BACKGROUND NOTE ON ACTION PLANS

The SMO Action Plan is intended to provide a summary of:

- 1. The legal and regulatory environment for the profession;
- 2. The status of adoption of international standards and best practices in the jurisdiction; and
- 3. The level of a Member's or Associate's fulfillment of IFAC membership requirements.

IFAC <u>Statements of Membership Obligations</u> (SMOs) require IFAC Members and Associates to support the adoption¹ and implementation² of international standards and other pronouncements issued by independent standard-setting boards under the auspices of IFAC as well as by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); and to establish a quality assurance (QA) review and investigation and disciplinary (I&D) systems. The SMOs are recognized as the international benchmarks for credible and high-quality PAOs that are focused on and have the necessary expertise to serve the public interest and meet the market demands of their respective jurisdictions.

IFAC Members and Associates conduct a self-assessment against the requirements of SMOs and identify areas where, if any, improvements are needed. Members and Associates should develop an Action Plan to (a) demonstrate how they fulfill the requirements of the SMOs (revised in 2012), and (b) where some requirements are not yet addressed, to present plans towards their fulfillment. Action Plans are designed to be **ever-green** documents that take into consideration IFAC recommendations. Depending on the PAO's level of fulfillment (see *IFAC's Summary Assessment* – page 2), an Action Plan may not be necessary for each SMO section and instead the 'Attestation of Ongoing SMO Compliance' is used to confirm their ongoing commitments. However, PAOs may wish and are welcome to utilize the Action Plan as a tool to demonstrate how they are using 'best endeavors' and going beyond their mandate with innovative approaches to fulfilling the SMOs and strengthening the national profession.

The specific details of each organization's actions will vary even where two PAOs are involved in the same SMO area. Each PAO operates in its own unique regulatory and standard-setting framework and has different operating, technical, and resource capacities. Moreover, in deciding when and how a particular SMO requirement is to be addressed, PAOs might have differing timeframes and objectives to achieve. Notwithstanding these inevitable differences, seeking the advice and assistance of other PAOs who have already faced and dealt with similar challenges can save significant time and resources. IFAC staff will offer assistance as needed.

Regular updates of the SMO Action Plans are required as part of the IFAC Member Compliance Program.

Use of Information

Please refer to the *Disclaimer* published on the IFAC website.

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Adoption is concerned with the decision that international standards are appropriate for use in specific national financial reporting environments and with the actions necessary to affect those decisions, including incorporation into national requirements or requiring the use of international standards through law. Adoption may include a process to review draft international standards, translation, public exposure of proposed standards, approval, incorporation into national requirements as necessary, and promulgation of final standards, and, where applicable, a convergence process to eliminate or minimize differences between international and national standards.

² Implementation may include a process to build awareness of the adopted standards, provide relevant education and training, develop, or disseminate implementation guidance and any other activities that promote proper understanding and use of the standards in practice.

ACTION PLAN

IFAC Member: Instituto de Censores Jurados de Cuentas de Espana (ICJCE)

Approved by Governing Body: Board of Directors

Original Publish Date: October 2018

Last Update: December 2022

IFAC's Summary Assessment: PAOs are encouraged to take staff's recommendation into consideration as part of future strategic planning conversations at the PAO.

For more information on <u>IFAC Member Compliance Program</u> and the legends used to describe the status of adoption of international standards, best practices, and fulfillment of SMO requirements, please refer to the Status of Adoption <u>methodology</u> and SMO Fulfillment <u>methodology</u>.

	PAO Level of Responsibility for Adoption	Adoption Status as of 2022	Level of SMO Fulfillment as of 2022
QA/SMO1	No Direct	Adopted	Sustain
IES / SMO 2	No Direct	A Partially Adopted	Sustain
ISA / SMO 3	No Direct	Adopted	Sustain
IESBA / SMO 4	Shared	A Partially Adopted	Review & Improve
IPSAS / SMO 5	No Direct	Adopted	Sustain
I&D / SMO 6	Shared	Adopted	Review & Improve
IFRS/SMO7	No Direct	A Partially Adopted	Sustain

Attestation of SMO Compliance

The Instituto de Censores Jurados de Cuentas de Espana (ICJCE) has developed an Action Plan to demonstrate how it fulfills the requirements of the SMOs (revised in 2012). The abovementioned <u>Governing Body</u> has reviewed the information contained within the SMO Action Plan and affirms that the ICJCE

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continues to undertake these and other relevant actions to maintain ongoing compliance and fulfillment of the membership obligations where IFAC's assessments are at *Review & Improve* and/or *Sustain*.

On behalf of the **ICJCE**, the *Governing Body* endorses the information contained within the SMO Action Plan as of the publication date and its publication on the IFAC website in the interests of transparency and to demonstrate our commitment to enhancing the quality and credibility of the accountancy profession worldwide.

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GLOSSARY

CPD Continuing Professional Development

IAASB International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board IAESB International Accounting Education Standards Board

IASB International Accounting Standards Board

IES International Education Standard

IESBA International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants

IFAC International Federation of Accountants
IFRS International Financial Reporting Standards
IPSAS International Public Sector Accounting Standards

IPSASB International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board

ISA International Standard on Auditing

ISQC1 International Standard on Quality Control 1

ISQM International Standard on Quality Management (ISQM 1, ISQM2 and ISA 220 (Revised))

QA Quality Assurance

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General Background

After the last update of the Action Plan in September 2020 some changes to the regulatory and professional environment have been taken place:

- Publication of the Royal Decree developing the Audit Law in 2021. The publication does not change requirements
- The withdraw of the proposal of ICJCE Constitution, which was pending of approval by the Government, and the publication of a new proposal, which has been discussed and approved by the ICJCE General Assembly. This means that, currently, the Constitution in force of the ICJCE is the one of 1982 and that the new Constitution will need to be also approved by the Government before entry into force.

Since membership to the REC does not involve membership to ICJCE, together with IFAC Compliance staff we have considered not to include this Registry in the action Plan. In 2022 we have contacted the Spanish Government to start a discussion to address the official recognition of the Expert in Accounting.

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Action Plan Subject: SMO 1 - Quality Assurance

Action Plan Objective: Further improvement of the Quality Assurance review System

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
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Background

All statutory auditors and audit firms are subject, in the exercise of the audit activity, to an objective and independent public oversight system. The public oversight system is governed by the Instituto de Contabilidad y Auditoría de Cuentas (ICAC), which is a public oversight authority attached to the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, which has the ultimate responsibility for, inter alia, quality control inspections, investigation and disciplinary system. The amendment of the Audit Law in 2010 strengthened this external quality assurance system by introducing this practice in the law itself; the main objective of this external quality assurance system is to increase audit quality throughout the profession. The new Spanish Audit Law (2015) indicates that quality control inspections consist of the periodic review of the auditors and firms, to assess the internal quality assurance systems, through the verification of the procedures applied and the. review of the documented procedures on the audit files, with the aim to check the efficiency of the quality management system.

The whole system is regulated in article 54 and the use of external professional services in article 55 of the new Audit law. Inspections shall consist in the regular review of auditors and audit firms in order to evaluate their quality management systems through the verification of the procedures applied and the review of the archives for selected audit engagements, including the evaluation of compliance with the regulations governing audit activities and with a view to verifying and concluding on the efficacy of the said systems. With regard to auditors and audit firms conducting audits on public interest entities, regard shall be had for the provisions contained in articles 26.6 and 26.7 of Regulation (EU) no 537/2014, of 16 April. Inspections should be proportional to the size and complexity of the activities of the auditors or firms being the period between inspections no more than 6 years. The inspection should be documented in a report including the conclusion and recommendations as well as the timeline to meet the recommendations. Aggregated results of the inspection should be published on ICAC website. None of them include references to the audited entity.

PIE auditors' QA inspections are regulated in EU Regulation 537/2014 being the period between inspections no more than 3 years. QA reports are published individually if they refer to PIE auditors.

The results of the QA inspections may lead to an investigation procedure.

The selection of the auditors or firms to be included in the annual review program is made by the ICAC based on a risk analysis.

The Audit law states that all QA inspections shall be carried out by ICAC's civil servants although if ICAC has not enough resources to do them in time, it may hire the services of the Professional Bodies to carry out merely instrumental tasks. The audit law states the requirements that any person collaborating in these tasks should fulfill including:

- Not to be auditors in public practice nor working for an audit firm
- To be independent from the reviewed auditors or firms.
- To have the appropriate knowledge and practical experience

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource

The definition of "merely instrumental tasks" is not included in the law but it is defined in the new regulation (RLAC – art 106) as assistance in the review of documentation related to the audit activity and in the preparation of a draft assessment as a result of this assistance, taking into account the laws and regulations governing the audit activity and, where appropriate, the regulations and practice in the field of expertise of the experts.

On March 16, 1993, it was issued by the ICAC a Quality Control Standard, which established quality control requirements for auditors and firms. On December 2010, ICAC published the draft of a new auditing standard on quality control which was a translation of the International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) 1 issued by IFAC made by virtue of the translation agreement among ICAC, IFAC and the ICJCE, the only difference being the scope of the standard, since it is applicable only to statutory audits. The comments period for the exposure draft ended on September 7, 2011 and the final standard was issued in October 2011 with effective date January 1, 2013 The ICAC Quality Assurance reviews since 2011 were based on the requirements included in ISQC 1 in order to help auditors to implement this standard, and ICJCE actively participated in training about this standard. Since 2010 QA inspections have been carried out by the ICAC and also by the ICJCE with the scope explained above. The ICJCE has actively participated in the process of translating and adopting the standards in the jurisdiction since 2008 In April 2022. Quality Standards (ISQM 1 and 2 and ISA 220 (Revised) adapted were published effective for audits of financial statements starting on or after January 1, 2023, or, in any case, for audits engaged on or after January 1, 2024

The ICJCE has two committees that assists members and firms to understand, implement (not directly only through consultations to the staff of the ICJCE Technical Department) and maintain proper internal QA systems. One of them is the Technical and Quality Control Committee, which in coordination with the Technical department issues guidance on Technical and Quality Control issues. A specialized subgroup of the Technical in quality assurance was set up in 2021 to help in the adaptation process. The second one is the SMP Committee which helps especially SMPs to apply these standards. This support includes the publication of guidelines, recommendations and other material, organization of CPD courses and special sessions dealing with QA recommendations.

We consider that the QA review System applied to audit firms and individuals carried out or supervised by the ICAC complies, in general terms, with SMO 1. However, we have detected differences related to the following SMO 1 requirements:

Applicable to all QA Reviews:

- The QA Review Report does not include an overall conclusion. The report includes the work performed and those deficiencies detected during the review
- The risk bases on which the individuals and firms are selected for inspection is not public, therefore we cannot assess is it fulfills SMO 1 requirements Applicable only to QA reviews directly carried out by the ICAC
 - Material and procedures, including documentation requirements, are not publicly available
 - We are not aware of the CPD requirements applicable to ICAC staff

In any case, the ICAC is a member of EGAOB and of IFIAR where methodologies and procedures are shared and updated. We can confirm compliance with the requirement related to documentation for those reviews carried out by the ICJCE and supervised by the ICAC. Therefore, these exceptions do not change our conclusion about compliance with SMO1.

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# Start Date Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
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Regarding the ICJCE's own quality control system is still under discussion. Since the ICAC controls the audit activity, the ICJCE is analyzing the possibility to perform quality control on other kinds of engagements performed by our members and also to reinforce the QA system on audit engagements.

Since there is no requirement for the members to report to the ICJCE about their activities this is a very difficult task. The only information that we have about the activity of our members is through the sales of seals that our members must put on every report that they issue.

At the end of December 2021 approximately 90% of sales refers to audit seals, therefore 90% of their activity is covered by the Audit QA System.

Update	the ICJCE's C	Quality Assurance Review System Requirements in Accordance with SMO	1 (revised)		
1.	November 2011	To review the scope of the ICJCE QA reviews.	Under discussion	DG Board (to approve it)	DC
2.					
3.	Ongoing	Discuss with the ICAC the content and forms used in its QA reviews and coordinate the 2018 QA program based on the annual execution agreement, which is expected to be signed between ICJCE and ICAC.	Estimated 1st Semester 2018 Completed	DG President and Board	DC
4.	January 2022	Instrumental tasks on inspections and investigations are being performed after the signature of the latest agreement with the ICAC signed in January 2022 which is expected to be extended for 2023.	January 2024	DG President and Board	DC
Using B	est Endeavor	s to Assist with the Implementation of IISQM			
5.	Ongoing	Help members in practice through direct consultations to the staff of the Quality Department regarding new quality management standards and its implementation.	Ongoing	DG	DCC
6.	April 2022	Ensure that all members in practice have the adequate knowledge of new quality management standards and its implementation through the organization of CPD courses on the new standard and the update of the access programs. Throughout 2022 we have organized several seminars on ISA 220 (Revised); ISQM 1 and ISQM 2	Ongoing	DG DT CF (Comisión de Formación)	DCC DF (Departament de Formación)

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
7.	1 st semester 2018	Organize a course, compulsory for all members in public practice, about the new regulation developing the Audit Law (Law 22/2015) where Quality in audit firms and practices requirements are expected to change.	Throughout all 2018 Completed 2021	CF (Comisión de Formación)	DCC DF (Departamento de Formación)
8.	September 2011	Organize round tables in National and Regional Congresses and seminars to inform members about the ISQC 1 and its implementation and guidance issued by ICJCE.	Ongoing through all the year Completed	DG Congress Committee	DCC
9.	January 2015	Manage the LAP (Lista de actuación profesional), admissions and publication on the website	Ongoing	DT	DEPYMES
10.	May 2016	Update the adaptation of the IFAC "Guide to Quality Control for Small - and Medium -Sized Practices – Third Edition" to the new QA requirements.	September 2016. Postponed due to the publication of the regulation of the Audit Law planned for the 1T of 2018 Abandoned	Depymes	DT C. Independencia
11.	December 2021	Translation and dissemination of IAASB Quality Standards Guides ISQM 1 ISQM 2 ISA 220 (Revised)	Completed August 2022 August 2022 November 2022	DC DI	DI

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
12.	December 2017	Publication of a series of short documents "Objetivo: Calidad 10" about the most common weaknesses detected in the QA Reviews.	May 2018 Completed. 10 numbers published	Depymes	DT
Enhanci	ing Transpare	ency and Reporting of ICJCE QA Review System			
14.	December 2011	Continuously report to the Comisión Nacional de Deontología (CND), along the whole process, on the bad results of the QA reviews in order to design disciplinary actions if necessary. See SMO 6. See point 1	Ongoing	DG	DCC
Maintair	ning Ongoing	Processes			
15.	Ongoing	Ensure that all members have an adequate level of Permanent Education on Quality Assurance matters and report to the Education Committee (CF) on the issues that should be addressed in the courses if there are special and common requirements that members fail to comply with.	Ongoing	DG CF	EA. Escuela de Auditoría. DCC DF
16.	Ongoing	Continue to ensure that the ICAC's program incorporates all SMO 1 requirements and operates effectively through the dialogue with reviewers and the analysis of the results of the program.	Ongoing	DG CND	CND DCC Reviewers
17.	Ongoing	Continue to provide reviewers with tools and education according to their needs.	Ongoing	DG CF	DCC DF. (Departamento de Formación. Education Department)

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
18.	Ongoing	Continue to monitor and review all new and amended pronouncements issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) or other institutions (European Union, ICAC) regarding Quality Assurance. All relevant changes are discussed at the meetings of the ICJCE's Technical Committee (CT).	Ongoing	DG CT (Comisión Técnica. Technical Committee)	DCC DT (Departamento Técnico. Technical Department)
Review	of ICJCE's Co	ompliance Information			
19.	Ongoing	Frequently update ICJCE Parts 1 and 2 of the Compliance Program (questionnaires) to measure and assess progress achieved with regards to SMO 1. Once updated, inform IFAC Compliance staff about the updates in order for the Compliance staff to republish updated information.	Ongoing	International Affairs Director	DI International Department in collaboration with the other departments involved: Quality, Technical and Educational Departments

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Action Plan Subject: Action Plan Objective:

SMO 2 - International Education Standards for Professional Accountants and Other Pronouncements Issued by the IAESB To consolidate the progress introduced by the Audit Law and to improve education in skills

Background

In Spain, ICAC regulates professional education requirements, both the access education and CPD. General provisions about education are included in the audit law and it is developed through a regulation and several Resolutions.

Audit Law: Law 22/2015, of 20 July 2015 of Audit of Accounts.

- Article 9 includes the general provisions about the access ways and education including the subject matters to be covered and the organization of the state access examination.
- Article 8 includes CPD obligation

Regulation (Royal Decree 2/2021

- Article 27: access education subject matters that the access education programs shall include.
- Article 28: Training and practical experience
- Article 29, 30: Access examination
- Art 33, 34 and 35 CPD

Resolution of the ICAC of 29 October 2012 about CPD requirements

Resolutions of the ICAC of 21 of October and July 2014 about new education requirements related to ISAs as adopted in Spain (NIA-ES)

Resolutions of the ICAC of June 2012 about access education requirements and exemption of the theoretical part of the state access examination

Resolution of the ICAC of March 2016 about certain requirements of the practical experience

Resolution of the ICAC of July 2021 about certain requirements related to the accreditation and practical experience

Resolution of the ICAC of July 2021 about exemptions regarding the theoretical part of the professional examination

Resolution of the ICAC of July 2021 about the access education programs.

Starting October 1, 2012 all practicing Spanish auditors are required to undertake continuing professional development of 120 hours every three years as follows: minimum of 30 hours per year, of which 20 hours must refer to Accountings and Auditing, and, 85 hours of the 120) every 3 years should be related to these matters. Also, auditors having temporarily left the audit activity and wishing to practice again shall perform 120 hours of training (during the previous 3 years) of which at least 50 hours shall be gained in the previous year. The new regulation has introduced a change regarding the possibility of using some CPD points gained during the end of the period to the following period. The requirement remains unchanged.

To access to the Official registry of Auditors (and to the ICJCE) candidates shall:

- Be of legal age
- Be a national of Spain or of any EU member state
- To lack a criminal record for fraud related offenses.

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# Start Date Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
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To have obtained the relevant authorization from the Accounting and Auditing Institute

The authorization is granted to those:

- Having obtained a university qualification.
- Having completed theoretical teaching programmes and carried out practical training.
- Having passed a professional proficiency examination organised and recognized by the State. This exam comprises a theoretical part (may be exempted) and a practical part (compulsory for all candidates)

The **IPD** education comprises:

- A university degree or equivalent
- A master or equivalent in accounting and auditing

The ICJCE is one of the education centers that deliver IPD education. We have agreements with several Universities. For example, we have an agreement with the Universidad de Alcalá for a Master in Auditing that provides students with at least 5 basic competences of IES 3; 4 general competences of IES 2 and 3; 9 cross competences related to IES 2, 3 and 4 and 25 specific competences related to IES 2 and 8. Achievement of these competences is proved by written examinations as required by IES 6. We have started the organization of a University Degree in Auditing with the University of Avila. It is still in the very initial stages. We plan to take IES into consideration in drafting the syllabus.

The ICJCE gives also specific education to candidates who are preparing their exams, which content is related to IES 2, 4 and 8

In 2022, to respond to the concerns of individuals and firms about attracting (an retaining) talent to the profession, we have set up a group which also deals with education issues to attract young talent, including technology, sustainability and digitalization.

Regarding CPD:

It is also regulated by the ICAC. The ICAC must validate CPD courses, provided by a wide range of education centers including the ICJCE, to be accounted for CPD purposes.

The ICJCE considers that ICJCE CPD offer fulfils the education requirements in IES 7, specially, regarding technical skills, except for the assessment since for some of the courses given, attendants do not need to prove the acquired knowledge. For some of the on-line courses the attendant must solve a practical case to obtain the CPD.

To improve education in skills the ICJCE has developed the following actions:

- Setting up a Development center (Centro de desarrollo), which is already working that provides education in skills.
- Setting up the Young Academy addressed to recently young graduates with less than 3 years of practical experience. The education required by IES 2 in an intermediate or advanced level and the requirements in IES 6 regarding the requirement of passing a test and a final assessment.

- Mentoring program for students of the Master to develop certain skills required by IES 3.

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion	Responsibility	Resource
			Date		
	F. H. J. Standard of the Proceedings of the Control				

Full development of on-line education programs and tools, especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic when free on-line education was provided to our members.

The role that the Audit Law states for the ICJCE in this field includes:

- Participation in the Audit Committee, where CPD obligations and access examinations are discussed.
- Provision of access and CPD education (also other accredited centers and firms may provide CPD and access education)
- Proposal of the call to the state access examination together with the other bodies and participates as a member of the Assessment Board

Due to the expertise of the members and personnel the ICAC has asked the ICJCE to participate in Working Groups to define the access education.

The approach of the education for auditors in Spain is not the one in the revised IESs (learning outcomes), since the obligation is to fulfill a program, which, on the other hand, include all competence areas as included in IES 2 to 6 and 8 and to pass an examination in which the capacity of the candidate to apply his/her theoretical knowledge in a practical case is assessed.

Both CPD courses and access education programs shall be approved by the ICAC. The ICJCE has other education activities although our members have less interest in those activities.

We consider that due to the different approach of the Spanish education system it is very difficult to assess full compliance of the education required to auditors with IES in detail, especially regarding certain personal skills. The ICJCE has no responsibility in this area. All training programs (IPD and CPD) must be validated by the ICAC and ICAC does not recognize education in skills and does not grant CPD to these education programs. The strategy of the ICJCE is to develop programs that include IES requirements in our education offer.

Promoting IES to Spanish Authorities Responsible for Adopting Education Requirements for Auditors Continue to undertake policy dialogues to promote IES 2 and 8 (revised) requirements and to encourage ICAC and the Government to incorporate all aspects of the IES in the professional Auditing education. CEO CF (Comisión de The ICAC considers that the EU just requires the education in skills during President of the Formación. the period prior to the qualification but not as a part of the CPD. Therefore, ICJCE and members 20. Ongoing Ongoing Education the ICAC does not recognize as CPD those courses and seminars of the Board Committee) addressing this subject. DF In addition, the ICAC has decided to reduce the number of CPD courses, so those addressing matters applicable to non-audit services are not recognized as CPD.

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
		The ICJCE together with the other professional body has noted to the ICAC their disagreement in several meetings.			
Other A	Actions to Imp	rove the Quality of the Education of the ICJCE Members			
21.	Ongoing	Continuously update ICAC with new required entries into the syllabus of the access education due to new competencies or legislation requirements.	Ongoing	CF	DF
22.	January 2017	Set up the Young Academy to provide education addressed to recent graduates with 2 years' experience. First action On-line program of 80 hours	January 2018 Completed	CF	DF
23.	January 2018	On-line program of 80 hours addressed to recent graduates with two years of experience via Young Academy.	Ongoing	CF	DF
24.	January 2017	Mentoring program for Master students. First action addressed to students of the Master in Auditing jointly organized with the University of Deusto, Bilbao	January 2018 Completed	CF	DF
25.	January 2018	Mentoring program to be used by other regional branches of the ICJCE	January 2024	CF	DF
26.	January 2017	Set up the <u>Development Center</u> to provide education in professional skills such as negotiation, commerce planning and management	January 2018 Completed	CF	DF
27.	January 2018	Several education initiatives - Negotiation ISA 260 and ISA 265 - Success of the audit proposal	Throughout 2022		
28.	September 2020	Postgraduate Degree in Digitalization & Auditing	September 2022	CF	DF
29.	October 2022	Postgraduate Degree in Sustainbility Assurance	September 2023	CF	DF
30.	January 2022	Degree in Auditing with the University of Avila	September 2024	CF	DF

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource					
Actions	Actions to Collaborate with the IAESB									
31.	Ongoing	Continue to monitor new and amended Standards from the International Accounting Education Standards Boards (IAESB) and to promote their incorporation into the Spanish Education Standards".	Ongoing	DF	CF DF					
32.	March 2020	Participation in IFAC Education Forum	Ongoing	DF	DF DI					
Review	of ICJCE's Co	ompliance Information								
33.	Ongoing	Frequently update ICJCE Parts 1 and 2 of the Compliance Program (questionnaires) to measure and assess progress achieved with regards to SMO 2. Once updated inform IFAC Compliance staff about the updates in order for the Compliance staff to republish updated information	Ongoing	International Affairs Director	International Department in collaboration with the other departments involved: Technical and Education Departments					

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Action Plan Subject: SMO 3 – International Standards and other Pronouncements Issued by the IAASB Action Plan Objective: Reinforce the Ongoing Convergence Process with IAASB Pronouncements

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
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Background

ICJCE, as stated in the audit law, has responsibility together with the other professional corporations for drafting the auditing standards, which are approved and published by ICAC. In practice, ICAC adopts the most current International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) with modifications on the basis of the translations provided by ICJCE (see below). In addition, ICJCE translates and adopts the other International Auditing and Assurance Board (IAASB) pronouncements (International Standards on Review Engagements (ISREs). All current IAASB pronouncements, other than ISAs, are already translated into Spanish or in process

The adoption of ISAs is not the responsibility of the ICJCE. The ICJCE, as stated in the audit law, drafts the audit standards together with the other professional corporations, which are finally approved and published by the regulator, ICAC

Due to the delay of the European Commission to reach a decision on the adoption of ISAs the Spanish professional bodies together with ICAC decided to review the clarity ISAs (2009 Handbook) in order to insert the legal references as explanatory notes and, if necessary, any add-on or carve-out due to the requirements in Spanish laws and regulations. This work finalized by the end of October 2012 and adapted ISAs (2009 version) were published in 2013. effective for audits of financial statements starting on or after the 1st of January 2014.

On 23 December 2016, the new auditors report standards, an amended version of ISA 510, ISA 720 (Revised) and ISA 805 (Revised) were published effective for audits of annual financial statements starting on or after June 17, 2016.

Therefore, today all ISAs except those not applicable to the Spanish Law (ISA 800 and ISA 810) have been translated and adopted, although, the adapted version may not be the one in 2020 Handbook due to the long process for translation and adaptation. ISA 610 (Revised 2013) was adapted for its application in Spain in July 2021, although requirements and application material related to "direct assistance" have not been adopted and are therefore not applicable.

During 2012 the President and CEO of the ICJCE were engaged with FACPCE and IMCP to achieve an agreement on the future translations of IAASB pronouncements which was finally signed in October 2012. By virtue of this agreement, named IberAm project, several translations into Spanish have been published and posted on IFAC website in 2014, 2015 and 2016, being the most significant ones the publication of the 2013 IAASB Handbook including all ISAs and other IAASB pronouncements and the publication of New auditors' report standards, ISA 720 (Revised), ISA 800 (Revised), ISA 805 (Revised) and their relevant corresponding amendments. The translation of the 2016-2017 Handbook was published on IFAC website on August 26, 2021. In January 2019, the IberAm agreement finished and currently the ICJCE performs the translation of the ISAs and other IAASB and IESBA pronouncements under a translation agreement signed in 2019.

In 2015 ICAC and IFAC signed a reproduction and limited waiver agreement where reference to material to be adopted and modifications to the adopted material was included.

We consider that we comply with SMO 3 since, following the requirement in the Audit Law, we have set a process, including translation (agreed between ICJCE and IFAC), adaptation (agreed between ICAC and IFAC), to adapt ISAs to the Spanish legal framework and to use the adapted version (NIA-ES) as our audit

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
		nnex 1 there is the description of the process and main differences between IS ce of Spanish Auditing Standards with ISAs and Assisting in their Adoptic		A-ES.	
34.	Ongoing December 2016	Participate in the Audit Standards Group of the ICAC where the adoption of new ISAs is analyzed and add-ons and carve outs included. - ISA 540 (revised) - ISA 720 (revised) - ISA 250 (Revised) - ISA 315 (Revised 2019) - ISA 610 (Revised 2013) - Modification to ISA 700 to address the work of the auditor related to the financial statements filled using the European Single Electronic Format (ESEF) - ISA 220 (Revised) (see SMO 1)	Ongoing October 2020 October 2020 October 2021 October 2021 October 2021 February 2021 April 2022	DT CTCC	DT
35.	January 2022	The Audit standards Group (in which the ICJCE participates) and the ICAC plan to publish a compilation of the Spanish standards as of December 2022, including all conforming amendments.	December 2023	DT CTCC	DT DI
36.	2022	We plan to translate and compile 2021 IAASB handbook when available	July 2023	DI	DI
Suppo	ort of Implementa	tion of IAASB Pronouncements			
37.	January 2017	Organize compulsory CPD for members on the new Auditors Report requirements.	Mid 2018 Completed	DT CTCC	DT DF

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
38.	May 2016	Prepare guidance material to use of IAASB standards in those engagements on which they are applicable. This includes translation of IAASB support material and preparation of own developed material. - Action plan new auditor's report including: o Article in the technical magazine on Most significant matters or KAMs: definition and examples (based on NIA-ES 701) o Questions and Answers document o Review and translation of guidance material o New section on ICJCE website o Database of examples of KAM in listed companies o Database of examples of KAM in Non-PIE reports	October 2016 Expected January 2018 Completed 1t 2018 1T 2018 1T 2018 December 2018 Completed	CTCC	CTCC DT
39.	October 2020	Prepare guidance material to use of IAASB standards in those engagements on which they are applicable. This includes translation of IAASB support material and preparation of own developed material - Development of a Database including the most common questions addressed to the ICAC and to the ICJCE Technical department about the application of ISAs (NIA-ES) - Application guide ISRS 4400 - Checklist on communications of auditors based on the relevant laws and standards. - Guide to apply ISAE 3000 (Revised) to sustainability reporting - Non-Authoritative Support Material: Using Automated Tools and Techniques When Identifying Risks of Material Misstatement in Accordance with ISA 315 (Revised) - ISA 250 (Revised), At A Glance: Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulation - ISA 540 (Revised) Implementation: Illustrative Examples for Auditing Simple and Complex Accounting Estimates - Auditing Accounting Estimates in the Current Evolving Environment Due to COVID-19	February 2022 January 2022 December 2021 November 2021 November 2021 November 2021 November 2021		
Mainta	ining Ongoing P	rocesses			
40.	October 2012	Continue to support the adoption of International Standards specially translating into Spanish all IAASB new or revised standards and making them available for all Spanish speaking countries for free on IFAC website.	Ongoing	СТСС	International Department

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
		In august 2021 IAASB Handbook (2016-2017) was published on IFAC website.			
41.	Ongoing	Continue to monitor and review of all new and amended pronouncements issued by the IAASB. The International Department reports to the Technical Department on all news that may affect the profession. The Director of the Technical Department reports in each meeting of the C TÉCNICA on these news and the C TÉCNICA decides on the action to be taken (translation, drafting, etc.).	As required	DI	C T and ICJCE Representative at AcE Auditing Working Party
42.	October 2012	Continue to translate and adopt new and/or amended ISREs, ISAEs and ISRSs.	Ongoing	СТ	ID and CT
43.	As adopted	Continue to support implementation of IAASB pronouncements via education programs when new or revised standards are published.	Ongoing	DG	DI
44.	Ongoing	Continue to establish and maintain Action Plans to support ongoing convergence with IAASB pronouncements. This includes review of the implementation of the Action Plan to date and preparation of the Action Plan for future activities as necessary.	Ongoing	DG	DI
Review	v of ICJCE's Con	ppliance Information			
45.	Ongoing	Frequently update ICJCE Parts 1 and 2 of the Compliance Program (questionnaires) to measure and assess progress achieved with regards to SMO 3. Once updated inform IFAC Compliance staff about the updates in order for the Compliance staff to republish updated information.	Ongoing	DI	International Department in collaboration with the other departments involved: Technical and Education Departments

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Action Plan Subject: SMO 4 - IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants
Action Plan Objective: Adopt the revised IESBA Code of Ethics

7 1011011 1	an objective.	Adopt the reviews in each today of Ethice				
#	Start Date	Actions	Completion	Responsibility	Resource	
			Date			

Background

The ICJCE, as stated in the audit law, has the responsibility together with the other professional corporations for drafting the auditing, quality control and ethics standards (except independence requirements that are stated by Law and in which development PAOs do not participate), which are approved and published by ICAC. The adoption of IESBA Code as the Spanish Ethics standards for accountants is not the responsibility of the ICJCE, and the ethics standards applicable to the whole profession are still to be developed and published by the ICAC. In the meanwhile, in 2007 the ICJCE adopted the general principles of a former version of the International Ethics and Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Code of Ethics. The ICJCE Code of Ethics include the general principles of Part A of the IESBA Ethics Code. Independence requirements applicable to auditors are regulated by Law and included in the Audit Law (Law 22/2015). Part C is not applicable to our members in public practice.

In order to set the Spanish Ethics standards, in September 2012, a Working Group where ICAC and the three professional corporations participated, was set up. Our proposal to the ICAC was to adapt the IESBA Code with the amendments needed according to the Spanish legal framework (except for independence requirements sections 290 and 291 and Part C). Regarding the effective date, the objective was that the code entry into force in 2014, so that it would be applicable to reports issued in 2015 on 2014 annual accounts. However, this Working Group stopped its activity in 2013 and the ICAC has not expressed interest in its continuity since, currently, the main objective is the development of the new legal framework and its implementation.

The publication of the new EU audit framework and the further adoption in Spain by the approval of a new audit law (see general background), has significantly changed the independence framework of European auditors including more restrictive provisions applicable to PIE auditors. In this regard, in Spain, the legislator has transposed the EU Directive and adapted the Spanish law to the Regulation, which is, in general terms, more restrictive than the IESBA Code regarding independence requirements. Furthermore, the Spanish regulator has expanded the application of the independence requirements included in the EU regulation for PIE to relatives and other connected with the auditor. The President of the ICJCE together with other representatives, has met ICAC in several occasions to discuss the transposition of the EU audit reform using, as a basis, the IESBA Code. Currently the Audit law states that ethics standards include, at least, the principles of professional competence and due care; integrity and objectivity. These principles are pending to be developed by the Working Group in order to set the Spanish Ethics standards. The principles of confidentiality and professional secrecy are developed throughout the Law.

In October 2012 a memorandum of Understanding was signed with IFAC, Federación Argentina de Colegios de Contadores profesionales and Instituto Mexicano de Contadores Públicos, to start a formal process of translation of all IESBA standards and other pronouncements and guidance. Translations of IESBA Code and related changes are performed by the ICJCE following the IberAm action plan. In January 2019, the IberAm agreement finished and currently the ICJCE performs the translation of the ISAs and other IAASB and IESBA pronouncements under a translation agreement signed in 2019. In December 2020 the translation into Spanish of the 2018 International Code of Ethics for professional accountants was published on IFAC's website.

In 2014 the ICJCE set up a new commission (Comisión de Independencia - CI) dealing with the analysis of independence issues. The CI also prepares guidance material, proposes contents to the education department and analyses international developments in this area. In mid-2021 the ICAC set up a working group (WG) on auditors' independence. This WG comprises representatives from the ICAC and the profession and works on issues arising from the application of the Spanish independence rules included in the Law. Since it was created, 4 interpretations have been issued.

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
Establis	sh an Ongoing T	Translation Process of the revised IESBA Code of Ethics and Last Amenda	ments		
46.	June 2015	2015 Workplan includes the translation of Changes to the Code addressing Non-Assurance Services	Translation Completed June 2016 Review to be completed by February 2018 Completed July 2018	DG IberAm ExCom	ID TD IberAm RevCom
47.	Q3 2016	 Translation of IESBA Guidance: Ethical considerations relating to audit fee setting in the context of fee pressure Translation of Changes to the Code Responding to NOCLAR Translation of Changes to the Code addressing Long Association 	May 2016 1st semester 2018 Completed August 2018 1st semester 2018 Completed December 2020	DG IberAm ExCom	ID TD IberAm RevCom

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
48.	December 2018	 Since the publication of the last Action Plan the following translations have been completed International Code of Ethics - 2018 Final Pronouncement: Revisions to the Code Pertaining to the Offering and Accepting of Inducements Alignment of part 4B of the code to ISAE 3000 (revised) 2018 Handbook of the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including international independence standards) Objectivity of Engagement Quality Reviewer and Other Appropriate Reviewers Revisions to the Code to Promote the Role and Mindset Expected of Professional Accountants 	October 2019 January 2020 June 2020 December 2020 July 2022 July 2022	DG	DI ID
49.	October 2022	 Quality management-related conforming amendments to the Revisions to the definitions of listed entity and public interest entity in the code Revisions to the fee-related provisions of the code Revisions to the non-assurance service provisions of the code 	1 st half 2023 1 st half 2023 December 2022 December 2022	DG	DI ID
Review	of the Translation	on and Adaptation to the National Environment			
50.	April 2014	During 2014 the ICJCE tried to encourage ICAC to restart the work of the Working Group for drafting the Spanish Ethics standards However, due to the new priorities, which are the completion of the new legal framework implementation including the new quality management standards, this project is delayed.	Not defined	CI	CI

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource			
Formal A	Formal Adoption and Publication of the Code of Ethics							
51.	2018	Although in a first analysis we consider that the Spanish legislation is more restrictive than the IESBA Code (regarding independence of auditors), after the translation into Spanish of the restructured IESBA Code (2018) we will perform a detailed analysis to determine differences with the national requirements and based on this analysis we will decide on the next steps.	Translation expected to be finished in January 2019	DG General Assembly	AcE Ethics WP Member Staff of the DT Law consultant			
Education	on and Promoti	on						
52.	Ongoing	Hold regular presentations on the ICJCE Code of Ethics in Congresses and other education events since the beginning of the project and until the estimated effective date of the ICJCE Code. As part of these activities, ICJCE organises throughout all the year conferences and seminars where the ethical standards are discussed, in addition, in every regional branch we celebrate the Auditors' Day where the members of the regional boards and the President of the ICJCE present news affecting the members of the ICJCE.	Ongoing	Organizer Committee	DT Technical Department			
53.	Since December 2011	Incorporate presentations and workshops about the new requirements on Independence of the new Audit Law in the annual CPD program for ICJCE members (please See SMO 2).	2017 and 2018 Completed	Education Department of the ICJCE, CI	ICJCE Technical Department Staff			
54.	November 2008	Communication Department of ICJCE to prepare a permanent section in the Technical Publications and in the monthly e-news. The members of the CI or representatives at Accountancy Europe (AcE) will provide their input to this activity.	Ongoing	Communication Department of the ICJCE	Staff of the Communication Department			
55.	Ongoing	Communication Department of ICJCE to develop articles about Ethics for the economic press. The members of the CI or representatives at AcE will provide their input to this activity.	Ongoing	Communication Department of the ICJCE	Staff of the Communication Department			

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource			
Maintair	Maintaining Ongoing Processes							
56.	From January 2010	Continue to adopt for our members and support the implementation of IESBA pronouncements. As part of this, ICJCE will continue to review, translate and adopt new and amended pronouncements and to frequently update the prequalification and CPD programs. ICJCE will also undertake frequent review of the implementation of the Action Plan to date and updating the Action Plan for future activities as necessary. Any update or change to the Code will be analyzed and will follow the above stated process to be adopted by the ICJCE.	Ongoing	CI Council	AcEEthics WP Member, Technical Department Staff of the ICJCE, Law consultant			
Review	of ICJCE's Com	pliance Information						
57.	Ongoing	Frequently update ICJCE Parts 1 and 2 of Compliance Program (questionnaires) to measure and assess progress achieved with regards to SMO 4. Once updated inform IFAC Compliance staff about the updates in order for the Compliance staff to republish updated information.	Ongoing	International Affairs Department of the ICJCE	International Department in collaboration with the Technical and Quality Assurance Commission, Education Commission, Public Sector Committee and. Legal department of the ICJCE			

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Action Plan Subject:
Action Plan Objective:

SMO 5 – International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements Issued by the IPSASB Continue to use best endeavors to promote the use of IPSASB in the Public Sector

# Start Date Actions		nsibility Resource
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Background

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the adoption of the Public Sector Accounting Standards. We do not have a responsibility for the adoption of public Sector Accounting Standards.

Besides the measures addressed to the promotion of the use of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the ICJCE has adopted during this period communication and pressure proactive measures addressed to public institutions, universities, press and public administrations in order to make audit of local public sector institutions compulsory. We are also promoting this issue in our congresses.

Further the creation in 2012 of a new Public Sector Commission (CSP) the ICJCE has been very active in the Public Sector Audit. In February 2014 a Resolution of the General State Comptroller (IGAE) was published announcing the process of adoption of ISA to the Public Sector Audit. In 2018 the ICJCE became a member of the IGAE commission responsible for the adoption of ISAs. In 2019 a Resolution of the General Comptroller of the State Administration (IGAE) approving the new PS Auditing Standards adapted to the I2016 NIA-ES. This is an ongoing process and currently the Commission is in the process of adaptation of the Quality Management standards.

We have participated in the preparation and publication of studies about audit of local governments in Spain (link to the executive summary in English here).

The European process to the adoption of European Public Sector Accounting standards has been another key issue. The ICJCE has always promoted the use of IPSAs and a member of the ICJCE Public Sector Committee participates in their translation into Spanish. Translation of IPSAS into Spanish is leaded by the Universidad de Zaragoza. The adoption of these new standards and their convergence to IPSAs as well as the process of preparation and endorsement is now an important project in which we are involved through AcE and its Public Sector Group, in which a member of the Public Sector Commission of the ICJCE participates. The EUROSTAT Office of the EU (which is the directorate dealing with the adoption of EPSAs – European IPSAs) met in December 2021. As a part of the documentation, a structure of the Spanish National Public Sector Accounting Standard was distributed. (link to the document)

Promoting the use of IPSASB in the Public Sector

58.	Ongoing	Continue to keep the members of the CSP updated by sending all new standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPASB) to them and asking for comments to the ED."	Ongoing	Member of the CSP who is also member of AcE Public Sector Working Party	DI to prepare updated information
59.	September 2011	The CPD offer of the ICJCE includes PS audit and accounting	Ongoing	DG CF	DF EA

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource			
Review	Review of ICJCE's Compliance Information							
60.	Ongoing	Frequently update ICJCE Parts 1 and 2 of the Compliance Program (questionnaires) to measure and assess progress achieved with regards to SMO 5. Once updated inform IFAC Compliance staff about the updates in order for the Compliance staff to republish updated information.	Ongoing	International Affairs Department	International Department in collaboration with the other departments involved: Technical and Education Departments			

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Action Plan Subject:

SMO 6 - Investigation and Discipline Incorporate all SMO 6 requirements into ICJCE I&D system and promote these requirements Action Plan Objective:

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource		
Background							
ICAC is responsible for the I&D system for the whole accountancy profession. The ICAC I&D system complies with SMO 6 The ICJCE has also developed mechanisms for investigating and disciplining its members to ensure their activities comply with the Constitution and internal rules of the professional body							
Council, adequat internal	In June2016 a new Constitution has been approved by the General Assembly of the ICJCE which clarifies the role of the Ethics Committee of the ICJCE, of the Council, the relationship with the ICAC in case of severe breach by one of ICJCE members and the sanctioning system. All these provisions will be developed adequately by the internal rules. However, the Constitution shall be approved by the Government to entry into force. In the meanwhile, 1982 Constitution and internal rules remain in force. After the approval of the New Constitution the ICJCE I&D system will be almost fully compliant with SMO 6. There have not been changes in this issue since the last action plan update						
Ensure	that all Require	ements of SMO 6 are Incorporated in the I&D System of ICJCE					
61.	Ongoing	Establish a framework of relations with the regulator, ICAC regarding the discipline over the members of the ICJCE applied by the ICJCE. Note: The new regulation of the audit law and the new Constitution of the ICJCE provides with a framework on communications of the investigations initiated internally by the ICJCE or the sanctions imposed by the ICJCE over its members	Delayed until the New Constitution	Board Council	Legal Department of the ICJCE CND		
62.	June 2016	Post the New Constitution of the ICJCE on our website and inform about the approval process by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness	Ongoing	Council CEO	Comm. Dept		
Review of ICJCE's Compliance Information							
63.	Ongoing	Frequently update ICJCE Parts 1 and 2 of the Compliance Program (questionnaires) to measure and assess progress achieved concerning SMO 6. Once updated inform IFAC Compliance staff about the updates in order for the Compliance staff to republish updated information.	Ongoing	International Affairs Department	International Department in collaboration with the other departments involved:		

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
					Technical and Education Departments

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Action Plan Subject: SMO 7 – International Financial Reporting Standards and Other Pronouncements Issued by the IASB Continue to use best endeavors to assists on the implementation of IFRS

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
General	olidated financi	al statements of listed entities are prepared under International Financial Reports by the ICJCE asked for a subsidiary regime for IFRS but it was nelated to the adoption of IFRS15 and (partially) IFRS 9.			
Using E	Best Endeavors	s to Assist in the Implementation of IFRS			
64.	Ongoing	Participate in the debates and provide comments to International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) on the new and amended standards through our participation in AcE Working groups and directly to IASB.	Ongoing	СТ	Representatives at AcE Working Parties dealing with accounting issues
65.	Ongoing	Inform our members on the new publications of IASB in our website and in our technical publications.	Ongoing	DI	DC
66.	Ongoing	Continue the dialogue with ICAC to ensure that the national accounting standards do not depart from principles included in IFRSs. Binding consultations to ICAC are made to ensure a proper application of national accounting principles.	Ongoing	СТ	DT
67.	Ongoing	Help members in practice who audit listed entities through direct consultations to the staff of the Technical department. In this regard the ICJCE is in permanent contact with the CNMV (Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores- Stock Exchange Supervisor) in order to coordinate and collaborate in the issuance of documents and guides. Since 2012 the ICJCE has a seat in the Advisory Council of the CNMV.	Ongoing	СТ	DT

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#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource			
68.	Ongoing	Ensure that all members in practice have the adequate knowledge of IFRS through the organization of CPD courses on the new standards and the update of the access programs.	Ongoing	CF	DT DF			
Review	Review of ICJCE's Compliance Information							
69.	Ongoing	Frequently update ICJCE Parts 1 and 2 of the Compliance Program (questionnaires) to measure and assess progress achieved with regards to SMO 7. Once updated inform IFAC Compliance staff about the updates in order for the Compliance staff to republish updated information.	Ongoing	International Affairs Department	International Department in collaboration with the other departments involved: Technical and Education Departments			

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