

EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS

EUROsociAL as a tool to share European experiences



EUROsociAL has proven to be a privileged way to share the community acquis and the EU member states' heritage with Latin American countries. Europe shares values, problems and challenges with this region, and both also share the aspiration for the reduction of inequalities and social cohesion. Both member states policies and the Community policy have elements that have created interest and inspired Latin American policies, bringing in relevant changes.

Even though the economic and financial turmoil that Europe is suffering —and the structural policies adopted to rectify it— has weakened the European social model, it has also allowed to strengthen its importance. This model has created a protection network against turmoil, based in a solid social protection system, in social dialogue and in the guarantee of an array of social rights. From a historical perspective, the EU social model has been a driving force for the economic development of Europe, for its political stability and in the process of European construction.

The identification of the main European experiences shared within the framework of EUROsociAL is a result of an attentive listening to the demands of Latin American institutions and an understanding of the context of the country. In all, more than 20 European experiences have been adapted in Latin America. Below, some of the main experiences are

detailed, according to the intervention areas of the Programme.

JUSTICE

LABOUR INSERTION FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS: THE MODEL OF CIRE FROM CATALONIA

The CIRE (Centre for Reinsertion Initiatives) from Catalonia is an international reference for labour-insertion for incarcerated persons. It has ten working centres that are responsible for socio-professional training of prisoners. Colombia, Panama, Peru and Uruguay have incorporated inputs from this model for the development of productive (Peru, Panama), regulative models (Uruguay and Peru) and socio-professional training plans (Uruguay).

THE COMPREHENSIVE MODEL FOR THE ATTENTION FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE VICTIMS FROM SPAIN

The comprehensive law for gender-based violence in Spain (2004), differently from other legislations that only address penal aspects, has a multidisciplinary approach (medical, educative, judicial and

police). It has allowed the visibility of violence against women as a State problem. This law has established specific legal institutions (Violence against women courts, Government Delegation, National Observatory, etc.). Furthermore, medical, judicial and police action protocols have been established.

This policy is becoming a reference for the comprehensive attention to gender-based violence victims in Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay.

SECURITY

EUROPEAN POLICY FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The prevention of violence and crime, with a special take in youth prevention, has been one of the main topics in the institutional architecture of EU since the Maastricht Treaty (1993). This European framework has guided the regional efforts in Latin America for the development of a Regional Model for Violence Prevention. This model comes from an analysis of the Latin American good practices, following the same path from the Amsterdam Treaty, that sets a general framework to develop national policies. The Regional Model has been approved in July 2014, and Costa Rica is already adopting it at the national level.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY: TRIESTE (ITALIA) EXPERIENCE

From the innovative approach from psychiatrist Franco Basaglia, Trieste province has been a pioneer in Europe in the de-institutionalisation processes of the psychiatric patients' care (shutting down mental asylums, patients' social insertion). This experience has inspired Ecuador in the formulation of this national policy for social inclusion for people with disability. The support from EUROsociAL has been implemented in the Santo Domingo de Tsáchilas province, a pilot programme for attention and social inclusion for

people with disability, opening in 2015 the first centre for community mental health in Ecuador.

CROSS-CUTTING COMPETENCIES FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND WORK PLACEMENT: THE EXAMPLES OF SWEDEN AND FRANCE

Cross-cutting competencies are key for social integration and work placement, particularly for the most vulnerable sectors. In Europe, the experiences from the state employment service from France, and Sweden in the development of cross-cutting competencies since secondary education are references. Several Latin American countries are applying them in their social programmes. With the support EUROsociAL, Colombia has added innovations into “Youth in action”, “Social income” (conditioned transferes) and “Enrutate-TU” (Route yourself – accompanying to work). In addition, Chile is introducing the cross-cutting competencies in the offer of the “Más Capaz” (work placement for women) programme and in the system for competence validation and accreditation (“Chile Valora” – Chile values).

EMPLOYMENT

THE EMPLOYMENT SYSTEMS OF FRANCE AND ITALY

In Europe, the national employment services create the foundations of the active employment policies. The employment systems from France and Italy (together with Argentina) have supported the creation of a new national network of the employment services in Colombia. In particular, the operating models of the centres, the models of services provision (information, guidance, training, derivation to other programmes, etc.) and the public-private coordination were defined. In addition, the computing platform for the programmes and the services of the Colombian National Network have been provided.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY POLICY AND THE EU STATE MEMBERS POLICIES

The European experience has shown that if the territorial inequalities are not reduced, it is not possible to achieve a better social and territorial cohesion. In this regard, the European regional policy is inspiring several Latin American countries. Both the characteristics of the community policy (common strategic framework, but policies adapted to regions, specific financial instruments, multi-level governance system, etc.); and the national policies for regional development of the MME (experiences from Italy, Spain, Germany and Croatia) have supported Costa Rica, Colombia, Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru for the progress of their regional development policies.

PUBLIC FINANCE

THE SPANISH TAX AGENCY MODEL

In Spain, the creation of the Tax Agency (Agencia Tributaria - AEAT) in 1992 was a major milestone for the fiscal policy and the improvement in the efficiency of the tax system that has led to a tax revenue increase. AEAT works in two strategic lines: voluntary compliance of the taxpayers (improving the assistance services: the online site, call centres, appointment system, mobile application, etc.), and with the fight against tax fraud, both in prevention and in prosecution of lawbreakers (massive control tools, real estate register model, taxpayers registry, etc.). This model constitutes an international reference and it has been shared with several Latin American countries through EUROsociAL.

HEALTH

MODELS FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE

In Spain, the primary health care (atención primaria en salud - APS) system follows the same model as Scandinavian countries, Italy, Portugal or the United Kingdom. The APS is in the core of the health system, it represents the “access gate”, it implies a comprehensive attention (not only focused on physical areas but also in social and psychological aspects) and it is focused in family and community medicine. The Spanish model has become an international reference, particularly for Latin American countries that have a national health system. This is the case of Colombia that, with the support of EUROsociAL, is implementing a new primary health care model, with a territorial approach.

SOCIAL DIALOGUE

INSTITUCIONALISATION OF THE SOCIAL DIALOGUE THROUGH THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

Social dialogue is a common goal of the UE and its Member states. Historically, it has been associated with the development in social models, and the Economic and Social Councils (ESC) have been key for the institutionalisation of dialogue. The experiences of the ESC from Spain, France, Brazil and EESC, have inspired the ESC from Honduras allowing

the adoption of a law. The European model has also allowed the support of the national pact on education from the Dominican Republic, the conformation of the ESC Network in Latin America and Caribbean, and the preparation of the first social-economic memorandum of the Guatemalan ESC.

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONALITY

TRANSPARENCY POLICY AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom is one of the exemplary countries in terms of transparency, access to public information, and its influence has been particularly important for Chile. The Council for Transparency from Chile has taken as a reference the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) and the “E-Pe-tition” mechanism from the British Government in order to launch the platform “Ideas.Info”, that promotes citizen participation in access to information policies.

INVESTIGATING CRIMES OF CORRUPTION: FINANCE GUARD FROM ITALY

The Finance Guard from Italy is a special police force that develops duties from the judicial police in economical and financial areas. It is a key structure in the fight against tax evasion and economic crimes. Through EUROsociAL, Colombia and Guatemala have become fully familiar with this model, a reference in Europe. Colombia has used these inputs for the launching of the judicial policy and Guatemala has created a Financial Intelligence Unit within the Superintendencia de Tax Administration (Superintendencia de Administración Tributaria - SAT).

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

- Social integration and work placement for incarcerated persons: the social cooperative Giotto de Italia (Brazil).
- Rational use of medications policies from the communities of Madrid and Navarra (Colombia).
- Experiences about elder care in Northern Europe (Chile).
- National System of Professional Skills from United Kingdom (Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay and Peru).
- Protection for corruption whistleblowers: the ALACS (Centres for Legal Aid Against Corruption, in its Spanish acronym) model from Transparency International (Peru, Brazil).
- Houses of Rights from France (Paraguay, Costa Rica).
- FEANTSA (European federation of national organisations working with homeless, in its Spanish acronym) and “Housing first” model (Uruguay, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile and Paraguay).

PUBLICATIONS



- European additions in EUROsociAL. Report on the main European experiences and additions mobilised through the Programme