



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

Prevention of Organized Crime

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Introduction

In this class, the prevention of insecurity and organized crime is discussed.

This module will be divided into three parts: the situation of violence and criminality in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the reasons for this current situation; the responses that States generally employ to respond to these contexts of insecurity; and, finally, an intervention logic aimed at preventing contexts of violence and organized crime is proposed.



Concepts

Risk of insecurity: it is the combination of threats – factors that generate direct or indirect actions to cause insecurity –, and vulnerabilities – weaknesses in a given social ecosystem;

Risk factors: “social, group or individual characteristics that increase the likelihood of a person engaging in violent attitudes or criminal acts” (Inter-American Development Bank, 2018);

Institutions

WHO: the World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations system focused on promoting political and technical cooperation in health matters;

IDB: The Inter-American Development Bank is an international financial organization created with the purpose of financing economic, social and institutional development projects and promoting trade integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Class Content

Using the homicide indicator, **Latin America and the Caribbean is the most violent region in the world**, accounting for more than 37% of homicides worldwide. According to the WHO, the region already has an epidemic of violence, with 46 of the 50 most violent cities in the world.



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The **insecurity risk** can come from the threats of criminal economies that seek to generate networks to operate the cycles of their illegal activities and from vulnerabilities that include factors such as poverty, unemployment, unsatisfied basic needs, poor urban planning, underfunded police operators and judicial system, etc.

In the **Declaration of Mexico** (2003) the new paradigm of multidimensional security was developed, which recognizes that “threats, concerns and other challenges to security in the hemisphere are diverse in nature and multidimensional in scope, and the concept and traditional approaches must be broadened to encompass new and non-traditional threats, including political, economic, social, health and environmental aspects”.



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In theory and in practice, there are paradigms on which security policies and responses to prevent risk factors for insecurity and organized crime are based. They are summarized in three main approaches:

- (1) **each man for himself**: the denial of responsibility by the competent agencies, the lack of investment in the security and justice forces, an increase in private security services, arming of the civilian population and an excluding and segregating urban growth;
- (2) **iron fist**: implementation of repressive measures, issuing of new penal strategies, creation of police units, incorporation of the Armed Forces into public security, increase in the use of preventive detention, increase in the number of people deprived of liberty and exceptional measures;
- (3) **coexistence and citizen prevention**: understands that the causes of insecurity are multicausal and, therefore, the response must also be comprehensive, and not focus exclusively on the superficiality of the problem or insecurity.

Class Content

The **citizen security value chain**, proposed by the IDB, brings together four interconnected links to offer to manage citizen security:

- (1) **prevention**, which encompasses everything a society does to prevent its ecosystem from becoming violent;
- (2) **control and deterrence**, which includes any action designed to discourage citizens from committing crimes;
- (3) **punishment** by the justice system for those who commit crimes;
- (4) and **social rehabilitation**, which aims to strengthen the person's protective factors, integrate them into society and repair the victims.



Class Content

The police are a fundamental and critical actor for citizen security, but they cannot and should not be the only actor. Considering that there are a multitude of variables, many of which are not visible, that determine the citizen's security ecosystem in a given location, city or country, prevention must necessarily be multidimensional.

Prevention includes economic, community, environmental and socio-cultural aspects and involves several state and non-state actors responsible for its implementation. The minimum necessary to make citizen security governance possible includes: clarifying the roles of each involved actor; the definition of interaction spaces between the actors; formulate and implement sustainable citizen security policies; the implementation of follow-up, monitoring and evaluation models of this governance model.



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Spaces for meetings between actors are essential for governance, which are spheres of articulation where it is possible to coordinate efforts, share information and experiences, harmonize policies, integrate and not duplicate. These coordination spaces must provide for horizontal articulation, between entities at the same level of government, and vertical articulation, between different levels of government.

We are referring to the **harmonization between the policies of all the actors and the different levels of government**, so that there is the desired complementarity. Therefore, governance models must have entities that provide adequate support and motivation to governance actors.



Class Summary

- Explore the context of Latin America and the reasons that condition it, such as the insecurity risks;
- Address the main strategies to fight organized crime;
- Explain the role of policies in conjunction with other state and regional forces to respond to this scenario.



Reference

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