Intelligence-led policing
From Reaction to Prevention

The OSCE promotes Intelligence-led policing (ILP) as a modern and proactive approach to law enforcement.

ILP addresses two of the main challenges of today’s law enforcement: the ever-increasing complexities and transnational nature of crime, and greater public demand for financial efficiency. Central to ILP is intelligence – data and information – which is a decisive factor in crime prevention and reduction. ILP requires the creation of structures and workflows to manage and analyse intelligence, and ensure the compliance of these practices with national and international laws, data protection and human rights standards.

Recent trends in organized crime and terrorism have highlighted the need to share, connect and centrally analyse relevant intelligence from all levels.

ILP is focused on the systematic gathering and analysis of data and information for:

- Defining strategic and operational priorities and objectives;
- Making decisions on policy, strategy, operations and investigations;
- Ensuring the rational allocation of human, financial and other resources.
Key preconditions for successful ILP:

- A clear national legal framework in line with international standards, human rights and data protection principles;
- Political support and high-level managerial commitment;
- Skilled staff to analyse criminal intelligence and leadership know how to use analytical products in decision-making and planning;
- Transformation of a culture and mindset of “need to know” into the “need to share” among all law enforcement officers;
- Databases and IT system supporting ILP, operating at the national, regional and local levels;
- Internal and external monitoring and control mechanisms;
- Co-operation and intelligence-sharing with the law enforcement community at the regional and international levels.

OSCE Guidebook on Intelligence-led policing

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department’s Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) developed an OSCE Guidebook on ILP. The guidebook presents a common and coherent approach to implementing ILP in the OSCE area:

- It defines ILP and the rationale for promoting the ILP model as a contemporary law enforcement approach;
- Covers the important subjects of human rights and data protection when implementing ILP;
- Describes how to analyse data and information resulting in strategic and operational reports used for informed and evidence-based decision-making;
- Introduces practical recommendations and minimum standards needed for criminal intelligence departments and decision-making mechanisms;
- Presents ways in which ILP can support community policing as well as effective measures to address violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

Training

Based on the Guidebook, the SPMU has designed regional and national training seminars and workshops to introduce the OSCE-recommended ILP model and its application for strengthening and complementing existing law enforcement systems.

To learn more

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The guidebook is available in a number of languages at: www.osce.org/chairmanship/327476

Watch a video explaining the key elements of ILP at: www.osce.org/secretariat/403085

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