

ECLAC-BMZ/giz Cooperation Program

Inclusive, sustainable and smart cities in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean (07/2020-06/2022)

In their current cooperation program (07/2020-06/2022) the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) are promoting sustainable development in the field of urban connectivity in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Project	Inclusive, sustainable and smart cities in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean
German public commissioner	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung) (BMZ)
Country	Regional (Latin America and the Caribbean)
Counterpart	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Period	07/2020 – 06/2022

A strategic alliance

Since 1980, both partners have worked together to contribute to sustainable development in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. As of 2003, this strategic alliance was further intensified with the institutionalization of a cooperation program, organized in biennial modules. The BMZ commissioned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH for the implementation of the German contribution to the program. The ECLAC-BMZ/giz Cooperation Program has made it possible to promote and configure numerous transformation processes. Since 2016, all the activities of the joint program have been oriented towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Photo 1 : Means of transport in Buenos Aires, Argentina



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The 2030 Agenda and its importance for the region

At the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015, the government representatives of its 193 member states endorsed the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since January 2016, it has served the international community as a guide for designing and implementing national development plans and policies. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 2030 Agenda is universal and addresses all countries equally, aspiring to achieve social, environmental and economic objectives in an integrated manner.

LAC countries face multiple challenges, which are reflected in the development areas covered by the 2030 Agenda. They do not take advantage of their numerous potentials for value creation and their economies are characterized by extractive models, lack of competitiveness, and vulnerability to external shocks. Even though the economic growth generated in recent years has led to a reduction in poverty, the region continues to show the greatest inequality worldwide, which, moreover, is being exacerbated by the economic and social crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and is about to mark another "lost decade".

Photo 2 : TransMilenio Buses in Bogotá, Colombia



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Recover better with a Big Push for Sustainability

In terms of implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving greater sustainability, the current crisis entails both the risk of regression and the possibility of a better start.

In this context, ECLAC's concept of a "**Big Push for Sustainability**" presents useful public policy guidelines that, with this biennial module of the cooperation program, will be formulated in a demonstrative way in the field of urban connectivity.

For ECLAC, the term "**urban connectivity**" includes both sustainable and inclusive transport and mobility systems in urban areas as well as the digitalization related to them, including the effect of digital solutions on mobility. This involves innovations that impact the physical movement of people, goods and services (e.g., homeoffice), makes it more efficient (e.g., optimizing vehicle utilization through mobile applications) or increases it (e.g., online shopping).

The "**Big Push for Sustainability**" is understood as a change in production, consumption and demand patterns, tending to guarantee a balance in all sectors related to cities. This is the product of a coordinated reorientation of policies, investments, regulations and the tax regime. It is meant to produce a convergent trajectory of multiple and different stakeholders, sectors and investments - enabling innovations and synergic processes - in terms of supplies, skills, equipment, services, distributions, networks, demands and patterns. A Big Push for Sustainability requires policy coherence in order to ensure economic growth, the adoption of technological innovations, employment generation, emissions reduction, as well as the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Priority topics for 2020-22

The ECLAC-BMZ/giz cooperation program wants to improve technical and institutional conditions to promote sustainable development in the field of urban connectivity. The main target group are public policy makers, at national and local levels, and professional staff of public institutions in ECLAC member countries with a mandate related to urban connectivity.

To this end, three outputs were defined, which have a complementary effect in depth (output 1) and in terms of widespread impacts (outputs 2 and 3) and which reinforce each other.

- Output 1 aims to **strengthen the capacity** of ECLAC and its member countries;
- Output 2 aims to improve **regional exchange** platforms supply;
- Output 3 aims to generate new knowledge and trigger innovation through increased **interregional exchange** of experiences.

Implementation is the challenge

The methodological approach is interdisciplinary, systemic and takes into account cross-cutting issues, such as gender and human rights. As a strategic partner of the BMZ in the region, ECLAC facilitates political dialogue and peer learning, so the program seeks coordination and cooperation with bilateral, regional and global programs of the German development cooperation within the field of urban connectivity.

The program is implemented through the following interdisciplinary and interdivisional working groups ("clusters"), and includes advice to cities and countries:

1. "**City and Mobility**" aims to contribute to identifying demographic, socio-economic and spatial characteristics in LAC cities that influence demand and inclusive supply of sustainable mobility.
2. "**Digitalization, energy and mobility**" aims to assist in identifying ways in which technological development, changes in consumption patterns and environmental commitments will impact on urban connectivity within the equality framework in the region until 2030.
3. "**Industrial policy**" aims to identify the regional industry's response capacity to changes in the demand and supply of connectivity until 2030 (also policies required to promote, integrate and finance the sector in the region).
4. "**Coordination, methodology and innovation**" will be in charge of guaranteeing coherence between all clusters, transversal subjects, publication, dissemination of tools and trainings to ensure the dialogue between players.

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In cooperation with

