



The problem of employment—as perceived through the lens of **youth unemployment, underemployment, job instability and, in general terms, the difficulty of obtaining a good job**—has become a central issue of public debate in Latin America.

Several government initiatives highlight active employment policies as an essential vector of social cohesion, as they contribute to **reducing disparities related to inequality by increasing employment opportunities for the most vulnerable persons and groups**. These policies are basically aimed at improving the employability of disadvantaged persons; promoting the transparency, equity and efficiency of the job market via intermediation mechanisms; addressing the requirements of employer sectors through guidance and qualification actions for the labour supply; and removing barriers associated with gender, age and geographic conditions, among others.

EUROSociAL is supporting two government agendas for innovation and improvement of employment policies:

Working lines: Modernisation and improvement of public employment offices, improving the functionality of tools used to search for employment and job information in order to increase their quality and effectiveness. **Integrated frameworks of professional qualification** (catalogues, certifications of skills and training offering) to adapt vocational training to the requirements of the production system, improve job information and guidance, and integrate vocational training offerings.

Working for



Regional

- Distance training platform for continuous training of operators of Public Employment Offices (Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru).

Brazil

- e-Social platform to improve unified management processes for contributions and regularisation of labour relations.

Chile

- Approval of the national framework of professional qualification.
- + Capaz (Presidential programme for job placement of unemployed youth and women).

Colombia

- Creation of a network of employment offices (agency, service model, management platform, training of operators).

Costa Rica

- Reform of the service model and management system of the Empléate Programme.
- Integration and application in the Empléate Programme of a methodology to develop soft skills.
- Review of the policy for promoting youth employment.

El Salvador

- Structuring of the strategic programme for youth employment and employability within the framework of the Five-Year-Plan.

Guatemala

- Creation of the system of Municipal Single Points of Contact for Promotion of Employment (VUMEs).

Honduras

- New model and system of the Honduran National Employment Service - SENAHEH.
- Inauguration of the Pilot Employment Service Centre and facilitation of the school-work transition of youth beneficiaries of the Bono Vida Mejor subsidy in the Central District.

Peru

- Establishment of the Single Point of Contact system to promote employment and establishment of a distance training platform.

Paraguay, Ecuador and Peru

- Establishment of catalogues of professional profiles and their institutional structure by law.

Coordinating partner:



Operational partners:



PROGRAMA FINANCIADO POR LA UNIÓN EUROPEA



An example of triangulation: Italy and Argentina transfer their experience to Colombia

EUROsociAL supported the **Colombian Ministry of Labour** in the creation of a **new employment management system and model** that integrates the labour mediation function with services related to active employment policies. This new system facilitated the expansion of the network of stakeholders who intervene in providing this service, involving both the public and private sectors.

The support of EUROsociAL was channelled, on the one hand, through the Argentine **Ministry of Labour and Social Security**, which transferred its experience using the *Employment Services Network IT Platform*. Argentina has a successful eight-year track record since the installation of this platform and currently has a network of 550 centres up and running. On the other hand, the collaboration of **Italia Lavoro**, an agency of the Italian Ministry of Labour, which transferred this initiative to Argentina in the first place, was key, along with the training of the staff of the Colombian Ministry of Labour to work with it.

The Employment Offices Network in all of Colombia is coordinated using this platform and has gone from 33 offices in 2013 to 350 today. Around two million persons have already registered and received assistance from the offices with respect to over 506,000 vacancies posted by 35,000 companies.

Empléate Programme, an opportunity for the "NEET" in Costa Rica



12.3% of the Costa Rican youth are not studying or working. This is the "NEET" phenomenon that affects many Latin American countries, Costa Rica among them. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTSS) launched the "Empléate" programme designed for young people aged 17 to 24 living in poverty and at social risk who are unemployed but want to enter the labour market. EUROsociAL is supporting this programme in different components.

Mario Loaiza, a Costa Rican youth with a grant from the Empléate Programme said *"this is a launch pad for getting a job, being able to pay for my education and pursuing my dream of studying Law"*.

Complementarity with the Programme for generating employment and vocational education for youth in Guatemala, a bilateral European cooperation initiative

This programme will contribute to improving the living conditions of Guatemalan youth aged 14 to 29, as it will increase their technical job skills and enable them to obtain stable employment. It will also help young people to create micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and to take advantage of business opportunities in the national and foreign market. The Programme has the support of the Ministries of Finance, Education and Labour, the Technological Training Institute (Intercap), and the private sector.

One of the expected results is the establishment of at least 10 single point of contact employment services in different departments of the country to provide employment information, guidance and mediation services. Given the synergies with the working lines of EUROsociAL, the EU Delegation in Guatemala has promoted complementarity between both programmes to achieve this result.

Numbers:



76 Participating Institutions
<http://goo.gl/pC68iN>



60 Latin American Institutions
<http://goo.gl/wOLSMc>



12 European Institutions
<http://goo.gl/9UCfcr>



549 Total Participants



68 Latin American Experts



40 European Experts



Approx. 9.6% Total Programme Spending

Publications:



Sistemas Nacionales de Cualificación Profesional Acción Formativa
[National Systems of Professional Qualification Training Action]
> <http://bit.ly/1zmldDt>

Análisis comparado de la Situación del SNCP en ocho países latinoamericanos [Comparative analysis of the situation of the NSPQ in eight Latin American countries]
> <http://bit.ly/111kOLC>



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