

EU Action against Drugs & Organised Crime

EU-ACT



Enhanced Cooperation and Capacity Building to Address Drug-Related Organised Crime along the Heroin Route

A project funded by the European Union
Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace

CONTEXT

Drug trafficking is one of the major sources of revenue of organised crime and remains the most dynamic among the criminal markets, posing multiple threats for source, transit and destination countries. The impact on economic and social development from drug abuse and the linked money laundering is estimated to be more than double the corresponding criminal proceedings.

An inherent problem in enhancing cooperation in the fight against drugs is the lack of multi-layer cooperation that starts from the lack of inter-agency cooperation within a single country and extends to the lack of cooperation amongst countries and (sub-) regions which is the handicap exploited by organised crime groups that capitalise on the lack of trust amongst the different key stakeholders. Moreover, given the dynamism and complexity of the organised crime phenomenon, a capacity for strategic analysis and threat assessment is needed to ensure that responses designed by beneficiary countries are focused on the most relevant areas of intervention. Therefore, a regional approach should encourage the gradual adoption by beneficiary authorities of compatible methods and indicators which in turn should facilitate information sharing and cooperation.

Designed to promote the comprehensive and balanced EU approach on drugs and enhance synergies with the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime, this action under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is in line with the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) and the European Agenda on Security (2015) and shall contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 16.a), the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document on the World Drug Problem and the 2012 Vienna Declaration.

PROJECT PURPOSE

This project will build on lessons learnt from the Heroin Route Programme with the aim to reinforce the due process-compliant capacities of countries along the different variants of the so-called "Heroin Route" to better address drug-related organised crime and build meaningful trust and networking amongst them that will enable them to cooperate (trans-) regionally while ensuring compliance with human rights and the rule of law.

PROJECT COMPONENTS / EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1. National Policy and Operational Responses:** Strengthened due process-compliant capacities and operational skills of criminal justice authorities, especially in their ability to undertake intelligence-led and evidence-based criminal investigations as well as strategic analysis and threat assessments in the fight against drug-related organised crime.
- 2. Demand-driven and short-term Technical Assistance Facility:** Enhanced expertise of relevant authorities in the beneficiary countries on drug-supply and drug-demand reduction issues through the promotion and adoption of good practices, compliant with international human rights standards and coherent with EU strategies and policies.
- 3. Cooperation Initiatives:** Promote cooperation at a (trans-) regional level in the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking by reinforcing trust and networking amongst relevant authorities in the beneficiary countries, as well as with their EU counterparts.

ACTIVITIES

- national, regional and inter-regional training modules and mentoring cycles
- inter-agency and trans-national table-top exercises and mock operations
- facilitation of joint operations, investigations and control deliveries
- incorporation of human rights safeguards, oversight and anti-corruption modules

Project commenced in January 2017, with an initial inception phase of 6 months.

AMOUNT

€12 million

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The project will be implemented by the **International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP, Spain)** with partners: Expertise France (France), National Crime Agency (UK), Carabinieri Corps (Italy).

DURATION

January 2017 –

December 2020 (4 years)

COUNTRIES COVERED

This project will cover countries along the "Heroin Route" from and to Afghanistan, including countries in **South and Central Asia, Eastern Europe and East Africa**.

For Component 1, up to maximum five priority countries, will be identified during the inception phase (ideally one country from each sub-region).

CONTACTS

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