URUGUAY
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime was created following the Resolution 2866 approved during the 44th General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in Paraguay, in 2014. The Resolution reaffirms that the prevention of violence and crime is a strategic priority for the region and instructed the General Secretariat to establish a Network to provide assistance to Member States on the enforcement and implementation of public polices, programs and initiatives in the area of violence and crime prevention. Since then, the OAS Department of Public Security has been working on the creation and implementation of the Network and its activities, which has been officially launched on November 29th, 2017.

The interaction among the members of the Network takes place on in-person meetings that are carried out across the Americas and through its Website, where members can exchange experience and knowledge in the discussion forums, chats and learn more about different initiatives, policies and program in the area of crime and violence prevention around the world. The Website also features a variety of multimedia resources such as news, blog posts, videos, etc., available to its members.

Following the same Resolution a Fund for voluntary contributions was created to cover direct and indirect costs, which will not generate interest and is non-refundable. The Fund is managed by the DPS.

OBJECTIVES

To establish a dialogue and consultation mechanism, and foster the exchange of experiences, information, best practices, data and points of view among member states and different stakeholders on the issue of crime and violence prevention.

To facilitate the interaction and cooperation among different sectors to increase knowledge and promote the development of more efficient and effective policies, initiatives and programs to prevent violence and crime and to create safer and more peaceful societies in the hemisphere.

RESULTS

In 2016, the Network was officially launched during the event “Latin America and the Caribbean in action to reduce homicides” that took place at the OAS Headquarters. Additionally, in the same occasion, the Website of the Network, where the members have the opportunity to access a variety of publications, best practices, news, videos, among other materials and interact with other experts, professionals and people interested in the area of crime and violence prevention was made available through the OAS Website.

In the next months and years, it is expected, through the Network, to provide technical assistance to member states for the development and evaluation of actions, policies, and programs; provide inputs for the formulation of actions, policies, and programs; increase horizontal cooperation among States in the framework of prevention and promote interaction and exchange of knowledge and practices among different actors and stakeholders.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Department of Public Security (DPS) has created the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization as a mechanism for international cooperation to strengthen the police capacity to address security challenges. The Police Network seeks to generate police skills adapted to new security situations in the region and to promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. The structure of the Police Network is based on a needs-assessment carried out by DPS, with the support of AMERIPOL, which allowed the identification and understanding of the main challenges and knowledge gaps regarding police training.

The Interamerican Police Network is structured in four main pillars: (i) development and implementation of a training curriculum, with on-site courses and virtual courses, that seeks to answer the knowledge needs identified in the needs-assessment and to reduce the asymmetries among the police forces in the Americas; (ii) creation of a permanent network for cooperation with the goal of strengthening the training process through the continuous exchange of information and knowledge between police officers and the training institutions and instructors; (iii) horizontal cooperation that promotes the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices among police institutions (iv) certification of police forces in excellence management.

The Interamerican Police Network has partnered with universities of the Hemisphere, coordinated by the University of São Paulo, with the goal of promoting the exchange between academic knowledge and police practices.

OBJECTIVES

To contribute in a systematic and ongoing manner to the strengthening of professional development of OAS Member States’ police institutions. Its specific goals are: (i) to develop a police knowledge management system based on on-site and virtual training; (ii) to promote a comprehensive and holistic approach that includes continuous training and exchange of knowledge and best practices among police institutions, as well as certification in police management; (iii) to generate greater coordination among Member States to address present and future public security challenges; and (iv) to add scientific value in the professional development of police officers through accreditation of the courses by renowned universities.

RESULTS

In the framework of the Interamerican Police Network, with the support of strategic partners, the DPS has carried out a needs assessment to identify the main challenges and gaps in police training; an educational guide for the on-site police training was developed based on the conclusions of the needs-assessment. The curriculum and the material for this training are being finalized and they will be validated by the strategic partners of the Police Network. Simultaneously, the first edition of the training is being organized and it is expected to take place at the Police Academy of Honduras in 2017. The DPS has also elaborated a mapping of the police institutions and their processes certified in quality management in the hemisphere.

It is expected that in the following years the Interamerican Police Network trains at least 340 police officers to promote the program in the OAS Member States during a one-month on site police course and 200,000 officers on the virtual platform, who will be connected through a network for police cooperation and exchange of experiences. The police network also aims to add scientific value in police professional development through accreditation of the courses offered by renowned universities and foster horizontal cooperation among police institutions in the Americas.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The OAS Department of Public Security (DPS) supports the professionalization of the Uruguayan National Police through the design of a Code of Ethics, which reflects the values of the Uruguayan police as a civil, public and democratic institution.

With the adoption of a new Code of Ethics in the National Police of Uruguay, it is sought that police activity be oriented by updated paradigms, generating a police ethos adjusted to the principles of respect for the rule of law, human rights and their fundamental guarantees and safeguarding citizens' rights, while also promoting efficiency, accountability, diversity and equity, the fight against corruption, the appropriate and proportional use of force, and the development of knowledge applied to police activity.

In addition to the development of the Code itself, training courses (on-site and virtual) are implemented with the National Police Education Directorate of Uruguay and the University of San Pablo on the new Police Code of Ethics, in order to promote a critical evaluation of the problems of professional ethics applied to the specific context of the police institution in Uruguay. The project will install in the National Directorate of Police Education of Uruguay the capacity to replicate this knowledge through trained tutors, as well as a virtual course installed on the platform of the National Police.

OBJECTIVES

Contribute to improving the management and professionalization of the Uruguayan National Police by adopting measures that promote accountability, transparency and respect for human rights, so that updated police management models can improve the response of the institution to the specific demands and needs of Uruguayan society.

RESULTS

A Comparative Experiences Study was produced, which compiled inputs of legal and normative standards of excellence, as well as successful experiences with other codes of ethics in Latin America. This study guided the development of the draft Code of Ethics, which was presented for validation by the Uruguayan authorities and police experts of the region. Field visits were also arranged to conduct interviews and surveys using a qualitative and quantitative methodology to gather information and the opinion of relevant actors regarding the ethical climate existing in the Uruguayan National Police and the areas that should be addressed by a code on the subject. Based on the comments received, the final version of the Code of Ethics for the National Police was prepared, as well as a practical pocket version that summarizes the principles therein. The Code was approved by presidential decree on November 11, 2015.

With the participation of the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), in November 2016 the DPS carried out a face-to-face “train the trainers” course for 25 officers of the Uruguayan Police. This served not only to train police officers on issues specific to police ethics, but also to improve the skills of participants in training and teaching others. These 25 officers are considered multipliers of knowledge and have been acting as instructors and mentors of a first round of virtual training for 200 cadets. With the subsequent rounds of virtual training, approximately 750 officers of the Police of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay will have been trained (face-to-face and virtually).
The objectives of the program are to strengthen national legislative frameworks in Member States through drafting, passing and applying adequate laws regarding CBRN materials in order to prevent and combat the risk of non-state actors acquiring, building or using weapons of mass destruction; to increase the capacities of government authorities and high ranking officials regarding the national level implementation of Resolution 1540 in order to guarantee compliance with its mandates; and to foment the coordination and cooperation at the regional and sub-regional level in preventing and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through the establishment of a regional 1540 coordinator, the creation of a network of points of contact, the execution of regional conferences and peer review exercises.

RESULTS

The program team will assist in drafting the reform of the penal code to criminalize proliferation related offenses, the law to counter-financing of terrorism and proliferation of WMDs and the draft of reform of the custom legislation (border control and transport of WMD and nuclear smuggling).

The program team plans to continue coordinating with Uruguayan 1540 points of contact to maintain a 1540 regional network, collaborate in regional efforts and share best practices and lessons learned with other Member States.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism began implementing the “Fortifying Authorized Economic Operator Programs in the Hemisphere” project in 2014, with the financial support of the United States Counter-Terrorism Bureau. The project coordinates with the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Monetary Funds, the World Customs Organizations, and other international organizations to reduce the duplication of efforts and the meet the double sided goal of minimizing risks in the international supply chain while supporting free trade. The project has been executed in 7 countries in the hemisphere and has coordinated with 14 of the 17 Authorized Economic Operator programs in the Americas.

The project is comprised of three missions intended to fortify AEO programs and trains AEO officials: one evaluative mission and two technical assistance missions. In the evaluative mission, CICTE creates a Findings Report reflecting strengths and weaknesses of the program and a work plan for the following missions to address the identified security topics. The activities in the two technical assistance missions include observation of a validation, workshops for the private sector, seminars for other departments inside the customs agency, training in security topics related to the supply chain and practical exercises to reinforce learning.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Project focus on: contributing to the implementation of developed, mature and sustainable AEO Programs in the hemisphere; support the Regional AEO Strategy and the Coordinating Committee; facilitate technical assistance and training for Member States; foment the practice of exchanging experiences, best practices and lessons learned between customs administrations; encourage the harmonization of practices, requirements and AEO program structures to support the eventual creation of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs).

RESULTS

In Uruguay, the project has been able to the support the AEO program in various areas. First, the AEO customs officials have received technical training regarding the appropriate techniques employed while executing complete security validations through detailed observations, practical activities and feedback. Second, the project worked with the AEO team and other customs officials in private sector outreach workshops where more than 100 people participated. Additionally, CICTE coordinated trainings for validations and observed 4 validations with the Uruguayan team.

Under this project 7 AEO officials received specialized training in supply chain security and 100 companies received information about the international figure of the AEO and how to improve the security of their supply chain. Although the program is only 3 years old, it receives special attention from the Director General and all the support it requires to keep growing sustainably.