



THE EU AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

Tackling Security Challenges Together

November 2020

The European Union (EU) supports its Eastern and Southern neighbours to foster



Stability

Security



Prosperity

in line with its revised 2015 European Neighbourhood Policy.

Security now features as a **political priority** in many bilateral dialogues and the **EU funds initiatives** that help strengthening countries' and societies' resilience in the Neighbourhood regions. In a fast evolving environment, tackling security related issues efficiently requires **joint efforts** and a **creative mix of tools and actions**. The EU is working closely with its Eastern and Southern neighbours on the following **security-related areas**, while maintaining human rights and good governance at the center of this cooperation.

1

Tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation



Objectives

- Develop an efficient criminal justice system.
- Counter the financing of terrorism.
- Fight radicalisation and radical ideology.
- Enhance dialogue and information sharing.
 - Counter-terrorism/security experts in EU Delegations in Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia help implement this cooperation.

Example

In 2019, EU support helped Tunisia comply with the international standards on Anti Money laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing.

Result

Tunisia was delisted from the Financial Action Task Force list.

2

Enhancing cooperation on Security Sector Reform



Objectives

- Transform the security sector to strengthen accountability, effectiveness, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- Provide support to enhance the legitimacy, good governance, integrity and sustainability of the security sector.

Example

The EU is supporting police reform in the Republic of Moldova.

Result

The programme has contributed to an increase in Moldovan citizens' level of trust in the police: The proportion of the Moldovan population who say they have confidence in the police has increased from 31% in 2014 to 39.5% in 2019.

3

Conflict prevention, crisis management and response, and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) cooperation



Objectives

- Actively engage in conflict prevention, crisis management and peace building efforts to pursue security and stability, while promoting multilateralism and the respect of democratic values.

Example

Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI is the only actor implementing the UN arms embargo on Libya.

Result

Since its launching in March 2020, it has already carried out five inspections, off the coast of Libya, of vessels suspected to be carrying arms and related materiel to and from Libya. It has shared 16 special reports with the UN Panel of Experts, covering activities by both sides of the conflict.

Result

EU CSDP missions and operations in the Neighbourhood:

The missions and operations assist the EU's partners in areas such as border management, combatting organised crime, reforming security sectors or monitoring the judicial system

6

On-going EU missions and operations:

EUAM Ukraine, EUMM Georgia, EUBAM Libya, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, EUBAM Rafah, EUPOL COPPS

More than

1,500

women and men deployed to support partners

Almost

7,000

people trained in 2019

Over

52

laws and legal initiatives drafted in 2019

4

Disrupting organised crime



Objectives

- Effectively disrupt the activities of criminal organisations and taking away their financial basis
- Fight criminal phenomena such as trafficking in illicit goods, addressing illicit financial flows and trafficking and smuggling of people.
- Focus on strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, judicial and civil authorities and partners' cooperation with the EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies.

Example

The EU supports information exchange and investigative cooperation between law enforcement agencies on the international movement of illicit firearms.

Result

Through its financial support to INTERPOL, the EU contributed to the seizure in 2018 of €1.5 million in cash and drugs and to the arrest of 17 individuals for firearms offences in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco.

5

Enhancing cybersecurity and fighting cybercrime



Objectives

- Bring partners closer to EU standards and legal and policy frameworks.
- Strengthen the policy dialogue on cybersecurity.
- Enhance cyber-resilience capacities.

Example

Through the project Cybersecurity East the EU focuses on the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, for instance by supporting election security in Georgia in the frame of the 2020 Parliamentary elections.

Result

The project has provided a set of activities on cybersecurity of elections, and social engineering.

6

Tackling Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats



Objectives

- Help partners improve their preparedness and response capacity, including through EU-funded CBRN Centres of Excellence.

Example

The EU-funded Medipiet project offers capacity building for the prevention and control of biological, natural or man-made health threats to countries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region.

Result

The project contributes directly to the EU's response to the Covid-19 emergency by reinforcing the regional network of field 22 epidemiologists and 15 fellows and their capacities.

7

Promoting freedom of press and tackling disinformation



Objectives

- Promote freedom of media and tackle disinformation in all its forms and at all levels.
- Support free and unbiased journalism in the region, e.g. through training journalists and media professionals.

Examples

Over 500,000 people viewed the **“Think before you share” social media campaign** in May 2020 focusing on strengthening young people's resilience to disinformation in the six EaP countries.

The “Stability through Reconciliation” project in Libya focuses on media governance, countering disinformation, fostering independent journalism, and enhancing media capacity building. It already provided (online) trainings for journalists on disinformation and fact checking (including related to COVID-19) and established a fact checking platform.

An explainer video related to disinformation around the EU's sanctions on Syria was produced, entailing a successful online debate with over **17,000 people**.



Following the COVID-19 outbreak, efforts to strengthen resilience to disinformation in the Neighbourhood have redoubled and materialised in the Joint Communication **“Tackling COVID-19 disinformation - Getting the facts right”** in June 2020.