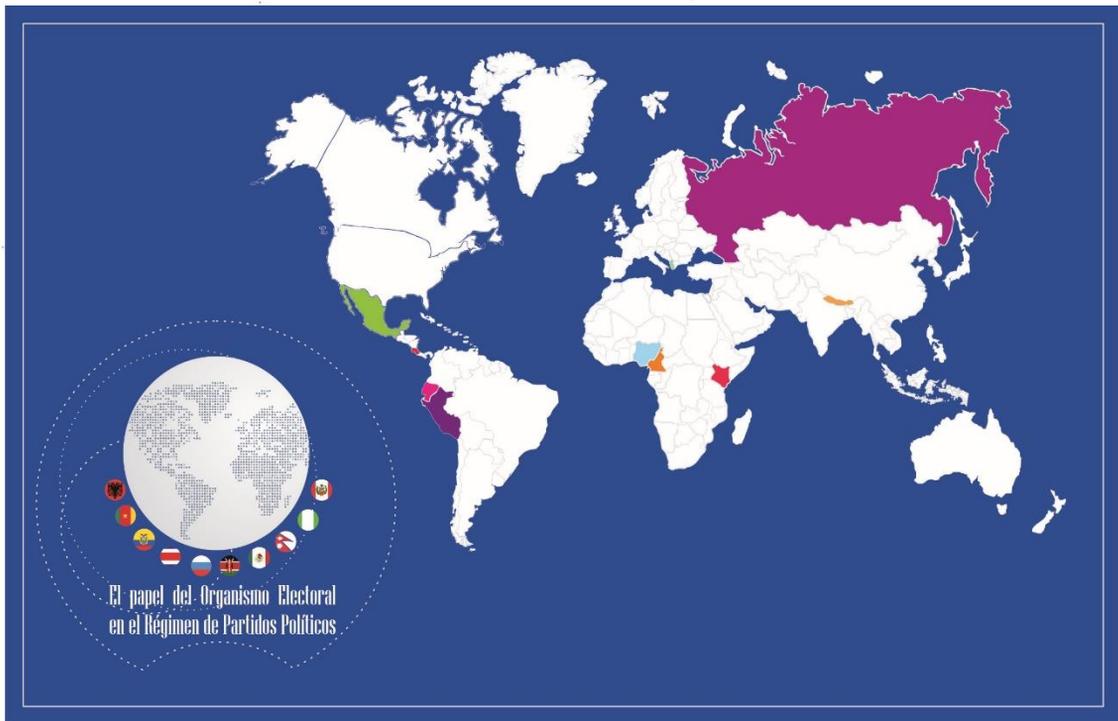
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2015

The Role of the Electoral Body in the Political Parties Regime. It was held on November 9th to November 13th, 2015.



12 participants from 10 countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe attended.

Participant countries:
Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Nepal, the Russian Federation and Albania



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2015

Election Results Systems Management. Comparative experiences between Latin America and the Arab world. It was held on November 23rd-27th, 2015.



Experiencias Comparadas de América Latina y el Mundo Árabe

Jointly organized with the Organizado conjuntamente con la United Nations Development Program Regional Office for the Arab World and the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development.

7 officers from 4 countries participated: Lebanon, Tunisia, Panama, and Guatemala's IFES representative, presenting information of that country.



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International Seminars

2011

In 2011 the CICIE started doing International Seminars regarding topics of great interest for the agendas of electoral bodies and actors related to the electoral democracy.

It is worth mentioning that officers from several administration and electoral justice bodies from other countries have attended as interested audience, to build topics of great interest in their national agendas.

> The role of electoral administration organs in the democratic governance

2012

>International Symposium on Electoral Boundary Delimitation Drawing.

> Balance on the political rights of groups in vulnerability

2013

Focused on the analysis on the assesment of political rights for four groups: women, indigenous people, people with disabilities and migrants.

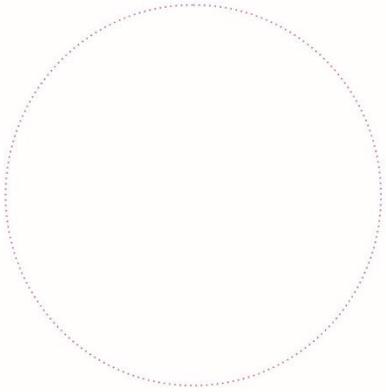
> The political rights of persons with disabilities: a pending subject

2014

> Dialogue to Increase Electoral Integrity

Bodies from the Electoral Administration, Local Bodies of Electoral Observation and International Observation Bodies. In this seminar 15 representatives from each body participated.

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IV. CICIE'S 2016 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

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	Calendar Suggested dates, they can be modified	Candidates	Characteristics
6 International Workshops/ Internships	February, April, May, June, September, November	Countries that have shown interest: Germany and the Czech Republic, Honduras, Peru, Costa Rica, Lesotho, India and Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed to senior officials, decision makers or strategic actors in democracy The working agenda is set according to the topics of interest of the requesting Electoral Body Jointly organized with UNDP Mexico, TEPJF, INE. With UNDP-México, TEPJF-INE. Determining the exact date depends on the EMB request and the availability of the participating experts.
3 Specialization Courses	1. Electronic Voting from Abroad April 18th-22nd	Aimed to electoral authority responsible of the topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal, social and political aspects Invitation for countries to share their experience Invitation to international specialized bodies: OSCE, IDEA International, NDI, among others Guarantees of security and secrecy Certification mechanisms and audit Invitation to vendors
	1. Online Political Parties' Funds Oversight Model May 5th and 6th	Aimed to electoral authority responsible of the topic in Latin America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners: OEA and CAPEL
	1. November	Aimed to electoral authority responsible of the topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electoral Risk Management or Accessibility and Political Participation Collaboration with the Community of Democracies Invitation for countries to share their experience Invitation to international specialized bodies: IDEA International
IX Inter American Electoral Seminar	September	Aimed to electoral officials responsible of the topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic to be defined Jointly organized with OEA
Latin American Democracy Forum	October 5th-7th	Open to electoral officers, academics, NGO members, members of political parties and civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic: Civic Education, Political Culture and Citizenship's Ethics: defiance to the democratic strengthening Jointly organized with INE, TEPJF, OEA, IDEA International

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