



Work Plan 2024

Justice Studies Center of the Americas



Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Américas

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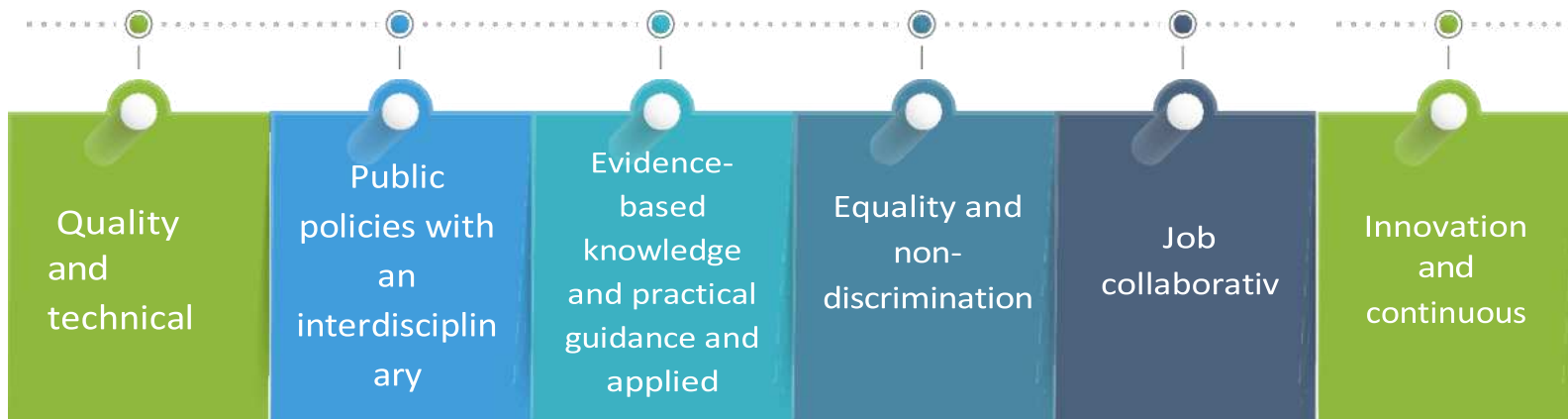
JSCA WORK PLAN 2024

This document establishes the main activities that the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) plans to carry out in 2024. This plan is flexible to the extent that during the calendar year, the Center may carry out new activities not included in this plan, within the framework of its institutional mandate. In 2024, JSCA will continue to develop activities by the priority issues and cross-cutting themes of the JSCA strategic plan 2022 - 2026.

Priority issues



Cross-Cutting Approaches



1. Studies 2024

- ♦ **Study "Civil and family dispute resolution and its effectiveness in Colombia and Peru"**

This study, in collaboration with International Development Research (IDRC Canada), aims to analyze the different judicial and non-judicial means of resolving family and housing conflicts and their effectiveness in Colombia and Peru.

In 2023, JSCA teams were deployed in 15 localities and interviewed 230 authorities, officials, and users of conciliation centers in both countries. In 2024, JSCA will publish the reports from the two countries, as well as an analytical report with public policy proposals. The publications will take place in the second half of 2024.

- ♦ **Regional study on procedural congestion in the Judiciaries of the Americas**

The objectives of this JSCA study are to compile and analyze data of the resolution and/or congestion of the procedural burden in the Judicial Branches of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to propose technical recommendations.

The research began in 2023 and involved a review of quantitative public information from justice institutions, as well as requests for information sent to each country. JSCA has systematized and analyzed the information gathered.

The project comprises two reports: a descriptive report that will present data from 22 countries, and an analytical report that will delve into the situation of 14 countries with comparable data. The reports will be published in the first half of 2024.

- **Study "Citizen and participatory survey for the design of the Criminal Prosecution Policy (PPP) of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile"**

- ♦

This project includes a diagnosis of criminality in Chile, considering the national reality as well as that of the regions that make up the country, in addition to generating inputs for the construction of the 2023-2031 criminal prosecution policy. The JSCA team was deployed throughout Chile's 16 regions in 2023, where 21 citizen workshops were held with 278 participants, interviews with Public Prosecutor's Office officials, conducting focus groups, and a virtual citizen consultation that received more than 2,000 responses.

The information gathered by JSCA will be delivered in a report to the Chilean Public Prosecutor's Office during the first half of 2024 that will include a national diagnosis and a proposed methodology for the prioritization of the prosecution and investigation of crimes.

- ♦ **Study "Evaluation of the effects of the application of the promotion processes of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile"**

This study, which began in 2023 for the Chilean Public Prosecutor's Office, involved a process of gathering primary and secondary information, a review of specialized literature, data sheets, 41 in-depth interviews, and 1,605 web survey responses from prosecutors and officials from all levels (auxiliary, administrative, professional, and technical staff). This project includes a partnership between JSCA and the Clodinamica firm with delivery of a report to the Chilean Public Prosecutor's Office in the first half of 2024.

- ♦ **"Regional Program on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ICT in Justice for judges in Peru and other Latin American countries"**

The objective of this program is to identify and analyze the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and mobile applications in Latin American Judiciaries to improve access to justice and strengthen critical knowledge on IA usage in the administration of justice and exploring opportunities and challenges in the Latin American context.

This program is in the process of being approved by the US State Department/International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) in Peru with implementation beginning in 2024 for an 18-month duration.

2. Training

- ♦ **Course on laundering of proceeds derived from public corruption**

This new JSCA course will be designed in conjunction with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the GIZ and aims to strengthen the capacity to investigate and prosecute money laundering and public corruption cases.

The target audience of the course includes investigators, prosecutors, and analysts. The course modality will be asynchronous, in addition to a face-to-face workshop in a country to be determined. The course is prepared by JSCA consultants, experts in money laundering, with extensive experience in various countries throughout the Americas.

In 2024, the central contents of the course and its methodology will be determined. A review of previous training experiences will also be carried out, considering the topics as well as the methodologies applied. A pilot will be executed to validate the contents of the proposed course. It will be carried out during the first semester of 2024.

- **Course "Improving criminal prosecution and resocialization in cases of gender violence in Latin America and the Caribbean" Regional version**

- ♦ This regional course (previously developed by JSCA with six iterations including 300 students from 14 countries in the region) will be adapted to the contextual reality of Caribbean justice systems in 2024. The first version will be taught in a hybrid format, in English, at CEJA's e-learning platform CEJACAMPUS.

The course provides tools to strengthen the criminal prosecution of gender crimes occurring in relationships such as domestic violence, given the increase of this phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project is implemented in partnership with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and GIZ.

- ♦ **Course "Improving criminal prosecution and resocialization in cases of gender-based violence in Latin America and the Caribbean" Caribbean version**

In 2024, JSCA will offer a new version of this course that seeks to develop the capacity of criminal justice institutions to effectively prosecute gender-based violence cases, considering the needs of the victims. The program is offered through JSCA CEJACAMPUS with the support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with in-person, synchronous, and asynchronous modalities.

- ♦ **Programs "Civil and Family Justice Reforms in Latin America"**

The objective of this training is to strengthen participants' knowledge of the fundamental pillars to be considered for the implementation of the oral reforms to the civil and family justice systems in the countries of the Latin American region, as well as to contribute to the development of the necessary skills for their performance in the new civil and family oral proceedings. The program will have special versions aimed at justice operators within the Mexican Judicial Branches and a regional version open to participants from other countries of the continent.

Course on criminal analysis for officials of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Mexico (supported by DAI, Development Alternatives Incorporated)

♦

The purpose of the project is to train Attorney General's Office officials of the Republic of Mexico in organized crime and criminal analysis and to promote strategic and efficient criminal prosecution in complex crimes.

Training content includes organized crime in Latin America, criminal analysis, evidentiary challenges, and strategic criminal litigation.

Due to the complexity of the organized crime phenomena, prosecutors will be updated on the collection and analysis of evidence and case theory building for strategic criminal litigation.

JSCA will hold two courses for 35 students. Each version of the course will combine modules on criminal analysis and organized crime.

This course will be implemented during the second half of 2024.

♦ **Specialized course on oral litigation for the Public Registry of Attorneys (RPA) of the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency of Bolivia**

This project aims to create and deliver a virtual course to lawyers registered in the RPA, providing knowledge and practical skills to litigate in oral proceedings on different matters.

This training is developed in alliance with Bolivia's Ministry of Justice and Transparency.

- ◆ **Other JSCA Courses**

In 2024, through our e-learning platform CEJACAMPUS, JSCA will offer, among others, courses on collective processes, judicial management, and case management, and other topics, aimed at various judicial operators in the Americas.

3. Technical assistance

- ◆ **"Pilot Project: Orality in custody and visitation proceedings"**

The objective of this project is implementing a pilot program for oral proceedings in family justice matters in Peru, aimed at generating speed, efficiency, and transparency in family justice processes.

The family oral proceedings pilot in Peru will operate in one judicial district of the country to improve the efficiency of custody and visitation proceedings, moving from a predominantly written process to one based on oral proceedings, emphasizing its contribution to the effective and quality resolution of cases and speedy access to justice.

- ◆ **"Concerted actions to strengthen coordination among SNEJ operators for the care and protection of victims of violence against women and members of the family group"**

This project, which began in 2023, consisted of deployment in eight Peruvian territories (Cusco, Callao, Huari, Huaylas, Huaraz, Carhuaz, Paucartambo and La Convención), where JSCA teams interviewed and gathered information from operators of the National Integrated Justice System (SNEJ), which coordinates the National Police, the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Judiciary. The objective of SNEJ is to implement a justice system that guarantees a life free of violence for women and family members.

The analytical report on the state of the situation and recommendations will be delivered by JSCA in the first half of 2024, which will include proposals to

- improve inter-institutional coordination within the SNEJ. The project was
- ♦ developed in partnership with GIZ Peru.

Assistance to the Council for the Reform of the Peruvian Justice System

The Council for the Reform of Peru's Justice System has several responsibilities, including promoting data governance and interoperability in the justice system, facilitating access to justice for all persons, modernizing non-criminal processes, and strengthening the human resources of justice system institutions. JSCA will promote an approach to the Council to collaborate in the improvement and modernization of Peru's justice system.

4. Events 2024

- ♦ **Regional discussion "Violence and prisons in Latin America"**

JSCA will hold an international discussion about violence in Latin American prisons, prevention capacities in penitentiary institutions, good practices, and lessons learned.

The event will be held during the first semester of 2024 and will be attended by speakers with extensive experience working in prison systems.

- ♦ **Conversation with prosecutors specializing in money laundering and pilot**

The activity is a discussion aimed at reviewing the proposal for the course on money laundering, prepared in partnership with GIZ, which will have a regional scope. This pilot project will be carried out with prosecutors specializing in the fight against corruption and money laundering in a Latin American or Caribbean country, which will make it possible to improve the proposed content and methodology that JSCA has been developing to strengthen the investigative capacities of public prosecutors' offices in the fight against these crimes.

- ♦ **Regional Conference "Procedural Congestion in the Americas: Status, Best Practices and Future Prospects"**

Virtual discussion with a regional scope to learn about the situation of procedural congestion in Latin American countries and good practices to manage it adequately, among others, with the use of artificial intelligence and technologies (ICTs).

The target audience is judges, prosecutors, public defenders and litigants, administrative support staff of justice institutions, civil society and academia, students, and the legal community in Latin America. It will be held in the first semester of 2024.

- ♦ **International Seminar "Civil and Family Dispute Resolution and its effectiveness in Colombia and Peru"**

In-person seminar in Colombia (to be confirmed), where the results and analysis obtained in the study in partnership with IDRC Canada will be publicized. The aim is for the speakers to analyze the results of the reports and report on good practices to promote greater access to justice. The seminar will be aimed at legal professionals and justice operators. It will be held at the beginning of the second semester of 2024.

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5. Institutional strengthening

- **New JSCA Opinion Column**

This year, a new space will be implemented on the JSCA website for the dissemination of an opinion column and interviews with experts and relevant authorities, the JSCA team, and members of the Board of Directors. The material will also be disseminated on the organization's social networks, in Spanish and English.

- **JSCA Website Redesign**

In 2024, the JSCA website will be redesigned to modernize the presentation and access to institutional content, facilitating knowledge and dissemination of the studies, projects, and material developed during more than 20 years of the organization's work.

- **Dissemination of JSCA's value, experience, projects and CEJACAMPUS**

This year, JSCA will generate communication campaigns on social networks, mainly LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook, with strategically targeting audiences interested in our institutional content and to expand the JSCA network in the region and globally.

- **New Newsletter JSCA Board of Directors**

During 2024, JSCA will produce a new newsletter addressed to the institution's Board of Directors. This is an internal document that presents quarterly information on the activities carried out and planned by the organization.

- ◆ **Increased content in English**

Intensifying the production of material in English is one of JSCA's top priority communication guidelines. This initiative will cover various aspects, from the translation of key documents to the creation of original content in English.

In 2024, JSCA will modernize its website, adapting it to new needs and with a new interface in Spanish and English.

- ◆ **Internships for young professionals from different countries**

JSCA will invite interns from different countries in the region to contribute to the development of institutional activities. Within this framework, we will seek the representation of different cultures and nationalities, in addition to the gender perspective.

- ◆ **Management instruments and institutional policies**

In compliance with the JSCA Strategic Plan 2022-2026, this year a set of proposals for management instruments and policies for the institution will be developed, aimed at promoting excellence in institutional management.

- ◆ **JSCA's participation in relevant forums and alliances with other organizations**

This year JSCA will continue to strengthen its presence and coordination with other related international and civil society organizations.



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