



## Regional Cooperation

EUROSociAL II has a strong regional or multi-country component. CIJ Regional actions are defined as ones that involve a significant subset of countries in the region.

In this regard, the Programme recognises that, in spite of the rich heterogeneity of Latin America, there are interests, problems and challenges common to certain countries which can be dealt with more effectively through joint initiatives. This is where EUROSociAL contributes all of its added value, by joining these initiatives or promoting them. Regional cooperation not only makes it possible to highlight and promote crucial matters on the regional agenda and within regional networks, and therefore to encourage south-south cooperation, it also expands the scope of European and triangular contribution so that European contributions in one country can be extended to others.



### Strategic association with other stakeholders:

In regional initiatives, the role of strategic partners, particularly members of the EUROSociAL Steering Committee (ECLAC, OECD Development Centre and the EU-LAC Foundation) is very important. They co-lead some cross-cutting (meetings with the EU-LAC Foundation) and sectoral actions (ECLAC is the main partner in the Social Policies area); they contribute studies (such as those of ECLAC in the areas of Social Policies, Public Finance and Regional Development); or they lead stimulating peer-to-peer reviews (OECD Development Centre).

### Main regional advances

In addition to the assistance between countries stemming from regional activities, the most important shared deliverables adopted regionally (by several countries) are the following:

#### Justice

- Three regional protocols were prepared that have enabled the development of common lines and priorities in the area of gender-based violence. These protocols cover investigation, attention to victims and coordination between public prosecutor's offices, government ministries and ministries of justice.
- The Regional Guide for Public Defender's Offices in Attention to Incarcerated Persons was approved within the framework of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender's (AIDEF).
- Regional rules have been adopted in the area of socio-occupational reintegration of incarcerated persons, as have inter-agency coordination protocols and ones with companies within the framework of the COMJIB.
- With regard to Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms, a platform has been developed with a Latin American Resource Map and a common conceptual framework has been adopted for drawing up national plans.
- Regional model to structure access to the law, legal guidance and aid services.

#### Democratic governance

- Design of a regional model for measuring transparency and access to public information, and an archive management model, within the framework of the Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA).
- Preparation of recommendations and guidelines on combating corruption which were adopted by regional justice networks, tax agencies and supreme audit institutions.

#### Regional development

- Within the framework of the Regional Development Network: Study on national strategies and policies for territorial cohesion in LA and comparability of sub-national statistics in LA (ECLAC).

#### Public finance

- Creation of Accounting and Tax Support Centres between universities and tax agencies within the framework of the Tax Education Network.

#### Citizen security

- Regional model of Violence and Crime Prevention Policies with a comprehensive approach.
- Regional Policy Model in Juvenile Justice.

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## La rich regional/national dynamic in EUROsociAL

All the regional deliverables and outcomes described have given rise to direct advising projects supported by the Programme to the most committed countries for implementation at the national level.

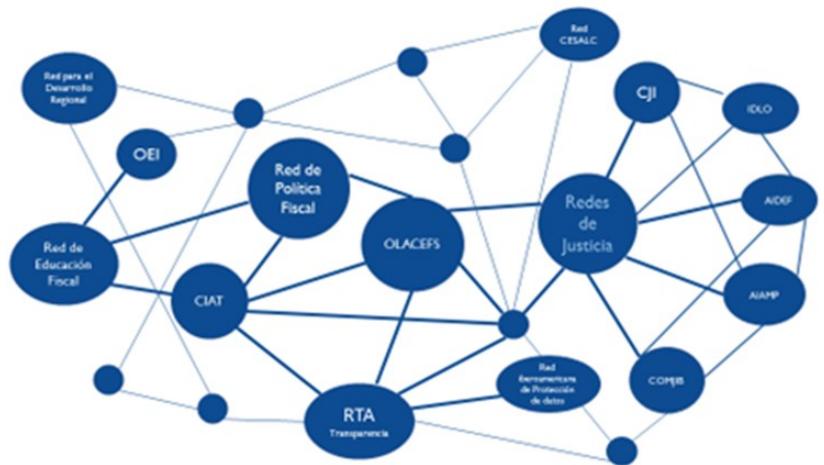
One of the great assets of the Programme is this dual regional/national dynamic. EUROsociAL promotes policy dialogue at both the collective and bilateral level, and these levels provide mutual feedback: The regional approach is coordinated with and receives feedback from the national approach (bilateral support). In this way, the regional deliverables and collaborative work between countries enhance national policies; and, in reverse, bilateral actions and their progress and results in each country enrich the policy dialogue at the regional level.

The programme supports this dialogue and learning not only through reflection and debate but also by supporting progress in the construction of common responses, such as strategic frames of reference for public policies at the regional level; the adoption of agreements, declarations or joint lines; the creation of common protocols, etc. The ultimate goal of all this is to support individual responses that represent changes at the national level. These may progress from implementation of the agreements to creative adaptation in a country of elements or practices from other countries detected in regional exchanges.

In short, EUROsociAL has been working on problems common to various countries by promoting debates and reflections, driving principles and common lines between them, etc., while, at the same time, adapting itself to the context, times and situation of each country and supporting its progress in the reform of public policies through advising and bilateral experience exchanges.

## Work with Networks:

Although many of the regional actions are accomplished outside formal networks by bringing together countries with common interests, some of the most noteworthy regional actions are carried out in partnership with networks. EUROsociAL has worked intensely with 14 networks. Some are natural partners of the Programme, and others are collaborators and supported by EUROsociAL. In any case, their agendas and interests coincide to a great extent with those of EUROsociAL, and the Programme and the networks strengthen each other mutually: on the one hand, the networks put themes of strategic interest for EUROsociAL at the top of their agendas, and, on the other, the Programme supports the implementation and launch of agreements within the networks.



### Associated network:

CIAT: Inter-American Centre for Tax Administrations; COMJIB, Conference of Ministries of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries; IDLO, International Development Law Organization; OEI, Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture.

### External networks supported and promoted by EUROsociAL:

AIAMP: Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries; AIDF, Inter-American Association of Public Defenders; CESALC, Economic and Social Councils from Latin America and Caribbean; CJI, Ibero-American Judicial Summit; OLACEFS, Latin American and Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions; Ibero-American Tax Policy Network.

(Further information in the sheet and specific report on networks)

## Regional publications: (see all of these at: <http://goo.gl/QVX3HM>)

- > **Calidad de los servicios de largo plazo para personas adultas mayores con dependencia** [Quality of long-term services for dependent elderly persons]
- > **Calidad del cuidado y la educación para la primera infancia en América Latina** [Quality of early-childhood care and education in Latin America]
- > **Prácticas eficaces en materia de reducción de la reincidencia y de la reinserción social de los reclusos, en particular desde la perspectiva del trabajo** [Effective practices for reducing recidivism and for social reintegration of incarcerated persons, particular from the perspective of work]
- > **Sistemas de denuncias y de protección de denunciantes de corrupción en América Latina y Europa** [System for reporting corruption and protecting corruption whistleblowers in Latin America and Europe]
- > **Regional Development and Policy in Europe: contributions for the debate**
- > **Mecanismos alternativos de solución de conflictos en América Latina en el ámbito de la justicia comunitaria** [Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in Latin America in the area of community justice]
- > **Guía Regional para la Defensa Pública y la Protección Integral de las Personas Privadas de Libertad** [Regional Guide to Public Defense and Comprehensive Protection of Incarcerated Persons]

