WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CORRUPTION CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COUNTRY?

I believe the biggest challenge is the weakness of the state. In the last poll carried out by Proética, Peruvians said that corruption was the biggest problem facing the country, above poverty or unemployment. But at the same time, tolerance to petty corruption is increasing. The idea that paying a bribe is normal or inevitable because that is the way the state functions, and that politicians are all corrupt and will always be corrupt, increases people’s disinterest in engaging in public affairs. Impunity is gaining ground. The inefficient channels to denounce corruption, the failure of the authorities to enforce the law, and the public’s lack of confidence in the rule of law sheds light on a society that is aware of corruption but too tired to fight it.

WHAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROÉTICA ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Over the last two years we have helped build an anti-corruption network across the country. We believe that with a trained ‘elite’, that understands how the state functions, where corruption is most likely to occur, and the importance of transparency, will be able to diminish or even eradicate corruption from their local governments, little by little. We began this adventure with our National Anti-Corruption School, aimed at journalists, students and NGOs from all over the country. We offer them a very comprehensive training programme and then they return home with a small working grant. A team of young professionals at Proética provides them with technical assistance to support their work because we know that their task is not simple, and that it’s easy to become disconnected when you come up against problems. We help them to stay connected and integrated and to learn that integrity is possible.