



Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM)s are recognised internationally as tools that provide rapid responses to generally uncomplicated conflicts. Because they are mechanisms that are close at hand, available free of charge or at low cost, ADRMs benefit the most vulnerable populations first. Moreover, they avoid lengthy judicial processes, reduce litigiousness, and contribute to the building of more peaceful and cohesive societies. In Latin America, ADRMs are a priority in the justice agenda, both in Ministries of Justice and Supreme Courts.

EUROSociAL has launched an action which aims to promote the improvement of **ADRM)s** in the region by focusing on three components:

- Preparation and implementation of **strategic plans at the national level**, following definition of a common conceptual framework among the participating countries.
- Improvement of **mechanisms aimed at community justice** and ADRMs in the area of criminal law.
- Awareness-raising campaigns to **boost the use of ADRMs**.

Working for



Regional

- Virtual platform to raise awareness of ADRM resources among citizens.
- Common conceptual framework to create national strategic plans.

Argentina

- National Strategic Plan (approved and implemented) and unification of practices in community penal mediation.

Brazil

- Strategic National Plan and a new community justice programme.

Chile

- Model for penal mediation for adults (in operation).

Costa Rica

- Strategic National Plan (approved and implemented).
- Strategy for raising awareness about ADRMs.

Honduras

- Strategic National Plan (approved on an intersectoral basis).
- Penal Conciliation Centres throughout the country: protocol for management of penal conciliation, conciliation centre model and strategy for raising awareness.

Nicaragua

- Communication campaign about the usefulness and benefits of ADRMs.
- Strategic Nacional Plan (approved)

Paraguay

- Strategic National Plan (approved on an intersectoral basis).
- Penal mediation regulation (approved).

Peru

- Strategic National Plan (approved on an intersectoral basis).
- Progressive application of extra-judicial conciliation in the country: monitoring system and national campaign for social communication.

Uruguay

- Introduction of ADRMs into the Childhood and Adolescence Code.
- Community Justice Programme.

Coordinating partner:



Operating partner:





Uruguay gets inspired from the Brazilian experience in community justice and mediation

EUROsociAL is supporting Uruguay in designing and launching a National Programme for Community Justice and Mediation inspired by the Brazilian model. The role of the programme was a key factor in making the Brazilian experience known and providing inputs to the Uruguayan process, which is specifically interested in the inter-agency coordination mechanisms included in the Brazilian programme.

From regional to national: working with a common framework adapted to each country

Within the framework of a first regional conference on ADRMs, the participating countries embraced a common conceptual framework to create national strategic plans, which were subsequently developed at the national level. Currently, Argentina, Honduras, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Peru have adopted their national plans, and Brazil has made progress in the design of its plan. An example that illustrates the regional dimension of EUROsociAL and its application on the ground according to the characteristics and needs of each country.



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In parallel, the participating countries are contributing with the "Latin American ADRM map", virtual platform promoted by the Supreme Court of Argentina that serves as a tool for learning about best practices in the region and improving the national plans.

A story of change

Promoting the use of ADRMs to solve people's day-to-day problems.

In Nicaragua, citizens have access to mechanisms that enable them to resolve the disputes that arise in their daily lives without resorting to formal judicial processes. Caty Rodriguez and Rosalía Rodriguez, two friends with a dispute over an unpaid debt, used mediation to avoid going to court. According to Sandra Gutierrez, the mediator from the Alternative Conflict Resolution Directorate, "it is an effective and economical mechanism that avoids wasting time in court". "You two will resolve your own dispute", she explained at the beginning of the mediation process, which concluded in an agreement. Both parties showed their satisfaction: "I solved my problem and I feel secure", said Caty. A way of bringing justice closer to people and building confidence in institutions.



To support Nicaragua in its efforts to promote the use of ADRMs, EUROsociAL created a strategy for raising awareness using a participatory methodology. According to magistrate Alba Luz Ramos, President of the Supreme Court of Justice, thanks to this support "we will be able to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and this will improve social cohesion in several ways. First, because citizens have the opportunity to take the lead in resolving their differences and disagreements, which will contribute to a culture of peace. (...) "and second because resolving issues that are amenable to mediation or conciliation conserves resources that the population and the State itself can redirect to social growth and productive human development".

Numbers:

➤ 164 Participating Institutions
<http://goo.gl/HRw0E5>

➤ 156 Latin American Institutions
<http://goo.gl/Zt5CkA>

➤ 7 European Institutions
<http://goo.gl/LzMTIv>

➤ 929 Total Participants

➤ 94 Latin American Experts

➤ 29 European Experts

○ Approx. 4% Total Programme Spending

Publications:



Mecanismos alternativos de solução de conflitos na América Latina no âmbito da Justiça comunitária [Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Latin America in the area of community justice]
><http://bit.ly/1BMYcQa>



www.eurosocial-ii.eu

