

# Sustainable urban development and housing through technical advice and knowledge transfer (INFONAVIT)

## Triangular Cooperation Mexico – Colombia – Germany

### Context

As part of the long-term bilateral cooperation between Mexico and Germany, the National Workers' Housing Fund Institute INFONAVIT (Instituto del Fondo Nacional de la Vivienda para los Trabajadores) initiated a lively debate on sustainable housing and energy efficiency that has met with considerable interest at international level. Within the framework of their cooperation, Mexico and Germany have worked together to further develop a 'green mortgage' for housing (Hipoteca Verde) and to elaborate an instrument for qualification and housing registration called Sisevive-Ecocasa (Sistema de Evaluación de Vivienda Verde) in cooperation with INFONAVIT. Furthermore, they have worked together with the National Housing Commission CONAVI on the New Housing NAMA concept.

In mid-2011, representatives of energy ministries from different Latin American countries travelled to INFONAVIT in Mexico to obtain information about the country's energy policy. In this context, Colombia, represented by the National Planning Department DNP (Departamento Nacional de Planeación), expressed its special interest in the Hipoteca Verde programme, which was established in 2009. Mexico in turn expressed its need for advice on sustainable urban development and spatial planning. It is against this background that the three countries developed this triangular cooperation approach.

### Project

The aim of this cooperation is to support Colombia's efforts to promote sustainable housing by learning from Mexico's experiences with energy-efficient housing. Mexico for its part can benefit from Colombia's experience in the field of urban development and spatial planning. In both of these areas, Germany provides technical advice based on the experience gained from its long-standing bilateral cooperation with the two countries. This project clearly demonstrates the principle of reciprocal learning in different sectors as a special feature of triangular cooperation.

The project will be implemented in two phases. In the first stage until the end of 2014, mechanisms will be developed to promote sustainable housing, based on the Hipoteca Verde concept. Colombia will be supported in its efforts to create a national housing register based on the Mexican concept Sisevive-Ecocasa as well as on the seal of environmental certification of the Colombian National Savings Fund (FNA, Fondo Nacional de Ahorro). In exchange, Colombia will advise Mexico on measures related to sustainable urban development and spatial planning. Pilot projects will be implemented in both countries in order to put this advice into practice.

In a second phase from 2015 onwards, Mexico and Colombia will promote regional exchange on these topics with other countries in the region.





## Impact

In 2013, three workshops were held within the framework of this project. In the first workshop in Bogotá, the Mexican partners presented the Hipoteca Verde programme, while their Colombian counterparts spoke about their experience with regard to urban development. A pilot project on sustainable housing in Colombia was also planned, as well as a future workshop on the improvement of integral housing complexes in Mexico.

In the second workshop in Mexico, the Colombian partners presented their experiences with the integrated rehabilitation of housing complexes. INFONAVIT demonstrated great interest in introducing the Colombian concept into its future measures for the improvement of integral housing complexes. As a first step, INFONAVIT is planning a pilot project to upgrade a housing complex.

During the third workshop, representatives of INFONAVIT and the Colombian partners visited several improved housing complexes in the Colombian city of Medellín and discussed how these measures could be applied to the planned project in Mexico. In this context, initial steps have been taken to adapt Hipoteca Verde to conditions on the ground in Colombia.

In November 2013, the partners invited representatives from Brazil, Chile, Peru, Nicaragua and El Salvador to Mérida, where the 5th International Forum on Sustainable Housing hosted by INFONAVIT took place. At this meeting, participants discussed the idea of building a regional platform for exchanging information on sustainable housing called 'RedLAC de Vivienda Sustentable'. RedLAC was formally established in 2014. Since then, its members have worked actively to integrate other countries in the region into the platform.

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