



Programme area n°20

International Police Cooperation and Combating Crime

OBJECTIVE

Improved crime prevention and investigation

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Cooperation between national and international law enforcement authorities, such as Europol, Interpol, and Frontex
- > Efficiency of cooperation between law enforcement authorities in fighting organised crime
- > Cooperation between authorities, including national law enforcement authorities, and relevant stakeholders, such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the general public, especially vulnerable groups
- > The justice chain - cooperation and networking between justice institutions, including courts, prosecution services, police, and correctional services
- > Combating transnational crime, including cyber-crime, trafficking in and smuggling of human beings and itinerant criminal groups
- > Combating hate crime and violent extremism
- > Combating gender-based violence
- > Combating crimes against employees, work-related crime, money laundering and corruption
- > Effectiveness of the police system and its performance
- > Systems to protect and support victims of crime
- > Child-friendly justice

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute in cases of organised crime, including trafficking
- > Improving the capacity of national authorities to work with Eurojust, Europol and Interpol
- > Capacity building and financial support for core activities, such as improved forensic services
- > Strengthening of cooperation between border control and police authorities
- > Support cooperation within the Schengen area
- > Developing and supporting international networks on an operational level to ensure the rapid exchange of information for investigative purposes, as well as for the sharing of best practice
- > Preventing recruitment into trafficking and providing assistance and support for victims
- > Combating corruption within the police
- > Improving work-flows within the police
- > Improving cooperation between different stakeholders where several public and civic institutions play a role
- > Training in human rights, cultural awareness and dialogue, including follow-up of country specific recommendations in European and International monitoring reports, such as those of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), and MONEYVAL
- > Preventing and combating corruption, money laundering, including proceeds from tax crimes, as well as the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- > Recovering proceeds from crime and implementing cost-efficient mechanisms to reuse former criminal assets

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

Crime draws resources from the economy and poses a threat to public safety.

Combating international organised crime is a high priority for all European countries. Since the Vienna Action Plan in 1999, combating organised crime has been a priority for the European Union. This has subsequently been reflected in programmes and action plans adopted every fourth year, the latest being the Stockholm Programme for 2010-2014.

Security in Europe is enhanced when law enforcement authorities pool information as effectively as possible. Well-educated and well-functioning police forces, which are adequately equipped to cooperate, are the key to combatting crime. Law-enforcement authorities in Europe cooperate on a bilateral basis and through European agencies such as Europol, Frontex and Eurojust, as well as internationally through Interpol.

The 2010 evaluation of the EEA and Norway Grants 2004-09 identified that future funding needs to focus on combating organised crime, human trafficking and corruption in particular. Victims of crime are an important group that needs to be recognised, especially children. The implementation of the EU's victims directive is especially relevant in this context.

All EU and EEA EFTA countries have signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and all but two have ratified it. The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the convention. Many of the same countries have also ratified the criminal law and civil law conventions against corruption, which are monitored by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). The EEA and Norway Grants will assist the beneficiary countries in meeting their obligations under these conventions.

Adherence to recommendations in European and international monitoring reports as well as to judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice of the EU shall be supported if relevant. The support also takes account of the recommendations made in the Secretary General of the Council of Europe report "State of democracy, human rights and rule of law in Europe" (April 2014).

PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

- > A maximum level of funding available for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be identified in the memorandum of understanding or exceptionally in the programme's concept note

BILATERAL INTEREST

Cross-border crime is a collective challenge which can be addressed through increased international cooperation. Exchange of knowledge and expertise between police forces will be supported through this programme area.