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MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY AT THE BORDERS

MINISTÉRIO DA
JUSTIÇA E
SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA



Mackenzie





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Institutional Environment for Cooperation Part 1

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Institutional Environment for Cooperation



The Mercosur regional integration process began a process of regionalization, reinforcing cooperation and seeking to overcome asymmetries in institutional and organic regulations. Its purpose was to accelerate and optimize the transit of people, goods and commodities safely, reducing costs and duration.

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In **Argentina**, a multidimensional approach was defined to fight transnational organized crime and related complex crimes. The National Border Commission was created in 2017 to regulate and coordinate the operation of integrated control crossings, centers and areas, in addition to establishing standards and procedures for border administration, coordinating the activities of all control networks and advising the Executive Power. This Commission includes networks of criminal prosecution, intelligence, control and supervision bodies, as well as international cooperation.

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If we analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the national border policy in Argentina from the perspective of the environment for international cooperation, we will find three key strengths: the interministerial structure of borders through the National Border Commission, the aligned multilevel regulation and the identification of transnational criminal threats. However, there are also notable weaknesses, such as the historical lack of border awareness, ideological interference in border policy, the absence of a comprehensive national strategy for border development, and human resource, technological and budgetary problems.

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Interagency coordination problems affecting government actions at the **Brazilian** border, as well as in other neighboring countries, are multifaceted and involve political, institutional, operational and legal factors that often create obstacles to effective cooperation between government agencies. Among these challenges, the following stands out:

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- Conflict of competencies, jurisdictions and attributions: different government agencies and entities often compete for the oversight of border activities, leading to conflicts over who should lead.
- Partisan disputes over control: In some cases, partisan issues influence the direction of border policy, which can negatively affect the effectiveness of government actions.
- Budgetary responsibilities: The search for financial resources can generate responsibilities between organizations, diverting the focus from collective objectives in favor of individual objectives.
- Established structures: The rigidity of organizational structures can make it difficult to adapt to changing needs at the border.
- Interpersonal barriers: Communication and collaboration difficulties between employees of different agencies can hinder effective coordination.

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In Brazil and other neighboring countries, security policies often receive more attention and resources than socioeconomic development policies in border areas. However, it is important to note that while security-related indicators may be more evident, problems associated with lack of coordination of development policies and inadequate allocation of resources also have an impact on the region.

Although many official studies highlight the strategic importance of the Brazilian border, a specific national policy for the border has not yet been approved. This may be affecting the secure definition of resources and legal guidelines to support development and cooperation at the border region.

To overcome these challenges, it is essential to foster cooperation between government institutions at the federal, state and municipal levels. It is necessary to avoid fragmentation of activities, the overlap of programs and the lack of coherence in government actions.

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The National Police of the Republic of **Paraguay** operates within the legal framework established in the national Constitution and the laws and regulations of the institution.

Regarding our relations with the counterpart institutions of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Argentina in this region, we work closely through the Secretariat of the Tripartite Command, a combined entity created in 1996 to exchange information on security issues. This Secretariat meets monthly to evaluate and analyze preventive police issues and also performs joint actions.

The interaction between the security agencies of these three countries has resulted in positive results regarding the internal security. The National Police of the Republic of Paraguay is committed to addressing the challenges posed by criminal organizations operating in this region, such as human, drugs and firearms trafficking.



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