Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement

The OSCE promotes professional, democratic police services that are trusted by citizens and are able to effectively address transnational threats to security and stability.

**The Strategic Police Matters Unit**

The Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) of OSCE’s Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) is the focal point for the OSCE’s police-related work. The SPMU supports the Secretary General, the OSCE Chairmanship, the TNTD Co-ordinator, participating States and field operations in two key domains. Firstly, it promotes police development and reform within the principles of democratic policing. Secondly, it provides capacity support in countering organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in illicit drugs and human beings, and cybercrime.

**Police Development and Reform**

Developing professional skills and sharing best practices are among the key elements of the OSCE’s police-related activities. The SPMU works to:
- Promote and raise awareness on community policing and police-public partnerships;
- Elevate co-operation and exchanges of best practices and lessons learned between the OSCE, pS and stakeholders;
- Facilitate and support training initiatives for building skills and competencies;
- Promote the protection of victims of crime and vulnerable persons;
- Enhance co-operation among police training institutions through the Police Academy Network (PAN).

**Intelligence-led Policing**

SPMU promotes the OSCE recommended model for intelligence-led policing (ILP), presented in an OSCE Guidebook on ILP, which aims to:
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement;
- Present structures and processes for systematic gathering and analysis of data and information as the basis for informed decision-making and proactive policing.

**Community Policing**

The Unit is committed to promoting organizational strategies with the objective of:
- Establishing trustworthy police-public partnerships where all segments of the society are actively co-operating in problem-solving;
- A better understanding of the needs of citizens and their expectations of the police.

**Gender-Based Policing**

SPMU is dedicated to measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence through a series of activities which include:
- Training courses for police officers, medical authorities, judges, prosecutors, and lawyers;
- Providing legal and psychosocial support to victims and the sharing of experience through roundtable meetings and study tours.

**Women and Policing**

Working towards gender equality is a priority for SPMU. The unit assists the OSCE participating States in:
- Increasing and strengthening the participation of women at all levels of policing with the objective of improving the police and the quality of their services to the public.

Building confidence between the police and the public is one of the priorities of the SPMU.

The SPMU supports OSCE field operations in their work to strengthen the basic training of police.
Fighting criminal threats

The SPMU supports participating States in their efforts to counter criminal activities, while upholding the rule of law and ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Organized Crime

The SPMU actively supports the OSCE field operations, participating States and Partners for Co-operation in their activities to combat organized crime. In particular the SPMU aims to:

- Strengthen co-operation between law enforcement agencies and other public authorities as well as with NGOs and the private sector;
- Support the full implementation of key UN Conventions on criminal matters in close co-ordination with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- Deliver specialized training in criminal investigations;
- Reinforce legal instruments, institutional capacity and law enforcement competencies.

Illicit Drugs and Chemical Precursors

Working closely with partners, including the UNODC, the SPMU places special emphasis on:

- Facilitating cross-border anti-drug co-operation;
- Assisting in developing effective national and regional anti-drug strategies;
- Advocating the implementation of UN Conventions and the International Narcotics Control Board and the Paris Pact Initiatives;
- Promoting and facilitating dialogue and interaction among competent national governmental structures and the private sector, for example health authorities, social services, the transport sector, and the chemical industry.

Trafficking in Human Beings

The Unit works jointly with internal and external stakeholders to support and advise participating States in their efforts against human trafficking. Key elements of the SPMU strategy include:

- Promote a victim-oriented approach in all counter-trafficking measures;
- Strive for a broader involvement of all public and private stakeholders;
- Promote and assist in the outreach to vulnerable groups;
- Provide assistance to law enforcement agencies in strengthening their capacities to investigate and prosecute suspects and seize criminal proceeds.

Cybercrime

The SPMU works at the national and regional levels with participating States and international partners to increase investigative capacity and foster information exchange. The Unit works to promote the most effective ways to identify and investigate cybercrime and build co-operation with the private IT-sector. The Unit aims to:

- Reinforce the exchange of information and best practices with special focus on hate crime and the sexual exploitation of children;
- Build capacity in investigating cybercrime by delivering and supporting basic and advance training courses.

The SPMU focuses on implementing sustainable projects such as the education of police officers, prosecutors, judges and defence lawyers. Crime scene investigation courses aim to enhance the capabilities of the police.
Guiding principles

Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities

According to the Strategic Framework adopted in 2012, which defines the Organization’s goals and priorities of activities related to law enforcement, the OSCE shall assist authorities of participating States at their request to develop and reform their police services and address threats posed by criminal activity, and advise and assist in the planning and implementation of police reform programmes.

Publication of guidelines

Good policing practices from OSCE participating States have been shared in a number of publications issued by the SPMU. These publications are available on the OSCE Digital Library, POLIS at https://polis.osce.org/spmu-publications

For a more detailed explanation on the SPMU’s activities, please refer to the Annual Report on Police-Related Activities at https://polis.osce.org/annual-reports

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