

PP15. STRENGTHENING MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISMS IN COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAM

[Tags: Community policing, Accountability, Citizens]

All community policing programs should be subject to careful and constant monitoring and evaluation so that actions can be adapted to changes in the needs and requirements of the respective community and the evolving relations between the actors involved. IT tools can greatly facilitate monitoring and evaluation, by reducing time and costs.

The introduction of measures for regular monitoring, evaluation and public reporting on the work of the police is necessary because it fosters police-public trust.

Examples:

- STEPPS project in which both police and public collaborated in analysing existing practices in identity controls and searches in four countries;
- John Jay College's Human Dignity/Human Rights and Police Course has been adapted, following specific needs assessment and curriculum development. It uses student-centred teaching and learning approaches, such as role-play, simulations, case studies and structured exercises, to encourage full participation of students. In particular, the course promotes self-awareness and empathy, to help participants think about the impact of their behaviour as authority figures, and on other participants on the course, and the cumulative social impact of behaviours and decisions that undermine human dignity.

Mode of implementation:

- Check the availability of specific monitoring and evaluation tools and grids and wherever absent design and/or incomplete implement them;
- Check the availability of specific indicators to measure levels of citizen participation and the effects of this participation and wherever absent and/or incomplete design and implement them;
- Define a clear and comprehensive monitoring/evaluation strategy for all partners;
- Set-up independent and effective structures for supervision and monitoring which guarantee accountability for police action;
- Feed the internal monitoring system with data on police officers' interactions with the public (be they in traffic control situations, pedestrian stop and searches or surveillance operations);
- Internal monitoring mechanisms need to go hand in hand with complaints mechanisms for the general public;
- Information about and access to complaints mechanisms includes marginalised and disadvantaged groups who might be hard to reach with conventional communication strategies;
- Any disciplinary measures against police officers are reviewed by an independent body or court in order to protect officers against unjust measures and, at the same time, to enhance the transparency of internal monitoring systems towards the public;
- Include in the monitoring an appraisal of the degree to which policing is undertaken in a non-discriminatory manner;

- Involve a senior leader in advocating objective evaluation;
- Allocate sufficient resources for monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- Develop necessary personnel skills through dedicated training programs.

Resources:

- Open Society Institute: "Addressing Ethnic Profiling by Police: A Report on the Strategies for Effective Police Stop and Search Project. Improving relations between police and minority communities by increasing the fairness, effectiveness, and accountability of police stops in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Spain", 2009.
- ICPC's "International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety: Trends and Perspectives", loc. cit., p.116.