

YOUTH FOCUS

EUROsociAL boosting policies for young people



Social cohesion comes through social, economic and political inclusion for the countries' youth, and that implies access to social services, employment and social protection, as well as participatory and incidence areas.

Although Latin America has the broadest young generation with a higher rate of access to education and information, it is also the generation with a lowest rate of employment and participation access, and it involves serious risks of social exclusion.

EUROsociAL does not lose sight of the importance of youth needs for the present and the future of Latin America, and of the ability of public policies to boost effective advances in their opportunities and rights, and thus promoting social cohesion.

In this regard, the Programme collaborates supporting governments in the region policies and initiatives that help improving the inclusion of youth into society and the defence and recognition of their rights and interests in order to build more cohesive societies in the future.

SUPPORTED PUBLIC POLICIES

The Programme has supported policies or initiatives from the governments in the region, focusing its efforts mainly in the action areas more directly related with the youth policies as, on the one side, justice and citizen security areas in terms of both access to law as in the area of youth in conflict with law and

violence prevention, and on the other, educational initiatives to prevent early school leaving and the specific promotion of youth employment.

JUSTICE

The Programme has paid particular attention to the youth area in its different working lines: on the one side, for a better knowledge and access to their rights and conflict resolution for youth, and on the other, for youngsters in conflict with the law. In this last area, work has particularly been made in the role of public defender's offices to protect the rights of young incarcerated people and in terms of social rehabilitation.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE, DISSEMINATION OF RIGHTS AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND ALTERNATE MECHANISMS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION (MASC)

- In **Brazil**, actions have been made for raising awareness and a protocol for the reduction of barriers to access to justice for young blacks. In addition, work has been made in a good practice guide for combating racism within the work of community justice stakeholders. A House of Rights in Cidade de Deus was founded, where assistance is given to youth population.
- In **Uruguay**, there has been collaboration for raising awareness and give training to justice

professionals for mediation in the area of juvenile criminal justice.

- In **Argentina**, work is being made for the implementation of the National Plan for the Access to Justice with the awareness campaign "No te cuelgues" (Don't hang up) to disseminate the right to education for young people in vulnerable conditions.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICES AND REHABILITATION OF INCARCERATED PERSONS

In **Peru**, contributions are being made to the draft of a protocol for public defence regarding access to justice for youth and foreign incarcerated women. In Uruguay and Panamá, there has been collaboration for the drafting of a Strategic Plan for Social Integration and Work Placement for women and youth between 18 and 25 years old in situation of imprisonment, and in Costa Rica the Programme has collaborated in the draft of the National Strategic Plan for Adolescents Rehabilitation.

HEALTH

Regarding the working line about "Equity improvement in the health care systems", it is worth highlighting the help provided for the establishment of family medicine in Colombia that brings an approach focused in the different stages of life, with both physical and social constraints.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

The working line "Strengthening and expansion of comprehensive social protection systems", lays on starting lines for grantees of conditioned transferences programmes, linking them with labour integration.

- **Colombia**: supporting model for labour integration and alliances building with youth business work and training in cross-cutting competencies.
- Review of the "Young protagonists" programme in **Guatemala**.
- Structuring of the strategic programme for youth employment and stability in the five-year-plan of **El Salvador**.

CITIZEN SECURITY

EUROSociAL is backing the implementation of public policies within the “Violence prevention” working line, mainly focused in youth violence through improvements in the stakeholders coordination processes and the prevention and treatment in cases of adolescents in conflict with the law. The following initiatives should be pointed out:

- ▶ In **Colombia**, the inter-institutional coordination of the national policy for youth violence prevention.
- ▶ In **Peru**, the creation of tools to draft a juvenile criminal law.
- ▶ In **Costa Rica**, the drafting of an action protocol for juvenile criminal proceedings processes under the principles of restorative justice.
- ▶ In **Ecuador**, the methodological support to the Ministry Programme for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime in Priority Attention Youth.
- ▶ In **Uruguay**, the implementation of the Local Plan for Local Integrated Management of Citizen Security with changes in the police action pattern in terms of juvenile violence prevention.
- ▶ In the **regional area**: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panamá and Peru have received information regarding the European systems for juvenile justice.

EDUCATION

The EUROsociAL work in the “Academic failure prevention, attendance and reincorporation” line is focused, mainly, in school-leaving prevention and in the transition school-work. The work of the Programme in the following areas is worth underlining:

- ▶ In the **regional area**: policy definition in youth and employment areas, with a focus on the school-work transition in collaboration with ILO. In this initiative, Ecuador, Uruguay, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Paraguay and Costa Rica are participating.
- ▶ In **Costa Rica**, the implementation of the “Education for affectivity and comprehensive sexuality” programme.
- ▶ In **Ecuador**, the launching of Unified Baccalaureate in Sciences and Technical for youth and adults.



- ▶ In **Paraguay**, the implementation of a strategy for retention in school at national level.
- ▶ In **Uruguay**, the implementation of the integrated and unified information and alert system from the national public education system.
- ▶ In **Colombia**, the drafting of a management and attention model for rural boarding schools.
- ▶ In **Argentina**, the implementation of Youth Parliament as a feature for retention in school.
- ▶ In **Peru**, the approval of the curriculum framework for basic learning for entrepreneurship and the introduction of cross-cutting competencies.
- ▶ In **Chile**, in the process of approval of the Public Education Act and in the reform of technical-professional education.

EMPLOYMENT

Youth unemployment is one of the main issues that affect young population and feed other exclusion factors. Having youth employment as a target, EUROsociAL supports key issues in the government's agendas that involve the coordination between employment and educational policies:

- ▶ In the **regional area**: a distance teaching platform has been created for continuous training of the Public Employment Services operators (Colombia,

Costa Rica and Peru). Work is also being performed with ILO for the revision of public policies lines for youth employment emphasis on the school-work transition, (Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador), and ILO is developing them in Uruguay and Chile.

- ▶ In **Brazil**, collaboration has been made in the creation of the “e-Social” platform to improve the unified management of contributions and regularisations coming from social security contributions.
- ▶ In **Chile**, works are being performed for the approval of the national framework for professional qualifications and in the “+Capaz” (+Able) programme for labour integration of inactive young people and women.
- ▶ In **Costa Rica**, work is being made in the reform of the service model and the programme management system “Empléate” (Employ yourself) with the implementation of a methodology for soft skills.
- ▶ In **Colombia**, EUROsociAL has collaborated in the creation of the employment services network (agency, service model, management platform, operators training).
- ▶ In **Guatemala**, contributions have been made for the creation of the One-Stop-Shop Municipal Employment System and works are taking place complementarily with the Employment Generation and Vocational Education Programme for Youth.
- ▶ In **Honduras**, collaborations have been carried out with the new model and working system for the Employment National Service.

PUBLICATIONS



- ▶ Youth in EUROsociAL. Report on the addressing of policies for Youth within the Programme
- ▶ Good practices guide for fighting against racism through the Community Stakeholders for Justice and Citizenship in Brazil
- ▶ Change experiences in secondary school focused on policies aimed at rehabilitation and school retention in Latin America and Europe
- ▶ Protocol for the public defence related to the access to justice for youngsters and foreign incarcerated women

PUBLIC FINANCE

The working line “Fiscal education” aims the development, from an early age, of commitment attitudes towards the rules of democratic coexistence.

- ▶ Contributions have been made to the creation of NAF (Centres for Accounting and Tax Support) in universities from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Bolivia, Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay.
- ▶ Formal training in fiscal education in universities and in secondary education in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay has also been fostered.
- ▶ From the regional angle, assessment and monitoring tools have been created, and fiscal education video-games and a television series have been adapted to the context of Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Bolivia and Uruguay.