

International Joint Investigations or Cooperation on the field: A Different Perspective on how Cocaine Trafficking Investigations are Executed

Until now, *no research focused on a task force with an international dimension*, namely involving two countries or more in the investigation. This could be *surprising* considering its valorisation these last years, and consequently this model has been used more and more by police organisations. The structural reconfiguration of the police response had to be imposed to reduce the problem of the duplication of investigation and the interjurisdictional frictions. Das and Kratcoski, (2001) explained that the international police cooperation could be enhanced if more attention were devoted to the operational aspect of police activity. However, the composition of interorganisational partnerships is not a simple task and certain rules have to be respected. The pooling of investigation techniques, the diversification of organisational cultures, the multiplication of managing practice and the relative size of the agency involved, all of these worked to constitute a major organisational challenge to the organisation of those teams. Several authors observed the emergence of a structure of international police cooperation through instruments like the legal treaties of mutual assistance (Benyon et al, 1993; Fijnaut, 1993, Nadelmann, 1993, Andreas et Nadelmann, 2006). Even if a typology divided in three level of analysis has been introduced and reproduced (Benyon, 1996; Bigo, 1996; Andreas et Nadelmann; 2006), *the researches done in this frame are mainly macrosociological*. Moreover, *the vast majorities of these researches are predominantly descriptive and concentrate on the format of the treaties*. Some mesosociological analyses exist. They considered the importance of institutions like INTERPOL and EUROPOL (Gerspacher, 2005; Gerspacher and Lemieux, 2005, Gerspacher, 2002; Deflem, 2002). But the microsociological analyses (the “international” investigation practice) are inexistent. The operational factors, which are the one that influenced directly the investigation, have not been scrutinised deeply yet. It is interesting to look at these factors to understand what restricts cooperation or what promotes it.

This presentation had the purpose to answer these questions: *What are the main issues in an international joint investigation? How do these issues compared to the one that were raised in “national” joint investigation? We used a comparative approach to understand the difference and the similarity between the two dynamics.*

The chosen joint investigations are the Operation Springtime 2001, which is the national investigation example, and the Operation Calvette, which is the international investigation example. Analyses are about differential dynamics observed in doing comparisons of these investigations. First of all, international investigations are more complex. The factors that we studied are: politic, legislative and normative, economic, cultural, fonctionnal, the leadership and the visibility, and finally the environment hostility, particularly the degree of police corruption. These elements are fundamental in establishing and maintaining cooperation. However, they have differential dynamics if they are national or international investigations.