



CPS Proposal Submission

Title

The role of statistical agencies in societies and why professional independence is its indispensable foundation.

Presenter

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Abstract

The right to information is basic to all human beings, as it is sustained by human dignity, and its realisation is indispensable for integral personal development. It is part of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and it is a preoccupation common to all societies. In Mexico, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) is assigned the responsibility of producing and disseminating information that can be expressed in a statistical and geographical way. Like all official statistical agencies, INEGI's *raison d'être* is based on two major, clearly interrelated objectives. The first is to produce quality information and make it available to the public. The second is its independence from public authorities.

The need for independence arises from risks outside of the purely technical procedures for obtaining data; it is a consequence of the fact that, when measuring the social, economic and natural phenomena most relevant to a certain society, the results of the public policies of the governments responsible for addressing these issues are also measured. Moreover, the benefits of having this type of information go beyond the evaluation of government programmes, as this is the conduit for the formulating and proposing of public policies to individuals as well as to civil society organisations and political parties. In other words, statistical and geographical information is an indispensable requirement for effective participation in the democratic processes of a country, which deserves to be considered as a substantial element to what constitutes a functional democracy.

This presentation will look at how this Institute has developed over time, as an eminently technical and at the same time autonomous body of the Mexican State, which is decisive for the public's trust and whose absence would invalidate its technical purposes.

Keywords

Rights, Information, Independence, Trust, INEGI.