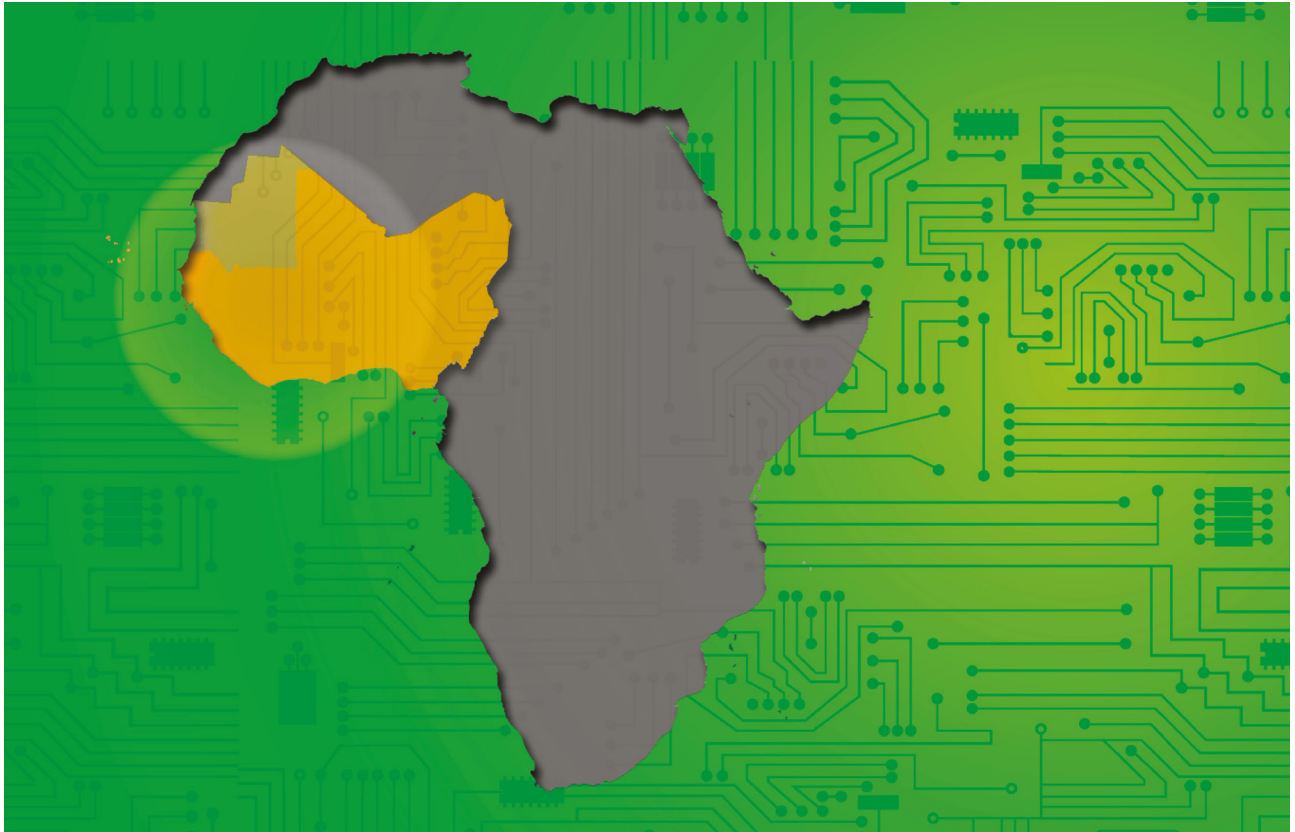# PROGRAMME
WAPIS

WEST AFRICAN POLICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Context

The idea to create a West African Police Information System (WAPIS) stemmed from the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which expressed their concern over the spate of transnational organised crime and terrorism affecting the region.

Fully aware that no police strategy can overcome these threats without an effective exchange of police information, the SIPAO program has emerged.

The overall objective of the WAPIS is to increase the capacity of West African Law enforcement authorities to combat transnational crime and terrorism through enhanced information sharing.

The WAPIS programme is funded by the European Union, implemented by INTERPOL with the political and strategic support of the ECOWAS.

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Participants

WAPIS is a multiannual programme (2012-2022) financed by the European Union and aimed at improving the capacity of West African law enforcement agencies to combat transnational organised crime and terrorism by facilitating the sharing of information. It is being rolled out by INTERPOL and, since the start of phase 3 of the project (2017-2022), in close collaboration with ECOWAS, acting as a strategic partner.

The WAPIS programme targets all West African countries including the 15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania.

Under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, a WAPIS like system is being implemented in Chad to ensure coherence and future cooperation among all G5 Sahel Member States.

National, regional and global support

The WAPIS system has been designed to be used at three levels: national, regional and global.

1. **At national level,** it aims to create a national police database, together with a DACORE Centre to collect and centralise police data from criminal cases in digital format, as well as sharing this information electronically between law enforcement agencies.

2. **At regional level,** national systems will be networked into a regional information-sharing platform for police, under the auspices of ECOWAS. This will allow the instant exchange of police data, including on persons, vehicles and ID documents, among countries of the region.

3. **At global level,** each national WAPIS system will be connected to the country's National Central Bureau (N.C.B) in order to share authorised national data globally via I-24/7, INTERPOL's secure, global police communications system.

Key dates

June 2022: End of the Programme

November 2017: under the 11th European Development Fund, WAPIS entered its third phase which will last for 55 months with the full rollout in all ECOWAS member states and Mauritania.

May 2016: the 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.

September 2013: start of the second phase of WAPIS and its implementation in four pilot countries (Benin, Ghana, Niger and Mali) under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

September 2012: launch of the first phase of the WAPIS programme.

Impact

The objective of the WAPIS programme is to have a positive, long-term impact on:

*   strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies of ECOWAS countries and Mauritania to collect, centralise, manage, share and analyse police information,

*   sharing police information within the sub-region among law enforcement agencies of ECOWAS countries and Mauritania,

*   Co-operation between the law enforcement agencies of ECOWAS countries, Mauritania and global law enforcement agencies (INTERPOL's I-24/7 system).

INTERPOL

in collaboration with

This programme is funded by the European Union