

# REGIONAL MODEL TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

## Preventing violence: a common political commitment in the region

EUROsociAL supports the development of the Comprehensive Regional Model for Violence and Crime Prevention, a commitment to boost the prevention policies in Latin America that aims to be adapted at national level.



Violence and crime are some of the main problems affecting Latin American countries. They not only reinforce and extend vulnerability, exclusion and inequality gaps in the region, but they also destroy lives and generations. There is no other aspect in human security as important as the physical integrity that has been affected as a consequence of the high rates of homicide and injury in that hemisphere.

The challenges Latin American governments are facing regarding security are many, but a comprehensive approach to them is required. The insecurity issue is today one of the most important concerns of citizens. According to the Report on Human Development from UNPD 2014, one in three Latin Americans are afraid and 13% of the population in the region has moved because of reasons linked to violence.

In order to face this reality, EUROsociAL has worked on promoting regional spaces for exchange and in the design of a Latin American scheme for policies

to prevent violence and crime with a comprehensive approach, which strengthens the governments' action in the management of security and where the focus is on the people.

As a result of this process, in collaboration with those in charge of Latin American ministries, and through the analysis of public policies on security in the region, a Regional Model for Public Policy was created, designed as a reference guide to orient comprehensive policies to prevent violence and crime in the region.

### CARTAGENA DECLARATION ON VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION

Even though the initiative is not new in this region, it has had the support, interest and collaboration of most Latin American countries and of three international bodies: the United Nations Development

CITIZEN SECURITY



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

REGIONAL



Programme (UNDP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank (WB).

As a result of this cooperation, ministers and deputy ministers of Security and Violence Prevention from Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay, have validated the Regional Model and supported it by signing the Statement on Violence and Crime Prevention, a non-binding declaration, where they commit their political willingness to orient the initiatives on prevention issues according to the principles introduced in the Model.

### FUTURE PROSPECTS

In order to facilitate adapting this Model nationally, the EUROsociAL Programme has designed three operational guides to allow the experts in charge of the management of the prevention policies to have practical tools based on evidence to correctly implement the Model's recommendations. These guides aim at improving the work in the institutionalisation of prevention, focusing on strategies and working on equity and dignity with a gender approach.

Additionally, the Programme supports the Government of Costa Rica in creating a diagnosis of its current prevention policy POLSEPAZ based on the Model's recommendations.

## MAIN FEATURES OF THE MODEL

- ▶ It adds the comprehensive prevention approach from the understanding that violence and crime are multi-causal and multi-dimensional in origin.
- ▶ It recognises the significant efforts and advances in the region in the formation and consolidation of comprehensive prevention policies.
- ▶ It is based on a review of public policies, regulations and studies from all the countries in Latin America and of the best international practices regarding issues to prevent violence and crime.
- ▶ It adds practical elements on the management of violence prevention.

## EUROPEAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY, A REFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA

Violence and crime prevention, with a special feature on juvenile prevention, has been one of the main issues in the institutional architecture of the European Union (EU) from the Maastricht Treaty (1993) to the Lisbon Treaty (2009). Particularly, the Amsterdam Treaty (1997) in its article 29 (K.1) which lays the foundations for the prevention of crime, organised or not, within the EU with a comprehensive approach and through the increase in judiciary and police cooperation at a multi-sectoral and multi-institutional level. The European policy framework has guided regional efforts in Latin America to prepare the Regional Model of Comprehensive Policy for Violence and Crime Prevention. The model follows the same path established by Art. 29 of the Amsterdam Treaty, because it establishes a general framework to develop national public policies.

## VIDEOS



Interviews with the participants in the crime prevention seminar of the 2nd Meeting of the Programme

Coordinating Partner



Operating Partners



## EUROSOCIAL'S SUPPORT ITINERARY

### 2011.

Launch of the regional action

- ▶ El Salvador, first meeting and launch of exchanges between countries about violence prevention, problems and lessons learnt.

### 2013.

Strengthening of spaces for reflection at regional level

- ▶ Panama, second regional meeting: "Social prevention of violence: a commitment from the all of society." Demand for a regional strategy for violence prevention.

### 2014.

Towards a Regional Model of Prevention Policy

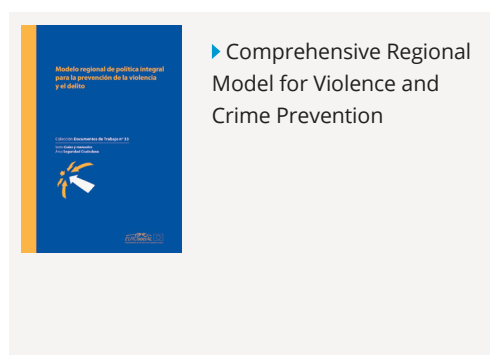
- ▶ Guatemala, third Regional Meeting: "Towards the efficacy of public policies for citizen security in Latin America: multi-sector approach and evidence-based policies". Conceptual framework of the Area for Citizen Security and the Regional Model for a Comprehensive Policy for Violence and Crime Prevention.

### 2015.

Cartagena de Indias Statement and implementation of the regional model

- ▶ Drafting of operational guides that will allow a better implementation of the Model in the Region. Support to implement the recommendations of the model in Costa Rica. Presentation of the model at the highest level.

## PUBLICATIONS



- ▶ Comprehensive Regional Model for Violence and Crime Prevention

## FIRST-HAND

▶ Víctor Barrantes

Deputy Minister for Peace of Costa Rica



"The added value of the exercise carried out by the EUROsociAL Programme is the fact that we think as a region. We understand we have many similarities, [...], and that is why we need to promote the exchange of experiences based on lessons learnt to formulate public policies based on evidence".

## GENDER APPROACH, KEY TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

Evidence shows that an important part of the violence directly affects women in everyday expressions, but also in others with greater impact such as femicide, sexual assault, displacement, forced disappearance and human trafficking. These forms of gender-based violence require a specific approach in the regional and national agendas for security and justice. In particular, it is about insisting on prevention measures, which must be designed taking into account needs, experiences and not only men's points of view, but also women's and girls'.

The regional model of violence prevention promoted by EUROsociAL adds this point of view and raises a series of recommendations that tend to encourage gender equity in prevention policies: guaranteeing that every public policy incorporates a gender approach and removes any discriminatory messages against girls, women and sexual diversity; incentivise studies that cover the different risk factors that generate violence and crime against girls and women; incorporate key stakeholders from society such as religious associations, corporate bodies, trade unions and guilds in specific projects regarding education in human rights and gender equity, among others.

A specific operational guide with the title: *Equity and Dignity with Gender Approach* has been developed to be able to further delve into this topic.