

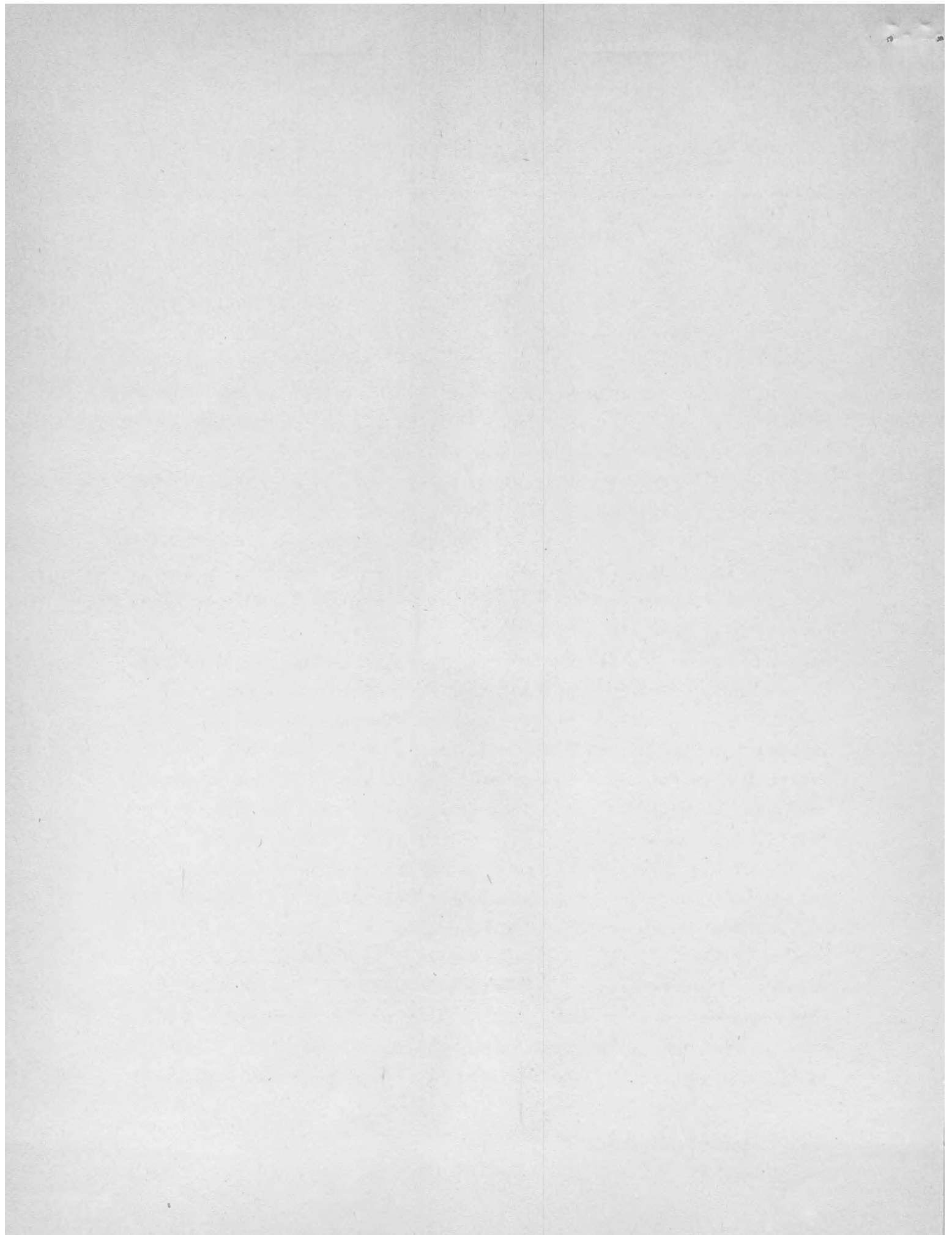
INSTITUTO LATINOAMERICANO
DE PLANIFICACION
ECONOMICA Y SOCIAL



LIMITED
INST/72/Rev.1
May 1974
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING IN TRAINING IN
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
1970-73

NOTE: This document is a revised version of the Report on the Activities of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning in Training in Regional Development and Planning. (INST/72, Santiago, Chile; 23 October 1972.)



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING IN TRAINING IN
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

I. BACKGROUND

During the 1960's, most of the work done in connexion with the planning of economic and social development in Latin America was at the national level. This no doubt contributed towards establishing an appropriate frame of reference for planning the overall strategies and policies of the different countries. The work achieved, however, lacked the elements necessary to tackle in a satisfactory way the problems arising at the regional level.

Concurrently with the efforts being made in over-all planning, some countries carried out specific programmes for the development of separate regions, where different strategies and policies have been tried out and a valuable fund of experience has been accumulated. In a number of cases, because they were launched before the formulation of national development plans, or merely independently of them, and often in response to the need to study some specific type of problem (for example, the exploitation of natural resources, generally products of the extractive industries or water resources), some of these programmes could not be properly integrated into an efficient strategy for expanding or developing economic space.

At the same time, in most Latin American countries, concurrently with the progress made in industrial development, the provision of infrastructure, improvements in productivity and income levels and the expansion of social services (with the resulting rise in levels of living), it has been possible to observe a tendency to maintain or even aggravate the disparities between regions. Such disparities seem in certain cases to be cancelling out many of the benefits of economic growth, and help

/to sharpen

to sharpen the social and political conflicts that are inherent to under-development.

This is basically why governments and planners have shown a growing interest in regional problems in the last few years. As a result, steps were taken towards the regional disaggregation of national development plans and the formulation of regionalization policies.

To this should be added the fact that a growing number of multinational economic integration projects (e.g. for Central America, the Andean sub-region and the River Plate Basin), and frontier projects now in existence, on account of their nature and scope require a spatial approach, the techniques and specific concepts of which are rather different from those which have been used in national planning.

These and other considerations have led the United Nations to extend their activities and efforts to this new field of regional development and planning. Within this frame of reference, and interpreting the express desire of the majority of the Latin American Governments, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) have included regional development and its planning --as one of the topics considered to be of most interest-- in their programmes of work during the Second Development Decade.

In this context, in 1967 ILPES included in the specialization on general planning of its Development Planning Course a subject dealing with regional analysis and planning, which gained in importance and scope in successive courses. At the same time, several intensive training courses on development planning organized by ILPES, ECLA and Governments of the region have begun to consider specifically regional planning problems, as for example, those held at Recife, Brazil (1968), Lima, Perú (1969), Monterrey, Mexico (1969), Campinas, Brazil (1970) and Salvador, Brazil (1971). These training activities involved the continuing and systematic

/classification of

classification of concepts and information, the evaluation of the main questions of interest in this connexion, and the compilation of bibliographic material. These efforts constituted the main background for subsequent Regional Development Planning Courses.

This same concern induced ECLA to include this problem in the "Economic Survey of Latin America, 1968", a chapter of which analysed the regional distribution of economic activity, this being the first time that this problem had been treated explicitly and specifically in the annual survey.

In addition, ILPES and ECLA held a Seminar on Social Aspects of Regional Development in 1969 ^{1/} and were co-sponsors of the Inter-American Seminar on Regionalization of Development Policies in Latin America ^{2/}.

All the above-mentioned activities, plus various research works on the same topics provided valuable methodological and conceptual elements which were used in preparing the specific courses on regional development and planning which the Institute started to offer in 1970.

II. THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COURSES HELD AT THE ECLA/ILPES HEADQUARTERS

A. COURSES HELD FROM 1970 TO 1973

These courses are held in Santiago, Chile, in the United Nations building, organized by the United Nations through the

^{1/} Held in ECLA headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 3-14 November 1969, organized by ECLA, ILPES and the United Nations Office of Technical Cooperation.

^{2/} Organized by the Latin American Institute of Geography and History, with the collaboration of ECLA, ILPES, the National Planning Office of Chile (ODEPLAN), and the Chilean Society for Planning and Development (PLANDES), at the headquarters of ECLA in Santiago, Chile, from 8 - 12 September, 1969.

Economic Commission for Latin America, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation. The first of these courses was held from 31 August - 3 October 1970, and lasted five weeks; the second lasted fifteen weeks, from 2 August - 12 November 1971; the third, lasted sixteen weeks, from 19 June to 6 October 1972 and the fourth lasted fourteen weeks, from 6 August to 9 November 1973.

B. AIMS OF THE COURSE

The general aim of the courses has been to include regional analysis and action in this area in the overall work on the planning of economic and social development which is to be carried out during the Second United Nations Development Decade.

The programme of the courses was structured so as to satisfy the following:

1. To provide a general presentation and revision of present knowledge on regional development and planning in Latin America and other regions.
2. To examine the viability and possibility of the practical application of regional planning theories and methods on conditions prevailing in Latin America.

The programme was thus aimed at giving the participants a broad view of the regional planning of development, the content and scope of each stage and the specific work of the planning process.

It is hoped that on returning to their own countries, the participants will be capable of applying the knowledge acquired in their work on regional planning.

C. TEACHING STAFF

The professors are ECLA and ILPES staff members, in addition to several consultants and experts specially recruited for the

/purpose, by

purpose, by virtue of their recognized competence and authority in these matters. The latter includes distinguished specialists who work in this field in different Latin American countries.

D. PARTICIPANTS

The participants in these courses are senior technical representatives of government institutions or agencies concerned with regional development planning or related teaching activities at the higher education level, who are nominated by the Latin American Governments. In the selection of candidates, preference has been given to officials with university training and prior knowledge and experience on the areas covered by the courses, who are also responsible for questions connected with regional development in planning bodies or regional development corporations or projects.

The distribution of the participants in the Regional Development Planning Courses held in Santiago from 1970 to 1973 by nationality and profession was the following:

/DISTRIBUTION OF

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COURSES HELD IN 1970, 1971, 1972, AND 1973
BY NATIONALITY AND PROFESSION

	Econo- mist	Arqui- tect	Engineer	Geogra- pher	Socio- logist	Agrono- mist	Other	Total
1. Argentina	8	1		1	1		2	13
2. Bolivia	3		1					4
3. Brazil	5		1	1	1	1	3	12
4. Chile	7	5	1	4	3	1	5	26
5. Colombia	2	1	1				1	5
6. Costa Rica		1					1	2
7. Cuba	1	1						2
8. Dominican Republic		1						1
9. Ecuador	4							4
10. El Salvador		1						1
11. Guatemala			1					1
12. Honduras	1							1
13. México	8	1	2					11
14. Panamá			1				1	2
15. Paraguay	1				1			2
16. Perú	1	3	2		2			8
17. Uruguay	1	2					1	4
18. Venezuela	2		2	2	2	1	2	11
	44	17	13	8	10	3	16	111

E. GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND CONTENT OF THE COURSES

These courses are intended to establish a conceptual basis for discussion and clarification of the main theoretical or practical problems encountered by the Latin American countries in the different stages of their regional development planning.

In order to fulfil this aim, they have been organized on the basis of four groups of subjects, as a framework for developing the theoretical classes and seminars (see annexes III, IV, V, and VI).

The first group comprises a set of introductory subjects which are intended to provide the participants, with necessarily heterogeneous backgrounds, with a minimum level of knowledge about certain basic subjects, such as:

- a) Basic mathematics and statistics, indispensable for understanding certain quantitative methods used in planning, which are to be dealt with during the course.
- b) Elementary economics, with a view to giving an integrated picture of the structure, organization, and functioning of the economic system.
- c) Analysis of the major problems of economic and social development in Latin America, through an integrated interpretation of them giving special attention to their interrelations. In this context an analysis will be made of how, over the period of their history, the regional structures predominating in the majority of Latin American countries took their present form.
- d) Basic aspects of planning based on an overall review of basic theories and an analysis of the Latin American experience in respect of planning.

The second group deals with the study of some regional aspects of development, with the purpose of achieving a proper understanding of spatial organization at the national level. It involves the following activities:

- /a) A general

- a) A general presentation of the fundamental economic theories of regional economics, analysing their evolution, including a review of their most significant contribution. In each case, an attempt will be made to place the theoretical contributions in the context in which they were developed and to examine their adequacy in the light of the problems and position of Latin American countries.
- b) The presentation and review of a set of methods and tools for carrying out research and quantifying those aspects concerning the regional siting of economic activities, the relations between activities and structures located in different regions, the intensity of the flows of goods and services between centres and zones in a given area, etc.
- c) The study of social, political, institutional and other aspects of regional development in the various countries.

The third and central part of the Course comprises the study of a group of theoretical and practical problems related to regional planning, at the interregional and intraregional levels, with particular attention to the situation, possibilities and needs of the Latin American countries. Basically, the following subjects are studied:

- a) The basic problems which arise in defining a strategy for regional development within the framework of national plans, a review of the basic specific theories of a regional development strategy, the basic strategic options, their principal fields of action and the fundamental aspects of economic policy. Throughout the presentation of this subject consideration will be given to the effect of imposing a spatial dimension on the development planning process and on the various aspects of such planning, as well as to the existing interrelations between national and regional planning.

/b) The role

- b) The role of agriculture and industry in the formulation of regional development strategy, with due regard to the disparities existing between regions in terms of available resources, infrastructure, market, etc.
- c) The function performed by the national urban network in a planning strategy, which must be defined so that it can be brought in line with the function and place in the network of the various urban centres in the regional development strategy.
- d) The availability and generation of projects in regional plans with a view to formulating the bases of a preinvestment development programme.

The fourth group of subjects is geared to the presentation and analysis of cases of regional planning, for which purpose a study is made of specific and clearly differentiated experiences that warrant special treatment because of their particular interest from the methodological standpoint. Thus, consideration is given both to regional planning experiences covering the whole national space and to strategies and policies devised for smaller spatial units.

F. FUNCTIONING OF THE COURSES

The systematic treatment of the subjects making up the plan of study of the courses is organized through:

1. Theoretical lectures, by specially appointed lecturers;
2. Seminar sessions, aimed at achieving a broad interchange of ideas and experiences, with the active participation of the students.

In the theoretical lectures and the seminar sessions, interpretations of regional development are discussed and a general view presented of the instruments of regional planning and analysis, so as to establish the relations which should exist

/between regional

between regional and national planning, with special reference to the current situation in the countries of Latin America.

III. SPECIAL COURSES ON REGIONAL PLANNING HELD IN THE COUNTRIES

In addition to the courses held in Santiago, Chile, ILPES has collaborated in the organization of development and regional planning courses in some Latin American countries. These courses differed in content and duration according to their objectives and the type of participants for whom they were designed.

A general description of each of these courses is given below.

1. Specialization on Regional Planning within the Course on Development Planning, Lima, Perú, 1970

The Peruvian Advanced School of Public Administration (ESAP), in collaboration with ILPES, held its second Course on Development Planning in 1970. The syllabus of the Course was similar to that of the ILPES Basic Planning Course; it lasted 43 weeks and in the last eight weeks participants were given the possibility of in-depth study of one of the two alternative special subjects: regional planning and external sector planning.

In this connexion it was left to the Institute, at the request of ESAP, to propose the syllabus for the specialization on regional planning. In this instance it had the advantage that the participants formed an homogeneous group in respect of prior training, since before the start of the specialization they had already had to study for and pass the examinations in such subjects as economic analysis, social accounting, economic development, sociology of development, planning, project formulation, economic policy, etc. This circumstance made it possible to fill the eight available weeks with intensive teaching on a range of subjects connected with specific topics of development and regional planning.

/The syllabus

The syllabus proposed by the Institute to ESAP for this specialization covered nearly all the basic topics that have been included later on in the courses organized by ILPES in Santiago such as: theory of economic space, instruments of regional analysis, theory and methods of regional planning, urban and metropolitan planning, and presentation and analysis of individual cases. (See annex VII.)

This course drew on the services of teachers on the permanent staff of ECLA and ILPES, a number of specially recruited Latin American experts in this field and Peruvian experts.

Another feature of the course is that the participants were new graduates, the majority of them not yet engaged in gainful employment. The Purpose of this ESAP course was to provide them with skills so that they could take up, on completion of the course, duties in the Peruvian Civil Service.

2. First Course on Regional Development Planning, Brasilia, Brazil, 1971

This Course was organized by the Ministry of the Interior of Brazil, with the collaboration of ILPES and ECLA, and financed by UNDP. It was held in Brasilia from 3 May to 10 June 1971.

The Course was aimed at stimulating discussion of a whole range of basic topics connected with regional planning among various Latin American experts in this field and a group of high level Brazilian officials from regional development agencies. In line with this objective, the course, which took the form of a seminar, was divided into classes of short duration --in which the basic topics were dealt with-- and discussion sessions on theoretical aspects and various problems and experiences in the field of regional development in Brazil. (See annex VIII.)

The course was attended by 31 officials from various Brazilian states with responsibilities in the field of regional development.

The results were highly satisfactory, as was expressly mentioned by the national authorities in Brazil.

/3. Course on

3. Course on Economics and Regional Planning, Bahía Blanca, Argentina, 1972

During 1972 ILPES collaborated with the Department of Economics of the Universidad Nacional del Sur, in the organization of a Course on Economics and Regional Planning, with UNDP financing.

The Institute's contribution to the Course has been confined to supplying teachers from its permanent staff or teachers specially recruited for the purpose, to cover a set of specific topics included in the syllabus.

The content of the Course was: basic training in economic theory and related techniques; the general and spatial functioning of the socio-economic system; political and institutional components of planning; spatial economies; methods of regional organization; the Latin American region: its history; present situation and prospects; analysis of important cases in Latin America and the rest of the world.

4. Second Course on Regional Development Planning, Salvador, Brazil, 1972

Following the success of the course held in Brasilia, the government of the State of Bahía, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, requested ILPES to cooperate in the organization of a regional planning course, at the national level, to be held in the city of Salvador.

In compliance with this request, the Institute submitted a preliminary syllabus for the course to the government of the State of Bahía, for its consideration; this syllabus was approved, with certain amendments made on the basis of suggestions by the Planning Secretariat of that State. (See annex IX.)

Thus, the course was held over a period of twelve weeks between 8 May and 28 July 1972, with the participation of 29 officials from various Brazilian states, and the results were highly satisfactory.

/The Institute

The Institute was responsible for supplying teachers --either from its own permanent staff or specially recruited for the purpose-- to cover the basic general subjects; these were supplemented by Brazilian teachers, who were mainly responsible for teaching subjects relating to development and regional planning in Brazil.

5. Post-Graduate Course on Integrated Regional Development Planning, 1973

This Course was carried out under the joint direction of the Land Settlement Studies Centre at Rehovot, Israel, and the Institute, with the collaboration of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and the Planning Office of the Office of the President of Chile.

The Course was divided into two parts: the first was held at the Centre at Rehovot from 24 January to 31 May, while the second was at ILPES headquarters from 20 June to 11 October. It was attended by 32 professionals from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Perú and Venezuela.

The aim of this Course was to provide such training for professional staff as would enable them to co-operate, in their own spheres of specialized competence, in solving regional development problems. To do this, they must acquire a broad knowledge and understanding of the various aspects of development, experience in regional analysis using an interdisciplinary approach and skill in the formulation and implementation of integrated regional development plans.

The programme of studies, which was prepared by a joint committee composed of teaching staff from the Centre and the Institute, laid special emphasis on the development problems of rural areas.

/The Course

The Course was primarily intended for public administration personnel --technical experts and specialists with an academic background-- who are engaged in regional development activities. It afforded the participants an opportunity of broadening their theoretical knowledge through systematic study of the principles and methods of regional development planning.

The first part of the Course, held at Rehovot (Israel), covered most of the theoretical material, instruction which was mainly given by the teachers from the Centre and the Institute.

The Centre undertook the teaching of the following subjects: statistics, agronomics, sociology for regional planning, theory of organization and administrative systems, economic and financial analysis of projects, planning methods for farming, and the various subjects coming under the head of regional development planning and implementation.

The Institute, for its part, handled the group of subjects specifically relating to Latin America, comprising economic and social development, development planning, and regional development plans and policies. The other subjects under this head were dealt with during the second part of the Course, which was held at Santiago. The Institute staff also taught the classes on basic concepts of macroeconomics and regional economics, and methods of regional analysis. In this part of the Course they contributed a total of approximately 120 hours of theoretical teaching.

The Course followed the lines envisaged. In the first part of the Course, the results of the examinations held, the evaluation made on the basis of the participants' class work and, in particular, the evaluation based on the seminar discussions revealed a good standard of assimilation of knowledge and a high degree of interest in the subjects taught.

During the second phase, a practical exercise consisting of the formulation of a specific project was undertaken, and the academic classes were supplemented by practical work. The project

/exercise was

exercise was carried out in the Aconcagua Valley area. At the same time, each participant completed the report he had begun in the first part of the Course on one of the topics connected with the programme of studies.

6. Course on Spatial Economic Planning, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 1973

This Course was conducted with the collaboration of the Co-ordination and Planning Office of the Government of the State of Rio Grande do Sul and of the United Nations Development Programme.

The programme of the Course was designed with a view to presenting and broadly reviewing current information on regional development and planning in Latin America and other regions, while at the same time analysing the viability of regional planning theories and methods and examining the possibility of their practical application in the light of existing conditions in Brazil.

The object was to give the participants a comprehensive picture of the regional development planning process, and also of the content and scope of each phase and each specific activity involved in it.

The lectures and seminars were based on four groups of subjects. The first group comprised introductory subjects through which the participants could acquire the minimum standard of knowledge necessary for the efficient conduct of the Course. The second group of subjects covered certain regional aspects of development with the aim of promoting a satisfactory understanding of spatial organization at the national level. To that end, a general account of the main economic theories regarding regional development was given, their evolution was analysed and the most significant contributions made by each of them were discussed.

Thirdly, as the central part of the Course, study was devoted to a group of theoretical and practical problems related to regional planning, with special reference to the situation,

/possibilities and

possibilities and needs of the Latin American countries in general and in particular Brazil. In this context, consideration was given to the principal methods of regional analysis and their theoretical bases, the regionalization of national development plans, the relations between national and regional planning, the role of agriculture and industry in the formulation of regional development strategies and the basic elements of urban and metropolitan development plans.

Lastly, some clearly differentiated cases of regional planning, which justified special treatment from the methodological standpoint, were described and analysed.

7. Course on Regional Development Planning, Mexico City, 1973

This Course, which was held in Mexico City from 23 July to 14 December, also formed part of the National Technical and Economic Training Programme which is currently being implemented by the Government of Mexico with the cooperation of UNDP and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning.

The Course was designed with a view to analysing the viability of regional planning theories and methods, and the possibility of their practical application, in relation to existing conditions in Mexico. This involved first presenting and broadly reviewing current information on regional development and planning in Latin America and other regions. Thus, the technical experts participating in the Course were given a comprehensive picture of the regional development process, and also of the content and scope of each phase and each specific activity involved in the process.

The Course comprised four groups of subjects on which the lectures, seminars and practical work were based.

The first group was made up of introductory subjects through which the participants, with their different backgrounds, could acquire the minimum standard knowledge necessary to be able to benefit from the Course.

/The second

The second group of subjects covered certain regional aspects of development, with the aim of promoting a satisfactory understanding of spatial organization at the national level. To that end, a general account of the main economic theories regarding regional development was given, their evolution was analysed and the most significant contributions made by each of them were discussed.

Next, as the central part of the Course, a group of theoretical and practical problems related to regional planning were studied, with special reference to the situation, possibilities and needs of Mexico. This study included an account of the principal methods of regional analysis and their theoretical bases, the regionalization of national development plans, the relations between national and regional planning, the role of agriculture and industry in the formulation of regional development strategies and the basic elements of urban and metropolitan development plans. Pre-investment activities required to lay the bases for a regional development plan were also analysed, and an examination was made of regional economic policy and of the necessary instruments for the implementation of the development plan.

Lastly, the participants carried out a practical training exercise in which they applied the general methodology learned to the planning of micro-regions. For this purpose, the trainees were divided into several interdisciplinary teams, in which each member contributed to the formulation of an integrated regional development plan according to his experience and knowledge.

The 28 trainees who took part in this Course were all technical experts attached to Mexican Government programming units.

