

# SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS

## HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

### “The Role of the Political Parties in the Political Process”

*The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of CSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.*

***The opinions and information shared during the side events convened by participants do not necessarily reflect the policy of the OSCE/ODIHR.***

<b>Wednesday, 18 May</b>
<p><i>Title: Think Tanks and Political Parties: Dialogue for Reform</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: National Association of Political Scientists of Tajikistan, IDIS “Viitorul,” Centre for National and International Studies, Information Policy Development Fund, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development, Tajik Association of Women’s NGOs on Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Against Women, OSCE ODIHR as coordinator</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.15 – 14.45</i>  <i>Venue: Plenary Hall</i>  <i>Language: English, Russian</i></p>

<b>Thursday, 19 May</b>	<b>Thursday, 19 May</b>	<b>Thursday, 19 May</b>
<p><i>Title: Presentation of the Guidelines on Political Party Regulation</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i>  <i>Venue: Meeting Room 1</i>  <i>Language: English, Russian</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Supporting political Parties in the Political Process – the Cross-party Approach</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, Demo Finland, European Partnership for Democracy</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i>  <i>Venue: Meeting Room 2</i>  <i>Language: English</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Transparency of Political Party Funding</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Transparency International</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.15 – 14.45</i>  <i>Venue: Plenary Hall</i>  <i>Language: English</i></p>

Friday, 20 May	Friday, 20 May
<p><i>Title: Supporting institutional developments of political parties in young democracies: NIMD experience in Georgia</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Meeting Room 1</i></p> <p><i>Language: English</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Case studies from the OSCE’s work in strengthening parliaments</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: OSCE Presence in Albania, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, OSCE Mission in Kosovo, OSCE Mission to Montenegro, OSCE Mission to Serbia, OSCE/ODIHR</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.15 – 14.45</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Plenary Hall</i></p> <p><i>Language: English</i></p>

## **OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS**

### **As submitted by the organizers**

*The side events below have been organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Seminar. The following descriptions of the meetings were prepared by the organizations convening the events and do not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE/ ODIHR*

### **Wednesday, 18 May**

Time: 13.15 – 14.45  
 Venue: Plenary Hall  
 Title: **Think Tanks and Political Parties: Dialogue for Reform**  
 Convenor: National Association of Political Scientists of Tajikistan, IDIS “Viitorul,” Centre for National and International Studies, Information Policy Development Fund, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development, Tajik Association of Women’s NGOs on Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Against Women, ODIHR as coordinator  
 Language: English, Russian

Summary: Multi-party democracy requires the development and promotion of independent organizations that can engage in pragmatic political research and analysis. Think tanks are essential for ensuring that citizens are aware of government policies and can contribute to legal reform. For this reason, independent analytical capacity is critical to responding effectively to democracy’s challenges, informing the political process, and promoting pluralism

This side event will be an opportunity for research centres across the OSCE region to discuss recently-released Country Reports on Political Party Regulations and Legislation. The speakers will present good practices and challenges in researching and publishing on political parties and systems. The authors of these reports will discuss different methods for researching

political parties and provide evaluations of how think tank reports can impact the political process and spur reform.

Moderator: Marcin Walecki (ODIHR)

Speakers

Sergiu Lipceanu, IDIS “Viitorul,” Moldova

Abdughani Mamadazimov, National Association of Political Scientists, Tajikistan

Leila Alieva, Centre for National and International Studies, Azerbaijan

Alexander Kynev, Information Policy Development Fund, Russia

Denys Kovryzhenko, Agency for Legislative Initiatives, Ukraine

Ghia Nodia, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development, Georgia

Alla Kuvatova, Tajik Association of Women’s NGOs on Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Against Women

Refreshments will be served

**Thursday, 19 May**

Time: 13.00 – 15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: **Presentation of the Guidelines on Political Party Regulation**  
Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission  
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Over the last two years, ODIHR together with the Venice Commission has developed the Guidelines on Political Party Regulation. The Guidelines are the result of a broad, consultative and inclusive process that included surveys of political party regulations in the OSCE area as well as the development of a common understanding of the relevant OSCE commitments. The Guidelines are not intended to provide a single and uniform framework for regulation on political parties, but rather to clarify issues related to political party legislation and to provide examples of good practice from OSCE participating states.

This side event will focus on the purpose and nature of the Guidelines and provide an opportunity for discussion on the challenges of drafting and implementing political party regulation.

Moderator: Mr. Sergej Muravjov (Executive Director, Transparency International, Lithuania)

Refreshments will be served

Time: 13.00 – 15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: **Supporting political Parties in the Political Process – the Cross-party Approach**  
Convenor: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, Demo Finland, European Partnership for Democracy  
Language: English

Summary: The events in the Arab World have brought democracy support back to the center of the political debate in Europe. This debate is gaining momentum at a time when, as a result of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, a new institutional equilibrium is being established.

European Union institutions are still evaluating the full extent of this shift, but the new structures seem to be shaping a new balance of power within the EU, and especially with regards to EU's foreign policy and security strategies. New and old institutions, constituting or adopting new roles, need an increased level of transparency and communication.

At the same time, improved synergies and transparency are needed between the European Union and national levels, to address the Lisbon Treaty's call for an enhanced coherence and coordination. Attempts at fleshing out a more concrete agenda for action have been made in various instances. Yet, much needs to be done at the policy and implementation levels to materialize the principles of coherence and consistency, especially in the area of democracy support.

Defining a more effective equilibrium amongst the various strands of democracy assistance remains one of the challenges. At the programmatic level, democracy assistance requires a holistic approach that will encompass interventions and support at various levels (political reform, institutional reform and policy reform). At the operational level, this holistic vision shall be structured around a multidisciplinary community of practice at the European level, capable of implementing integrated assistance packages in a more coordinated manner, benefiting from exchange of good practices, synergy and complementarity.

At this working lunch we will address the role that cooperation strategies based on field experiences on cross-party support and enhanced political dialogue can play in addressing the challenges posed by recent transformation processes at a programmatic level. Special attention is given to inclusiveness, in particular, the role of women and youth in political processes. Similarly, we will discuss how this approach can be brought with other strands of work at the operational level and how platforms like the European Partnership for Democracy can significantly contribute to defining and delivering more integrated assistance packages to countries in transition.

Refreshments will be served

Time: 13.15 – 14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: **Transparency of Political Party Funding**  
Convenor: Transparency International  
Language: English

Summary: Money is a necessary element for a functioning democratic system. Parties and candidates need resources to build strong grassroots organizations, communicate their messages to citizenry and canvass voter support. However, money in politics can pose serious corruption risks to the quality of government and democracy. Electoral processes can be unduly influenced when sizeable and undisclosed donations are provided to political parties by individuals and organizations with their own political agendas.

The potential fallout of corrupt exchanges between parties and funders gives the impression that access to the democratic decision-making process can be bought, irrespective of what the public wants. A number of scandals linked to the financing of political parties in many countries of Europe has contributed to the growing concern of citizens with regard to improper influence on politics through financial means. As a result, people lose interest in the political process and distrust governments. As TI's Global Corruption Barometer shows less and less people trust their politicians: 8 out of 10 citizens polled by TI in 2010 in 86 countries, said that political parties are corrupt or extremely corrupt. These staggering results demonstrate that issue of political financing must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Reflecting on the evidence of growing influence of money in politics, Transparency International has been working on the issue for several years, focusing initially on corruption during the electoral cycle. Subsequently TI has tried to tackle the problem by building public demand for transparency and empowering civil society to monitor the flow of money in politics. TI's *Standards on Political Finance and Favours* outline the minimum benchmarks for transparency and integrity of political financing, while the *Policy Position on Political Finance Regulations* provides key suggestions for how to ensure that recommendations are effectively enforced. As with so many other areas of anti-corruption work, most innovation in this sphere comes from the practitioners in the field who make up the TI network. Several practical tools have been developed to monitor the flow and influence of money in politics. This has made the problem manifest for policy makers and for the general public, and has provided evidence to underpin recommendations for reform.

The meeting will feature the presentation with the data from the recent Global Corruption Barometer and offer insights into approach of Transparency International in tackling corruption in political party funding. Deputy Managing Director **Miklos Marshall** and Political Corruption Program Coordinator **Tinatin Ninua** will highlight the milestones of TI's work in this area, such as Standards for Political Financing and the methodology for measuring transparency of funding of political parties and election campaigns. **Nemanja Nenadic**, Executive Director of TI's national chapter in Serbia, will speak about the country level initiatives in monitoring and promoting transparency of party funding in Serbia.

Refreshments will be served

### **Friday, 20 May**

Time: 13.00 – 15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: **Supporting institutional developments of political parties in young democracies: NIMD experience in Georgia**  
Convenor: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy  
Language: English

Summary: In 2010 NIMD began to support Georgian political parties in their institutional development. NIMD engaged seven political parties representing a wide spectrum of political views and platforms in Georgia and offered a comprehensive approach to help create strategic development plans.

NIMD applies the best international practices in development and synchs it with the local needs and expertise. Working with the groups of party interlocutors, NIMD advanced successfully in the process of creating sound and actionable development plans for Georgian political parties.

In its work, NIMD emphasizes the importance of understanding the unique needs that differentiate the political parties instead of applying common templates to all; it encourages frank and open discussion within the parties and a serious inside assessment of challenges and opportunities facing the organization; NIMD also provides logistical support for intra-party deliberations and facilitates the discussions. By assessing a wide range of possibilities for institutional development of Georgian political organizations, NIMD creates a solid knowledge base concerning the challenges facing the political party development and lays the groundwork for greater cooperation between the development organizations as well as allows for focused and effective investments into political party building.

Refreshments will be served

Time: 13.15 – 14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: **Case studies from the OSCE’s work in strengthening parliaments**  
Convenor: OSCE Presence in Albania, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, OSCE Mission in Kosovo, OSCE Mission to Montenegro, OSCE Mission to Serbia, ODIHR  
Language: English

**Summary** In order to understand the role of political parties in the political process, one cannot overlook the crucial function of parliaments, one of the key institutions in the OSCE’s understanding of democracy. There is a close relationship between the vigour of multi-party democracy and the institution of parliament. Parliaments are the key venue in which political party factions compete and cooperate to represent the people’s interests, shape policy and legislation, and hold the executive to account.

For over a decade, OSCE Field Operations and the ODIHR have been implementing programmes and projects to develop and strengthen parliaments and their role in the political process. This Side Event will feature discussions of some of these programmes, focusing on various aspects of implementation. It will provide an opportunity to gain insights into the key challenges in shaping, implementing and delivering such programmes.

Moderator: Ruben Diaz-Plaja, Democratic Governance Officer (ODIHR)

#### Speakers

Representatives of OSCE Field Operations and ODIHR responsible for implementing parliamentary development programmes

Selected representatives of parliaments that have received OSCE assistance and support

Refreshments will be served