

**Twentieth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on
Competition Law and Policy,
21-22 July 2022**

Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Presentation

Superintendencia de Competencia

El Salvador

This material has been reproduced in the language and form as it was provided. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

IGE 2022
Superintendencia de Competencia
El Salvador





Importance of Capacity Building & Technical Assistance (1)

- For El Salvador's Competition Authority, Capacity Building and Technical Assistance has been a key activity.
 - The enactment of the Competition Law by Congress took place in November 2004
 - The law enabled a year of "*vacatio legis*" to create the competition authority and implementation process
 1. **Technical and financial assistance** to create the competition authority
 2. **Capacity Building** for competition authority, economic agents and media
 - International organizations and cooperation agencies
 - Peers
 - Since the law was enacted in November and the Government Budget was approved months before the financial assistance from Cooperation agencies and International organization was vital for the beginning of operation in January 2006.
 - UNCTAD COMPAL Programme focus on advocacy activities, mainly in capacity building.



Importance of Capacity Building & Technical Assistance (2)

For small competition authorities' capacity building and technical assistance is vital for an effective application of the Competition Law.

Characteristics of the Superintendence of Competition of El Salvador (SC)

- 52 people employees
 - 32 are directly related to the activities of protection and promotion of competition.
 - 20 are administrative staff
- Annual Budget of USD\$2,350,727.00 (2022)
 - 83% Salaries
 - 17% Strategic Activities and Administrative Expenditure



Importance of Capacity Building & Technical Assistance (3)

- Due to the limited recourses of the SC, technical assistance and capacity building provided by international organizations , competition networks and peers to the technical team of the SC is vital.
 - Dynamics of the markets makes it a challenge to keep updated with knowledge of Competition Law, not only on enforcement but with the digital era with Competition Policy to effectively detect and prosecute anticompetitive practices.
 - Allow small agencies to make the most of the few resources, both human and financial, that the institution has by joining synergies with organizations that can provide capacity building and technical assistance cover the multiple existing needs in this area, avoiding duplication of activities.



UNCTAD contribution to El Salvador's SC: Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Los criterios expuestos en el desarrollo de esta presentación son el punto de vista del autor y no representan necesariamente los puntos de vista del Gobierno de El Salvador, la Superintendencia de Competencia o de otra institución.



UNCTAD Contribution to El Salvador Competition Authority

- Since the enactment of the competition law in El Salvador, UNCTAD has back up the SC with Technical Assistance and Capacity Building.
 - **COMPAL Programme**
 - Since the beginning in 2005.
 - 1 of the 7 countries of the first phase of COMPAL
 - **Working Areas**
 - Creation of a Competition Culture
 - Institutional Strengthening
 - Legal Strengthening, opinion on the conformation of a regional institution.



COMPAL PROGRAM: Creation of a Competition Culture

Three Objectives:

- Awareness of economic agents about the benefits of competition in the markets.
- Prepare qualified technical personnel in the investigations of anticompetitive practices.
- Propose academic program to be implemented in universities that did not include the subject in their curricula.

Target audience:

- Civil Society
- Academia
- Consumer Associations
- Sectoral Regulators
- Congress
- Judicial Power

Creation of a Competition Culture

Objective	Action
Develop Competition Culture in civil society at all levels of population to Foster a competitive environment for an effective law enforcement	Seminars
Educational Tools to support the capacity building activities for Civil Society, academia, business sector, public entities and municipalities	Educational Tools
Develop knowledge on Competition Law in judges and magistrates for objective and technical decision-making of the appeals in court of the decisions of the SC.	Seminars and workshops
Design a study plan on Competition Law for Universities	Study Plan
Training of the SC staff in the Swiss competition authority (COMCO)	Internships
Sectoral Study on competition as a tool for market surveillance	Report