Océano — Colombia's Comptroller-General Big-Data Platform That Mapped 8.7 Million Public Contracts and Found 45 Signed With Dead People

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Colombia

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Colombia's supreme audit institution built Océano to cross-match public-contract, company and debtor data. Its first year (2019) covered 8.68 million contracts and flagged 45 contracts with dead people, 119 barred contractors and contracting 'networks' in 32.5% of spending.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-11

Contraloría General de la República (CGR), Colombia — accessed 2026-11-11

El Espectador — Contraloría found 45 state contracts with dead people (Oct 2019) — accessed 2026-11-11

La Silla Vacía — fact-check of Océano's findings (Dec 2019) — accessed 2026-11-11

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