

OSCE approach to preventing and combating organized crime

Understanding the phenomenon



Producing research and guidance on criminal structures, actors, operations, and trends, including the emerging role of technology, to support participating States to implement effective, evidence-based and victim-centered measures to prevent and combat organized crime.

Addressing illicit financial flows and confiscating criminal assets



Strengthening the ability of participating States to implement the “follow the money” approach to deprive criminals of their financial power by limiting their ability to expand their operations and removing the incentive of financial gain.

Strengthening prevention and fostering resilience



Strengthening the ability of criminal justice and civil society practitioners to disrupt recruitment and prevent youth involvement in crime through education, early identification of youth at risk and embedding a multi-stakeholder approach.

Cross-cutting priorities:

➤ Regional and cross-regional co-operation and good practice exchange

➤ Gender-sensitive and human-right centered approaches

OSCE action to prevent and combat organized crime: impact in 2023 and 2024

Key facts and figures

- 8** high-level policy discussions on organized crime
- 22** regional events
- 34** criminal justice actors trained on organized crime / gender disaggregated
- 800,000** young people educated on organized crime and prevention
- 1.5 million** young people reached in Kyrgyzstan through prevention awareness campaign
- 10** civil society organizations supported in South Eastern Europe to hold grassroot and community-based initiatives on organized crime prevention
- Hardware for the Moldovan General Police and the Border Police (servers, desktops, monitors, consumables)
- 7** licenses i2 Analyst Notebook (software) for the Moldovan General Police and the Border Police
- 3** K9-specialized vehicles for the Moldovan Border Police
- 2** SUV K9-specialized vehicles for the Moldovan General Police
- 7** Police Intelligent Car Equipment (PiCAR) systems for the Moldovan General Police



Main policy outcomes

- Supported the **development of the now adopted Youth Strategy of the Canton of Sarajevo**, which includes organized crime prevention, with a particular emphasis on youth crime prevention.
- Development and adoption of **Standard Operating Procedures on financial investigations for prosecutors in Montenegro** to streamline processes and enhance the effectiveness of recovering assets linked to organized crime.
- Facilitated the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding on tracing, detection and management of illegal assets between agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine**.
- Proposed amendments to the legislative framework on trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW), which is expected to improve detection, search and seizure operations, elevating the quality of investigations and evidence-gathering in SALW trafficking cases.
- Supported the Moldovan General Police with the development of the first K9 Masterplan entitled "Development of the K9 Directorate of the Republic of Moldova General Police Inspectorate".



Publications



OSCE's gender-sensitive approach to preventing and combating organized crime



The OSCE promotes a gender-sensitive and human rights-focused approach to combatting organized crime, ensuring that **women are recognized as both victims and criminal actors.** This approach spans the entire criminal justice cycle: from prevention and investigation to prosecution.

Key components:

- **Address gender stereotypes:** Raise awareness on gender biases and expectations regarding organized crime victims and offenders.
- **Ensure inclusive prevention and exit programmes:** Ensure women and girls are identified, referred to, and included in, prevention, exit, and reintegration initiatives. Early identification of victims is essential to disrupt the cycle of crime, as many victims may later become offenders if their exploitation is not recognized and they are not supported in time.
- **Promote a whole-of-society approach:** Foster partnerships between the criminal justice system, social services, schools and civil society.

How it's being implemented:

- **Awareness raising:** Highlight women's dual roles as both victims and active participants in organized crime to criminal justice practitioners. Raise awareness of the factors driving women's involvement and the roles they assume within criminal networks to promote more effective prevention, intervention, and exit strategies;
- **Capacity building:** Equip practitioners with the skills to effectively identify, investigate, and prosecute women involved in organized crime. Focus on capacities to identify women at risk of recruitment, particularly those with a history of victimization, to strengthen prevention efforts and support targeted exit initiatives;
- **Regional exchange and co-operation:** Facilitate regional and cross-regional co-operation and sharing of good practices at the policy and programmatic levels on gender-sensitive approaches to organized crime.

Result: End impunity, ensure justice, deliver support to victims.