



# Project PROTECT on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Attacks

Vulnerable targets are at risk across the OSCE area. Critical infrastructure and soft targets continue to be subject to cyber and physical attacks by malicious actors. Building on the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight Against Terrorism, for over a decade the OSCE participating States have focused on addressing this threat in a human rights-compliant manner and signalled a clear role for the Organization in enhancing co-operation and building capacity at a national and regional level.

## What is a vulnerable target?

There is no standard definition for a vulnerable target at the OSCE nor the United Nations. It is the prerogative of each OSCE participating State to define their own vulnerable targets. Generally, the term encompasses both critical infrastructure – including inter alia energy and transportation infrastructure – and soft targets and public spaces such as hotels, places of worship, shopping streets or sporting events.

The ongoing activities of terrorists and violent extremists of all forms show a clear threat to the security of infrastructure, places of worship, concert halls and other public spaces. Successful attacks in recent years provide real-world examples of the persistence of this threat and the urgency of mitigating its destructive impacts. Importantly, threats to the security of vulnerable targets come from malicious actors across the ideological spectrum, meaning addressing this challenge is vital for every OSCE participating State.

To enhance the security and prosperity of the OSCE area, ensuring the protection and resilience of vulnerable targets and learning from the experience and expertise of all OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation is crucial.

## OBJECTIVE

Project PROTECT enhances national approaches across the OSCE area on the protection of vulnerable targets from terrorist threats and other hazards through the provision of specialized guidance, technical assistance and opportunities for regional co-operation and dialogue on effective security practices.

## PILLARS

Project PROTECT is a multi-faceted initiative designed along three pillars:



**Pillar 1:** Consolidating and disseminating specialized guidance and good practices on the protection of critical infrastructure from across the OSCE area.



**Pillar 2:** Enhancing national capacity to effectively protect vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks and other hazards through in-country awareness-raising and training.



**Pillar 3:** Facilitating regional co-operation and dialogue among participating States and other stakeholders on the protection of vulnerable targets.

## PROJECT PROTECT'S INNOVATIVE, AGILE AND ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK

**1** Pragmatic and agile capacity-building model that adapts to national priorities focused on critical infrastructure protection, soft targets protection or both. This process identifies legislative, procedural and operational gaps in national frameworks and designs tailored training programmes in response.

**2** Engagement with civil society and the business community in line with OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 5/07 on public-private partnerships in countering terrorism.

**3** Regional lines of effort including network-building and facilitated dialogue on the security of regionally-important infrastructure and cross-border terrorist threats.

## WHY THE OSCE?

- ✓ **Unique on-the-ground access.** The OSCE's field presence offers unparalleled access to host governments which increases the reach and sustainability of Project PROTECT.
- ✓ **Comprehensive expertise.** Project PROTECT taps into a wealth of OSCE-wide expertise, including experts on counter-terrorism, human rights, energy security, natural resource management, connectivity, cyber/information and communication technology security, arms control, etc.
- ✓ **Tailored regional approach,** allowing the OSCE to reinforce and build on United Nations commitments while addressing the OSCE area's specific needs.

### LEARN MORE

<https://www.osce.org/project/PROTECT>



This extra-budgetary project is funded by:

