

COORDINATION OF STAKEHOLDERS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

Improving the coordination of national and local governments in the management of citizen security

EUROsociAL supports the policy to prevent violence in Panama in one of its key issues: the coordination of the stakeholders involved in managing citizen security.



Panama has one of the lowest crime rates in the region. However, in recent years it has suffered a gradual increase in the levels of violence, reflected by the perception of insecurity of its citizens. Currently, 29.8% of Panamanians believe that security has deteriorated compared to the previous year.

One of the various reasons for this deterioration is the lack of coordination between state and local authorities to prevent violence and for the coordination of responses to the insecurity.

In this regard and within the framework of EUROsociAL, since 2013 the Office for Integral Security (OSEGI) and the Vice-Ministry of Citizen Security have considered that working on the update of the National Prevention Strategy in Panama should be a priority, on two matters. On the one hand, in a work plan focused on coordinating the prevention initiatives in the territory. On the other, in strengthening the technical capacities of the teams responsible for implementing the strategy, both at national and local level.

CITIZEN SECURITY



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

PANAMA



A COORDINATION MODEL BASED ON PEER LEARNING

Based in the European experiences from France, Belgium, Spain, United Kingdom and Italy, the Coordination Model for National and Local Governments in the Management of Citizen Security and Prevention of Violence aims to strengthen the work coordinated by the different levels of government. To do so, cooperation agreements have been drafted aimed at promoting focused plans and programmes, which are coordinated with the National Prevention Strategy, and respond to the territory's needs. The Model and the cooperation agreements are already being implemented and allow for a more efficient use of the resources allocated to prevent violence, with monitoring at a central level.

In the long run, the Coordination Model for National and Local Governments seeks to contribute to the current decentralization process, boosted by the Government of Panama with the Municipal Decentralization Law, through the development of a monitored methodology so that councils can contribute better in the management of citizen security and prevention of violence.



COORDINATION OF STAKEHOLDERS IN COSTA RICA: A COMPREHENSIVE VISION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

Panama is not the only country that has given priority to the coordination of stakeholders to prevent violence in collaboration with EUROSOCIAL. The Vice-Ministry of Peace of Costa Rica has also been working on the coordination of the Public Administration's different organisational structures at the national level to prevent violence. With EUROSOCIAL's support, in 2014 the National Plan to Prevent Violence 2014-2018 was developed, including a methodology to strengthen inter-institutional coordination to prevent violence. EUROSOCIAL has also supported the implementation of the national plan, with a pilot project in the town council of Desamparados, which has one of the highest violence and crime rates in the country.

A proposal is currently being drafted so that the Ministry of Justice and Peace can comply with its mission of "coordinating all the official plans and programmes directly or indirectly linked to prevention." This proposal is laying the foundations for a new inter-institutional coordination model for Costa Rica.

EUROSOCIAL'S SUPPORT ITINERARY

2013.

Support to strengthen the Country's Citizen Security Strategy

- ▶ Diagnosis on the structures working to prevent violence in Panama.
- ▶ Diploma course in the Prevention of Violence.

2014.

Towards a Coordination Model of National and Local Governments for the Management of Citizen Security and Prevention of Violence

- ▶ Focus group and workshops with local prevention committees and local governments.

2015.

Coordination at all levels and implementation of the model

- ▶ Design of the implementation strategy for the Coordination Model and support for its implementation.
- ▶ Design of a road map to create a coordination board for contributors to the Citizen Security and Prevention of Violence strategy for Panama.
- ▶ Support in the update of the Country's Security Strategy.

PUBLICATIONS



▶ Regional model for a Comprehensive Policy to Prevent Violence and Crime

Coordinating Partner



Operating Partners



COMPLEMENTARITY WITH OTHER EU PROGRAMMES

The development of this initiative has been performed in coordination with the SECOPA EU programme (Security Cooperation with Panama), also present in Panama, which has defined additional working lines, which is certainly, an example of joint efforts between different EU institutions that reward their actions in Panama.

Furthermore, work is being undertaken with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to align the tools developed by each of them and for their proper use in Panama, so that the proposed model can be sustained.