COUNTRY BRIEFING



Colombia



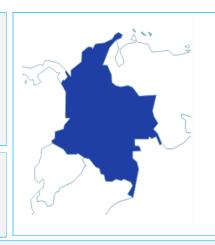
Working for



- The consolidation of monitoring mechanisms for the Ten-Year Health Plan, with support to the new Intersectoral Commission.
- Design of a national programme for rational use of medicines to improve transparency in the prescribing of drugs and to reduce healthcare costs.
- Improved family- and community-centred primary care through design and implementation of the new comprehensive healthcare model.



- Consolidation of the national network of employment offices (350 offices opened, 20,000 companies and 925,000 persons registered).
- Establishment of the new National Agency for employment services.



Social protection

- · Development of a system for monitoring progress in children's rights through the adoption of the comprehensive index.
- Revision of the national childhood care system through a pilot scheme to improve the services provided.
- Preparation (or adoption) of the new UNIDOS strategy to combat poverty, with a rural focus.
- Adoption of a system to measure soft skills in social programmes.
- Formulation of the 2014-2018 National Development Plan with regard to the themes of poverty eradication, social inclusion and income generation.

Public finance

- Changes in pay-as-you-earn systems and income tax and VAT forms.
- Improvements to the regulations of the Directorate of National Taxes and Customs and its tax fraud control procedures.
- Support for design of the IT system for massive taxpayer inspection.
- Support for modernising the budgetary system.

Regional development

 Approval of the implementing regulation of the organic land use lanning Law in relation to the chapter on models of association and inter-agency cooperation between territorial bodies.

Democratic governance

- Approval of the CONPES Comprehensive Anti-corruption Policy document
- Implementation of the Transparency and Access to Public Information Act. Drafting of three regulations for application and support of the training and dissemination strategy.
- Implementation of a pro-ethics registry for private companies.
- Drafting of a law on the criminal responsibility of legal persons in cases of corruption.
- Preparation of a policy framework on whistleblower protection systems.

Education

 Definition of an educational policy for boarding schools (pedagogic model and vulnerable management system) for populations affected by armed conflict.

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• Improved inter-agency work for reintegration for persons deprived of liberty.

Citizen security

- Approval of a CONPES document on the National Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Policy.
- Development of best practices in restorative juvenile justice.



Colombia is a member of the Transparency and Public Access to Information Network of the Latin American Regional Development Network.

Consortium led by

Co-ordinating Partners

















"Transferred" experiences

In the "triangular" cooperation processes that arise in EUROsociAL, Colombia has shared relevant experiences with other countries in the region. The following, among others, are worth mentioning:

- The new public employment service, with Costa Rica and Guatemala.
- Metropolis management, with Bolivia.
- The institutional model for transparency, with Paraguay.
- Its experience in legal guidance for victims of gender-based violence, with Argentina and Honduras.
- The national childcare system, with Costa Rica.
- The national strategy to combat extreme poverty, with Costa Rica.
- The national system for monitoring health equity, with Uruguay and Peru.
- The national archives, within the framework of the RTA
- The General Royalties System, with various countries in the region.
- The policy for rational use of medicines and the preparation of independent information, with El Salvador.

Working with...

Main participating institutions

- Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC-Colombia), focal point and coordinating partner
- Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF)
- National Agency for Overcoming Extreme Poverty (ANSPE)
- National Planning Department
- Social Welfare Department
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Employment
- Secretariat of Transparency Secretaría

Complementarity:

EUROsociAL and the bilateral anti-corruption and transparency cooperation project (ACTUE) are working in a coordinated and complimentary manner with both the Secretariat of Transparency and the Ministry of Health to support rational use of medicines.



Consolidation of the national network of employment offices

The Ministry of Labour has undertaken a key reform to improve the functioning of the labour market in Colombia: creation of a **new employment management system that** integrates the labour mediation function with services related to active employment policies (information, guidance, vocational training, etc.). This is a **new approach by the Public Employment Offices for improving job placement for the most vulnerable groups. EUROsociAL contributed to the definition of this new model** (with an operating manual for Public Employment Centres) and the implementation of **tools for their operation** (an IT platform for managing employment policies). **After just a few months in operation, the impact of this model is notable: the number of offices grew from 33 to 350, 20,000 businesses and 925,000 persons have registered, 125,000 of whom have found work.**

Approval of the comprehensive anti-corruption policy

Colombia has made combating corruption a strategic political priority. In addition to the commitments acquired on an international level (OECD, MESICIC) regarding the priorities of the National Development Plan and preparation of the new Anti-Corruption Statute in 2011, the Government changed direction in its anti-corruption strategy and created the Secretariat of Transparency. One of its tasks was to design and implement a Comprehensive Anti-Corruption Policy, a process EUROsociAL started supporting in 2012. To do this, it facilitated exchanges with Brazil because of its experience in the area of business collaboration in the fight against corruption. EUROsociAL later provided experiences of other Latin American countries and the EU, particularly regarding protection of whistleblowers and the criminal responsibility of legal persons. These experiences, compiled in three documents, were a direct source of inspiration for preparation of the CONPES comprehensive anti-corruption policy document, which was approved in 2013.

Publications:



Análisis comparado de la situación del SNCP en ocho países latinoamericanos [Comparative analysis of the situation of the SNCP in eight Latin American countries]

> http://bit.ly/IwvSPjN

Responsabilidad penal y administrativa de las personas jurídicas [Criminal and administrative responsibility of legal persons]

> http://bit.ly/1pHt2Pz

Sistemas de denuncias y de protección de denunciantes [Corruption reporting and whistleblower protection systems]

> http://bit.ly/12pcyXb



