



Council of the  
European Union

106594/EU XXVII. GP  
Eingelangt am 28/06/22

Brussels, 28 June 2022  
(OR. en)

10233/22

CORDROGUE 55  
COLAC 25

#### NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs - Annual Report 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022

Delegations will find in the Annex the final version of the above-mentioned annual report which was adopted at the XXIIIrd High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, which took place in Asuncion in hybrid mode on 24 June 2022.

# **EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs -**

## **Annual Report 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022**

This report is the result of a regular analysis of the activities carried out in relation to the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain any information on other EU-funded programmes at regional and bilateral levels in the field of drugs.

### **I. EU-CELAC High-Level Meeting and Technical Committee Meetings**

The EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs held its XXII<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting on 22 June 2021 by videoconference, co-chaired by Portugal and Mexico. The High-Level Meeting adopted the Biennial Report 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2021<sup>1</sup> and endorsed the Outcome Document<sup>2</sup>.

In preparation for the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> High-Level Meeting, two meetings of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee on Drugs were held: on 26 October 2021, under the co-presidency of Slovenia and Paraguay<sup>3</sup>, and on 4 May 2022, under the co-presidency of France and Paraguay<sup>4</sup>.

The Technical Committee meeting on 26 October 2021 discussed in particular the priorities following to the XXII<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting, exchanged information and best practices on evidence-based prevention of drug use. COPOLAD III was also discussed and the meeting had an exchange of views on the works of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

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At the Technical Committee meeting on 4 May 2022, participants held the preparations for the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs. In particular they discussed the draft agenda of the High-Level Meeting and the draft outcome document. The meeting also held an exchange of views on the follow-up to the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and on developments on COPOLAD and other regional programmes.

Countries and regions present at the meetings of the Technical Committee provided updates on the drug situation and policy developments in their respective countries and regions.

## **II. EU-CELAC Cooperation: Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union**

COPOLAD is the only EU-funded programme covering the entire CELAC region and providing support for a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and scientific evidence-based approach to the worldwide drug situation in Latin American and Caribbean<sup>5</sup> countries. COPOLAD covers the various fields of drugs policy from both a drug demand and a drug supply reduction perspective, as well as promotes evidence-based policies, with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and with the task of providing technical support to the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.

### **COPOLAD III**

The third phase of COPOLAD started in February 2021 for a period of 48 months and with a budget of EUR 15 million.

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<sup>5</sup> An initial phase of the programme (2011 to 2015) covered all Latin American countries and – based on the evaluation of its results – a second phase was launched, including all CELAC countries, in response to the demand of Caribbean countries.

COPOLAD III is managed by a consortium formed by the International Ibero-American Foundation for Public Policies and Administrations, Spanish Cooperation (FIIAPP) and the Italian-Latin American International Organization (IILA), with the participation of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Building on the achievements of its previous phases<sup>6</sup>, COPOLAD III continues to promote technical and political dialogue between CELAC and the EU, to strengthen the technical capacity of national observatories on drugs and to support the LAC region in terms of drug demand and supply reduction, including alternative development. Through dialogue and cooperation, the programme will boost the relevance and comprehensiveness of public policies on drugs.

COPOLAD III establishes its actions in accordance with an evidence-based approach, while activities mainstream gender equality, human rights, sustainable development and public health issues. The third phase of the programme relies on:

- A results-oriented methodology based on the demands and needs of participating countries;
- A ‘Team Europe Spirit’, which fosters coordination, complementarity and synergies between EU Member States, institutions and agencies (EMCDDA, EUROPOL, GIZ) and related programmes (EL PAcCTO, EUROFRONT, CRIMJUST, etc.) in CELAC countries in the region;
- A strengthened strategy to reduce the supply of and demand for illegal drugs in both regions by building strong partnerships in the region, based on mobilising European, Latin American and Caribbean public expertise in bilateral, triangular and South-South cooperation schemes.

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<sup>6</sup> COPOLAD II (2016-2019) was a regional cooperation programme funded by the European Union, with a total budget of EUR 10 000 000, and managed by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Administration and Policies, Spanish Cooperation (FIIAPP). The first phase (COPOLAD I), also managed by FIIAP, ended in June 2015.

At **regional level**, the programme operates through the creation of Working Groups (WG) bringing together countries with similar interests, while promoting **south-south or triangular cooperation**. The expertise provided by Task Forces will ensure the necessary support for implementing action plans and specific technical assistance.

At **national level**, specific technical assistance will be offered through roadmaps based on the needs identified by participating countries and their national authorities.

The integration of a gender equality perspective is a priority for COPOLAD III. The specific needs of women and girls are being mainstreamed by the programme, and attention will be paid to reducing gender inequality by adopting tailored-made approaches for each component.

#### **Inception phase (June - December 2021)**

This phase enabled to fine-tune the lines of work of the programme by taking into account the context evolutions and the specific needs of partner countries, while in parallel facilitating the consolidation of the governance and standardised operating procedures of COPOLAD. Significant efforts were allocated to establish dialogue and coordination frameworks with cooperation programmes and relevant actors, including multilateral and regional agencies and civil society networks, to find synergies and complementarities and avoid overlaps.

Specifically, within this period, the first months were dedicated to take contacts with LAC countries and other relevant stakeholders. National and thematic Focal Points were identified in LAC partner countries and direct relations were established. Specific online information sessions were then conducted to exchange on the methodology and the different steps proposed.

The following period focused on needs assessment and the systematisation of its results. A survey aiming at finding out national and regional priorities was shared with partner countries, with high levels of participation. During this process, COPOLAD offered a permanent helpdesk and informative subregional sessions to further ensure the participation of partner countries to the process and strengthen coordination. The priority lines of work identified were then integrated into the inception report which was approved by the Steering Committee in December.

## **Implementation (January 2022 - ongoing)**

The COPOLAD Kick-off Meeting took place virtually on 15 February 2022 with the purpose to analyse the drug-related developments in the EU and LAC regions. The meeting counted with high participation, with over 200 stakeholders present. The lifting of some mobility restrictions is making it possible to resume direct interactions in the form of missions.

COPOLAD III has launched several Working Groups in the first months of 2022, such as:

- Adaptation and access to addiction treatment and care services for women and the vulnerable population, led by Uruguay;
- Precursors, led by Ecuador;
- Rights and Sustainable Development, which will be led by Peru and Argentina;
- Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, led by Germany;
- International Cooperation, both in drug trafficking investigations and in money laundering investigations, led by Peru and Ecuador.

Work is ongoing to complete the hiring of Task Forces and technical assistance while in parallel different activities are being prepared or conducted.

COPOLAD also took part in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs through a side-event on “Leaving no one behind: The EU’s right based and development-oriented approach to drugs policies in cooperation initiatives in Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean”, jointly organised by Spain with the support of Germany, Paraguay and the European Union. Missions and regional face-to-face meetings are also taking place from March onwards in several partner countries.

## **COPOLAD’s contribution to the tasks of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs**

One of COPOLAD’s main objectives is to provide technical support for the work developed by the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs. COPOLAD continued to participate in the Technical Committee meetings of the Mechanism, providing an update on progress made.

Meetings and regular exchanges were held with the LAC co-presidency of the Mechanism and LAC diplomatic missions in Brussels, with the aim of sharing inputs and identifying proposals and ideas and of exploring further modalities of collaboration.

An updating of the study on women and drug related policies is also taking place to take into account the impact of COVID-19 and the related policy evolutions.

### **III. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate**

#### **A. The EU Global Illicit Flows Programme in CELAC countries**

The Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP) was launched on 25 November 2019 as a successor to the former Cocaine Route and Heroin Route programmes. As drug smuggling routes also often serve as trafficking highways for a host of other illicit products, the GIFP focuses on disrupting flows of illicit commodities along established routes, from source to destination. Projects under the GIFP are supporting partner countries across four continents with technical assistance for addressing drug supply, harm and demand reduction, as well as responding to maritime and aviation trafficking, arms trafficking and supporting trans-regional investigative best practices and post-seizure judicial outcomes. Since 2019, the EU has committed around EUR 60 million to more than 40 countries along the cocaine route(s) from countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa.

The GIFP, which began under the former Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), will continue under the NDICI-Global Europe instrument and will maintain its trans-regional approach, complementing bilateral and regional support measures.

CELAC countries participate in the following projects under the GIFP:

- **The Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP)** implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the World Customs Organisation and INTERPOL, focuses on building interdiction capacities at selected international airports across the globe by establishing Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs), promoting intelligence and information sharing between services at national and international level, as well as promoting an intelligence-led approach to countering drug trafficking. CELAC countries included in AIRCOP's geographical scope are: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru.

25 Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) are operational in Argentina, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia (Santa Cruz-Viru Viru), Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon (Douala and Yaoundé), Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo and Punta Cana), El Salvador, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica (Montego Bay and Kingston), Jordan, Mali, Niger (Niamey), Nigeria (Abuja and Lagos), Senegal and Togo. Additional task forces are under establishment in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger (Agadez), Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador and Trinidad & Tobago as well as in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and North-Macedonia. Partnerships are also established with Brazil, Colombia, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Peru and South Africa.

In 2021, AIRCOP's drugs seizures amounted to over 9.6 tons of cocaine, 3.4 tons of khat, 6.9 tons of cannabis, 2 tons of methamphetamine, half a ton of heroin and 137 kg of amphetamine. Other commodities include 1.5 ton of precursors, 19.8 tons of medicine, including falsified medical products, 270 kg of gold, 28.2 million undeclared US dollars, more than two thousand pieces of various ammunition, 1 ton of ivory and almost 2 tons of pangolin scales. Suspect foreign terrorist fighters have been intercepted by JAITFs, including at Santo Domingo airport. Six wanted persons on red INTERPOL notice have also been arrested. Several victims of human trafficking have been identified and networks of migrant smugglers dismantled.



- **The COLIBRI project (Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation along the Cocaine Route)**, launched in early 2019 and implemented by the World Customs Organisation, focuses on improving security in the general aviation sector, specifically targeting secondary aerodromes.

COLIBRI launched its Geoportal, a new tool for General Aviation aimed to enhance international cooperation and intelligence sharing among law enforcement agencies. In June 2021 it organised an online “Train the trainers” course on the use of the Geoportal and its features and held its 4th expert coordination meeting. COLIBRI also launched its e-learning training programme and finalised the Technical Handbook on Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation. Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic are partners in the project, along with nine West African countries. The project started in January 2019 and has conducted scoping missions in all the Latin American countries covered: Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic; and in West and Central Africa: Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria Senegal. Following the launch of the COLIBRI geoportal in early 2021, trainings were organised and a training handbook was produced.

- **The SEACOP project**, implemented by Expertise France, entered its fifth phase in May 2021 and aims to contribute to the **fight against maritime illicit trade and associated criminal networks** in targeted countries and regions of Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, including by improving cooperation and information sharing at national, regional and transregional level, including with EUROPOL and FRONTEX. In addition to the 11 countries in the Caribbean from Phase III (British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St Lucia, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago), seven priority countries in the LAC region were included in Phase IV, namely Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, and Panama, and potentially also Ecuador, while Peru has been included in phase V. Given the additional focus of Phase V on riverine trafficking, Paraguay and Uruguay have already been assessed for inclusion in Phase V, while Suriname may be included at a later stage. Since the start of the fifth phase of the project, SEACOP has carried out missions in Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana, held technical meetings in Colombia, and kicked off its first training in Dakar. SEACOP contributed to a seizure of 2 tons of cocaine in Dakar, 648 kg of cocaine in Malaga and 500 kg of cannabis in Trinidad.
- **The CRIMJUST (Strengthening Criminal Investigation and criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes) project** aims at strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation in Latin America, the Caribbean and West African countries, to enhance their capacity to counter organised crime along drug trafficking routes.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, CRIMJUST is active in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as associate countries, and in the Dominican Republic and Panama as beneficiary countries. In agreement with the European Commission, the geographical scope of the project has recently been extended to include Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The project is implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with INTERPOL. In 2021, CRIMJUST organised a number of trainings and events focusing on cybercrime related to drugs trafficking, proceeds of crime and asset forfeiture, cocaine laboratories and cocaine production, and ethics and integrity. The project contributed to significant seizures. Operation MIHADARATI led to 287 arrests and seizures of 1 ton of cocaine, 200 kg of amphetamine and 16.8 tons of cannabis resin, while OPERATION TRIGGER resulted to the seizure of 1 ton of cocaine and the destruction of 13 labs, 13 tons of solid chemical substances, 5000 litres of liquid substances and 500 kg of cannabis. Operation CARGA BLANCA (DHL) resulted in the seizure of 17kg of cocaine, 965 grams of amphetamine, 600 grams of methamphetamine, 10 grams of MDMA/ecstasy, 100 grams of ketamine, and 120 grams of ephedrine. The project also produces research into the production, processing, trafficking, and consumption of cocaine. Its 'Global Cocaine Report' was published for the first time in 2021.

CRIMJUST has been actively working on supporting law enforcement and other justice sector institutions in strengthening integrity, accountability and resilience to corruption and the influence of organised crime. Alongside capacity-building activities, CRIMJUST has developed the successful inter-regional investigative fora, bringing together prosecutors and senior investigators in organised crime cases of a transregional nature.

Since April 2021, the GIFP is supported by a **specific monitoring and support project, MASIF**, which ensures close monitoring of GIFP projects and improved coordination, coherence and complementarity between them and with other initiatives in the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking. It also provides the European Commission with advice and analysis on project implementation as well as updates on relevant trends. In 2021, MASIF finalised its research on convergence of illicit flows and presented it focusing on rising polycriminality along the cocaine route during the 24-hour Conference on Organised Crime.

**B. EL PAcCTO (Europa-Latinoamérica Programa de asistencia contra el crimen transnacional organizado)**

EL PAcCTO, launched in April 2017, promotes regional and bi-regional cooperation along the criminal justice chain (justice, law enforcement and penitentiary) to tackle transnational organised crime. It brings together 18 Latin American countries and several EU Member States (i.a. Spain, Italy, France, Portugal) as well as EU specialised agencies (i.a. Europol, Eurojust). EL PAcCTO has also two sub-projects:

- “EL PAcCTO: Support to AMERIPOL”, to reinforce the legal and technological capabilities of AMERIPOL; and
- operational investigations on high profile fugitives with INTERPOL.

**Under the justice-related actions**, the most important achievement so far is the creation of a Justice Policy Cycle establishing an EU-LA high-level dialogue of justice institutions. The high-level meeting of Justice institutions “Towards a shared Political Cycle of Justice between Latin America and the European Union” in Brussels (1-2 June 2022), represented a great opportunity to further discuss justice-related matters, re-activating the cooperation commitments under the Lisboa declaration signed in 2021 with the support of EL PAcCTO and going forward with more concrete results.

The main result was the creation of a Justice Policy Cycle on justice matters, with the signature of the “Brussels Declaration” by the COMJIB, AIAMP and CJI, in the name of Latin American countries. This represents a real milestone in this field, as Latin America identifies key priorities to foster judicial cooperation and coordination, defining policy cycles with priority areas to be monitored and followed up by a Follow up Committee, that was established in November 2021 to guarantee concrete results under this new approach in the region. All this is a direct result of EL PAcCTO programme, very positively recognized by Latin American partners.

**Under the security/law enforcement actions**, EL PAcCTO has encouraged a **joint regional assessment of criminal threats** in July 2021, akin to the European SOCTA (Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment). This analysis, called **IDEAL** (Instrumento de Documentación y Evaluación de la Amenaza en Latinoamérica), has enabled Latin American countries to agree on joint priorities in the fight against organised crime. The programme started with the new edition of this instrument in early 2022, named IDEAL 2.0.

An important achievement of the programme is the **establishment of the Latin American Internal Security Committee (CLASI)**. On 2 March 2022, Latin American countries signed in Brussels the political declaration that created the CLASI. Currently the CLASI has 10 member countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic and Uruguay); Peru has also signed the request to become a member; while others have shown interest in joining in the future (i.a. Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay). Inspired by the EU's COSI (Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security), CLASI gathers Latin American Ministries of Interior of member countries to jointly define strategies and articulate public policies against transnational organised crime. The launching of CLASI is the direct result of EL PAcCTO's long-term efforts to promote coordination and cooperation between LA countries on justice and security matters.

Argentina assumed the First CLASI Presidency, while Panama and Ecuador will take over the Second and Third Presidencies, respectively.

CLASI will begin its work focusing on three concrete areas (with operational annual work plan 2022-2023, leaderships/co-leaderships from countries, and participating countries on each area already identified):

1. Fight against drug trafficking: leader Argentina with co-leadership of Ecuador and El Salvador.
2. Fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking: leader Argentina with co-leadership of Peru.
3. Fight against arms trafficking: leader Panama with co-leadership of Dominican Republic.

Also, on 3 March 2022, a **Joint Declaration was adopted of the Ministers of the Interior of the Member States of the EU and the Ministers in charge of security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI)**<sup>7</sup>, following a working lunch hosted by the French Presidency.

Both regions welcomed the creation of CLASI, and also stressed that “Strengthening the political dialogue and developing the regional and international law enforcement cooperation are essential to more effectively fight organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, but also human trafficking, arms trafficking, financial crime, cyber-crime and environmental crimes”. Countries affirmed “the importance of joining forces to provide appropriate and concrete responses to the many security challenges”, and welcomed the development of the Latin American Documentation and Threat Assessment Instrument (IDEAL), also promoted by EL PAcCTO. They agreed to “establish a temporary counter narcotics Task Force, whose mandate will be to launch joint operations, on the basis of a shared threat assessment”. On the basis of the results of the Task Force “a network of law enforcement officers specialised in the fight against drug trafficking between the Latin American States and the EU Member States” could be launched at a later stage.

Another important area of work under EL PAcCTO is the **consolidation of AMERIPOL**, which is advancing towards its institutionalisation. Actually, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil is currently leading this process and has already shared the draft text of the future AMERIPOL Treaty with the rest of countries in the region. The signature of the AMERIPOL Treaty is expected to take place in 2022.

Launching of the Regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): Partnership for Justice and Security: the regional TEI was launched on 31 May in Paris, during a High-level meeting organised by the French Presidency and the EL PAcCTO programme, that brought together high-level representatives from LAC and the EU working in Justice, Law Enforcement/Police and Penitentiary institutions.

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<sup>7</sup> 6762/2022

The EU representatives highlighted the strategic partnership the EU wants to foster with the region and provided the general framework of the TEI launch. This was followed by the presentation of the different TEI objectives, with interventions from FR, ES and IT, in name of the eight EU Member States that are part of the initiative (Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and Spain).

The TEI for LAC responds to shared challenges in the area of security and justice, calling for strengthening of bi-regional partnership and cooperation at all levels. The TEI is built in full alignment with the EU policy priorities, in a Team Europe spirit, regrouping various European actors at European level responsible for security and justice-related policies and cooperation: European Commission Directorates Generals (INTPA, HOME, JUST, OLAF), FPI, the European External Action Service (EEAS), EU Agencies (EUROPOL, EUROJUST, CEPOL, EMCDDA, FRONTEX) and the aforementioned eight EU Member States.

The current EU programmes, such as EL PAcCTO, are building a first-of-the-kind and highly appreciated inter-regional cooperation on transnational organised crime, building bridges between security and justice-related institutions in the EU and LAC. Based on this positive dynamics, the global objective of the TEI will take the justice and security-related cooperation one step further, establishing an effective EU-LAC partnership on strengthening the rule of law and fight against organised crime, not only at technical but also political level, fostering citizen security and stability, both in LAC and in Europe.

Finally, in 2021, the EL PAcCTO programme made significant progress, with the **creation/consolidation of important EU-LA police and penitentiary cooperation networks**: the Jaguar Network (environmental crimes); ELIPSIA Network and of the ELIPSIA Operations (fight against online child sexual abuse); fight against cybercrime (Ciber Network); anti-money laundering and Cryptocurrencies (UELLA); CibEL@ (Organized Transnational Crime); Arco (trafficking of arms); Lynx (smuggling of human beings); REDCOPEN (Penitentiary Systems) and Penitentiary Academies Network (RAP).

## C. EUROFRONT - Support for Integrated Border Management in Latin America

Within the framework of the security development nexus, two actions were signed off in 2019 under the EUROFRONT programme to foster intra-Latin American and bi-regional cooperation in the areas of integrated border management (IBM) and the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. Human rights, gender, and values such as good governance, rule of law and fundamental freedoms, etc. are included as crosscutting topics in both components.

EUROFRONT is implemented at four terrestrial pilot border-crossing posts<sup>8</sup> involving seven partner countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru). While the first component, on IBM, is being implemented by a consortium with FIIAPP as leader and IILA and IOM as partners, the second component, on the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling, is managed exclusively by IOM. Moreover, EUROFRONT receives support from the EU Member States (notably ES, IT, PT, PL, and LT) and FRONTEX.

As EUROFRONT started in the second quarter of 2020, amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and closed borders, implementation was considerably hampered and delayed. Within the last months, with the reopening of borders, EUROFRONT has considerably accelerated its implementation.

EUROFRONT Component 1 is developed according to the following pillars of technical assistance: (i) policy strengthening; (ii) institutional strengthening; (iii) capacity building; (iv) support to technology development.

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<sup>8</sup> The four target border areas are:

- Rumichaca (Colombia-Ecuador)
- Desaguadero (Peru-Bolivia)
- Triple Frontera (Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay)
- Aguas Blancas-Bermejo (Argentina-Bolivia).



With regard to Component 1, important efforts were devoted to analyse the current legislation and to effectively introduce border management issues at regional level, in organisations such as MERCOSUR and CAN. Technical guides and protocols were designed along with national institutions by addressing issues such as documental fraud, profiling, human rights or migratory intelligence, among others. Several seminars and training activities are also ongoing on different aspects related to Integrated Border Management. In addition, a specialised training programme is being currently designed to strengthen and improve the capacities of professionals on border control issues at any level. These strategic actions will be reinforced through specific improvements at the level of infrastructure.

EUROFRONT component 2 ensured the preparation of extensive diagnostics on trafficking and smuggling in the four targeted borders. The programme is currently supporting technical dialogue on trafficking and smuggling at national, binational and regional level. In parallel, efforts are currently focused towards assistance to national authorities in the improvement of their national information systems, and the definition and implementation of training plans on these two phenomena.

#### **D. Implementation of Chapter 10 (Citizen Security) of the EU-CELAC Action Plan**

According to Chapter 10 (Citizen Security) of the EU-CELAC Action Plan, two inter-governmental seminars and a workshop were to be organised on citizen security.

The first two EU-CELAC seminars on citizen security were held on 27-28 September 2017 in The Hague, the Netherlands and on 16-17 January 2018 in Panama City, Panama. The third event took place on 23-24 January 2019 in Belize City, Belize. The events were co-organised by the EU (the European Commission / INTPA and EEAS) and CELAC (Panama and Belize, in their capacity as Chapter 10 Coordinators). With the three events concluded, the requirements of Chapter 10 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan were fulfilled.

The EU-CELAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting Declaration (16-17 July 2018) called for the strengthening of the bi-regional dialogue on citizen security.