

NETWORKING

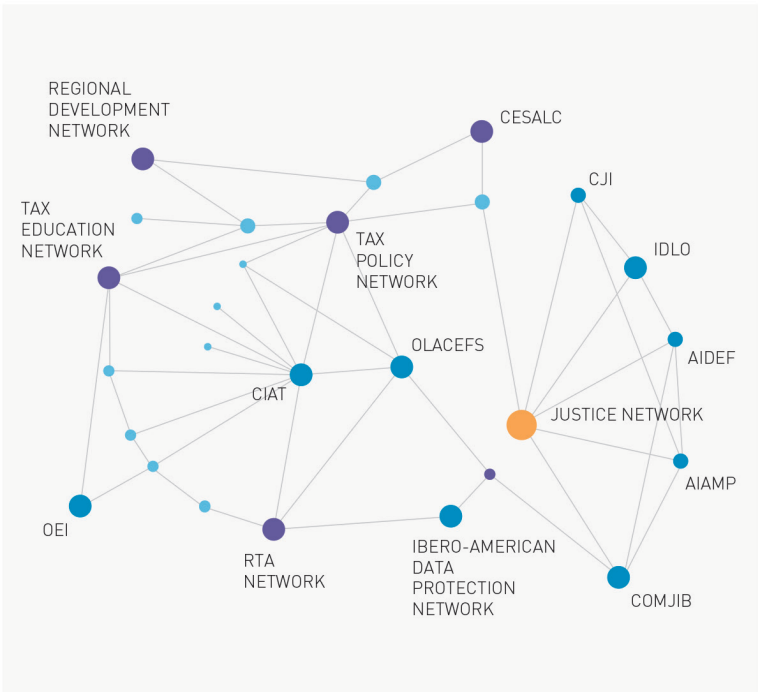
Common challenges and shared responses

Some of the most prominent EUROsocial regional or multi-country actions are carried out in partnership with institutional networks, at the heart of which the policies dialogue and collective learning are promoted. Beyond the debate and thinking that define the forums, within networks working, programmes are boosted with two goals:

On one hand, advancing in the creation of common answers by several countries for a certain challenge, as strategic reference frameworks for public policies at the regional level; joint statements or guidelines, shared standards or protocols, etc. Thus, the Programme joints the regional alignment initiatives that are mushrooming in the region.

On the other hand, we try to support the individual responses that mean changes at the national level, ranging from the implementation of those agreements or peer reviews, to the creative adaptation in a country of elements or practices from other countries detected in the regional exchanges; namely, mutual support. Thus, networks show the power of learning and the peer encouragement.

NETWORKS



● AIAMP Asociación Iberoamericana de Ministerios Públicos; ● AIDEF Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas; ● CESALC Consejos Económicos y Sociales de Latinoamérica y Caribe; ● CIAT Centro Interamericano de Administraciones Tributarias; ● CJI Cumbre Judicial Iberoamericana; ● COMJIB Conferencia de Ministros de Justicia Iberoamericanos; ● IDLO International Development Law Organization; ● OEI Organización de Estados Americanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura; ● OLACEFS Organización Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Entidades Fiscalizadoras Superiores; ● RTA Red de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información

THE ROLE OF EUROPE AND THE SUPPORT TO NETWORKS

EUROsocial is invigorating the Latin American networks work, facilitating their meetings and supporting their work programmes, creating information exchange platforms, contributing with the European expertise and experience in order to provide inputs to the debates and in the creation of shared documents and agreements, and providing assessment at the national level for the subsequent implementation of those agreements.

EUROsocial has also advanced in connecting those networks with their European counterparts. A good example is the successful relation with DGRégio, a member of the Support Group of the Regional Development Network.

EUROsocial has worked with 17 networks, very different, but it is worth highlighting the collaboration with some of them, because of the common products created within them and/or the advances and results supported at national level, as a consequence of the dynamics of the policies dialogues and the exchange of experiences within them.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WHAT IS A NETWORK?

- ▶ It is institutional and inter-governmental: they comprise “peer” public institutions, from different countries.
- ▶ It can embody one part or all the Latin American countries (also from the Caribbean); sometimes, they are Ibero-American or Inter-American. Some of them are international organisations.
- ▶ The members share their problems, experiences and interests regarding a specific public policy: its design, amendment and implementation.
- ▶ They settle common working programmes and boost alignment initiatives (common guidelines and standards), as well as support initiatives for/between the institutions that conform it, fully exploiting the potential of peer learning, emulation and pressure.

TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION ACCESS NETWORK (RTA)

RTA was created in 2011 and it consists on institutions that guarantee the Right to Information in 14 countries. It is a formal space for dialogue and cooperation for the exchange of experiences in this topic, aiding the creation of systems for accountability and strengthening of public management. The support of EUROsocial has resulted in the approval of regional models (of document and archives management) and its implementation in several countries (Colombia, Peru, El Salvador, Honduras, Chile, Mexico and Ecuador); in regional mechanisms for quantifying and evaluating transparency measurements (that are being applied in Honduras); in agreed guidelines regarding political parties transparency; and in the promotion and dissemination of alternate mechanisms for conflicts resolution (that are being applied in Chile, Brazil and Uruguay), among other collective products.

FISCAL EDUCATION NETWORK

Since the first phase of EUROsocial, in 2008, the Network, whose statutes were approved in 2015, has specialised knowledge and learning based in the shared

thought of the fiscal and educational institutions from 14 Latin American and 5 EU countries. Some of its achievements are the “regionalisation” of good practices in formal and non-formal education, and the spread in the region of the Centres for Accounting and Tax Support for natural and legal persons with low income level, through an agreement (Carta de Lima and NAF Subnet) between university and Tax Administrations from Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Bolivia, Honduras and Ecuador.

TAX POLICY IBERO-AMERICAN NETWORK

Led by the Ibero-American General Secretariat, together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Development Centre of OECD, this Managers and Experts in Tax Policy Network, created in 2011, seeks to accompany and enable the works in this matter within the framework of the State. This Network has meant a regional way to channel EUROsociAL’s support to member countries, taking several demands into the budgetary reforms, institutionalisation of the assessment and tax reforms.

LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK OF POLICIES FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Supported by EUROsociAL since its early stages in 2013, its importance has been acknowledged in the Heads of State and of Government of the European Union and ECLAC Summit, in Brussels in 2015. The member countries share a place for convergence policies and territorial development dialogue and EUROsociAL adds inputs to the dialogue, from the wide European experience in this area. In addition to the Latin American member countries, a support group adds OECD and ECLAC, and the Directorate-General for Regional Development of the European Commission and the European Committee of Regions. Some of the initial products of the Network are: a Guatemala-Mexico bi-national plan for cross-border cooperation or the peer review in Mexico and Uruguay.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILS NETWORK IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The CESALC (in its Spanish acronym) Network led by the Conselho de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social de Brazil, was promoted by EUROsociAL in 2013 with the technical support of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Spanish ESC. Its goal is sharing for advancing in the common challenge of the ESC in the region: achieving a higher level of institutionalism, improving their technical and operational ability and achieving greater impact.

EUROSOCIAL AND JUSTICE NETWORKS

One of the recurring itineraries that show the regional/national dynamic of the EUROsociAL Programme is in the justice area. For instance, common protocols and regional guides between some countries are prepared, and afterwards they are implemented at national level, generating direct counseling supported by the Programme for their implementation in the most involved countries.

Collaboration with AIAMP (International Association of Public Ministries) has existed for the approval of regional and national protocols of investigation and crimes of gender-based violence protocols; with AIDDEF (Inter-American Association of Public Defenders), for a regional guide for public defence and comprehensive protection for incarcerated persons (quoted in the 2021 Resolution of the OAS General Assembly); in monitoring guides for human rights in places of deprivation of liberty; in a regional guide for good practices in the enforcement of the United Nations rules about the rights of female prisoners (the Bangkok Rules) and in a Regional Guide for Penitentiary Law.

The Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries, COMJIB, as a partner of EUROsociAL Programme, has led the actions of fight against gender-based violence and against financial corruption. In addition, EUROsociAL and COMJIB have also collaborated in encouraging agreements at ministerial level that constitute regional standards or rules for social integration and work placement of incarcerated persons—in particular, for women—and for the inter-institutional coordination or with companies. Some projects that have received support are: the Strategic Plan for social integration and work placement for women and youth between 18 and 25 years old that are imprisoned in Uruguay; or regulations for the insertion of incarcerated persons in the penitentiary system of Peru, among others. The last area with a regional project by EUROsociAL and COMJIB has been Alternative Means of Conflict Resolution, MASC. A regional virtual platform has been designed and started up for the divulgation of MASC resources among citizens and a common conceptual map has been approved for the preparation of national strategic plans, that that has been prepared and approved in seven countries.

NETWORK OF NETWORKS TO FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

EUROSociAL boosts a initiative conformed by some of the formal networks that are partners of the Programme, in financial matters (CIAT, Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations and OLACEFS, Latin American and Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions), and in legal matters (AIAMP - Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, Ibero-American Judiciary Summit, IAJC - Inter-American Juridical Committee and COMJIB). The whole framework and each institution independently have approved a series of recommendations for the inter-institutional coordination in the fight against corruption, that afterwards are transferred into protocols at national level.

OTHER NETWORKS

EFUS (European Forum for Urban Security), that has driven a regional model for social prevention of violence; OIS (Organization of Ibero-American States), working in systems of professional qualifications and in education; IDLO (International Development Law Organization), that has promoted a model of Houses of Rights and its spreading throughout Latin America; and the Public Budget International Association (ASIP), are also international networks and institutions involved in the Programme as partners. Finally, it is worth mentioning the collaboration of EUROsociAL with civil society networks as FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless) or ALACS (International Transparency).

PUBLICATIONS



- ▶ Regional work of EUROsociAL with networks. Report about the Programme with networks
- ▶ Regional Development and Policy in Europe: Contributions for the debate in Latin America
- ▶ Regional Guide for the Public Defence and the Comprehensive Protection of Incarcerated Persons



- ▶ Model of Archives of the Transparency and Information Access Network
- ▶ National strategies and policies for territorial cohesion. Case studies in Latin America and Europe