

ACTION SHEET



The reconstruction of peace for the territories in Colombia

EUROSociAL+ assists victims of the armed conflict in Colombia so that they are included in regional planning with a view to effective reconciliation.

Line of action:
**TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Area:
**DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE**

Scope:
COLOMBIA

After surrendering their weapons and the end of the armed conflict in Colombia, hundreds of victims from both sides (according to the government) were left without assistance in the midst of a situation that had to be rebuilt. This situation has revealed the need to create efficient and harmonious mechanisms in the territory that will lead to the effective management of multilevel governance that provides comprehensive care for the victims of the conflict.

For this reason, the European Union EUROSociAL+ programme has been a valuable support in developing a strategy to integrate Regional Action Plans for Victims with Development Plans with a Regional Approach.

THE STRATEGY FOR COORDINATING TERRITORIAL ACTION PLANS FOR VICTIMS WITH DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH A TERRITORIAL APPROACH

The Development Plans with a Territorial Approach (PDETs) constitute the main mechanism enabling the execution of the measures agreed by the parties in the final agreement to end the conflict and build peace. This agreement will close the gaps between rural and urban areas, strengthen the peasant and family economy, contribute to promoting the development and integration



Six Regional Action Plans were implemented at the municipal level in three departments: Bolívar, Tolima and Putumayo

of abandoned regions to turn rural territories into a scenario for reconciliation.

The Colombian government identified 16 subregions and 170 municipalities that are priorities in achieving the structural transformation of rural areas. To the extent that these are the areas most affected by the conflict, the PDETs themselves are considered instruments for reparation.

EUROSociAL+ started work in 2017 by selecting some pilot departments and municipalities such as Bolívar, Tolima and Putumayo. These are the most advanced in the methodological route for constructing PDETs. They chose two municipalities for each department, which were the territorial entities where the methodology was carried out and with which the 6 Territorial Action Plans were adapted. The participating municipalities were: Bolívar Department: Municipalities of Simití and Santa Rosa del Sur; Tolima Department: Municipalities of Rioblanco and Planadas and in the Putumayo Department: Municipalities of Orito and Puerto Guzmán. The process ended with the International Dialogue Forum between Europe and Colombia: Victims and Peace with the objective of collectivising the experience, presenting the project's results and collecting inputs to strengthen the methodology of the action.

During 2018, significant work was carried out to establish a methodology for updating regional action plans for the victims' policy, in light of the new post-conflict context, which would allow greater efficiency in the public administration of the state, administrative cohesion at the different levels of government and the coherence of programmes with victims' needs. The objective of this methodology was to provide guidance for updating the Regional Action Plans and to hold a dialogue on the contribution to peace-building within the framework of

The armed conflict between insurgent groups and Colombian state forces haunted the country from **1958 to 2016, the year in which the Peace Accords** were signed. In this dispute for control of the territory and drug trafficking, **261,619 people** died according to the *Colombian National Centre for Historical Memory*. The main crimes and violations had to do with forced displacement, anti-personnel mines, forced disappearances, terrorist attacks, kidnappings, massacres, selective assassinations, torture, illegal or forced recruitment, sexual violence, military actions or attacks on civilian assets.

the implementation of public policy for victims in the area.

The provision of EUROSociAL+ support included three fundamental lines of action. In the first place, the design and application of a tool that would allow the harmonisation of the Regional Action Plans (PAT) with the Development Plans with a Regional Approach (PDET). Secondly, technical assistance to targeted municipalities for updating the PAT incorporating progress in the PDETs, and, finally, holding meetings to exchange experiences between the prioritised and other municipalities.

Experiences such as that of Northern Ireland through representatives of the European Union's peace and reconciliation funds and the case of the Communist Party of Peru - Shining Path (PCP-SL) were discussed and transferred to extract inputs of interest relating to reconstruction and reconciliation for the Colombian case.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF PEACE IN COLOMBIA STARTING FROM THE REGIONS

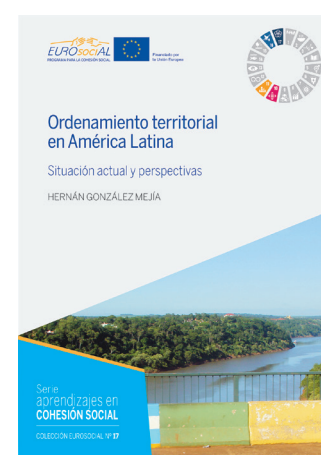
The Action has allowed us to get a more accurate vision and perspective regarding the situation that exists in Colombia's regions and how the regionalisation of the

peace agreements is being implemented in these regions. In this space, the regional entities expressed the importance and need to extend this methodology to other departments and municipalities across the country since the first experience was quite positive.

In addition, a space for participation and visibility has been created for mayors and officials from remote regions of the country who found a space for constructive dialogue, to share their vision and perspective on the situation that exists in the regions, and about how the presence of the state can be strengthened in areas isolated by the conflict. In short, participants in the Action highlighted the opportunity that the Peace Accords represent to truly build the territory and from Colombia's own multicultural geography.

Publications

EUROSociAL LIBRARY



Territorial Planning Study - Latin American Network of Public Policies for Regional Development

The **gender approach in the Peace Accords** was fundamental to guaranteeing that the Colombian State implemented collective protection actions against the multiple human rights violations that women have suffered in the context of the armed conflict. The Unit for the Comprehensive Care and Reparations for Victims, which belongs to the organisation Narrar para Vivir¹, participates in EUROSociAL+ activities and has been involved in the entire peace process and specifically in the Comprehensive Collective Plan for Reparation.

¹ Narrar para Vivir: "the network of women survivors of violence due to internal armed conflict in the 15 municipalities of the Montes de Mana region. The organisation has 840 female members who have banded together since 2000 as a strategy of civil resistance for women and as a way to overcome pain and loss of the meaning of life, and a way to process the suppressed grief of losing loved ones