

ACTION SHEET



Strengthening the Social and Human Development Divisions in Chile's regional governments

Line of action:
**PUBLIC POLICIES
AND SOCIAL INCLUSION/
TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Areas:
**SOCIAL POLICIES AND
GOVERNANCE**

Scope:
CHILE

TOWARDS DECENTRALISATION IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A country with high rates of social cohesion is only possible with well-designed public policies that can be executed in a coordinated way across the territory. To achieve this, it is essential to strengthen the role played by the regional governments. Chile has made significant progress in terms of decentralisation by providing resources and powers to territorial management bodies, by virtue of recent regulatory changes and thanks to the coordination offered by the Sub-secretariat of Regional and Administrative Development (SUBDERE), part of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security.

A key aspect for this achievement was the approval of [Law No. 21,074](#), which represents a clear success in terms of regionalisation in Chile. It establishes Social and Human Development Divisions in the regional governments. In its article 19, it confers on them new powers in matters related to social and cultural development, such as: establishing priorities for eradicating poverty; proposing programmes and projects with an emphasis on vulnerable groups or those at social risk; and distributing, among the municipalities across the region, the resources to finance the benefits and social programmes administered by them.

The process therefore incorporates outreach at the local level in order to strengthen equal



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rights and social cohesion in municipalities and communities. Migration, poverty and destitution, indigenous peoples, the elderly, youth, childhood and women are some of the priority issues.

ACADEMIC SPECIALISATION AND ADVICE ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

This action by the EUROsociAL+ Programme is focused on strengthening capacities in the new Social and Human Development Divisions

in the regional governments. A Diploma in Social Policies for Cohesive Territories has thus been designed in alliance with SUBDERE and the Catholic University of Chile, and has been running since March 2021.

The diploma is aimed at officials in the new Social and Human Development Divisions in the Chilean regional governments, collaborating so they can perform their role in implementing regional policy in social matters in the most effective manner. The training modules consist of courses on multi-level governance and decentralisation; social welfare models



The diploma involves European expertise in decentralisation, with teachers from the Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale in Italy and the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain.



Results of the EUROsociAL+ intervention:

- 1) Social and Human Development Divisions installed, with a good knowledge of social policies, mainly focused on those that fall under their powers; equipped with capacities and tools for regional planning and management.
- 2) Social and Human Development Divisions coordinating at the territorial level with the national-level bodies that issue social plans and programmes, within the scope of a strengthened multilevel governance mechanism.
- 3) Pilot plans for territorial social planning designed and executed.

Main powers of the Social and Human Development Divisions within the Chilean regional governments:

- a) Establish regional priorities for poverty eradication.
- b) Participate, in coordination with the relevant authorities, in actions aimed at facilitating access by population sectors with limited resources, or those who live in isolated places, to benefits and programmes in the fields of health, education and culture, housing and social security.
- c) Propose programmes and projects with an emphasis on vulnerable groups or those at social risk.
- d) Distribute among the municipalities in the region the resources for financing the benefits and social programmes administered by them, by virtue of the powers granted by law.
- e) Carry out studies related to the living conditions and quality of life of the region's inhabitants.
- f) Maintain updated information on the regional socioeconomic situation, identifying areas and sectors experiencing poverty and extreme poverty and proposing programmes designed to overcome this.

and implementing social protection in Latin America; Chilean social reality as a setting for social and employment policies; methodologies and instruments for implementing social protection; and organising social intervention in the territories.

EUROsociAL+ not only supports the design of the diploma, but also involves European expertise for its execution. The last two modules on the course are conceived and given by teachers attached to the Italian IRS (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale) and the Complutense University of Madrid in Spain, which represents an important opportunity to assess what has been learned in Europe, and particularly in Italy and Spain, regarding decentralisation.

Within this framework, the diploma aims to combine theoretical sessions with others of a practical nature, based on gathering and analysing information; and the formulation of territorial planning instruments in matters relating to social development and evaluation methodologies. The end goal is for the Social and Human Development Divisions in the regional governments to be fully implemented and operational.

Once the diploma has been completed, the EUROsociAL+ Programme will provide specialist advice to help design planning tools and accompany the development of two pilot projects designed by the participants on the diploma, which will be implemented in two regions in Chile.