

Pereira, Colombia

The DEALS Pereira project works towards city deals on Circular Economy and Inclusive Waste Management. It takes an integrated, multi-level and inclusive waste and environment governance approaches to the challenges facing **informal solid waste pickers and recyclers**. Sustainable waste management requires attention to environment, inclusivity, employment, governance, regional cooperation and public-private partnerships.

Project activities

- Support the implementation of waste deals with national and city stakeholders (2019, 2020 and 2021)
- Training of Focal Groups and support the planning of a city-wide environmental fair (2021 and 2022)
- Facilitate public-private multistakeholder and inter-regional exchanges for strengthening recyclers' organisations in formalisation and implementing the municipal Waste Management Plan PGIRS (2019, 2020 and 2021)
- Technical assistance in the update of the municipal Waste Management Plan, Urban Development Plan and Recyclers Census (2020, 2021 and 2022)
- Multistakeholder capacity building for the implementation of the landfilling tax to fund recycling projects (2020 and 2021), and support the waste pickers organisations in the formulation of projects and study and design for recycling warehouses for landfill tax fund projects (2021 and 2022)
- Facilitate the provision of ID Cards to recyclers (2020 and 2021)

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Context

The 6th city of Colombia, Pereira has 467,269 inhabitants (2018 census), others estimate the population of Pereira at 700.000. In comparison to the other cities in Colombia, Pereira is the most urbanising. Urban poverty (14,4% poverty, 6th city in Colombia with least poverty) and inequality (0,41 GINI, 2nd city in Colombia with least inequality) in relation to the local governments' sphere of influences concern people informally recycling waste. Changing governance perspective in integrated waste management generates opportunities for sustainable development of the city in the long term. A city deal between the involved waste management stakeholders could help the sustainable implementation of the formalisation of waste pickers in Pereira (decree 596 of April 2016). The 2020 census on the amount of waste recyclers in formalisation resulted in the identification of 285 persons (29% women / 71% men). In 2018, the number of formalising recyclers was estimated in 117. The City has started a process of formalisation in 2016 with an initial estimate of 1300 informal waste pickers (census 2015). Structural improvement of the recyclers working conditions is to be achieved through the formalisation of the recycling activities; respecting their right to be entrepreneurs of waste management and ensuring exclusivity in the provision of the services of collection and transport of usable waste.



- Georeferencing recyclers routes (pilots in 2020, mainstreaming in 2021) and for the Ecobarrios contest and the PGIRS update (2020, 2021 and 2022)
- Training public services overseers on the waste management system and tariff structure (2020), support the waste pickers organisations with waste-tariff transfer data and information analysis (2021 and 2022)
- Scaling up activities in cooperation with national stakeholders (Asocapitales, AVINA, CEMPRE) (2021 and 2022)
- Support in the development of the now yearly "Municipal Recycling Fair" (2019 (1st edition) to 2022)
- Support and facilitate coordination of communication, public awareness and education strategy "Ciudadano Inteligente / Smart Citizen" for inclusive waste management, including video support, design content and recycling fair (2019, 2020 and 2021)
- Organising debate with Candidates Mayor on inclusive waste management (2019)
- Facilitation of coordination of inclusive recycling forum in the city with national and local stakeholders (2018)



Results

Improved capacity of Pereira municipality for integrated, multi-level and inclusive governance approaches to the challenges facing informal and in-formalisation solid waste recyclers.

Involved parties

- *City department:* Rural and Environmental Management Secretariat, Planning Secretariat, Social Development Secretariat, Legal Secretariat
- *All Government parties:* Municipal Waste Company (Aseo de Pereira), Metropolitan Area Centro Occidente (AMCO), Technological University of Pereira (UTP), Ministry of Housing, Cities of Territory (MVCT), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), Drinking Water and Sanitation Regulatory Commission (CRA), Public Services Superintendence (SSPD)
- *Waste pickers organisations:* Infinity Recycling, REDCICLADORES, AIICO, ASOPUNTOVERDE, Entorno Limpio, FUNDAMBIENTA
- *NGOs:* CEMPRE Colombia (Entrepreneurial Agreement for Recycling), Latitud R (Regional Initiative for Inclusive Recycling), Fundación Grupo Familia, EMAUS, Ekored, Pereira's Chamber of Commerce, Alumni Association's UTP Environmental Management Program

"We have identified opportunities"

The Mayor of Pereira, **Mr. Carlos Alberto Maya**, and his and the DEALS teams visited the municipalities of Bogotá and Cajicá in 2020 to exchange experiences on waste management and recycling. Mr. Maya expressed that "it is important to acknowledge the low recycling rates in Pereira with respect to the national average" and that they (he and his team of government) "aim at increasing recycling with public policies to promote civic culture, education and institutional processes aligned with this purpose".

