



MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY AT THE BORDERS

MINISTÉRIO DA Justiça e Segurança pública









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In this section, we will explore the practical application of the concepts previously discussed. Regarding the normative framework, we can identify two approaches that guide the effort to map and evaluate the activities of organized criminal groups or criminal organizations in different national contexts.











The first approach focuses on the criminal group itself, analyzing its fundamental characteristics, such as organizational structure, division of tasks, hierarchy and other organizational and functional aspects. This approach has roots in the first actions against the mafia, mainly in the United States, and continues to be an important area in the literature that classifies and analyzes the organizational patterns of criminal groups.











The second approach focuses on illicit activities and their implications. In this way, illicit activities are initially identified and then the groups that carry them out or benefit from them in some way are investigated. It is this second approach that we adopt as the main line of this module.











Criminal groups are highly diverse and can initially be defined as long-lasting associations of individuals who seek to commit illicit acts to obtain economic advantages through the exploitation of illegal goods and services. When approaching this topic within the scope of policing, it is necessary to reflect on the use of the concept of organized crime, which is often used as if it were a clear and coherent definition, although it is a temporally changeable and diffuse concept.











Another important point refers to the change in the scale of operation of criminal groups, which can vary from local to transnational level. There are conflicting views about this change in scale, with three distinct models often being used to explain it.











The first model is evolutionary, in which criminal groups evolve from local gangs to more complex forms of organization as they adapt to the social and criminal environment, establishing relationships with the state and civil society.











The second model explores the relationship between crime and politics, suggesting that political groups in the State directly exploit illicit activities and collude with criminal groups to obtain financial benefits.











The third model focuses on the formation of networks between local criminal groups, driven by economic and technological processes, such as increased international trade and the expansion of information and communication systems. These networks contribute to the complexity and aggressiveness of organized crime.











