

ACTION SHEET



Measurement model: a compass to show the way

EUROSociAL+ and the TAIN develop a model to quantify progress and shortcomings in the right of access to information.

Line of action:
GOOD GOVERNANCE

Policy Area:
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Scope :
REGIONAL



THE TRANSPARENCY NETWORK

The Transparency and Access to Information Network (TAIN) was created in 2011 with the aim of promoting transparency policies and building institutional capacity. The TAIN is a space for dialogue and cooperation that promotes the exchange of experiences for the design, implementation and evaluation of transparency and access to information policies.

The Network is made up of 32 institutions from 17 countries in Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay) as well as Spain.

SUPPORT FROM EUROSOCIAL+

The EUROSociAL+ Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union has contributed to improving the TAIN by promoting the sharing of good practices among institutions in Latin America and the EU. In particular, through its democratic governance area, EUROSociAL+ has supported the development of three key models for enhancing the right to access information in the region: a document and archive management model, a model for measuring results, and a methodology for the mainstream application of the gender approach.

These initiatives have been implemented through collaborative strategies between

EUROSociAL+ and the TAIN based on peer-to-peer exchange, a demand-driven approach and a focus on results.

The actions are in line with the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16.6 "develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels" and 16.10 "ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements".

MEASUREMENT MODEL

The Measurement Model enables the evolution of different aspects of the transparency and access to information policy to be quantified. It is a tool to identify challenges, deficits and strengths in the transparency policies of the countries that make up the TAIN, as well as providing comparable information.

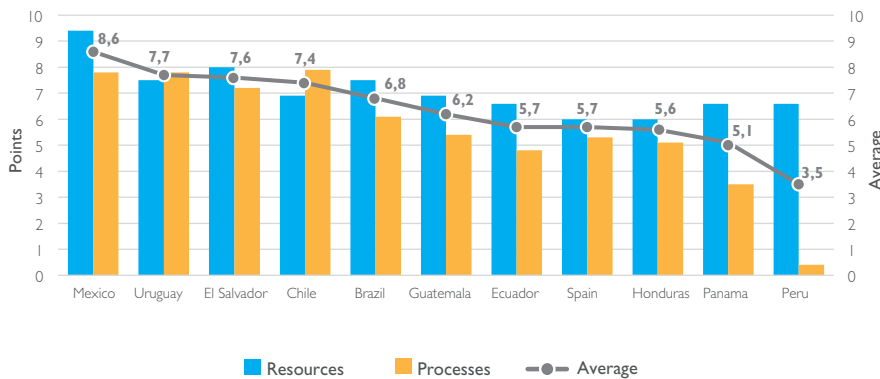
The model was developed within the framework of EUROSociAL with the technical support from expert Gloria de la Fuente and the Sustentia Social Innovation Consultancy, with the participation of a number of TAIN institutions.

So far, resource and process dimensions have been measured in **11** countries

Consortium led by



RESOURCES AND PROCESSES DIMENSIONS BY COUNTRY



The Model has three Dimensions:

- Dimension 1, *Resources* (Rc): indicators that measure recognition (subdimension 1) and the guarantee to the right of access to information (subdimension 2).
- Dimension 2, *Processes* (Pr): indicators referring to the level of inclusion and performance of guarantor functions (subdimension 1), promoters (subdimension 2) and the installation of basic capacities in the entities involved (subdimension 3).
- Dimension 3, *Results* (Rs): indicators that calibrate results in the implementation of transparency policies and the right of access to information. This dimension was not measured.

In this phase of the model design, the methodology and tools of the Resources and Processes Dimensions were tested. The objectives of this revision phase have been:

- Test systematisation of the model.
- Evaluate the measurement made by each country.
- Make recommendations for the future.
- Resolve doubts to ensure uniform interpretation and measurement.
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences.

1. Revised entities

Eleven countries have participated so far: Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay.

2. Methodology

The following steps have been followed:

- Reception of information and verifiers from different member countries.
- Analysis of the results, checking coherence between the score and the comments

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provided by the entities, evaluation criteria and guidelines on sources established in the model.

- Evaluation of the results according to the analysis and registration sent. Along with the scores assigned by each entity, a corrective proposal has been added according to the established evaluation criteria and the evidence provided.

3. Findings

There is a high level of compliance with formal aspects of the Access to Information Laws, among TAIN countries, a trend that is weaker in terms of implementation. In short, the measurement model detects:

- A high level of recognition of the right and its guarantee.
- Average levels in the guarantor function.
- Deficiency in the promoter function.
- Low level of installation of capacities in the entities obliged to comply with the Law.

Within the **Resources** dimension:

- A higher level of Recognition of the Right is observed, either at the constitutional level or in specific laws. Likewise, high standards are evident in the establishment

of jurisprudence, protocols and procedures for the development of the Right of Access to Information.

- In this regard, the laws with the highest standards are found in Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil and Uruguay, because their regulations cover a broad spectrum of entities.
- Additionally, exceptions to the access to information stipulated by these regulations are consistent with those established by the OAS Model Law and are rigorously defined.
- A lower level is observed with respect to the Guarantee of the Right, which includes which contents can be accessed under the Access Law and the existence and independence of the guarantor body.

Within the **Processes** dimension:

- There is evidence of greater development of the guarantor function in terms of the supervision and surveillance carried out by the guarantor body to the entities (in terms of both in Active and Passive Transparency).
- There are shortcomings in the promoter function of the Right to Access to Information, in terms of training and dissemination, both in the entities and the community.
- Chile, Uruguay, Mexico and El Salvador are identified as benchmarks, since there has been widespread implementation of the guarantor function —through a broad inspection and surveillance of the entities— and of the promoter function —through training programmes and dissemination, both in the entities and in the community.
- The implementation of institutional capacities in the Entities Obligated to Comply with the Law is evidenced as a general deficit in all countries.

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