Mission background

The EU Police Mission in Afghanistan was set up in 2007 in the context of the international community’s efforts to support the Afghans in taking responsibility for law and order. EUPOL has a high value as the only multilateral actor able to provide qualified civilian policing expertise as well as Rule of Law expertise. This civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission is part of the overall EU commitment to Afghanistan and of a coordinated EU approach that includes local political guidance provided by the EU Special Representative and a reconstruction effort managed notably through the European Union delegation in Kabul. EUPOL Afghanistan is deployed at central (Kabul), regional and provincial levels.

Mandate and Objective

The aim of the mission is to contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system under Afghan ownership. The mission is supporting the reform process towards a trusted police service working within the framework of the rule of law and respect of human rights.

The mission provides leadership and specialised training and mentors and advises the Afghan Ministries of the Interior and Justice, the Attorney General's Office in Kabul and several provinces. EUPOL helps the Afghans to develop their civilian policing skills.

EUPOL Afghanistan focuses its activities on the three pillars of:
1) Institutional reform of the Ministry of Interior
2) Professionalization of the Afghan National Police (ANP)
3) Connecting police to justice reform.

In these three pillars, EUPOL is working towards six objectives:
1. police command, control and communications;
2. intelligence-led policing;
3. criminal investigation department capacity building;
4. implementation of the anti-corruption strategy;
5. police-justice cooperation;
6. strengthening gender and Human rights aspects within the Afghan National Police (ANP)
The European Union’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.

Based in Brussels, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.


Mission achievements:

POLICE STAFF COLLEGE/CRIME MANAGEMENT COLLEGE

At both the Police Staff College and Crime Management College the senior leaders of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and detectives are trained. Since its opening in July 2010, over 5,500 current and future senior leaders, 2600 detectives attended at least one of the 30 courses offered, and over 2600 students successfully completed Train the trainer courses. The construction of new EU-funded Police Staff College and Crime Management College buildings were completed beginning of 2014.

COMMUNITY POLICING

EUPOL helps to introduce principles of community-based policing in Police Districts in Kabul and outside the capital in Mazar-e Sharif and Herat. One of the projects is Project Phoenix which started in September 2013 and helps to reform police districts into models for a more effective and more community oriented policing by training, advising and mentoring.

ADVISING AND MENTORING THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

EUPOL experts advise the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior, including on building-up and commanding an effective Afghan Police. EUPOL developed over 260 different police plans/policies which constitute a firm strategic and operational framework to the overall police reform process.

LINKING POLICE TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

EUPOL places great emphasis on enhancing cooperation and coordination procedures between police and prosecutors in investigations. The ultimate goal is to improve public trust in the Afghan justice system. An Afghan-led Police-Prosecutor Cooperation Manual has been developed, which is used in EUPOL Coordination of Police and Prosecutor (CoPP)-Trainings targeting over 1,000 regional police officers and prosecutors throughout Afghanistan.

SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

EUPOL works towards enhancing relationships between anti-corruption police investigators and prosecutors. It contributes to effective, credible and sustainable anti-corruption detection and investigative capabilities. The mission aims at a year on year increase on the number of police corruption cases that are forwarded to the Attorney General. EUPOL trains and mentors the Anti-Corruption Units. Specialised training is also delivered in the regions. Anti-corruption is being mainstreamed in all mission activities as a cross-cutting issue.

STRENGTHENING GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE POLICE

Eliminating of violence against women is a major focus of EUPOL, who assist Family Response Units of the Afghan Police. EUPOL is supporting the establishment of the Office of the Police Ombudsman and the Department of Human Rights and Gender. EUPOL has also developed a human rights booklet and an accompanying training package that can be used by international and Afghan trainers to train the police on basic human rights.