This is a study that was a part of a major comparative survey research effort, which culminated in the volume, Cultura política en torno a los gobiernos locales y la descentralización en America Central, and was carried out in four Central American countries, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. The survey involved interviews with 5,323 people from the four countries, distributed as follows: Guatemala 1,197; El Salvador 1,450; Nicaragua 1,248; and Costa Rica 1,428.

For the case of Costa Rica, the 1,428 respondents were selected through a national, probabilistic, stratified, multistage sample, with a margin of sampling error of ± 2.6 and a confidence level of 95%.

The questionnaire interview time averaged 45 minutes. The interviews were all in person, conducted in a face-to-face, targeting the voting age non-institutionalized adult population (18 years of age and older).