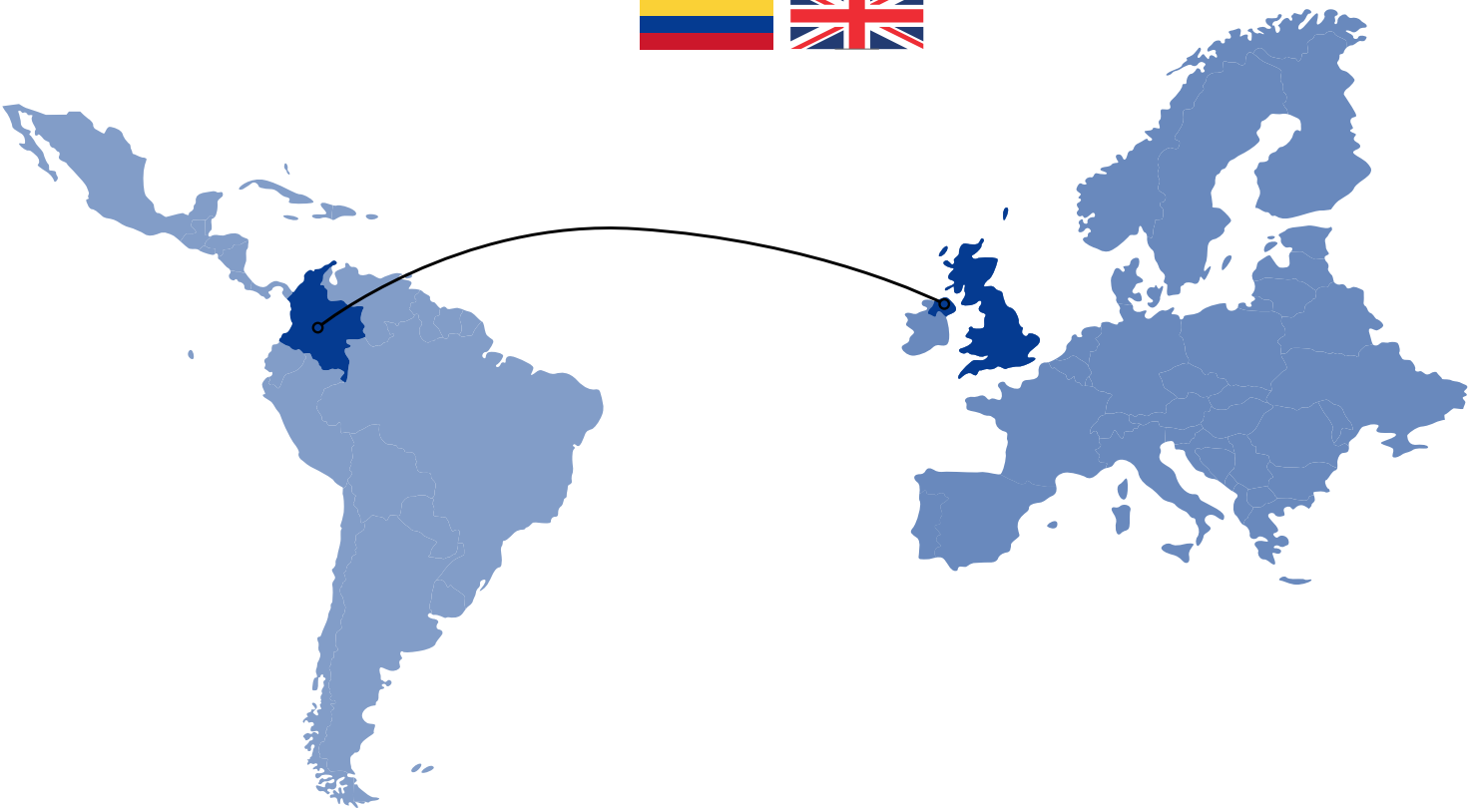
INSPIRATIONAL CASE

PAIRING REPORT:

CALI AND MEDELLÍN- BELFAST



INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION
European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean

A European Union Programme

CALI AND MEDELLÍN- BELFAST

THE CITIES OF CALI AND MEDELLÍN, IN COLOMBIA; TOGETHER WITH THE CITY OF BELFAST, IN NORTHERN IRELAND, HAVE ENGAGED IN AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH INCORPORATING COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH INTO CITY PLANNING PROCESSES.

THE PAIRING AT A GLANCE

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland and one of the youngest cities in the country.

Santiago de Cali is the capital of Valle del Cauca department and the most important in southwestern Colombia and the Pacific coast.

Medellín is the capital of Antioquia department. It is the second largest city in Colombia, and it is the leading city of a Metropolitan area with its surrounding including nine other cities, being the second-largest urban agglomeration in the country.

Keywords

#Urban-social development
#Post-conflict integration
#Mental health support
#Community violence

Thematic areas of cooperation

Urban-Social Development in post-conflict situations

Objectives

1. Exchange of experiences on urban-social development in post-conflict situations, focused on violence prevention and socio-economic incentives as a reconciliation mechanism.
2. Enhance community mental health support for those deeply affected by conflict and community violence;
3. Increase understanding of restorative practices and justice;
4. Develop social enterprise awareness, understanding and knowledge.

Activities

For Belfast, the **mental health crisis** in a post-conflict society is becoming ever more evident and there is now a greater need to address it. The first visit to Cali and Medellín generated a very deep reflection process among the components of the Belfast mission. They especially appreciated their programmes on mental health; and the integration of all urban policies (employment, waste, social cohesion...).

In the complementary mission to Belfast, **Cali and Medellín were very well impressed by the Restorative Practices and Justice in a post-conflict society** developed in the Northern Ireland city. During the mission a very tight agenda was organized to allow the representatives of the Colombian cities to know in detail the way in which this public-private-social approach is operating.

According to the exchanges, the cities identified 3 areas of joint working/cooperation: mental health, restorative justice and social enterprise development.

Stakeholders involved

Belfast (EU) Community Planning partners within Belfast municipality.

Municipalities of Cali and Medellín (LAC).

MAIN INTERVENTION-PILOT PROJECT

In the framework of the cooperation, the three cities have been able to share ideas and methodologies related to the community mental health: an innovative approach to incorporate community mental health and psycho-social support for managers and different actors involved with **mental health programs, in the framework of post-conflict setting.** Within this framework, a Restorative Justice Framework for Cali´s Comprehensive Social Model for Violence Prevention has been drafted.

MAIN IMPACTS AT LOCAL LEVEL

Overall, all 3 participants agreed that the exchanges were of great benefit to the respective cities, and that some advances were made in the following aspects:

- Violence prevention and integration of former guerrilla fighters, in the Colombian cities, into the peace process.

- Exchange of methodologies and technical knowledge on restorative practices and justice.

- Drafting measures directed at education, generation of job opportunities for youths and incentives to promote social enterprise, creative economies, urban culture and art, as a mechanism of reconciliation and empowerment of communities.

LESSONS LEARNED AND ADDED-VALUE OF IUC

The most impressive learnings were the ones we didn't expect.

To share the feeling that in post-conflict contexts nothing can be taken for granted was a positive learning.

The IUC Program is especially valuable for cities that feel they do not have audiences, and thanks to the cooperation they find people who listen to them.

The importance of networking and sharing on a global level - encourages us to think more widely about issues and to join the dots across policies and people.

- City of Belfast

It is important not to design ex novo projects, but rather to identify projects and actions already underway to focus on.

The study visits were essential and provided enormous value and learnings.

- City of Cali

CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Related **SDGs**:

Urban Agenda for the EU: corregir para Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

INTEREST IN FUTURE THEMATIC NETWORKS

Interest shown by **Cali-Medellín** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

NETWORK 1	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport
NETWORK 2	Smart Cities & Digital Transition
NETWORK 3	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity
NETWORK 4	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption
NETWORK 5	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions
NETWORK 6	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality
NETWORK 7	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills.

Interest shown by **Belfast** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

NETWORK 1	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport
NETWORK 2	Smart Cities & Digital Transition
NETWORK 3	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity
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