

OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting

Intelligence-Led Policing:

A Model for Strategic Planning, Strengthening Community Policing and Countering Transnational Threats posed by Criminal Activity

9-10 June 2016
Hofburg, Vienna

CONCEPT PAPER

Background

Increased social and economic complexities, rapid technological and communication changes, free movement of goods and services, as well as an increase in personal mobility and migration have expanded risks and threats and created new criminal opportunities. These developments have made policing more challenging than ever while austerity measures have been tightened with a risen demand for efficiency. Traditional reactive law enforcement models have encountered severe difficulties in coping with this reality and a growing number of practitioners and experts argue that standard law enforcement methods are failing to address recent developments.

Intelligence-led policing is one of the modern methods of policing that has developed in the wake of these changes and growing challenges. First introduced in the 1990s, this model has gained growing international attention and has proven to be an effective tool to make better use of resources, and to identify and address priority tasks in a targeted way.

In essence, intelligence-led policing represents a shift from reactive to proactive policing. Based on systematic gathering and analysis of information and data, informed decisions can be made and resources can be allocated on all levels, addressing risks, threats, areas, crime types or criminal groups. The model can therefore serve as a high level policy making tool, an efficient strategic planning and management mechanism, as well as a decision-making method for middle managers, shift leaders and community policing officers. In addition, intelligence-led policing can be a powerful tool to counter serious and organized crime by identifying, prioritizing and targeting the most threatening crime types and criminals.

According to the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC.DEC/1049), general police development and reform, and addressing transnational threats posed by criminal activity are the two core objectives of OSCE's police-related activities. The Strategic Framework also highlights the importance of taking developments of transnational threats and criminal phenomena into account, and work towards improving professionalism and capacities of law enforcement agencies in the participating States. The OSCE Decision No. 5/06 on Organized Crime highlights the importance of data collection, analysis and the use of threat assessments in policy planning and fighting organized crime. Introducing and discussing various aspects of intelligence-led policing constitutes a step towards adapting to current challenges, in line with these provisions.

Structure of the Meeting

The aim of the meeting is to introduce intelligence-led policing to OSCE participating States and other participants in a practical manner and thereby present modern, effective and efficient policing techniques for evaluation and potential adoption.

The meeting will be divided into three main sessions. The first session will introduce the basic concept of intelligence-led policing and the prerequisites for adopting and implementing the model. In addition, experts will explain and discuss how intelligence-led policing can be used as a policy-making and strategic management tool. The second session will explore the use of intelligence-led policing from a national and local point of view, especially how it can be used to complement and strengthen community policing at the local level. The third session will have a regional and international focus on intelligence-led policing as a tool to identify and target transnational crime and organized criminal groups.

The main findings and outcomes of the meeting will be compiled in a report, which will serve as a basis for further discussions on this topic at the national, regional and international levels, and as guidance for the OSCE (in particular the Transnational Threats Department and the field operations) when providing technical assistance.