

Methodological Annex

1. Context and formulation of the research problem

This case study is part of the research project *Articulación de Agendas Globales y Agendas Nacionales: el proceso de implementación de la Agenda 2030 en Europa y América Latina* (Articulation of Global and National Agendas: the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Europe and Latin America), Ref. PID2019-104967RB-I00, granted by the *Plan Nacional de I+D+I* of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation. Complutense University of Madrid. Period: 2020-2023. The project aims to analyse the processes of adoption of the principles and actions derived from the 2030 Agenda in the design and implementation of national policies and programmes. To this end, a research methodology of four case studies has been chosen to develop a comparative analysis that will allow general conclusions to be drawn on the object of study of the 2030 Agenda. The first phase of the Uruguay case study was designed in line with the project's procedural guidelines.

The fieldwork was carried out within the framework of a research stay at the Institute of Political Science of the Faculty of Social Sciences of University of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay (Udelar). This included: i) two methodological seminars to present the project; ii) the presentation of a communication with preliminary results at an International Congress of Political Science to analyse the themes of the 2030 Agenda; iii) meetings to discuss the themes of the research; iv) interviews and focus groups to analyse the object of study.

The research questions and objectives guiding this case study are set out below:

1.1 Research questions: There are three main axes that delimit the research questions: What is the impact of the 2030 Agenda on the mechanisms and processes for promoting sustainable development in Uruguay? How is this global Agenda being articulated with national actors? What are the lessons learned from this process of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Uruguay?

1.2 Objectives

General objective: To analyse the strategies and mechanisms for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Uruguay between 2015 and 2020.

Specific objectives:

- Identify the narratives and political positioning that accompanied the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Analyse the implementation mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda.
- Study the main actors involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (mainly state actors).
- Develop conclusions on the potentialities and limits of the 2030 Agenda in Uruguay.

- Draw general conclusions on the process of articulation and dialogue between the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and processes and policies at national level.

2. Description of the fieldwork

To carry out the case study, we opted for qualitative research, using the semi-structured interview as the main data collection technique, and the focus group as a contrast and triangulation technique. This is an unscheduled, standardised method in which the interviewees are exposed to a similar script, but assuming a wide flexibility in the axes that guide the questions. In terms of secondary sources, data analysis techniques were used to study databases, laws, decrees, documents, reports and academic papers.

The fieldwork was carried out in Montevideo, between 1 July and 31 August 2021, via 29 in-depth interviews. This sample included actors from the Uruguayan political system (mainly those responsible for the Frente Amplio government between 2015 and 2020); consultants and researchers who participated in the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda; authorities and professors from the University of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; civil society actors (trade unions, companies, independent experts) and multilateral institutions (ECLAC, United Nations, SEGIB).

Table 1: Interviews conducted during the fieldwork*.

	interviewee	Institution/organisation	Status	Interview date	Interview type
1	Carmen Midaglia	Udelar ¹	Dean	11 August 2021	In person
2	Luis Bértola	Udelar	Professor	11 August 2021	In person
3	Silvana Maubrigages	Udelar	Professor	23 August 2021	Virtual
4	Fernando Isabella	PBO ²	Director of Planning 2016-2020	4 August 2021	In person
5	Álvaro García	PBO	PBO Director 2015-2020	20 July 2021	In person
6	Pedro Apesteguia	PBO	Director of Decentralisation 2015-2020	22 July 2021	In person
7	Andrea Vignolo	AUCI ³	Director 2015-2020	9 July 2021	In person
8	Karen Von Rompaey	AUCI	Staff member	13 July 2021	Virtual
9	Carolina Ferreriro	AUCI	Senior Advisor 2020 to date	13 July 2021	In person
10	Verónica Amarante	ECLAC Uruguay ⁴	Technician 2016-2020	26 July 2021	Virtual
11	Gustavo de Armas	United Nations	Technician 2016 to date	16 July 2021	In person

12	Enrico Bennedetti	INE ⁵	Staff member 2015 to date	23 August 2021	In person
13	Natalia Novoa	Chancellery	Diplomat 2014 to date	16 July 2021	Virtual
14	Amalia Stuldreher	Development Studies Institute	Director	9 August 2021	Virtual
15	Enrique Galicchio	CLAEH ⁶	Professor	29 July 2021	Virtual
16	María Croci	DERES ⁷	Director	22 July 2021	Virtual
17	Pablo da Rocha	PIT CNT ⁸	Responsible 2030 Agenda	30 July 2021	Virtual
18	Martín Freigedo	Udelar	Professor	3 August 2021	In person
19	Germán Bideguain	Udelar	Professor	10 August 2021	In person
20	Camilo López	Udelar	Professor	20 August 2021	In person
21	José Porcile	ECLAC Uruguay	Director 2020 to date	18 August 2021	In person
22	Guillermo Fuentes	Udelar	Professor	17 August 2021	In person
23	Nicolás Pose	Udelar	Professor	12 August 2021	In person
24	Alejandro Milanesi	CIESU ⁹	Technician	18 August 2021	In person
25	Reto Bertoni	Udelar	Professor	20 August 2021	In person
26	Virginia Varela	UNDP	Technician	30 August 2021	Virtual
27	Cecilia Rossel	UCU ¹¹	Vice-Rector for Research	8 October 2021	In person
28	Rodrigo Arin	Udelar	Rector of the Udelar	8 October 2021	Virtual
29	Martin Rivero	AUCI	Director 2010-2015	20 September 2021	Virtual

1 - University of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; 2 - Planning and Budget Office; 3 - Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation; 4 - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; 5 - National Statistics Institute; 6 - Latin American Centre for Human Economy; 7 - Business Network for Sustainable Development; 8 - Inter-Union Workers' Plenary - National Workers' Convention; 9 - Centre for Information and Research of Uruguay; 10 - United Nations Development Programme; 11 - Catholic University of Uruguay

*Due to health constraints, many of the interviews had to be conducted virtually. The last two interviews were conducted virtually after the end of the research stay.

In addition, once the field analysis period was over, two focus groups were held to analyse and contrast the preliminary results of the case study with researchers and development experts in Uruguay. The focus groups were conducted in online format (due to restrictions imposed by sanitary measures) in September 2021, and several of the fieldwork interviewees also participated.

Table 2. Contrast groups on the preliminary findings of the fieldwork (September 2021 in virtual format).

First focus group discussion of preliminary findings of the Uruguay case study - organised by the research team

Participants	Institution	Position
Andrea Vignolo	AUCI ¹	Director (2015-2020)
Martín Rivero	AUCI	Director (2010-2015)
Natalia Novoa	Chancellery	Diplomat (2014 to date)
Álvaro García	PBO ²	Director (2015-2020)
Carmen Midaglia	Udelar ³	Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences
Enrico Bennedetti	INE ⁴	Staff member (2015 to date)
Jorge Xavier	Udelar	Dean of the Faculty of Economics

Second focus group discussion of preliminary findings of the Uruguay case study – organised by the Thematic Network of Development Studies of Uruguay (Red Temática de Estudios del Desarrollo del Uruguay).

Participants	Institution	Position
Amalia Stuldreher	IDIIS ⁵	Director
Reto Bertoni	Udelar	Professor
Luis Bértola	Udelar	Professor
Sebastián Torres	UNDP ⁶	Consultant

1 - Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation; 2 - Planning and Budget Office; 3 - University of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; 4 - National Statistics Institute; 5 - Institute for Sustainable Development, Innovation and Social Inclusion; 6 - United Nations Development Programme.

Other information sources

In addition to interviews, databases, laws, decrees, documents, reports and academic papers were used. In the case of Uruguay, the main sources of analysis were: i) voluntary national reports submitted to the United Nations; ii) ECLAC database; iii) PBO and AUCI reports on sustainable development issues and the 2030 Agenda; iv) decrees and laws of the Uruguayan Government and Parliament; v) academic analysis and studies on actors and political processes in Uruguay.

3. Interview questionnaires used

Semi-structured interviews were used as the main data collection technique for the fieldwork. Below are the standard interview scripts, depending on the sector to which the interviewee belongs or the period of government to which the interviewee belongs.

Interview 1. Government and actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from 2015 to 2020

1. What has been the process through which Uruguay has participated in the shaping of the 2030 Agenda? (From 2012 to date, whether they have been involved, through delegations, how, etc.).

2. What is the current assessment of the outcome of the 2030 Agenda? (Positive and negative elements, weaknesses, opportunities, etc.).
3. What was Uruguay's political interest in the 2030 Agenda in 2015?
4. Have you participated in regional mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? (Common learning spaces, where experiences were shared, indicators were homogenised, among others).
5. What are the most important strategies and documents for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from 2015 onwards?
6. Was there a specific budget for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
7. Has any kind of normative framework been developed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
8. Who were the actors responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Uruguay?
9. What mechanisms have been used to implement the 2030 Agenda?
10. How have you worked with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms? (Indicators).
11. How have civil society actors been involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? (Role, functions, potentialities, conflicts). Which are the most relevant civil society actors in this field?
12. What have been the main opportunities and risks you have seen throughout the implementation process?
13. What have been the main strengths and weaknesses you have seen throughout the implementation process?
14. How do you see the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the current government? (Potentialities, limits, changes, and modifications).

Interview 2. Civil society actors

1. How was the implementation of the 2030 Agenda seen in the first five years of the previous government? (Was there political commitment to this Agenda).

2. How do you see the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at present? (Is there political commitment to this Agenda).
3. What is your position on the 2030 Agenda?
4. Have there been forums and instruments of participation with you? How did they work? Did your demands materialise?
5. What have been the main potentialities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Uruguay?
6. What have been the main weaknesses?
7. Have any conflicts of interest arisen? Of what kind?
8. Which government actors do you liaise with to follow up on the 2030 Agenda?
9. Are there monitoring and accountability mechanisms in place with civil society actors?
10. Have you participated in the UN Voluntary Review? What is your assessment of the process?
11. How has the COVID-19 crisis affected the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
12. What changes would you make to the way this process is being carried out?

4. Information processing

It should be noted that qualitative methodology involves a high degree of complexity when processing the information, as it is a technique that requires flexibility in the design; therefore, at some points in the research, there has been a certain simultaneity between the phases of fieldwork, processing and analysis. It is not possible to include the transcripts in this methodological annex, but it is possible to state that the interviews were recorded in digital format and that a qualitative analysis of each of them was carried out in the first instance. In a second phase, the axes of analysis were cross-checked with the information obtained during the interviews.