



**GNR**  
GUARDA NACIONAL REPUBLICANA

**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION**  
**GUARDA NACIONAL REPUBLICANA**

## **INFORMATION**

### ***Abstract***

*In a society in constant evolution, in which social phenomena change at a breakneck speed, the continuous monitoring of the various entities with responsibilities, highlighting, in particular, the role of the security forces, is essential.*

*The Guardia Nacional Republicana (GNR), constituting itself more and more as a "Human, Neighbourly and Trustworthy" security force, was obliged to reorient its policing standards, focusing on solving proactivity-oriented problems, centred on the involvement of the actual community in solving its own problems and aimed at more fragile and vulnerable social sections, thus seeking a greater citizen-security forces approximation in order to provide a more personalized and appropriate response to the concrete problems – community policing.*

*To this extent, in an anticipatory attitude, special programmes have been created and implemented, involving the community proactively, for an inclusive society that adapts and transforms and in which the security forces have a key role.*

### **GNR Community Policing**

In a society in constant change, security forces have sought to adapt to the new demands and challenges.

Guiding itself according to society and well serving, the GNR defined constituting itself as a "Human, Neighbourly and Trustworthy" force as the actual force's strategic orientation. In this perspective, it has reoriented its policing standards according to the social phenomena and expectations of the citizen, giving it an active role in security, demanding that the GNR have the ability to provide valid responses to the new challenges.

The special programmes are police intervention strategies developed to solve concrete problems that go against enhancing the feeling of security, at local or national level, using community policing models.

Seeking to stop being a merely reactive force in the face of the problems presented by the citizen, since the 1980s the GNR has adapted its policing model to be closer to the populations, through the community policing model.

Community policing, of Belgian and French origin (with proximity policing terminology), is defined as a form of security management, implemented among the population and with their trust, in order to respond to their problems, through visibility actions and police surveillance, primarily preventive as to their carefully identified and taken into consideration needs, and also

as a strategy, of an essentially proactive nature, through the presence of police officers in the field.

Community policing has thoroughly revived the way we look at the role of police nowadays. This view was enhanced and promoted by political orientations to bring police closer to the citizens, to associate a neighbourly and trustworthy image to police, to solve public order and security problems with imaginative and effective strategies. The home authority often directs to the existing special programmes or proceeds to create others, as a way of solving problems associated with the feeling of security; thus, the significant increase of these programmes in recent years, using anticipation as an effective tool in maintaining social peace among communities.

In addition to the active demonstration of close and preventive presence, the special programmes further aim to bring police and citizens together, to improve relations between them and guide the police action in order to solve the problems of the community, whereby making the GNR, as the Portuguese security force with greater



territorial implementation, an integral and essential party that contributes to solving community problems, but also the citizens themselves active elements in preventing crime and security within the community.

Community policing complies with several principles, namely that of organizational decentralization, reorganization of patrolling activities with a view to facilitating communication between police and citizens (information and awareness), and obtain the co-accountability of all (formal and informal) actors in security tasks. It abides by an action targeted to solve problems, involving the collaboration of public institutions or entities, which provide non-police solutions.

Proximity to communities is a mandatory premise and presupposes the identification, support and monitoring of the most vulnerable citizens.

The Community Policing model intended to implement proactive policing, namely a more visible and efficient social proximity policing, seeking to improve citizen's living standard and thus improve the "acceptance" of the security forces in each local community, fulfilled through their visible and close presence.

The community policing model is now carried out by all military personnel within the framework of patrolling actions and in the implementation of special policing programmes targeted at concrete problems, whether they relate to social groups that are more vulnerable to the phenomena of insecurity (children, elderly, crime victims), or those that aim to correspond

fully to the exercise of the state authority (intensive policing in sensitive urban areas that are more fragile from a security point of view).



In 2009 the GNR created the Special Programmes Office, which became the Criminal Prevention and Community Policing Office in 2018 when the structure was reviewed. This was considered since, after almost nine years, it was possible to identify more vulnerable social strata that lacked distinct support, whereby the *Guarda Nacional Republicana* now involves the

community itself in pursuit of phenomena resolution and enters into partnerships with other institutions, in order to solve the problems of the communities, thus leading the GNR to evolve towards a new model of policing.

Through the community policing model, the *Guarda Nacional Republicana* began to develop several special programmes that led to the participation and accountability of the community (citizens, public and private entities), constituting several partnerships without, however, this state attribution having been delegated. This networking has significantly contributed to enhancing citizens' sense of security.



Since interaction with the community and its involvement in local security is one of the main goals of community policing, it should be noted the creation of the post of local security interlocutors and of local security contracts, with a role of great importance in public and social defence systems. In practical terms, the importance of local security interlocutors and local security contracts has proved to be a remarkable approach to communities, because there is now a direct channel between a given community and the local security forces and other institutions that can contribute towards network problem solving.

There are several areas in which the activity of the *Guarda Nacional Republicana* has contributed to the security of the local communities. Some of the most important examples are demonstrations and awareness-raising activities/information and assistance to the elderly and disabled persons, awareness/information to tradesmen, signalling and referral of homeless people, monitoring of situations of domestic violence, intervention in situations involving drug addicts, and participation in the protection of children and youngsters in distress.

The commitment to providing a quality service, assessed necessarily according to the local population's feeling of security, involves paying special attention to people's problems. This special attention entails availability to develop, at the GNR base level, permanent work of local

diagnosis, through direct contact with local living forces, guiding the activity developed by the *Guarda Nacional Republicana* to the citizens' problems, needs and expectations.

Thus, in order to achieve the desideratum stated, the GNR is involved in a panoply of programmes, whereof the following are highlighted:

<b>Proximity Programme and Activities</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>
<b><i>Escola Segura</i></b> <b>(Safe School)</b>	Ensure the safety conditions of the school population; Promote safety behaviours among the school population.	School Community (children, guardians, teachers and assistants)
<b><i>Apoio 65 - Idosos em Segurança</i></b> <b>(Support 65 – Elderly in Safety)</b>	Ensure the safety conditions and tranquility of the elderly; Promote knowledge of the work of the Security Forces among this population; Help prevent and avoid risk situations.	Senior Community and caretakers
<b><i>Comércio Seguro</i></b> <b>(Safe Commerce)</b>	Enhance increased protection and security conditions for tradesmen; Prevention of criminal offences of which citizens circulating in commercial areas are victims; Development of awareness-raising activities among tradesmen.	Tradesmen
<b><i>Verão Seguro - Chave Direta</i></b> <b>(Safe Summer – Direct Key)</b>	Ensure in a targeted and more effective manner the safety of the residences of all citizens who wish to join this programme during the summer months (from 1 July to 15 September).	Citizens on Holidays
<b><i>Transporte Seguro de Tabaco</i></b> <b>(Safe Tobacco Transport)</b>	Conduct training sessions provided by elements of the security forces aimed for members of the tobacco storage and transport industry.	Workers of the tobacco storage and transport industry
<b><i>Táxi Seguro</i></b> <b>(Safe Taxi)</b>	Deterrence, prevention and combat of crimes committed against taxi drivers. It allows for triggering an alarm directly at the Alarm Centre managed by the Security Forces.	Taxi drivers
<b><i>Abastecimento Seguro</i></b> <b>(Safe Supply)</b>	Deterrence, prevention and combating crime against employees of fuel service stations. It allows for triggering an alarm directly at the Alarm Centre managed by the Security Forces.	Fuel Service Stations
<b><i>Farmácia Segura</i></b> <b>(Safe Pharmacy)</b>	Deterrence, prevention and combating crime against pharmacy employees. It allows for triggering an alarm directly at the Alarm Centre managed by the	Pharmacies

Security Forces.

<b><i>Campo Seguro</i></b> <b>(Safe Field)</b>	Protect, help and assist citizens, as well as defend and safeguard goods that are at risk, after communication from harmed owners (theft of non-precious metals)	Farmers and transport and energy companies
<b><i>Segurança em Meio Rural</i></b> <b>(Safety in Rural Areas)</b>	Combat crime in rural areas	Farmers and businesses
<b><i>SOS Azulejo</i></b> <b>(SOS Glazed Tile)</b>	Prevention of the Portuguese glazed tile heritage from theft and negligence.	General Population
<b><i>Igreja Segura - Igreja Aberta</i></b> <b>(Safe Church – Open Church)</b>	Create the safety and conservation conditions needed for systematic and effective safeguarding of the historical and artistic heritage of the Church; Inform and sensitize those responsible; Create models of good security practices, avoiding thefts.	General Population
<b><i>Apoio ao Turista</i></b> <b>(Tourist Support Patrol (TSP))</b>	Ensure the safety of people and goods in places of higher concentration of persons and visibility (events and tourist areas); Provide the necessary feeling of security and proximity.	Tourists
<b><i>Azeitona Segura</i></b> <b>(Safe Olive)</b>	Prevent crime linked to olive theft, through dynamic policing activities and liaison with various entities such as SEF, SS, DGI/Finance, ACT, PSP and agricultural cooperatives	Olive and olive oil producers
<b><i>Residência Segura</i></b> <b>(Safe Residence)</b>	Prevention of burglaries and thefts in residences; Geo-referencing of all isolated residences and assignment of door numbers.	Isolated residents, holiday makers and (e)migrants
<b><i>Investigação e Apoio a Vítimas Específicas (IAVE)</i></b> <b>(Specific Victim Investigation and Support)</b>	Ensure the support of specific victims through information, referral, monitoring, protection and interaction with the support network.	Specific Victims (children, elderly, disabled persons, victims of domestic violence and abuse – victims with greater vulnerability)

<p><b>Interlocutor Local de Segurança (ILS)</b> <b>(Local Security Interlocutor)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify potential security interlocutors in local communities;</li> <li>• Promote community policing aiming at the daily practice of attitudes conducive to active citizenship;</li> <li>• Increase the quality of military police action by strengthening community relations;</li> <li>• Contribute to the integration of public and social defence systems through principles such as transparency and educational activities;</li> <li>• Foster interaction between the GNR and the community.</li> </ul>	<p>Citizens acknowledged by the population and citizens belonging to institutions with responsibility at a local level</p>
<p><b>Programa de Apoio a Pessoas com Deficiência (PAPcD)</b> <b>(Disabled Persons Support Programme)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the safety conditions and tranquillity of disabled persons;</li> <li>• Promote knowledge of the work of the Security Forces among this population;</li> <li>• Help prevent and avoid risk situations.</li> </ul>	<p>Disabled Persons and caretakers</p>
<p><b>Internet Segura</b> <b>(Safe Internet)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage students to learn about digital security and citizenship;</li> <li>• Contribute to the internalization of the feeling of individual security by adopting digital security rules;</li> <li>• Contribute to the enhance awareness through cybersecurity and cyberprevention that enable the building of a safe, free and innovative cyberspace.</li> </ul>	<p>Internet users</p>

Notwithstanding and within the sensitization activities that the GNR carries out within the framework of the aforementioned programmes, there are a variety of issues which, given their relevance and topicality, are presented to citizens so that they are aware of the world around them, the associated dangers and the defence mechanisms to prevent them from falling victims. In this line, the following issues are highlighted:

- Violence and crime prevention;
- Safe Internet use;
- Human rights;
- Citizenship and non-discrimination;
- Addictive behaviours and dependencies;
- Environmental education;
- Safety at home;
- Safety in public transport;
- Trafficking in human beings;
- Migrants and refugees.



For a better perception of the scope and target audience of the referral programmes, in 2017 alone, the GNR is pleased to have interacted and sensitized:

- 620,634 children and youngsters (96,916 up to the age of 6 (six); 281,876 between the ages of 6 (six) and 12 (twelve); and 241,842 over 12 (twelve) years of age;
- 4,806 disabled persons;
- 112,839 elderly;
- 25,276 tradesmen.

With its centre of gravity focused on society, criminal prevention within the GNR is the goal and main content of the police strategy in which the mobilization of community forces and the use of local social resources are essential to achieve this strategy.

In order to attain this objective, the GNR underwent the necessary creation of a variety of mechanisms, with the intention of sensitizing the cited local entities to take part in and help to contribute towards the safety and resolution of problems of the community, in order to achieve a closer link between criminal prevention work, policing and local entities.

The *Guarda Nacional Republicana*, continuously seeking to be a "Human, Neighbourly and Trustworthy" security force, focused on the modern paradigms supported by community policing principles, in order to provide a more personalized and adapted response to the concrete problems of this population that is considered vulnerable, verified the need to implement special programmes with strategies aimed at promoting the rights and guarantees of more vulnerable citizens, seeking to proactively involve the community, To a truly inclusive society that suits and transforms. Vulnerable, it verified the need to implement special programmes with strategies aimed at promoting the rights and guarantees of the most vulnerable citizens, seeking to proactively involve the community, towards a truly inclusive society that adapts and transforms itself.

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