

## PRESS RELEASE

### Covid Channel during and after the health crisis

The EL PACCTO Covid Channel has allowed experiences in fighting crime during the pandemic to be exchanged

In March 2020, the European Union EL PACCTO programme created the **Covid Channel**. A quick **response to the health crisis to exchange experiences between Latin America and Europe**. The goal: tackling the pandemic and fighting **organised crime more effectively**.

Thanks to the Covid Channel, the **security forces, justice representatives and prison systems** in the two regions have been able to exchange information relating to different areas such as:

- **cybercrime**
- **prison policy** with the reduction of overcrowding and healthcare protocols in the centres, or the implementation of **alternative measures to the deprivation of liberty**
- **justice policies such** as the **transfer and treatment of detainees** during the pandemic
- the public authorities' strategy to face the **economic crisis** that is expected to follow the health crisis
- **corruption** in public procurement
- **the management and trafficking of medical waste**

The exchange of information between Europe and Latin America has **facilitated coordination and cooperation between the two regions** to face the challenges posed by crime in the context of the health crisis. The pandemic reached Europe first, rather than Latin America, and for this reason we **consider it essential to share the lessons learned**. In this context, the information shared between colleagues must be forthcoming and honest.

The Covid Channel has used the **specialised networks** it has supported and also those created by EL PACCTO since 2017 to carry out communications between experts from institutions in the two regions.

### **Wide dissemination of the content published on the Covid Channel**

To communicate the creation of the Covid Channel and the exchange of experiences, we have enabled a [new space on the EL PACCTO website](#). This web page collects all **the information on the pandemic** generated in recent months and that has generated great interest. From March 2020 until now, visits to the [EL PACCTO website](#) have **more than tripled** compared to the same period in 2019.

Furthermore, the Covid Channel **joins forces with #TeamEurope initiatives**. EL PACCTO works to **strengthen security and the fight against organised crime during the pandemic**. We are also preparing for the **new post-Covid reality** with the channel actively sharing **experiences and information on easing out of lockdown** and new crime threats at the transnational level.

Programa liderado por



Socios coordinadores

