



Tool 4.10 Promising cooperative practice

Overview

This tool showcases some promising cooperative criminal justice practices.

Many States have developed a liaison capacity to support international cooperation with respect to transnational crime and organized criminal activities. The placement of officers specialized in trafficking in persons in such arrangements has proved to be an effective way of increasing cooperation and has the capacity to be more cost-effective than bilateral networks. Such mechanisms are being used by different States in different ways.

Promising practice

INTERPOL

INTERPOL, the largest international police organization in the world, has 186 member States. Its purpose is to support law enforcement agencies to fight crime globally. It secures global communications, offers data services for police and operates police support services. One of its five priority areas for action is combating trafficking in people. In 2006, INTERPOL created a human smuggling and trafficking message to provide a standardized format for easy information exchange. The message is accessible to authorized users of the I-24/7 global police communications system of INTERPOL. Among its key activities relating to trafficking, INTERPOL provides an intelligence clearing house on traffickers, to facilitate the identification of international links in investigations. Crime intelligence officers establish international networks of contacts in conjunction with INTERPOL National Central Bureaux and subregional bureaux.



For more information about INTERPOL, visit:
www.interpol.int

European Police Office

Europol is the European Union law enforcement organization. It aims to improve the effectiveness and cooperation of competent authorities in the member States in preventing and combating serious forms of international organized crime. The mission of Europol is to make a significant contribution to European Union law enforcement action against organized crime, with an emphasis on targeting criminal organizations. Europol supports the law enforcement activities of European Union member States by:

- Facilitating the exchange of information, in accordance with national law, between Europol liaison officers
- Providing operational analysis in support of operations
- Generating strategic reports and crime analysis on the basis of information and intelligence supplied to it
- Providing expertise and technical support for investigations and operations carried out within the European Union under the supervision and legal responsibility of the member States concerned
- Promoting crime analysis and harmonization of investigative techniques within the European Union



More information about Europol is available at:
www.europol.europa.eu/ and
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l14005b.htm>

ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conferences

Chiefs of police from each of the ASEAN member States take part in regular conferences and have agreed to work together to combat trafficking in persons. The objectives of the 25th ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 16 to 20 May 2005, were to further enhance police professionalism, forge stronger regional cooperation in police work and promote lasting friendships among police officers of ASEAN countries. The conference, attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, adopted the following resolutions with respect to human trafficking:

- To enhance information exchange among member States on the identities, movements and activities of transnational criminal organizations involved in human trafficking
- To appoint, update and disseminate the contact points of each member country for the purpose of liaison and exchange of information on human trafficking
- To encourage member States to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements on combating human trafficking and enhance cooperation on border control management



The joint communiqué on the conference can be viewed at:
www.aseansec.org/4964.htm

Eurojust

The Eurojust initiative is an example of a way of supporting existing regional structures. The European Union has established a liaison network of prosecutors (Eurojust) in order to deal more efficiently with cross-border crime, in particular crime committed by organized transnational criminal groups. Each member State nominates one prosecutor to join Eurojust, which is based in The Hague.

- Eurojust stimulates and improves the coordination of investigations and prosecutions between competent authorities in the European Union member States.
- Eurojust takes into account any request emanating from a competent authority of a member State and any information provided by any body competent by virtue of provisions adopted within the framework of the treaties.
- Eurojust improves cooperation between the competent authorities of the member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests.
- Eurojust supports the competent authorities of the member States in order to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross-border crime.

By achieving these objectives, Eurojust enhances cooperation and coordination between national investigating and prosecuting authorities, allowing all law enforcement agencies to act more effectively, both individually and collectively, when dealing with international crime and more importantly to bring criminals to justice more quickly.



More information is available at:
<http://eurojust.europa.eu/index.htm>

European Judicial Network

In addition to Eurojust, the European Judicial Network has been established within the European Union to promote and accelerate cooperation in criminal matters, paying particular attention to the fight against transnational organized crime, including trafficking in people. The contact points in this network function as active intermediaries with the task of facilitating judicial cooperation between European Union member States. They also provide necessary legal and practical information to the local judicial authorities in their own countries, as well as to the contact points and local judicial authorities in other countries, in order to enable them to prepare an effective request for judicial cooperation and improve or coordinate judicial cooperation in general. The European Judicial Network was the first practical structured mechanism of judicial cooperation in the European Union to become truly operational. Its key principle is to identify and promote people in each member State who play a fundamental role in judicial cooperation with respect to criminal matters, with the purpose of ensuring the proper execution of mutual legal assistance requests.



For more information, visit:

www.ejn-crimjust.europa.eu/ and more specifically
www.ejn_crimjust.europa.eu/ejn_tools.aspx

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime

The Southeast European Cooperative Initiative brings together 12 States of the Balkan region in an effort to combat organized crime. At the Regional Center in Bucharest, police and customs liaison officers facilitate information exchange between law enforcement agencies in the participating States. Requests for regional assistance are sent to the Center from the national office of each individual State through its liaison officer, who then disseminates them to the appropriate State liaison officers. The Agreement on Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Trans-border Crime was signed by member States of the Initiative in 1999 and entered into force in 2000.



Source:

www.secicenter.org

Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation

The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, located at the Indonesian National Police Academy, was established as a bilateral initiative with the Government of Australia. It has a capacity-building and operational support mandate to foster cooperation and encourage increased communication with and between regional law enforcement personnel throughout the Asian and Pacific region in combating transnational crime. The ultimate goal of the Jakarta Centre is to contribute to enhancing regional law enforcement capacity to manage multi-jurisdictional investigations of transnational crime in the region. Among its strategies to achieve this are:

- Strengthening law enforcement response capacity
- Strengthening investigation capability
- Contributing to the development of wider criminal intelligence skills and capacity to share and exchange criminal intelligence
- Strengthening domestic and international law enforcement partnerships and networks

In August 2006, UNODC released its computer-based anti-human-trafficking training modules (see Tool 2.14) for use by the Jakarta Centre in enhancing law enforcement capacity against trafficking.



More information about the Jakarta Centre is available at:
www.jclec.com

Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization

The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) is an international independent police organization in Southern Africa which liaises closely with INTERPOL. Its member States are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In accordance with its constitution, the objectives of SARPCCO are:

1. To promote, strengthen and perpetuate cooperation and foster joint strategies for the management of all forms of cross-border and related crimes with regional implications;
2. To prepare and disseminate relevant information on criminal activities as may be necessary to benefit members to contain crime in the region;
3. To carry out regular reviews of joint crime management strategies in view of changing national and regional needs and priorities;
4. To ensure efficient operation and management of criminal records and efficient joint monitoring of cross-border crime, taking full advantage of the relevant facilities available through INTERPOL;
5. To make relevant recommendations to Governments of member States in relation to matters affecting effective policing in the Southern African region;
6. To formulate systematic regional training policies and strategies, taking into account the needs and performance requirements of the regional police services/forces;
7. To carry out any such relevant and appropriate acts and strategies for the purposes of promoting regional police cooperation and collaboration, as regional circumstances dictate.

In practice, its tasks are:

1. To make relevant recommendations to Governments in relation to:
 - (a) Harmonization of legislation and accession and ratification of international conventions in matters relating to deportation, extradition, confiscation of proceeds of crime, repatriation of recovered exhibits;
 - (b) Promotion of mutual assistance on criminal investigations, detection and apprehension of cross-border offenders;
 - (c) Facilitation of the movement and attendance of witnesses to places of trial and any other matters which may become relevant from time to time;
2. To carry out any such relevant and appropriate acts and strategies for the purpose of promoting regional police cooperation and collaboration, as regional circumstances dictate.



More information about SARPCCO is available at:
www.interpol.int/Public/Region/Africa/Committees/SARPCCO.asp

Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization

The Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) was founded in Kampala during the first meeting of Eastern African police chiefs, held in February 1998. The meeting resolved to set up an institutionalized body after emphasizing the need for a collective effort to curb cross-border crime within the region. The EAPCCO constitution was signed in Khartoum on 20 June 2000 and came into force on 21 August 2002. The constitution of EAPCCO recognizes the INTERPOL Subregional Bureau in Nairobi as its secretariat.

From 20 to 22 June 2007, the first regional anti-trafficking conference in Eastern Africa was held in Uganda in the framework of UN.GIFT. The conference was organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa, together with EAPCCO through the INTERPOL Subregional Bureau. The conference was hosted by the Government of Uganda through the Ugandan National Police and brought together representatives of EAPCCO countries.



More information about EAPCCO can be found at:
www.interpol.int/Public/Region/Africa/SRBeasternAfrica.asp



More information about the regional anti-human trafficking conference in East Africa can be found at:
www.giftasia.in/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139&Itemid=307

Australian Federal Police Law Enforcement Cooperation Program

The Australian Federal Police Law Enforcement Cooperation Program cooperates with foreign law enforcement agencies on transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons. It is primarily focused on cultivating cooperative environments in the Asian and Pacific region and has established transnational crime teams in Thailand and Cambodia and established the Pacific Transnational Crime Network.



More information about the Australian Federal Police Law Enforcement Cooperation Program is available at:
www.afp.gov.au/international/liaison/LECP.html

Political and Security Programme of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

The Pacific Island Forum comprises 16 independent and self-governing States of the Pacific region. In October 2005, the Forum adopted a Pacific Plan to strengthen regional cooperation throughout these fragile island States. In support of that broader goal, the Political and Security Programme is primarily focused on law enforcement cooperation and building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to respond to transnational crimes.



More information about this initiative is available at
<http://forumsec.org/pages.cfm/security>

Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police

The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) is an organization consisting of 21 members (States and territories) representing some 75,000 police officers. PICP aims to provide a voice on law enforcement issues and raise awareness of them. It also aims to identify trends in transnational organized crime and develop strategies to combat them, contribute to training initiatives to develop the law enforcement capacity of the region, promote information-sharing and intelligence and share best practices across the region. PICP is a mechanism for interaction and cooperation throughout the region.



More information about the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police is available at:
www.picp.org/index.html

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization was an outcome of the Bandung Conference held in Indonesia in April 1955. Among the purposes of the Organization is to serve as a forum for Asian-African cooperation and information exchange on legal matters. One of the items on its work programme is the establishment of cooperation against trafficking of women and children. In its resolution adopted on 6 July 2007 at its forty-sixth session (RES/46/S/8), the Organization urged its member States to become parties to the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.



More information about the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization is available at:
www.aalco.int

Task Force on Organized Crime in the Baltic Sea Region

The vision statement of the Task Force on Organized Crime in the Baltic Sea Region, adopted by the third Heads of Government Meeting in May 2006, is that it “acts as a regional best practice example in Europe for multidisciplinary operational law enforcement cooperation against organized crime”.

Following a meeting of the Operative Committee of the Task Force in November 2003, the Expert Group on Illegal Migration and the Expert Group on Trafficking in Women were merged to form the Expert Group on Trafficking in Persons, consisting of experts from law enforcement authorities of member States, as well as INTERPOL and Europol.

The primary task of the Expert Group is to assess the situation with regard to trafficking in persons in the Baltic Sea Region and to coordinate and present national and international operations in response to it.

The experts meet regularly to discuss implementation of Task Force decisions. The Expert Group has also developed close contacts with the Network of Prosecutors General in the Baltic Sea States, Eurojust and the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.



More information about the Task Force on Organized Crime in the Baltic Sea Region is available at:
www.balticseataaskforce.ee

Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime (The G8 Lyon Group)

The G8 has been cooperating to address international crime since its 1995 Summit. The Lyon Group is a group of senior experts mandated to enhance law enforcement and judicial cooperation. It was tasked to review and assist international agreements and mechanisms pitted against transnational organized crime and make recommendations to strengthen them. The Lyon Group presented 40 operative recommendations, which were revised in 2002 to become the “G8 recommendations on transnational crime”. They comprise principles, best practices and actions which represent the G8 commitment to improving its response to transnational organized crime.



Source:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/crime/structures/fsj_crime_structures_en.htm

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization was formed by 11 Governments in 1992 to foster peace, stability and prosperity among member States. In 1998, members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization signed a cooperation agreement with respect to combating crime, in particular in its organized forms. This was followed in subsequent years by two protocols and the formation of the Working Group on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms.



More information about the cooperative mechanisms of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization against organized crime are available at:

www.bsec-organization.org/areas_of_cooperation.aspx?ID=Cooperation_in_Combating_Crime