



Argentina: CIPPEC, Monitoring Campaign Finances at the 2011 Elections
Project Adviser: Steve Ettinger

Budget and Timeline: A Grant Agreement between PTF and CIPPEC in the amount of \$40,000 was signed on February 24, 2011. The project is to be implemented between May and December 2011. The project cost is \$50,000, of which CIPPEC will put up \$10,000. The first tranche of \$15,000 was disbursed on February 28, 2011.

Background and Objectives: Argentina has recently enacted legislation to make both primary and general elections almost entirely public funded, and this project will monitor the implementation of that legislation the first time it will be applied, during the 2011 elections. The main cost item is broadcast media, so the project will focus on the allocation of time for political advertisements on radio and television, as well as on financial reporting by the parties. These are high profile issues, especially as the legislation was passed without support from opposition parties, who were suspicious of how it would be implemented. This law has the potential for reducing the corrupting influence of money in politics, but if carried out in a biased way by the administration, could also undermine faith in the electoral system. CIPPEC, as the premier think tank in Argentina, is well suited to carry out this project. They have received three PTF grants in the past, as well as four grants from FONTRA, and have carried all of them out well.

Activities and Current Project Status (March 31, 2011): Starting in May, 2011, the team will look at the experiences of similar reforms in Mexico, Chile and Brazil, and will design its monitoring methodology. The primary campaigns begin on July 15, with the primaries themselves on August 14, so that month will involve intense monitoring of those campaigns. A report will be produced on that experience, which will serve as the basis for any modifications in the monitoring of the October 23 general election, for which the campaign begins on September 19.