



ILANUD

Instituto Latinoamericano de las Naciones Unidas para la Prevención del Delito y el Tratamiento del Delincuente

Instituto Latino-americano das Nações Unidas para a Prevenção do Delito e Tratamento do Delinquente

United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

INSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT

Mapping of Promising Regional Practices

Social reintegration and the reduction of reoffending in Latin America in light of the Kyoto Model Strategies

United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending
(the Kyoto Model Strategies) · A/RES/80/226

**UNITED NATIONS LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND
THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS**

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Introduction

This document brings together 19 experiences identified in five Latin American countries—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica—that the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) regards as promising for their contribution to the social reintegration of persons in conflict with the criminal law and to the reduction of reoffending. They comprise public policies, legal frameworks, programmes and institutional arrangements of varying scale and maturity, which share the purpose of accompanying offenders and persons deprived of liberty in their transition to life in the community, from a rights-based perspective and on the basis of shared responsibility among the State, civil society and families.

The mapping helps to gauge regional progress in view of the implementation of the United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending (the Kyoto Model Strategies), adopted by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/80/226 (United Nations General Assembly, 2025). The Model Strategies recognize that reducing reoffending requires a comprehensive, multisectoral and inter-institutional approach, and they offer practical, flexible and non-prescriptive guidance that States may adapt to their own legal systems. Within that framework, each experience is presented with a concise description, the data available from official sources and its correspondence with the model strategies to which it relates.

Through this exercise, ILANUD seeks to make available to States, to the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) and to regional counterparts an organized input that facilitates knowledge exchange and technical cooperation aimed at strengthening social reintegration systems across the region.

Methodological note

It should be noted that the Kyoto Model Strategies are not intended to cover matters relating to juvenile justice, which is governed by a distinct normative framework grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nevertheless, four experiences aimed wholly or partly at adolescents and young people—marked with a distinctive label in their profile—have been included, given that the Model Strategies themselves recognize that many of their approaches may be relevant to young adults, and in view of their learning value for the design of rights-based interventions, without thereby extending the scope of the Model Strategies to persons under the age of 18.

The Kyoto Model Strategies

The Kyoto Model Strategies are organized around six core principles and eighteen model strategies. The correspondence recorded in each profile refers to the numbering below.

Core principle I Individualized approaches	1 Assessments
Core principle II Rehabilitation in the community and non-custodial measures	2 Diversion
	3 Pretrial detention
	4 Sentencing
	5 Supervision in the community
Core principle III Supporting rehabilitation and social reintegration in prisons	6 Prison conditions
	7 Family contact
	8 Prison-based programmes
	9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society
Core principle IV Addressing the causes of offending	10 Rehabilitation programmes
	11 Restorative justice
	12 Criminal records
Core principle V Partnerships, community engagement, capacity-building and sustainability	13 Partnerships and collaboration
	14 Volunteers and civil society organizations
	15 Public awareness and understanding
	16 Capacity-building
	17 Sustainability
Core principle VI Research and evaluation	18 Measurement and monitoring

Promising practices

01

ARGENTINA

Nueva Oportunidad Programme

Year: 2013

EXPERIENCE INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OVERVIEW

A provincial programme led by the Municipality of Rosario and the Province of Santa Fe, in coordination with the Ministry of Equality and Human Development. Its purpose is to rebuild a system of care and support for young people in situations of social vulnerability and critical need, strengthening their ties with their neighbourhoods and the city in order to consolidate coexistence and foster their agency (Gobierno de Santa Fe, n.d.-a). The target population comprises persons aged 12 to 35 living in settings of heightened exposure to violence and crime (Municipalidad de Rosario, 2026).

The strategy relies on building a sense of community belonging through integration networks (Gobierno de Santa Fe, n.d.-b) and on a free offer of vocational courses and workshops that broadens opportunities for access to work. It operates through agreements between local governments and community-based social organizations, and provides socioeconomic grants that sustain participation and retention in the training process. All courses are certified upon completion.

KEY DATA

More than 8,500 young people took part in 2025. By the first quarter of 2026, the programme offered 150 workshops in fields as diverse as electrical work, photography, languages, carpentry, digital tools and care for older persons (Rosario Noticias, 2026).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

13 Partnerships and collaboration

14 Volunteers and civil society organizations

02

ARGENTINA

Patronatos de Liberados (Released Persons' Boards)

Year: 1950 (establishment of the Buenos Aires Province Patronato de Liberados)

OVERVIEW

The patronatos are provincial institutions—given Argentina's federal organization, not all provinces have one—responsible for supporting persons released from custody or serving alternative measures during their social reintegration process and the prevention of reoffending. Their work rests on inter-institutional and intersectoral cooperation, through partnerships with provincial bodies.

Among the oldest is that of the Province of Buenos Aires, whose mission is to lower reoffending levels through the social inclusion of persons who have been in conflict with the criminal law, in the pursuit of a fairer and safer society (Patronato de Liberados Bonaerense, n.d.). It operates in coordination with the provincial Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and serves persons in the pre-release and post-release stages, through programmes and projects that provide access to education, work, vocational training, health and leisure, organized in three areas of action: education, technical training and labour inclusion.

KEY DATA

In 2025 the Buenos Aires Province Patronato de Liberados was estimated to have provided court-ordered supervision and support to some 70,000 persons, with around 2,000 serving house arrest under its supervision (Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, 2025).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

5 Supervision in the community

9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society

10 Rehabilitation programmes

03

ARGENTINA

More Work, Less Reoffending Programme (Más Trabajo, Menos Reincidencia)

Year: 2020

OVERVIEW

A provincial programme implemented by the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires through its Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. It pursues the socio-labour inclusion of persons deprived of liberty by coordinating provincial institutions and civil society organizations to provide technical training geared towards access to employment opportunities and, thereby, the prevention of reoffending (Gobierno de Argentina, 2020). It targets persons in the pre-release and post-release stages, with both intramural and extramural reach.

It is defined as a programme based on production, work and vocational training policies for the population deprived of liberty, aimed at reducing reoffending rates and contributing to public safety (La Nueva, 2025). It is structured around five pillars: identity, education, productive profile, work and vocational training (Gobierno de Argentina, 2020).

KEY DATA

The programme has given rise to the so-called Industrial Hubs in Penitentiary Units, production workshops installed inside prison facilities. In 2025, nine hubs were operating and 16,035 workers were engaged in labour activities in the penitentiary units of Buenos Aires Province (La Voz de Zárate, 2025).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

8 Prison-based programmes

9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society

04

ARGENTINA

Employment Quota Act for Released Persons (Act No. 14,301)

Year: 2011

OVERVIEW

A statute enacted in 2011 by the Legislature of the Province of Buenos Aires to enhance the employability of persons who have been deprived of liberty. Its objective is to lay the legal foundations for providing employment to released persons who have served five years of imprisonment (Act No. 14,301, 2011).

Under article 1, the bodies covered by the Act must employ persons who have served more than five years of imprisonment and meet the conditions of suitability for the position and of entry, in a proportion of no less than two per cent of their total staff, and must reserve positions to be filled exclusively by them, in accordance with the arrangements set by regulation. The Act constitutes an affirmative action measure in the field of employment that acknowledges the structural barriers faced by released persons in gaining access to formal work after prolonged periods of confinement.

■ KEY DATA

The Act also promotes the creation of production cooperatives as a socio-labour reintegration initiative for persons deprived of liberty (Act No. 14,301, 2011).

■ LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

[5 Supervision in the community](#)[9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society](#)[15 Public awareness and understanding](#)[16 Capacity-building](#)

05

ARGENTINA

Assistance Programme for Persons under Electronic Monitoring (DAPVE)

Year: 2015

■ OVERVIEW

A federal programme created within the national Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and currently managed by the Ministry of National Security. Its objective is to supervise the operation of the electronic monitoring mechanism for accused or convicted persons who must serve house arrest or other forms of detention or sentence enforcement (Ministerio de Seguridad Nacional, n.d.).

Through Resolution 86/2016 of March 2016, its scope was extended to persons prosecuted or convicted by national, federal or provincial courts and domiciled anywhere in Argentine territory. The scheme makes it possible to replace prison confinement with a home-based modality of enforcement, combining support with technological control, which helps to preserve family and community ties and to ease pressure on the prison system.

■ KEY DATA

As of May 2026, the programme supervised house arrest granted to 1,503 persons at the request of national and federal courts throughout the country (Ministerio de Seguridad Nacional, 2026).

■ LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

[5 Supervision in the community](#)[8 Prison-based programmes](#)

06

ARGENTINA

Houses instead of Prisons Programme (Casas por Cárceles)

Year: 2010

OVERVIEW

The programme emerged in the Province of Buenos Aires as an institutional response to a structural situation in the prison system, characterized by high levels of overcrowding, deteriorating infrastructure and impacts on the fundamental rights of persons deprived of liberty. It was implemented through Ministerial Resolution 56/2010 and later redefined and updated by Resolution RESOL-2018-256-GDEBA-MJGP (Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, 2018).

Its target population comprises detainees who have been granted temporary leave and who have less than two years remaining until the expiry of their sentence; women detained with their children and persons over sixty years of age may also join even if they do not meet those requirements (art. 2). The programme follows a logic of progressive humanization of confinement, consistent with international standards: it seeks to improve detention conditions in qualitative and quantitative terms and to relieve the traditional system without relying solely on the construction of closed facilities. By prioritizing persons in the final stage of their sentence, it creates an intermediate space between prison and freedom that facilitates socialization, promotes participation in educational, work, cultural and recreational activities, and strengthens personal autonomy, peer cooperation and the internalization of norms of coexistence.

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

5 Supervision in the community

8 Prison-based programmes

9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society

10 Rehabilitation programmes

07

ARGENTINA

Entramados Programme

Year: 2025

EXPERIENCE INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OVERVIEW

A multi-agency policy implemented in municipalities of the Province of Buenos Aires under Provincial Act No. 13,298, which enshrines the shared responsibility of the State, civil society and families in guaranteeing rights. Its inter-institutional coordination approach seeks to strengthen provincial and municipal policies to prevent crime and to support children, adolescents and young people who break the criminal law or are at risk of doing so (Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, n.d.). An added value is that it encourages cooperation between State and non-State actors, involving the families of the persons served. It is aimed at young people aged 14 to 21 in conditions of high socioeconomic vulnerability.

KEY DATA

Two territorial management bodies have been created. Local Multi-agency Round Tables, established in each district, bring together the province, the municipality and community organizations to coordinate joint spaces and work agendas; Local Territorial Teams, of an interdisciplinary nature, carry out the programme's phases in permanent dialogue with the Provincial Coordination Unit and with each district's Round Table. The programme

unfolds in five phases: municipal diagnosis and baseline; definition of a road map; implementation of the road map; evaluation of results and impact; and systematization of the experience (Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, n.d.).

■ LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

- 1 Assessments
- 5 Supervision in the community
- 7 Family contact
- 8 Prison-based programmes
- 9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society
- 14 Volunteers and civil society organizations
- 15 Public awareness and understanding

08

BRAZIL

Act No. 13,769 of 2018: house arrest for pregnant women, mothers and carers of dependent persons

Year: 2018

■ OVERVIEW

Known as the mothers' law, Act No. 13,769 of 19 December 2018 inserted articles 318-A and 318-B into the Code of Criminal Procedure and amended the Penal Execution Act (Brasil, 2018). It provides that pretrial detention imposed on pregnant women, mothers or persons responsible for children up to twelve years of age or for persons with disabilities is to be replaced by house arrest, provided that the offence was not committed with violence or serious threat, nor against the woman's own child or dependant. At the enforcement stage, it allows these women to progress to a less restrictive regime after serving one eighth of the sentence, where the offence involved no violence, they are first-time offenders with good conduct and do not belong to a criminal organization.

The Act codifies the parameters of collective habeas corpus 143,641 of February 2018, by which the Federal Supreme Court ordered that replacement nationwide (Supremo Tribunal Federal, 2018), and builds on the grounds introduced by the Legal Framework for Early Childhood (Brasil, 2016). It stands as one of the clearest expressions in the region of the application of the Bangkok Rules to pretrial detention.

■ KEY DATA

When the habeas corpus was issued, of 42,355 women deprived of liberty in Brazil, 19,223 were in pretrial detention and 10,693 met the conditions for house arrest; in the first months only 426 had obtained it, which prompted the codification of objective criteria in law (ITTC, 2018).

■ LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

- 3 Pretrial detention
- 4 Sentencing
- 7 Family contact

09

CHILE

Drug and/or Alcohol Treatment Courts (TTD)

Year: 2004

OVERVIEW

A court model for adults aged 18 to 59 and for minors, established with the aim of reducing drug-related crime through an alternative that emphasizes substance abuse treatment and community supervision (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], n.d.). The courts operate within the Guarantee Courts under the mandate of the Judiciary, as a mechanism that redirects persons towards social reintegration programmes under judicial supervision, in order to facilitate the process of change and encourage adherence to treatment. Their main function is to accompany persons who have committed an offence under the influence of substances, giving priority to their health; substance use is thus understood as a public health matter.

KEY DATA

One of its strengths is rigorous evaluation: the model has been the subject of randomized controlled trials and periodic follow-up to estimate its effect on reoffending (IDB, n.d.), and the Judiciary maintains a national management statistics system (Poder Judicial de Chile, n.d.). Total users numbered 184 in 2020, 236 in 2021, 265 in 2022, 348 in 2023, 451 in 2024 and 405 in 2025; successful completions amounted to 2, 158, 101, 99, 126 and 91, respectively. The 2018 impact evaluation estimated, at five years of follow-up, a reduction in reoffending of 6.1 percentage points among cases effectively served (Fundación Paz Ciudadana, 2018, p. 62); the randomized study reviewed by the IDB places the reduction between 6.3 and 8.7 percentage points after one year of follow-up (IDB, n.d.).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

1 Assessments

2 Diversion

4 Sentencing

5 Supervision in the community

10 Rehabilitation programmes

10

CHILE

Public policies on social reintegration

Year: 2017 (Social Reintegration Policy) · 2025 (National Youth Social Reintegration Policy)

EXPERIENCE INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OVERVIEW

The Social Reintegration Policy, implemented in 2017, is conceived as an intersectoral and highly specialized State policy capable of bringing into dialogue the interests of the criminal justice system, civil society and public security, through services in individual specialized intervention, education, work, physical and mental health, family and housing (Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos de Chile [MJDH], n.d.-a). Its aims include strengthening the institutional framework for social reintegration, coordinating the specialized offer, guaranteeing the prison population's access to formal education, improving access to training, work and entrepreneurship, and strengthening the post-penitentiary system.

As a complementary instrument, the Ministry designed the National Youth Social Reintegration Policy for 2025-2030, whose objective is to guarantee unrestricted respect for the human rights of adolescents and young people who have broken the law, ensuring universal access to the services to which they are entitled and to a quality, territorially relevant programme offer aimed at changing offending behaviour and achieving social reintegration (MJDH, n.d.-b).

KEY DATA

Chile has a Youth Social Reintegration System that operates through comprehensive public-private coordination and collaboration. The National Policy also promotes a restorative justice approach to addressing criminal conflicts involving adolescents and young people, victims and communities (MJDH, n.d.-b).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

- 1 Assessments
- 5 Supervision in the community
- 8 Prison-based programmes
- 9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society
- 10 Rehabilitation programmes
- 11 Restorative justice
- 16 Capacity-building
- 17 Sustainability
- 18 Measurement and monitoring

11

CHILE

Closed Education and Work Centres (CET) Programme

Year: 2015

OVERVIEW

The Closed Education and Work Centres are coordinated by the Chilean Gendarmerie, under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Their objective is to provide persons deprived of liberty with labour-oriented intervention to improve their skills and work habits and thereby help reduce the employability-related risk factors for reoffending (Dirección de Presupuestos [DIPRES], 2020a). Their areas of action include vocational and productive training and systematic specialization in fundamental techniques or trades, in an environment that combines the serving of a sentence with a structured and remunerated productive routine geared towards acquiring habits and skills transferable to the labour market.

KEY DATA

The programme underwent an ex post evaluation in 2019 and has a system for assessing labour competencies applied at participants' entry and exit (DIPRES, 2020a).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

- 8 Prison-based programmes
- 9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society
- 10 Rehabilitation programmes
- 16 Capacity-building

12

CHILE

Social Reintegration Programme for Persons Deprived of Liberty

Year: 2013

OVERVIEW

A programme aimed at the accused and convicted prison population, men and women, to facilitate the exercise of rights that are not restricted by the condition of deprivation of liberty. Its objective is for persons to receive specialized intervention to reduce the presence of employability-related risk factors for reoffending, improve their social integration and reduce reoffending. To that end it provides psychosocial intervention, training and job placement services (DIPRES, 2020b), linking the intramural stage with support following release.

KEY DATA

The 2020 evaluation calculated the percentage of beneficiaries with specialized intervention who were legally recorded as reoffending after leaving the programme: 30% in 2018 and 17% in 2019 (DIPRES, 2020b).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

[16 Capacity-building](#)[17 Sustainability](#)

13

CHILE

Social Integration Support Centres (CAIS)

Year: 2013

OVERVIEW

The Social Integration Support Centres, under the Chilean Gendarmerie, serve persons who have completed their sentence—whether in custody or in the community—, persons granted parole and pardoned persons, distinguishing administrative and control services from criminological psychosocial intervention (Gendarmería de Chile, n.d.). These establishments manage the assistance plans and programmes for persons who, having served their sentences, require support for their social integration, thereby providing the post-penitentiary subsystem with an institutional gateway to its range of services.

KEY DATA

The centres are complemented by the social reintegration programmes known as Post-penitentiary Support and Labour Reintegration, whose purpose is to improve users' conditions of social integration and to reintegrate them into the labour market (Gendarmería de Chile, n.d.).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

[5 Supervision in the community](#)[8 Prison-based programmes](#)[9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society](#)

14

COLOMBIA

Public Utility Act (Act No. 2292)

Year: 2023

OVERVIEW

Its enactment introduces a substitute for imprisonment for women heads of household. The objective is to allow them to serve their sentence through unpaid community services of public utility and social interest, performed from their home, for the benefit of public institutions or non-governmental organizations (Act No. 2292, 2023, art. 38-H). Colombia thereby opts to adopt affirmative action for women heads of household in criminal and penitentiary policy (art. 1).

Article 38-I sets the requirements: being a mother head of household or having emotional, economic and social responsibility for a person with a disability or unable to care for themselves; a sentence of eight years or less for non-violent offences, excluding convictions for domestic violence; an offence falling under articles 239, 240, 241,

375, 376 and 377 of the Criminal Code (theft and drug-related conduct); no final conviction in the five years preceding the offence, except for negligent offences; and evidence that the offence was motivated by conditions of socioeconomic marginalization directly affecting the family's livelihood.

■ KEY DATA

According to the monitoring by the Ministry of Justice and Law, as of 31 May 2026, 268 women had benefited from the measure and a 0% reoffending rate was reported among the beneficiary population (Ministerio de Justicia y del Derecho, 2026).

■ LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

[4 Sentencing](#)[5 Supervision in the community](#)[9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society](#)**15**

COSTA RICA

Semi-institutional Level of Care of the Directorate-General of Social Adaptation

Year: 1983 (under various designations)

■ OVERVIEW

A sub-programme of the Directorate-General of Social Adaptation of the Ministry of Justice and Peace, responsible for professional care and for family, community and employment follow-up of the population under alternative modalities of sentence enforcement, within a framework of access to rights and social responsibility, fostering the social reintegration of persons under its charge in accordance with the decisions of the National Institute of Criminology. Although its designation has changed over the years, the scheme has operated since 1983. Its establishments are currently known as Semi-institutional Care Centres (CASI), and the programme comprises eleven centres across the country, which allow persons to combine the serving of their sentence with work, study and family life in the community.

■ KEY DATA

As of 31 December 2024, 1,792 persons were participating in this level of care (Ministerio de Justicia y Paz, 2026).

■ LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

[6 Prison conditions](#)[8 Prison-based programmes](#)[9 Preparation for release and reintegration into society](#)

16

COSTA RICA

Risk and Protective Factors Matrix (MFRFP) in Juvenile Restorative Justice

Year: 2021-2022

EXPERIENCE INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OVERVIEW

An instrument designed to strengthen the Juvenile Restorative Justice procedure by supporting the process of care, engagement, construction and follow-up of the restorative agreement reached between the parties involved in the conflict addressed within juvenile criminal proceedings (Poder Judicial de Costa Rica, n.d.). Developed with technical assistance from ILANUD, the tool responds to the need of psychosocial teams for a means of objectively identifying and combining the risk and protective variables present at the individual, family and environmental levels for each adolescent, in order to build the most suitable reparation plan while observing the principles of juvenile criminal justice and juvenile restorative justice.

From a rights-based perspective, the Matrix orients individualized assessment towards strengthening protective factors and the successful completion of the reparation plan, and constitutes an experience that could be replicated in other restorative justice processes.

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

1 Assessments

11 Restorative justice

17

COSTA RICA

Establishment of interdisciplinary teams for Restorative Justice

Year: 2012

OVERVIEW

Costa Rica has promoted restorative justice as a procedure for resolving criminal, juvenile criminal and misdemeanour proceedings in which, through the participation of an interdisciplinary team, cases are addressed in a comprehensive manner. The procedure seeks the satisfaction and reparation of victims, together with the active responsibility of the offender in fulfilling the restorative agreements. Those agreements also address the risk factors that contribute to the commission of the offence or misdemeanour, with the aim of reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

The establishment of interdisciplinary teams—comprising legal and psychosocial professionals—makes it possible to accompany the parties during the construction and follow-up of the reparation plan. The experience, launched in 2012 as a programme of the Judiciary, was consolidated in law through the Restorative Justice Act (Act No. 9582, 2018), which gave legal backing to the procedure and to its team structure.

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

11 Restorative justice

18

COSTA RICA

Article 77 bis of Act No. 8204 and the Restorative Justice Protocol for its application

Year: 2013 (Act No. 9161) · 2024 (Protocol) · 2026 (approval by the Superior Council of the Judiciary)

OVERVIEW

Act No. 9161 of 2013 inserted article 77 bis into Act No. 8204 on narcotic drugs, which mitigates the penalty for introducing drugs into prisons—from 8 to 20 years to a range of 3 to 8—where the offender is a woman living in poverty, a vulnerable head of household, responsible for minors, older persons or persons with disabilities, or a vulnerable older woman, and empowers the judge to order alternatives to imprisonment (Act No. 9161, 2013). This legislative reform is grounded in the women's vulnerability, the impact on their dependants and the disproportionality of the penalty (Sala Tercera, 2017).

The mitigation opens the way to restorative justice, recognized for these cases in article 14 of Act No. 9582. In 2024, with technical assistance from ILANUD and the support of European cooperation, the Judiciary developed the Protocol for the application of Restorative Justice in article 77 bis cases, which guides the substantiation of vulnerability through gender-sensitive, intersectional analysis and the design of reparation plans tailored to each woman under a model of active responsibility (Poder Judicial de Costa Rica & ILANUD, 2024). In April 2026, the Superior Council approved the Protocol and ordered its application in all competent offices.

KEY DATA

Article 77 bis cases handled through restorative justice rose from 99 in 2022 to 211 in 2024, about 20% of restorative proceedings with a female defendant; virtually all the women reached an alternative outcome and only two were sentenced (Poder Judicial de Costa Rica, 2024).

LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

2 Diversion

4 Sentencing

5 Supervision in the community

11 Restorative justice

19

COSTA RICA

Reform of the Judicial Records and Archives Act (Act No. 9361) and Act to Strengthen the Judicial Registry (Act No. 10,453)

Year: 2016 (Act No. 9361) · 2024 (Act No. 10,453)

OVERVIEW

Costa Rica amended article 11 of the Judicial Records and Archives Act (Act No. 6723) through Act No. 9361 of 16 June 2016, which allows sentenced persons to have their criminal records expunged within shorter periods once the sentence has been served, distinguishing between short and long sentences and by type of offence. In 2024 the country adopted Act No. 10,453, the Act to Strengthen the Judicial Registry, intended to modify the periods of validity and expungement of criminal records by establishing a gradual and proportional expungement system.

Expungement is not automatic, and the period depends on the type of offence. As of 2026, all Registry files have been digitized. Limiting access to criminal records beyond the competent authorities reduces the obstacles that persons face in gaining access to employment, housing and other spheres of social life after serving their sentence, and mitigates the stigmatizing effects associated with the record.



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■ LINKS TO THE KYOTO MODEL STRATEGIES

12 Criminal records

Correspondence matrix between practices and Model Strategies

Practice	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Σ
01 Argentina · Nueva Oportunidad Programme																			2
02 Argentina · Patronatos de Liberados (Released Persons' Boards)																			3
03 Argentina · More Work, Less Reoffending Programme (Más Trabajo, Meno...																			2
04 Argentina · Employment Quota Act for Released Persons (Act No. 14,301)																			4
05 Argentina · Assistance Programme for Persons under Electronic Monito...																			2
06 Argentina · Houses instead of Prisons Programme (Casas por Cárceles)																			4
07 Argentina · Entramados Programme																			7
08 Brazil · Act No. 13,769 of 2018: house arrest for pregnant women,...																			3
09 Chile · Drug and/or Alcohol Treatment Courts (TTD)																			5
10 Chile · Public policies on social reintegration																			9
11 Chile · Closed Education and Work Centres (CET) Programme																			4
12 Chile · Social Reintegration Programme for Persons Deprived of L...																			2
13 Chile · Social Integration Support Centres (CAIS)																			3
14 Colombia · Public Utility Act (Act No. 2292)																			3
15 Costa Rica · Semi-institutional Level of Care of the Directorate-Gene...																			3
16 Costa Rica · Risk and Protective Factors Matrix (MFRFP) in Juvenile R...																			2
17 Costa Rica · Establishment of interdisciplinary teams for Restorative...																			1
18 Costa Rica · Article 77 bis of Act No. 8204 and the Restorative Justi...																			4
19 Costa Rica · Reform of the Judicial Records and Archives Act (Act No....																			1
Σ	4	2	1	4	10	1	2	8	10	5	4	1	1	2	2	4	2	1	64

1 Assessments · **2** Diversion · **3** Pretrial detention · **4** Sentencing · **5** Supervision in the community · **6** Prison conditions · **7** Family contact · **8** Prison-based programmes · **9** Preparation for release and reintegration into society · **10** Rehabilitation programmes · **11** Restorative justice · **12** Criminal records · **13** Partnerships and collaboration · **14** Volunteers and civil society organizations · **15** Public awareness and understanding · **16** Capacity-building · **17** Sustainability · **18** Measurement and monitoring

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