**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.
RESUMEN DEL PROGRAMA

El Programa fue creado con el fin de apoyar los Estados Miembros en la promoción de la seguridad ciudadana, a través de una estrategia de prevención integral y multidimensional orientada hacia la reducción y mitigación de los factores de riesgo de la violencia y el delito, especialmente entre los jóvenes. Todas sus acciones están sustentadas por la articulación intersectorial, la base en evidencia, la participación comunitaria, el protagonismo juvenil, y la promoción de la paz, desde una perspectiva de género y derechos humanos.

El Programa consta de cuatro instancias de ejecución, durante las cuales se promueve la movilización constante de los distintos sectores de la sociedad para optimizar los resultados buscados, con el fin último de instalar estrategias de prevención de la violencia en las políticas públicas de los países. La primera es la realización de un diagnóstico situacional de las estructuras preventivas de la jurisdicción donde el Programa ha de implementarse (poderes ejecutivo, judicial, legislativo y sociedad civil). La segunda es la elaboración de recomendaciones a las autoridades del sector público, dirigidas a optimizar la efectividad de estas estructuras, que incluye una serie de intervenciones posibles de un catálogo de buenas prácticas con evidencia de efectividad que se actualiza regularmente. La tercera es la elaboración de un plan de acción en colaboración con los actores locales, teniendo en cuenta sus prioridades y las recomendaciones efectuadas. La última es la implementación de las intervenciones escogidas, adaptadas al contexto local, y sustentadas por un plan exhaustivo de monitoreo y evaluación.

Todas las acciones del Programa son apoyadas y divulgadas a través de una estrategia de comunicación permanente. La información obtenida al final de cada ciclo de ejecución se utiliza para la elaboración de recomendaciones finales y la optimización de ediciones posteriores.

OBJETIVOS

Desarrollar una estrategia hemisférica de prevención de la violencia y el delito por medio de un conjunto de acciones integradas y complementarias para fortalecer la capacidad de los Estados Miembros de actuar de manera coordinada y fomentando la cooperación internacional.

RESULTADOS

Las intervenciones del Programa se implementan en tres ámbitos: institucional, situacional y comunitario.

En el ámbito institucional se busca fortalecer la coordinación entre las entidades relacionadas con la prevención de la violencia y el delito, y la capacitación técnica de personal de la administración pública, en especial de los sectores de seguridad, justicia, salud y educación.

En el ámbito situacional, se busca reducir las oportunidades delictivas en los espacios urbanos a partir de la mejora de áreas para la convivencia comunitaria y de intervenciones en locales de consumo y venta de bebidas alcohólicas.

En el ámbito comunitario se busca aumentar los factores de protección de violencia de las comunidades, en particular de grupos en condición de vulnerabilidad. El foco particular es la juventud, su empoderamiento social, el desarrollo de sus habilidades para la vida, y el fortalecimiento de sus vínculos con el entorno, en especial la escuela y la familia.
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.

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.