

ART URUGUAY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Programme was launched with an international workshop held in June 2006 as part of Uruguay's international cooperation strategy. In general the aim of the programme is to contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by supporting political and administrative decentralisation and promoting local communities as protagonists in economic and social development. In particular, the Programme aims to help:

- Support national policies for development and local governance.
- Provide a framework for the programming and coordinated management of international cooperation contributions.
- Increase the impact of development actions in the target areas.



The Programme is carrying out activities to improve:

- local community access to greater resources, articulating them with local development initiatives already underway
- local government access to greater resources, to manage territorial development
- the capacity for articulation between national, departmental and local governments
- the capacity for articulation at the local level between the government, private and non-profit sectors
- the capacity of local actors to intervene in the process of local development
- local planning at different levels
- the inclusion of actors in processes, especially women and the young
- the living conditions of the populations involved.

The Programme operates in two departments identified as priorities, Artigas and Rivera, poor areas of the country with less access to international cooperation resources.

Working groups have also been activated in other departments: Montevideo, Canelones, Rocha, Treinta y Tres, Cerro Largo, Salto, Paysandú and Flores. The working groups, established with the agreement and contribution of local governments and the national government, were recognised as an important mechanism for concerted programming to articulate funds and initiatives in local areas.

All working groups have given priority to local economic development and improvement of governance, understood as participation and multi-level articulation.

The Programme is being developed in a context which sees Uruguay as a pilot country of "UN Delivering as One", and this facilitates the presence of different United Nations System agencies in the framework of the Programme.

Overview

Duration	2006-2010
Operation and coordination at the national level	<p>National institution responsible: Planning and Budget Office of the Presidency of the Republic (OPP)</p> <p>Executive Committee. It consists of the Planning and Budget Office of the Presidency of the Republic (OPP), the Congress of Intendants, AECID, UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNDP. The EC is responsible for directing and taking decisions on general strategic policies, action at the national level, and different projects and contributions, following a programme approach.</p> <p>National Committee. The Coordinating Committee includes representatives of the following institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National: OPP, Ministries of Housing, Territorial and Environmental Organisation, Labour and Social Security and Social Development, the National Corporation for Development • Local: National Congress of Intendants • National Association of NGOs • Private sector • Workers organisations • Universities • Cooperation organisations: AECID, European Union, BID, ILO, UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNDP.
Operation and coordination at provincial and municipal levels	<p>Departmental Intendancies. Departmental and local working groups operate in the framework of departmental intendancies, coordinated by a departmental intendant delegate, with the technical support of a local programme representative. Participants include representatives of the public, private and non-profit sectors in the department.</p> <p>Departmental and Local Working Groups (DWGs and LWGs) work to strengthen local planning and management capacity. They are articulated with central institutions and guarantee the participatory implementation of the programme, taking jointly agreed decisions, and ensuring the active participation of the population in the definition of local development strategies and initiatives in their respective territories.</p>
Cooperation Actors	<p>UN agencies: UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM</p> <p>Donor: AECID</p> <p>Decentralised Cooperation partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputation of Barcelona (Spain) • FAMSÍ - Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (Spain): Deputation of Huelva, Deputation of Malaga, Municipality of Cordoba, Deputation of Cadiz, Deputation of Seville, FAFPE • Basque Country (Spain) • Liguria Region (Italy) • Veneto Region (Italy) • Province of Cosenza (Italy) • Province of Lodi (Italy) • Province of Milan (Italy) • Municipality of Milan (Italy)
Funding	<p>Total Budget: 5,800,000 U.S. dollars</p> <p>2008 Budget: 2,301,200 dollars, with the following contributions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AECID: 1 million dollars • Government of Uruguay: 250,000 U.S. dollars • UNDP Uruguay: 500,000 U.S. dollars • Others (decentralised cooperation, other UN agencies and local governments): 551,200 U.S. dollars
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Activities and results at departmental and local levels

10 Working Groups (WGs) have been set up in the following departments: Rivera, Artigas, Bella Unión, Paysandú, Rocha, Treinta y Tres, Flores, Salto, Cerro Largo, Canelones and Montevideo.

The following structural activities were carried out by the Programme in each department. Results vary in each department depending on when working groups started operations and activities:

- Visit to departmental intendants by the Programme and the OPP to agree initiatives and appointment of a local activity coordinator by the Intendancy.
- Hiring of a local programme coordinator.
- Identification of working group needs requiring support.
- Map of policies, projects and initiatives implemented at local and departmental levels.
- Training activities in local development, territorial marketing and project formulation and evaluation.
- Identification of projects and possible national and local co-funding.
- Construction of a local and departmental strategic vision.
- Economic diagnosis of value chains and resource valorisation.
- Territorial marketing activities.
- Identification of a first impact project, to be implemented and co-funded.

In the Department of Rivera a development agency project is already active, carried out jointly with the Departmental Intendancy and UDM-OPP.

Activities and results at the national level

The Programme supports coordination initiatives generated by discussions between all actors involved.

Support was provided for the activation and operation of national, executive and coordination committees. Several initiatives were also promoted to articulate Programme activities with national government action. Agreements with the OPP Municipal Development Unit (UDM) were defined and work started to co-finance action in the departments of Rivera, Cerro Largo and Treinta y Tres. Initiatives were defined to articulate the Programme with the Social and Territorial Cohesion Project funded by the European Community.

The following activities were also carried out:

- Workshops in support of decentralisation process. Held in the cities of Melo and Bella Union, they brought together all intendancies and national actors, promoting a debate on the content of the new law on decentralisation. The workshops also involved the private sector and civil society.
- International Workshop "Women and Youth in Local Development".
- of the Republic and with the Congress of Intendants.
- Support for the international workshop "Participatory Budgeting" held in Paysandú.
- Support for the national youth learning competition "Your Ideas Count"
- Diploma 'Social Capital and Local Development', organised with the Catholic University and CLAEH. International workshop "Development Agencies: Experiences Learnt", co-organised with the Presidency

- Diploma "Sustainable Rural Development and Human Development", organised with the University of the Republic, University of Havana, the University of Matanzas and several departmental intendancies.

Activities and results at the international level

Missions were carried out, in close collaboration with UNDP Geneva, to involve bilateral donors. A crucial role in activating international cooperation in the framework of the Programme was, in fact, played by ART's international network, which helped to mobilise and involve different cooperation actors and establish collaboration with different framework programmes operating in other countries.

In particular, the UNDP UNOPS ART SIP service, which operates in Italy, helped to disseminate information on the Programme to all potentially interested local authorities and activate decentralised cooperation in the Programme framework.

Following missions by Programme delegations to Spain and Italy, cooperation agreements were established with:

- Spain: AECID; Deputation of Barcelona; Basque Government; Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity - Huelva, Malaga, Jaén, Cadiz, Cordoba, Fundación ETEA; Andalusian Council.
- Italy: Italian Government; Liguria Region, Veneto Region, Province of Cosenza; Province of Milan; Municipality of Milan; Province of Lodi.

At the same time, the Programme works in coordination with ART programmes in Latin America, particularly those underway in Cuba, Colombia and Ecuador.