WAPIS BROCHURE

WEST AFRICAN POLICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

INTERPOL

CEDEAO / ECOWAS

This Project is funded by the European Union

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIRCOP   Airport Communication Programme

CCSS   Committee of Chiefs of Security Services

DACORE   Data Collection and Registration Centre

DEVCO   European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development

ECOWAS   Economic Community of West African States

FAED   Fichier Automatisé d'Empreinte Digitale (Automated Fingerprint File)

EDF   European Development Fund

EEAS   European External Action Service

EU   European Union

EUCAP   European Union Capacity Building Mission

LEA   Law Enforcement Agency

MOU   Memorandum of Understanding

NCB   National Central Bureau

PAJED   Support Programme for Justice and the Rule of Law

RIP   Regional Indicative Programme

SPOC   Single Point of Contact (Point focal national)

WANACO   WAPIS National Committee

WAPCCO   West African Police Chiefs Committee

WAPIS   West African Police Information System

SIPT   Chad Police Information System

1 INTRODUCTION

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The idea to create a West African Police Information System (WAPIS) stemmed from ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) members, which expressed their concern over the spate of transnational organized crime and terrorism affecting the region. Security gaps at national, regional and international levels have contributed to West Africa's becoming a hub for crimes such as drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and international terrorism. Without effective police information exchange within the region, as well as between the region and the rest of the world, no enforcement strategy can effectively tackle these threats.

Fully aware that paper police records pose a serious obstacle to sharing information in real time, the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO) applied for European

Union (EU) funding to put in place an electronic police-data-exchange system in the countries in the region to better prevent and tackle crime.

Following this common position, the EU decided to grant funding to INTERPOL for the development and implementation of a police information system for ECOWAS member states and Mauritania, which would be connected regionally, by developing a regional platform for police data exchange, and worldwide via INTERPOL's secure communications network (I-24/7).

INTRODUCTION

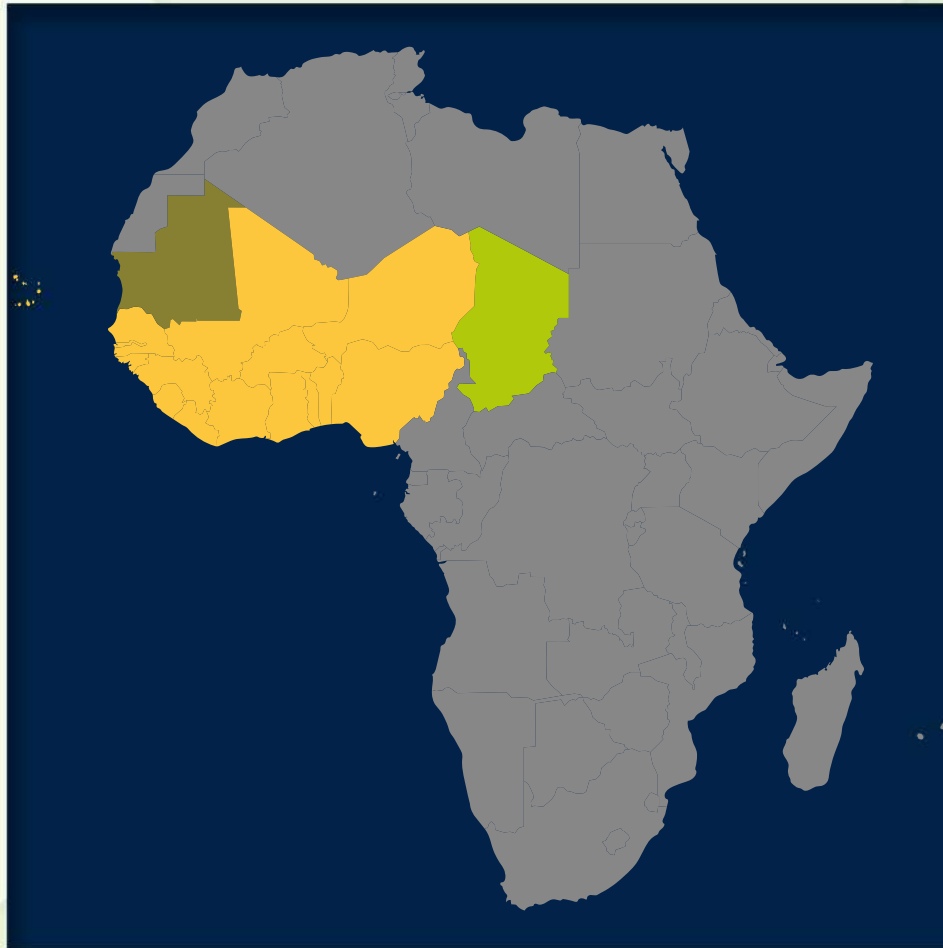| SEPT. **2012**	SEPT **2013**	MAY **2016**	NOV **2017**	FEB. **2021**	JUNE **2022**
1st PHASE Launch of the first phase of the WAPIS Programme.	**2nd PHASE** Start of the second phase of WAPIS and its implementation in four pilot countries (Benin, Ghana, Niger, Mali) under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.	**INTERMEDIARY PHASE** The WAPIS Programme entered a 15-month intermediary phase under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, initiating work with Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania.	**3rd PHASE** Under the 11th European Development Fund, WAPIS entered its third phase which will last for 55 months with full roll-out in all ECOWAS member states and Mauritania.	**PHASE 2 SIPT** Launch of the Chad Police Information System	**END** of Phase III of the WAPIS Programme

2 WAPIS PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the WAPIS Programme is to enhance capacity for West African law enforcement authorities – the WAPIS users – to fight transnational crime and terrorism through enhanced policeinformation management and sharing.

KEY IMPLEMENTATION PLAYERS

The WAPIS Programme is funded by the EU and implemented by INTERPOL, and receives political and strategic support from ECOWAS.

It targets all 15 member states of ECOWAS and Mauritania. Under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, a WAPIS-like system is being put in place in Chad (SIPT)

in order to ensure consistency and future cooperation among the member states of the G5 Sahel.

LEVELS OF OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF WAPIS

The WAPIS system has been designed for use at three levels: national, regional and international.

AT NATIONAL LEVEL

The Programme aims to make a central, computerized system available to law enforcement services, pooling resources and allowing police information to be collected, organized and shared.

Firstly, this system allows the processing of data collected during criminal investigations, particularly data concerning:

› **PERSONS:** nominal data (family name, first name, date of birth, place of birth, parents' names, family circumstances, nationality, etc.) of the alleged perpetrators, victims and witnesses to the offence(s) identified;

› **FACTS OF THE OFFENCES IDENTIFIED:** type of offence(s), the circumstances (time and place) and the modus operandi;

› **MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION:** vehicle registration and all detailed information which may be used to identify vehicles, whether reported stolen or in connection with a police matter;

› **ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS:** administrative or travel documents (driver's

licence, passport, national Identity Card, social security number, Alien Registration Number) whether reported lost or stolen, or in connection with a police matter;

› **FIREARMS:** these may be homemade or commercial firearms, and may have been used to commit an offence or reported lost or stolen;

› **GENERIC OBJECTS:** any other type of item identified by investigators that may have been used to commit an offence, or have been lost or stolen and can be identified.

The system also allows the processing of police administrative data that contribute to preventing crime and/or maintaining public order such as:

› Nominative administrative measures, failure to comply with which constitutes a criminal offence;

› Administrative measures concerning minors;

› Administrative measures concerning foreign nationals, such as those whose presence in the country constitutes a threat to law and order and who are subjects of an administrative deportation order or have been banned from entering the country;

› Administrative procedures concerning missing persons who are being sought at the request of a family member;

› Administrative procedures concerning unidentified persons.

The WAPIS national system is installed in a Data Collection and Registration Centre (DACORE), which manages the data and deployment of the system. The DACORE provides technical and operational assistance to WAPIS users. Managed by an executive officer from one of the national law enforcement services, it comprises staff with a variety of skills who are tasked to:

> record police data

> update recorded data

> check the validity of police data

> provide technical assistance for users

> provide operational assistance for users

> train users

> manage the system.

In the long term, the system should be deployed within each law enforcement agency, including border posts, to provide all authorized officers with a permanent access to the system within the scope of their duties.

WAPIS PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The identification of criminals is considerably enhanced by fingerprint identification. This is particularly true in West Africa where population registers and identity documents are limited. The Programme therefore plans to support countries that have the technical capacity to put in place an AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) component.

AT REGIONAL LEVEL

INTERPOL will work with national and regional authorities to develop and set up, under the auspices of ECOWAS, a regional police data exchange platform for ECOWAS member states and Mauritania.

This platform will allow the instant exchange of authorized police data between countries of the region. It enables officers to:

› quickly know whether an individual is wanted by another country;

› quickly determine whether an identity document, vehicle or firearm has been declared as stolen or linked with a crime in another country.

By allowing more information to be shared and accessed by law enforcement agencies throughout the region, the regional platform will strengthen police cooperation within the ECOWAS region and make law enforcement services more effective in tackling crime and terrorism.

Furthermore, statistics produced by the use of the system will allow ECOWAS to develop strategic analysis of crime trends affecting the region, supporting ECOWAS member states and WAPCCO in the development of more efficient crime-prevention strategies.

WAPIS PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

With the increasing globalization of crime and terrorism, the likelihood increases that individuals from outside ECOWAS will be linked to crimes committed within this area, and that individuals from the ECOWAS area will be linked to crimes committed in other parts of the world.

INTERPOL's role involves facilitating the global exchange of police information. Therefore, in each country, the national WAPIS system connects to the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) in order to share authorized national data worldwide through INTERPOL's I-24/7 system, and to allow direct consultation of INTERPOL's global databases at remote connected sites in the country, including border posts.

WAPIS PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

GLOBAL LEVEL

REGIONAL LEVEL

BENIN

BURKINA FASO

CAP VERT

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

GAMBIE

GHANA

GUINÉE

GUINÉE BISSAU

LIBÉRIA

MALI

MAURITANIE

NIGER

NIGERIA

SÉNÉGAL

SIERRA LEONE

TOGO

INTERPOL

I-24/7

WAPIS PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAPIS PROGRAMME IN YOUR COUNTRY

▬▬▬ POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the government and INTERPOL

Implementing the WAPIS Programme requires a solid commitment from participating countries. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the government of the country concerned and by INTERPOL seals this commitment. The MOU also defines the respective obligations of each party to allow completion of the WAPIS Programme.

Appointing a WAPIS Single Point of Contact and legal and technical experts

As well as signing the MOU, an indispensable step in the process is the designation of a single point of contact (SPOC), a technical expert and a legal expert.

Ideally, the SPOC should be chosen from among users holding positions of responsibility, who are able to:

a)   efficiently coordinate national efforts towards implementing the WAPIS Programme with all law enforcement agencies participating in the Programme;

b)   facilitate the work of INTERPOL's officials in the country.

The technical expert will be required to supervise and manage the technical aspects of the national WAPIS system.

WAPIS PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

With a sound knowledge of national criminal law and, where possible, of data protection legislation, the legal expert will be required to examine legal issues arising from and any developments in the standards governing the integration of WAPIS in that country.

Ideally, the designation of staff members to perform these tasks will integrate the mainstreaming of gender.

Establishing a WAPIS National Committee

Each country should also set up a WAPIS National Committee (WANACO). Preferably an independent entity or, failing that, established under the authority of the Minister for Security, the Minister of Justice, or the head of one of the law enforcement agencies participating in the Programme, the WANACO oversees the implementation of the WAPIS Programme in the country. Its responsibilities are to:

> ensure effective coordination between the law enforcement agencies participating in the Programme;

> establish and supervise the strategy for implementing the WAPIS Programme in the country;

> define and monitor the deployment of the WAPIS Programme in the country;

> take key decisions on the location, management, composition and targets set for the country's DACORE (number of data entries recorded, trained staff, etc.);

> work on drafting and adopting the required legislation related to the DACORE and the national WAPIS system.

The WAPIS National Committee should typically be composed of:

› ministers concerned by the Programme or their representatives;

› the WAPIS single point of contact;

› representatives from all the national law enforcement agencies taking part in the WAPIS Programme;

› the Director of the DACORE;

› a judge from the Ministry of Justice and/or the legal expert;

› the technical expert and/or the IT administrator of the DACORE;

› the Head of the NCB.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The WAPIS Programme raises several legal questions and addresses sensitive issues, particularly regarding the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The commitment of the European Union, INTERPOL and ECOWAS to protect basic human rights is at the heart of the WAPIS Programme. The collection and processing of police data will comply with internationally agreed standards for the protection of human rights and of personal data.

As a police information system contains sensitive data – such as personal data – it must operate within an appropriate legal framework.

When using the WAPIS system, participating countries should comply with the following texts:

> the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

> the Charter of the United Nations;

> the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

ECOWAS member states must also comply with:

> the ECOWAS Treaty and its supplementary protocols; and

> the Supplementary Act A/SA.1/01/10 on Personal Data Protection within ECOWAS that requires ECOWAS member states to:

- adopt national legislation on the protection of personal data;
- create a personal data protection authority;
- set an appropriate retention period for processed data.

Pursuant to national laws on the protection of personal data, participating countries should officially declare or register the national WAPIS system with their personal data protection authority.

Lastly, as INTERPOL member countries, WAPIS participants are required to observe INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data when using the I-24/7 network.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Participating countries must support the Programme's implementation in several ways:

› Ensure that equipment donated by INTERPOL for use in the framework of WAPIS is exempted from all customs duty and import taxes;

› Allocate space to host the DACORE;

› Appoint staff from all participating national law enforcement agencies, observing gender equality. These staff will receive database training and work in the DACORE or at remote connected sites;

› Facilitate the extension of WAPIS to remote sites;

› Facilitate the connection of the WAPIS system to INTERPOL I-24/7.

WAPIS PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

LIST OF STEPS REQUIRED TO PUT IN PLACE THE WAPIS SYSTEM

1. Sign the Memorandum of Understanding with INTERPOL

2. Designate a point of contact and two technical and legal experts

3. Establish the WAPIS National Committee

4. Introduce the appropriate legal framework for the DACORE and national WAPIS system

5. Allow duty-free and tax-free importation of the equipment provided

6. Allocate office space for the DACORE and a backup site

7. Set up the DACORE

8. Comply with national laws on the protection of personal data

9. Appoint dedicated staff to work on the WAPIS system

10. Train users and IT administrators on using and managing the WAPIS system

11. Extend the WAPIS system to the country's capital city, regions and border posts, depending on existing infrastructure

12. Connect WAPIS to I-24/7

13. Connect the national WAPIS system to the regional platform.

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