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COPOLAD III

Transregional Cooperation in the Face of Public Security Challenges

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Cooperation Programme between
Latin America, the Caribbean
and the European Union on
Drug Policies

COPOLAD III is a consortium by:



Collaborating partner:



In partnership with:



What is COPOLAD?



February 2021 – February 2029



Budget: 23 million euros



Implementing Partners: IILA – FIAP

In collaboration with: GIZ – EUDA



C1: NDO and SATS

C2: Demand Reduction

C3: Supply Reduction

C4: Political Dialogue



**Joint Responses to
Common Challenges
in Drug Policy**

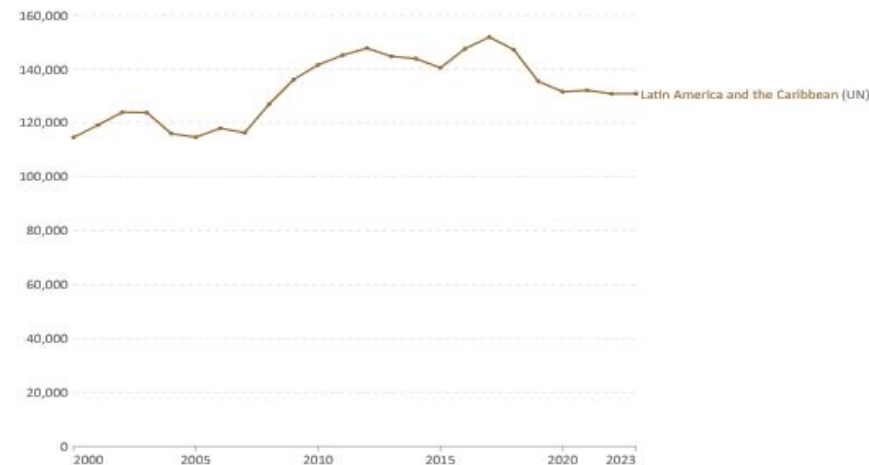
Drug-Related Criminal Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean

Violence matters on many levels. Further, it is a phenomenon that does not affect the population equally. It affects the most vulnerable. Prioritizing violence, because of its traumatic effect on people, the way it affects the population – which it does unequally and deepens inequality – is a sound approach in terms of criminal policy as a result.



Homicides 2000 to 2023

Annual number of homicides¹.



Data source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2025)

OurWorldinData.org/homicides | CC BY

1. Homicide The killing of a person by another with intent to cause death or injury.

Involvement of Children, Adolescents, and Youth in Illicit Markets

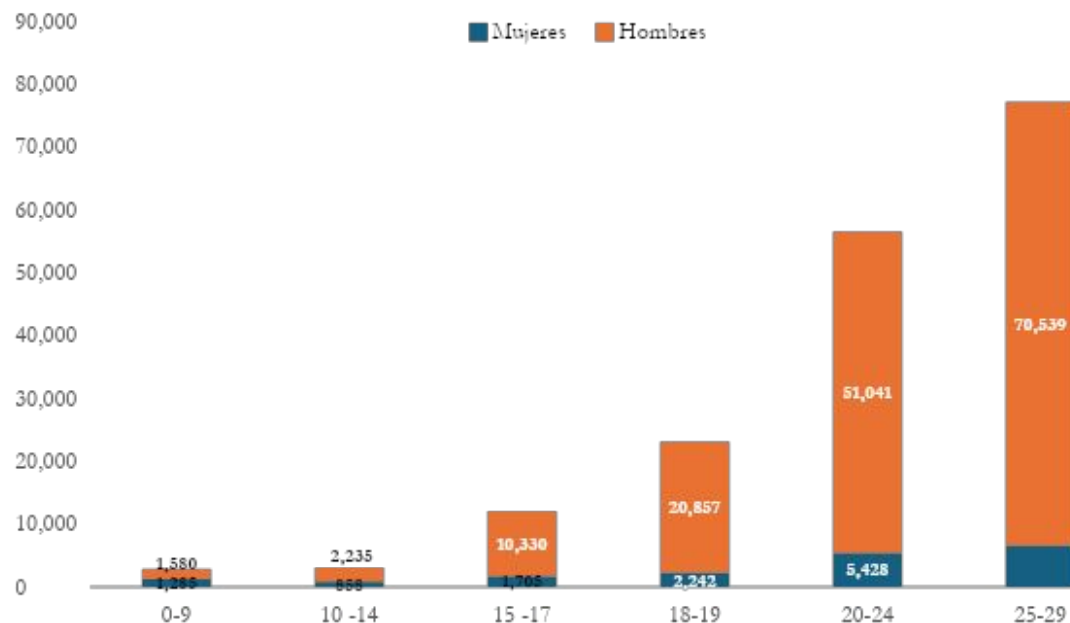
A critical aspect of this issue is the involvement of youth and adolescents in criminal markets.

The involvement of children, adolescents, and young people does not follow one single pattern:

Forced Recruitment

Child Labour Exploitation

Voluntary Recruitment



Violence linked to drug trafficking and the involvement of youth is a growing concern in the EU.

Europol warns that minors are involved in more than 70 percent of criminal markets, which range from cybercrime, online fraud, the smuggling of migrants, and property crimes to drug trafficking.



EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan Against Drug Trafficking

The new EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan Against Drug Trafficking include the following priorities:

- Addressing drug-related violence
- Preventing youth recruitment by organized crime.



Photo: © UNFPA

COPOLAD has sought to place the reduction of violence related to drug trafficking at the centre of bi-regional cooperation between the EU and LAC.

Coordination: Centre for Studies on Justice and Society – Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

Case Studies:

Argentina SEDRONAR - Community Care and Support Centres - CAAC

Brazil – SENAD – Expanded Prevention Model

Mexico: Secretariat of Security and Citizen Protection - National Public Security Strategy 2024-2030

Caribbean: CARICOM IMPACS – Responses and Interventions Focused on Gangs and Arms Trafficking

Model/prototype strategy to reduce violence associated with drug trafficking and youth involvement in criminal markets

Targeted deterrence measures/social and community-based prevention programs/involvement of local authorities and civil society.

From security to a culture of legality

Addressing the Causes of
Vulnerability

Building a Culture of Lawfulness

Transforming Confiscated Assets
into Resources for the
Community

In COPOLAD III, the **social use of assets
confiscated from organized crime** is
viewed as a tool to:

Neutralize illicit capital
Repair social and territorial damage
**Strengthen the State's presence and the
rule of law**

SECURITY

CITIZENSHIP



Regulatory References and Key Stakeholders

Italy – Law No. 109/1996 on the management and assignment of seized and confiscated assets

European Union – Directive (EU) 2024/1260

FATF – Interpretive Note to Recommendation 4

IACHR/OAS – Resolution No. 1/26 on Organized Crime and Human Rights in the Americas

National Agency for the Administration and Disposal of Assets Seized and Confiscated from Organized Crime

LIBERA – Network of associations, social cooperatives, movements, and collectives committed to the social reuse of confiscated assets

Image Source: libera – Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie.

Bene confiscato
e restituito alla collettività
dedicato a Marcella di Levrano
vittima innocente di mafia

The Impacts of Social Reuse

Social reuse has an impact in at least four dimensions:

1. **A judicial dimension**, with the affirmation of the principle of legality and the repression of criminal economic phenomena.
1. **An economic dimension**, with direct restitution to the local community of resources that were illegally obtained.
1. **A political dimension**, when the State succeeds in reestablishing a bond with citizens and asserting its authority over mafia control.
1. **A social and cultural dimension**, when confiscated assets become a symbol of “re-education” for the community, which has grown accustomed to looking past abuses without asking too many questions.

[Image Source: Pranav Gavali, Unsplash](#)



COPOLAD III the social reuse of confiscated assets

COPOLAD III has collaborated with:

COLOMBIA: Study on the transformation of the SAE toward a model of asset management with a social function

URUGUAY: Support for the FBD to modernize the registration system and improve allocation procedures to promote the public and social use of confiscated assets.

BRAZIL: Support for SENAD to promote legislative reforms that favour the social use of seized assets within the framework of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development.





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Thank you!

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