



COUNTRY DOSSIER

FEBRUARY 2021

ACTION BY THE EUROsociAL+ PROGRAMME

IN SYNERGY WITH FOCAL POINTS



EUROPEAN UNION
UNION DELEGATION

The EU has enjoyed a long relationship of cooperation with the Dominican Republic. Our focus point in the country is the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development Vice Ministry for International Cooperation.



PROMOTING COUNTRY DIALOGUE

The process of building a space for dialogue began in December 2019 with a set of preparatory meetings after the country's formal entry into the programme. In January and December 2020, two round-table meetings were held with high-level representatives and technical staff from ten national institutions, together with the OECD and the UNDP Regional Centre. The accompaniment and dialogue during the prioritisation and coordination of actions has continued into 2021.

COUNTRY PLANNING

The National Development Strategy 2030 operates on four strategic strands:

- ▶ At a national level, with efficient and transparent institutions that guarantee security
- ▶ and promote development and peaceful coexistence.
- ▶ A cohesive society, with equal opportunities and low levels of poverty and inequality.
- ▶ An integrated, innovative and sustainable economy.
- ▶ Sustainable management of the environment.

WE WORK WITH:

- ▶ The Social Policy Cabinet
- ▶ The Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development
- ▶ The Ministry of Labour
- ▶ The Ministry of Women
- ▶ The Judiciary of the Dominican Republic

TO SUPPORT SOCIAL COHESION WITH



THAT CONTRIBUTE WITH THE





Area: Gender equality policies

Line of action: Violence; sexual and reproductive health and concepts of masculinity

- ▶ The strengthening of the Ministry of Women in creating a single coordinated Violence Register in order to obtain a unified register with data on violence against women with full scientific support that provides a transparent gender perspective that is capable of obtaining the information that allows improvement to be made to preventative action, the prosecution of aggressors and the protection of the victims. The action consists of designing a methodological approach and an inter-institutional agreement led by the Ministry of Women as the basis for an integrated computer system capable of recording cases of gender violence and the histories of the victims, allowing to institutional responses to be adapted. The computer system will have to be based on forms agreed upon by the parties.

REGIONAL ACTION

- ▶ Executive Secretariat of the Council of Finance Ministers of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Strengthening the Budgets Working Group and those working on results-based budgets with a gender focus.
- ▶ It works together with the Central American Integration System to develop a comprehensive social policy for SICA countries and in the elaboration of a recovery, social reconstruction and resilience plan following the pandemic.
- ▶ Working with the Association of Electoral Magistrates of the Americas to strengthen its Regional Observatory on Parity Democracy, Harassment and Violence.
- ▶ Creation of a network and legal assistance model for migrants within the framework of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders.
- ▶ Preparation alongside the Conference of Ministries of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries of a regional strategy template for access to justice.
- ▶ Implementation of the New Brasilia Rules and improvement of access to justice for vulnerable populations at the Ibero-American Judicial Summit.
- ▶ Collaborative implementation of the Document Management and Transparency Template and access to information on vulnerable groups held by the Network of Transparency and Access to Information.



Area: Social policies

Line of action: Active employment policies

- ▶ Support to the Ministry of Labour in reviewing and updating the National Employment Policy. The action seeks to support the Dominican Republic government in updating and improving the National Employment Plan that aims to generate 600,000 new quality sustainable jobs through inclusive development, strengthen the national employment service, regulate agencies deprived of employment and create passive employment policies through social dialogue with labour market agents. The action includes the review and update of the National Employment Plan, the expansion of employment services, coordination with the other agents in the labour market and the design of passive employment policies. The action encompasses the mainstreaming of the gender and equal opportunities approach which contributes to an inclusive society, fostering adequate development and strengthening the link between the labour market and social protection policies with an emphasis on expanding the access by vulnerable populations to universal services linked to dignified employment.
- ▶ Support to the Labour and Economy Ministries in the design of policies for the protection of informal workers with the aim of creating public policy measures aimed at achieving quality employment, reducing informality and inequalities in the labour market. The action consists of a first diagnostic phase to gather quantitative and qualitative data on the reality regarding labour informality in the transport, domestic work and informal trade sectors with a specific focus on the impact caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in the Dominican Republic. In parallel, Eurosocial is to carry out a compilation of international experiences and good practices on informality and transition to formality, including a comparative analysis and possible exchanges. As part of the mainstreaming of the gender approach, the plan is

to explore opportunities that link domestic work and care policies, identifying possibilities for promoting employment in areas in which there are traditional gaps in the participation of women due to the social roles assigned to each gender. In a second phase, the data and information gathered through the diagnosis, together with the information from international experiences, will be used as an input to prepare a proposal for measures to promote formalisation. This proposal will be designed by taking into account the legal and fiscal viability of different possible measures, as well as the interests of the different socioeconomic sectors involved in order to achieve the greatest possible social, political and institutional consensus. These measures include incentives for the formalisation of employment and access to social security for informal workers, the creation of health insurance, pension plans and life insurance.

Line of action: Policies relating to social inclusion and the fight against poverty

- ▶ Support for the review and restructuring of policies and programmes for social protection and assistance, in association with the Social Policy Cabinet. The action consists of specialist technical support in preparing a draft law that creates a coordinating body for social protection and assistance policies and programmes, backed by international lessons that have been learnt that are relevant to the Dominican Republic's institutional reality. The main elements relate to the review of pre-existing diagnosis regarding matters that are specific to the Dominican Republic; the elaboration of multi-dimensional guidelines facilitating the creation and implementation of a coordinating body; and providing strategic advice to the Social Policy Cabinet, both in their role as coordinator of the Commission and as the fundamental negotiator of the bill before Congress. Within this framework, the action foresees that specialist technical support will continue in the debate phase of the bill before Congress.

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Plan for the recovery, social reconstruction and resilience of Central America and the Dominican Republic

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