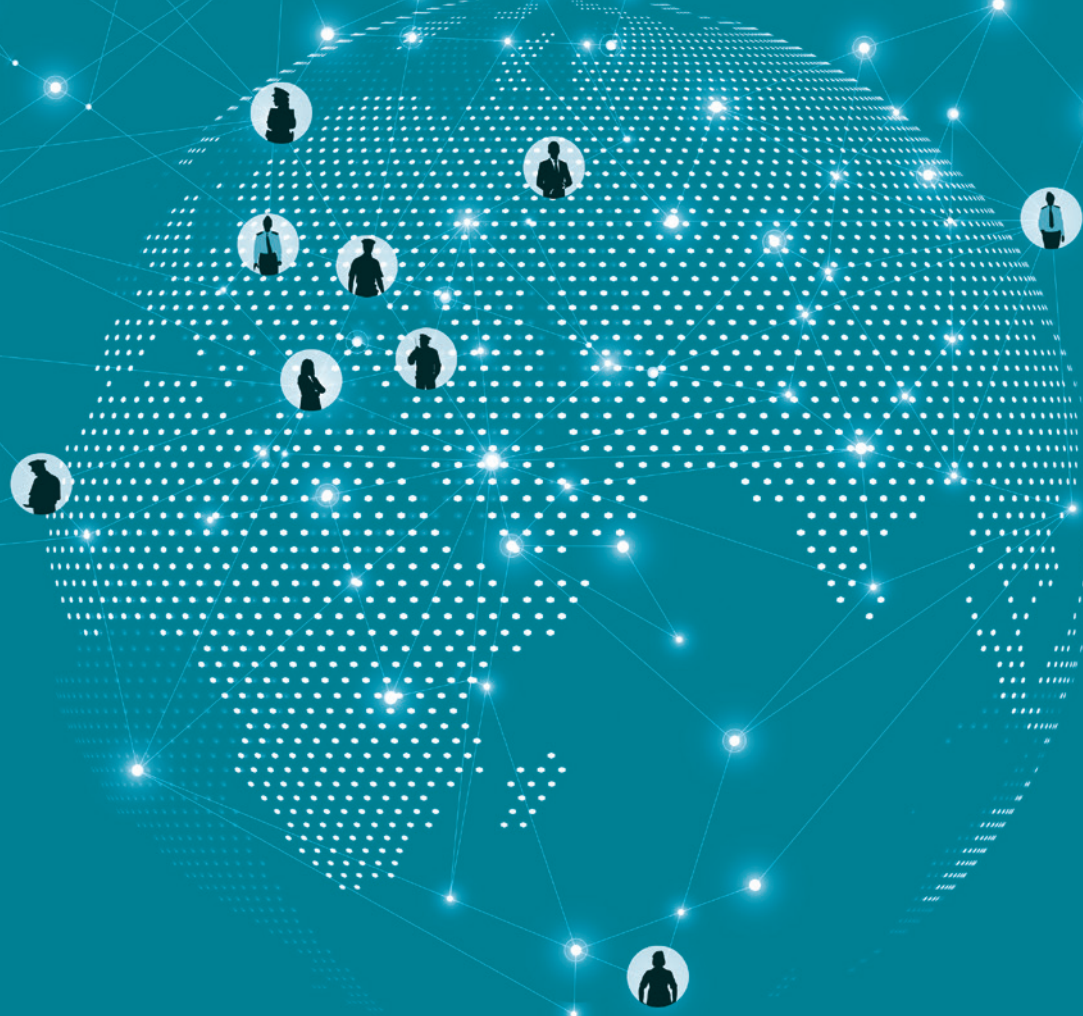


# Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities 2023



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the world's largest regional security organization, working to ensure peace, democracy and stability for more than a billion people between Vancouver and Vladivostok.

This report is submitted in accordance with Decision 9, Paragraph 6, of the Bucharest Ministerial Council Meeting of 4 December 2001.

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# Contents

Foreword by the Secretary General	2	2.3 Central Asia	89
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>4</b>	2.3.1 Programme Office in Bishkek	89
<b>1. POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE OSCE SECRETARIAT</b>	<b>6</b>	2.3.3 Programme Office in Dushanbe	94
1.1 Transnational Threats Department/ Strategic Police Matters Unit (TNTD/SPMU)	8	2.3.4 Programme Office in Astana	96
1.2 TNTD/Action against Terrorism Unit (TNTD/ATU)	24	2.3.5 Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	98
1.3 TNTD/Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU)	29	<b>3. POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF OTHER OSCE INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>99</b>
1.4 Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)	37	3.1 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)	100
1.5 Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings	39	3.2 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)	105
<b>2. POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF FIELD OPERATIONS</b>	<b>43</b>	3.3 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)	106
2.1 South-Eastern Europe	44	<b>4. OTHER RELEVANT PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>108</b>
2.1.1 Presence in Albania	44	4.1 Support Programme for Ukraine	110
2.1.2 Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	46	<b>5. APPENDICES</b>	<b>112</b>
2.1.3 Mission in Kosovo	53	<b>APPENDIX I</b>	<b>114</b>
2.1.4 Mission to Montenegro	68	MC and PC Decisions, Declarations and Action Plans with a Focus on Police-Related Activities	114
2.1.5 Mission to Serbia	72	<b>APPENDIX II</b>	<b>120</b>
2.1.6 Mission to Skopje	81	Abbreviations and Acronyms	120
2.2 Eastern Europe	87	<b>APPENDIX III</b>	<b>125</b>
2.2.1 Mission to Moldova	87	Contact Details	125

## Foreword by the Secretary General



I am pleased to present the 2023 edition of the Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities, which once more provides a detailed account of our work in this domain across the OSCE area supporting participating States and Partners for Co-operation. Strengthening the ability of law enforcement authorities to combat transnational threats whilst helping them to integrate human rights and mainstream gender issues as part of their day-to-day work are key commitments for the OSCE. The numerous examples of police-related activities presented in this report highlight the variety and breadth of activities implemented by the different OSCE structures covering capacity-building measures to address threats such as cybercrime, drug-related criminality, money laundering and illicit finance, the trafficking in human beings, cultural goods, firearms and explosives, as well as terrorism.

While I am pleased that the proportional participation of women in police-related activities organized by the OSCE has remained steady at around 40 per cent of participants from 2022, it also provides us with the imperative to do more and help close the gender gap. The share of women participants is, of course, also a reflection of the structural engagement of women in the work of the police. I am glad to see that various activities presented in the report aim at increasing the share of female law enforcement officers through various activities making police careers more accessible to female applicants. I look forward to more activities that aim to increase the share of female officers in the future. Overall, 53,816 individual participants benefited from police-related training activities organized by the OSCE in 2023.

So much of the crucial work in this area is carried out by OSCE field operations, which typically co-operate closely with national Ministries of the Interior and law enforcement authorities. They are acutely aware of the needs of their national and local counterparts. This enables the OSCE to tailor activities and capacity-building efforts to the

local context, considerably enhancing their impact and sustainability. This Report provides many examples of the impactful work being carried out by the field operations in this domain.

The Report clearly highlights the OSCE's crucial role in helping law enforcement authorities across the OSCE area deliver better services to their citizens. It also confirms the key role of the OSCE in enabling and promoting international law enforcement co-operation. Collaboration with organizations such as INTERPOL, Europol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) maximizes the impact of OSCE activities and highlights the complementarity of the efforts undertaken by these organizations and the OSCE's activities. We need to continue to co-operate, identify synergies and build networks to support our participating States in building a safer world.



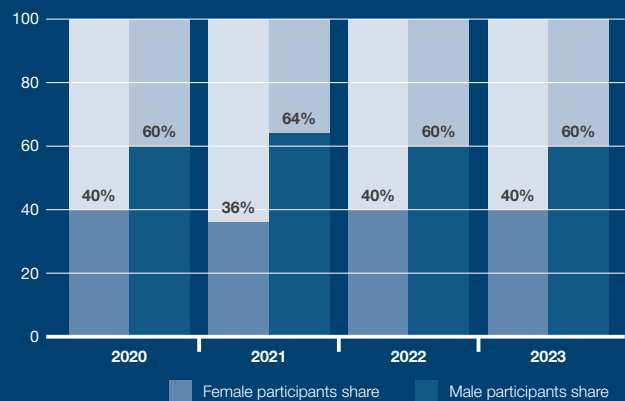
Helga Maria Schmid  
OSCE Secretary General

# Executive Summary



The Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities provides a comprehensive overview of all police-related projects, events and programmes implemented by OSCE executive structures, including the thematic units in the Secretariat, and OSCE field operations and institutions. The Report is submitted in accordance with Decision 9, Paragraph 6, of the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Council (MC) Meeting, while the activities described in this report are based on a comprehensive list of individual mandates and tasks that have been provided by various Ministerial Council (MC) and Permanent Council (PC) Decisions since 1998. A full list of all MC and PC Decisions and Action Plans that focus on police-related activities is provided in Appendix 3.

In accordance with OSCE commitments to promote gender equality stemming from the 2004 Gender Action Plan, while preparing the 2023 Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities, the Transnational Threats Department/SPMU collected disaggregated data, where data were available, on the gender composition of participants in OSCE police-related activities. The collected data show that the participation of men in OSCE police-related activities in 2023 was approximately 60 per cent, and the participation of women 40 per cent (of a total of 53,816 participants).



Share of female and male participants of police-related activities organized by the OSCE.

# Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Secretariat





## 1

## Transnational Threats Department

The Transnational Threats Department is led by the Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats. The Department works to ensure better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE's resources in addressing these challenges. It is comprised of four units – Action against Terrorism, Border Security and Management, Strategic Police Matters and the Co-ordination Cell. It also deals with cross-cutting topics, such as cyber/ICT security.



## 1.1 Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit (TNTD/SPMU)

### ► Intelligence-led policing – What’s next?

At the end of 2023, the OSCE Secretariat’s Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) successfully concluded the longstanding extra-budgetary (ExB) project “Building intelligence-led policing capacities on regional and national levels in the OSCE area”, marking eight years of the OSCE promoting the intelligence-led policing (ILP) model and assisting OSCE participating States in the model’s effective implementation.

The OSCE has been at the forefront of promoting this modern law enforcement practice, which encourages law enforcement authorities to move from a reactive to a proactive approach and emphasizes informed decision-making and strategic resource allocation. In 2023, with the generous financial backing and active role of Germany, the project delivered support to beneficiaries in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

TNTD/SPMU collaborated with the OSCE Presence in Albania and the Albanian State Police to strengthen the country’s Criminal Analysis Directorate as part of a multi-phase capacity-building initiative on ILP and criminal intelligence analysis. As part of this initiative, analysts were trained in information cycles, criminal intelligence analysis and strategic risk assessment.



📷 Participants in the advanced training programme on crime analysis for the Albanian State Police (left); handover ceremony of analysis software licenses with the Director of the Criminal Police Department of the Albanian State Police (right), Tirana, 26 February 2023.  
(OSCE/Dmytro Zhuravlyov)



📷 Kyrgyz police officers at the joint OSCE-INTERPOL training course on criminal intelligence analysis and international law enforcement co-operation, Bishkek, 20 November 2023. (OSCE/Dmytro Zhuravlyov)



TNTD/SPMU donated two analysis software licenses to ensure that the Directorate's analysts could effectively apply their newly acquired skills. "The donation of the licenses is more than just the procurement of software; it's a necessary support and investment in the Albanian law enforcement's ability to address transnational threats," said Mr. Neritan Nallbati, Head of the Criminal Police Department of the Albanian State Police. "It ensures that the Albanian State Police's commitment to restructuring and training is matched by the tools necessary to realize the full potential of intelligence-led policing."

Similarly, with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the ILP project supported Kyrgyzstan by providing three training courses on the ILP model and its implementation, as well as training-of-trainers (ToT) courses for the further dissemination of ILP information. The series of events culminated in a joint OSCE-INTERPOL training course on criminal intelligence analysis and international law enforcement co-operation. The joint effort provided critical knowledge and skills, and enabled national law enforcement practitioners to network with INTERPOL staff and the National Central Bureau (NCB) Bishkek.

"The event was a unique opportunity for our two organizations to join forces to pilot an activity that can pave the way for future collaboration, and a great personal experience for me to work with such engaged participants," said Ash Smith, Coordinator, Operational Analysis, Criminal Analysis Sub-directorate, INTERPOL.

Following the conclusion of the ILP project, TNTD/SPMU has worked on a follow-up project on crime analysis aimed at further enhancing and embedding crime analysis as an integral part of policing and law enforcement culture across the OSCE area. This is part of the OSCE's commitment to building law enforcement capacities and lending support in the fight against organized crime and other pressing transnational threats.

## General police development and reform

### **Presentation of a comparative study of policewomen associations in the OSCE area; Vienna, Austria, and online (31 January 2023)**

TNTD co-hosted the presentation of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the preliminary findings of the Comparative Study of Policewomen Associations in the OSCE area. The aim of the event was to discuss the conditions under which policewomen's associations or other networks of policewomen constitute a successful platform for increasing women's representation and promoting gender equality in law enforcement, including at middle and senior management levels.

### **Sixth Roundtable on Police Prevention and the Fight Against Impunity with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM); Vienna, Austria (15 May 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated as an expert and panelist in a roundtable on police prevention and the fight against impunity organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM). Several external experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Greece and Italy joined the roundtable and presented ways to enhance the safety and security of media representatives, including education and training for law enforcement in dealing with the media. To help develop better working relationships between law enforcement agencies and the media, TNTD presented several options for tailored training activities and seminars on national laws and regulations.

### **2023 OSCE Central Asian Regional Meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments on Police-Related Activities; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (25–26 May 2023)**

The Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments of the OSCE field operations based in Central Asia met with TNTD representatives to discuss police-related activities in the region. The topics included current and future projects and their co-ordination, as well as advice and suggestions regarding each department's respective activities, both horizontally and vertically. On the margins of the meeting, TNTD held discussions with the Head of the Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan and with representatives of UNODC to enhance co-operation.

### **2023 OSCE South-Eastern Europe Regional Meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments on Police-Related Activities; Skopje, North Macedonia (21–22 June 2023)**

The Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments of the field operations based in South-Eastern Europe met with TNTD representatives to discuss police-related activities in the region. The meetings facilitated the exchange of topical information, good practices and lessons learned among TNTD and field operations in South-Eastern Europe, and also strengthened co-ordination and mutual support to each other's activities.

### **2023 Annual Meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments of the OSCE Field Operations on Police-Related Activities; Vienna, Austria (13–15 November 2023)**

The meeting facilitated an exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among the OSCE field operations and executive structures, and strengthened co-ordination and support for each other's activities. This year, thematic discussions focused on: embedding intelligence-led policing in police reform processes; addressing the challenges and opportunities for policing presented by the digital age; and engaging and building trust with young people as part of effective policing. The 2023 edition of this annual meeting also piloted joint regional planning sessions for the field operations.

## Combating gender-based violence

### **Co-ordination and Co-operation meeting with the Security Academy in Albania; Tirana, Albania (26 January 2023)**

TNTD, in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, organized a meeting with the leadership of the Albanian Security Academy to review the basic and specialized training curricula and materials for police officers on gender-based violence, identify recommendations for improving the basic and specialized training curricula for police officers on gender-based violence in line with relevant national legislation and international standards, and implement a national specialized training course for police officers.

**Advanced international training programme  
“Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence –  
Strengthening Agents of Change”; Vlore, Albania  
(16 March 2023)**

TNTD, at the invitation of the Swedish Police Authority, participated in an international training programme organized in co-operation with the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (Sweden). TNTD presented its project on combating gender-based violence in South-Eastern Europe, as well as the experiences and good practices in implementing a related pilot project in Eastern Europe between 2018 and 2020.

**Meeting of the Project Advisory and  
Co-ordination Board; Vienna, Austria, and  
online (4 April 2023)**

TNTD convened a meeting of the Advisory and Co-ordination Board, which was established in 2021 as part of the above project on combating gender-based violence. The meeting gathered representatives of the OSCE Secretariat and field operations, UNFPA, UN Women, the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Organizations in Vienna, and the Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE. The meeting updated the Board on the progress in the project's implementation and provided a forum for Board members to share information about their own organizations' programmes on combating gender-based violence at regional and national levels.

**Meeting of the Multi-Agency Committee and  
national trainers; Podgorica, Montenegro (12 April  
2023) and Tirana, Albania (20 April 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, TNTD/SPMU organized a meeting with the members of the Multi-Agency Committee established in Montenegro in the framework of the above project on combating gender-based violence. The meeting addressed the training and awareness-raising activities planned for 2023 to ensure national ownership, impact and sustainability of results.

In co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, TNTD/SPMU organized a meeting with the members of the Multi-Agency Committee in Tirana, Albania. This meeting raised the interest of the Security Academy in Albania to organize national training activities during 2023 and to institutionalize the state-of-the-art curriculum on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls jointly developed in 2022 by the OSCE's Secretariat TNTD and Gender Issues Programme as well as ODIHR.

**National specialized training courses on gender-  
responsive policing of violence against women and  
girls (VAWG); Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(24–28 April 2023); Bar, Montenegro (12–16 June 2023);  
Popova Šapka, North Macedonia (16–20 October 2023);  
Riviera Golem, Albania (13–17 October 2023); Vrnjačka  
Banja, Serbia (27 November–1 December 2023)**

In co-operation with the local OSCE field operations, TNTD/SPMU organized a series of training courses for police officers and prosecutors, during which they learned how to effectively respond to cases of violence against women and girls using a victim-and survivor-centred approach. The course covered topics such as causes and cycles of violence, violence prevention, harmful biases, attitudes and stereotypes, risk assessment, victim and survivor protection protocols, referral mechanisms and interagency co-operation.

**Meeting of the Multi-Agency Committee and  
national trainers; Skopje, North Macedonia  
(22 May 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje, organized a meeting with the members of the Multi-Agency Committee established in the framework of the project in North Macedonia to discuss the training and awareness-raising activities planned for 2023 in order to ensure national ownership, impact and sustainability of results.

**Meetings with governmental representatives on  
gender-based violence; Belgrade, Serbia  
(28–30 August 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, organized a series of meetings with representatives of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Ministry of Justice, the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, the Judicial Academy and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality to discuss the implementation of the project on combating gender-based violence in South-Eastern Europe.

**JUSTICE Roundtables on Reporting on Gender-  
based Violence: A Victim/Survivor-centred  
Approach; Belgrade, Serbia (4 December 2023);  
Podgorica, Montenegro (7 December 2023); Sarajevo,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina (12 December 2023);  
Skopje, North Macedonia (15 December 2023)**

In co-ordination with the local OSCE field operations, TNTD/SPMU organized a series of events aimed at promoting the principles of gender-sensitive and victim/survivor-centred ap-

proaches to reporting on gender-based violence (GBV). The roundtable brought together police officers and prosecutors, judicial professionals, journalists and editors, legal experts, gender advocates, representatives of NGOs working on GBV issues, academics and researchers. The roundtables served as a forum for a discussion of relevant considerations and challenges, while facilitating an exchange of good practices and recommendations.

## Intelligence-led policing (ILP)

### Training-of-trainers course on intelligence-led policing; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (19–21 July 2023)

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, conducted a training course introducing participants to key concepts of intelligence-led policing (ILP), the role of human rights in policing and their relationship with the criminal intelligence cycle, and strategic and operational analysis. The combination of presentations on a wide range of topics with elements of participatory learning enabled participants to develop a deeper understanding of ILP and related concepts.

### Joint OSCE-INTERPOL training course on criminal intelligence analysis; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (20–24 November 2023)

In co-operation with INTERPOL, the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, TNTD/SPMU conducted a joint OSCE-INTERPOL training course for law enforcement officers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The course presented international good practices in the implementation of ILP and cross-border co-operation. The activity built on two previous training courses on ILP in Kyrgyzstan.

### Training course on ILP; Tirana, Albania (11–22 December 2023)

TNTD/SPMU and the OSCE Presence in Albania delivered a training programme for junior analysts from the Albanian State Police Intelligence and Criminal Archives Directorate. The analysts learned about the OSCE ILP model and basics of criminal intelligence analysis, focusing on the practical application of a wide range of analytical tools.

## Support to the law enforcement agencies in Moldova

### Needs assessment visit on airport security at Chişinău International Airport; Chişinău, Moldova (18–21 April 2023)

TNTD/SPMU conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of airport security at Chişinău International Airport. The in-depth *Needs Assessment Report on Airport Security in the Republic of Moldova*, which stemmed from the visit, details the legal framework of civil aviation in Moldova and identifies specific needs. These include the setup of several structures, including one to co-ordinate missions, to set procedures and to ensure quality control in airport security, as well as a technical department responsible for compliance, risk analysis, equipment maintenance and emergency response. The report's recommendations aim to improve training, staffing, co-ordination, equipment evaluation and personnel motivation within the aeronautic security structure, promoting compliance with standards and mitigating vulnerabilities in airport security. This assessment was undertaken jointly by TNTD/SPMU and TNTD/Border Security Management Unit (BSMU).

### Facilitation of a simulation exercise on severe incidents at airports; Bucharest, Romania (3–4 May 2023)

TNTD/SPMU facilitated a simulation exercise organized by AIRPOL at Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport. The event consisted of a tabletop exercise and practical simulations on airport security, and gathered representatives of the airport security sector, law enforcement agencies, emergency services, as well as medical professionals and airline representatives. The participation of Moldovan border police officers in the exercise equipped them with new tools and practical knowledge on airport security, highlighting the added value of international law enforcement co-operation.

### Working meeting with Moldovan border and law enforcement agencies; Chişinău, Moldova (27 July 2023)

TNTD/SPMU presented the findings and recommendations included in the above needs assessment and discussed with the Moldovan counterparts the support it could provide in revising the procedural, organizational, operational and infrastructural capacities of the border police and other Moldovan authorities related to airport security in Moldova.

**AIRPOL working meeting with Moldovan border and law enforcement agencies; Chişinău, Moldova (30 October 2023)**

During a working meeting with the leadership of AIRPOL and Moldovan border and law enforcement agencies in Chişinău, Moldova, participants discussed the logistical arrangements associated with organizing a training course on behaviour detection at Chişinău International Airport. The visit allowed the AIRPOL experts to learn about the expectations of the Moldovan counterparts, familiarize themselves with the infrastructure of Chişinău International Airport, and subsequently develop a tailor-made training course for Moldovan authorities that fully meets the needs of all actors involved in airport security in Moldova.

**National Police Day conference “Navigating Hybrid Threats and Recruiting Excellence in the Police”, Chişinău, Moldova (18 December 2023)**

At the invitation of the General Police Inspectorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova, TNTD/SPMU participated in a conference to mark the 33rd anniversary of the General

Police Inspectorate, a high-level event attended by Moldova’s President and Minister of Internal Affairs. TNTD/SPMU also met with the senior leadership of the General Police Inspectorate in an effort to identify and co-ordinate the further technical assistance and support to be provided by TNTD to the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate.

**Official handover of technical equipment to the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate; Chişinău, Moldova (19 December 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU handed over technical equipment and software to strengthen the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate’s data and crime analysis capabilities. Analysts from the General Police Inspectorate will be trained in the use of the equipment and software during the next phase of the project implementation.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

**Presentation on gender and organized crime at the EU Horizontal Working Party on Drugs; Brussels, Belgium (8 February 2023)**

At the invitation of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU, TNTD/SPMU participated in the above event and presented preliminary findings of the OSCE report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime* to the EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and Europol.

**Participation in the UNODC multiple-stakeholder event on strategies to prevent and combat organized crime; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (9–10 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated in the above event and presented the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime (TOC). Discussions among practitioners clear-

ly highlighted the need to focus on TOC prevention activities with youth, due to their particular vulnerability to TOC. Participants also emphasized the lack of regional practitioner platforms and networks for dialogue and information exchange in the field of TOC.

**Participation in the UN informal expert group meeting on the UNODC Toolkit on Mainstreaming Gender and Human Rights in the Implementation of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; Vienna, Austria (27–29 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU commented on the draft Toolkit and presented the OSCE report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*. The UNODC Toolkit aims to assist EU Member States to review national legislation, policies and strategies against organized crime from a gender and human rights perspective.

**Needs assessment visit to Moldova (youth crime and drug prevention); Chişinău, Moldova (27 February–3 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU conducted a needs assessment visit to Moldova focusing on youth crime and drug prevention, in co-operation with the OSCE Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and Terre des Hommes Moldova. OSCE officials met with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ombudsman's Office, the Ministry of Education and Research, the National Anti-Corruption Agency, the Ministry of Health and the Chişinău Youth Centre.

**Needs assessment visit to Moldova (support to law enforcement agencies); Chişinău, Moldova (12–17 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU carried out a needs assessment visit to Moldova, in co-operation with the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and the OSCE Mission to Moldova. During the visit, OSCE officials met with the Head of the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate and representatives of the General Inspectorate of Border Police, as well as with several directorates and sub-divisions responsible for intelligence analysis, operational management, public order and security, criminal investigation, canine support and anti-corruption. In addition to assessing the capacities of these entities, a field visit to a regional police inspectorate, a visit to the special "Fulger" police brigade, and practical demonstrations of police work were organized.

**Side event on a whole-of-society approach to youth crime prevention; Vienna, Austria, and online (23 May 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU hosted a side event on promoting a whole-of-society approach to youth crime prevention on the margins of the 32nd session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The event was organized in co-operation with the Permanent Missions of Germany and Italy to the OSCE. It explored how to develop and deliver a multi-stakeholder approach to youth crime prevention, as well as methodologies to provide platforms to young people to discuss the challenges and vulnerabilities they face.

**UN Youth Conference at the German Federal Foreign Office; Berlin, Germany (15 June 2023)**

At the invitation of the German Federal Foreign Office, TNTD/SPMU participated in a panel discussion focusing on how

to increase youth participation in decision-making processes and how to strengthen youth crime prevention and youth resilience towards security. TNTD's presentation focused on these topics and how the OSCE supports participating States in addressing these challenges through education on legality and the development of life skills, as well as by supporting gender-inclusive crime prevention and exit programmes.

**International congress on combating clan crime 2023; Düsseldorf, Germany (30 October 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU delivered a keynote presentation on the role of women in organized crime. The congress gathered experts on organized and clan crime from Europol, academia, and law enforcement from Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. TNTD/SPMU highlighted the preliminary findings of the OSCE report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*, specifically showcasing how women are recruited into organized crime, what roles they play within these groups, and how and why they leave criminality.

**"Future of AML: Building Resilience in the Evolving Financial Crime Environment" conference; Riga, Latvia (7 November 2023)**

At the invitation of the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, TNTD/SPMU participated in a panel discussion with the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), the Latvian Financial Intelligence Unit and international experts at the above conference. The title of the panel discussion was "Strengthening the Global Framework of Asset Recovery and its Efficacy". TNTD/SPMU presented the OSCE's asset recovery work in South-Eastern Europe.

**Launch of the OSCE assessment report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*; Vienna, Austria, and online (13 December 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU, organized a launch event to present the main findings and recommendations of the OSCE assessment report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*, which focuses on how women are recruited to organized crime groups, their roles within them, and how and why they exit these groups. The event brought together members of OSCE participating State delegations based in Vienna, policymakers, practitioners and civil society organizations that contributed data to the assessment report, international organizations and the media.



**Regional workshop on fostering a holistic understanding of organized crime actors to enhance disruption and prevention efforts; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (18–19 December 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, TNTD/SPMU organized the above workshop to present and discuss the findings of the OSCE assessment report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime* in the context of Central Asia. The event brought together representatives of the Ministries of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The workshop further showcased good practices from across the OSCE area on gender-sensitive organized crime prevention initiatives, and facilitated a regional dialogue on emerging trends and challenges in light of security developments in Afghanistan and their effect on organized crime and its actors, including women, across Central Asia.

## Asset recovery

**Certified anti-money laundering specialist training and mentoring course in South-Eastern Europe; online (throughout 2023)**

During the reporting period, TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA organized two thematic training courses entitled “Risks and Methods of Money Laundering” and “International AML/CFT Standards”. The courses were part of the mentoring and training course supporting criminal justice practitioners to become certified anti-money laundering specialists. The learning material on which the training courses are based, as well as the final certification, were provided by the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists.

**Partnership with the Basel Institute on Governance on asset recovery (throughout 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA launched an Implementing Partnership Agreement with the Basel Institute on Governance. The Basel Institute’s International Centre for Asset Recovery worked with TNTD and the OCEEA to conduct a needs assessment on the challenges and gaps that institutions in Ukraine in particular face in recovering criminal assets. The Basel Institute developed a study on good practices in asset seizure and confiscation in the OSCE area, providing participating States with an overview of good and innovative practices in this area.

**Second round of criminal justice practitioners enrolled in the certified anti-money laundering specialist course in South-Eastern Europe; online (throughout 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA launched a second round of the training and mentoring course to assist law enforcement and criminal justice professionals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia to become certified anti-money laundering specialists. The course provided the practitioners with highly technical skills to apply in their daily work, increasing the capacity of relevant institutions to investigate complex financial transactions, fraud schemes, money laundering and corruption cases.

**Study exchange on asset recovery between Serbia and Germany; Wiesbaden, Germany (24–25 February 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA facilitated a study exchange with the German Federal Criminal Police Office in Wiesbaden for participants from the Serbian Prosecutor’s Office for Organized Crime and the Belgrade High Court. The participants exchanged experiences and operational information on asset recovery cases, especially cross-border ones, involving tracing, seizure and confiscation of criminal assets located in foreign jurisdictions.

**Third national workshop on the social re-use of confiscated assets; Belgrade, Serbia (24 January 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA organized a workshop for representatives of the Serbian Ministry of Justice, the Republic Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Prosecutor’s Office for Organized Crime, the Directorate for the Administration of Seized Assets, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Council of Europe, the European External Action Service, the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The workshop provided a platform to discuss the key legislative and practical challenges in Serbia for the social re-use of criminal assets. One of the main challenges that was highlighted is the lack of procedures for CSOs to apply for and receive assets for social re-use purposes. Participants also discussed the importance of enhancing the co-operation between civil society and governmental institutions throughout the asset recovery process, especially in the social re-use phase.

**Ninth meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors; Belgrade, Serbia, and online (23–34 February 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA facilitated a meeting for prosecutors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. They discussed how to ensure that their responses keep pace with evolving and highly adaptable criminal operations, highlighting how informal co-operation mechanisms can facilitate and streamline the exchange of information and contribute to the shared goal of combating transnational organized crime.

**Concluding national workshop on the social re-use of confiscated assets; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and online (28 February 2023)**

The above workshop, organized by TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, gathered representatives of the Ministries of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, the Federal Agency for the Management of Seized Property and the Ministry of Finance of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the agency for Management of Seized Property of Republika Srpska, CSOs, the Embassy of Italy in Sarajevo, and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the workshop, the OSCE presented the “Guidelines on Re-use of Proceeds of Crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, which were developed in 2022. The Guidelines provide an overview of the legal framework of that country for the social re-use of confiscated assets, institutional capacities to implement re-use practices, relevant international standards, and examples from other countries.

**Third regional workshop on the social re-use of criminal assets; Vienna, Austria, and online (23–24 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA convened the workshop for participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia to facilitate a dialogue among representatives of CSOs and asset management agencies, and to strengthen their co-operation in establishing procedures for social re-use of confiscated criminal assets. The workshop also provided an opportunity for an exchange of experiences and good practices among participants and experts from France, Romania and Spain, who elaborated on the current rules regulating social re-use mechanisms in their countries.

**Training course on asset recovery with the Guardia di Finanza; Rome, Italy (26–28 April 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in co-operation with the Italian Guardia di Finanza, delivered a training course on asset re-

covery for criminal justice practitioners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The training course contributed to enhancing knowledge of effective financial investigations, tracing and seizing illegal assets, as well as preventive anti-money laundering systems and good practices in cross-border co-operation. Through case studies, the training course highlighted the importance of depriving organized crime groups of their illicit profits in order to disrupt criminal operations.

**Roundtable on the importance of inter-institutional co-ordination and collaboration in the management of sequestered and confiscated assets; online (8 May 2023)**

TNTD participated in a roundtable organized by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and contributed to the session on social re-use of assets confiscated from organized crime and corruption, highlighting why this practice is an important pillar of the fight against crime.

**Support for the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network (BAMIN) (11 May 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA signed an Implementing Partner Agreement with the Italian-based non-profit organization Fondazione Safe to continue supporting the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network (BAMIN) – a network of asset management offices bringing together 21 jurisdictions. Following the signing of the agreement, the Network’s decision-making body, the Steering Committee Group (comprising Croatia, Moldova and Montenegro), convened in Chişinău, Moldova, on 30 and 31 May to discuss the strategic direction of the Network. On that occasion, the Moldovan National Anti-Corruption Centre’s Criminal Assets Recovery Agency took over the presidency of BAMIN (previously held by Montenegro). BAMIN is the only existing informal network that promotes co-operation and experience sharing among asset management agencies. Co-operation builds their capacity to manage criminal assets in a cost-effective manner.

**Needs assessment visit; Chişinău, Moldova, (15–17 May 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA conducted a needs assessment visit to Moldova, engaging with relevant institutions on the obstacles they face in the process of seizing, confiscating and managing criminal assets. The visit consisted of discussions with representatives of Moldova’s National Anti-Corruption Centre, Criminal Asset Recovery Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutor General’s Office, Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office, Organized Crime and Special Cases Prosecutor’s Office, and Prevention and Combating Money Laundering Service.

### **Discussions on asset recovery with stakeholders; Skopje, North Macedonia (20–22 June 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU held meetings with some of the beneficiaries of the asset recovery project in North Macedonia. Jointly with the OSCE Mission to Skopje, discussions on current developments and obstacles in asset recovery were held with the Agency for Management of Seized and Confiscated Property in North Macedonia, Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and National Commission for Monitoring the National Strategy for Financial Investigations and Confiscation, as well as a representative of the Fair for All Trials CSO.

### **Fourth technical assistance providers co-ordination meeting; online (27 June 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA attended a meeting of donors that support government institutions and agencies in South-Eastern Europe in advancing asset recovery efforts, both domestically and internationally, particularly in the area of financial investigations (asset tracing), freezing and seizing, asset management, confiscation and forfeiture, international co-operation, asset disposal, including re-use, and the collection of asset recovery statistics. The objective of the meeting was to share information about current and future planned asset recovery projects and activities in order to identify gaps in assistance, avoid duplication of efforts, and promote co-operation where possible.

### **Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network (BAMIN): Steering Group Meeting, Annual General Meeting and training course; Chişinău, Moldova (19, 22–23 September 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA facilitated the Steering Group Meeting of the Asset Management Agencies of Croatia, Moldova and Montenegro to discuss the strategic priorities of BAMIN until the end of 2023 and the Moldovan Presidency in 2024. The meeting was followed by the Annual General Meeting, attended by representatives of 22 jurisdictions from across the OSCE area, who discussed how to strengthen the cross-border management of criminal assets, the main challenges they face in this process, and existing successful cases. On 22 and 23 September, the Asset Management Agencies were joined by police officers and prosecutors for the training course “Achieving Success in the Cross-Border Management of Criminal Assets”. The multidisciplinary training course involved practitioners from different jurisdictions working on a money laundering case scenario involving illicit assets.

### **Training course on pre-seizure planning in asset recovery; Skopje, North Macedonia (26–27 September 2023)**

In partnership with the Agency for Management of Seized and Confiscated Property in North Macedonia, TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA organized a multi-agency training course on effective planning and co-ordination prior to the seizure of criminal assets. The training course gathered practitioners from North Macedonia’s Directorate for Financial Intelligence and Directorate for Financial Police within the Ministry of Finance, its Organized Crime Department within the Police, its Agency for Management of Seized and Confiscated Property, its Public Prosecutor’s Office and its court system. Through practical and theoretical sessions focusing on different types of assets (real estate, vehicles, digital currencies), practitioners discussed gaps in the national legal framework, enhanced their knowledge of existing good practices and recommended procedures facilitating cross-agency co-ordination and collaboration.

### **European Week of Regions and Cities; Brussels, Belgium (10 October 2023)**

At the invitation of the Italian CSO “Libera – Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie”, TNTD/SPMU contributed to the session “Youth Enterprises in Re-used Assets: a New Model for Local and Sustainable Development” at the European Week of Regions and Cities. TNTD/SPMU presented its ongoing work on supporting civil society organizations in the fight against organized crime, including awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts to strengthen co-operation between civil society organizations and state institutions in the re-use of criminal confiscated assets.

### **Workshop on cross-border asset recovery; Chişinău, Moldova (24–26 October 2023)**

The above workshop gathered practitioners from the Moldovan Criminal Asset Recovery Agency, Prosecutor’s Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases, General Police Inspectorate, Ministry of Justice, Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office, and the Chişinău City Prosecutor’s Office. The instructional and practical sessions enhanced the knowledge of the participants of national and international avenues for the return of assets, obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and effective mutual legal assistance. The workshop also provided a forum for practitioners to network, share good practices and identify institutional barriers to cross-border asset recovery.

**OSCE Chairpersonship's regional conference on combating corruption, money laundering and asset recovery efforts in South-Eastern Europe; Skopje, North Macedonia (31 October 2023)**

The 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia hosted the regional conference on combating corruption and money laundering, and facilitating asset recovery efforts in South-Eastern Europe. The conference was organized in co-operation with and with the support of TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA. The one-day conference brought together government representatives, judges, prosecutors and law-enforcement officials from OSCE participating States across South-Eastern Europe, as well as experts from civil society and academia. The first session of the conference invited speakers to exchange their experiences and lessons learned on asset recovery mechanisms in the region. It was followed by a session on emerging risks in cryptocurrency-driven money laundering and how to counter them, as well as a side event on the use of open data and the role of civil society in preventing corruption in the region.

**Advanced regional workshop on asset recovery in South-Eastern Europe; Dubrovnik, Croatia (7–11 November 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in partnership with the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training of the United States Department of Justice, organized the above event for judges and prosecutors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The workshop provided the practitioners with expert-level knowledge and skills in the area of illicit asset seizure and confiscation. It also provided case study examples related to legislation and practices, as well as hands-on experience with different types of criminal assets. The workshop facilitated regional co-operation not only by bringing together practitioners from across the region, but also by including representatives of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors (PCOCP) as beneficiaries of the capacity-building event. The PCOCP is an informal network of prosecutors supported by the project that facilitates cross-border co-operation in fighting organized crime and corruption.

**Workshop on the management of confiscated businesses, complex real estate, securities and other financial instruments; Chişinău, Moldova (7–10 November 2023)**

The above workshop brought together participants from Moldova's Criminal Asset Recovery Agency, Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases, the Prosecutor General's Office, General Police Inspectorate,

Ministry of Justice, Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, Superior Council of Magistrates and State Tax Service. The discussions aimed to address challenges to and highlight good practices in the domestic management of assets throughout the asset recovery process.

## Cybercrime

**OSCE e-learning courses on open-source intelligence (OSINT) and online investigations; (throughout 2023)**

As part of its role to support OSCE participating States to combat cybercrime effectively, TNTD/SPMU started to develop a new online training course on OSINT and online investigations. The course covers three different levels: introductory, intermediate and advanced. The course is offered to TNTD/SPMU key partners in its capacity-building efforts to combat cybercrime, such as the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG), CEPOL, INTERPOL and UNODC.

TNTD/SPMU organized an expert workshop, held in Vienna, Austria, from 2 to 4 August 2023, to review the draft training materials prepared for the introductory level of a new OSCE online training course on OSINT and online investigations. Participants included law enforcement experts from CEPOL, Europol, INTERPOL, the ECTEG, as well as selected OSCE participating States.

The course consists of ten modules and is currently available in English. The course material can be deployed in all major e-learning management systems. The material, restricted to law enforcement, can be made available to relevant institutions, such as law enforcement educational bodies.

**National training course on handling digital evidence by first responders; Almaty, Kazakhstan (30 January–3 February 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana and the Almaty Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, TNTD/SPMU conducted a training course on handling digital evidence by first responders for law enforcement representatives, including operational staff of the Kazakhstan's Ministry of Internal Affairs units from Astana, Almaty and Taldykorgan, as well as lecturers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs Academies in Almaty and Karaganda, and the Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General's Office. Participants learned how to identify, seize and secure potential sources of digital evidence at a crime scene, how to use open-source forensic tools for first responders, and how to conduct basic live data forensics and deal with

volatile data. They were also introduced to the basics of computer networking, online open-source investigations and anonymity on the internet.

#### **Participation in the International Summit on Youth and Cybercrime; Valencia, Spain (1 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated in the above event, hosted by the local police of Valencia. The summit brought together representatives of consortia implementing EU-funded projects, including local and national police authorities, as well as representatives of the European Commission, academia and the private sector. TNTD/SPMU contributed to the panel discussion on addressing cyber criminality from the policy-making and capacity-building perspectives.

#### **Presentation at the Fourth Intersessional Consultation of the UN Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes; Vienna, Austria (6–7 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated in the above event in the panel “Technical Assistance: Setting Priorities for the Delivery of Technical Assistance, in Particular to Developing Countries”. The panel presentation showcased the OSCE’s experience in tailoring capacity-building activities to the needs of stakeholders, ensuring the sustainability of such activities, as well as gender mainstreaming throughout technical assistance activities.

#### **Regional co-ordination meeting; Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and online (9–10 March 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, organized the second regional co-ordination meeting dedicated to the topic of cybercrime education and digital evidence for criminal justice practitioners in Central Asia. Participants discussed possible approaches and methods to improve the training of police officers and prosecutors in Central Asia on cybercrime and digital evidence.

#### **National introductory training course on cybercrime and digital evidence; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (9–12 May 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, TNTD/SPMU delivered an introductory training course on cybercrime and digital evidence at the Police Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan. The course was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor General’s Office, and the Cybersecurity Department of the Turkmenaragatnashyk Agency. The par-

ticipants were introduced to key concepts regarding cybercrime, digital evidence and digital forensics.

#### **Webinar on malware and ransomware for the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and online (1 June 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, TNTD/SPMU organized a webinar for cadets and lecturers of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent. The event was a continuation of the webinar series launched in 2022 to raise awareness of key trends and developments in contemporary policing among students and staff of the Academy. Participants were introduced to key concepts and trends related to malware and ransomware, and then were presented with two practical case studies of malware and ransomware investigations.

#### **National introductory training course on cybercrime and digital evidence; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (5–9 June 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, delivered an introductory training course on cybercrime and digital evidence at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. The course was completed by representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor General’s Office.

#### **Joint OSCE-UNODC introductory national training course on cryptocurrencies and digital evidence in darknet investigations; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (19–23 June 2023)**

In co-operation with UNODC and the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, TNTD/SPMU delivered an introductory training course on cryptocurrencies and darknet investigations at the Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The participants learned about main concepts and key trends in the areas of anonymity and encryption, cryptocurrencies, obfuscation techniques and the darknet.

#### **Assessment visit on the establishment of a cybercrime database; Yerevan, Armenia (3–4 July 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU conducted an assessment visit to Armenia on the establishment of a national cybercrime database. The assessment team met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Hi-Tech Industry, the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Investigative Committee,

the police, the National Security Service, the State Revenue Committee, the Financial Monitoring Centre at the Central Bank, and the Government Interoperability Platform EKENG.

**National introductory training course on digital forensics; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (19–22 September, 6–11 November 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, organized an introductory training course on digital forensics at the Police Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan. The course was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Cybersecurity Department of the Turkmenaragatnashyk Agency. The participants were introduced to key concepts and various open-source tools in the field of digital forensics. The first part of the course focused on general technical concepts and methods in digital forensics. The second part, delivered to the same groups of participants, was dedicated to more specific topics, such as file systems, databases, Windows registries, log file analysis and mobile devices.

**Webinar on online payment fraud for the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and online (28 September 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, organized the sixth webinar in Tashkent for cadets and lecturers of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan. The event was a continuation of the webinar series launched in 2022 to raise awareness of key trends and developments in contemporary policing among students and staff of the Academy. The webinar was attended by 80 cadets and lecturers and included guest speakers from Mastercard as well as INTERPOL's Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre. Participants were introduced to various forms of online payment fraud, key trends in this field and the main challenges this type of crime poses to criminal justice systems.

**National introductory training course on cryptocurrencies and darknet investigations; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (16–20 October 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, TNTD/SPMU organized an introductory training course on cryptocurrencies and darknet investigations for representatives of Tajikistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Prosecutor General's Office. The first part of the course introduced participants to concepts related to blockchains and cryptocurrencies, and enabled them to practice profiling, tracing and seizing cryptocurrencies. The second part of the course was dedicated to the functioning of The Onion Router (TOR) network and the darknet, features of

the darknet criminal landscape, and approaches to conducting searches and investigations on the darknet.

**Launch of the OSCE training guide “Ensuring Human Rights Compliance in Cybercrime Investigations”, Vienna, Austria, and online (15 November 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU launched a new training guide on human rights compliance in cybercrime investigations. The guide aims to raise awareness among criminal justice practitioners of the implications that the investigations of cybercrimes and other crimes involving electronic evidence can have for human rights, and to support practitioners in upholding human rights in their daily investigative work. The launch event included speakers from the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and criminal justice institutions from Germany and Slovenia. They discussed some of the particular challenges posed for human rights in investigations of cybercrimes and other crimes involving electronic evidence, as well as what good practices already exist for upholding human rights in such investigations.

**Regional workshop on strengthening professional development in cybercrime investigations; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (21–22 November 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU organized a regional workshop to discuss good practices in training criminal justice practitioners on the investigation of cybercrimes and other crimes involving electronic evidence. The event brought together senior representatives of all the major law enforcement educational institutions and the OSCE field operations in Central Asia. The participants discussed professional development of police officers and prosecutors, adaptation and modernization of training and educational programmes, integration of e-learning, and strategic approaches to identifying needs and priorities for further training and education in this field of criminal justice practitioners across Central Asia.

**Lecture on cryptocurrency-related crimes at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (23 November 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan organized the above lecture. During the event, cadets and lecturers from the Academy were briefed about concepts and mechanisms related to cryptocurrencies and their transactions, the role cryptocurrencies can play in facilitating crime, methods and approaches for investigating related crimes, and trends in the evolution of the cryptocurrency market in Uzbekistan and the rest of Central Asia. The event was the culmination of a webinar series on trends in contemporary policing launched in the autumn of 2022. In total, TNTD/SPMU delivered seven webinars on a wide range of topics, including

countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime, intelligence-led policing, gender-based violence, malware and ransomware, online payment frauds and the darknet criminal landscape.

**National introductory training course on cybercrime and digital evidence; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (6–8 December 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, TNTD/SPMU supported the State Committee of National Security of Kyrgyzstan in delivering an introductory training course on cybercrime and digital evidence to representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor General's Office of Kyrgyzstan. The participants learned about key features of cybercrime and digital evidence, sources of digital evidence, approaches for searching and seizure of digital evidence at a crime scene, and basics of conducting online investigations.

**The Octopus Conference “Cooperation on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence”; Bucharest, Romania (13–15 December 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated in the Octopus Conference organized by the Cybercrime Division of the Council of Europe and contributed to the workshop “Capacity-Building as a Game Changer”, presenting good practices and lessons learned from the OSCE's capacity-building activities on cybercrime.

## Illicit drugs and chemical precursors

**First and second intersessional meetings of the 66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; Vienna, Austria (23–25 October, 4–6 December 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated in the above meetings as an observer, and contributed to the thematic discussion on links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, and made a statement on the programmatic projects currently underway in the OSCE area.

**Paris Pact Initiative's expert working group meeting on early prevention of drug use and drug use disorders in support of Pillar IV of the Vienna Declaration; Samarkand, Uzbekistan online (1–2 November 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated in the Paris Pact Initiative's expert working group meeting on early prevention of drug use and drug use disorders in support of the Pillar IV of the Vienna Declaration and contributed to the final recommendations.

**32nd Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ); Vienna, Austria (7–8 December 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU represented the OSCE as an observer at the reconvened 32nd session of the CCPCJ. Meetings in the margins of the event focused on crime prevention and criminal justice, including the prevention of organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and other forms of crime.

**17th Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group Meeting of the Paris Pact Partnership to Combat Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan; Vienna, Austria (11–12 December 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU participated in the above meeting and contributed to the review and adoption of the operational recommendations that resulted from previous expert working group meetings held in 2023.

## Youth crime and drug use prevention

**Seminar for higher education institutions to present the OSCE-developed “Crime Prevention and Culture of Lawfulness” curriculum; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (16 May 2023)**

The curriculum on youth crime prevention, developed within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Government of Kyrgyzstan, was presented by TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA in April 2022. The curriculum was introduced in at least 15 universities countrywide in the academic year 2023/2024, reaching more than 1,000 students.

**Multi-stakeholder event to present and discuss the findings of the OSCE needs assessment on youth crime prevention; Chişinău, Moldova (25 May 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in co-operation with implementing partner Terre des Hommes Moldova, presented the findings of the OSCE needs assessment on youth crime prevention in the country to representatives of the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ombudsman Office, Ministry of Education and Research, National Anti-Corruption Agency, and Ministry of Health, alongside academia, local administrations, civil society and young people. Participants discussed current challenges concerning youth criminality, exchanged information about their capacity-building needs and learned about good practices from the German youth crime prevention initiative “Kurve Kriegen”.

**Regional Multi-stakeholder event on strengthening youth resilience to organized crime and corruption; Skopje, North Macedonia (6–7 June 2023)**

In co-operation with the 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA held the above event, which gathered representatives of several Ministries, including of the interior, justice and Education, ombudsman offices and anti-corruption agencies of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, alongside academia, civil society and young people from the region engaged in the topic.

**Launch of an awareness-raising campaign to prevent youth involvement in organized crime, corruption and drug use in Kyrgyzstan; online (19 June 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, launched an awareness-raising campaign to prevent youth involvement in organized crime, corruption and drug use in Kyrgyzstan. The campaign, created in co-operation with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Policy, involved some of Kyrgyzstan's leading influencers, bloggers, artists, youth activists and athletes, putting the spotlight on individuals who have achieved success through legal, ethical and constructive means. By showcasing these role models, the campaign sought not only to inspire young people, but also to provide tangible examples of positive paths they can embark upon. It was aimed to reach more than one million young people in Kyrgyzstan within two months through social media and national TV channels.

**Training-of-trainers course for universities on the OSCE-developed curriculum “Crime Prevention and Culture of Lawfulness”; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (20–22 June 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA organized the above training-of-trainers course during which 38 professors from 18 universities across Kyrgyzstan honed their skills in order to be able to teach students about the risks and consequences of criminal behaviour, including organized crime, corruption and drug use. The training course helped professors to enhance their thematic knowledge of the curriculum modules and learn effective teaching methods to deliver the course in a way that will further strengthen students' resilience and reduce the likelihood of their engagement in illegal and corrupt activities.

**Study visit to “Kurve Kriegen”; Düsseldorf, Germany (27–28 June 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA organized a study visit for a delegation of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Internal Affairs to the leading youth crime prevention initiative in Germany, “Kurve Kriegen”. The visit allowed Kyrgyz practitioners to learn about good practices on how to promote a culture of lawfulness and integrity among young people, and how to prevent at-risk youth from getting involved in illegal and corrupt activities, in particular by strengthening early identification.

**Central Asia Youth Dialogue Forum on rule of law, integrity and crime prevention; Almaty, Kazakhstan (17–21 July 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, hosted the Central Asia Youth Dialogue Forum for young people from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to strengthen confidence and trust among youth in the region. The event served as a platform for Central Asian and Mongolian youth to identify and discuss key security challenges concerning rule of law, integrity and crime prevention.

**Training course “Crime Prevention and Lawful Behaviour”; Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan (21–25 August 2023)**

In co-operation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Ministry of Education and Science of Kyrgyzstan, TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA held a training course for school teachers across Kyrgyzstan to deliver an OSCE-developed curriculum on crime prevention and lawful behaviour for students in grades 5 to 11. They were introduced to the curriculum and methods for its implementation, while expanding their knowledge of organized crime, corruption and illegal drug use. They also learned effective teaching methods to strengthen students' resilience and reduce the likelihood of their engagement in illegal and corrupt activities.

**Awareness-raising campaign to prevent youth involvement in organized crime, corruption and drug use in Kyrgyzstan; online (19–24 September 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, relaunched the awareness-raising campaign held in June 2023, as described above. Involving leading influencers, bloggers, artists, youth activists and athletes



in Kyrgyzstan, it spotlighted individuals who have achieved success through legal, ethical and constructive means.

**Multi-stakeholder event for the development of the Youth Strategy of the Canton of Sarajevo; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (27–28 September 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Higher Education and Youth of Canton Sarajevo, organized an event for the development of the Sarajevo Youth Strategy, gathering representatives from the Canton of Sarajevo's Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture and Sports, and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The event enabled discussions on the development of the Youth Strategy and the exchange of international good practices in the field of youth crime prevention.

**Multi-stakeholder workshop for development of the Canton of Sarajevo Youth Strategy; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (20 November 2023)**

In co-operation with the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Youth of the Canton of Sarajevo and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA delivered a second multi-stakeholder event to discuss the

draft of the 2024–2028 Canton of Sarajevo Youth Strategy. The event gathered experts from academia and civil society. Participants focused particularly on learning about international good practices in youth crime prevention, an essential part of the Strategy.

**South-Eastern Europe grant programme; (July–October 2023)**

TNTD/SPMU and the OCEEA, in co-operation with the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, carried out a regional grants programme with the aim to strength youth resilience to organized crime and corruption in South-Eastern Europe. During the period in question, 5,142 young people engaged in 72 in-person events, workshops, art performances and film festivals. Moreover, the programme reached 436,257 young people through social media channels, raising their awareness of the role played by rule of law and integrity in creating a peaceful and prosperous society. Recognizing the essential role of civil society in working with and for youth on the ground, during the programme, the OSCE and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime supported two CSOs in each of the involved participating States, which included Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The organizations conducted grassroots extra-curricular educational and awareness-raising events engaging young people.

## 1.2 TNTD/Action against Terrorism Unit (TNTD/ATU)

- ▶ **Enhanced capacities of participating States in preventing and countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes; Belgrade, Serbia, and other locations (November 2023)**

Through continuous collaboration with OSCE field operations in Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, as well as with national counterparts, TNTD/ATU regularly delivers national tabletop exercises (TTX) on the challenges that the use of the internet by terrorists and violent extremists can cause, as well as on related effective and human right-compliant responses.

Jointly with the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Serbian Ministry of the Interior, TNTD/ATU organized such a **TTX in Belgrade from 15 to 17 November 2023** for participants from governmental agencies, civil society, the media, and internet service providers, making it possible to address the interests and concerns of all relevant stakeholders.



📎 Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on preventing and countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, held in Belgrade, Serbia, in November 2023. (OSCE)



Local and international experts, including from RFoM, ODIHR, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Europol and the UN-led Tech against Terrorism initiative, introduced good practices in responding to terrorism-related online challenges, while respecting the right to privacy, freedom of expression and other relevant human rights parameters.

A set of actionable recommendations was produced by participants focusing on, *inter alia*, a framework for responding to these new challenges, improving co-ordination between relevant actors making better use of expertise gathered by civil society, and access to relevant constituencies.

These recommendations, shared with the Government of Serbia, could be taken into account in formulating policies and frameworks for preventing and countering terrorist use of the internet. They were also used to draft wider national strategies and action plans for preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

Two further TTX were implemented by TNTD/ATU in 2023 in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

## Counter-terrorism activities

### **OSCE briefing to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement; online (14 February 2023)**

TNTD/ATU and the CPC provided a joint briefing on future activities across several portfolios to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement, including on border management, vulnerable targets protection and small arms control. The briefing provided an opportunity to update UN and non-UN partners working in these areas and to identify future areas of co-operation.

### **Institute for Justice and Rule of Law expert group meeting on human rights in the context of countering terrorism; Valletta, Malta (21–22 March 2023)**

TNTD/ATU and ODIHR contributed to an expert group meeting on human rights in the context of countering terrorism, which examined human rights concerns in counter-terrorism.

It provided input to guide the implementation of the Institute's newly launched CT PHARE project (Platform for HumAn Rights Engagement), funded by the EU, which establishes a platform for human rights engagement. Participants discussed international and European legal frameworks, good practices, and tools and resources for complying with human rights in a counter-terrorism context. TNTD's contribution focused on gender considerations for effectively addressing both men and women perpetrators and victims in a human rights-compliant manner.

### **UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee visit to Spain; Madrid, Spain (24–28 April 2023)**

TNTD/ATU contributed to an assessment visit by the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTC) to Spain. The visit provided an opportunity for the Committee to assess the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and other international counter-terrorism commitments by Spain and to provide recommendations for further action.

## Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT)

### Consultations by the Gender and Identity Factors Platform for Countering Violent Extremism and Counterterrorism – Global Counterterrorism Forum; online (16 March 2023)

TNTD/ATU participated in the consultations led by the Gender and Identity Factors Platform for Countering Violent Extremism and Counterterrorism organized by Canada and UNOCT. TNTD/ATU presented the work of the OSCE on gender and preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT) and promoted the OSCE Policy Brief *Linkages between Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism*<sup>1</sup> and the OSCE guidebook *Understanding the Role of Gender in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization That Lead to Terrorism – Good Practices for Law Enforcement*.<sup>2</sup>

### ODIHR regional detention monitoring event; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (13–14 September 2023)

At the invitation of ODIHR, TNTD/ATU participated in a regional event in Sarajevo entitled “Detention Monitoring and Protection of Human Rights while Preventing and Countering VERLT in Prisons”. TNTD presented the OSCE’s work on P/CVERLT, showcasing relevant guidebooks on referral mechanisms and non-custodial rehabilitation and reintegration.

### Regional workshop “Law enforcement agencies co-operation with civil society in the protection of children and the engagement of women in countering violent extremism”; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (20–23 November 2023)

As part of this regional workshop organized by the EU-funded Law Enforcement in Central Asia (LEICA) Project, TNTD/ATU delivered a presentation on whole-of-society and community-oriented policing approaches to P/CVERLT. The workshop’s objective was to exchange experiences, initiatives and lessons learned from projects furthering the co-operation between law enforcement and civil society, particularly on engaging women and civil society, and protecting children at risk of radicalization.

## Countering the financing of terrorism

### Capacity-building work on combating the financing of terrorism; South-Eastern Europe (throughout 2023)

From 28 February to 2 March, TNTD/ATU and UNODC, with the support of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, conducted a training course aimed at enhancing the skills of beneficiary entities to conduct effective financial investigations in counter-terrorism. A team of local trainers learned about the terrorist funding cycle, analysing financial needs of a terrorist organization, as well as various opportunities for disruption. The interagency team worked with international expert trainers to tailor course material to the local context and present the material through case scenarios. The local trainer team then delivered a related training course to peers from their respective agencies from 25 to 27 April in Pejë/Peć, Kosovo.<sup>3</sup>

From 9 to 11 May, a training course held in Veles, North Macedonia, focused on the application of the sanction regime established under UN Security Council resolution 1267 as a disruption tool gathered participants from nine different national agencies involved in combating the financing of terrorism (CFT). An expert from the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team contributed to the course.

From 11 to 13 July, another ToT course was organized with the support of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. It aimed at building the capacities of local experts in the use of financial intelligence as a counter-terrorism tool. The local training team subsequently delivered a training course from 5 to 7 September in Pejë/Peć on the importance of applying analytical techniques in financial investigations.

### Study visit for a government delegation of Turkmenistan; Vienna, Austria (27–30 June, 3 October 2023)

TNTD, OCEEA and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat co-organized a study visit to Vienna for a government delegation of Turkmenistan in order to facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices in the areas of combating corruption and the financing of terrorism, including anti-money laundering (AML), with their Austrian counterparts (Ministry of Finance, Financial Market Authority, National Bank, Criminal Intelligence Service [Bundeskriminalamt], as well as Austria’s Financial Intelligence Unit, Bar Association, Austrian Chamber of Civil Law Notaries, and Directorate of State Security and Intelligence) and OSCE

1 OSCE 2022, OSCE Policy Brief – Linkages between Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism, accessible at <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/525297>

2 OSCE 2019, *Understanding the Role of Gender in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization That Lead to Terrorism – Good Practices for Law Enforcement*, accessible at <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/420563>

3 All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

experts. Representatives of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of National Security and Central Bank took part in the study visit. The main aim of the visit was to discuss legal, institutional and operational good practices, as well as challenges in these three closely connected areas of work. As a follow-up to the study visit, TNTD/ATU organized a webinar for Turkmen officials on 3 October. During the webinar, the Deputy Head of Unit on Beneficial Ownership Registry at the Federal Ministry of Finance of Austria shared their national approach and practices with the participants.

## Countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes

### **Council of Europe conference on countering terrorist communications; Strasbourg, France (31 January–1 February 2023)**

TNTD/ATU participated in the Council of Europe conference on countering terrorist communications and presented its work on countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes and P/CVERLT during the session on digital forensics and electronic evidence. The presentation specifically addressed the training course on requesting digital evidence from foreign ICT service providers, TNTD's tabletop exercises producing recommendations for the improvement of internet-related laws, policies and institutional capacity, and the new line of efforts concerning media and information literacy.

### **Expert group meeting of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre; online (28 February, 1 March 2023)**

TNTD/ATU contributed to an expert group meeting at the invitation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of UNOCT. Participants discussed "Law Enforcement Capabilities Framework for New Technologies in Countering Terrorism" and "Guidance for First Responders on the Collection of Digital Devices in the Battlefield". The meeting was part of an EU-funded joint initiative between UNOCT/UNCCT and INTERPOL called CT TECH.

### **National tabletop exercises (TTXs) on preventing and countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes; Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Serbia (17–19 May, 22–24 May, 15–17 November 2023)**

TNTD/ATU co-organized two national TTXs with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, respectively. These events brought together national experts in Astana and in Ashgabat representing national institutions, law enforcement agencies, civil society, the ICT industry

and the media. Both TTXs focused on developing national capacities to combat violent extremism and terrorism online by enhancing international co-operation and sharing good practices, particularly through engaging with private companies and other non-state actors. The events included presentations by ODIHR, the RFoM, the SecDev Group (a Canada-based think-tank), Europol's Counter Terrorism Centre, and the UN-led Tech against Terrorism initiative. Experts highlighted how to effectively address threats posed by terrorist abuse of the internet, while respecting privacy rights and freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and religion or belief, also taking into account the need to preserve global connectivity and the free and secure flow of information.

A TTX taking place from 15 to 17 November in Belgrade was co-organized with the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Serbian Ministry of the Interior, bringing together participants from government agencies, international organizations, civil society and the media. For more information, please see the highlighted activity at the beginning of this chapter.

### **UNOCT "Regional CT TECH Awareness-Raising Workshop"; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (25–26 September 2023)**

At the invitation of the UNOCT, TNTD/ATU was a featured presenter in a regional CT TECH awareness-raising workshop for Central Asian countries and Mongolia. The workshop was organized by UNOCT in collaboration with INTERPOL, as part of the EU-funded CT TECH Project, and hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan. The event enabled the sharing of good practices in developing national policies and operational responses to the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes, as well as on the use of these new technologies to prevent and counter terrorism.

## Critical infrastructure protection

### **Launch of "PROTECT: Project on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Attacks"; Vienna, Austria (March 2023)**

TNTD/ATU launched a new project that aims to enhance national approaches across the OSCE area in the protection of vulnerable targets (critical infrastructure and soft targets/public spaces) from terrorist threats and other hazards.

As a first activity under this new project, TNTD/ATU conducted a National Awareness-Raising Workshop on Critical Infrastructure Protection from Terrorist Attacks, supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, from 13 to 15 December in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The event convened a multi-agency audience of national officials in order to: (i) raise awareness and

build a common understanding of the need to protect critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks in a human rights-compliant manner; (ii) identify related good practices developed in Uzbekistan; and (iii) identify needs for future technical assistance activities in Uzbekistan under the project PROTECT.

**Final policy event focused on improving security of at-risk religious sites and communities; Brussels, Belgium (14 March 2023)**

The EU-funded programme “Strengthening the Security and Resilience of At-Risk Religious Sites and Communities” presented its final policy recommendations to the European Commission and other stakeholders. TNTD/ATU served as an expert panelist and provided reflections on the policy recommendations, alongside areas for future action. The TNTD contributions drew on the department’s experience in building public–private partnerships to address violent extremist and terrorist threats to soft targets, including houses of worship.

**Launch of the UN Roadmap on countering terrorist threats against vulnerable targets; Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and online (4–6 July 2023)**

TNTD/ATU, jointly with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe and UNOCT, conducted a workshop to launch the UN Roadmap on Vulnerable Targets Protection in Tajikistan. The event gathered national and international experts to explore key concepts of both critical infrastructure and soft target protection. These included related UN and OSCE commitments, public–private partnership frameworks, and human rights-compliant approaches to protective security.

**Workshop on soft target protection; Popova Šapka, North Macedonia (26–28 September 2023)**

TNTD/ATU contributed to the workshop “Assessing the Concept of Protection of Soft Targets Against Terrorist Attacks”, organized by the OSCE Mission to Skopje. The event gathered national agencies to assess North Macedonia’s current capacities, draft recommendations to enhance the country’s contingency plans for the protection of soft targets, and strengthen national interagency partnerships.

**Study tour on soft target protection from terrorist attacks for government officials from Tajikistan; Paris, France (19–22 November 2023)**

TNTD/ATU, jointly with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, facilitated a study tour to Paris for officials from the government of Tajikistan to acquaint them with good

practices and France’s approach to the protection of soft targets and public spaces from terrorist attacks. The visit included consultations with local and national officials tasked with the protection of schools, houses of worship, public health facilities, shopping centres and other soft targets. The study tour was organized with the support of the Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE.

## Rule of law and counter-terrorism

**CEPOL workshop on women and children affiliated with terrorists; Ankara, Türkiye (online) (24 May 2023)**

TNTD/ATU contributed to a workshop for judges, prosecutors and police officers from Türkiye and EU countries focusing on the instrumentalization of women and exploitation of children by terrorist organizations. TNTD presented an overview of the repatriation, prosecution and rehabilitation/reintegration efforts vis-à-vis women and children across the OSCE area.

**CEPOL workshop on the prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs); Amman, Jordan (8–13 July 2023)**

At the invitation of CEPOL, TNTD/ATU contributed to a workshop for judges, prosecutors and police officers from the Middle East and North Africa focusing on challenges in criminal procedures involving foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), such as the use of battlefield evidence, witness protection measures and cross-border co-operation. TNTD covered sessions on human rights and fair trial parameters, as well as on special investigative techniques.

**UNODC workshop “Post-Release Monitoring and Probation of Returning FTFs and Violent Extremist Offenders”; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (online) (19–20 September 2023)**

At the invitation of UNODC, TNTD/ATU participated in the above workshop. Contributing to Session 9, “The Development and Impact of Community-based Reintegration Initiatives”, TNTD gave an overview of related OSCE work, which includes support to community policing efforts and strengthening of civil society engagement in P/CVERLT.

## 1.3 TNTD/Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU)

### ► Programme to combat trafficking in cultural property in the OSCE area; Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia and Türkiye (throughout 2023)

Launched in late 2022 and fully implemented throughout 2023, this programme is designed to enhance the capacities of participating States' law enforcement authorities to combat the illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property and its links to organized crime and the financing of terrorism and money laundering, as well as training on prosecuting cases linked to looting and destruction of archaeological and cultural heritage sites. The programme also supports the OSCE-led Heritage Crime Task Force (HCTF), a unique joint team of 64 officers and specialists from 33 countries and organizations that serves as a rapid response team, as well as a training and law enforcement information-sharing platform.

The Programme's regional operations training workshops broke new ground and were the first of their kind on effectively fighting cross-border heritage crime across the entire spectrum of investigation, including police, border guards and customs officers, forensic, financial and cyber investigators, military, museums academia and State prosecutors. These events resulted in the creation of new regional and Europe/North America wide cross-agency law enforcement partnerships-partnerships that have resulted in joint investigations leading to the seizure of nearly 400 trafficked pieces of art, antiquities and cultural property in 2023 alone. These include the seizure of 300 paintings from Ukraine in Italy and the seizure of 18 paintings in Ukraine by trainees of the OSCE Programme.



📷 Participants of the regional interactive workshop in Pula, Croatia, on combating illicit trafficking of art, antiquities and cultural property. (OSCE)

**Expert contribution to the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat regional workshop “Expansion of Regional and International Mechanisms in the Fight Against New Drug Threat Challenges”; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and online (29 March 2023)**

At the invitation of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, TNTD/BSMU contributed to the regional workshop “Expansion of Regional and International Mechanisms in the Fight Against New Drug Threat Challenges” with presentations on current cross-border challenges and OSCE activities to tackle them. TNTD/BSMU also showcased the department’s work on the expansion of regional and international mechanisms in the fight against new drug threat challenges.

**Exchange of know-how at the Regional Practitioners Dialogue on Smuggling of Migrants by Air, Sea/Water, Land and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans; Durrës, Albania (29–30 March 2023)**

At the invitation of the Migration Asylum Refugee Regional Initiative, TNTD/BSMU contributed to the session “The Gender Dimension of Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Human Beings” of the Regional Practitioners Dialogue on Smuggling of Migrants by Air, Sea/Water, Land and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans. TNTD/BSMU shared good practices and tools used in mainstreaming a gender perspective in border security and management.

**Forum of the OSCE Secretary General and the Central Asia Border Commanders; Vienna, Austria (27–28 April 2023)**

At the invitation of the OSCE Secretary General, five Central Asia Border Commanders and Deputy Commanders attended the inaugural meeting of the Forum. The discussions at the Forum focused on the threats in border security emanating from Afghanistan—such as terrorism, radical religious extremism, trafficking in illicit drugs, small arms and light weapons, irregular migration, and trafficking in human beings—and the opportunities for strengthening regional co-operation in this area.

**International Digital Security Forum; Vienna, Austria (19–21 September 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU provided an expert contribution at the International Digital Security Forum organized by the Austrian Institute of Technology. During the thematic session “Fighting Organizing Crime in the Digital Era: Tools, Technologies and Strategies”, TNTD/BSMU presented the OSCE activities in addressing border security and management challenges in travel document security.

## Travel document security

**Briefing at the Frontex Annual Plenary Meeting on Document and Identity Control, and the Frontex Expert Group on Document Control; Warsaw, Poland (27 February 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU shared key updates on the OSCE’s main activities in the fight against document and identity fraud at Frontex Annual Plenary Meeting on Document and Identity Control, focusing specifically on activities implemented in the Western Balkans and Moldova. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about latest technologies, share insights and case studies, and discuss relevant activities in the area of document and identity control.

**Training course on the identification of forged documents for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine; Rzeszów, Poland (6–17 March 2023)**

Basic and advanced training courses on the identification of forged documents were delivered to border security officials from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. During the hands-on training sessions, participants were introduced to the identification of forged documents and of impostors, as well as emerging trends in travel document security.

**ID@Borders Conference; Brussels, Belgium (20–21 April 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU, at the invitation of the Biometric Institute, London, United Kingdom, presented the OSCE’s travel document security portfolio at the ID@Borders Conference’s panel on the ethical use of biometrics in conflict settings, together with INTERPOL, the International Organization for Migration and NATO.

**World Border Security Congress (WBSC); Skopje, North Macedonia (25–27 April 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU co-moderated the workshop of the World Border Security Congress (WBSC) on identity documents and data-sharing, and presented the work of the OSCE on advance passenger information (API) at a plenary panel of the event. The WBSC provides an annual forum for networking and information exchange where the border protection policymakers, management and practitioners, together with security industry professionals, can discuss international challenges faced when protecting borders.



### **ToT course on detecting forged documents and impostors for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine; Krakow, Poland (10–14 July 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU, with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior, delivered a ToT course for border security officials from Ukraine. The event enabled the participants to share their knowledge with their colleagues in Ukraine, promoting local ownership and the sustainability of training on forged document detection.

### **Assessment visit on forged documents training needs for Bulgarian Border Police; Sofia, Bulgaria (4–6 December 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU conducted a series of working meetings with officials from Bulgaria's Directorate of the Border Police, the National Centre for Counteracting Fake and Forged Documents, the Regional Directorate of Border Police – Sofia Airport, and with the Rector and Deputy Rector of the Ministry of Interior Academy to discuss their current training programmes on the detection of forged documents.

## **Identifying potential foreign terrorist fighters**

### **Virtual tour around the newly established Passenger Information Unit (PIU) of the Kyrgyz Republic; online (15 February 2023)**

The Eastern European Informal Working Group (EE IWG) on Passenger Data convened online for a presentation and virtual tour of the recently established PIU of the Kyrgyz Republic. The gathering provided an opportunity for the participants to observe the advances in the establishment of the Kyrgyz PIU and the advantages of co-operation within the EE IWG.

### **API needs assessment visit to Montenegro; Podgorica, Montenegro (23–24 February 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU undertook a needs assessment mission in Podgorica, organized jointly with the Montenegrin Border Police, Criminal Intelligence Department and international donors such as the EU and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The visit focused on evaluating the status of Montenegro's API system and supported the implementation of a national passenger data system in the country in compliance with UNSCRs 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019). The outcome included agreements to provide technical support and start equipment procurement for the API system premises.

### **Meetings on border security with officials in Tajikistan; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (14–15 March 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU contributed to the 34th Border Management Staff Course of the OSCE Border Management Staff College by introducing API and passenger name record (PNR) concepts to border police officers from participating States and Partners for Co-operation. TNTD/BSMU also met with representatives of the Border Troops and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan to discuss the implementation of the national road map for the establishment in Tajikistan of the API system developed in 2019.

### **Technical assessment visit to the premises of the Passenger Information Unit (PIU); Skopje, North Macedonia (11–14 April 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU conducted a technical needs assessment visit to the PIU in North Macedonia, followed by the procurement of ICT equipment to support the efforts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of North Macedonia to further strengthen the national PIU.

### **Meetings of the Eastern European Informal Working Group (EE IWG) on Passenger Data; various locations (throughout 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU facilitated and supported a number of meetings of the EE IWG throughout 2023 within the framework of the Memorandum of Agreement signed between OSCE and UNOCT in November 2022.

On 4 April, the Georgian PIU presented on API and PNR information exchange to representatives of national PIUs, members of the EE IWG, OSCE field operations, UNOCT, the project AIRCOP, and the IOM.

On 18 May, Kyrgyzstan presented on their national experience in the interaction of the national PIU with airline companies, establishing communication channels and data transmission methods.

On 19 June, TNTD/BSMU organized a monthly EE IWG online meeting on ICT issues and dependence on connectivity for national agencies. During the meeting, the Albanian PIU presented their experience and lessons learned on the topic.

On 29 June, TNTD/BSMU presented the work of the OSCE at a plenary session in Brussels, Belgium. The presentation to representatives of Europol, IOM, UNOCT and other international organizations focused on the establishment and implementation of API systems, as well as the collaboration with UNOCT in managing the joint EE IWG.

On 27 July, TNTD/BSMU and UNOCT organized a regular meeting of the EE IWG chaired by Mongolia. Meeting participants discussed recent developments in the adoption of national legislation aimed at receiving passenger data from the transportation industry.

On 10 October, TNTD/BSMU facilitated the meeting of the EE IWG to present the experience of Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro in the development of their PIUs.

On 8 November, TNTD/BSMU and UNOCT organized the third annual gathering of the EE IWG for representatives of law enforcement, border, state security and customs agencies. The event provided a platform for discussion, allowing participants to share good practices and lessons learned, methodologies of data collection from travelers, and security analysis across different travel modalities.

**Awareness-raising national workshop on preventing terrorist travel; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (18–20 September 2023)**

At the invitation of UNODC, TNTD/BSMU delivered a presentation on its API portfolio and EE IWG activities to participants from national authorities from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan responsible for the implementation of API systems. This event addressed topics related to the collection and analysis of information, including passenger data, biometrics and international databases. The workshop also provided an opportunity to Tajikistan to share information about the implementation of API systems at the national level and to encourage discussions on how international organizations can contribute to the further enhancement of such systems.

**Passenger Data Exchange Seminar; Vienna, Austria, and online (9–10 November 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU and UNOCT organized the 7th Passenger Data Exchange Seminar back-to-back with the Third Annual Meeting of the EE IWG on Passenger Data. The event provided a forum for discussion on API development among members of the EE IWG, as well as representatives of border, state security and customs agencies.

**API interagency roundtable; Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and online (30 November 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized a national interagency roundtable on preventing terrorist travel through the collection and analysis of passenger data for participants from Tajikistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Civil Aviation Agency, Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Border Troops of the State Committee for National Security, and Ministry of Interior.

**OSCE-led mobile training team (MTT)**

**Training-of-trainers course and curriculum development workshop for the mobile training team (MTT) on the identification of suspected foreign terrorist fighters and perpetrators of cross-border crimes; Vienna, Austria (20–31 March 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU delivered the above events with the aim to enhance the training skills of MTT experts and border and law enforcement officers, as well as to initiate drafting of the new modular training programme to include courses on (i) identity management and travel security, (ii) behavioural analysis and interviewing techniques, (iii) crisis management, (iv) prevention of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition, and (v) combating trafficking in human beings. The new training programme integrates a strong human rights perspective and a gender and age sensitive approach to conducting border controls. The initiative was conducted in co-operation with experts from OSCE structures, UNOCT, Frontex and INTERPOL.

**MTT “Community of Practice” workshops; online (11 May, 9 June, 13 July, 7 September, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU established a monthly “Community of Practice” workshop initiative as an outcome of the above OSCE-led MTT project kick-off event in March 2023. In 2023, TNTD/BSMU facilitated eight events for representatives of the OSCE-led MTT, INTERPOL, Frontex and UNOCT. The main objective of the monthly gathering was to discuss the development of the MTT modular training curriculum and finalize the training catalogue. In addition, topics included travel security and identity management, behavioural analysis and interviewing techniques, crisis management, combating illicit trafficking in weapons and conventional ammunition, as well as trafficking in human beings.

In May and June, participants received hands-on training on utilizing open-source information and conducting training evaluation.

On 13 July and 7 September, participants attended a session delivered by a counter-terrorism expert from Türkiye on identifying and interviewing FTFs, as well as on airport security.

On 14 September, a session on techniques for assessing training impact and efficiency was organized to analyse real-life cases and samples of pre- and post-test assessments, and to discuss the results of these analyses.

On 12 October, ODIHR experts presented the human rights aspect of border management within the context of technology use, including the identification of suspected FTFs, as well as cross-border criminals and their victims. In addition to highlighting human rights implications and challenges of border security measures related to counter-terrorism, the experts explored some key human rights issues, including those related to the collection/sharing of personal data, screening, risk assessment and profiling of travelers, as well as the use of terrorism watchlists and alert systems in border management.

On 9 November, the “Community of Practice” workshop assessed the feedback received after the pilot courses conducted for border police and customs services in Albania and Uzbekistan in September and October, respectively.

On 14 December, the outcomes of the MTT Annual Review Meeting held in November were discussed, pending tasks were addressed, and the timelines for finalizing the training curriculum and the 2024 training plan were confirmed.

#### **OSCE-led MTT pilot training course; Tirana, Albania (25-29 September 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU and the OSCE Presence in Albania conducted a pilot training course for border and counter-terrorism officers from the Albanian State Police and the Security and Investigation Academy. The training course included practical exercises and scenarios to teach participants how to effectively assess traveler behaviour at border crossings, as well as to support them in the identification of suspected FTFs, cross-border crimes and potential victims of these crimes. The training course also covered the use of effective interviewing techniques while ensuring the protection of human rights and avoiding discriminatory profiling.

#### **MTT Annual Review Meeting of the OSCE-led MTT; Istanbul, Türkiye (27-29 November 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized the first Annual Review Meeting for members of the multi-national OSCE-led MTT and representatives of Frontex, INTERPOL and UNOCT. The event provided a platform to assess the MTT-related activities conducted in 2023, refine the final draft of the MTT modular training curriculum and explore opportunities to strengthen national training programmes on the identification of movements of FTFs, high-risk individuals and potential victims of cross-border serious and organized crime.

## **Border security**

#### **Workshop on the development of a training curriculum on addressing cross-border challenges in identifying and interviewing suspected FTFs and other criminals for border and customs officers; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (15–17 May 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU delivered a workshop on the development of a training curriculum on addressing cross-border challenges in identifying and interviewing suspected FTFs and other criminals to customs and border officers from the State Customs Committee and the Border Troops of the State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The workshop was used to tailor the OSCE-led MTT training curriculum to the national requirements of Uzbekistan.

#### **Roundtable meeting on gender mainstreaming; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (11–12 May 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized a meeting for customs and border officers to provide a forum for the exchange of good practices in promoting gender equality in border security and management.

#### **Behavioural analysis training; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (12–16 June 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU delivered a training course on behavioural analysis of criminals to officers from customs and border agencies at the Department of Advanced Training of the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan. The course allowed border and customs officers to improve their ability to observe and interpret non-verbal behavioural signals that may indicate potential criminal activity. The training course was specifically tailored to first- and second-line border and customs officers stationed at airports and land border crossing points in Uzbekistan.

#### **Advanced ToT course on the identification of FTFs/criminals at borders; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–13 October 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan and the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia delivered an advanced ToT course to enhance the presentation skills of MTT members, as well as border and customs officers.

#### **Training course on women in leadership; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (8–10 November 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU, with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, delivered a training course for mid-level female customs and border officials on strengthening soft

skills, enhancing women empowerment and leadership, as well as acknowledging the added value women officers bring when holding leadership positions.

**Canine capacity-building study visit; London, United Kingdom (13–17 November 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU, the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Support Programme for Ukraine jointly conducted a study visit for senior officials at the decision-making level from the canine services of the Border Troops of Uzbekistan to the Police Training School in Surrey and the Metropolitan Police Dog Support Unit in Gatwick, United Kingdom. The visit served as the first step in establishing a co-operation between the OSCE and the Surrey Dog Training School.

**National training course on combating the trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), ammunition and explosives; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (4–7 December 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan delivered a training course for customs and border officers to strengthen their skills in teaching, training and engaging with peers in combating the trafficking of SALW, ammunition and explosives.

**Donation of technical equipment; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (4 October and 5 December 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU donated 120 computer tablets to the Customs Committee of Uzbekistan. The tablets were procured based on technical specifications provided by the beneficiary to ensure compatibility with existing systems/software. Subsequently, the tablets were distributed to border checkpoints, including the Uzbek-Afghan “Ayritam” border checkpoint, in order to facilitate the identification of SALW, ammunition and explosives.

## Combating trafficking in cultural property

**Presentation during the “Sea/Land Borders Security & Refugees/Arms/Dual-Use Goods Control Course” organized by the Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operation’s Training Center (MPSOTC); online (25 January 2023)**

At the invitation of the MPSOTC, TNTD/BSMU delivered a lecture titled “The OSCE Perspective on Border Security Management”, introducing the audience to the mandate and activities of the OSCE in border security and management,

in particular activities related to combating illicit trafficking in cultural property. The objective of the course was to familiarize security officers and civilians from European and African countries with different aspects of sea-land border security and refugees/arms/dual-use goods control fields, as well as equipping border control units and sectors to effectively fight trafficking in human beings, as well as trafficking in conventional weapons (including SALW) and strategic dual-use commodities across borders.

**Regional training workshop on combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property; Sofia, Bulgaria (6–10 February 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU delivered a scenario-based regional training workshop on trafficking in cultural property for representatives of border security and management, law enforcement and other related agencies. The focus of the workshop was to develop cross-border partnerships and deliver a hands-on training activity on criminal and financial investigations, border and customs procedures, crime scene investigation, and documentation of cultural heritage sites in an effort to combat this growing area of cross-border crime and its linkages to organized crime and financing of terrorism, money laundering and corruption networks.

**OSCE-led Heritage Crime Task Force (HCTF) support to Italian authorities; Turin, Italy (13–14 April 2023)**

Upon request of the Italian Carabinieri Command for Cultural Heritage Protection, TNTD/BSMU conducted a working visit to assist Italian authorities in connecting with Ukrainian art experts and Spanish law enforcement to gain their expert opinions.

**OSCE-led HCTF visit; Budapest, Hungary (27–28 April 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU met with representatives of the Hungarian National Police, National Tax and Customs Administration, and National Museum to discuss the inclusion of their national experts in the OSCE-led HCTF. The discussion also covered ways to collaborate operationally in combating cultural property trafficking and its connections to organized crime, terrorist financing, money laundering and corruption networks.

**OSCE-led HCTF support to Austrian authorities; Vienna, Austria (5 May 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU brought together forensic experts of the OSCE-led HCTF and Austria’s Kunsthistorisches Museum to assist with an investigation on the provenance of artefacts seized by Austrian customs. The forensic investigation was led by

soil and antiquities experts from OSCE-led HCTF member Cranfield University.

**Council of Europe (CoE) conference “The Nicosia Convention: A Criminal Justice Response to Offences Relating to Cultural Property”; Riga, Latvia (15–16 June 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU delivered a keynote presentation at the Council of Europe (CoE) conference “The Nicosia Convention: A Criminal Justice Response to Offences Relating to Cultural Property” on the role of the OSCE in helping to combat trafficking in cultural property, as well as on the work of the OSCE-led HCTF.

**Meeting with representatives of the Slovakian national police; Bratislava, Slovakia (4 July 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU met with the representatives of the Criminal Police Office and the Presidium of the Police Forces of Slovakia to discuss how to co-operate in combating cultural heritage trafficking, as well as the links of such trafficking to organized crime, the financing of terrorism, money laundering and corruption networks. The discussion highlighted the importance of establishing enhanced communication channels between different ministries in order to effectively combat the smuggling of cultural artefacts.

**Online training course on combating trafficking in cultural property for university students; online (18 July 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU delivered an online training course on trafficking in cultural property for Master’s students at the University of Victoria, Canada. The training course was part of the EU Borders in Globalization Master’s Study Programme. It featured sections on the history of customs and border management in Canada, as well as a specific multi-hour section on trafficking in cultural property, the OSCE-led HCTF and on-going work in the OSCE area focused on combating this crime.

**Third regional interactive workshop on combating trafficking of art, antiquities and cultural property; Pula, Croatia (11–15 September 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized a workshop on combating the trafficking of art, antiquities and cultural property for law enforcement, border management officers and museum experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The participants received hands-on training in investigative skills, notably through the use of scenario-based simulation exercises. These exercises included fictitious art crimes and trafficking

cases to highlight the latest investigative technologies and tools, building cross-border partnerships to tackle this growing area of crime. Expert trainers also touched on forensic crime scene investigations at museums and archeological sites, delivered training on how to appropriately handle art, artefacts and historical documents and provided tools and methods to conduct darknet/black market investigations, disrupt money-laundering networks and, ultimately, put together cases that can be brought to successful prosecution.

**International Conference on Cultural Heritage Protection in Crisis Areas; Vicenza, Italy (28–29 September 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU participated in the International Conference on Cultural Heritage Protection in Crisis Areas organized by the Italian Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), to discuss cultural heritage protection in crisis areas, and good practices in international co-ordination in response to such crises. The OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats presented the work of the OSCE in addressing threats posed by the trafficking of cultural property, focusing on the efforts to strengthen law enforcement and border security responses to protect cultural heritage.

**Partnership visits and study tour in support of the programme to combat trafficking in cultural property and the work of the OSCE-led HCTF; Istanbul and Gaziantep, Türkiye (20–26 November 2023)**

At the invitation of the Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the OSCE, TNTD/BSMU and members of the OSCE-led HCTF conducted a study tour to Türkiye to explore good practices in law enforcement co-ordination and site protection implemented by Turkish authorities at museums and heritage sites following the devastating earthquakes in February 2023. Several meetings focused on deepening partnerships with the Turkish police, customs and border guards, as well as studying trafficking networks that may be attempting to exploit Türkiye as a transit route to traffic cultural property into Europe.

**Museum Exhibition: STOLEN | LOST | RECOVERED: Ukraine and European Stolen Art, Antiquities and Cultural Property and responses of the OSCE-led HCTF; Vienna, Austria (11 December 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized an exhibition at the Ephesos Museum featuring digital exhibitions of stolen art from Ukraine and across Europe, as well as presenting the art crime investigation and counter-trafficking efforts of the OSCE-led HCTF. The exhibition was intended as an awareness-raising event

and opportunity for the delegations of OSCE participating States to understand the phenomenon of cultural property trafficking, receive a briefing about the work of the programme, and meet some of the national experts of the HCTF.

**Fourth regional interactive workshop on combating trafficking of art, antiquities and cultural property; Vienna, Austria (11–15 December 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized a workshop on combating trafficking of art, antiquities and cultural property for law enforcement, border management officers and museum experts from Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine. The participants received hands-on training in investigative skills, notably through the use of scenario-based simulation exercises. The exercises included fictitious art crimes and trafficking cases to highlight the latest investigative technologies and tools, thereby building cross-border partnerships to tackle this growing area of crime. Expert trainers also touched on forensic crime scene investigations at museums and archeological sites, delivered training on how to appropriately handle art, artefacts and historical documents, and provided tools and methods to conduct darknet/black market investigations, disrupt money-laundering networks and, ultimately, put together cases that can be brought to successful prosecution.

## Gender mainstreaming in border security and management

**Contribution to the webinar “Towards Gender-Responsive Border Management”; online (3 February 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU provided an expert contribution to the webinar entitled “Towards Gender-Responsive Border Management” organized by ODIHR, UN Women and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), and presented its work with border agencies in the OSCE area, focusing on the topic of creating gender-responsive work environments within border security and management agencies.

**Webinar “Gendered Aspects of Identification of Trafficking in Human Beings at Border Crossing Points”; online (24 March 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized a webinar on the gendered aspects of trafficking in human beings (THB) and the identification of victims and perpetrators of this crime at border crossing points for the members of the OSCE Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management. The webinar introduced border security officers to gender roles and gendered

vulnerabilities in the context of THB and jointly identified behavioural indicators of victims of THB. They also learned how to interview victims of THB in a trauma-sensitive way.

**OSCE Networking Platform for Women Leaders meeting (WIN project); Vienna, Austria (23 May 2023)**

At the invitation of the OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme, TNTD/BSMU attended a meeting with Ukrainian members of the OSCE Networking Platform for Women Leaders, brought together within the framework of the WIN project. The objective was to discuss the current state of affairs and strategic priorities for Ukrainian women civil actors and the OSCE in Ukraine. TNTD/BSMU presented its activities related to border security and management, in particular those with Ukraine’s security sector.

**Training programme on preventing and addressing sexual harassment and discrimination in border and law enforcement agencies; Chişinău, Moldova (1–2 November 2023)**

TNTD/BSMU organized a training programme on addressing and preventing sexual harassment in the workplace for mid- and senior-level officers from the Moldovan Customs Service, Border Police and Ministry of Internal Affairs. During the training programme, the participants examined the incidence, impact and perception of sexual harassment in border and law enforcement agencies, and analysed good practices in preventing and addressing sexual harassment in law enforcement agencies.

**Regional workshop on gender aspects of border security and management; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (23–24 November 2023)**

At the invitation of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, TNTD/BSMU delivered a presentation entitled “Women-friendly workplace – gender parity in border management workplace: examples from the OSCE pS” at a regional workshop on gender aspects of border security and management.

**Annual Conference of the OSCE Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management; Istanbul, Türkiye (4–5 December)**

The Annual Conference of the OSCE Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management brought together members of the Gender Equality Platform in border and security management, who were provided with tools and strategies on how to establish gender-inclusive leadership and create psychologically safe team cultures. They also discussed how to recognize and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace within border services.

## 1.4 Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

### Introduction

Within the Secretariat, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) addresses security-related economic and environmental issues as part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

#### ► Working with law enforcement and regulatory authorities to fight the abuse of crypto-assets in Georgia (throughout 2023)

The OCEEA successfully enhanced the capabilities of law enforcement agencies in Georgia, particularly the police, in combating illicit transactions associated with crypto-assets. Through comprehensive training programmes and hands-on workshops, law enforcement investigators from various jurisdictions gained invaluable expertise in conducting blockchain investigations.



► Training course on combating illicit transactions associated with crypto-assets for the National Bank of Georgia. (OSCE)

▶ The OCEEA also provided support to the National Bank of Georgia in building their national regulatory framework related to Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs). This assistance has contributed to a more comprehensive approach to tackling virtual asset crimes in Georgia and ensured the alignment between law enforcement efforts and regulatory measures. The success of these initiatives in Georgia has garnered attention from other participating States, which has led to increased demand for similar training programmes. This recognition underscores the effectiveness of the approach and highlights the importance of bolstering capabilities in this domain on an international scale. Going forward, the OCEEA will provide licenses for access to cutting-edge analytical software specifically designed for tracing illicit transactions involving crypto-assets to state institutions of Georgia in charge of such investigations.

This ongoing support demonstrates the OSCE's commitment to fostering international co-operation and addressing the evolving challenges posed by virtual assets, while acknowledging the support of beneficiaries like the National Bank of Georgia in efforts to strengthen both law enforcement responses and regulatory frameworks.

One participant of a training course in Georgia highlighted that “attending the OCEEA's training was a game-changer for us. It provided us with invaluable skills and knowledge to effectively investigate crypto-assets, enabling us to combat financial crime and money laundering more efficiently in Georgia. The OSCE's efforts in building our national capacities, both in investigating crypto-assets and developing regulatory frameworks, are very much appreciated. This initiative will undoubtedly enhance our ability to safeguard our financial system and protect our citizens from illicit activities.”

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

**Basic training course on virtual asset investigations for Georgian, Moldovan and Ukrainian participants; Tbilisi, Georgia (27 February–2 March 2023), Chişinău, Moldova (20–25 March 2023), and Vienna, Austria (27 March–1 April 2023)**

The OCEEA/Economic Governance Unit organized a series of training events focusing on equipping Georgian, Moldovan and Ukrainian participants with basic skills in conducting virtual asset investigations. The participants learned about the risks associated with cryptocurrencies and criminal schemes, as well as about the tools used for tracing various coins and tokens. They reviewed real-life case studies, explored the compliance of virtual assets service providers (VASPs), and tried out some of the specialized online tools for cryptocurrency investigation. They also participated in a practical simulation exercise on hacking digital crypto wallets and seizing criminal funds.

**Advanced training courses on virtual asset investigations for Georgian, Moldovan and Ukrainian participants; Tbilisi, Georgia (17–20 October 2023), Chişinău, Moldova (30 October–2 November 2023), and Vienna, Austria (13–24 November 2023)**

Following up on the basic training courses, the OCEEA/Economic Governance Unit organized advanced training courses on virtual asset investigations for Georgian, Moldovan and Ukrainian participants. These training courses covered advanced techniques and tools that can help government officials to investigate financial crimes committed using virtual assets. This included advanced tracing in criminal transactions on different blockchains, case studies and good practices. The participants were also familiarized with specialized analysis software.



## 1.5 Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

### Introduction

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) is mandated to address all forms of trafficking in human beings (THB), to ensure the co-ordination of the OSCE's efforts in combating THB across all three dimensions, and to act as a focal point for the OSCE's efforts in this area. In 2023, the OSR/CTHB continued its work to support OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in preventing and prosecuting human trafficking and protecting its victims in line with the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments and recommendations set forth in the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, its 2005 and 2013 Addenda and other MC Decisions, particularly through policy recommendations and capacity-building.

#### ► Regional workshop to address technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings (THB); The Hague, Netherlands (16–18 May 2023)

In the first of a series of four, the OSR/CTHB organized a regional workshop addressing technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings. The first workshop brought together experts from 16 OSCE participating States and was opened by the OSCE Acting Co-ordinator and the Dutch National Anti-Trafficking Rapporteur. The experts and practitioners shared ideas on the best ways to address the misuse of technology by traffickers, and to build synergies for wider regional co-operation on the topic. The workshop focused in particular on the identification of human trafficking victims advertised on sexual services websites, proactive investigations, and the necessary policy responses to address the problem.



Regional workshop to address technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings (THB) in The Hague, Netherlands in May 2023. (OSCE)

One of the participants shared that “given the growing importance of the internet as an enabler of THB and of adult services websites, it is very important for law enforcement to be aware of the ongoing developments in the digital area. The information available on adult services websites can be very important to identify new victims and to link suspicious sex offers to organized crime. The mapping provided by the OSCE of websites facilitating the sale and purchase of sexual services is very useful for gaining an overview of existing adult services websites and for identifying potential new relevant websites that law enforcements should keep an eye on.”

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

**National workshops on recommendations on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows; Tallinn, Estonia (11 January 2023); Vilnius, Lithuania (19 January 2023); Oslo, Norway (9 February 2023); Bratislava, Slovakia (15 February 2023); Prague, Czechia (7 March 2023); Bern and Lausanne, Switzerland (8 and 9 March 2023); Berlin, Germany (22 March 2023); Budapest, Hungary (28 March 2023); Bucharest, Romania (16 May 2023); Vienna, Austria (22 May 2023); Lisbon, Portugal (20 June 2023); Sofia, Bulgaria (5 July 2023); Athens, Greece (11 July 2023); The Hague, Netherlands (19 October 2023); London, United Kingdom (1 November 2023); Gothenburg, Sweden (16 November 2023)**

Given the increased risks of human trafficking for people fleeing Ukraine and in order to help the participating States most affected by these flows, the OSR/CTHB organized a series of national workshops on its recommendations regarding the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows. The workshops allowed policy-makers and practitioners involved in different aspects of anti-trafficking efforts to discuss the current situation, including the challenges and opportunities to prevent the current humanitarian crisis from turning into a human trafficking crisis, as well as to scaleup responses as needed.

**Joint CoE/OSCE national roundtable on anti-trafficking commitments; Sofia, Bulgaria (31 January 2023)**

At the joint roundtable, OSCE and Council of Europe officials shared the findings from the OSCE Special Representative’s country visit and the third evaluation report of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). They encouraged Bulgaria to take action in several key areas,

such as strengthening co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts, adopting a new anti-trafficking strategy, and ensuring victims’ access to justice. The Special Representative highlighted the pressing need to prioritize and invest in anti-trafficking efforts, including by raising the profile of the issue within the government and pursuing more ambitious policy action in Bulgaria, including on technology-facilitated trafficking.

**Country visit to Kyrgyzstan by the SR/CTHB; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (15–17 February 2023)**

The Special Representative undertook consultations with government authorities, parliamentarians, law enforcement agencies, and members of the judiciary and civil society to highlight the anti-trafficking agenda at the highest levels of government, identify good practices, and share knowledge and lessons learned.

**National workshop “Unconditional access to services for victims of trafficking in human beings”; Chişinău, Moldova (1 March 2023)**

The OSR/CTHB conducted a training workshop on unconditional access to services for victims of trafficking. The workshops brought together national-level anti-trafficking authorities, social protection and criminal justice practitioners and NGOs. The workshop promoted a “social path” for identifying and providing long-term assistance to trafficking victims, regardless of their willingness or ability to participate in criminal proceedings.

**Release of publication *Putting victims first: The “social path” to identification and assistance*; Vienna, Austria (6 March 2023)**

The report *Putting victims first: The “social path” to identification and assistance* outlines the “social path” as a viable protection avenue that frees victims from the requirement to

co-operate with the criminal justice process in order to access support and protection. It offers long-term assistance to all victims without discrimination. It is a path to victim recovery that, if implemented effectively, will ultimately lead to reduced vulnerabilities, fewer cases of revictimization, more credibility of protection systems, and safer communities.

**Conference “Taking action against human trafficking and labour exploitation in supply chains”; Prishtinë/Priština (9 March 2023)**

Conducted in partnership with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, the conference “Taking action against human trafficking and labour exploitation in supply chains” featured the participation of the Kosovo Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Victims’ Advocacy and Assistance Office, prosecutors, social protection and shelter staff, as well as international organizations and private businesses. The discussions at the event focused on the legal framework for preventing and prosecuting human trafficking for labour exploitation, the challenges in identification and investigation of cases of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, global legislative developments and OSCE Model Guidelines on government measures to prevent human trafficking in supply chains, and human rights due diligence in government policy frameworks as well as in the private sector.

**23rd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons “It’s About People: National Leadership to End Human Trafficking”; Vienna, Austria, and online (18–19 April 2023)**

On the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the 23rd High-Level Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons showcased examples of leadership in combating the trafficking in human beings within the OSCE area. It focused on establishing the core building blocks of an effective national response, including the necessary legislative and policy action, government anti-trafficking systems and structures, investment, and the political will needed to achieve success. More than 850 experts, national anti-trafficking co-ordinators, rapporteurs, other State representatives, members of NGOs and academia, and other stakeholders from all over the OSCE area took part in the event, both in person and online.

**OSCE Anti-Trafficking Focal Points meeting, joint session with the Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team (AECT); Vienna, Austria, and online (20 April 2023)**

The OSR/CTHB team hosted a meeting of the anti-trafficking focal points across OSCE executive structures. Part of the meeting was conducted jointly with the Alliance Expert

Co-ordination Team (AECT), including INTERPOL, Europol and UNODC, and focused on strengthening regional and cross-regional co-operation. Other sessions were devoted to the prevention of THB in the OSCE supply chains and the implementation of procurement guidance as well as exchanges on priorities and synergies for 2023 activities.

**Release of the report “Modernizing National Action Plans to strengthen States’ anti-trafficking efforts”; Vienna, Austria (5 June 2023)**

The OSR/CTHB released a paper with recommendations on how to strengthen States’ policy-level anti-trafficking efforts. The paper contains an analysis of the National Action Plans (NAPs) that are currently in use within the OSCE area, examining their structure and thematic priorities against persistent challenges and emerging trafficking trends. The publication outlines current approaches to NAPs in the OSCE region, highlighting common structural and thematic gaps, and provides guidance on how States can modernize their NAPs to better respond to the current and evolving nature of human trafficking.

**Meeting of National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms, co-organized with the Council of Europe; Strasbourg, France, and online (6–7 June 2023)**

Conducted in partnership with Council of Europe, the meeting featured the participation of representatives from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in what has become the largest gathering globally of anti-trafficking authorities. The meeting served as an expert platform for identifying joint actions in addressing the current human trafficking-related challenges in the OSCE area and promoting the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments and recommendations. Among other things, the discussions focused on understanding and addressing THB for the purpose of forced criminality, enhancing anti-trafficking leadership structures, identification of and assistance to foreign victims of transnational trafficking, and the role of the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms in enhancing proactive use of financial investigations.

**Regional Workshop to Address Technology-Facilitated Trafficking in Human Beings; Tallinn, Estonia (19–21 June 2023)**

In the second of a series of four, the OSR/CTHB organized a regional workshop addressing technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings. The workshop gathered experts and practitioners to identify the best ways to address the misuse of technology by traffickers and build synergies for wider regional co-operation. Policy-makers, law enforcement officials

and prosecutors from Canada, Estonia, Georgia, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and the United States, as well as experts from INTERPOL attended the workshop.

**Regional simulation-based training exercise in Central Asia; Astana, Kazakhstan (26–30 June 2023)**

The OSR/CTHB, in partnership with the Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and with the support of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the OSCE field operations in Central Asia, conducted a regional simulation-based training exercise. The exercise gathered practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, who worked in a multi-agency setting to identify and assist victims of trafficking in mixed migration flows, as well as to prosecute traffickers.

**Joint CoE/OSCE regional roundtable on strengthening the role of the private sector and financial institutions in detecting and preventing THB; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (7–8 September 2023)**

The OSR/CTHB, in partnership with the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), organized a roundtable on strengthening the role of the private sector, particularly financial institutions, in addressing financial flows associated with human trafficking. The roundtable brought together representatives from various government agencies, the criminal justice system, financial institutions and financial intelligence and supervisory authorities from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The aim of the event was to strengthen public-private partnerships and enable strategic data sharing and tactical information exchange.

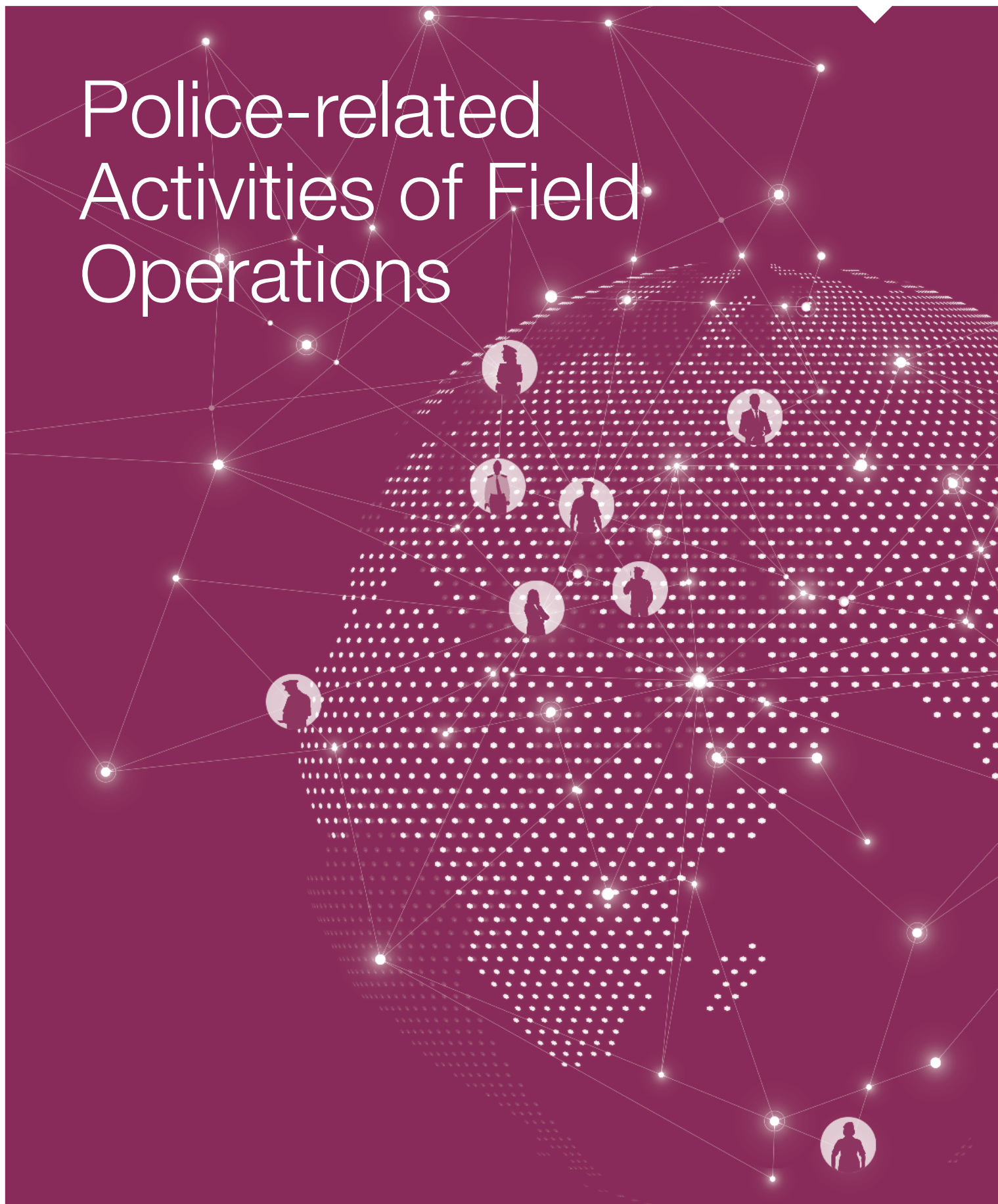
**National workshops “Unconditional access to services for victims of trafficking in human beings”; Riga, Latvia (2–3 October 2023); Vilnius, Lithuania (5–6 October 2023); Chişinău, Cahul and Soroca, Moldova (20 November–1 December 2023); Bratislava, Slovakia (28–29 November 2023); Porto, Portugal (11–12 December 2023); Sofia, Bulgaria (14–15 December 2023)**

During the fourth quarter of 2023, the OSR/CTHB conducted a series of training workshops on unconditional access to services for victims of trafficking. These workshops focused on participating States hosting Ukrainian refugees and brought together national anti-trafficking authorities, social protection services, criminal justice practitioners and NGOs working in the areas of combating THB and refugee protection. The workshops promoted a “social path” to identification and long-term assistance for all trafficking victims, regardless for their willingness or ability to participate in criminal proceedings. The workshops aimed to assist States in developing practical steps and policy options for the implementation of the “social path” model.

**Side event at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference “The Nexus between Disabilities and Human Trafficking”; Warsaw, Poland (12 October 2023)**

The side event hosted by the OSR/CTHB on the margins of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference discussed the ways both physical and mental disabilities can constitute a vulnerability factor leading to THB, including abuse for exploitative purposes (such as in cases of human trafficking for the purpose of forced begging).

# Police-related Activities of Field Operations



## 2.1 South-Eastern Europe

### 2.1.1 Presence in Albania

#### Introduction

The OSCE Presence in Albania (the Presence) was established in 1997 with a mandate to promote democratization, the rule of law and human rights, as well as to consolidate democratic institutions in line with OSCE principles, standards and commitments. The Presence's activities focus on the following key priority areas: combating human trafficking; democratization; elections; good governance; gender equality; human rights; media freedom and development; policing; border management; rule of law; youth safety and security; counter-terrorism; and reform and co-operation in the security sector.

#### Reform of the Albanian State Police (throughout 2023)

In 2023, the Albanian State Police underwent a restructuring, during which several departments were reorganized. For example, the Investigation Sector was returned to the Border and Migration Department in order to strengthen the fight against cross-border crime. In addition, the Cybercrime Investigation Unit was upgraded to a Directorate in response to recent major cyber threats. An Organized Crime Directorate has also been established within the Criminal Police Department. In order to better manage the tourist season and respond to related security challenges, a temporary Maritime Police Unit has been established, consisting of 104 police officers from the Border Police and Public Order Police, who will be deployed along the Albanian coast to co-operate with the Coast Guard.

#### ► Empowering communities: Building digital resilience through information sessions; Kukës, Has, Tropojë, Përmet, Tepelenë and Gjirokastër, Albania (November 2023)

In an era in which technology is an integral part of daily life, ensuring the safety and security of our digital landscape has become very important. In an effort to equip families and schools with the tools to navigate the virtual world safely, the OSCE Presence in Albania organized a series of information sessions fostering dialogue and raising awareness of online safety and cyber-enabled threats. In partnership with Albania's National Authority on Online Certification and Cyber Security, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, and Coordination Centre for Countering Violent Extremism, the Presence implemented six information sessions in Kukës, Has, Tropojë, Përmet, Tepelenë, and Gjirokastër, respectively, with a total of 228 participants, including children, parents, teachers, school security officers, social workers and psychologists.

The sessions presented an overview of the evolving digital landscape, highlighting prevalent cyber threats and the importance of proactive engagement in online safety. Interactive discussions tailored to different age groups allowed children to learn about privacy settings, the importance of strong passwords, and the essence of responsible online behaviour through games and role-playing exercises. Parents explored parental control functions and effective communication strategies. These discussions served as a platform for sharing concerns and insights, thus fostering a support network of caregivers working to create a safer online environment.

"If I had had this information before, my son would certainly not have suffered so much from bullying, because then I would've been more cautious and could have recognized his concerns early on," one of the parents in Has, whose son was a victim of cyberbullying for a year, told the expert. ►



The information sessions also helped school staff to inform and educate young people about digital citizenship. They learned about strategies to integrate online safety into extra-curricular activities and embed cybersecurity within their educational communities. ICT teachers in all target schools received information material on cybersecurity to pass this knowledge on to students and parents.

Reflecting on the culmination of these sessions, it is evident that building a safer digital space requires a collective effort. It takes an ecosystem where children, parents, educators and communities come together to discuss the complexities of the online world. These information sessions are a testament to the impact of education, dialogue and collective action in fostering a safer and better-informed digital society.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

### **Mobile training team (MTT) pilot training course on behavioural analysis, interviewing techniques and crisis management; Tirana, Albania (25–29 September 2023)**

In co-operation with TNTD/BSMU, the Presence trained practitioners from the Albanian Border and Management Police, the Counter-Terrorism Directorate of the Albanian State Police, and the Security Academy in behavioural analysis, interviewing techniques and crisis management. The Presence also continued to monitor the situation at the borders and organized a series of cross-border meetings facilitating information exchange and enhancing co-operation in the region.

### **Training sessions on cybercrime and the safe use of the internet; Shkodër, Vlorë and Korça, Albania (31 October–14 November 2023)**

As part of its support to the Albanian State Police, the Presence organized a series of training sessions for police officers from the local police and regional border and migration directorates of Shkodër, Vlorë and Korça. The sessions focused on the security risks associated with the use of the internet, on increasing cyber security and on conducting open-source investigations.

### **Training programme on investigation techniques for countering transnational organized crime; Tirana, Albania (26–27 June 2023)**

In co-operation with the Belgian Federal Police, the Italian State Police, the Italian Financial Guard and the Italian Carabinieri's Special Operation Group, the Presence trained members of the Albanian State Police, National Bureau of Investigation and General Prosecution Office in investigative

techniques to counter transnational organized crime. The programme focused on EU legislative instruments and a platform against high-risk criminal networks operating in the Western Balkans, financial and criminal investigations, data analysis, the use of special investigative techniques, and links between corruption and transnational organized crime.

### **Training programme “Synthetic Drugs Trafficking – A Global Growing Threat”; Tirana, Albania (27–29 September 2023)**

The Presence, in co-operation with the US Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), the US Drug Enforcement Administration, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and the Belgian Federal Police, organized a training course on synthetic drugs for practitioners from the Albanian State Police. The programme introduced investigators to the latest trends in the production, trafficking and distribution of synthetic drugs at the regional and international level. It also showcased good practices for investigating and dismantling organized crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of synthetic drugs.

## 2.1.2 Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Introduction

Based in the capital city of Sarajevo, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Mission) relies on its network of nine field offices to fully engage citizens and authorities at all levels—municipal, cantonal, entity, as well as State. To adapt as necessary to social and political developments, the structure of Mission’s field work and activities remains flexible. Six focus areas comprise the Mission’s approach: human rights; education; rule of law; gender equality; democratic governance; and security co-operation.

The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, USA, and signed in Paris, France, in late 1995, shapes the work of the Mission. Dayton established the Mission as one of the bodies responsible for helping to secure lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and thus to build a stable, secure and democratic state.

#### ▶ Working together to prevent and counter violent extremism; various locations, Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–October 2023)

The Mission conducted five tabletop exercises for increasing awareness of the dangers of violent extremism among almost 200 representatives from academia, civil society, the media, religious communities, health and social protection services, and the security and education sectors. Using scenario-based teaching, the participants gained insights into the gradual process of radicalization that can lead to violence and its negative impact on individuals, communities and the country. The practical, evidenced-based exercises highlighted challenges related to foreign terrorist fighters and ethno-nationalism/right-wing extremism. The training exercises equipped the participants with the knowledge to prevent and counter various manifestations of violent extremism in their communities.

A number of the adopted recommendations from the exercises were subsequently also integrated into the Bosnia and Herzegovina 2021–2026 Strategy for Preventing and Combating Terrorism, as well as its related action plans, including those involving the systemic promotion of gender mainstreaming and the meaningful involvement of youth.

In order to make progress on the implementation of the strategy, the Mission partnered with the Ministry of Security, the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, and the Federation of Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Development and Implementation of the Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Terrorism.

The Head of Administration for Countering Terrorism and Extremism in the Ministry of the Interior Affairs of the Republic of Srpska, Nebojša Tonković, explained that “this project was instrumental in obtaining broad consultation within the country ahead of the development of the new Bosnia and Herzegovina Strategy for Preventing and Combating Terrorism 2021–2026 and corresponding action plans. Projects of this nature contribute significantly to a deeper understanding of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism, thereby enhancing the co-operation of all stakeholders engaged in implementing these critical policies.”





- Over the course of the past two years, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has conducted twelve tabletop exercises, convening more than 500 participants from diverse backgrounds across the entire country.

**OSCE**

### What about firearms? A survey of citizens' perceptions and attitudes in Bosnia and Herzegovina; across Bosnia and Herzegovina (July–August 2023)

The Mission conducted a country-wide survey to assess citizens' attitudes towards the possession and use of firearm and their willingness to hand in weapons as part of amnesty campaigns. The survey found that 96% of the respondents believe that improved education on the risks of firearms possession is the most effective means for reducing the number of firearms in citizens' possession, much ahead of introducing stricter regulations and sanctions. The results also found that 97% of the respondents are not familiar with amnesty campaigns for those who hand over illegally held firearms, with the majority supporting the view that such campaigns should be organized regularly. The survey results were used by law enforcement agencies across Bosnia and Herzegovina in the planning and development of annual communication plans that focus on prevention and awareness-raising.

### General police development and reform

#### Modernizing and upgrading the SALW and ammunition storage capacity of law enforcement agencies; Banja Luka, Bihać, Doboј, Foča, Konjic, Livno, Lukavac, Prijedor, Zenica, Zvornik, Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2023)

With the support of the Mission, ten SALW storage sites across the country were upgraded to enhance their safety and security infrastructure. Construction at the locations in question was completed in December 2023, including the installation of intruder-detection system (IDS) equipment. Modernized and upgraded physical storage infrastructure will increase the security and safety of weapon, ammunition and explosives storage sites, decreasing the likelihood of theft, proliferation, misuse, arson, or accidental detonation of stockpiles.

### **Appointment of contact points for the safety of journalists in all police jurisdictions; across Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2023)**

Contact points were established in all police units and public prosecutor's offices across Bosnia and Herzegovina to assist journalists in addressing threats they face both online and offline. These contact points provide guidance for reporting incidents to the relevant authorities. The OSCE advocates for establishing or enhancing national data collection, analysis and reporting on attacks and violence against journalists, and encourages law enforcement agencies to ensure journalists' safety.

### **Gender equality project: Capacities and awareness for the implementation of obligations in combating gender-based violence; across Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2023)**

The Mission initiated political and strategic dialogue with relevant authorities at different levels to discuss changes of relevant legislation, the standardization of the institutional response to domestic violence cases, and the regulation of small arms seizures in domestic violence cases. The Mission supported the development of two framework policies for standardizing the system response to gender-based violence cases and for the reform of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Police Academy curricula. The Mission also supported training for in-service police officers on gender-responsive policing.

### **Increasing the awareness of law enforcement managers and operational staff on intelligence-led policing (ILP); Sarajevo, Tuzla, Brčko, Zenica, Mostar, Banja Luka, Bihać, Teslić, Tarčin, Vlašić mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–September 2023)**

As part of the ExB project "Enhancing Intelligence-led Policing to Combat Serious Security Threats and Crimes", the Mission facilitated workshops across Bosnia and Herzegovina to increase awareness of ILP principles, requirements and benefits among managers and operational staff of law enforcement agencies and institutions. The activity built understanding of and buy-in for the ILP concept, particularly in terms of its positive impact in addressing organized crime and serious security threats.

### **Meeting with Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior on the drafting a new cantonal Law on Peaceful Assembly; Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina (6 February 2023)**

The Mission convened a session with the Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior's working group charged with formulating a new Law on Peaceful Assembly. The gathering deliberat-

ed on the draft and considered the Ministry's strategies and timelines for enacting the new law. The working group requested the Mission's assistance in educating the Ministry's police staff and other representatives of the Cantonal Government on Bosnia and Herzegovina's international obligations after the law's adoption.

### **Draft report with recommendations about police data recording of hate crimes; Bosnia and Herzegovina (30 March 2023)**

The Mission submitted a draft report with recommendations on police hate crimes data recording to the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska for review and feedback. Produced following a workshop organized by the OSCE in 2022, the report informs the Mission's broader efforts in addressing institutional responses to bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Capacity-building of police regarding gender-based violence; Ljubuški, Bosnia and Herzegovina (May 2023)**

In Ljubuški, the OSCE supported an initiative to enhance the capacities of the West Herzegovina Canton (WHC) police in dealing with victims of gender-based violence. Organized by the NGO "Novi put" in Mostar at the request of the WHC Ministry of the Interior, the activity involved representatives from the courts, the Prosecutor's Office and social welfare centres. Participants were introduced to aspects of gender-sensitive policing and a victim-sensitized approach by the police in response to cases of violence.

### **Roundtable on the nexus between freedom of religion or belief and security; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (18 May 2023)**

The Mission organized a workshop focusing on the intersecting issues of freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression. The workshop was attended by representatives from religious communities, authorities across all levels of governance, security institutions, law enforcement authorities and CSOs. The event introduced the OSCE's Freedom of Religion or Belief and Security Guidelines and initiated a dialogue on their application within the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Participants explored various methods for identifying policies and practices potentially undermining the freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, or other human rights and freedoms.

### **Presentation of the Guidelines for Media Co-operation with the Police; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (20 May 2023)**

The Mission organized a training session for journalists in Banja Luka introducing the OSCE Guidelines for Media

Co-operation with the Police. Local experts provided insights into relevant international and domestic legal frameworks, practices of the European Court of Human Rights, and examples of defending the rights of journalists. The session inspired animated discussions and offered journalists the chance to seek advice on specific scenarios, such as receiving a summons from a police officer via mobile phone, conducting interviews with the police, the legality of audio recording during police interviews, video recording of police officers on duty, and exercising the right to remain silent.

**Training of civil servants and law enforcement authorities in the use of the “Glossary of Audit Terminology”; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (31 May 2023)**

Through its trial monitoring in the Republika Srpska, the Mission observed that public audit reports detailing potential irregular activities seldom lead to criminal investigations, let alone indictments. This lack of action was partly attributed to challenges in utilizing these reports, which hinders the initiation of investigations. To address this, the Mission developed a “Glossary of Audit Terminology” in 2022, and conducted workshops in 2023 to train law enforcement, prosecutors and civil servants in using this tool. These efforts enhanced the capabilities of law enforcement authorities to understand, employ, and act on public audit reports.

**Training programme for Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior on the freedom of peaceful assembly; Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 June 2023)**

The Mission executed a training programme on the freedom of peaceful assembly specifically designed for the Una-Sana Ministry of Interior’s representatives, including police administration chiefs and commanders. The training programme was attended by the newly appointed Cantonal Minister of the Interior, alongside the Ministry’s Secretary and the Coordinator for EU Integration at the Office of the Cantonal Prime Minister. This initiative was part of the public consultations concerning the forthcoming Una-Sana Canton Draft Law on Peaceful Assembly. It provided a platform for the Ministry of Interior to invite police representatives to submit additional feedback.

**Meeting with Zenica-Doboj Cantonal Minister of Interior; Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina (6 June 2023)**

The Mission engaged in a discussion with the Minister of Interior of the Zenica-Doboj Canton and his team to deliberate the forthcoming steps towards the adoption of the Zenica-Doboj Canton’s Law on Peaceful Assembly. In 2022, the Mission offered feedback on the draft version of the law, advocating for further enhancements. The Minister reiterated

the Ministry’s steadfast dedication to aligning the draft law with international norms.

**Workshop for Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior on elements of corruption criminal offences; Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina (12 June 2023)**

At the request of the Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, the Mission facilitated a workshop to enhance police officers’ understanding of corruption and their ability to testify in corruption cases. The workshop focused on the detection and investigation of corruption offenses. Organized in collaboration with the Tuzla Canton Prosecutor’s Office, the training was delivered by their Chief of Anti-Corruption department and emphasized peer-to-peer learning. This workshop is part of an ongoing fruitful co-operation between the Mission and Ministry in capacity-building efforts to combat corruption.

**Increasing the IT capacity and compatibility of law enforcement for criminal intelligence processes and analyses; across Bosnia and Herzegovina (June–December 2023)**

As part of the ExB project “Enhancing Intelligence-led Policing to Combat Serious Security Threats and Crimes”, the Mission procured and donated a first package of IT equipment and software to law enforcement authorities and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The computers and specialized analytical software licenses will enhance criminal intelligence processes and analyses.

**Support to the 9th Police Summer School for Youth in Brčko District; Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina (22–24 August 2023)**

The Mission supported the 9th Police Summer School for Youth at the Brčko District Police. This year’s summer school brought together participants aged 15 to 35, who participated in three days of theoretical and practical training sessions. The Mission delivered presentations/workshops on fundamental freedoms and on hate crimes. The workshops tackled real-life scenarios, including discussions on freedom of expression and hate speech in public spaces. The presentation on hate crimes was particularly well-received, sparking discussion among the students and presenters and raising the young people’s awareness of issues relevant to their local communities as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina at large.

**Consultative meetings about the integrity of electoral processes; Brčko, Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (September–October 2023)**

The Mission participated in consultative meetings organized by the NGO “Pod lupom” with prosecutors and police con-

cerning the integrity of elections held in Brčko, Banja Luka and Sarajevo. At these meetings, the Mission shared its findings and recommendations for monitoring electoral fraud, contributing to the broader efforts to ensure election fairness in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Providing expert comments on policing laws in Una-Sana Canton; Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(9 November 2023)**

The Ministry of Interior of Una-Sana Canton requested the Mission to provide substantive feedback on two new draft policing laws: the Draft Law on the Ministry of Interior, and the Draft Law on Police Officials USC. The Mission's comments were tailored to address the circumstances in Una-Sana Canton. To ensure that the draft laws are in line with international standards and principles, the Mission included overarching comments on record-keeping, appointment of police officials, and other substantive areas.

**Assisting the organization and development of law enforcement criminal intelligence sections, analytical units and functions; Sarajevo, Gorazde, Livno, Ljubuški, Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(November 2023)**

As part of the ExB project “Enhancing Intelligence-led Policing to Combat Serious Security Threats and Crimes”, with the support of international and local consultants, the Mission held working sessions at seven cantonal police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide expertise in establishing and organizing criminal intelligence sections and analytical units.

**Advancing awareness of SALW misuse in gender-based violence; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(November 2023)**

As part of its ExB project on the control of SALW, the Mission established strategic partnerships with two associations of women members of the police in Bosnia and Herzegovina—the Police Women's Network and the Republika Srpska's Ministry of Internal Affairs Women Network. The Mission mapped the needs of both associations and worked with them in conducting a gender analysis on the misuse of SALW. The Mission also supported outreach to all levels of government and facilitated inter-institutional dialogue on the gender implications in SALW control as well as the necessity of synchronized and joint actions.

**Facilitating regular meetings and briefings between law enforcement agencies and prosecution services; Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina (December 2023)**

A workshop, organized under the Mission's ExB project “Enhancing Intelligence-led Policing to Combat Serious Security Threats and Crimes”, brought together and enhanced the co-operation between law enforcement authorities and prosecution services in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The participants gained an insight into the importance of ILP as well as the use of criminal intelligence and analyses in criminal proceedings.

**16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign; Konjic, Čapljina, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (December 2023)**

During the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign, the OSCE organized workshops in Konjic, Čapljina and Mostar, offering practical guidelines on responding to domestic violence cases. These workshops emphasized the importance of prompt and effective legal responses and involved members of prosecutors' offices and the judiciary.

**Workshop for the development and monitoring of the implementation of the Protocol of Institutional Conduct in cases of domestic violence in Una-Sana Canton; Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(6 December 2023)**

The Mission facilitated a workshop for professionals from the Una-Sana Canton centres for social welfare and police stations. Led by a professional advisor and psychologist from the Bihać court, the interactive workshop equipped first responders with knowledge on how to effectively support victims of domestic violence, including children. The workshop used real-life examples and participant engagement to address the psychological development of children and appropriate techniques for conducting interviews with children.

**Working group for amendments to the policing laws of Brčko District; Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(18 December 2023)**

The Mission collaborates closely with law enforcement authorities on relevant and emerging policing topics. Since 2021, the Mission has been involved in the drafting process of amendments to the Law on Police and Law on Police Officials of Brčko District by participating in working group meetings and offering technical expertise. This collaborative effort is supported by members of the international community, including the Office of the High Representative, the EU, and the US Embassy to ensure that the amendments align more closely with international standards and to enhance transparency.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

### **Support for the development of the 2022–2024 National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (NRA ML/TF); Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–March 2023)**

The Mission supported authorities in the development of the 2022–2024 Bosnia and Herzegovina National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism. Representatives from bodies from all levels of government as well as the private sector conducted a comprehensive analysis of the risks related to the system of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorist activities. The working group developed a comprehensive national risk assessment and corresponding action plan that link key activities to identified problems and competent bodies.

### **Support for the development of action plans for the implementation of the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Terrorism; Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–October 2023)**

Following its adoption, the Mission has assisted authorities in developing or updating action plans for the implementation of the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Terrorism. Advocacy efforts by the Mission have led to more inclusive working groups comprising representatives from both the security and non-security sectors. The action plans prioritize human rights and the rule of law, with a focus on preventing violent extremism and radicalization through non-security sector engagement. Preventive measures included in the plans focus on media literacy, youth empowerment, gender mainstreaming and curbing terrorist activities online.

### **Support for the finalization of the Law on Anti-money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–December 2023)**

The Mission provided extensive support to Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the working group finalizing the Draft Law on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism. The working group brought together representatives of various Ministries, institutions of Brčko District, as well as the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska banking agencies, the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), and the Directorate for European Integration.

### **Series of training events for local police on migration-related issues; Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Tuzla, Zvornik and Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina (March–September 2023)**

In co-operation with several UN agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNDSS, and UNICEF), the Mission collaborated with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security Service for Foreigners to deliver presentations on these agencies' mandates in protecting and supporting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Mission highlighted its efforts in preventing and combating THB in mixed migration flows and shared findings from monitoring such cases with national judicial institutions. Participants were introduced to gender perspectives and victim-centred approaches in the early identification of potential trafficking victims, including a practical checklist to differentiate between human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

### **Multi-sectoral training course on differences between smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (20–22 March 2023)**

The Mission, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), conducted a multi-sectoral training course for border and security management professionals on differentiating between the trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants. The OSCE Mission to Montenegro supported the participation of Montenegrin professionals, and provided regional insights and good practices in countering the phenomena. Participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina valued the use of real-case scenarios and role-play in applying human rights-based, gender-sensitive, and trauma-informed approaches when dealing with smuggled persons and trafficking victims.

### **Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, social workers, psychologists and lawyers in human rights and anti-discrimination; Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (29–30 May 2023)**

The OSCE and the EU co-hosted a workshop for professionals to prevent and fight discrimination as part of the “EU for human rights and anti-discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina” project. The workshop bolstered the capacity of protection providers in identifying discrimination.

**Training courses for law enforcement officers on community policing and P/CVERLT; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (13 June 2023)**

In co-operation with the Brčko District Police, the Mission organized training course for Brčko District police officers on the community-policing model in P/CVERLT. After the training course, police officers were able to distinguish between the different forms and manifestations of VERLT, understand the process of radicalization into violence and the gender dynamics in violent extremist groups, as well as employ approaches to address VERLT in communities. The training course also focused on the basic concepts of community policing, improving public perceptions of police, and developing partnerships with the community.

**Victim-centred approaches in criminal-legal responses to gender-based violence; Goražde, Bosnia and Herzegovina (26 June 2023)**

To address gaps in domestic violence proceedings in Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, the Mission facilitated a workshop focusing on victim-centred approaches in criminal-legal responses to gender-based violence. The workshop was attended by representatives from the police, judiciary, social welfare services and civil society. The participants discussed challenges in co-operating and strategies to improve responses to such incidents.

**Training course on hate crimes for the Prijedor Police Administration; Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina (30 June 2023)**

In co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska, the Mission facilitated a hate crimes training course for police officers and prosecutors in Prijedor. The training course stressed the importance of immediate law enforcement responses and raised awareness for the security implications of such incidents. The training course enhanced the participants' understanding of hate crimes and the relevant legal framework, as well as their ability to identify and investigate such offenses, highlighting the importance of prevention and the police's role in local communities.

**Supporting harmonization of laws on firearms; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (September–December 2023)**

The Mission supported the working group established by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Security to harmonize existing firearms laws, both mutually and with the relevant EU acquis. During several sessions, the Mission advocated for and eventually put forward a set of recommendations relating to firearm deactivation and the mandatory, immediate and

temporary seizure of registered firearms following a report of domestic violence. The proposals were considered and incorporated into the final recommendations submitted to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers for adoption.

**Anti-discrimination forum meeting; Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina (29 September 2023)**

The OSCE organized an anti-discrimination forum meeting to discuss gender-based and domestic violence, particularly femicide. The meeting was attended by signatories to the "Protocol on proceedings in cases of domestic violence in the City of Trebinje" and facilitated data sharing on reported domestic violence cases.

**Training courses on detecting terrorist travel; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (24–26 October, 30–31 October 2023)**

To bolster the capacities of authorities charged with disrupting terrorist travel, the Mission organized specialized training courses to enhance the capacity of border police officers to effectively address the threat of terrorism in accordance with rule of law and human rights standards. The training course focused on the detection of forged travel documents using relevant databases to detect and prevent terrorist travel, and to profile and identify potential terrorists (including FTFs). Using case studies, the participants also discussed the importance of multi-agency co-operation and the timely exchange of information in the disruption of terrorist travel.

**Training course on the identification and processing of hate crimes for the Brčko District Police; Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina (29 November 2023)**

Through its trial monitoring program and interactions with the police in Brčko District, the Mission observed several bias-motivated incidents and noted that police procedures for handling such cases frequently do not align with applicable criminal legislation. To enhance police practices, the Mission facilitated a training course for officers on differentiating bias-motivated crimes from ordinary crimes.

## 2.1.3 Mission in Kosovo

### Introduction

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (the Mission) is mandated with the protection and promotion of human and community rights, as well as with democratization and public safety sector development. Building on past support and progress achieved, further capacity-building and strategic improvements of the public safety and security sector, in line with best international practices, remain among the main priorities of the Mission.

► **Join the police! Encouraging young women and men from non-majority communities to consider careers in law enforcement; Gračanica/Graçanicë, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Štrpce/Shtërpçë, Gjilan/Gnijlane, Prizren, Pejë/Peć (10–17 May 2023)**

In May 2023, the Mission supported the Kosovo<sup>4</sup> Police (KP) to reach out to non-majority communities by facilitating introductory workshops for young men and women, presenting them with available employment opportunities in law enforcement and encouraging them to apply to become police officers. These workshops gathered young people from diverse backgrounds, including Kosovo Serb, Kosovo Bosniak, Kosovo Turk, Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian communities. During the campaign, young people were introduced to recruitment procedures, with a specific focus on the application process and selection criteria. The participants also learned about professional police training courses and the importance of police work in the communities they serve.

As a direct result of the campaign, 74 successful applicants from non-majority communities graduated and were deployed for duty in the KP Regional Directorate Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. This and other campaigns supported by the Mission have been highly successful over recent years in increasing the share of applicants and police cadets from non-majority communities. Thanking the Mission in her note to Ambassador Davenport, Colonel Taibe Canolli stated that “the KP Department for Human Resources has developed an action plan for implementing this process, which is supported by the OSCE and is realized in co-ordination between the KP, OSCE, and all regional police directorates in a professional and efficient manner.”

The Mission is committed to continue to help the KP in attracting young applicants from all communities to join the force.

<sup>4</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244.



▣ Young men and women from non-majority communities listen to presentations on employment opportunities with the Kosovo Police; workshop organized with the support of the OSCE Mission. Gračanica/Graçanicë, 10 May 2023.  
**OSCE/Bylent Ribari**

## General police development and reform

### Workshops in support of Municipal Coordination Mechanisms against Domestic Violence (MCMDVs); (throughout 2023)

The Mission supported Municipal Coordination Mechanisms against Domestic Violence (MCMDVs) through various activities in 2023:

- Drafting the 2023 work plan for two directorates of the Prishtinë/Priština MCMDV;
- Establishing MCMDVs in Novo Brdo/Novobërdë and Štrpce/Shtërpcë municipalities;
- Supporting members of the Mamuša/Mamushë/Mamuša MCMDV to observe the meeting of the Dragash/Dragaš Mechanism;
- Drafting the Municipal Action Plan against Domestic Violence 2023–2025 of the Hani i Elezit/Elez Han MCMDV;
- Drafting the 2024–2026 Action Plan against Domestic Violence of the Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje MCMDV;

- Drafting action plans for Vushtri/Vučitrn, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë and Kamenica/Kamenicë MCMDVs;
- Re-establishment of the Pejë/Peć MCMDV;
- Holding MCMDV sessions in Dragash/Dragaš, Podujevë/Podujevo and Klinë/Klina municipalities.

### Workshop to support the Kosovo Probation Service (KPS) in unifying reporting forms; Prishtinë/Priština (31 January–2 February 2023)

The Mission organized a workshop with the senior management and regional directors of the KPS to review and unify the reporting forms used by the agency. A working group comprised of senior managers of the KPS, as well as representatives of the OSCE Mission and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) revised and unified the external and internal reporting forms used to report to prosecution bodies and courts.



**Workshop to finalize the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) administrative instructions; Prishtinë/Priština (6–10 February 2023)**

A workshop for KCS senior managers and directors of correctional institutions was used to review and finalize three administrative instructions deriving from the newly approved Law on Correctional Service. The working group revised the administrative instructions on Corrections Housekeeping Rules and on Disciplinary Procedure for Inmates. In addition, the working group drafted a new Administrative Instruction on the Establishment and Functionality of the Economic Unit within the KCS.

**Workshops on the revised disaster risk assessment for local entities; Prishtinë/Priština (9, 21 February 2023)**

The Mission supported the Kosovo Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in facilitating workshops to introduce the revised document on disaster risk assessment to participants representing local public safety committees (LPSCs), the Kosovo Police (KP), the EMA and municipal officials from Prishtinë/Priština and Podujevë/Podujevo municipalities. The workshops focused on increasing the awareness of disaster risk assessment at a local level and involved local governments and community safety forums. In addition, EMA experts explained the process of emergency management, roles and responsibilities of relevant actors at a local, regional and central level, along with community members' roles in supporting communities in emergencies through a holistic approach and effective collaboration.

**Workshop to finalize the KPS's regulation of job systematization; Prishtinë/Priština (20–24 February 2023)**

A five-day workshop supported by the Mission gave senior management and regional directors of the KPS the opportunity to review and finalize the Regulation on Internal Organization and Systematization of Jobs in accordance with the latest legal amendments. The KPS working group members and representatives of the Mission and EULEX finalized the instruction regulating the internal structure of the Service and the number of staff members, as well as the responsibilities and tasks assigned to each regional directorate, department and unit within the KPS structure. Participants also reviewed all job descriptions for officers and heads of units and departments of the KPS.

**Revitalization training for local public safety committees (LPSCs); Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prishtinë/Priština (23 February, 18 May 2023)**

The Mission supported the KP in organizing training workshops on partnership building and problem solving for new members of existing LPSCs, including community members

and KP officers from the Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South regions.

**Training activity for forensic officers; Prishtinë/Priština (27 February–3 March 2023)**

Officials of the Kosovo Agency on Forensics (KAF) and officers of KP Forensic Unit completed an advanced training course on the newest forensic techniques and methods for examining latent and patent fingerprints found at crime scenes.

**Seminars on the units for protection, rescue and assistance for local and central institutions; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South and Skenderaj/Srbica (8, 21 March 2023)**

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) facilitated two seminars to present Regulation No. 18/2015 on the Organization of Structure Units for Protection, Rescue and Assistance for Local and Central Institutions in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South and Skenderaj/Srbica. Participants representing LPSCs, the KP, the EMA and municipal officials were able to develop legal structures for their respective municipalities covering prevention, preparedness, reaction and recovery. The discussions also focused on challenges and the lack of human and material resources in responding to natural disasters.

**Training activity on the prevention of conflict of interest; online (13–17 March 2023)**

The Mission facilitated an online training activity on the prevention of conflict of interest for KP chiefs and investigators of internal KP investigation units in all police regions and headquarters, as well as for a representative from the Integrity Section of the KP Professional Standards Directorate. The training activity covered current legislation on conflict of interest, the potential impact of conflict of interest, on police work and how it is perceived by the public, and legal mechanisms in place to prevent related conflicts. Through several case studies and practical exercises, participants explored various types of conflict of interest and their consequences.

**Workshop on the Protocol for Treatment of Sexual Violence Cases; Prishtinë/Priština (22 March 2023)**

The Forum of Women Judges and Prosecutors held a workshop on the new Protocol for Treatment of Sexual Violence Cases. The Protocol provides a framework for a consistent, comprehensive and accountable institutional response to cases of sexual abuse and sexual violence, and defines the roles and responsibilities of institutions involved in providing services to survivors/victims. Panelists from the judiciary, prosecution, KP, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Victims'

Advocacy and Assistance Office (VAAO) and the Prishtinë/Priština shelter for victims of domestic violence discussed the implications of the Protocol for the institutional response to sexual violence cases.

#### **Training course on tax evasion and the informal economy; Prishtinë/Priština (28–29 March 2023)**

The Mission conducted a training course on tax evasion and informal economy to acquaint participants of the KP, the Kosovo Tax Administration (KTA), customs, and the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) with tax legislation, legislative amendments and *modi operandi* in relation to tax evasion and the smuggling of goods. Participants also learned about the extent of the informal and grey economy in Kosovo and engaged in different case studies and practical exercises.

#### **Training workshops on preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings (THB) for the Association of Women in Kosovo Police (AWKP); Prishtinë/Priština and Gjakovë/Djakovica (5, 19 April 2023)**

The Mission facilitated training workshops aimed at KP officers and members of the AWKP regarding their roles in preventing and fighting THB. The training focused on victim identification as an essential element in addressing THB. The participants were also taught how to manage information related to THB and where to refer suspected cases and presumed victims of THB.

#### **Training on community policing for new LPSCs; Prishtinë/Priština (5–20 April 2023)**

The Mission facilitated training sessions on community policing for members of LPSCs, who learned about building partnerships and problem solving. To help new LPSC members identify and effectively address community safety issues, the Mission also supported them in organizing community meetings to reach out and establish relationships with their communities, municipality officials, the police and other partners.

#### **Roundtable with institutions on domestic violence; Gjilan/Gnjilane (24 April 2023)**

The Mission supported a roundtable discussion on domestic violence cases involving various regional stakeholders in Gjilan/Gnjilane. The participants discussed the challenges faced in handling domestic violence cases and raised concerns such as a lack of infrastructure and personnel to effectively address such cases.

#### **Training course for KCS officers on hostage negotiation situations in prisons; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (24–28 April 2023)**

The Mission delivered a training course on negotiations during possible hostage-taking situations to KCS officers at the Correctional Centre in Smrekonicë/Smrekonica. The training course enhanced the participants' skills in handling crisis/hostage negotiation cases and included information on the main responsibilities of a crisis/hostage negotiator as well as the key rules of negotiation.

#### **Training for LPSCs and the community on disaster risk reduction; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (25–28 April 2023)**

As part of a training course for representatives of LPSCs, municipal community safety councils (MCSCs) and community members from Prishtinë/Priština and Podujevë/Podujevo municipalities, participants learned about risk assessment protection structures, local level rescue and help, principles and integrated systems of emergency management, basic fire theory, and the use of fire extinguishing equipment.

#### **Workshops for students, teachers and parent councils on preventing extremism and radicalization; Viti/Vitina, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Kaçanik/Kaçanik and Podujevë/Podujevo (25 April–2 May 2023)**

The Mission supported the KP in organizing workshops to increase the awareness of prevention strategies related to violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) for students, teachers, psychologists, pedagogues, Parent Councils, and representatives from municipal directorates of education (MDEs) for pre-university schools in Kosovo. The participants explored the motives of young people getting involved with extremism and going through the radicalization process, including the "push" and "pull" factors associated with why people might be drawn towards VERLT.

#### **Workshop on the KPS regulation on internal organization and systematization of jobs; Prishtinë/Priština (2–4 May 2023)**

A workshop for the senior management and regional directors of the KPS focused on the criteria and time constraints of reporting on persons on conditional release. In addition, the working group discussed the content of the individual supervision programme for persons subject to probation processes.

**Seminars for young police officers on their role in building confidence and satisfaction in policing; Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Pejë/Peć (3–11 May 2023)**

A series of seminars for young police officers focused on their role in building confidence and satisfaction in policing. The young police officers were acquainted with model key drivers and their impact, as well as police actions that affect the community policing model. The seminars, led by the Mission and KP experts, also familiarized participants with the programme principles, including the use of victim packs and awareness materials that have been produced and delivered to the KP through Mission's support.

**First annual meeting of police forensic examiners; Prishtinë/Priština (11 May 2023)**

KP forensics examiners and investigators from the central and regional police levels met to discuss the 2022 report on achievements in forensic services and to share challenges encountered in their daily work. The meeting was the first of its nature and served as a platform for the KP management to present their priorities and plans for the further development of KP forensic capabilities.

**Training course on electronic procurement for the AWKP; Prizren (16–17 May 2023)**

A training course on electronic procurement and public procurement principles for police employees provided practical examples and case studies to illustrate the advantages and challenges in implementing online procurement, which helped participants learn about differences between traditional and online procurement, as well as the benefits and processes of online procurement. Participants learned how to define requirements, establish long-term contracts and evaluate criteria.

**Presentation of the 2021 hate crime victimization survey and review of implementation of the Cooperation Agreement on Treating Hate Crimes; Prishtinë/Priština (19 May 2023)**

A roundtable discussed the findings of the victimization survey on hate crimes conducted in 2021, as well as progress in implementing the Cooperation Agreement on Treating Hate Crimes in Kosovo. The event gathered representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), the KP, the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), the Ombudsman Institution (OI), the Office of Good Governance (OGG) in the Office of the Prime Minister, and two CSOs. The Mission presented the methodology and findings of the victimization survey focusing on hate crimes.

**Advanced training course on witness and whistleblower protection for the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK); Prishtinë/Priština (22–26 May 2023)**

An advanced training course equipped members of the PIK with skills and knowledge in the effective handling of witnesses and an awareness of good practices in the protection of whistle-blowers. Police inspectors learned how to effectively deal with cases of corruption and improper behaviour of police officers. The training covered the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

**Workshop to enhance intra-departmental Co-operation regarding intelligence; Prizren (23–25 May 2023)**

The Mission supported the KP in conducting a workshop to finalize its SOP for "Cooperation between the Directorate for International Law Enforcement Cooperation (ILECU) and Department for Intelligence and Analysis (DIA)" in accordance with the Integrated Intelligence-led and Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025. The purpose of the SOP is to enhance the co-operation, co-ordination and standardization of communication between the DIA and ILECU.

**Training course on the use of artificial intelligence in strategic communication; Pejë/Peć (26–28 May 2023)**

A training course on artificial intelligence (AI) for representatives of the MoIA, Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS), KP, Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK), the EMA and the KCS introduced the use of prompt engineering, a process used to shape responses from AI applications. Participants learned how law enforcement authorities can use large language models (LLMs) to enhance their operations and decision-making processes by extracting and analysing information from large volumes of text data, such as police reports, legal documents and online sources.

**Inter-cultural fora for young people from different communities; Prizren (26–28 May and 8–10 September 2023)**

Two inter-cultural fora enhanced the multi-ethnic relationship among youth from different communities and improved their communication and co-operation. The events gathered young people from Kosovo Albanian, Kosovo Serb, Kosovo Bosniak and Kosovo Roma communities, police officers and LPSC members. The participants learned about advocacy and negotiation skills, and were also taught by KP officers about the prevention of drug abuse, domestic violence, hate crime and discrimination.

**Training-of-trainers (ToT) on individual need assessments for victims of hate crime; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (30 May–1 June 2023)**

The Mission, in co-operation with ODIHR, delivered a ToT on individual need assessments for victims of hate crimes. A group of KP officers and a CSO representative learned about the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims. They were also introduced to the need assessment process and discussed the types of information that can be collected by law enforcement officers.

**Training course on interview techniques in internal police investigations; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (5–9 June 2023)**

The Mission delivered a training course on techniques for interviewing law enforcement officers to investigators of the KP Internal Investigations Directorate. During the training, participants learned about the goals of and techniques used in interviews and interrogations through practical exercises, based on the PEACE (preparation and planning, engage and explain, account, clarify and challenge, closure, and evaluation) interviewing method.

**Community Safety Week; Prishtinë/Priština, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Prizren and Junik (5–14 June, 25 July 2023)**

The Mission supported the KP and LPSCs in organizing the “Community Safety Week”, during which the LPSCs and KP informed the general public about the roles and responsibilities of LPSCs, highlighting the importance of public–police co-operation and the involvement of residents in community safety initiatives. The events were covered by local media and included a quiz for young students, partnership-building activities, and the distribution of brochures and leaflets on domestic violence, traffic safety, school safety, drug abuse and emergency management.

**Advanced training course on public procurement and institutional integrity; Prishtinë/Priština (19–20 June 2023)**

The Mission organized an advanced training course on public procurement and institutional integrity for participants from the KP, prosecution bodies, the KTA, and the APC. The participants gained insights into issues such as the detection of pitfalls in terms of references, mistakes in procurement documentation, as well as errors in the formation of contract services and commissions. Case studies used during the

training prompted constructive interaction among participants based on their experiences and strengthened inter-agency co-operation.

**Training course on decision analysis and problem solving for the KP; Prishtinë/Priština (19–23 June 2023)**

The Mission conducted a training course on decision analysis and problem solving for investigators of the KP Internal Investigations Directorate. During the course, police investigators improved their skills in analysing information and intelligence, and learned about decision-making methodologies. The investigators improved their ability to assess and manage risks efficiently and effectively through case analysis exercises.

**Series of training courses among religious communities and members of MCSCs on preventing security incidents; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Istog/Istok and Obiliq/Obilić (20–26 June 2023)**

The Mission conducted training courses on the prevention of security incidents for participants from MCSCs, religious representatives and the KP. As part of the training initiative, the participants had the opportunity to identify steps to enhance regular reporting and co-operation in their respective municipalities.

**Workshops for young people to follow up on the intercultural youth forum; Gračanica/Graçanicë and Pejë/Peć (21 June, 18 October 2023)**

The Mission facilitated workshops with participants from Kosovo Albanian, Kosovo Serb, Kosovo Bosniak and Kosovo Roma communities, together with members of LPSCs from the Gračanica/Graçanicë, Junik and Pejë/Peć municipalities, and KP officers. As part of the workshops, the participants delivered presentations on crime prevention and the strengthening of police–public partnerships, bullying, fake news, victim protection, cyber security, drug abuse and school safety, among other topics.

**Roundtable discussion on interviewing juvenile victims; Prizren (26 June 2023)**

A roundtable discussion on interviewing juvenile victims for judges and prosecutors overseeing and prosecuting juvenile offenses, as well as professional associates, KP officers, members of the VAAO and the Centre for Social Work (CSW) in Prizren examined methodologies and interview techniques appropriate for juvenile victims of crime during police interviews and judicial proceedings.

**Workshops to support the bi-annual revision of the Integrated Intelligence-Led and Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan; Prishtinë/Priština (30 June, 20 December 2023)**

The Mission organized two workshops to support the KP in facilitating bi-annual implementation reviews of the Integrated Intelligence-Led and Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025. Participants from the KP, US Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and the PIK highlighted collaboration between the KP and their partners, resulting in improved operational outcomes based on enhanced ICT infrastructure, more efficient processing of intelligence, resource expansion and increased central monitoring.

**Workshop on drafting and reviewing KCS operational internal sub-legal acts; Prishtinë/Priština (3–5 July 2023)**

A workshop for the senior management of the KCS enabled them to review and finalize two internal regulations concerning the responsibilities of individuals and institutions when entering into employment agreements, as well as one on the procedures for inmate escorting and transportation to and from courts and hospitals.

**Workshop to evaluate the implementation of recommendations on school system safety; Prizren (3–5 July 2023)**

The Mission supported the Ministry for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI), MDEs, school authorities and the KP in organizing a workshop to evaluate the implementation of recommendations of the study on school system safety conducted throughout Kosovo in 2022. The workshop facilitated dialogue and information sharing among the participants. Some of the key topics discussed included enhancing security during student transportation, implementing protective mechanisms near schools, inspecting nearby premises, and maintaining adequate street lighting.

**Advanced training course on Amped FIVE software for forensics investigators; Prishtinë/Priština (4–7 July 2023)**

Forensics investigators of the KP benefited from an advanced training course on Amped FIVE software used for the forensic examination of images and for video enhancement. The training course covered image and video generation, processing and enhancement, with a specific emphasis on analysing surveillance footage.

**Training course for senior police officers on mentoring and coaching; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (10–13 July 2023)**

In close collaboration with the United Kingdom College of Policing, the Mission organized a training course on mentoring and coaching for senior KP officers, including station commanders, deputy station commanders and shift supervisors. The training course provided participants with the knowledge and skills to unlock the professional potential of young police women and men, and prepare them to discharge their responsibilities based on the OSCAR (outcomes, situation, choices, action and review) method.

**Training activity on firearms-related blood stain pattern analysis; Prishtinë/Priština (17–21 July 2023)**

A training course on firearm-related blood stain pattern analysis allowed KP investigators and KAF examiners to advance their understanding of crime scene examinations. Through practical exercises, participants learned about the documentation, interpretation and evaluation of bloodstain patterns found at crime scenes.

**ToT on risk assessments and safety planning for domestic violence cases; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (17–21 July 2023)**

A ToT on risk assessment of domestic violence cases instructed participants in the use of victim interviewing techniques and provided detailed guidance on the preparation of safety plans and safe referrals to other service providers. The course also covered the importance of applying a risk assessment checklist during the handling of domestic violence cases.

**Workshop to draft the Regulation for the Organization and Systematization of Workplaces in the KP; Prishtinë/Priština (14–18 August 2023)**

The Mission assisted the KP in conducting a workshop to draft the Regulation for the Organization and Systematization of Workplaces within the KP. This initiative aligns with the newly approved KP Organizational Structure and the responsibilities outlined in the legislative agenda for drafting by-laws. During the workshop, participants representing the KP inter-departmental working group and the MoIA cross-examined the content of the Regulation and amended it based on good practices and experiences.

**Advanced training activity on handling informants for the PIK; Prishtinë/Priština (4–8 September 2023)**

An advanced training activity on handling informants equipped senior investigators of the PIK with good practices in informant management, overcoming common challenges in handling informants and confidentiality, as well as protecting informants' identities.

**Meetings of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) with the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK); Vienna, Austria (12–13 September 2023)**

The Mission organized meetings for representatives of the APC with the OCEEA and the Austrian BAK to discuss good practices in corruption prevention and to exchange ideas for capacity-building activities to enhance transparency and accountability in the public sector. All parties agreed to enhance their co-operation, particularly in the prevention of corruption among young people.

**Workshops on the proportional use of force; Prishtinë/Priština, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Prizren, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South (15 September–13 October 2023)**

In co-operation with the PIK, the KP Department for Internal Investigation and the KP Commission for Treating Cases of Use of Force, the Mission facilitated regional workshops on the proportional use of force for police officers. The participants recommended involving judges and prosecutors in this type of workshop in the future.

**Kosovo Para Sport Games 2023; Vushtrri/Vučitran (16–17 September 2023)**

The Mission supported the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) and the Kosovo Paralympics Committee (KPC) in organizing the 2023 Kosovo Para Sport Games, which gathered para-athletes and their family members from all communities and cultural backgrounds. This inclusive event provided young people with an opportunity to socialize, compete and become familiar with the work of police officers. The tournament engaged para-athletes in 13 para-sports activities, including a wheelchair run, wheelchair basketball, sitting handball, goal-ball, chess, boccia, table tennis, and tug of war, with teams and individual para-sport winners being awarded cups and medals by the Mission. The Prime Minister officially opened the games and participated in several para-sports activities with para-athletes.

**Workshops for police officers on women's rights, access to justice and security; Prishtinë/Priština, Pejë/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prizren (19, 21, 26, 28 September 2023)**

A series of workshops for new KP officers brought together representatives from the VAAO, Centres for Social Work (CSWs) and the KP to encourage and support access to the justice system for women. The activity highlighted the roles of the respective actors involved in cases of violence against women (VAW) and gender-based violence (GBV), and provided an overview of challenges and good practices. Emphasis was placed on the role of multi-sectorial partnerships and the importance of professional victim-based investigations at all stages.

**Workshop to review the Kosovo risk assessment document; Prizren (26–28 September 2023)**

A workshop allowed a working group of specialists and subject matter experts to review and finalize the Kosovo Risk Assessment of Natural Disasters and Other Disasters. The group included representatives from the EMA, the KP, the Ministries of health, education, justice and environment, the energy sector, and the Prishtinë/Priština Directorate for Safety and Emergencies (DSE). Central to the workshop was the drafting of scenarios based on identified risks, since running regular practical exercises to test each scenario is paramount to ensuring Kosovo's readiness throughout a disaster management cycle.

**Regional training sessions on risk assessment and safety planning for domestic violence cases; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prishtinë/Priština, Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and Prizren (27 September–19 October 2023)**

Regional training sessions on risk assessment and safety planning for victims of domestic violence were delivered by by Mission-trained police trainers. During the sessions, the trainers taught lessons on risk assessments through case scenarios to KP officers.

**Workshop on inter-institutional Co-operation in domestic violence cases; Prishtinë/Priština (2 October 2023)**

Organized in co-operation with the Prishtinë/Priština Basic Court and Basic Prosecution Office, a workshop in Prishtinë/Priština on inter-institutional co-operation in domestic violence cases gathered participants from judicial and non-judicial institutions to discuss procedures for handling domestic violence cases and the main challenges to inter-institutional

co-operation. One of the challenges discussed during the workshop was the lack of treatment options for defendants suffering from mental health issues.

**Training course on disaster risk reduction for members of LPSCs; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (2–4 October 2023)**

A tailored training course on community risk resilience for participants representing LPSCs and MCSCs from the municipalities of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South and Skenderaj/Srbica focused on fire rescue and help at the local level, the principles of integrated emergency management systems, the basic theory of fire, fire extinguishing equipment, and more.

**Regional training workshops on individual need assessments for victims of hate crime; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prishtinë/Priština, Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North and Prizren (5 October–30 November 2023)**

Training workshops acquainted participants from different communities with the concept of hate crimes, the techniques of developing an individual need assessment, and the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims to avoid secondary victimization. The case scenarios introduced during the training workshop prompted participants to discuss bias indicators and map service providers for victims of hate crimes.

**Workshop to prepare the Prishtinë/Priština Directorate for Safety and Emergencies (DSE) 2024 Strategy and Work Plan; Obiliq/Obilić (9–10 October 2023)**

The Mission supported the DSE in organizing a workshop to prepare the 2024 Strategy and Work Plan. The workshop gathered participants from the city administration, firefighters, the Red Cross, paramedics, the KP, MCSCs, LPSCs and the Kosovo Force (KFOR). The DSE presented its organizational structure and mission to build a safer future for all communities through effective partnerships between local governments, emergency services, the private sector, law enforcement agencies and residents.

**Workshops with school personnel on the identification of narcotics; Lipjan/Lipljane and Prishtinë/Priština (17, 26 October 2023)**

The Mission supported the KP in organizing workshops to enable teachers, professors, psychologists, pedagogues, and representatives of MDEs from pre-university schools in Kosovo to identify different types of narcotics. The workshop

focused on identifying users, the consequences of drug addiction, as well as common mistakes in treating users.

**Workshops on the prevention of juvenile delinquency; Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren, Pejë/Peć and Gjilan/Gnjilane (18 October–3 November 2023)**

The Mission supported the KP in organizing workshops on strengthening co-operation between institutions dealing with the prevention of juvenile delinquency in Kosovo. The events hosted police officers, prosecutors for juveniles, representatives of MDEs and CSWs, and probation officers. These workshops aimed to embed and enhance a partnership approach in addressing issues related to juvenile delinquency in a sustainable and multi-institutional manner.

**Support for the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) to integrate international practices into training and education programmes; Vushtrri/Vučitrn and Prishtinë/Priština (23–27 October 2023)**

The Mission supported the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) in hosting a delegation from the United States' North Carolina Justice Academy (NCJA). During the visit, the KAPS and the NCJA agreed on a common approach to career development, training, and education for public safety agencies. The two academies also agreed to exchange expertise in developing vocational professional curricula at different levels. The KAPS and the NCJA delegations visited the MoIA as well as public safety institutions.

**Advanced training course on drafting analytical reports; Prizren (23–27 October 2023)**

MoIA officials took part in an advanced training course on drafting analytical reports. Intensive and advanced training sessions taught participants to draft analytical reports based on established methodologies for data collection and analysis. They participated in small group exercises, which introduced the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) objectives and the FINER (feasible, interesting, novel, ethical and relevant) research framework.

**Campaign focusing on the prevention of drug abuse in primary and secondary schools; Pejë/Peć (23 October–7 December 2023)**

A campaign focusing on the prevention of drug abuse targeted young students from Kosovo Albanian, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Bosniak communities at nine primary and secondary local schools. The initiative disseminated knowledge about the effects of illegal drugs and negative consequences of drug-taking for young people.

### **16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence events; (November, December 2023)**

The Mission supported various events and initiatives as part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” of 2023:

- Two alumni from the Youth Academy visited schools in rural areas and carried out a campaign to raise awareness of domestic and gender-based violence in Pejë/Peć;
- High-school students in Gjiilan/Gnjilane organized an activity that focused on gender equality and featured a Mission presentation on gender-based violence;
- Municipal co-ordination mechanisms against domestic violence (MCMDV) members met in Vushtrri/Vučitrn to draft an action plan to support survivors of domestic violence in the municipality;
- Members of the Podujevë/Podujevo MCMDV discussed challenges and needs to improve the support for families affected by domestic violence;
- MCMDV raised awareness among secondary school students from three different schools in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje. The students discussed institutional roles and responsibilities in countering domestic and gender-based violence;
- The Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje MCMDV co-ordinator organized the roundtable discussion “Today and every other day – Stop the violence”, with participants from various authorities and social organizations to enhance and strengthen collaboration among local stakeholders supporting victims of domestic and gender-based violence;
- A workshop on policies and laws in the fight against domestic violence gathered representatives from various government authorities, social organizations and NGOs. It focused on police training, awareness-raising, the engagement of men and boys, and equality between men and women.

### **Seminars to raise awareness of community safety forums on THB, domestic violence and hate crimes; Gjakovë/Djakovica and Ferizaj/Uroševac (6, 10 November 2023)**

The Mission supported the MoIA to facilitate two seminars on community safety forums in the regions of Gjakovë/Djakovica and Ferizaj/Uroševac. The seminars were attended by the MoIA Deputy Minister, the Mayor of Gjakovë/Djakovica, prosecutors, representatives of community safety fora, the KP, religious communities and CSOs, and municipal officials. The MoIA Deputy Minister underlined the importance of an inclusive approach in the prevention of THB and domestic violence. The role and importance of community safety forums in this effort were highlighted throughout the events.

### **Meeting of the Prishtinë/Priština Directorate for Safety and Emergencies (DSE) to draft the Capital City Parks Security Plan; Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo (13–14 November 2023)**

The Mission supported the DSE of Prishtinë/Priština in organizing a strategic meeting to draft the Capital City Parks Security Plan for participants representing the city administration, firefighters, the KP, the parks administration, and the Alpine Club. The plan is intended to reduce the number of offences occurring in and around parks. These offences include criminal damage to pathways, trees and buildings and parked vehicles, vehicle theft, illegal logging, and others. Provisional prevention measures agreed during the meeting included an increase in the number of police patrols, additional street lighting, the installation of CCTV cameras, information kiosks with trained first aiders, and an increase in the number of park wardens.

### **Workshop to finalize the Risk Assessment; Prishtinë/Priština (15–17 November 2023)**

A workshop for a working group of subject matter experts reviewed and finalized the “Risk Assessment of Natural Disasters and Other Disasters”. Representatives from the EMA, government ministries of internal affairs, local government administration, environment, finance, justice, and economy, KP, Red Cross, energy sector, and other relevant entities identified risks, contingencies and preventive measures for their respective fields based on the emergency management integrated system’s principles. All identified risks, contingencies for different scenarios, and prevention measures will be collated into one Kosovo document, which will be available online on the MoIA webpage.

### **Workshop for annual revision of the MoIA Communication Strategy and Action Plan; Pejë/Peć (17–18 November 2023)**

The Mission facilitated a workshop for the revision of the MoIA Communication Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2024, bringing together representatives of the MoIA, KAPS, KP, PIK and EMA, who reported significant progress in the implementation of the strategy. According to participants, the reporting period was marked by a series of impactful events that not only challenged the agencies of the security sector, but also provided valuable opportunities for adaptation and improvement of the communication strategy.

### **Training course on middle management for KCS officials; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (20–24 November 2023)**

The Mission delivered a tailored training course on mid-line management for supervisors and managers of the KCS. The



training course focused on the efficient management of prison staff, leadership styles in the prison environment, and the management of high-risk inmates. Through hands-on case scenarios, the training enhanced the attendees' skills in the management of a diverse workforce.

**Preparatory meeting; Belgrade, Serbia (22 March 2023) & Regional Hate Crime Conference for OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe; Tirana, Albania (21–22 November 2023)**

In March 2023, the Mission attended the regular OSCE South-Eastern Europe (SEE) focal point hate crime preparatory meeting hosted by the OSCE Mission to Serbia in Belgrade. The meeting was held to prepare the next regional hate crime conference focusing on hate speech and its correlation to hate crimes.

The annual SEE Hate Crime Conference, entitled “The interrelation between hate crime and hate speech: Challenges and solutions in responses”, took place in November 2023. The conference brought together hate crime focal points and other staff members working on hate crime issues at OSCE SEE field operations, as well as representatives of ODIHR, CSOs, local points of contact for hate crimes, and other local institutions and organizations.

**Roundtable and training workshop on gender mainstreaming and anti-corruption; Prishtinë/Priština (23–24 November 2023)**

A roundtable on gender mainstreaming and anti-corruption gathered representatives of the AWKP, the Association of Women in Kosovo Correctional Services (AWKCS), the APC, the PIK, prosecution bodies, and other institutions and NGOs. The participants discussed the disproportional effects of corruption on women, calling for further efforts to promote women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the development and implementation of relevant anti-corruption activities. The roundtable was followed by a tailored training workshop for representatives of the AWKP, who learned about the importance of incorporating gender indicators into the monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption programmes.

**21st Executive Council Meeting of LPSCs; Prishtinë/Priština (30 November 2023)**

The Mission supported the 21st LPSC Executive Council Meeting, hosted and chaired by the LPSC “Mushnikovë/Mušnikovo” from the Municipality of Prizren. The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, General Director of the KP, the Mission's Director of the Department for Security and Public Safety, and the Prime Minister's representative identified

good practices, promoted information-sharing between LPSCs, and improved co-operation with the police and other institutions.

**Debriefing workshop for trainers on domestic violence risk assessment; Prishtinë/Priština (29–30 November 2023)**

The Mission facilitated a debriefing workshop to discuss the entire risk assessment process in this field for officers from the police and other institutions. The discussions also focused on the need for shelters for male victims, challenges in the process of enforcing and terminating protection orders, and safety planning and interview techniques.

**Workshop on drafting the Kosovo Agency on Forensics (KAF) regulation for performance management; Prishtinë/Priština (29 November–1 December 2023)**

A working group of the KAF management staff discussed and finalized the Regulation for Performance Management System, specifically focusing on the identification of clear, specific and measurable objectives, as well as on the requirement to amend and complete the relevant KAF regulations to comply with the latest legislative changes.

**Workshop to draft the new KP Gender Equality Agenda and Action Plan; Prizren (29 November–1 December 2023)**

The Mission supported the KP in organizing a workshop to finalize the new KP Gender Equality Agenda and Action Plan for the period 2024–2028. The workshop brought together field experts representing all KP departments and representatives of the Mission. It focused on the recruitment and professional development of women and men within the KP.

**Raising awareness of domestic and gender-based violence; Prishtinë/Priština (1 December 2023)**

The Mission delivered a presentation on the institutional response to incidents of gender-based violence at the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety to participants from different public safety institutions. The presentation provided an overview of the applicable policy and available services in cases involving gender-based violence.

**Workshop for annual revision of the KP Human Resources and Training Strategy and Action Plan; Prishtinë/Priština (4 December 2023)**

The Mission facilitated a workshop for senior police managers who identified achievements and challenges in the

implementation of the KP Human Resources and Training Strategy 2021–2024. Discussions focused on achievements concerning enhanced gender diversity in the recruitment of police cadets and challenges for women police officers in the KP promotion process.

#### **Advanced training programme on police operations in urban areas; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (4–8 December 2023)**

An advanced training programme for officers of the KP Specialized Operational Units enhanced their skills in special police operations in urban areas. The training aimed at improving the units' proficiency in command post management and communications, tactical movements in urban settings and inside buildings, and handling active shooter and multiple shooter scenarios.

#### **Regional workshops to present the standard operating procedure (SOP) for treating persons with disabilities; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Istog/Istok, Prizren and Prishtinë/Priština (5–14 December 2023)**

The Mission supported the organization of regional workshops to present the SOP to police officers of different ranks from all regional police directorates. During the workshops, the audience received information on the newly adopted SOP, including instructions for the treatment of persons with disabilities during interviews, arrest or police detention. The document provides procedural instructions for police in safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities during legal proceedings.

#### **Workshop for the annual revision of the PIK Development Plan and Action Plan; Prishtinë/Priština (5–7 December 2023)**

Senior managers of the PIK, the Mission's in-house experts, and a representative from ICITAP reviewed and evaluated the implementation of the PIK Development Plan 2022–2025 and Action Plan for 2023. The workshop participants examined the key performance indicators outlined in the plan and explored opportunities for improving overall performance.

#### **Workshop on the KAF Development Strategy and Action Plan; Prishtinë/Priština (6 December 2023)**

A workshop to review the KAF Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2026 brought together senior managers of KAF and Mission experts to analyse and discuss the achievement of strategic objectives and the implementation of activities under the Action Plan as foreseen for 2023. Members of the working group concluded that the legislative changes adopted over the recent years require the KAF Development Strategy 2022–2026 to be amended accordingly.

#### **Training course on techniques for interviewing minors; Pejë/Peć (6–8 December 2023)**

Using in-house expertise, the Mission conducted a training course aimed at strengthening the skills of KP officers and members of the AWKP in interviewing minors. The training course addressed various aspects to ensure the accurate and ethical handling of minors in interviews. Through case scenarios, participants learned to use the guidelines for interviewing adults and minors.

#### **Promoting the manual on sexual harassment; Prishtinë/Priština (11 December 2023)**

The Office of Good Governance in the Office of the Prime Minister presented the Manual for Implementing the Policy Against Sexual Harassment in Public Administration to KP officers. The Manual provides practical guidance about the Policy against Sexual Harassment, and outlines procedures for reporting cases of sexual harassment in the workplace.

#### **Training course on intelligence-led operations for specialized police units; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (11–15 December 2023)**

A training course for KP officers advanced their proficiency in intelligence-led policing methods focusing on the fundamentals of intelligence-led operations, data collection, analysis, strategic planning and reasoned decision-making.

#### **Workshop for the annual revision of the Association of Women in Kosovo Police (AWKP) Development Strategy and Action Plan; Pejë/Peć (12–13 December 2023)**

The Mission supported the AWKP in reviewing their Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2024. The working group considered the progress towards the Plan's strategic and specific objectives, which aim to foster a culture of gender equality, attain a gender balance in decision-making/leadership positions, and integrate gender perspectives into policing. The working group agreed that despite the progress made, addressing the under-representation of women in the KP and decision-making positions should be prioritized in planning further advancements.

#### **AWKCS annual convention; Prishtinë/Priština (15 December 2023)**

The Mission supported the annual convention of the AWKCS, which gathered the Deputy Minister of Justice, the General Director of the KCS, the Head of the Agency for Gender Equality within the Office of the Prime Minister, members of

the AWKCS and KCS, along with representatives of the Mission, the US Embassy, EULEX, and NGOs. The participants emphasized the AWKCS's dedication to addressing the specific needs of women in the KCS by fostering their professional development. This requires a continued commitment to advocating for gender equality and promoting awareness, as well as opening the route for women's professional advancement within the KCS.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

### Training course on prevention of VERLT for new police officers; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren and Pejë/Peć (16–28 February 2023)

Frontline police officers learned about recognizing and preventing VERLT in Kosovo through constructive discussions. The attendees explored definitions of extremism and radicalization, factors and motives of young people exposed to recruitment, extremism, and the radicalization process.

### Training programme on countering terrorist financing (CTF); Vienna and Pejë/Peć (27 February–14 December 2023)

The training programme focused on teaching investigative methods for financial investigations carried out as part of counter-terrorism investigations. As part of the programme, the following activities were conducted in 2023:

- A foundational course on CTF for trainers representing the KP, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the KTA, basic court prosecution representatives and the court of Prishtinë/Priština, and the Office of the Kosovo Coordinator against Terrorism;
- An analysis course on CTF for the same audience;
- Basic and enhanced investigation courses on CTF.

### Conference on THB and labour exploitation in supply chains; Prishtinë/Priština (9 March 2023)

In co-operation with the Office of the OSCE Special Representative for Combating THB and the Kosovo MoIA, the Mission hosted a conference on taking action against THB and labour exploitation in supply chains. The conference gathered representatives of the government and members of Kosovo anti-trafficking institutions, chambers of commerce, trade unions, associations of employers, labour inspectors, CSOs, and other private and public partners in the prevention and suppression of human trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation in supply chains.

### Workshop to finalize guidelines on hate crimes; Prishtinë/Priština (18–20 December 2023)

The Mission supported the ombudsperson institution in finalizing guidelines for treating hate crimes. During the workshop, the working group reviewed the document, focusing on the scope of the guide, a clear definition of hate crimes, and making a distinction between hate incidents and hate crimes.

### Training course on the practical implementation of the SOP for victims of trafficking; Prishtinë/Priština (14–15 March 2023)

A multi-disciplinary training course focused on the practical implementation of the SOP for trafficked persons in Kosovo and involved participants from the KP Directorate for Investigation of THB, the VAAO, CSWs, and shelters for victims of trafficking.

### Training activity on stand-alone money laundering integrated investigation; Prishtinë/Priština (8–10 May 2023)

Participants from the KP, APC, Prosecution Office, FIU, KTA, customs and the Basic Court of Prishtinë/Priština learned about the stand-alone money laundering integrated investigation method and new *modi operandi* being used for money laundering. The course also equipped the participants with knowledge of relevant European Union (EU) legislation, practices and sanctions on anti-money laundering, as well as with contemporary methodologies and techniques for tracing illegally obtained assets.

### Roundtable on the importance of inter-institutional co-ordination and collaboration in the management of sequestered and confiscated assets; Prishtinë/Priština (11 May 2023)

Kosovo's Agency for Management of Sequestered or Confiscated Assets (AMSCA) facilitated a roundtable on the importance of inter-institutional co-ordination and collaboration in the management of sequestered and confiscated assets. The event gathered participants from the AMSCA, judiciary, prosecution, law enforcement agencies, and other relevant institutions, including representatives from the US Embassy in Prishtinë/Priština, the Council of Europe Office in Prishtinë/Priština, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and EULEX. The Minister of Justice and the Head of OSCE Mission opened the event and highlighted the

co-ordination of activities and collaboration between the relevant entities as being crucial to bring perpetrators to justice with due process.

**Workshop to present the master plan for the further development of canine capabilities in the area of small arms and light weapons (SALW); Prishtinë/Priština (12 May 2023)**

A workshop for participants of the MoIA and KP, representatives from Germany and the OSCE Secretariat focused on the further development of canine capabilities of the KP. The master plan, developed by the Mission, establishes priorities and activities for an upgrade of the KP canine unit.

**Roundtables on enhancing inter-institutional Co-operation in handling cases of THB and the protection of victims of trafficking; Ferizaj/Uroševac, Prishtinë/Priština and Pejë/Peć (22–30 May 2023)**

Roundtables on enhancing inter-institutional co-operation in handling cases of THB and on the protection of victims of trafficking gathered representatives from the MoIA, the KP Directorate for Investigation of THB, the VAAO, the Prosecutor's Office, courts, shelters for accommodating victims of trafficking, the Ministry of Health (MoH), and CSWs. The discussions touched on the shortcomings and challenges faced by practitioners throughout the process of protecting victims, from their identification to their reintegration.

**Workshop for the final evaluation of the Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime; Prizren (31 May–2 June 2023)**

The workshop brought together officials representing the MoIA, the Ministry of Justice, the Kosovo Coordinator against Organized Crime, judicial and prosecutorial councils, the KP, the Ministry of Finance, the FIU, customs, and other relevant local institutions and international partner organizations. The participants carried out the final evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime 2018–2022 and prepared a final comprehensive report to serve as a baseline for further actions to be taken by various relevant institutions.

**Specialized training course on accounting and analytical skills in integrated investigations of financial crimes; Prishtinë/Priština (14–16 June 2023)**

Participants from the KP Directorate for Investigation of Economic Crimes and Corruption, the APC, the Prosecutor's Office, the FIU, the KTA, and the Basic Court of Prishtinë/Priština participated in an advanced and specialized training course on accounting and analytical skills in integrated in-

vestigations of financial crimes. The participants learned how to trace earnings or expenditures of individuals and companies to determine whether a physical person or legal entity is making false claims about wealth and to detect fraud.

**Training polygon for the KP canine unit; Prishtinë/Priština (27 September 2023)**

The Mission attended the inauguration of a new training polygon for the KP canine unit, which it built and handed over, along with other specialized training equipment for the unit's use. The Head of the OSCE Mission highlighted that it has never been more important to strengthen capacity to detect and confiscate illegal SALW, ammunition and explosives. The training polygon will help the KP enhance detection skills, while the specialized equipment will provide them with the necessary tools to seize and confiscate illicit weapons.

**Specialized training course on investigations of child trafficking and pro-active investigations using special investigative measures; Prishtinë/Priština (4–6 October 2023)**

In co-operation with the Council of Europe Office in Prishtinë/Priština, the Mission organized a specialized training course on investigations of child trafficking and pro-active investigations using special investigative measures. The training course gathered participants responsible for investigating human trafficking cases and provided them with a platform to enhance their knowledge and skills, as well as to openly discuss case studies.

**Training courses on analysing, preventing and combating environmental crime; Prizren, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjilan/Gnjilane (10–12 October 2023)**

Training courses on analysing, preventing and combating environmental crime for KP officers, prosecutors, municipal environment protection officers, and officials from the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI) aimed at enhancing the effectiveness in combating environmental crimes, focusing on aspects such as environmental offenses, administrative responsibilities, illegal logging, and relevant environmental protection provisions within the Criminal Code.

**Workshops to draft the new Strategy and Action Plan against Narcotics; Prizren (17–19 October, 11 December 2023)**

The workshops convened the working group responsible for drafting the new Strategy and Action Plan against Narcotics 2024–2028. The Mission contributed throughout the stages of the process alongside the EU Home Affairs Programme (HAPE).

**Workshop to draft cyber security sub-legal acts; Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren (24–25, 30–31 October 2023)**

The working group on cyber security convened to draft sub-legal acts stemming from the cybersecurity law on the register of cyber incidents, on the register of cyber security risks, on notification procedures and contents of cyber incident reports, and on measures and procedures that restrict or temporarily suspend the use or access to a network or information system in the event of a cyber incident.

**Workshop on the destruction of confiscated narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; Prishtinë/Priština (17 November 2023)**

A brainstorming workshop deliberated on the destruction of confiscated narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in accordance with recommendations stemming from the Annual Evaluation Report of the Strategy and Action Plan against Narcotics. The workshop hosted participants representing the MoIA, the KP, the MESPI, the MoH, and partners from the EU Office in Kosovo, ICITAP and the EU project HAPE. The workshop addressed the importance of creating an SOP for the destruction of seized narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and focused on evaluating the existing gaps and requirements within the institutions responsible for managing the disposal of such substances.

**Workshop for the annual evaluation of the Strategy against THB; Pejë/Peć (21–23 November 2023)**

The workshop gathered participants from the MoIA, the MoH, the Ministry of Local Government Administration, the KP, the VAAO, the judiciary, shelters, and international and local organizations to evaluate the Strategy against THB 2022–2026 and the Action Plan 2022–2024. The attendees reported on the status of activity implementation, shared details on achievements, along with the challenges they face in the course of implementation. A comprehensive report has been compiled by the MoIA Secretariat for Strategies and was shared with relevant stakeholders.

**Training course on analysing, preventing and combating organized crime; Prizren (29 November–1 December 2023)**

The training workshops fostered understanding of how to prevent and combat serious crimes involving organized criminal groups, both locally and internationally. The Mission's in-house expert exchanged knowledge and expertise with prosecutors and police investigators from the KP Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime.

**Meetings of the Kosovo Cyber Security Council (KCSC) with the Secretariat of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) and the Dutch National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC); The Hague, Netherlands (4–5 December 2023)**

The Mission organized two meetings for representatives of the KCSC with the Secretariat of the GFCE and the NCSC in The Hague, Netherlands. The GFCE and the KCSC agreed to enhance their co-operation, particularly in working jointly on projects that would benefit Kosovo institutions. The meeting with the NCSC proved crucial for the KCSC to learn about good practices and challenges of establishing and running a cyber security centre.

**Workshop for the annual evaluation of the Strategy and Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Terrorism; Pejë/Peć (4–6 December 2023)**

A workshop to evaluate the annual implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Terrorism 2023–2028 gathered participants from the MoIA, the KP, customs, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Academy of Justice, the KCS, the KPS, the PIK, international and local organizations and NGOs. The event was opened by the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo, who both emphasized the importance of this strategic document in preventing and countering terrorism locally and globally.

**Advanced training seminar on counterfeiting; Prishtinë/Priština (7–8 December 2023)**

As part of Anti-Corruption Week, an advanced training seminar on counterfeiting was held for representatives of the KP, KTA, prosecution, and customs. The seminar focused on identifying counterfeit trademarks, facilitating information exchange between institutions responsible for trademark protection, understanding the complex landscape of internet-enabled counterfeiting crimes, and developing strategies for securing evidence in criminal cases related to trademark counterfeiting.

**Training course for anti-narcotics investigators through improved co-ordination with other agencies; Prishtinë/Priština (13–14 December 2023)**

Police investigators participated in a training course on combating the trafficking of illicit narcotics. The two modules of the training course focused on exploring the significance of thorough planning and investigation, as well as the collection of personal and material evidence in preparation for trial proceedings.

## 2.1.4 Mission to Montenegro

### Introduction

The OSCE Mission to Montenegro (the Mission) assists the host country in fostering a more accountable security sector capable of addressing serious threats and crimes, while ensuring public safety and the protection of the human rights in line with OSCE politico-military commitments. The Mission's Security Co-operation and Governance Programme continued supporting the authorities of Montenegro in reform processes.

#### ► **Strengthening of technical capacities of the cybercrime and criminal intelligence unit in data analysis; Podgorica, Montenegro (18 November 2023)**

The Mission works closely with the Montenegrin Ministry of the Interior (MoI) and Police to strengthen capacity to prevent and combat serious and organized crime. In 2023, Montenegro participated in Operation Mozaik 2023, a joint operation against the sexual exploitation of children in the Balkan region led by the Slovenian National Police and co-ordinated by Europol in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT). During the joint operation, police carried out 41 raids that resulted in the identification of 39 suspected child abusers. The Department for Combating Serious Crimes and its High-Tech Crime Unit conducted searches at four locations in Montenegro, seizing 11 electronic devices and arresting three people suspected of offences related to the possession of child abuse material.



📷 The arrest of one suspect as part of the major international operation “Mozaik 2023”, November 2023.

**Police Directorate of Montenegro**



The OSCE Mission to Montenegro, together with the UK and US embassies, supported the Police Directorate, which highlighted “the continuous co-operation with the representatives of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, who through their actions have enabled the strengthening of administrative and technical capacities and the increase in the level of specialization of the officers of the Police Directorate, in particular, the officers of the Group for the Suppression of High-Tech Crime.”

The Mission’s support included the provision of a forensic workstation computer and imager toolkit to the Police Directorate’s Forensic Centre, which significantly reduced the time needed to process information. Previously, it could take up to 16 hours to extract data from a mobile phone and several days to produce a report and analyse the extracted data. In one case, five electronic devices including phones, laptops, and storage devices containing over 1TB of data were taken from a suspect. It took several weeks to extract and analyse the data, in which over 16,500 photos and videos of child sexual abuse were found. Using the forensic station, data analysis has become much faster and more efficient.

## General police development and reform

### Development of an e-learning platform for the Ministry of the Interior; Podgorica, Montenegro (April–October 2023)

The initial steps for developing an e-learning platform were taken in 2022. Activities related to the further development of the e-learning platform in 2023 included: 6–7 April 2023, officers of the Police Training Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia visited the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro to exchange experiences and knowledge on the establishment of e-learning systems for police and state officials at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro.

From 25 to 29 September 2023, the Mission supported the training of Mol officials to develop and upload e-learning material to the platform. The training course was followed by a six-week mentorship by the Mission’s experts, during which each of the participants developed a course within their own field of expertise to be posted on the platform or further developed by the Mol Directorate for Police Training and Development.

It is planned that by February 2024, the e-learning platform will contain more than ten different lectures, which will cover subjects such as integrity, human rights and legal provisions for police officers. Moreover, a co-operation will be established with UNODC to upload many of their e-learning courses onto the platform.

### Development of a police mobile application; Podgorica, Montenegro (throughout 2023)

The development of a police mobile application was part of a three-phase project. In 2022, the Mission supported the research and development of a mobile police application, procured IT equipment and tools for the Mol’s IT Centre and, together with DCAF, trained the staff of the IT Centre staff in establishing the platform. In addition, the Mission supported research to identify steps to develop a pilot Virtual Police Station mobile phone application, an online police service for citizens to report crimes, and to request general information or other services. As part of the government’s digitization agenda, the application is designed to increase public trust in the police by contributing to more interactions between police and the general public.

The mobile application was completed and tested in November 2023. It has been handed over to the Police Directorate, but has not yet been officially made available for use.

### Implementation of the Police Communication Strategy and Action Plan (2023–2026); Podgorica, Montenegro (completed 9 June 2023)

The Mission supported the development of the Police Communication Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2026, which has been approved by the Police Directorate and is awaiting approval by the Mol. The Mission continued to implement its

key measures, including the development of training curricula and the delivery of communication training courses to officers at all local police security centres.

#### **Conducting the annual police perception survey; Montenegro (throughout 2023)**

The Mission supported the MoI and the Police Directorate in conducting the annual public opinion survey to assess citizens' attitudes towards the work of the police, their views on the main threats to their personal security, local security problems, and their perceptions of corruption, gender, institutions and overall police reform. The survey indicated a high level of trust of the police by the general public.

#### **Continuing campaign for more women in the police and encouraging young people to seek a career in policing; Podgorica, Montenegro (May–June 2023)**

In co-operation with the Police Directorate and the Police Academy, the Mission conducted the month-long awareness-raising campaign "I Choose the Police" to encourage young women and men to apply for the Police Academy. Over the course of a month, the campaign videos reached nearly 300,000 people through social media. The Police Directorate

also organized an outreach campaign, visiting schools and talking to more than 800 high school students about career opportunities and the benefits of joining the police. Since the initiative was launched in 2020, the number of female recruits to the Police Academy has increased significantly.

#### **Networking meetings of the Montenegrin Women's Police Association (WPA); Tirana Albania (3–4 April) and Barcelona, Spain (17–18 October 2023)**

Following the successful visit of the Montenegrin Women's Police Association to North Macedonia in 2022, the Mission supported another visit of the Association's members to the Albanian State Police. The participants learned from the experience of the Albanian State Police, which has achieved significant results in increasing the number of women in its ranks. The meeting also served to establish initial communication and to exchange know-how on how to promote gender equality in the service.

In place of its annual meeting, the WPA of Montenegro opted for a visit to the European Network of Police Women in Barcelona, Spain (17–18 October 2023). Representatives from Montenegro presented the work and planned activities of the WPA in Montenegro.

## **Addressing threats posed by criminal activity**

#### **Annual Regional Forensic Conference; Podgorica, Montenegro (12–13 October 2023)**

With the support of the Mission, the Annual Regional Forensic Conference brought together the heads of forensic institutions and forensic experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Türkiye to strengthen regional co-operation between forensic centres. It served as a platform to exchange knowledge and experience between experts in the field of forensics.

#### **Procurement of forensic equipment; Podgorica, Montenegro (13 September 2023)**

The Mission continued equipping the Montenegrin Forensic Centre's digital laboratory with digital forensic software, adapters, a computer system, and audio and video equipment. The Director of the Forensic Centre, stated that "with the Mission's support, both in terms of training and equipment, the Forensic Centre has new and more sophisticated

methods of investigation, increasing the quality and the number of cases processed. It is able to solve the most serious crimes. Their work process has been accelerated, which has played a significant role in improving the work of the judicial institutions in Montenegro." The official handover of equipment was completed on 13 September 2023.

#### **Series of workshops on the use of analysis software; throughout Montenegro (17–19 September, 2–6 October, 2023)**

The Mission organized workshops for criminal intelligence officers and analysts from several police directorates on the use of modern analysis software. In particular, the workshops focused on data processing, reliability assessment and access control to improve the efficiency and quality of investigations as well as the visual analysis of events over time. This integration will allow investigators to gain deeper insight into criminal activity, streamline data analysis processes and contribute to successful investigation outcomes.



### **Environmental crime assessment; Montenegro (2–6 October 2023)**

The Mission commissioned a comprehensive analysis of the state of environmental crime in Montenegro, including conclusions and recommendations. Based on this analysis, activities were planned for 2024 in co-operation with the Police Directorate and other competent institutions. The trafficking and illegal dumping of hazardous materials has become a significant source of revenue for a growing number of criminal networks. The illegal dumping of hazardous materials is a serious threat to the environment and human health, and is a serious problem in Montenegro. To address these issues, Montenegro has made significant changes to its environmental and sustainable development legal and policy frameworks.

### **Three-day regional conference focusing on the victim-centred approach to interviewing child victims of sexual exploitation; Budva, Montenegro (9–11 October 2023)**

The Mission facilitated a three-day conference focusing on a victim-centred approach to interviewing child victims of sexual exploitation. It gathered prosecutors, judges, police officers, psychologists, social workers and NGO representatives from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Romania and Slovenia. During the workshop, different approaches and experiences in working with underage victims of human trafficking were discussed. The workshop also introduced participants to the universally recognized protocol for interviewing child victims of abuse and exploitation by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

### **Development of guidelines for police officers interviewing potential THB victims, with a set of questions for police officers, judiciary and social workers; across Montenegro (throughout 2023)**

The Mission supported the development of guidelines for interviewing potential victims of THB by judges, prosecutors and police officers.<sup>5</sup> The Mission organized three workshops for police officers, social workers and representatives of the Mol. One of the challenges for first responders is to distinguish between those who are in the business of human trafficking and those who are the victims of trafficking. Participants learned how to identify trafficking victims by asking specific questions. The workshops also touched on risks to victims, ethical considerations, and practical realities related to trafficking.

### **Support for the formal accreditation of the Forensic Centre Ballistics Laboratory with the Montenegro Accreditation Institution; Montenegro (throughout 2023)**

With the support of the Mission, the Forensic Centre of the Police Directorate received the official Accreditation Certificate for its Ballistic Laboratory, which certifies that the laboratory meets the highest international standard – ISO 17025. To support the accreditation process, the Mission engaged ballistic experts from North Macedonia whose ballistic lab was already accredited. The Head of the Forensic Centre expressed that this accreditation strengthened the Centre's capacity and fostered trust in the accuracy and impartiality of its work. The accreditation empowers police and our law enforcement agencies with the tools needed to address security challenges effectively. The support of your Mission has not only improved our capabilities, but has also contributed to the broader goal of enhancing regional security through more effective forensic practices.

<sup>5</sup> OSCE 2018, Guidelines on General principles regarding non-punishment provision for victims of trafficking in human beings (THB), accessible at <https://www.osce.org/mission-to-montenegro/406487>

## 2.1.5 Mission to Serbia

### Introduction

The OSCE Mission to Serbia (the Mission) was established in 2001 with the mandate to assist the host authorities in, *inter alia*, the restructuring and training of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. The Mission assists the host country in achieving a sustainable and accountable security sector that is able to address serious threats and crimes, ensure public safety and protect the human rights of citizens.


#### ► Hope from tragedy—enhancing child safety across Serbia; Belgrade, Serbia (30 August–31 December 2023)

Following the tragic mass shootings in Serbia on 3 and 4 May 2023, the Ministry of the Interior (Mol) launched the project “Together and Safely through Childhood” to boost outreach to elementary schools and improve child safety. In August, the OSCE Mission to Serbia co-signed a Protocol on co-operation with the Mol, the Ministry of Education, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, the Road Traffic Safety Agency, CARITAS in Serbia, and the University of Criminal Investigation and Police. On that occasion, the Minister of Education, Slavica Djukić Dejanović, explained that the project would be implemented in all classes of all primary schools across Serbia through educational workshops. The Head of Mission Ambassador Jan Braathu said that he hoped that the number of similar prevention activities would increase in the future.<sup>6</sup> The project was launched at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year in September 2023; it is planned to implement it in all primary schools across Serbia.


By the end of the first six months, a total of 17,799 workshops were held for 231,555 elementary schoolchildren across Serbia, focused on peer and digital violence, and basic safety in traffic and emergency situations. The Mission supported the project by obtaining licenses for an interactive online platform, which is being used to resolve peer conflict situation in real and virtual environments and to conduct knowledge quizzes on safety. The State Secretary of the Mol Željko Brkić stated that “the police, through preventive measures and the daily engagement of more than 2,500 police officers in charge of the safety of students, schools and teachers, demonstrated institutional responsibility in the face of numerous security challenges.” He highlighted the safety of children, young people and teachers as a key priority for the Serbian government, and that the project “Together and Safely through Childhood” shows that “only by working together can we create a safe environment for children.”

<sup>6</sup> Euronews Serbia 2023, Potpisan protokol o saradnji i sprovođenju projekta “Zajedno i bezbedno kroz detinjstvo” (30 August 2023), accessible at <https://www.euronews.rs/srbija/drustvo/98159/potpisan-protokol-o-saradnji-i-sprovođenju-projekta-zajedno-i-bezbedno-kroz-detinjstvo/vest>



-  Launch of the project "Together and Safely through Childhood", Belgrade, Serbia, 2 September 2023.  
**OSCE/Milan Obradović**



-  Ambassador Jan Braathu, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, and Minister of Education Slavica Djukić Dejanović on the occasion of the signing of the protocol of the project "Together and Safely through Childhood", Serbian Government, Belgrade, Serbia, 30 August 2023.  
**OSCE/Milan Obradović**

► **A new generation of cyber security experts; Belgrade, Serbia (May–October 2023)**

The OSCE Mission to Serbia has been supporting youth engagement with cyber security issues since 2020. The Cyber-Hero Programme is a platform for young people to network and communicate, access informal education and receive mentorship. Under this programme, the Mission supported the organization of the Serbian Cybersecurity Challenge 2023, which aimed to identify new talents and present them with job opportunities. The competition attracted a large number of students from diverse backgrounds.

The Mission's support was especially encouraging for Ana Batranović, an 18-year-old high school student with a disability from Novi Sad. Ana's remarkable cybersecurity story begins in October 2021. Following spinal surgery, Ana was confined to bedrest, apart for an hour or two every day. During that time, she discovered online platforms offering cybersecurity challenges, which she solved each day in order to distract herself.

Her interest in cybersecurity led her to the Serbian Cybersecurity Challenge. Participation in the competition empowered her to learn more and explore other competitions and mentoring programmes in the cybersecurity field. She later attended the preparations for the European Cybersecurity Challenge 2023 in Vienna, the Serbian Cybersecurity Challenge 2023, as well as the Women for Cyber mentoring programme. These programmes allowed her to meet practitioners and professionals from the public and private sectors and to expand her skills and knowledge. In March 2023, during her final year of high school, she was offered employment by a private cybersecurity company in Serbia as a "pen tester", an ethical hacker who tests security systems to find their weak points. When asked what the opportunity to participate in the national Cybersecurity Challenge meant for her, she said: "I don't think I would have had the opportunities I had without the national competition. It's a domino effect; you meet people who have been in the industry for years who are technically more capable than you, and that's how you learn the fastest. I'm very grateful for all the opportunities I've had, and I hope that one day I'll be able to help someone get started in cybersecurity. The field is demanding but very important and interesting."

Since Ana's own participation in national competitions, she has become a mentor to new participants. As a mentor, she is involved in the selection of the students representing Serbia in the European Cybersecurity Challenge (ESC) and in mentoring the youth team to prepare them for the challenge.



Ms. Ana Batranović and other participants at the Serbian Cybersecurity Challenge, Belgrade, Serbia, 17–18 May 2023.  
**OSCE/Milan Obradović**

## General police development and reform

### **Webinar on International Women's Day of the Women Police Officers Network; online (8 March 2023)**

The Mission contributed to the Women Police Officers Network (WPON) webinar to mark International Women's Day. The webinar gathered participants representing the Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, the Mol, UNDP and UN Women. The participants underlined their continued work on gender equality commitments, including combating gender-based violence and addressing crimes disproportionately affecting women.

### **Local safety councils increase their capacities on safety and prevention; countrywide, Serbia (March–November 2023)**

To foster local safety partnerships, the Mission initiated a series of visits to local safety councils, which are a major community policing instrument. The Mission visited local self-governments in Bačka Topola, Čajetina, Niš, Novi Pazar, Senta, Sjenica, Sombor, Ub, Užice and Veliko Gradište. During each visit, the participants discussed the importance of local safety councils and their functioning, including the use of safety and prevention. As a result of the visits, in November 2023, the Mission, working closely with the Mol and the National Academy for Public Administration, organized a training course in Belgrade on local safety for self-government representatives.

### **Upgrading of the website of the Basic Police Training Centre; Sremska Kamenica, Serbia (April–August 2023)**

The Mission finalized the upgrading of the website of the Mol's Basic Police Training Centre to make it more user-friendly and to ensure that it provides up-to-date information for prospective candidates, including those from national minorities. The website's promotional textual and visual material for future basic police training candidates was translated into 12 national minority languages (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian, Romani-Vojvodina vernacular, Romani-Serbia vernacular, Ruthenian, Slovak and Ukrainian). The newly upgraded website makes the police service more accessible to all potential candidates across the country. The website can be visited at <https://www.copo.edu.rs>.

### **Seminars on primary prevention and well-being for women police officers; Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Niš, Serbia (27 April–6 June 2023)**

The Mission supported the Women Police Officers Network (WPON) in organizing seminars on the importance of women's well-being and health care. The seminars gathered women police officers, who were briefed by the Mol's medical staff on the importance of primary prevention and well-being.

### **Seminars for police on data protection; Avala, Niš, Novi Sad, and Srebrno jezero, Serbia (11 May–27 October 2023)**

The Mission organized a series of seminars on data protection in partnership with the Department for Data Processing, Complaints and Cooperation with the Mol's Independent Bodies. The seminars benefited police officers from 27 police districts, who learned about data protection when handling information from citizens, suspects, victims and witnesses of crime.

### **Support to national efforts on youth crime prevention; Niš, Vrdnik and Zlatibor, Serbia (15 May–12 November 2023)**

The Mission supported the Mol's Criminal Investigations Directorate and its Department for Juvenile Crime in organizing juvenile crime prevention training courses for juvenile crime officers. The training seminars focused on international standards in the field of juvenile crime, the application of police powers to minors, contacting and interviewing juvenile offenders, and guidelines on the treatment of this offender group. The courses also touched on how to secure evidence in cases of drug-related criminality, terrorism and extremism, cybercrime and human trafficking.

### **Training seminar for the Serbian Women Police Officers Network and the police association "European Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Police"; Belgrade, Serbia (24–26 May 2023)**

The Mission organized a seminar on project proposal development for members of the Serbian Women Police Officers Network and the police association "European Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Police". The aim was to enhance project development capacities to ensure sustainability. During his visit, the OSCE Chairpersonship-in-Office met with the participants of this in-house training seminar.

**Training courses on community policing for police supervisors; Niš and Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia (29 May–2 June 2023, 30 October–1 November 2023)**

In co-operation with the Mol, the Mission organized a series of training courses on practical aspects of community policing for police supervisors from various districts in Serbia. The seminars covered topics such as preventive work, intelligence-led policing and gender equality aspects of policing. The training course in Vrnjačka Banja targeted newly appointed supervisors. Over the past three years, the Mission has organized six training cycles for supervisors from all 27 police districts in Serbia.

**Seminars for the gender focal points of the Mol; Belgrade, Serbia (30 May–7 November 2023)**

The Mission organized a series of seminars for the Mol's gender focal points in order to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out new reporting duties set out by the Law on Gender Equality (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia no. 52/2021).

**Inclusive recruitment promotional campaign; countrywide, Serbia (21 July, 1 August 2023)**

To support a promotional campaign to attract applicants for basic police training, the Mission delivered 33,200 leaflets in Serbian and 12 national minority languages to the Mol. The Mol joined their efforts with representatives of local self-governments, the councils for inter-ethnic relations, the national minority councils and representatives of national minorities. The campaign aimed to promote the police as a career, providing information on employment conditions and criteria for candidate selection in order to motivate potential candidates to apply, especially those from national minorities.

**Assessment of the predictive validity of the psychological tests for candidates seeking to embark on basic police training; Sremska Kamenica, Serbia (August–December 2023)**

The Mission finalized the expert assessment of the predictive validity of the Basic Police Training Centre's psychological tests for candidates seeking to embark on basic police training. In 2024, the Mission will use these findings to support the Mol in improving the psychological tests and making the recruitment process more inclusive.

**Support for candidates from national minorities to enrol in basic police training; countrywide, Serbia (2–12 August, 25 September–6 October 2023)**

The Mission supported the police association "European Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Police" by developing information campaigns to reach out to and prepare prospective candidates from national minorities for basic police training. As part of this effort, the Mission and the police association organized a seminar for association members representing different minority groups to discuss challenges in the recruitment of national minorities.

**Training seminars on asset declaration for police officers; Belgrade, Kragujevac, Niš, Novi Sad and Užice, Serbia (26 September–6 December 2023)**

To enhance police accountability, the Mission supported the Mol in organizing training seminars on the asset declaration process. The training seminars addressed the legal responsibility of police officers to report their property, as well as the obligation of the Mol's Sector for Internal Control to monitor for changes in the asset registry.

**Workshop on building police accountability through corruption risk assessments; online (24–26 October 2023)**

In partnership with the Serbian Agency for Prevention of Corruption, the Mission organized a workshop on corruption risk assessments, bringing together police officers from various duty stations. Experts from the Serbian Agency shared their knowledge and expertise in identifying and mitigating corruption risks within the police force.

**Support for visits to five police districts of the police association "European Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Police"; Belgrade, Leskovac, Novi Pazar, Subotica and Vranje, Serbia (23–29 November 2023)**

The Mission enabled members of the police association "European Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Police" to meet with chiefs of police districts across Serbia after the promotional campaign encouraging national minority candidates to apply to join the police service. The discussions during the meetings focused on good practices and challenges during the recruitment process.

**Expert meeting of traffic police and misdemeanor courts judges on the new law on road traffic safety; Sokobanja, Serbia (6–8 December 2023)**

The Mission facilitated an expert meeting of representatives from the traffic police and misdemeanor courts to discuss the enforcement of new legislation on traffic safety. The focus of the expert meeting was on the recently adopted amendments to the existing Law on Traffic Safety. The gathering was an opportunity to discuss practical challenges in the accurate and thorough implementation of the legislation.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

**Assessment of the legal framework on the deactivation of small arms and light weapons (SALW); (January–June 2023)**

The Mission conducted an assessment of national firearms legislation in order to support Serbia in incorporating international normative frameworks and standards for SALW deactivation into the national legislative framework. The Mission also provided a strategy for gender mainstreaming in the context of arms control, which strengthens the capacity of national authorities to include the gender perspective in SALW control policy and decision-making.

**Enhancement of Multi-Agency efforts in the prevention of VERLT; Belgrade and Vrdnik, Serbia (10–11 January, 24–26 April 2023)**

In co-operation with the Dutch Embassy in Belgrade and the Mol's Service for Combating Terrorism, the Mission organized two workshops for an inter-ministerial working group in order to prepare for an initial assessment team to assess the vulnerability and risk of radicalization. The working group is comprised of representatives of the Mol, the Ministry of Education Development (MoE), and Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs (MLEVSA), the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, and the Security Information Agency.

**Contribution to a national workshop on social re-use of confiscated assets; Belgrade, Serbia (24 January 2023)**

The Mission supported the organization of a national workshop entitled "Social re-use of confiscated assets in Serbia".

**Public perception survey on police work; countrywide, Serbia (December 2023)**

The Mission and the Mol conducted a survey of the perception of Serbian citizens of public safety and the work of the police. The survey relied on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 citizens. The results indicated a notable increase in citizens' trust in key institutions in Serbia during 2023 in comparison to 2022. The survey has been conducted regularly since 2008.

Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Mol, Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office and TNTD/SPMU launched the event.

**Strengthening Co-operation against organized crime; online (26 January 2023) and Sofia, Bulgaria (26–27 October 2023)**

As part of its effort to foster regional co-operation in combating organized crime, the Mission supported the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors (PCOCP) in organizing online and in-person Executive Board meetings. The Mission organized an in-person meeting hosted by the Sofia Appellate Regional Prosecution Office for Executive Board members. On the occasion of this meeting, Austria signed a declaration of intent to join the PCOCP and the Executive Board received an update on the PCOCP Secretariat's work over the past months.

**Co-organization of the 9th Annual Meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors (PCOCP); Belgrade, Serbia (21–22 February 2023)**

The Mission supported the OSCE Secretariat in organizing and hosting the 9th Annual Meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors (PCOCP). The meeting was opened with an address by the Head of Mission, Ambassador Braathu, and the Head of the TNTD/SPMU, Sami Ryhänen. The 2023 Annual Meeting focused on money laundering, cybercrime, countering terrorism and the challenges posed by FTFs. The Annual Meeting was an opportunity for the participants to share their views and good practices.



**Conference and roundtable on human rights and THB in supply chains; Belgrade, Serbia (21–22 March 2023)**

The Mission, in collaboration with the OSCE Secretariat's Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the CSO ASTRA, organized a conference addressing global trends and challenges in integrating human rights due diligence within legal frameworks in the EU and globally. Participants representing governments, CSOs and the private sector attended the conference.

In the margins of the conference, the Mission, the OSCE Secretariat and the German Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights, in co-operation with the local Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia and the Initiative for Global Solidarity of the German Development Agency (GIZ), co-hosted a business roundtable discussion on THB in supply chains, gathering private sector representatives from Serbia.

**Support for the Mol campaign for voluntary surrender of weapons; countrywide, Serbia (8 May–30 June 2023)**

The Mission, in co-operation with the Mol, initiated an awareness-raising campaign to support the policy of reducing the ownership of firearms that was launched after the two mass shootings in Serbia in May 2023. As part of the voluntary surrender campaign, the Mission supported the Mol by producing audio-visual information materials. These materials were broadcast on national television, disseminated via social media, and shown on billboards throughout Serbia.

**Support for the police and prosecution authorities to enhance capacities in conducting financial investigations; Belgrade, Vrdnik and Vršac, Serbia (17 May, 20 June, 21–22 September, 29–30 November 2023)**

The Mission supported the meetings of a multi-stakeholder working group in developing an SOP for conducting financial investigations in line with global standards against money laundering and terrorist financing as set out by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The working group is comprised of representatives from the Tax Administration, the Mol (Financial Investigations Unit, Anti-Corruption Department, and the Service for Combating Organized Crime), the Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering, and the Public Prosecution Offices (Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, Public Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime, and Specialized Anti-Corruption Departments). It is focusing on enhancing investigative capacities, particularly in complex financial in-

vestigations parallel to criminal procedures. The Mission's experts shared their knowledge to aid the development of these procedures.

**Support for the 2023 National Cybersecurity Challenge Finals; Belgrade, Serbia (17–18 May 2023)**

The Mission supported the awards ceremony of the 2023 National Cybersecurity Challenge Finals in Belgrade. The event brought together participants of the competition's final round, their instructors, and representatives from government institutions, private and public sectors, academia and the international community. The winning teams were given their awards by the event sponsors. Businesses in the field of information and network security presented their work and offered career opportunities to the students. The competition was used to select the national team that participated in the International Cybersecurity Challenge 2023.

**Training events to build police capacity to tackle discrimination and recognize hate crimes; Šabac, Srebrno jezero and Belgrade, Serbia (18 May–22 December 2023)**

In co-operation with Serbia's Commissioner for Protection of Equality and the Mol, the Mission organized training events for police officers on recognizing discrimination and hate crimes. The events increased awareness and built police capacity to identify and respond to various types of discrimination. These covered modules on indicators, combating stereotypes and bias-motivated offenses, and understanding the impact of discrimination on communities. The participants also learned about the scope of the work and mandate of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and about international standards in the field of protection against discrimination.

**Training events on prosecuting and adjudicating environmental crimes; Belgrade, Kragujevac, Niš, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad and Šabac, Serbia (1 June–15 December 2023)**

The Mission organized training events across Serbia to enhance investigations, prosecutions and adjudications of environmental crimes. Mission-supported publications, including the *Guide for Procedure in Case of Improper Management of Hazardous Waste*<sup>7</sup> and the *Guide to advance the pro-*

<sup>7</sup> Serbia Ministry of Environmental Protection (2021), *Guide for Procedure in Case of Improper Management of Hazardous Waste*, accessible at <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/saopstenja/nekategorizovano/vodic-za-postupanje-u-slucaju-nepropisnog-upravljanja-opasnim-otpadom>

tected areas legislation,<sup>8</sup> were presented and distributed to all participants, which included police investigators, prosecutors, judges and environmental inspectors.

**Training-of-trainers (ToT) courses on human intelligence (HUMINT); Belgrade, Serbia (5–9 June, 9–13 October 2023)**

The Mol, the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, the Dutch police, and the Mission organized ToT courses on human intelligence (HUMINT). Handlers and controllers from the Mol's Criminal Intelligence Service refreshed their knowledge based on an updated curriculum for HUMINT. This new course is based on the Dutch training programme for informant handlers and should result in an update of the Mol's own training curricula.

**Preparation of grounds for the development of the Mol's case management capacities; Serbia (27 June 2023)**

The Mission organized a presentation on case management systems for representatives of the Mol, the Office of the Prosecutor for Organized Crime, as well as the US Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP). The focus of the presentation was the use of the specialized SIDDA-SIDNA case management and information system for investigations. This software enables the analysis of large data sets and the correlation of information to generate valuable insights for investigators. The initiative is a part of preparatory steps for the implementation of a Case Management Project within the Mol.

**Support for police and prosecution to strengthen capacities to effectively investigate cybercrime; Kragujevac and Novi Sad, Serbia (19–21 July, 6–8 December 2023)**

In co-operation with the Service for Combating High-Tech Crime of the Mol, the Mission delivered advanced training courses on the investigation and seizure of cryptocurrencies for criminal investigators and prosecutors from the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Offices from Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Sad. Two trainers from the Service for Combating High-Tech Crime delivered modules on monitoring, investigating, and analysing transactions with cryptocurrencies, conducting darknet investigations, and the various types of cryptocurrencies and wallets.

**Training sessions for social workers on identifying potential victims of THB; Pančevo, Smederevo, Trstenik and Zrenjanin, Serbia (24 August–6 October 2023)**

Serbia's Centre for the Protection of THB Victims and the Mission organized a series of training sessions for social workers on identifying potential victims of THB. The sessions covered indicators of THB, SOPs for interviewing victims, and the impact of THB on victims. The sessions were attended by social workers and are now part of the official training programme for social workers to renew their licenses. All attendees were employees of local social welfare centres, shelters for elderly people and shelters for children.

**Support for the participation of the Serbian Youth Team at the European Cybersecurity Challenge 2023 competition; Hamar, Norway (24–27 October 2023)**

The Mission supported the participation of the Serbian Youth Team in the European Cybersecurity Challenge (ECC) 2023. The Serbian Youth Team was selected from participants in the Serbian Cybersecurity Challenge (SCC) 2023, organized by the Cybersecurity Network Foundation (CSN) with the Mission's support in May 2023. Of the winners of the national competition, the CSN selected the ten best students to participate in the ECC. The participants solved security-related tasks related to web security, mobile security, crypto puzzles, reverse engineering and forensics. The Serbian Youth Team won second place out of six non-EU guest teams.

**Roundtable on the fight against organized crime, terrorism and corruption; Belgrade, Serbia (15–16 November 2023)**

The Mission, the EU Delegation to Serbia and GIZ organized a roundtable to discuss the Law on organization and jurisdiction of state authorities in the suppression of organized crime, terrorism and corruption, as well as amendments to the Law and the way forward. The event provided a platform for police, prosecutors and judges to discuss their operational work and to suggest amendments to the relevant laws. The participants were judges and prosecutors of specialized anti-corruption departments from higher and appellate courts, as well as representatives from the Mol, the Ministry of Justice and international organizations. They discussed the implications of the amended law and the effect the new legislation would have on the future National Strategy for the Fight Against Corruption, and on incorporating recommendations from the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

<sup>8</sup> OSCE (2022), *Guide to advance the protected areas legislation*, accessible at <https://www.osce.org/mission-to-serbia/529728>

**Training session on financial investigations; Šabac, Serbia (28–30 November 2023)**

In co-operation with external and internal experts, the Mission conducted a training session on financial investigations for police officers from the MoI's Sector for Internal Control. Expert from the Mission's staff and MoI trainers presented challenges and shared their practices on the topic of financial investigations, both at the national and regional levels. Guest lecturers from the Italian Guardia di Finanza presented software solutions for financial analyses and investigations. A lecturer from the OSCE Secretariat also introduced the principles of security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) to participants.

**Facilitating an operational meeting on human smuggling; Belgrade, Serbia (12 December 2023)**

The Mission and the Serbian Task Force for the Fight against Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings organized an operational regional meeting of prosecutors and police investigators in charge of investigating and prosecuting organized crime groups involved in the smuggling of migrants. The operational meeting gathered representatives from Hungary, North Macedonia and Serbia, who presented the current situation concerning migration flows and the latest trends and methods being used by migrant smugglers.

## 2.1.6 Mission to Skopje

### Introduction

The work of the OSCE Mission to Skopje (the Mission) and its Police Development Unit is based on the Mission's original mandate from 1992 on policing, and the OSCE MC and PC decisions stemming from the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) of 2001. According to the provisions in Annex C of the OFA, the Mission was called upon to assist in a number of specific areas of policing that have been added to the initial mandate.

#### ► Institutionalizing the Gender Mentoring Programme in the Police; Skopje, North Macedonia (June–December 2023)

For the past five years, the Mission to Skopje has been supporting the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) of North Macedonia in raising awareness of the hidden obstacles and pervasive challenges faced by policewomen when working in an often male-dominated environment. Since 2018, the Mission, in partnership with the Women's Section of the Police Syndicate, has been developing the Mentoring Programme for Women in the Police. The programme later evolved into the Gender Mentoring Programme. Four generations of mentors and mentees have completed basic gender and mentoring skills training so far. In 2021, the Mission began the process of handing over ownership of the programme to the Human Resources Department of the MoIA. During the hand-over process, the Mission played a pivotal role in ensuring the institutional sustainability of the Gender Mentoring Programme. During this period, the Mission also supported the MoIA in enhancing the knowledge and expertise of seven MoIA Gender Mentoring Trainers through a certified advanced training-of-trainers (ToT) course. Upon completion of the ToT, these seven certified trainers delivered training modules to 11 pairs of mentors and mentees. In June 2023, the Mission organized a Gender Mentoring Workshop – Conference Simulation, during which alumni of the Gender Mentoring Programme under the guidance of two national experts had the opportunity to put their acquired skills into practice by assuming the roles of moderators, speakers, panel discussants and attendees. Several participants stated that “the gender mentoring programme increased our self-confidence, improved inter-personal skills, helped establish a work-life balance and raised our awareness and understanding of other people's models of the world.”

“I was part of the first generation of the Mentoring Program, supported by the OSCE Mission to Skopje since 2018. Some of the main achievements we were able to reach through this programme have been more self-confidence and learning how to network within the police. We also got to know each other better and share mutual experiences. However, the most important thing is that we are here to help the younger police officers to succeed in this predominantly male profession and to never give up,” stated Ms. Suza Trajkovska, Assistant Minister and Head of the Training Centre in the MoIA. She is a first-generation mentor of the Gender Mentoring Programme and one of the seven certified MoIA trainers delivering modules from the Gender Mentoring Programme.

## General police development and reform

### **Needs assessment for law enforcement authorities and other security institutions to counter terrorism; Skopje, North Macedonia (June–December 2023)**

The Mission provided recommendations for the institutional development of law enforcement authorities and security institutions, as well as the improvement of multi-agency co-operation in countering terrorism based on an assessment of national capacities (training, human and technical resources, and structural requirements). The assessment report recommended the development of a comprehensive interagency communication and information-sharing platform allowing for the real-time exchange of data. The report's findings were presented at an event attended by representatives from the MoIA, the Agency for National Security, the Customs Administration, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Finance Intelligence Office, the Finance Police, and the National Committee for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. Discussions at the event also highlighted the importance of adopting shared technical rules and SOPs, which can enhance information sharing and facilitate efficient interagency co-operation.

### **Training session on intelligence-led policing (ILP) for uniformed police; Skopje, North Macedonia (6–10 April 2023)**

Police officers and mid-level management personnel, including commanders, deputy commanders, and assistant commanders from all police stations across all Sectors of Internal Affairs, attended this training session to enhance institutional understanding of the ILP model, focusing on the systematic collection, organization, analysis and utilization of intelligence to guide operational and tactical decision-making that leads to the effective use and deployment of resources. The training session enhanced participants' skills in information collection and analysis, and also equipped them with the tools needed to effectively implement the ILP model.

### **Assisting MoIA's human resources management to develop a merit-based career development model; Skopje, North Macedonia (January–September 2023)**

The Mission continued to engage in police reform at a strategic level by supporting the MoIA's working group to develop policies and by-laws necessary for establishing a merit-based career development system. The MoIA working group, with the assistance of the Mission, formulated and drafted a merit-based promotion examination model. This model was approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs along with proposed amendments to the primary legal framework,

which were submitted to Parliament for adoption. The proposed promotion model is a significant development and innovation for the MoIA. For the first time, eligible candidates can engage in an eliminatory written promotion exam/testing followed by an interview. The promotion exams will incorporate gender inclusiveness as a principle.

### **Assisting the MoIA's human resources management to develop a manual for planning priority training activities; Skopje, North Macedonia (1 November–15 December 2023)**

The Mission supported the development of a methodology and manual for planning and prioritizing training activities as detailed in the revised MoIA Human Resources Management Strategy 2023–2025. The Mission facilitated two working group meetings of the MoIA working group on human resources management, and one workshop used to develop a methodology and manual on procedures for an analysis based on work performance, competencies and individual needs for career development.

### **Support for the MoIA in conducting a comprehensive baseline assessment of police oversight architecture and doctrine; Skopje, North Macedonia (1 September–27 November 2023)**

The Mission commissioned an external consultant to conduct a comprehensive baseline assessment of police oversight architecture and doctrine, supporting the MoIA with key conclusions and recommendations to improve their internal organizational understanding of democratic oversight of the police. The baseline assessment will be used as reference document in supporting national authorities in establishing a robust and effective external police oversight system. The assessment canvassed representatives of the relevant institutions, including the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Public Prosecution Office, the National Ombudsman, and NGOs such as the Helsinki Committee, Eurothink and the Macedonian Young Lawyer Association.

### **Assisting the MoIA in harmonizing, revising and improving internal legal regulations governing the disciplinary system; Struga and Skopje, North Macedonia (16–20 October 2023, 11–15 December 2023),**

The Mission hosted two meetings for members of the MoIA's Human Resources Management Working Group and Disci-

plinary Working Group to harmonize internal regulations in support of a new disciplinary structure and the creation of new institutional integrity capacities, standards and methodologies to prevent misconduct and corrupt practices. The new disciplinary system will generate transparent, fair and consistent disciplinary decisions across the Ministry.

**Study visit to the Dutch Police on disciplinary proceedings; Rotterdam, Netherlands (2–6 October 2023)**

The Mission facilitated a study visit for supervisors from the MoIA's Department for Disciplinary and Court Proceedings to the Dutch Police, allowing them to gain first-hand insight into pre-disciplinary procedures and learn about preventative and rehabilitative interventions. They also had the opportunity to observe the role of supervisors performing a proactive leadership role in identifying patterns of inappropriate behaviour and implementing intervention strategies to promote high standards of professionalism and ethical behaviour.

**Workshop on gender differences in ethical policing dilemmas; Ohrid, North Macedonia (27–30 June 2023)**

The Mission, in co-operation with the MoIA's Sector for Professional Conduct, Prevention and Integrity, conducted a workshop that focused on the nexus between ethnics and gender attended by mid- and senior-level managers. Topics included gender-related ethical dilemmas, diversity and inclusion, as well as the significance of these concepts for police leadership. The main goal of the activity was to reinforce the role of mid-management in maintaining standards and raising awareness about the need for including gender-sensitive policies and approaches.

**Increasing operational capacities of the new Disciplinary and Court Proceedings Department; Berovo, North Macedonia (22–26 May, 29 May–2 June 2023)**

The Mission facilitated two training courses for employees of the MoIA's new Disciplinary and Court Proceedings Department. The training courses were designed as part of the Mission's ongoing support to the MoIA efforts to establish an effective, impartial, consistent and transparent disciplinary process. The training courses covered the use of prevention mechanisms to reduce misconduct, as well as an analysis and assessment of the relevant by-laws and other related internal regulations.

**Annual workshop of the Police Prevention Units; Gevgelija, North Macedonia (4–6 October 2023)**

The Police Prevention Units Workshop 2023 was organized in partnership with the MoIA's Unit for Strategic Planning,

Standards and Quality Control within the Bureau for Public Security. The event brought together the Chiefs of Police Prevention Units, police prevention officers from all Sectors for Internal Affairs, representatives of the Bureau of Public Safety, the MoIA, local government authorities, as well as the Mission and its Police Development Unit. This year the workshop was hosted by the Sector for Internal Affairs at Strumica. The working sessions covered crime prevention projects/activities for 2023, policing in ethnically mixed communities with an emphasis on challenges, approaches and community engagement in Roma inhabited settlements, and the challenges and approaches to police work in multi-cultural environments.

**Supporting the MoIA in finalizing the action plan for the Training Center Development Strategic Priorities 2023–2025; Skopje, North Macedonia (May–September 2023)**

The Mission organized a series of MoIA Training Centre Working Group meetings on in-service training and continuous professional education. It supported the development of an annual training calendar, a catalogue of training possibilities, as well as a catalogue of job competencies. These activities formed part of the review process of the basic police training curriculum.

**Assisting the MoIA in the advancement of management training for mid-level supervisors; Bitola, Kumanovo, Ohrid, Skopje, Stip, Strumica, Tetovo and Veles, North Macedonia (May–June 2023)**

As part of the Mission's ongoing support to the MoIA to enhance managerial and leadership training to mid-level police managers, the second phase of the training needs analysis (TNA) was completed. The Mission visited all Sectors of Internal Affairs and Regional Centres of Border Affairs to identify the operational needs of mid-level police managers. The TNA report has drawn conclusions from data analysis and produced recommendations and implementation guidelines for the development of a management training programme for mid-level police managers.

**Workshop on the operational effectiveness of the current training architecture; Struga, North Macedonia (12–13 October 2023)**

The Mission organized and hosted a workshop for MoIA representatives for a holistic joint assessment of the operational effectiveness of the current training architecture. The workshop resulted in recommendations to enhance the functionality of the entire training system. The workshop focused on improvements to the centralized and decentralized training platforms, the application of a modern approach of hybrid learning, the use of the Learning Management System, and the role of the Training Centre and the regional training co-ordinators.

**Delivering custom-made training on leadership skills to middle management at the borders; Skopje, North Macedonia (9–11 May 2023)**

The Mission conducted a tailored training programme focused on leadership skills specifically designed for mid-level managers working at the borders. The programme incorporated training-of-trainers on issues such as integrity, identifying talent and dealing with poor performance. It benefited border police officers, customs officers under the Integrated Border Management concept, as well as members of the Training Centre staff.

**Delivering courses for newly appointed Training Centre staff; Skopje, North Macedonia (8–19 May 2023)**

The Mission supported the further development of training skills of staff at the Training Centre and of the regional training co-ordinators by developing and delivering ToT courses to newly appointed and serving trainers at both the national and local level. The main focus of the courses was a training needs analysis and instruction in delivery skills.

**Introduction of community impact assessments; Skopje, North Macedonia (4–5 December 2023)**

The Mission introduced the concept of community impact assessments to MoIA senior officials as a tool to assess the impact police actions and significant events can have on community cohesion.

**Support for the MoIA in revising, drafting and implementing the Strategy on Community Engagement and Communication (CE&C) 2024–2026; Skopje, North Macedonia (April–November 2023)**

The MoIA, supported by the Mission, revised and updated the current Strategy on Community Engagement and Communication (CE&C) for the upcoming period of 2024–2026. The strategy focuses on improving communication and relationships between the police and various communities, and on increasing transparency in the work of the police.

**Enhancing police responses to allegations of intimate partner and family violence; Skopje and Tetovo, North Macedonia (April–December 2023)**

The Mission supported a MoIA working group on aligning police procedures on gender-based violence and domestic violence with European standards. This was achieved by

creating a training package focused on interviewing victims. The training package encourages a multi-agency approach and balancing victim rights with the objective of gathering the best evidence. To ensure the long-term viability of this initiative, the Mission is committed to assisting the MoIA's Training Centre to integrate this package into the annual training catalogue and to develop a syllabus for both basic and advanced continuous training programmes.

**Study visit to Sweden to observe policies, procedures and training in EU standards of initial responses to allegations of intimate partner and family violence; Vaxho, Sweden (23–28 April 2023)**

The Mission organized a study visit to the Department for Criminology and Police Education at the University of Linnaeus, Sweden to learn about Swedish good practices, including policies and procedures, specialist training, and the roles and responsibilities of institutions within a multi-agency approach. The experience gained will be incorporated into the products drafted by the MoIA Working Group on Improving Initial Responses to Victims of Intimate Partner and Family Violence.

**Training-of-trainers course on advanced victim interviews and taking statements in response to allegations of intimate partner and family violence; Skopje, North Macedonia (23–29 April 2023)**

The Mission enhanced the capacities of Sector of Internal Affairs of Tetovo, Bitola and Ohrid in initial responses to domestic and gender-based violence-related allegations of intimate partner and family violence by facilitating the delivery of a ToT course on advanced victim interviews and taking of statements. The ToT course was tailored to meet the host country requirements and to be in line with national legislation on allegations of intimate partner and family violence. The training course incorporated good practices in the initial response to such allegations, including provision of victim care, victim rights, and victim statement-taking and interviewing.

**Workshop on the further development of Local Prevention Councils; Skopje, North Macedonia (15 December 2023)**

The Mission facilitated a roundtable discussion focused on the development of Local Prevention Councils in Skopje, which included the Head of the Association of Units of Local Self-Governance (ZELS). During this meeting, it was highlighted that the Local Prevention Council concept stands as the sole multi-agency platform within the country dedicated to community safety and security.

### **Enhancing police capabilities on hate speech and hate crime; Bitola, North Macedonia (16–18 October 2023)**

The Mission brought together police officers from the Sector of Internal Affairs Bitola. The workshop enhanced their understanding of the newly enacted domestic legislation on hate crimes and hate speech, as well as relevant international legislation. Participants were trained on the nuances between hate speech and other similar concepts, supported by practical examples and exercises. These activities were designed to allow the officers to identify and distinguish hate speech from related phenomena, and to equip them with the necessary tools to effectively address and combat these issues within their jurisdiction.

### **Engaging youth by organizing debates among communities; Ohrid and Skopje, North Macedonia (November–December 2023)**

A forum for pupils provided a collaborative platform to express views and engage in discussions on personal and social safety, diversity and inter-ethnic communication. This initiative was complemented by a debate and a youth sports camp for the most active participants. Through these activities, the pupils enhanced their understanding of safety, diversity and inter-ethnic communication significantly, thus fostering a more inclusive and aware youth community.

### **Conducting the Public Perception Survey On Democratic Policing; across North Macedonia (2023)**

The 11th bi-annual Public Perception Survey on Democratic Policing evaluated the general public's trust in the police. The survey revealed overall public confidence in some aspects of police work, but also indicated significant improvement potential in countering perceptions of police ineffectiveness in addressing crime and responding to general service calls, perceptions of insufficient field presence, as well as a perceived lack of professionalism and performance. The 2023 survey further revealed that a large number of police officers are critical of the service's politicization, its perceived lack of professionalism, inefficiencies in resolving crimes and internal structural problems.

### **Assisting the MoIA in implementing the strategy "Police and Roma – Effective and human rights-compliant policing; across North Macedonia (June–December 2023)**

The Mission assisted in improving the MoIA's capacities to implement the strategy "Police and Roma – Effective and human rights-compliant policing" by organizing pre- and post-training roundtable discussions with trainers. These

discussions helped to reinforce the training curricula and monitor the basic training courses on effective and human rights-compliant policing delivered to police officers across the country.

### **Support to the police and public prosecution offices to embed the protocol for their improved co-ordination and Co-operation; Skopje, North Macedonia (30 March 2023)**

The Mission facilitated the signing of a new protocol on co-operation between the police and public prosecution offices. The protocol provides an agreed framework for inter-operability between the two institutions to improve co-ordination and co-operation. The protocol and its implementation offer a significant opportunity to enhance the partnership between the police and prosecution offices in support of an effective and efficient criminal justice process in the country.

### **Workshops to enhance public engagement; Tetovo, North Macedonia (November–December 2023)**

The Mission organized advanced training courses aimed at crime prevention and border police officers improving their communication skills when engaging with local communities and the media. The workshops were delivered as part of the MoIA's strategy on community engagement and communication.

### **Engaging women on issues related to local security concerns affecting the family and community; Bitola, Gostivar, Ohrid, Prilep, Struga and Tetovo, North Macedonia (April–November 2023)**

The Mission supported the MoIA in strengthening community engagement with local police working in multi-cultural settings by organizing workshops in the western part of the country. The attendees identified local security problems and highlighted the need for women to share their security concerns with police or other relevant authorities. The discussion promoted a gender perspective on public security and facilitated the engagement of women in the resolution of local community safety issues affecting them, their families and children.



## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

### **Assessing the concept of protecting soft targets against terrorist attacks for law enforcement authorities and other security institutions; Skopje, North Macedonia (27–28 September 2023)**

The Mission, in co-ordination with the National Coordinator for Countering Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism, enabled participants of a workshop to assess the concept of protecting soft targets against terrorist attacks. The participants from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Bureau for Public Security, the Ministry of Defense, the Agency for National Security, the Intelligence Agency, the Crisis Management Centre, the Protection and Rescue Department, the Chamber for Private Security and the ambulance service of Skopje were shown several case studies concerning co-ordinated terrorist attacks and applied newly acquired skills such as risk assessment and command and control methodologies to a similar scenario concerning attacks on soft targets in Skopje.

### **Tabletop exercise “ILP – strategic management and operational leadership”; Skopje, North Macedonia (20 September 2023)**

The tabletop exercise “ILP – strategic management and operational leadership” highlighted institutional gaps and identified key recommendations to improve multi-agency co-operation, strategic management, operational leadership and regional police co-operation. The participants, who possessed various levels of experience with the intelligence-led policing (ILP) model, engaged in open discussions on the crucial role of managers in implementing ILP, disseminating knowledge and supporting decision-making. They also

explored practical aspects such as intelligence collection, co-operation, tasking and co-ordination. The discussions will feed into the finalization of the Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) Action Plan (2023–2025), which establishes internal practices for intelligence-based decision-making and effective resource allocation. In addition, representatives from the Financial Police and Customs Agency attended the exercise in order to increase their understanding of the ILP concept with a view to implementing the concept within their respective agencies.

### **Testing operational integrated border management protocols between North Macedonia and Greece – Hot pursuit simulation; Skopje, North Macedonia (20–22 November 2023)**

The Mission facilitated interagency and regional co-operation by assisting North Macedonia and Greece in organizing a cross-border surveillance simulation exercise. In co-operation with Border Police and police representatives from both countries, the simulation provided a platform to evaluate communication protocols, enhance operational efficiency, promote interagency co-operation, and refine “controlled delivery” protocols. The simulation’s outcomes highlighted the need for improved formal communication, co-ordination mechanisms and cross-border intelligence sharing. Participant feedback emphasized the importance of realistic engagements, bilateral protocols, and the establishment of a Common Contact Centre (Police and Customs Co-operation Centre) for real-time information exchange. This event laid the foundation for enhanced co-operation, addressing challenges and improving communication procedures.

## 2.2 Eastern Europe

### 2.2.1 Mission to Moldova

#### Introduction

The OSCE Mission to Moldova is facilitating a comprehensive and lasting political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict in all its aspects in order to strengthen the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transnistria. Since 2012, all 57 OSCE participating States have endorsed these principles of a final settlement in annual Ministerial Council Statements.

#### ► **Combating trafficking in human beings: First national simulation exercise; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova (18–22 September 2023)**

Moldova is ramping up the fight against THB. The OSCE Mission to Moldova organized the first national simulation-based exercise on combating THB, in co-operation with the Moldovan State Chancellery and with the expert support from the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. During the simulated exercise, practitioners from law enforcement authorities, social workers, prosecutors, magistrates, as well as representatives of left- and right-bank civil society organizations worked together to identify and assist victims of trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. As part of the simulation, the participants investigated cases, detained traffickers and prepared judicial cases against them. The event was practitioner-focused and enhanced the co-operation between institutions in working together to end trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation. ►



► Combating trafficking in human beings: First national simulation exercise; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, 18–22 September 2023.  
**OSCE**



The Head of Human Rights and Cooperation with Civil Society Department in the State Chancellery stated that “the training programme is designed to improve the participants’ abilities, foster valuable connections among professionals, and demonstrate the value of a multidisciplinary approach to human trafficking cases. Additionally, simulation-based training will help the agencies involved to effectively fulfil their international anti-trafficking commitments.”

One participant said that the experience “contributed to the improvement of the quality of services and our performance” and “was extremely useful, as it also clearly demonstrated the importance of timely involvement of every stakeholder in the process of working with victims.”

Another participant observed that “the direct involvement in joint actions with other actors such as prosecutor’s office, shelter, civil society organizations, etc., has strengthened inter-departmental relations and has shown us that only in co-operation we can succeed and achieve a result oriented to the victim’s needs and interests, which is superior to other ways of fighting human trafficking.”



📄 Combating trafficking in human beings: First national simulation exercise; Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, 18–22 September 2023.

**OSCE**

## 2.3 Central Asia

### 2.3.1 Programme Office in Bishkek

#### Introduction

The OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB), previously the Centre in Bishkek, was established in 1998 to promote the implementation of OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of comprehensive security, to facilitate the exchange of information, to establish and maintain contacts with local authorities, academia and civil society institutions, and to provide support based on the evolving needs and priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

#### ► **Effective assistance provided by the mobile police reception (MPR) team; Issyk-Kul province, Kyrgyzstan (throughout 2023)**

“Over the past three years, we have been collaborating closely with the MPR team, focusing on a critical responsibility: delivering social support to those in need. Our mission is to assist families and individuals facing economic challenges, disabilities, single parenthood, elderly individuals without children, and anyone requiring social support”, says Mamytova Gulmira, Social Protection Department Specialist at the Balykchy City Administration.

MPR teams have been invaluable in facilitating the work of the city administration and ensuring government support for the aforementioned groups. One case example highlights the urgent and tangible assistance provided by the MPR teams. The city administration co-ordinates with MPR teams when carrying out monitoring visits to vulnerable groups such as low-income families with young children. During one of these visits, officers from the city administration discovered that the parents were absent, leaving their young children, one of whom was only two years old, alone at home with doors, windows and the balcony open. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the MPR team acted promptly, and quickly located the children’s parents. They conducted consultative work with the parents, offering guidance and necessary support. It was emphasized to the parents that leaving young children unattended posed significant safety risks. In addition, the MPR team offered further assistance by putting the family in touch with the relevant government institutions.

## General police development and reform

#### **Donation ceremony of computer equipment and signing of the 2023 Co-operation plan with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (20 February 2023)**

The donation ceremony of computer tablets for mobile police reception (MPR) teams took place at the Central Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan (MoI KR). On

this occasion, the OSCE POiB and the MoI KR also signed the 2023 co-operation plan. During the meeting, participants discussed the further development of bilateral relations, the successful implementation of the 2022 co-operation plan, the report of the OSCE Secretariat on the results of the assessment mission in Kyrgyzstan, the continuation of reforms of internal affairs bodies, and the expansion of co-operation with international partners.

**Signature of the 2023 Co-operation plan with the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (28 February 2023)**

In the framework of the Memorandum of Co-operation between the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector, the organizations signed their 2023 co-operation plan outlining the main joint activities for the year. During the signing ceremony, the Chairperson of the Association highlighted the importance of co-operation and the POiB's support, especially in the empowerment of women in the law enforcement agencies, in combating gender-based and domestic violence, and in the prevention of crimes against youth.

**Training session on democratic policing principles and maintaining community security; Batken, Chuy, Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Osh, Talas and Naryn regions, Kyrgyzstan (25 September–25 October 2023)**

The POiB, in co-operation with the Mol KR Public Safety Department, conducted training seminars in regional police departments. The training seminars aimed to enable Mol KR staff and mobile police reception (MPR) teams to apply community policing principles and prevent domestic violence and VERLT. They brought together community policing officers, juvenile delinquency inspectors, local government authorities, active members of civil society and MPR teams. The seminars were led by representatives of the Mol KR and experts contracted by the POiB.

**MPR local public council co-ordination meeting; Issyk-Kul province, Kyrgyzstan (15–16 June 2023)**

The POiB held a co-ordination meeting to improve the effectiveness of MPR teams and to discuss challenges and opportunities for their development. Representatives from the Mol KR and local MPR public councils, which play a crucial role in providing civilian oversight of MPR activities, established working contacts and adopted solutions outlining the principles of co-operation between MPR teams and local public councils.

**Introduction of a new MPR team; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (25 August 2023)**

Increasing public trust in the police and improving police–public co-operation are two priorities of the POiB. In 2023, the POiB donated a fully equipped and marked MPR vehicle to the Mol KR and also assisted with an induction training course for new MPR team members in Batken. This and other initiatives are expanding the practice of MPRs to territorial police departments and are enhancing the co-operation between the police and civil society.

**Support of capacity-building of the Mol MPR Monitoring and Co-ordination Centre and MPR monitoring visits; countrywide, Kyrgyzstan (14 June–6 July 2023)**

In 2010, the Mol KR, in co-operation with the POiB, introduced MPR teams to enhance public–police co-operation and increase public trust in the police. MPR teams are considered one of the most effective types of community policing practices. They also provide easier access for the general public to government services. During the monitoring visits, representatives of the Mol KR, the MPR Local Public Councils Association and an international expert assessed and evaluated MPR activities and efficiency in all seven provinces.

**Seminar on integrative psychological assistance in optimizing the level of subjective vitality; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (12–14 July 2023)**

The POiB supported the Mol KR with a seminar on integrative psychological assistance in optimizing the level of subjective vitality and related areas. The seminar was held at the Republic Training Centre of the Mol KR in Bishkek. The seminar brought together police staff from all regions of Kyrgyzstan, who enhanced their knowledge on topics such as integrative psychological assistance, methods of psychodiagnostics and integrative psychological counseling. The main purpose of the activity was to build capacity to provide professional psychological support to the Mol KR staff, as well as to improve co-operation and information exchange between Mol KR psychologists.

**Training course for the Mol press service; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (17–19 April 2023)**

To support the professional development of Mol KR press service officers, the POiB, in co-operation with the Mol KR press service and the Mol KR Academy, conducted a training course on “mobilography” at the Mol KR Academy. Led by local experts, the course enhanced the participants' understanding of social networks and helped them gain skills in taking higher quality photos, creating content and recording videos for publication online. The event also enabled professional networking among participants, the exchange of good practices, and dialogue among Mol KR press service officers.

**“My Police” mobile application: Enhancing co-operation of Mol KR departments with civil society; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (28 December 2023)**

In 2022, the Mol KR Public Safety Department introduced the “My Police” application to enhance co-operation between citizens and the police. The Mol KR co-operated with

the Turkish Police, which had previously developed a similar mobile application (KADES – Support for Women). In 2023, the POiB supplied the required IT equipment, consisting of one server, two hard drives and six tablets.

**Meetings between the Mol KR, the OSCE Secretariat and OSCE participating States; Vienna, Austria (27–28 November 2023)**

The POiB facilitated high-level visit of an Mol KR delegation led by the Minister of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Lieutenant General Ulan Niazbekov to the OSCE Secretariat to conduct official meetings with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and delegations of Austria, Finland, Germany and the United States. The main purpose of the meetings was to present ideas for projects related to MPR teams, VERLT, digitalization and forensics.

**Sponsoring of classrooms at the Mol KR Republican Training Centre in Bishkek and its branch in Osh; Bishkek and Osh, Kyrgyzstan (28 April, 4 September 2023)**

To enhance the teaching capacity of the Mol KR Republican Training Centre in the areas of community policing, MPR team operations in multi-ethnic communities, and preventing domestic and gender-based violence, the POiB supported the Training Centre by sponsoring specialized training rooms at the Centre's premises in Bishkek and Osh.

**Training seminar on law enforcement work during extreme and emergency situations; Osh, Kadamjay and Kyzyl-Kiya, Kyrgyzstan (13, 15, 17 March 2023)**

The POiB, together with the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector (KAWSS), organized a training seminar on law enforcement work during extreme and emergency situations. The participants included community policing officers, juvenile delinquency inspectors, teaching staff of the Mol KR Republican Training Centre in Osh, and representatives of the Public Safety Department of the Kadamjay and Kyzyl-Kiya territorial police. The training was led by three national experts and focused on national and international standards in protecting human rights and maintaining public safety and security during extreme and emergency situations.

**Training-of-trainers for law enforcement to address the increasing number of cases of gender-based and domestic violence; Issyk-Kul province, Kyrgyzstan (6–8 September 2023)**

The POiB, in co-operation with the KAWSS, organized training sessions for members of the Association, and representatives of the law enforcement authorities of the Kyrgyz Re-

public in Issyk-Kul province. Participants from the different departments of the Mol KR and its educational institutions, the State Committee on National Security, and representatives from the Ministry of Health participated in the ToT, sharing insights on needed amendments to current legislation. The ToT concluded by formulating a set of recommendations on ensuring zero tolerance to gender-based and domestic violence.

**Information session for schoolchildren on the rights, duties and responsibilities of minors, countering transnational threats, and preventing domestic violence; countrywide, Kyrgyzstan (11–24 May 2023)**

The POiB, supporting an initiative of the KAWSS, provided information sessions on the rights, duties and responsibilities of minors, countering transnational threats, and preventing domestic violence. The sessions were conducted in 20 schools in all provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic and addressed high school students, teachers and parents. The sessions were organized with the support of local juvenile delinquency inspectors in the different regions of Kyrgyzstan, as well as local representatives of the KAWSS. Each schoolchild was given a brochure in Kyrgyz and Russian languages with a list of the main articles of laws affecting the rights, duties and responsibilities of minors, including contact details on whom to contact if a child finds themselves in a difficult situation.

**Participation of the Kyrgyz Association of Women Police (KAWP) Chairperson in a regional conference on increasing women's participation in law enforcement in Central Asia; Astana, Kazakhstan (14–15 September 2023)**

To promote women's participation in law enforcement in Central Asia, the POiB supported the participation of the Chairperson of the KAWP in a regional conference organized by the OSCE Secretariat's Gender Issues Programme/WIN Project, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit, and the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre/Operations Service in Astana, Kazakhstan. The conference discussions focused on opportunities and challenges for women in the security sector. The conference concluded with a set of recommendations for breaking down gender barriers and promoting women's involvement in the security sector. The Chairperson presented her ideas on establishing a Central Asian Regional Association of Women in the Security Sector.

**16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign in Kyrgyzstan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (8 December 2023)**

The POiB, in co-operation with the KAWSS, organized a roundtable to support the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence” campaign. Participants from the Presidential Administration, the Ombudsman Apparatus, the Parliament, the Ministry of Interior, NGOs and civil society discussed the importance of strengthening the capacity of women and promoting women as active participants in the prevention of violence against women and girls. The event also featured performances of students from the Kyrgyz State University.

**International conference “Women, peace and security: problems and development prospects”; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (6 June 2023)**

The KAWSS, supported by the POiB, organized a conference entitled “Women, Peace and Security: Problems and Development Prospects”, which saw the participation of the OSCE Secretary General, First Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic, the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Executive Director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, and the First Vice President of the International Association of Women Police. Participants from government institutions of Kyrgyzstan, from international organizations and from unions took part in the event.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

**Consultation meeting of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) Member States on establishing the Centre on Countering Transnational Organized Crime; Issyk-Kul region, Kyrgyzstan (14 June 2023)**

The POiB supported the Mol KR in the organization of a consultation meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States on establishing the Centre on Countering Transnational Organized Crime. The consultation meeting was attended by representatives from SCO Member States, observer states, the SCO Secretariat, and the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure. The Centre is envisioned to act as a standing branch-specific body of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure. It is designed to co-ordinate among the competent authorities of the SCO Member States in combating transnational organized crime.

**Training course on the collection of information to counter organized cybercrime; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (18–22 September 2023)**

The POiB supported the Mol KR in organizing a training course entitled “Disclosure of crimes in the field of embezzlement of financial resources using information and telecommunication technologies”. The training course was conducted by international experts, who familiarized the participants

with cryptocurrency laundering and how to identify people committing remote embezzlement.

**Support for the participation of Mol KR police officers in a training course on countering criminal offences in the sphere of digital information; Voronezh, Russia (7–17 November 2023)**

The POiB supported the participation of police officers of the Mol KR in a training course organized by the Voronezh Institute of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation on countering criminal offences in the sphere of digital information. The training course taught participants to identify crimes in the information space, analyse and collect digital evidence, and ensure information security.

**Support for the participation of Mol KR officials in the 91st session of the INTERPOL General Assembly; Vienna, Austria (28 November–1 December 2023)**

The POiB supported the participation of a Mol KR delegation in the 91st session of the INTERPOL General Assembly in Vienna, Austria. The assembly focused on key global security issues and the use of emerging technologies in policing. It also provided a platform for member countries, including the Kyrgyz Republic, to engage in discussions about critical crime threats.

**Supporting the annual national Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign; countrywide, Kyrgyzstan (throughout 2023)**

The POiB supported the Mol KR and other agencies in organizing and implementing the annual national “Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign” among young people, which was rolled out throughout the year in all regions of Kyrgyzstan. The campaign endorsed intolerance towards drug abuse, and provided information about the risks associated with the abuse of drugs, ways of choosing a healthy lifestyle, how to be a supportive parent and how to maintain a safe community environment. More than 300 prevention activities were carried out with more than 5,100 young people involved. Activities included sports competitions, intellectual games and other cultural events. The POiB also organized a roundtable for university students in Bishkek, which raised awareness of the negative consequences of drug abuse among youth.

**Enhancing professional capacities of Mol KR officers through a training session on countering the spread of synthetic drugs on the internet; Osh (12–13 June 2023), Issyk-Kul province (15–16 June 2023), Kyrgyzstan**

The POiB conducted a training course entitled “Countering the spread of synthetic drugs on the internet”. The training course in Osh gathered police officer from southern provinces of the country, while the training seminar in Issyk-Kul province gathered participants from northern regions. The training courses focused on recognizing the various ways information on synthetic drugs is spread on the internet.

**Competition between canine services of the Kyrgyz Republic; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (18–20 October 2023)**

The POiB assisted the Mol KR in organizing a three-day canine competition among four teams consisting three canine officers and two service dogs representing four law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan: the State Service for Execution of Punishments, the Service on Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking, the State Customs Service, and the Border Service. The canine competition allowed the Mol KR to identify and recognize outstanding canine specialists, and strengthened co-operation among canine units of different law enforcement authorities.

**Development of a draft law on narcotic drugs, psychoactive substances, their analogues and precursors; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (throughout 2023)**

The POiB collaborated with the Service on Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking (SCIDT) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic to develop a new draft law on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors. The law equips law enforcement authorities with the necessary tools and mechanisms to effectively address the challenges posed by criminals involved in illicit drug trafficking.



## 2.3.3 Programme Office in Dushanbe

### Introduction

The OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (POiD), established as the OSCE Bureau in Tajikistan in 1994, is mandated to assist the Republic of Tajikistan in the formation of modern approaches to security issues and threats. In accordance with the existing OSCE concept on policing, the POiD undertakes measures to build the capacities of law enforcement agencies in the Republic of Tajikistan, and assists the Government in developing and reforming internal affairs bodies.

#### ► **Information and sports to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent drug abuse across Tajikistan; Bokhtar, Dushanbe, Khorog, Khujand, Kulyab and Tursunzade, Tajikistan (2–26 June 2023)**

The POiD supported the Drug Control Agency (DCA) of Tajikistan in conducting public awareness and information campaigns in five administrative centres across the country. The campaigns promoted and encouraged healthy lifestyles to prevent or reduce the level of drug abuse among youth. Young people participated in sports competitions, including volleyball, mini-football, checkers and chess, wrestling and table tennis. They also enjoyed theatrical performances and engaged in group discussions. More than 7,000 residents attended the events. Around 1,000 young people took part in the sports competitions. The DCA co-operated closely with local authorities in the organization of the events, which were carried out in the framework of the “National Drug Control Strategy in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021–2030”.

## General police development and reform

#### **Embedding human rights and gender mainstreaming in law enforcement activities; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (24–26 April 2023)**

The POiD supported the Tajik Drug Control Agency (DCA) by organizing a practical training course on human rights and the mainstreaming of gender aspects in the work of law enforcement authorities. During the event, DCA officers learned about the role of gender aspects and gender equality in law enforcement work, including issues such as women’s rights and gender discrimination. They also reviewed forms of domestic violence and discussed prevention measures. The discussions also focused on the rights to freedom and personal inviolability of detainees. National experts also guid-

ed the participants through a comprehensive programme to equip them with knowledge and skills to fight drug abuse and the trafficking of narcotics.

#### **Support in the development of legislation on public participation in ensuring public order; Khisor and Khujand, Tajikistan (27 February–3 March, 25 September–1 October 2023)**

An interagency working group came together to finalize the draft Law on Public Participation in Ensuring Public Order and to develop a new Provision on Public Councils. The working group was supported by the POiD and is an initiative of the Public Councils on Police Reform under the Tajik

Ministry of Internal Affairs. It brought together representatives of the Presidential Apparatus, and the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Justice and Finance. The working group provided the Ministry of Internal Affairs with a final draft of the law, which was sent on to the Presidential Apparatus for final review prior to its submission to Parliament. On 22 June 2023, the new

Law on Public Participation in Ensuring Public Order was officially adopted. A second meeting of the interagency working group drafted two new provisions on Public Councils and on a Special Fund for Contributions, which are envisaged to become Annexes to the Law on Public Participation in Ensuring Public Order.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

### Enhancing the capacities of the Tajik Drug Control Agency (DCA) to counter drug trafficking; Istanbul, Türkiye (18–24 December 2023)

The POiD enabled DCA officers to attend a specialized training course entitled “Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking: Conducting Intelligence Activities During Investigation Processes”,

organized by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC). The training course equipped the DCA officers with the knowledge, techniques and skills required to use intelligence as part of investigations into drug-related crimes. In both theoretical and practical sessions, the participants learned about strategic and tactical assessments, as well as data analysis.

## 2.3.4 Programme Office in Astana

### Introduction

The OSCE Programme Office in Astana (POiA) is an OSCE field operation based in the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana. The POiA works on security issues, including arms control, border management, the fight against terrorism, trafficking in human beings, arms and drugs, economic and environmental topics, issues related to human rights and rule of law, and media freedom.

As of 23 September 2022, the name of the Programme Office in Nur-Sultan was changed to Programme Office in Astana following the name change of Kazakhstan's capital. The change is reflected in the Journal of the 1390th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. The Mandate remains unchanged. The POiA, established as the Centre in Almaty in 1998, promotes the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, facilitates contacts and exchanges of information, and provides assistance to the government of Kazakhstan on police-related matters.

## General police development and reform

**A series of activities to increase Kazakhstan's capacities in countering cybercrimes; Almaty, Astana and Karaganda, Kazakhstan (October–November 2023)**

The POiA undertook a series of strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening Kazakhstan's cybercrime defenses. An international conference in Astana, co-hosted with the Kazakh Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the Council of Europe, fostered high-level discussions on international co-operation against cybercrime, emphasizing the need for comprehensive training. Visits to police academies in Almaty and Karaganda aimed at assessing and elevating educational standards to address cybercrime and at implementing international good practices. A meeting between the Head of the POiA and the Minister of Interior underscored the commitment to continued collaboration, culminating in the endorsement of a revised Joint Action Plan for combating cybercrime. These efforts underscored the importance of international collaboration, innovative education, and strategic planning in bolstering capabilities to counter cybercrime.

**Revision of the draft legal act aimed at regulating the status and mandate of interagency security partnerships; Astana, Kazakhstan (July–December 2023)**

As part of Kazakhstan's reforms to enhance law enforcement transparency and community engagement, significant progress has been made towards embedding a service-oriented policing model, as advocated by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025. To solidify the role of interagency security partnerships (ISPs) within this framework, the Mol, supported by the POiA, initiated a legislative process to define the status and mandates of ISPs within regional crime prevention commissions. An expert updated the draft legal act and ensured its alignment with project management principles as per directives from the Presidential Administration. This endeavour marks a crucial step towards institutionalizing ISPs, which will strengthen Kazakhstan's approach to community policing and crime prevention.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

### **Multiple workshops on combating technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings; Almaty, Astana and Karaganda, Kazakhstan (May–November 2023)**

In an effort to strengthen Kazakhstan's response to technology-facilitated trafficking of human beings (THB), the POiA organized three training workshops on investigating of technology-facilitated THB in Almaty, Astana and Karaganda. As part of the activity, training was offered to police officers representing the Kazakh Mol Departments on Combating Organized Crimes from north, west and south Kazakhstan. The activity was implemented in co-operation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the EU-funded Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA), and the Karaganda Police Academy. The curriculum was designed to enhance operational skills in utilizing technical solutions for investigating THB cases. Updated modules explained the use of web scraping, machine learning tools, and cyber infiltration to expedite the identification of criminal networks. The training programme covered covert internet operations, including the investigation of sexual and gender-based exploitation, illegal recruitment, forced labour advertising, organ removal, money laundering and child traf-

ficking. The workshops will continue in 2024 with a focus on the practical application of knowledge gained, ensuring that practitioners and front-line police officers build the capacity to effectively combat technology-facilitated THB through hands-on training and skill development.

### **ToT workshops on countering cybercrimes; Aktau, Almatya and Kosshy, Kazakhstan (April–December 2023)**

In 2023, the POiA collaborated with UNODC and the local office of the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs to offer a series of workshops designed to bolster Kazakhstan's law enforcement capabilities to counter cybercrime. Initiatives included developing training programmes at the Law Enforcement Academy to enhance investigative techniques, digital forensics, and open-source intelligence (OSINT) practices. With an emphasis on international co-operation, activities included various practical exercises, such as navigating the darknet and managing digital evidence. The workshop series concluded with an advanced ToT course in Aktau, which prepared specialists to carry out further training activities on combating cybercrime within their own institutions.

## 2.3.5 Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

### Introduction

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz), established in 2006, supports the host country authorities in strengthening anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in line with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Since 2012, the core activities of the PCUz in combating money laundering and terrorism financing have followed a risk-based approach and focused on capacity-building for the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Uzbek General Prosecutor's Office, which is engaged in AML/CFT measures.

Since 2007, the PCUz has been providing assistance to the Police Academy under the Mol to improve the Academy's training potential. Special attention has been paid to the training and professional development of specialists and cadets at the Academy in the areas of terrorism, extremism and cyber security.

### General police development and reform

#### Series of webinars on trends in contemporary policing; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (June–November 2023)

The PCUz and TNTD jointly organized a series of webinars on trends in contemporary policing for cadets of the

Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Teachers and cadets learned about key trends and developments in the threats posed by malicious software (malwares), online payment fraud, the darknet criminal landscape and cryptocurrency-related crimes.

### Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

#### Training course on digital forensics; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (25–27 October 2023)

The PCUz, in close co-operation with the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, conducted a training course taught by international experts entitled "Digital Foren-

sics: Problems and Development Prospects". As part of the course, law enforcement professionals expanded their knowledge of investigative methods for crimes committed online, and learned about collecting and analysing data on cryptocurrency transactions used for criminal purposes as well as other investigative methods utilizing open-source intelligence (OSINT).

# Police-Related Activities of other OSCE Institutions



## 3.1 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

### Introduction

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provides assistance to OSCE participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments. In doing so, ODIHR works with governments and civil society to promote, in close co-operation with other OSCE executive structures and international organizations, compliance of policing practices with fundamental principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and tolerance and non-discrimination.

#### ► Polish police prepare to deliver ODIHR hate crime training activities throughout Poland (12–14 December 2023)

ODIHR organized a three-day training-of-trainers (ToT) course to equip police professionals with the tools and knowledge to replicate ODIHR's hate crime training courses across the police force in Poland. The event followed a needs assessment mission conducted in August 2023 and delivered an updated curriculum for Poland, which includes new modules on sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims. Equipped with the new curriculum and a fresh pool of trainers, in 2024 the Polish Police Training Centre in Legionowo will organize at least three ten-day ToT courses on hate crime to share this knowledge with police officers across Poland.



As an experienced police officer and a lecturer, addressing hate crimes is particularly important to me. ODIHR's training gave me valuable knowledge and insights, including on the topics of criminal law and forensics, that I will use to train police officers at all levels. I am confident that this will have a positive impact on the policing of hate crimes in Poland.



**Maria Wysocka,**  
Junior Lecturer and Deputy Commissioner,  
Department of Criminal Service of the Police  
Training Center in Legionowo

✉ Lecturer at ODIHR hate crime training activities throughout Poland, 12–14 December 2023.  
OSCE /ODIHR

## General police development and reform

### **Research paper on policewomen associations in the OSCE area: Presentation of key findings and next steps for OSCE staff; Vienna, Austria, and online (31 January 2023)**

ODIHR and TNTD/SPMU organized a presentation of the findings of a research paper on policewomen associations. The event targeted OSCE staff working with law enforcement institutions. Participants reflected on the findings of the research, highlighting key factors necessary for the success of policewomen associations. Participants also listened to experiences shared by OSCE field operations working with these associations. The event served as a platform to discuss an OSCE approach on policewomen associations and was held as a hybrid event, with participants joining both in person in Vienna and online.

### **34th OSCE Border Management Staff College annual courses; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (22–23 March 2023)**

ODIHR delivered a training course on human rights and gender in border security and management. Participants from fourteen countries working in the field of border management in various capacities represented law enforcement authorities, Ministries of Interior and Ministries of Finance, Prime Minister offices, Ombudsperson offices, intelligence services and the military. ODIHR delivered sessions on human rights in border management, gender in border security and management, gender equality in security sector agencies, and sexual- and gender-based violence in the security sector, including during situations of armed conflict. The sessions included discussion rounds, as well as practical exercises and role-play.

### **CEPOL webinar for EU Eastern Partnership countries; online (3 April 2023)**

ODIHR presented on its work in hate crime data recording and collection as well as with hate crime victims and civil society during a webinar organized by CEPOL. The webinar was organized as part of an EU-funded project aimed at strengthening strategic and operational co-operation in the EU Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) to fight organized crime.

### **Workshop on hate crime data collection and recording in Slovenia; Ljubljana, Slovenia (20 April 2023)**

ODIHR and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency brought together representatives of Slovenia's Ministry of Justice, National Police and State Prosecutor General's Office for a

workshop to review the existing framework and practices on hate crime data recording and collection in Slovenia. The aim of the workshop was to identify gaps, discuss potential solutions and propose steps to improve the national system of hate crime data collection. Participants developed a list of priority steps to follow up on after the workshop.

### **Policy workshop for the working group on gender mainstreaming in police reform; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (1 May 2023)**

The OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, ODIHR and SPMU delivered a policy workshop on gender mainstreaming in police reform for participants representing the Public Order Department of the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Gender Sensitive Police Units, the Dushanbe Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Police Academy, Tajikistan's Committee on Women and Family Affairs and CSOs working on gender issues. ODIHR delivered sessions on the international legal framework related to gender-based violence (GBV), international good practices of police gender-sensitive approaches in responding to GBV, case studies related to sexual harassment, good practices in the recruitment of women into the police, and on administrative GBV-related data collection and management.

### **Training session for law enforcement: "Protecting human rights while countering terrorism effectively"; Khiva and Bukhara, Uzbekistan (11–17 May 2023)**

ODIHR and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan organized two basic training workshops for law enforcement staff and prosecutors on protecting human rights while effectively countering terrorism. ODIHR involved national trainers from Uzbek law enforcement education institutions and its National Human Rights Centre in the delivery of these workshops. The two training workshops fostered national ownership of the activity and opened up further opportunities for collaboration on potential future capacity-building activities in the areas of human rights and counter-terrorism.

### **Addressing the security needs of Jewish communities in Ireland; Dublin, Ireland (22 May 2023)**

As part of the OSCE's Words into Action to Address Intolerance project, ODIHR, the European Commission, the World Jewish Congress, the Dublin Interfaith City Forum and the Jewish community of Ireland organized a workshop to strengthen the co-operation between law enforcement



authorities and Jewish communities in Ireland. The event brought together representatives of Jewish communities, law enforcement officials, civil society organizations and international experts.

**Training-of-trainers for the staff of the Gender Sensitive Police Units and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Public Order Department; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (23–25 May 2023)**

The OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe invited ODIHR to participate in a ToT course for the staff of the Gender Sensitive Police Units and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Public Order Department on issues related to effective and gender-sensitive responses to and handling of domestic violence cases. The course focused in particular on police interactions in cases of domestic violence, including victim identification, referral evidence collection, procedures for opening cases, interviewing of victims, psychological aspects of working with domestic violence victims and perpetrators, and problems occurring in providing assistance to victims of domestic violence.

**Launch of the ODIHR publication *Understanding Anti-Roma Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Roma and Sinti Communities: A Practical Guide*; Warsaw, Poland (25 May 2023)**

ODIHR launched its new publication *Understanding Anti-Roma Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Roma and Sinti Communities: A Practical Guide*. The intended audience of the publication includes representatives of relevant government ministries from OSCE participating States, representatives of Roma and Sinti organizations, other civil society organizations and international experts. The Guide supports participating States in addressing the problem of anti-Roma bias, discrimination, and hate crimes against Roma and Sinti communities.

**Responding to anti-Muslim hate crimes and addressing the security needs of Muslim communities in South-Eastern Europe; Skopje, North Macedonia (6 June 2023)**

ODIHR translated its publication *Understanding Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes – Addressing the Security Needs of Muslim Communities: A Practical Guide* into Albanian, Macedonian and Montenegrin and organized a launch event in Skopje, North Macedonia. As part of the event, ODIHR conducted a workshop for members of Muslim communities and representatives of law enforcement authorities from the region. The participants also developed action points to enhance co-operation between Muslim communities and law enforcement.

**Workshop on hate crime data recording and collection in Germany; Berlin, Germany (7 June 2023)**

ODIHR and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) organized a workshop on hate crime data collection and recording based on the principles of ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme. The workshop brought together representatives of Germany's Ministry of Interior, Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Berlin State Prosecutor's Office, the Berlin State Criminal Police Office, several representatives from police and interior ministries from different federal states, and representatives from two CSOs. The aim of the workshop was to review the existing framework and practices on hate crime data recording and collection in Germany, and to identify gaps, discuss potential solutions and propose steps to improve the national system.

**Regional workshop for South-Eastern Europe on detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering VERLT in prisons; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (13–14 September 2023)**

ODIHR held a major regional workshop on detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (VERLT) in prisons. The objective of the event was to promote dialogue and co-operation between state authorities and detention monitors for enhanced oversight in this field. It was organized in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and with the support of all other OSCE field operations in the region. Participants included law enforcement and penitentiary practitioners from relevant authorities, experts of national human rights structures and civil society from six jurisdictions in South-Eastern Europe, as well representatives from international organizations, academia and OSCE field operations. The workshop took stock of international and regional efforts, as well as national strategies for dealing with terrorist offenders and their respective implications on human rights. Moreover, it looked into international and national detention monitoring mandates, and practices, experiences and practical challenges faced by detention monitors in assessing the human rights implications of measures to prevent and combat VERLT in prisons. The participants confirmed the importance of independent monitoring of detention conditions in this context.

**Training-of-trainers workshop for Moldovan law enforcement on complying with human rights standards; Chişinău, Moldova (18–22 September 2023)**

With the support of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, ODIHR organized a ToT workshop on human rights-compliant po-

licing of assemblies for Moldovan law enforcement officials. During the workshop, participants learned about effective presentation techniques and facilitation skills to deliver ODIHR's training modules.

**Training activity for officers “Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Places of Deprivation of Liberty”; Uzbekistan (20–21 September 2023)**

ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, the National Human Rights Center and the Department of Penal Correction under the Uzbek Ministry of Interior, organized and conducted a training activity entitled “Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Places of Deprivation of Liberty” for mid- to senior-level management officers of women’s penal colonies and detention centres. Participants discussed key concepts and principles in addressing SGBV, good practices on relevant legal and policy frameworks, including effective risk reduction, and current complaint mechanisms.

**Responding to anti-Muslim hate crimes and addressing the security needs of Muslim communities; Ottawa, Canada (22 September 2023)**

ODIHR presented its publication *Understanding Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes – Addressing the Security Needs of Muslim Communities: A Practical Guide* to representatives of Muslim communities, policy-makers and law enforcement officers in Canada. Participants discussed the nature and extent of anti-Muslim intolerance and hatred in their communities, outlining the impact on the safety and security of individuals and communities.

**CEPOL webinar on hate crimes and sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims; online (27 September 2023)**

ODIHR delivered a presentation on how to engage with hate crime victims during a training course on victim protection organized by CEPOL and the Hellenic Police Academy. ODIHR’s presentation covered the impact of hate crime on victims, their specific needs and differences from victims of other types of crimes, secondary victimization, and sensitive and respectful interaction with victims.

**Training activity for officers “Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Places of Deprivation of Liberty”; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (24–25 October 2023)**

ODIHR, in close collaboration with the Main Prison Department under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajik-

istan organized a training activity entitled “Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Places of Deprivation of Liberty” for mid- to senior-level management officers from penitentiary facilities, including the only women’s prison in the country. Participants discussed key concepts and principles in addressing SGBV, good practices on relevant legal and policy frameworks, including effective risk reduction, and current complaint mechanisms.

**6th seminar on hate crimes for security forces in Spain; Madrid, Spain (6 November 2023)**

ODIHR contributed to a seminar on hate crimes for security forces organized by the Spanish National Office for the Fight Against Hate Crimes (ONDOD), with a presentation entitled “Recognition and protection of victims of hate crimes”. The presentation outlined key ODIHR guidelines and publications on effective hate crime victim support, and discussed issues such as sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims by law enforcement.

**35th OSCE Border Management Staff College annual course; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (7–8 November 2023)**

ODIHR delivered a training course on human rights and counter-terrorism as well as on human rights and gender in border security and management. Participants from nine countries working in various capacities in the field of border management and security represented Ministries of Interior and Finance, Prime Minister offices, intelligence services and the military. ODIHR presented on human rights in border management and in anti-terrorism. ODIHR also presented its work on gender in border security and management, gender equality in security sector agencies, and sexual- and gender-based violence in the security sector, including during situations of armed conflict.

**Training course for detention monitors from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan “Detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization to terrorism (VERLT) in prisons”; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (14–15 November 2023)**

ODIHR delivered an in-depth training course for detention monitors from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering VERLT in prisons. The course brought together participants from national human rights institutions (NHRIs), national preventive mechanisms (NPMs) under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, and civil society detention monitors from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The course provided detention monitors with an enhanced understanding of the key human rights issues in the context of preventing and countering VERLT in prisons,

and taught them to assess prison-based security strategies for their human rights compliance.

**Training seminar on addressing racially motivated crimes against Roma, Sinti and Travellers and promoting effective and non-discriminatory policing; Strasbourg, France (27–30 November 2023)**

ODIHR and the Council of Europe (CoE) organized a training-of-trainers seminar on addressing racially motivated crimes against Roma, Sinti and Travellers and promoting effective and non-discriminatory policing. The training seminar was aimed at human rights professionals and police officers working in Roma and Sinti communities and mixed communities. Participants learned how to develop and implement effective policing strategies that are responsive to the needs of Roma and Sinti and comply with human rights standards.

**Roundtable on the role of women in ensuring peace and security; Kossy, Kazakhstan (28–29 November 2023)**

The OSCE Programme Office in Astana, in collaboration with ODIHR and Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, organized a roundtable on the role of women in ensuring peace and security. The roundtable established a platform for the exchange of good practices aimed at reinforcing the representation of women in Kazakhstan's law enforcement, and to identify the essential success criteria for women police associations to have a significant and enduring impact on the role of women in law enforcement.

## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

**Legislative assistance in the field of criminal and criminal procedure reform and prevention of corruption; throughout the OSCE area (throughout 2023)**

ODIHR continued to provide expert advice on proposed reforms of criminal legislation, criminal procedure codes and other legislation potentially affecting the work of the police, with a view to supporting human rights-compliant responses to threats posed by criminal activity. ODIHR published several legal reviews providing concrete recommendations for the improvement of draft or existing legislation in relation to bias-motivated crimes, counter-terrorism and VERLT, corporate criminal liability, corruption prevention, and the right to

**TAHCLE (Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement) Training-of-trainers (ToT) for the Polish Police; Legionowo, Poland (12–14 December 2023)**

Under the TAHCLE (Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement) programme in Poland, ODIHR conducted a TAHCLE ToT in Legionowo. The training course followed the standard TAHCLE curriculum adapted to meet local needs. This iteration of the course included new modules on sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims and unconscious bias, updating the previous curriculum produced for Poland in 2012.

**Addressing the security needs of Jewish communities in Italy; Rome, Italy (10 December 2023)**

The event brought together representatives from Jewish communities, law enforcement officials, CSOs and international experts. The event raised awareness of the nature and the scope of anti-Semitism, with a particular focus on anti-Semitic hate crimes and the necessity to address the security needs of Jewish communities in Italy. It enabled the participants to gain a better understanding of the history of Jewish life in Italy and increased their knowledge of the relevant international and regional standards pertaining to identifying, recording and prosecuting anti-Semitic hate crimes. Practitioners shared good practices in relation to co-operation between law enforcement and Jewish communities in the area of security, and assessed the efficacy of existing measures to identify, record and prosecute anti-Semitic hate crimes.

freedom of peaceful assembly, also covering aspects related to the policing of assemblies.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> See ODIHR Opinion on the Criminal Code Provisions of Lithuania on Bias-motivated Crimes and Related Criminal Offences (25 July 2023); ODIHR Opinion on Draft Amendments relating to Criminal Corporate Liability in Uzbekistan (15 September 2023); ODIHR Note on the Proposed Revision of the Pan-European Definition of Terrorist Offences (29 September 2023); Urgent ODIHR Interim Opinion on the Draft Law of Ukraine on "Amendments to the Law of Ukraine on Prevention and Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds of Crime, Terrorist Financing and Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction" in relation to "Politically Exposed Persons" (16 October 2023); Urgent ODIHR Opinion on the Draft Laws on Making Amendments to the Law of Georgia on Assemblies and Demonstrations and to the Administrative Offences Code of Georgia (6 November 2023); Urgent ODIHR Opinion on the Law on Assemblies of the Republic of Moldova (7 November 2023); ODIHR Comments on the Criminalization of "Separatism" and Related Offences in Moldova (4 December 2023).

## 3.2 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

### Introduction

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) works to identify and seek early resolution of ethnic tensions that might endanger peace, stability or friendly relations between OSCE participating States or within the OSCE area. The High Commissioner is a conflict-prevention instrument with a cross-dimensional approach. He frequently reminds states of their minority rights obligations, because failure to respect them is a significant source of ethnic tensions that can lead to conflict.

### General police development and reform

#### **Inclusive governance and shared identity for sustainable peace and development; Kyrgyzstan (May, June, September, November 2023)**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan has been working towards implementing a national strategy to strengthen civic identity and social cohesion among the country's diverse population. Part of this effort is an initiative to better address conflict management in a multi-ethnic society. Central to this initiative has been the decision to empower the Police Academy's staff to lead the update of their training curriculum, fostering local

capacity building and sustainability. A working group within the Academy comprised of educators, law enforcement officers and a local specialist on minority issues was tasked with revising and enriching the curriculum. They introduced new subjects focused on sensitizing officers to minority issues and handling identity conflicts effectively. The HCNM supported four training sessions, which emphasized local expertise and real-world applicability. The resulting training programme equips new officers with practical skills for policing in a diverse society, showcasing the benefits of local empowerment in the development of training offers for law enforcement agencies.

## 3.3 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)

### Introduction

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM), which was established in 1997, is the world's only intergovernmental media freedom watchdog. Based in Vienna, Austria, the RFoM observes relevant media developments in all participating States, and advocates and promotes full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media. The RFoM also addresses serious problems caused by, *inter alia*, obstruction of media activities and unfavourable working conditions for journalists.

#### ► Putting a spotlight on AI and freedom of expression (SAIFE); across the OSCE area (throughout 2023)

The RFoM published the *SAIFE Policy Manual*<sup>10</sup> in 2022, the culmination of two years of research and workshops with over 120 experts from diverse backgrounds, including media, technology and security. It provides human rights-centred recommendations to States on safeguarding free speech and media pluralism in the context of automated content governance on online platforms. The SAIFE Resource Hub,<sup>11</sup> launched in November 2023, compiles several resources to help address the specific harms caused by AI technologies on the information landscape. It also provides resources for law enforcement. In addition to analysing free speech challenges, such as an imprudent overuse of AI in law enforcement, the guidance recommends that any monitoring, online tracking, data access or takedown requests by law enforcement should be conducted through formalized, transparent co-operation with online platforms and Big Tech, adhering to international human rights law, including the three-part test for restricting freedom of expression.

Throughout 2023, the RFoM focused on the implementation of its SAIFE policy guidance, including as part of multi-stakeholder masterclasses with a regional focus on the Western Balkans (Skopje, North Macedonia, May 2023) and Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, July 2023).

In 2023, the RFoM also put a focus on conflict and other crisis situations, including armed conflict. In several discussion rounds and workshops, the RFoM discussed various related issues, including the role of law enforcement in addressing illegal and harmful content online. The outcomes of these roundtables fed into the report *Platform and Content Governance in Times of Crisis*.<sup>12</sup>

10 OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (2021), *Spotlight on Artificial Intelligence and Freedom of Expression – A Policy Manual*, accessible at [https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/8/f/510332\\_1.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/8/f/510332_1.pdf)

11 SAIFE Resource Hub: <https://www.osce.org/saife/index.html>

12 OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (2023), *Platform and Content Governance in Times of Crisis*, accessible at [https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/4/564961\\_0.pdf](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/4/564961_0.pdf)

## SPOTLIGHT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



### A Policy Manual



OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (2021), *Spotlight on Artificial Intelligence and Freedom of Expression – A Policy Manual*.  
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The Representative on  
Freedom of the Media

### **Sixth Roundtable: Police Prevention and the Fight against Impunity in the framework of the RFoM project “Safety of Journalists”; Vienna, Austria (15 June 2023)**

Law enforcement plays a crucial role in ensuring journalists' safety, especially during public events like assemblies and demonstrations. Officers must protect the media, enabling them to report safely. However, the Office of the RFoM has observed a rise in verbal and physical attacks on journalists committed by demonstrators and bystanders in several participating States. Law enforcement authorities are responsible for the swift and effective investigation of attacks against journalists and bringing perpetrators to justice. However, in some instances, law enforcement officers obstruct the media from carrying out their work. In recent years, there have been a notable number of incidents of journalists being treated harshly by law enforcement officers while covering public assemblies. Additionally, impunity for those attacking journalists has highlighted the shortcomings of some judicial systems in addressing these issues.

The aim of the Sixth Roundtable of the Safety of Journalists project, entitled “Police Handling of the Media and the Fight against Impunity”, was to address these challenges. Given the scale and severity of threats and attacks against journalists across the OSCE area and their damaging effects on the functioning of democratic society, far-reaching measures are necessary at the international and national level to strengthen the protection of journalists and other media actors and to eradicate impunity. The Roundtable focused on the essential role of law enforcement and the judiciary in ensuring a safe and enabling environment for the media to do its work. This includes the prevention, protection and prosecution of attacks against journalists (including a specific focus on impunity). The participating experts exchanged views on measures for investigating and prosecuting cases of violence against journalists more effectively. They also discussed the importance of raising awareness among law enforcement about the role of the media. This helped to develop a broader understanding among the OSCE participating States on how best to develop national measures and mechanisms to prevent violence against journalists and promote their safety.

# Other Relevant Programmatic Activities



## 4.1 Support Programme for Ukraine

### Introduction

The OSCE Secretariat extra-budgetary (ExB) support programme for Ukraine (SPU) was launched on 1 November 2022.

- ▶ **Development of a training course and organization of training sessions on the fundamentals of cybercrime investigations; (29–31 May, 4–6 July, 18–20 July, 1–3 August, 5–7 September, 19–21 September, 3–5 October, 30 October–2 November, 28–30 November, 19–21 December 2023)**

The significant cyberattack on Ukraine's largest mobile telephone operator Kyivstar in December 2023 underlined the increasing need and significance for Ukraine to safeguard its cyberspace. The OSCE SPU joined efforts with Ukraine's Cyber Police Department and developed a training course on fundamentals of cybercrime investigations. The training programme covered criminal analysis, intelligence-led policing, principles of open-source intelligence, the investigation of cryptocurrency-related crimes, and cyber-enabled THB. Police officers from all regions of Ukraine participated in the training sessions. The Head of Cyber Police Department, Police General Yuriy Vykhodets, echoed the importance of the initiative: "With the evolving nature of cyber threats, the need to investigate cybercrimes, especially those related to IT-facilitated human trafficking, has become more acute. We are really grateful to our partners for this initiative."



📷 Training session on the fundamentals of cybercrime investigations.  
**OSCE**



## Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

### **Simulation exercises to combat trafficking in human beings; (12–14 September, 19–21 September, 3–5 October, 10–12 October 2023)**

In September and October 2023, the SPU conducted four simulation exercises in the area of combating THB. Four country-tailored simulation exercises gathered participants from social service providers, NGOs, the police, prosecutor offices and labor inspectorates. The SPU also invited observers, serving as so-called “antennas”, who were responsible for monitoring the work of corresponding agencies. These exercises enable participants to practice the identification of trafficking victims, provide necessary assistance with a focus on protecting victims’ rights and preventing their re-traumatization. Simulation-based training sessions helped to improve the distribution of responsibilities and competencies of the involved agencies and promote mutual information exchange, while safeguarding the privacy of those who have suffered from the crime.

### **Summer school on combating trafficking in human beings; (6–8 June 2023)**

The OSCE SPU developed and delivered the first summer school for cadets from Ukraine’s Ministry of Internal Affairs universities on key instruments of multi-agency co-operation in combating THB. The participants were acquainted with key instruments of multi-agency co-operation and gained knowledge and skills for investigating THB cases taking into account a victim-centred approach. The participants committed to carrying out local awareness-raising campaigns in their cities on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

### **International conference “Supranational and national AML/CFT/CPF systems: Challenges and prospects”; (27–28 April 2023)**

The conference gathered the public and private sectors, as well as civil society representatives. Representatives from the MONEYVAL Presidency, a number of international think tanks, UNODC and the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI) engaged in discussions on challenges for the financial monitoring system exacerbated by the war against Ukraine.

### **Training course on the use of open-source intelligence (OSINT); (24–27 October 2023)**

The OSCE SPU, together with the Council of Europe and the EUACI, organized a training course on the use of OSINT for representatives from the State Financial Monitoring Service

of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, and the Office of the Prosecutor General. Analysts and investigators improved their knowledge of OSINT instruments and techniques. They took part in practical exercises and mock investigations, during which they gathered evidence via social networks, public registers, and various search engines and operation systems.

### **Study visits to the Financial Intelligence Units of Sweden and Denmark; Stockholm, Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark (27 November–1 December 2023)**

The OSCE SPU organized a study visit for Ukrainian officials and experts to the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of Sweden and Denmark. During the visit, the representatives from the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine (SFMS), the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, and the Security Service of Ukraine had an opportunity to share knowledge with their foreign counterparts on risk assessments, operational and strategic analysis, investigations into virtual assets and regulation in the AML/CFT area. Additionally, the SFMS and the FIU of Sweden signed a Memorandum of Understanding strengthening their co-operation in the AML/CFT sphere.

### **International Forum on Financial Monitoring 2023; (7–8 December 2023)**

The OSCE SPU organized the International Forum on Financial Monitoring 2023 jointly with the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine, the Council of Europe and the EUACI. The panel discussions were dedicated to the most pressing challenges associated with financial monitoring. International experts representing the MONEYVAL, the Council of Europe, the EUACI, the EU AML/CFT Global Facility, RUSI and OECD, as well as members of the national AML/CFT community shared their views on methodologies for identifying ultimate beneficial ownership, regulating virtual assets, and conducting financial investigations.

# Appendices





# APPENDIX I

## MC and PC Decisions, Declarations and Action Plans with a Focus on Police-Related Activities

Mandates on police-related issues are contained in OSCE Summit Decisions, as well as in the growing list of Decisions of the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Council, including a number of OSCE Action Plans.

The latest comprehensive set of OSCE mandates on police-related activities was adopted in 2012 with the Dublin MC Decision No. 4/12 on the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, which endorsed four PC decisions from 2012, including the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC.DEC/1049) and the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC.DEC/1048). With the adoption of these decisions, the participating States reaffirmed the key role that police-related activities play in the Organization's efforts to address threats to security and stability posed by criminal activity, as well as its efforts in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation in the OSCE area.

The Charter for European Security adopted by the Istanbul Summit Meeting (1999) represents the platform for the OSCE involvement in policing. It contains the commitment of the OSCE participating States to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Such activities may comprise the following: (1) police monitoring, including preventing police from discriminating based on religious or ethnic identity; (2) police training, aimed at, *inter alia*, improving the operational and tactical capabilities of local police services, reforming paramilitary forces, providing new and modern policing skills such as community policing and anti-drug, anti-corruption and anti-terrorist capacities, creating police services with a multi-ethnic and/or multireligious composition to enable them to enjoy the confidence of the entire population; and (3) promoting general respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Ninth Ministerial Council in Bucharest (2001) declared the OSCE's decision to increase and promote co-operation among participating States in countering new security challenges, including by providing advice or arranging for the provision of expert advice on requirements for effective policing (needs assessments) and how to meet them, and encourag-

ing where appropriate the exchange of information among and between participating States regarding lessons learned and best policing practices in countering new security challenges.

The Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001), adopted on the same occasion as the above Decision on police-related activities, recognized the need to assist participating States, on their request, through measures to combat trafficking in human beings, drugs, and small arms and light weapons, in accordance with relevant Permanent Council decisions. This assistance could also include provision of advice and assistance on restructuring and/or reconstruction of police services; monitoring and training of existing police services, including human rights training; and capacity-building, including support for integrated or multi-ethnic police services. To this end, the plan of action acknowledged the requirement for reinforcing existing police-related activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

In its Decision No. 448 (2001), the Permanent Council decided to establish the seconded post of Senior Police Adviser in the OSCE Secretariat.

In the Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted by the Tenth Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Porto 2002), its members called on participating States to enhance international co-operation in combating criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants. They emphasized the need to include in this co-operation international law enforcement bodies such as Europol and INTERPOL, as well as the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), with a view to investigating and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking in human beings in accordance with domestic law and, where applicable, international obligations. In this regard, they also asked the Senior Police Adviser to devote increased attention to the fight against trafficking in human beings.

This tasking was further detailed in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which requested TNTD/SPMU to further promote the concept of community policing and facilitate the exchange of information between participating States on good practices to be used by relevant investigating units to check the possibly criminal and trafficking-related

origin of suspicious assets. TNTD/SPMU was also tasked to continue developing training materials for law enforcement on the investigation of trafficking and sex crimes, to identify law enforcement trainers to conduct training, and to facilitate the funding of training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States.

One aspect of policing of ethnic minorities was addressed by the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (2003). TNTD/SPMU was tasked to assist participating States in developing programmes and confidence-building measures, such as community policing, to improve the relations between the police and Roma and Sinti people, particularly at the local level, and to produce a compilation of police good practices in the OSCE area with respect to policing and Roma and Sinti communities. Another established task was to assist the participating States in developing codes of conduct to prevent racial profiling and improve inter-ethnic relations.

The OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted by the 11th Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003, states that TNTD/SPMU was set up to improve the capacity of participating States to address threats posed by criminal activity and to assist them in upholding the rule of law. The aim was to enhance key policing skills, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted by the 12th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Sofia 2004), urged the OSCE's participating States, Secretariat, institutions and field operations to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into OSCE activities, programmes and projects. The aim shall be to promote the practice of gender equality in the OSCE area, which is essential for comprehensive security. In this context, TNTD/SPMU was specifically tasked to enhance its project development to assist participating States to react to offences of sexual violence. This involves including elements in police training curriculum such as special investigation techniques, interview skills designed for use with victims of sexual assault, including children, and information on referral mechanisms for victim assistance.

The fight against organized crime came to the forefront of OSCE priorities during 2005 and was recognized in the Decision on Combating Transnational Organized Crime adopted by the 13th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Ljubljana 2005). It tasked the OSCE Secretary General with providing support, upon request from participating States, to mobilize technical assistance, including the necessary expertise and resources from relevant competent international organizations, for implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. The Decision also tasked

the OSCE Permanent Council to work on designing, with the support of the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE institutions, possible measures and forms of assistance that could be made available to requesting participating States with a view to improving and promoting the functioning of criminal justice systems.

The Ljubljana Ministerial Decision No. 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women urged participating States, with the support and assistance of the OSCE, to take all necessary legislative, policy and programmatic monitoring and evaluation measures to promote and protect women's full enjoyment of human rights, and to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against them. The decision also tasked the Permanent Council to encourage relevant OSCE institutions and structures to develop programmes, projects and policies to assist participating States, at their request, in combating violence against women and girls, and in providing assistance to victims.

The Ljubljana Ministerial Council also adopted the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept. Above all, this provides participating States with a political framework for co-operation on border-related issues. It provides objectives and principles for this co-operation, and defines modalities for OSCE activities in this area. The OSCE "acts upon the request of participating States" to ensure dialogue on border-related issues through, *inter alia*, "exchange of information, experience and best practices", the establishment of National Focal Points Networks, and the holding of workshops and conferences.

Permanent Council Decision No. 758 Enhancing International Anti-Drug Co-operation (2006) tasked the Secretary General and relevant OSCE institutions with providing participating States, upon their request and in close consultation and co-ordination with UNODC, with assistance/advice on antidrug issues through, *inter alia*, awareness-raising activities, organization of regional workshops, and facilitation of training.

The Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children adopted by the 14th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Brussels 2006) encouraged relevant OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to devote attention to the area of sexual exploitation of children, including its links to trafficking in persons. It emphasized the need for the OSCE structures and participating States to co-operate with other international organizations, NGOs, and civil society in combating the sexual exploitation of children.

The 14th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Brussels 2006) adopted the follow-up Decision on Organized Crime, reaffirming the importance that the OSCE was giving to this subject. The Decision tasks the OSCE Secretary General and the relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective man-

dates, with giving enhanced attention to the key role of criminal justice systems in institution-building and in the promotion of the rule of law, as well as co-operating and co-ordinating more closely in order to take the interaction between the components of those systems better into account. A further major task was to build on and consolidate knowledge and experience on criminal justice and organized crime, and to continue co-operating with UNODC in various matters, including combating organized crime and illicit drugs.

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 3/05 (Ljubljana) on combating transnational organized crime, and 5/06 (Brussels) on organized crime, Permanent Council Decision No. 810 (2007) on Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime tasked the Secretary General to support the implementation of the UNTOC convention in co-operation with UNODC, and to organize workshops in co-operation and co-ordination with the Secretariat of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC.

Permanent Council Decision No. 813 (2007) on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and Precursors emphasized the continuing spread of illicit trafficking of opiates from Afghanistan and chemical precursors throughout the OSCE area. The Permanent Council called on the Secretary General to further develop co-operation in the field of anti-drug matters with UNODC, the Paris Pact and other relevant international structures and organizations by, *inter alia*, organizing joint regional and sub-regional workshops and other activities. Furthermore, the Secretary General was tasked with continuing training activities on drug-related matters.

The need for continuing training of Afghan police officers in addition to providing assistance to Afghanistan in the fields of border security and combating drug trafficking was also a core topic of the Ministerial Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan (Madrid). Participating States tasked the Secretary General to provide support for intensifying the involvement of Afghan counterparts in OSCE activities related to the fields of border security and management, policing, and the fight against drug trafficking. For this, training facilities in Central Asia as well as in the rest of the OSCE area were to be used. While tasked to avoid unnecessary duplication of existing efforts of other international actors, the Secretary General was also mandated to explore all possible co-operation options, in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant regional and international organizations and other actors.

At the Helsinki Ministerial Council in December 2008, the participating States turned their attention once again to the issue of trafficking in human beings. Decision No. 5/08 on Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings Through a Comprehensive Approach emphasized the need for training on combating trafficking in human

beings for law enforcement personnel and urged the participating States, *inter alia*, to ensure co-operation between law enforcement agencies and other relevant actors at the national and international level, and “to intensify measures to disrupt trafficking networks, including by means of financial investigations, investigations of money laundering connected to human trafficking and the freezing and confiscation of the assets of human traffickers”.

Reaffirming the participating States’ commitment to proactively implement the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and recalling Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decisions on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, and on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, the 17th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Athens 2009), in its Decision on Women’s Participation in Political and Public Life, called on the participating States to consider providing for specific measure to achieve the goal of gender balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, including police services.

Acknowledging the “[...] diverse and multifaceted OSCE work, experience and lessons learned in the policing field, in particular the work of TNTD/SPMU and the field operations within their respective mandates”, the Permanent Council, in its Decision 914/09 adopted in Athens, expressed its conviction that the time had come to take stock of what had been done so far in policing and to “[...] initiate a thorough dialogue on how to further enhance police-related activities within the OSCE.” The Permanent Council tasked the Secretary General, “[...] within existing resources and in consultation with relevant OSCE executive structures, to prepare a report on police-related activities of the OSCE executive structures up to the end of 2009”. The report was to be based partly on the annual reports on police-related activities, reflecting existing mandates and OSCE commitments, and was “[...] to include an assessment of those activities and a forward-looking perspective, offering long-term strategic recommendations”. Moreover, the Permanent Council decided that this report would be further discussed during the next Annual Police Experts Meeting in May 2010, as well as at the 2010 Annual Security Review Conference.

The Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on Further OSCE Efforts to Address Transnational Threats and Challenges to Security and Stability took note of, *inter alia*, the OSCE’s contribution to international efforts to fight organized crime through the provision of relevant law enforcement expertise and assistance to participating States, and called for exploring further ways to strengthen synergies in OSCE activities against transnational threats, for addressing them in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, and for focusing on areas where the OSCE has a comparative advantage and can complement the work of other international organizations.

“Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the UN and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation”, the participating States, in the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE’s Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, reiterated “[...] that the OSCE’s ability to deploy civilian, police or unarmed military expertise rapidly is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation”. It also expressed the expectation for “[...] the OSCE Chairmanship and the executive structures to take full advantage of their respective mandates to address all phases of the conflict cycle”, and urged “the Chairmanship and participating States to use, swiftly and to the greatest extent possible, all available tools and procedures as applicable to a particular crisis or conflict situation [...].”

“Reiterating the determination expressed by Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings”, the Vilnius Ministerial Council, in Decision No. 9/11 on Strengthening Co-ordination and Coherence in the OSCE’s Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, welcomed “the proposals by the Secretary General included in the 2012 Unified Budget Proposal for the creation of a department to address transnational threats, consistent with the OSCE’s mandates and within available resources, with a view to ensuring better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE’s resources in addressing transnational threats [...].”

To further strengthen the OSCE’s efforts to address transnational threats, the Dublin Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 4/12 in December 2012. This so-called “chapeau” decision endorses four decisions that had been adopted in 2012 by the Permanent Council on the development of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (PC Decision No. 1039), the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC Decision No. 1048), the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC Decision No. 1049) and finally, the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (PC Decision No. 1063).

In the PC Decision No. 1039 on the Development of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict

Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies, the Permanent Council decided “to step up individual and collective efforts to address security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner in accordance with OSCE commitments and in co-operation with relevant international organizations. The PC further tasks the OSCE Chairmanship to establish an open-ended, informal OSCE working group under the auspices of the Security Committee to elaborate a set of draft CBMs to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability, and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation, and conflict that may stem from the use of ICT; and to help build consensus for the adoption of such a set of CBMs in 2012.”

The OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC Decision No. 1048) identifies areas and activities requiring sustained efforts for short-, medium- and long-term engagement in combating the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors. It establishes a political framework for comprehensive action by the OSCE participating States and the OSCE executive structures to combat this threat. The Concept stresses the participating States’ commitments to support the implementation of the respective international obligations in this area, with a particular focus on the related UN Conventions and decisions. It also sets principles and major objectives of co-operation, and provides a platform for OSCE’s co-operation with international organizations and partners in recognition of the important role played by civil society, including the media and NGOs, in addressing drug-related crimes, as well as preventive measures aimed at reducing drug abuse and dependence, and drug-related harm to health and society, especially to children and young people. According to the Concept, the participating States’ co-operation will include, *inter alia*, the exchange of good practices and scientific evidence-based information on combating the threat of illicit drugs. It will also include the facilitation and promotion of cross-border interaction between relevant criminal justice agencies and other competent national structures of the participating States in the prevention, identification, suppression, detection and investigation of drug-related crimes, and the apprehension and extradition of criminals in accordance with existing legal frameworks.

The OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities defines the Organization’s priorities in this area, within a wider OSCE approach to security, such as police development and reform, and the fight against organized transnational crime, including trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors, trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation of children on the internet, and cybercrime. Through needs assessment, capacity-building, institution building, training and evaluation, the OSCE will assist the law enforcement agencies of participating States to address the threats posed by criminal activity. All of these ac-

tivities will be done in line with the promotion of the principles of democratic policing, such as the importance of the rule of law; due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including gender and minority issues; police–public partnerships; effective and accountable criminal justice systems; and enhanced criminal justice co-operation among participating States and international and regional organizations. The decision highlights the importance of co-operation with governmental authorities as well as civil society in a long-term approach that fosters local commitment to and ownership and sustainability of police-related programme achievements.

The OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (PC Decision No. 1063) further strengthens the profile of the Organization in the struggle against terrorism. The Decision builds on relevant decisions of the Ministerial Council and highlights the OSCE's anti-terrorism profile, listing the comparative advantages of the Organization. The Decision provides guidance for the Organization, outlining strategic focus areas for counter-terrorism activities. Therewith the Decision is a roadmap for any further OSCE action to be taken in the area of countering terrorism.

In the 2012 Dublin Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the participating States encourage the OCEEA and TNTD “within their respective mandates to assist the participating States, at their request, in their efforts to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism, including through the development, adoption and implementation of legislation and practices to improve interagency and external co-ordination mechanisms in this area.”

In 2013, the participating States, with PC Dec. No. 1106 adopted the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later. This Decision amends the 2003 Action Plan. It provides participating States with an updated toolkit to combat all forms of THB, and helps to address current and emerging THB trends and patterns, as well as the most pressing challenges related to the prosecution of the crime, its prevention and protection of trafficked persons.

In 2013, the participating States adopted the Initial Set of OSCE Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (PC Decision No. 1106) in order to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation and conflict that may stem from the use of information and communication technologies. According to the decision, the participating States will voluntarily facilitate co-operation among competent national bodies; share information on measures that they have taken to ensure an open, interoperable, secure and reliable internet; and use the OSCE as a platform for di-

alogue, exchange of good practices, awareness-raising and information on capacity-building regarding security of and in the use of ICTs, including effective responses to related threats.

The 2014 Basel Ministerial Council adopted several decisions and declarations related to policing activities.

The Basel Ministerial Decision No. 5/14 on the Prevention of Corruption underlines, *inter alia*, “the central role played by law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions in preventing and combating corruption” and encourages the relevant OSCE executive structures to facilitate the exchange of good practices in the prevention of corruption among participating States upon their request.

The Basel Ministerial Decision No. 7/14 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women reaffirms earlier commitments to prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence. It calls on participating States to improve their legal frameworks for preventing and combating such violence, and to collect and make public data and statistics regarding all forms of violence against women. It encourages participating States to enhance awareness-raising and other prevention programmes, to ensure the protection of victims of all forms of violence against women, and to “strengthen the efforts to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and provide victims with protection and appropriate remedies.” The decision tasks the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States, at their request, to facilitate the exchange of information, improve co-ordination and provide technical assistance and training to help participating States fulfil these goals.

The Basel Ministerial Council Declaration No. 5/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) calls upon the OSCE executive structures, *inter alia*, “to offer assistance in capacity-building activities to the requesting participating States, in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 1063, and to organize, where appropriate, regional and sub-regional events to identify potential weaknesses in international legal and operational co-operation mechanisms in order to foster better co-operation and co-ordination nationally and internationally”; “to continue to promote OSCE efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including through community policing approaches to preventing terrorism, in particular at the local level”; and “to support requesting participating States in the implementation of their commitments regarding travel document security and border management and to facilitate technical assistance in this field by INTERPOL and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States.”



The Basel Ministerial Council Declaration No. 6/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering Kidnapping and Hostage-Taking Committed by Terrorist Groups in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2133 (2014) calls upon the OSCE executive structures to continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, to explore ways to exchange information between intelligence agencies and the criminal justice systems, and to promote capacity-building for managing, investigating and prosecuting cases of terrorist kidnapping and hostage-taking.

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/15 on the OSCE Activities in Support of the Global Efforts Tackling the World Drug Problem states the need for a balanced and integrated approach to tackling the world drug problem, for further co-operation between the OSCE with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, and other relevant multilateral organizations, especially with the emergence and spread of dangerous new psychoactive substances and the diversion of chemical precursors, and for further co-operation in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016).

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 3/15 on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of the Recent Terrorist Attacks condemns all terrorist attacks and reaffirms the OSCE's commitments to remain united in combating terrorism, while underscoring respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law as complementary to effective counter-terrorism measures.

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 4/15 on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism calls upon participating States to strengthen and adapt their efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and to support a multi-dimensional approach, including community policing, to counter VERLT within the OSCE area.

The Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/16 on Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism underscores the central role of the UN in preventing and countering terrorism, including the importance of OSCE commitments to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It states that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, while stressing the need for participating States to take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism. The decision also positively appreciates the implementation of the #UnitedCVE campaign, and welcomed the activities by OSCE executive structures in the area of preventing and countering terrorism.

The Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/16 on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Mi-

grants and Refugees encourages participating States to use the OSCE platform for improving dialogue on migration-related matters by developing effective measures and common approaches to address such matters. It also encourages OSCE executive structures to reinforce the exchange of good practices and to enhance dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation.

With MC Decision No. 6/16 on Enhancing the Use of Advanced Passenger Information, the OSCE participating States commit to: 1. Establish national advance passenger information (API) systems in accordance with the provisions contained in ICAO's Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention) and aligned with the WCO/IATA/ICAO Guidelines on Advance Passenger Information (API), including those on privacy and data protection, in order to effectively collect passenger and/or crew data from airlines operating in their territories; 2. Consider establishing at the national level an interactive system to exchange API data (iAPI) in order to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters in line with UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2309 (2016); 3. Adhere to ICAO Document 9082 "ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services" in the context of establishing an API system, recognizing that States are responsible for ensuring the implementation of adequate security measures at airports; 4. Collaborate with all relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of national level API systems, and consider establishing one authority to receive, on behalf of all other authorities, all forms of passenger data through a single window data entry point; 5. Increase the added value of API data by seeking to establish automated cross-checking of this data against relevant national, regional and international watch lists, in particular INTERPOL databases and UN Sanctions Lists; 6. Provide assistance to support other requesting participating States in establishing API systems.

The Tirana Ministerial Council Declaration No. 1/20 on Strengthening Co-operation in Countering Transnational Organized Crime underlined the importance of strengthening national co-ordination and international co-operation in countering transnational organized crime through direct contact and engagement between relevant authorities, and by exchange of information and good practices, as well as by using the tools provided by the OSCE, UNODC and other relevant international organizations. It recommitted to maintaining the countering of transnational organized crime among the priorities of the OSCE by enhancing implementation of the respective international obligations and the OSCE's existing commitments. It also reaffirmed the tasking of the relevant OSCE executive structures to regularly brief the participating States on OSCE activities related to the implementation of existing OSCE commitments to address transnational organized crime, and encouraged continued discussions on this topic among the participating States.

# APPENDIX II

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AECT	Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team
AI	artificial intelligence
AMSCA	(Kosovo) Agency for the Management of Sequestered or Confiscated Assets
AML/CFT	anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism
APC	(Kosovo) Agency for Prevention of Corruption
API	advance passenger information
AWKCS	Association of Women in Kosovo Correctional Services
AWKP	Association of Women in Kosovo Police
BAK	Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption
BAMIN	Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BOMCA	Border Management Programme in Central Asia
BSMU	(OSCE TNTD) Border Security and Management Unit
CBM	confidence-building measure
CCPCJ	(UN) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CFT	combating the financing of terrorism
CND	(UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs
CoE	Council of Europe
CoESPU	Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units
CPC	(OSCE) Conflict Prevention Centre
CSO	civil society organization
CSW	(Kosovo) Centres for Social Work
CTHB	combating trafficking in human beings
CT	counter-terrorism
CTF	countering terrorist financing
CVE	countering violent extremism
DCA	Drug Control Agency (of Tajikistan)
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

DELPAT	Délégation au patrimoine de l'armée de Terre (of France)
DG HOME	(EU) Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
DG INTPA	(EU) Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DG NEAR	(EU) Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DIA	(Kosovo) Department for Intelligence and Analysis
DSE	Directorate for Safety and Emergencies
EEAS	EU External Action Service
EE IWG	Eastern European informal working group
EMA	(Kosovo) Emergency Management Agency
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats
EU	European Union
EUACI	EU Anti-Corruption Initiative
EULEX	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
Europol	European Union Law Enforcement Agency
ExB	(OSCE) extra-budgetary (project)
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation
FTFs	foreign terrorist fighters
GBV	gender-based violence
GFCE	Global Forum on Cyber Expertise
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GRECO	Group of States against Corruption
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
HAPE	EU Home Affairs Programme
HCNM	(OSCE) High Commissioner for National Minorities
HCTF	Heritage Crime Task Force
HUMINT	human intelligence
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICITAP	US Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICT	information and communications technology
IDS	intruder-detection system

ILECU	(Kosovo) International Law Enforcement Cooperation
ILP	intelligence-led policing
INL	United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISP	interagency security partnership
IT	information technology
KAF	Kosovo Agency on Forensics
KAPS	Kosovo Academy for Public Safety
KAWSS	Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector
KCS	Kosovo Correctional Service
KCSC	Kosovo Cyber Security Council
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
KP	Kosovo Police
KPS	Kosovo Probation Service
KTA	Kosovo Tax Administration
LLMs	large language models
LPSC	local public safety committees
MC	Ministerial Council
MCMDV	Municipal Coordination Mechanisms against Domestic Violence
MCSCs	municipal community safety councils
MDE	(Kosovo) Municipal Directorates of Education
MESTI	(Kosovo) Ministry for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation
MLEVSA	Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs (Serbia)
MONEYVAL	EU Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism
MoE	Ministry of Education Development (Serbia)
MoH	Ministry of Health
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
Mol KR	Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
MPR	mobile police reception
MPSOTC	Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center
MTT	mobile training team
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NAP	National Action Plan

NCJA	North Carolina Justice Academy
NCSC	Dutch National Cyber Security Centre
NGO	non-governmental organization
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
NHRI	national human rights institution
NPM	national preventive mechanism
NRA	national risk assessment
NRA ML/TF	National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
OCBC	Gendarmerie Central Office for the Fight against Illegal Trafficking in Cultural Goods
OCEEA	(OSCE) Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities
ODIHR	(OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFA	Ohrid Framework Agreement
OGG	(Kosovo) Office of Good Governance
ONDOD	(Spain) National Office for the Fight Against Hate Crimes
OSINT	open source investigative tools
OSR/CTHB	(OSCE) Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
P/CVERLT	preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
PC	Permanent Council
PCOCP	Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors
PCUz	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
PIK	Police Inspectorate of Kosovo
PIU	Passenger Information Unit
PNR	passenger name record
POiA	(OSCE) Programme Office in Astana
POiB	(OSCE) Programme Office in Bishkek
SAIFE	Spotlight on AI and Freedom of Expression
SALW	small arms and light weapons
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SEE	South-Eastern Europe
SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency
SOP	standard operating procedure
SPMU	(OSCE TNTD) Strategic Police Matters Unit
SPU	(OSCE) support programme for Ukraine

SR/CTHB	(OSCE) Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
SSG/R	security sector governance and reform
TADOC	Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime
TAHCLE	Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement
THB	trafficking in human beings
TNTD	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department
TNTD/ATU	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit
TNTD/BSMU	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit
TNTD/CC	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Co-ordination Cell
TNTD/SPMU	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit
TOC	transnational organized crime
ToT	training-of-trainers
TTX	tabletop exercise
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VAAO	Victims' Advocacy and Assistance Office
VASP	virtual asset service provider
VAW	violence against women
VAWG	violence against women and girls
VERLT	violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
WBSC	World Border Security Congress
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHC	West Herzegovina Canton
WPA	(Montenegrin) Women's Police Association
WPON	Women Police Officers Network
ZELS	(North Macedonia) Association of Units of Local Self-Governance

# APPENDIX III

## Contact Details

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