

Improving the effectiveness of public spending through the appropriate use of digital technologies in the Costa Rican public sector



III. That the Executive Branch, exercising its power to efficiently manage public resources, must ensure that public institutions collaborate with each other in the search for and implementation of information technology and technological advancement solutions.

IV. That the Executive Branch, in exercising its authority to direct government matters, and the Ministries of Science, Technology and Telecommunications and Finance, as their respective supervisors in matters of digital governance and resource allocation, must seek the necessary measures to leverage the scope of their authority over public affairs in the most efficient and timely manner.

Therefore, they issue the following

## **DIRECTIVE**

### **"IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC SPENDING THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE USE OF**

### **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE COSTA RICAN PUBLIC SECTOR**

**Article 1** - The Central Administration and the Decentralized Administration are hereby ordered and instructed to take the necessary technical and financial measures to plan, specify, and implement technological solutions in line with national reality. In all cases, the institution must maximize the use of technological solutions already available, or seek appropriate alternatives that are as cost-effective as possible.

#### **Article sheet**

**Article 2°-** The Central Administration is ordered and the Decentralized Administration is instructed not to initiate new processes for the construction of data *centers*

In the case of those processes already initiated, which are not awarded or which are not yet in the execution and construction stage, the heads of the institutions, in the exercise of their powers and according to the respective legal framework, must carry out a review of the actions taken, to determine whether, in the specific case, the execution of the administrative act is in accordance with the principles of efficiency, effectiveness, timeliness

and convenience, as well as whether such expenditure is reasonable and proportional in order to satisfy the public interest.

Instead, the aforementioned institutions must take measures to self-manage and maintain their data on their own infrastructure or, depending on institutional needs, explore market options and contract managed service options for hosting and managing their server infrastructure.

Inter-institutional cooperation agreements may also be signed to meet such needs.

#### **Article sheet**

**Article 3º-** The heads of the Central and Decentralized Administration will be responsible for the implementation and application of the provisions of this guideline.

#### **Article sheet**

**Article 4º-** The Digital Governance Directorate of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications is established as responsible for monitoring the provisions of this guideline.

#### **Article sheet**

**Article 5º-** Public institutions whose commercial activity includes the provision of telecommunications services available to the public, as well as all financial entities that require it due to their commercial activity, shall be excepted from the provisions of this Directive, in both cases upon the issuance of a reasoned and justified administrative act, as well as any other institution that has a specific mandate from a higher standard to act contrary to the provisions of the previous articles.

#### **Article sheet**

