WHICH AREAS ARE INVOLVED?

- Reduction in barriers to access to justice, especially for the most vulnerable groups.
- Models for innovation in access to justice, for which work is being carried out on implementing open justice policies and in defining and implementing restorative justice programmes.
- Alternative Conflict Resolution Mechanisms —ACRM—.
- Strengthening the Public Defender’s Powers.
- The reintegration of persons deprived of liberty into society and the labour market.

EUROSOCIAL+ EXPERIENCES

Access to justice is a hallmark of the EUROSOCIAL+ Programme, as it constitutes one of the dimensions in the fight against exclusion and inequalities, which is reflected in the distance between the formal perfection of the rules, which establish values and principles, and the actual reality, in which they cannot be enforced and made effective.

EUROSOCIAL+ relies on existing judicial and/or extra judicial institutional mechanisms to try to eliminate barriers or obstacles to accessing justice and promotes innovations that can give better results, such as restorative justice or open justice.

From the beginning, the 2005 EUROSOCIAL Programme has accompanied the countries in the region and the regional networks in initially defining the Brasilia Rules for Access to Justice for people in vulnerable conditions and in disseminating and implementing them at the national level in Latin American countries. All this has contributed to improving access to justice and guaranteeing the protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable conditions.

REGIONAL ACTIONS

At the regional level, regional collaboration spaces and platforms are supported, oriented towards the exchange of experiences, the

WHICH SDG DOES IT INVOLVE?

1. Zero poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality and women’s empowerment
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Life on land
14. Life below water
15. Peace justice and strong institutions
16. Partnerships for the goals
17. Innovation

EUROPEAN CONSENSUS

Initiative: Good governance, democracy, the rule of law and human rights

“The EU and its Member States will promote efficient, independent, open and responsible justice systems to promote the rule of law. They will continue to support the reform of justice in order to promote access to justice for all, and in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable groups of society.”
generation of knowledge, and the construction of shared agendas and models. Actions promoted:

- With the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF): a regional diagnosis on institutional violence in prisons and a regional guide that designs a model for the registration, communication and comprehensive Care System for Victims of Institutional Prison Violence (SIRCAIVI) has been supported.
- Regional diagnosis on legal assistance to migrants, refugees and foreigners for the subsequent definition of a model and a regional legal assistance network for migrants.
- The Ibero-American Judicial Summit is working on the implementation of the 100 Brasilia Rules. A manual to define public policies for access to justice has been prepared along with a commented guide on the Brasilia Rules and an awareness and communication strategy. The Ibero-American Judicial Summit is being accompanied in the implementation of the Road Map to turn the 100 Brasilia Rules into an International Agreement.
- With the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP), progress is being made on revising and updating the “Santiago Guidelines” on the protection of victims and witnesses.

**ACTIONS BY COUNTRIES**

- **ARGENTINA**: Protocol for receiving complaints regarding gender violence in the Public Prosecutor’s Office ATAJOS offices. The Office of the National Ombudsman is being accompanied in improving access to justice in ESCR and in the implementation of SIRCAIVI.
- **BOLIVIA**: definition of the Institutional Strategic Plan by the Plurinational Public Defender Service.
- **BRAZIL**: implementation of the community mediation undertaken by the Community Justice Programme of the Justice Tribunal for the Federal District and Territories of Brazil.
- **COLOMBIA**: the mechanism for access to justice for rural women implemented within the framework of the Integral Rural Reform defined in the Peace Agreements with the Ministry of Justice and Law (MJD), Juvenile Restorative Justice Programme with the MJD and the national Attorney General’s Office.
- **COSTA RICA**: Open Justice Plan of the Judiciary and definition of an Open Public Defence. Implementation of SIRCAIVI and an inter-institutional mechanism to promote the social integration of young people in the Juvenile Criminal Sanction Enforcement stage.
- **CHILE**: the Public Criminal Defender is collaborating in: Defence protocol for migrants and foreigners and specialised defence protocol for women deprived of freedom; implementation of SIRCAIVI; specialised defence model for early hours of detention in police stations.
- **HONDURAS**: design and implementation of the institutional policy on access to justice in compliance with the 100 Brasilia Rules.
- **ECUADOR**: designing and implementing the Restorative Juvenile Justice system.
- **PANAMA**: with the Judicial Body, the Panamanian Ministry of the Interior and the Attorney General’s Office, support in defining a Strategic Plan and in drafting the Alternative Method for Conflict Resolution Bill. Protocol for the referral of cases from the Civil, Criminal, Family and Juvenile and Adolescence Jurisdictions to the Alternative Conflict Resolution Mediation Centres.
- **URUGUAY**: model for care for victims and witnesses with the Prosecutor’s Office and with INISA, definition of a new model with alternative measures for young criminal law offenders.
- **PERU**: Judicial Participation Protocol for Children and Adolescents and an application manual.

**NETWORKS**

- AIDEF Inter-American Association of Public Defenders
- Ibero-American Judicial Summit (CJI)
- AIAMP Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutor’s Offices
- COM.JIB: Conference of Ibero-American Ministers of Justice

Together with COPOLAD II and EL PAECTO, in 2019 the bi-regional Conference was held on developing the use of alternative measures to prison, and in 2020 a Webinar was held on alternative measures to prison in times of Covid-19 and challenges for the future.