



Evaluation of the Mexican Alert Mechanism for Gender Violence against Women (AVGM)

This mechanism is designed as a tool to protect the human rights of women and is considered to be the only one of its kind in the world. EUROsocial undertook an evaluation and recommended improvements to strengthen its efficiency.




In Mexico, every year about 3,000 women die because they are women. Ciudad Juarez is the most representative region due to the high number of women murdered, it is where the first analyses took place and recognition of the phenomenon as "femicide/femicide" has gradually spread across Latin America and Europe. After the phenomenon received this name, a process began in Mexico to understand and categorise the crime, with specific and organic laws developed aimed at preventing and combating gender violence.

The Alert Mechanism for Gender Violence against Women (AVGM), which is the first of

its kind in Latin America, was established under the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence (LGAM-VLV) that was adopted in 2007. Its objective is "to guarantee the safety of women and girls, the cessation of violence against them and/or to eliminate the inequalities caused by legislation or public policy that violates their human rights". It consists of "the set of governmental emergency actions to confront and eradicate feminicidal violence in a specific territory, whether exercised by individuals or by the community itself".


After the mechanism had been in operation for several years, the Mexican National



MEXICO

Area:
**GENDER EQUALITY
POLICIES**

Line of action:
PHYSICAL AUTONOMY



Women's Institute (INMUJERES) asked the EUROsocial+ European Union cooperation programme for technical assistance in carrying out an assessment of the AVGM and the responsibilities of its main actors, as well as to prepare proposals for improvement in the future.

The work methodology consisted of accompaniment through technical assistance from experts; interviews, workshops and visits to exchange experiences in Spain and Finland.

The evaluation addressed the planning issues for the AVGM mechanism, its organisation, the institutional coordination, the methodologies adopted by the academic team that deploys the alert and how it is executed in the local authorities, as well as how the procedure is operated, stage by stage. This process allowed strengths and weaknesses to be identified, and to provide INMUJERES and CONAVIM with general recommendations for improvement towards the future.

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The evaluation focused on the mechanism's regulatory, institutional, functional and financial arrangements and their contribution to its effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The mechanism's consistency, considered as the relationship between its objectives and operation, replaced the traditional relevance criterion.

The experts examined a sample of the warning actions implemented in the system, identifying more than 100 actions to be carried out by the local authorities, most without a supplementary budget.

The recommendations focused on defining the roles and responsibilities of CONAVIM and INMUJERES and the coordination mechanisms between the different administrative levels in Mexico, from the federal level, to the states and local authorities.

REASONS FOR SUCCESS

The evaluation made it possible to highlight the AVGM's strengths, such as: that it is a creative mechanism that promotes contextualised responses from the federal bodies to serious problems relating to violence against women. This is particularly relevant, given the context of Mexico's federalised structure, where the autonomy and independence of the federated states can curb the application of public policies. The AVGM facilitates direct dialogue between the federal institutions in charge of promoting and protecting women's rights and the competent state authorities.

During the visits, links were established with the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for the Comprehensive Monitoring System in cases of Gender Violence (VIOGEN), aimed at providing systematised follow-up to women victims after their first complaint and with the Finnish Ministry of Justice, which manages integrated information bases.

The seminar to present the evaluation made it possible to promote the following among the key actors in the process: the need to intensify the links between the AVGM's responsible authorities and the relevant territories (municipalities), and dialogue with civil society organisations.

The recommendations include the need to review the AVGM's procedures so that it can achieve its initial objective of adopting short-term measures to respond to



emergency situations, a role that it cannot fulfil at present. Another highlighted element has been the need to invest in institutional resources at the level of the objectives and needs required to promote the alert; this includes financial resources, technical teams, specialists and training for the actors.

This diagnosis will be presented to the new federal Mexican administration elected

in 2019. The evaluation was delivered by the previous administration with an institutional commitment to improving public policy to combat femicide and gender violence.

This action will be the basis of complementary interactions with the Spotlight Initiative programme against femicide, funded by the European Union and launched by the United Nations system, in particular UN Women.

EUROSOCIAL SUPPORT ITINERARY

- ▶ Technical assistance by experts to design the research and evaluation methodology that allowed the Alert Mechanism for Gender Violence against Women to be analysed. The methodology took into account the different stages contemplated by the regulations in order to identify gaps and obstacles for its improvement. Organisation of interviews, visits to different states and workshops to collect information with members of the multilevel institutions.
- ▶ Visit to two countries to exchange experiences: Spain and Finland.

Publications



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"Mexico, Alert Mechanism for Gender Violence Against Women". Evaluation Report on the Mechanism's Operation Joint publication 2018

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