



INTERPOL

WAPIS PROGRAMME



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West African Police
Information System

The police forces of the 16 countries of West Africa are faced with threats of terrorism and organized crime, in particular traffic in human beings, drugs and weapons.

At a symposium held in Brussels in 2010, which was organized jointly by INTERPOL and the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, the Chiefs of Police of the West African Sub-Region declared that, to meet these challenges, a system of national databases connected at regional and global level was needed.

At the African Regional Conference in 2011, INTERPOL decided to make this one of its strategic priorities and to help the countries concerned to develop automated national databases.



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⋮ **This programme is funded**
⋮ **by the European Union**
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WAPIS - West African Police Information System

The European Union and INTERPOL launch the WAPIS programme

The WAPIS programme was launched in September 2012 with three objectives:

- National level - Creation of an automated national database of police information to collect, centralize, manage, share and analyse information.
- Regional level - Development of an infrastructure environment at ECOWAS to increase the sharing of information among the countries of the region.
- Global level - Establishment by INTERPOL of a link with the rest of the world, via its National Central Bureaus in the region and its Regional Bureau in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and by using its telecommunications networks, expertise and IT tools to guarantee the longevity of the WAPIS programme.

Expectations

In West Africa - WAPIS will allow West African police officers in their work environment – including at border posts – to obtain information about people, vehicles and identity documents. This information will be shared by INTERPOL's 190 member countries and thus help the police to better protect the people of the whole region.

In the European Union - The sharing of police information will provide greater awareness of criminal activities in the region and allow greater responsiveness to crime originating in West Africa, thus contributing towards security within the European Union.

In the world - Organized crime exploits weak links globally. West Africa has become a hub for crimes such as drug trafficking and traffic in human beings. WAPIS will enable the police to combat organized crime and terrorism more effectively and in a structured manner.

Data protection

The WAPIS data-protection system will be based on the procedures and legal framework of ECOWAS and on INTERPOL's Rules on Data Protection.



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