



ESEM
ESCUELA DE SEGURIDAD
MULTIDIMENSIONAL-USP

USP



Course on

ILLICIT MARKETS AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE AMERICAS



MINISTÉRIO DA
JUSTIÇA E
SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA



Eurofront

Class

Comprehensive Border Management

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Introduction

This class discusses **the importance of international and regional cooperation in combating organized crime**, specifically in relation to illicit markets and cross-border crime.

It explores the different forms of cooperation, including international agencies, regional and international cooperation programs and the importance of digitization and reduction of bureaucracy.



Concepts

Globalization: it is a phenomenon that permeates all the realities of our world, from culture to music or our relationship or eating habits, and creates transnationally expanded patterns;

Cooperation: is a derivation of the Latin term *cooperāri*, and according to the dictionary of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language, characterizes "working together with other or others for the same purpose".

Institutions

ESEM/USP: the Continuing Education Program of the School of Multidimensional Security (ESEM) linked to the University of São Paulo (USP) intended to disseminate knowledge to promote professional training in the area of Public Security, Defense and Criminal Justice, both domestically and internationally;

GAFI: the International Financial Action Group was created at the G-7 meeting in Paris, 1989, and is an international governmental grouping of an informal nature on banking and financial systems to combat money laundering;

OAS: the Organization of American States is the oldest regional cooperation institution in the world, founded in 1948 to promote common policies in the American continent;

UN: The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization created in 1945 to promote cooperation internationally.

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Organized crime has found the opportunity to grow through globalization, seeking to maximize its economic benefits in the different illicit markets while, by affecting several territories at the same time, avoiding the control of the authorities.

Currently, **borders are considered as a barrier and not a help for the authorities**, because the different protocols and bureaucracy that must be complied with to cooperate at an international level slow down and make the cooperation process difficult, which criminal networks do not need to comply with. Thus, in order for us to begin to address the issue of border management, **we need to understand the role of cooperation, be it international, regional or local, among others.**



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It is important to seek a short- and medium-term impact, especially in the early stages of foundation agreements. Thus, the image of commitment is created and the message of involvement is sent to the partners, which makes it attractive for third parties to join cooperation programs.

There are many types of cooperation (regional, international, stable, temporary, binational, trilateral, etc.) and **it is necessary, firstly, to know the needs and problems we face in order to determine the most appropriate type of cooperation.** It may be interesting to carry out a diagnosis, by external agents who are not involved in the problem, to determine whether we have correctly identified our interlocutors and/or counterparties.



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A possible path for the **implementation process of a cooperation program** would be :

1º - know that you have a problem;

2º - diagnose the problem

3º - determine if cooperation can be the solution and, if so, implement this cooperation.

We must not forget that the same objective can be achieved in different ways and that it is necessary to take into account all the possibilities and variants that can affect our cooperation: political, social and economic.



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Undoubtedly, cooperation and its implementation is a complicated process, strongly influenced by the national context, but it is possible to establish some common general guidelines :

- (1) reducing bureaucracy:** excessive bureaucracy becomes a barrier that transforms processes that should be agile into complex legal and documental tangles, and therefore the objective must be to "simplify, not eliminate";
- (2) digitization:** allows us to access or request information in real time, in processes that used to take days or even weeks;
- (3) Operationalization of cooperation among agencies at the international and regional level:** we need to locate our interlocutors in other governmental structures or international organizations, which may or may not coincide with our usual and natural peers.

In the region, we are the most violent continent in the world, with four of the main drug producers in the world (Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Paraguay) and with the main centers of transnational trafficking routes for illicit products and related crimes.

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The greatest danger of criminality resides in its great economic power and social implantation, which has caused its "tentacles" to contaminate the political, social and police spheres, with the scourge of corruption, not to mention other aspects, such as the migratory conflict. The orography of the land also makes it difficult for the authorities to act.

Initiatives such as the ESEM/USP "Criminal Atlas" is an example of good cooperation practices between civil academic institutions and the State in the search for new solutions, inspired by the successful ideas of others, but adapted to regional context.



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We can approach the criminal phenomenon in five major groups:

- (1) **macro level:** focused on combating money laundering through the Lima Declaration of the Summit of the Americas and the Declaration of Lisbon and inter-American anti-corruption mechanisms, such as the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).
- (2) **regional level:** GAFI and, mainly, the OAS, with the Department for Combating Organized Crime and the Program for Confiscation and Administration of Assets of Illicit Origin and Destination;
- (3) **international level:** UN is the point of reference through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Network of Anti-Drug Prosecutors against Transnational Organized Crime. There is also cooperation between police institutions (INTERPOL, EUROPOL, FRONTEX and AMERIPOL).

There is also direct collaboration between these programs, which have previously signed collaboration agreements with partner countries, depending on the issue to be addressed.

Summary

- The importance of cooperation aiming to create safer borders in the region through cooperation between countries;
- The influence of globalization on organized crime;
- Strategies for cooperation in border management (reducing bureaucracy, digitizing and operationalizing cooperation between police agencies and other international and regional programs);
- Cooperation pathways and solutions at macro, regional and international level.



Reference

OEA. **Declaração de Lima.** Disponível em: <http://www.oas.org/juridico/portuguese/decl_lima.htm>. Acesso em: 25 jul. 2023.



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