



Snapshots of IO Practices

Publication on SIECA's website of the Central American Economic Process Legal Instruments

Organisation(s): SIECA

The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
1.1	Organisation	SIECA	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	Variety of instruments	
1.3	Name of the Practice	Publication on SIECA's website of the Central American Economic Process Legal Instruments	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template	Desiree García Mario Gallardo	

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2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	<p>The practice consists of publishing the legal instruments of the Central American Economic Integration Process (SIECA) on a public website in a an orderly and coherent manner. Overall, SIECA's legal instruments are very varied and can be classified into three large groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principal or original law: constitutive treaties of the Central American economic-political community, which operates within the institutional framework of the Central American Integration System (SICA). 2. Complementary law: made up of international treaties that develop the provisions of the principal law. 3. Derivative law: constituted by the decisions emanating from regional bodies, which are directly applicable and binding for the Member States. These legal instruments are called administrative acts. 	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	To make publicly available the legal instruments of the Central American Economic Integration Process.	
2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	To ensure transparency of SIECA instruments and dissemination of information on the operation of the regulations related to economic integration in the central American region.	
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	March, 1997.	Since the creation of the website various updates have been made, such as the appearance of the website, information content, structure of information presentation, the addition of new sections and functionalities, among others.

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	Yes. The Website has been revamped several times in order to update the information and make it more user friendly. It is also updated on a periodical basis, for the incorporation of new regulation adopted by regional bodies. Its last update was in 2020.	
2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	It is user-friendly and has updated information on the legal instruments available to the public.	
2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	Keeping the information updated and organising this information in a simple way.	
2.8	Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary? If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.	<p>The practice has a normative basis.</p> <p>According to article 48 of the Rules of Organization and Operation of the Councils: “On the SIECA website, a space should be opened where the minutes and decisions of the meetings of the Economic Subsystem forums can be found.” In addition, article 12bis of the same instrument provides that “Likewise, the content of the SIECA website must be periodically evaluated in order to keep it updated with the most recent and relevant information from the countries and the region. For the classification of documents, a simple and practical system will be put into practice that allows ordering and expediting the handling of written information related to the operation of the economic integration scheme, similar to that used in the World Trade Organization (WTO), whose specialists in document classification will be consulted.”</p>	

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Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	SIECA's Website is updated periodically, as a new legal instrument is adopted or modified.	
2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad hoc basis)?	It is applied systematically, to the extent that a new measure is adopted or modified.	
2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	<p>Legal instruments of the Central American Economic Integration Process can be of various kinds. On the website they are organised by treaties and decisions of regional bodies, both being binding to Member States.</p> <p>Example: https://www.sieca.int/index.php/integracion-economica/instrumentos-juridicos/</p>	
3	Design of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	SIECA: was developed internally	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	Member States of the Central American Economic Integration Process (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panamá)	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	The design of the practice involved preparing the website and uploading updated information. The design or preparation of the website took about 8 months. The upload of information takes place in 24 hours, once the legal instrument is ready to be published.	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	Staff, budget, internet domain	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	Keeping the information updated, and organising and presenting it in a simple way. In order to overcome the challenges the information is revised by the Legal Directorate periodically. Additionally, special software was designed in order to upload and update the information.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	Tested internally, within SIECA.	
4	Implementation of the Practice		Comments and intersections
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	SIECA's Secretary General	
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	According to article 12bis of the Rules of Organization and Operation of the Councils, the Vice Ministers for Central American Economic Integration (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica & Panama) must revise periodically the content of the SIECA website	
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	No.	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	Staff and budget	
5	Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	Yes.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	According to Article 12bis of the Rules of Organization and Operation of the Councils, the Vice Ministers for Central American Economic Integration (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica & Panama) check SIECA's website.	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? (e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?).	The methodology implies that the Vice Ministers provide inputs that must then be implemented by SIECA.	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation, and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	The conclusions consist of instructions or recommendations on the type of instruments that should be published, as well as the way in which the information should be published. SIECA updates its website, according to the feedback provided.	
6	Additional comments and information	Answers	Comments and intersections
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	Information about the practices can be found at: SIECA's Web page: https://www.sieca.int/index.php/integracion-economica/instrumentos-juridicos/	
	Sources		