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NATIONAL MINORITIES, BRIDGE BUILDING AND INTEGRATION

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FINAL REPORT



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OVERVIEW

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) in 2016 was dedicated to “Minorities, Bridge Building and Integration”. It brought together 157 participants, including: 102 participants from 44 participating States, ten participants from three OSCE institutions, three representatives of two OSCE missions/field operations, one representative from a OSCE Partner for Co-operation, five representatives of three international organizations, one from a national human rights institution (NHRI), one media representative as well as 34 representatives of 28 civil society organizations.

The meeting was organized into three sessions:

- SESSION I: Legal mechanisms for bridge building across States
- SESSION II: Promoting the bridge building role of national minority issues across various policy areas
- SESSION III: Empowering civil society to build bridges on the grassroots level

II. SYNOPSIS OF THE SESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks: **Ambassador Eberhard Pohl**, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE

Mr. Henrik Villadsen, Director of the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ms. Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Keynote Speech: **Professor Dr. Dr. Rainer Hofmann**, Professor of Constitutional Law, Public International Law and European Law, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE; Mr. Henrik Villadsen, Director of the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities; and Ms. Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights delivered their opening remarks. Professor Rainer Hofmann, Professor of Constitutional Law, Public International Law and European Law, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, delivered the keynote speech.

Ambassador Pohl thanked ODIHR and HCNM for the good co-operation and remarked that the idea to focus on the potential of national minorities to build bridges between states was first announced at the previous SHDM on the “OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities”, held under the Serbian Chairmanship in 2015. Ambassador Pohl emphasized that the ability to manage national minority issues democratically and in accordance with the rule of law is a sign of political stability, domestic democratic maturity, and reliability in the foreign affairs of a country. Ambassador Pohl accentuated Germany’s stance that national minorities can play a positive role in society and contribute to positive relations within and between states, and mentioned the Danish minority in the German-Danish border region and, inversely, the German minority in the Danish-German border region as an example of good practice. In response to a request made by the German Chairmanship, the HCNM coordinated a project tasking the European Centre for Minority Issues, the European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano and Assistant Professor Nina Bagdasarova to answer these questions with the help of an OSCE-wide survey. The lively participation in the survey serves to show how timely these questions are. He was pleased that Professor Hofmann would deliver a keynote speech to convey further impulses from the German and international perspective and wished everyone a successful and inspiring meeting.

Director Villadsen stated that he was honored to address the participants on behalf of the institution. He continued to remind the audience that HCNM utilizes over 20 years of accumulated experience – consisting of both thematic and country-specific expertise – on how to best manage various issues and tensions involving national minorities both within and between States with a view to alleviating grievances, building intercommunal trust, and strengthening societal cohesion. Director Villadsen remarked that, over the course of the next two days, participants will hear positive examples of the application of various HCNM guidelines – with or without direct references to them. Director Villadsen commended the German Chairmanship for taking such an innovative and positive stance on diversity and intercommunal relations by focusing on the positive aspects of – metaphorically speaking – “bridge building”, with and through national minorities. Director Villadsen pointed out that among the presentations, there is also one from this year’s winner of the Max van der Stoep Award – the Association for Historical Research and Dialogue (AHDR) – which demonstrates the remarkable case of what can happen when committed and courageous individuals from different communities join forces for a common goal. Director Villadsen

thanked the participants for their attention and indicated that he was looking forward to the constructive discussions as well as hearing how the HCNM as an institution can be of further assistance in this field.

In Professor Hoffman's keynote speech, he thanked what is in his opinion one of the truly essential OSCE institutions – the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities – and reiterated that it is imperative that we keep in mind that the protection of the specific human rights of persons belonging to national minorities constitutes a most important and integral part of current human rights law. Professor Hoffman carefully noted that tense, and even more so conflictual, relations between majority and minority populations carry the potential to destabilize whole regions and, in the worst case scenario, even result in non-international and even international armed conflicts. Hoffman elaborated upon the link between the OSCE HCNM and the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, where recommendations and guidelines issued by HCNM have been, and continue to be, important sources of inspiration for the Advisory Committee when interpreting and applying the provisions of the Framework Convention. As a way to “bridge” the “traditional narrative” of minority rights, Professor Hoffman elaborated on the individual sessions and described how they will contribute to changing the narrative to focus on the positive role that national minorities can play, both in inter-state and intra-state relations. Professor Hoffman concluded that the ultimate goal of minority rights protection is to create integrated societies which fully respect the often quite diverse identities of their members.

SESSION I: Legal mechanisms for bridge building across States
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Moderator: **Dr. Walter Kemp**, Visiting Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences

Introducers: **Professor Dr. Jens Woelk**, Professor of Law, University of Trento and Senior Researcher, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano

Ms. Ana Nikolov, Director of Planning Balkans, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives and Coordinator for Balkans, Association of European Border Regions

Dr. Milan Bošnjak, Special Adviser for Croatian National Minorities Issues Abroad and Vice Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee for the Protection of Minorities between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary

Dr. Csaba Pákozdi, Senior International Legal Adviser to the Ministerial Commissioner Responsible for Developing Neighbourhood Policy of Hungary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

During the first working session, the participants reflected upon good practices in designing and implementing legal frameworks; practices that not only work on preventing or managing tensions but which also serve to integrate diverse societies and foster and enable the bridge building role of minority communities. Throughout the presentations and subsequent discussion, the session examined good practices with regard to the legal and institutional frameworks which allow national minorities to contribute to friendly inter-State relations as well as the role of minority consultative and representative bodies in implementing and monitoring such legal frameworks. It further examined the possible part that the OSCE could play to foster the bridge building role of national minorities in inter-State relations and the participating States' experiences with cross-border co-operation and the role of national minorities in such frameworks.

Professor Jens Woelk, Professor of Law, University of Trento and Senior Researcher, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano, opened the discussion by referring to the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which in Article 17 refers to the undertaking by its signatories not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, particularly those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage. This implicitly recognized the right to cross-border co-operation and further underscored the fact that the protection of minorities falls under the domain of international co-operation.

In terms of possible forms of cross-border co-operation that can be found on the ground, Professor Woelk identified public law instruments, associations and euroregions as well as informal instruments and practices. On the ground, legal mechanisms for cross-border co-operation include *inter alia* bilateral agreements and the domestic recognition of, for example, external powers of sub-state entities, particularly those in Europe and the EU neighbourhood policy programmes, that promote cross-border co-operation. As examples of a bilateral agreement between neighbouring countries, specific examples included the agreement between Hungary and Croatia, and Poland and Lithuania.

The introducer further outlined examples of public law instruments by providing an overview of the current implementation of Protocol No. 3 to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities concerning Euroregional Co-operation Groupings (ECGs), i.e. Protocol No. 3 of the Madrid Convention, which aims to facilitate and encourage the signing of cross-border agreements between local and regional authorities within the scope of their responsibilities. In the OSCE areas, there are currently more than 30 geographical cross-border areas where there is multilateral and bilateral co-operation. The introducer referred to a shift in the paradigm whereby cross-border co-operation is now seen as an opportunity rather than something that is merely tolerated; an opportunity with great potential.

Ms. Ana Nikolov, Director of Planning Balkans, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives and Coordinator for Balkans, Association of European Border Regions, built upon the preceding introducer's remarks about cross-border co-operation and the current situation in the OSCE area. Ms. Nikolov referred to the Danube region in particular as an example, forty percent of which is consumed by borders – a very large percentage – and stressed the need for cross-border co-operation to effectively manage, but also to overcome, mistrust between countries. Ms Nikolov highlighted the need for, and the benefit of, cross-border co-operation in the areas of reconciliation, economic progress and protection of national minorities. According to the presentation, cross-border co-operation develops mutual confidence and grass-roots connections. It helps to improve living conditions for the population in all areas of their life in the border regions. It further helps to decrease apprehension and increase tolerance between neighbouring countries and also improves the business environment. Finally, cross-border co-operation also plays an essential role in stimulating national and international development, tolerance and harmonious interaction between cultures.

Dr. Milan Bošnjak, Special Adviser for Croatian National Minorities Issues Abroad and Vice Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee for the Protection of Minorities between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary, introduced the Croatian experience with cross-border co-operation, building upon the introduction by the first speaker in particular. At the moment, Croatia has four bilateral agreements for the mutual protection of national minorities, specifically with the Republic of Hungary; Serbia and Montenegro; the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and, subsequently, with Montenegro. The presentation focused on the bilateral agreement with the Republic of Hungary which was signed in 1995 and which specifically addresses the protection of the Hungarian minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian minority in the Republic of Hungary. The agreement further established an Intergovernmental Joint Committee whose task is to monitor the implementation of the agreement. Sessions of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee are held alternately in the two countries, and from the Croatian side representation includes a co-chairmen, deputy co-chairman, secretary and membership consisting of representatives of the Hungarian national minority and representatives of governmental bodies responsible for areas of particular interest to members of national minorities. i.e. culture, education, information and the official use of minority language, and representation in public services and representative bodies. Its sessions are also attended by diplomatic representatives of both countries at the ambassadorial and consular level.

In terms of achievements of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee to date, Mr. Bošnjak referred to the participation of national minorities in the representative bodies at the local, provincial and national level, official use of minority languages, support to cultural and information institutions and associations in both countries, enabling information in the

mother tongue, enabling teaching in the mother tongue for both minorities: in the Croatian language in the Hungarian education system and in the Hungarian language in the Croatian education system, establishing the study of the Croatian language and literature at universities in Hungary and the study of the Hungarian language and literature at universities in Croatia. In this regard, there are two noteworthy projects in progress, namely, the renovation of the Croatian Theatre in Pecs (Pečuh) – at the request of the Croatian minority; and the construction of the sports school hall in Lug (Laskó) – at the request of the Hungarian minority. In the speaker's view, the successful implementation of recommendations within the Committee means a better protection of minority rights and contributing to the overall development of the two friendly countries. In conclusion, the Intergovernmental Joint Committee for the Protection of Minorities is an important institutional framework and a good mechanism, which demonstrates that the Hungarian and Croatian national minorities undoubtedly form an excellent bridge connecting these two friendly and neighbouring countries – the Republic of Croatia and Hungary.

Dr. Csaba Pákozdi, Senior International Legal Advisor to the Ministerial Commissioner Responsible for Developing Neighbourhood Policy of Hungary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, referred to all previous presentations and the good practices they present. Mr. Pákozdi reflected on the political and social background to the agreement by referring to the basic treaty between Hungary and Croatia, which is in line with the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly recommendation 1201 from 1993. He further referred to the sensitivity of a definition of national minority and described members of national minorities as residing in the territory of a state and making long-lasting and firm ties with the state. He also elaborated on the differences between traditional national minorities and migrant communities in terms of their needs and requirements. The presentation demonstrated that in Hungarian-Croatian relations, the protection of the national minorities is effective. This is due to the appropriate political atmosphere and continuous positive political attitude between the two States. The fruitful intergovernmental dialogue is encouraged by the progressive national law concept on national minorities in both States and is kept in motion by an Intergovernmental Joint Committee on National minorities enacted through the twenty-year-old bilateral convention on the protection of each other's national minorities. The Hungarian-Croatian practice could qualify as one of Europe's best bilateral practices for the protection of national minorities. However, there are deficits to the process as well: the frequency of Intergovernmental Joint Committee meetings is subject to political stability as co-presidents and members are appointed at government level; the presence of national minorities on the Committee depends on the free decision of the national minority organizations taken in the past, which may lead to disproportional geographical representation. There are further opportunities for improving the current practice, e.g. direct dialogue between the respective national minorities in the two countries about submitting joint demands and requirements, and setting-up a multilateral regional national minority

forum that would address the protection of national minority interests from a multilateral perspective.

During the discussions that followed, several delegations were appreciative of the session's ability to provide specific examples of positive practices of cross-border co-operation which benefit members of national minorities. They also shared examples of positive practice in their own States. Several delegations highlighted their appreciation for the HCNM's important work in terms of providing policy blueprints through the publication of thematic recommendations and guidelines. Several interventions focused on the different perceptions of national minorities at work in the OSCE area today and encouraged everyone to view national minorities as having the potential to create links between States. Finally, several interventions underlined that cross-border co-operation is a tool that can be used to empower national minorities. While the legal framework is already in place, nevertheless there are other factors that are more important than law and, in order to have successful cross-border co-operation, there has to be an adjustment to local needs. Some participants also highlighted the need to follow relevant HCNM thematic guidelines, such as the *Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities and Inter-State Relations*.

The following specific recommendations were made in Session I:

Recommendations for the OSCE participating States:

- Several interventions urged the participating States to act as responsible members of the international community, with respect for other state laws, and to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence;
- Several interventions encouraged the participating States to strengthen their monitoring procedures and ensure impartiality, thereby avoiding double standards;
- Several interventions called for the participating States to make better use of the HCNM's thematic Recommendations and Guidelines when they develop policies, particularly the *Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations*;
- Several interventions called for national minorities to be seen as having a potential role as a binding agent in inter-State relations.

Recommendations for the OSCE institutions and field operations:

- Several interventions acknowledged the work of the HCNM and expressed their support for the HCNM and the added value of HCNM's recommendations and guidelines; and

- Several interventions highlighted the importance of the mandate of the HCNM and the need to maintain confidentiality and impartiality as integrated in the mandate.

SESSION II: Promoting the bridge building role of national minority issues across various policy areas

Moderator: **Professor Dr. Joshua Castellino**, Dean of the School of Law, Middlesex University London

Introducers: **Dr. Zora Popova**, Senior Research Associate and Head of Cluster Culture and Diversity, European Centre for Minority Issues

Dr. Maria Golubeva, Education Policy Consultant, Member of Access Lab and Owner of RHC Consulting

Dr. Alessandra Argenti Tremul, Journalist, RTV Slovenija, R-tv Koper Capodistria

In the second working session, participants reflected on integration policies that promote and harness the positive effects of diversity. The moderator, Joshua Castellino, Dean of the School of Law and Professor of Law at Middlesex University London, opened the session by noting that learning from each other is key. He invited participants to share good practices.

Dr. Zora Popova, Senior Research Associate and Head of Cluster Culture and Diversity at the European Centre for Minority Issues, presented the objectives of the Bridge Building project, which was lead by ECMI and co-ordinated by HCNM based upon an initiative by the German OSCE Chairmanship to assess whether, and to what degree, national minority issues contribute to bridge building between communities within and across states. Dr. Popova explained the difficult but rewarding data collection process, which yielded 90 good practice examples of bridge building on three levels: macro- (across borders, between governments and between kin-states and kin-minorities), meso- (within states, between national and local governments and between governments and citizens) and micro-level (between people within and across states). Dr. Popova presented meso-level examples in the categories of institutional infrastructure (police station in the Municipality of Yurievka/Kyrgyzstan), education (Ferenc Rakoczi II Transcapathian Hungarian Institute/Ukraine) and inter-ethnic dialogue (Municipality of Stara Zagora/Bulgaria). Dr. Popova concluded by inviting all participants to share further interesting examples.

Dr. Maria Golubeva, owner of Access Lab and consultant at RHC Consulting, focused on education policies in her presentation as one of the most important, but also most sensitive, areas for bridge building between different communities. Dr. Golubeva discussed issues that have an impact on the relationships between communities and which education policy makers should take into account, namely: 1) the choice of the language of instruction, 2) the choice between joint or separate schooling for students from different ethnic groups, 3) the consensus-building or polarizing nature of history curricula and 4) the link between ethnicity and socio-economic status in educational contexts. The task to create one common educational space with equal opportunities for all to receive high quality education can be a difficult one as designing education policies can be a divisive undertaking. With regard to language, education in minority languages is an important element in the protection of minority rights, while at the same all students should be given the chance to achieve a high level of proficiency in the majority language. Successful examples of bilingual schooling exist, e.g. in Latvia and in Kazakhstan. Dr. Golubeva highlighted the fact that solutions tend to be imperfect and emphasized that ways to mitigate the detrimental effects of the choices made need to be found: for example, when separate schooling is chosen over joint schooling immersion programmes, joint extracurricular activities and programmes such as the Nansen Dialogue School can mitigate the consequences of separation. Dr. Golubeva warned that the careless management of history curricula – particularly the commemoration of wars and losses – can become the cornerstone of conflict. However, positive examples such as the work done by the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research from Cyprus, have proven to contribute to reconciliation. Access to higher education can be problematic for minorities, for example in many places in Central Asia. Dr. Golubeva stressed that finding ways to overcome the combined effect of ethnic and economic marginalization is key to building cohesion.

Dr. Alessandra Argenti Tremul, journalist at RTV Koper Capodistria, discussed the role of media as an opportunity for promoting a sense of identity and at the same time for building bridges between communities. RTV Slovenia/Koper-Capodistria is a public broadcaster in the region of Koper/Capodistria in Slovenia, broadcasting in Italian. The channel produces content relevant for the entire border region, including not only Slovenia and Italy but also Croatia, as the region of Istria is closely connected by a common history. R-TV Koper Capodistria has among others produced documentaries on the history of the region involving historians from minority and majority backgrounds in order to promote dialogue. Dr. Argenti Tremul expressed concern that, while under Slovenian law majority channels are to include content on minority issues, such content has been reduced. Dr. Argenti Tremul emphasized that it is important to use human resources from minority communities in public administration and presented the idea of a common news desk in the upper Adriatic area in Italian, Slovene, Croatian and English as one way of enhancing the bridge building capacity of the diverse communities in that particular cross-border region.

During the discussion, education was highlighted as a principal means to maintain and transmit essential elements of identity, and one of the most effective ways to foster intercultural contact and understanding and a shared sense of civic identity. It was emphasized that respect for, and the protection of, the rights of minorities is a prerequisite to bridge building. Among the challenges discussed were a lack of resources and difficulties in bilateral relations. The moderator concluded this session by noting that both the good practices and the criticism that has been presented show that a conscious effort has to be made to design a better future and encourage us to share and scale up the solutions found.

The following specific recommendations were made in Session II:

Recommendations for the OSCE participating States:

- Several interventions urged the participating States to respect the rights of national minorities;
- Several interventions urged the participating States to adopt policies which will effectively allow national minority communities to play an active role as bridge builders;
- Several interventions called for the participating States to engage more actively with minority communities as bridge builders;
- Several interventions called for the participating States to recognize the capacity of education as an area where positive inter-ethnic relations can be fostered.

Recommendations for the OSCE institutions and field operations:

- Several interventions urged the OSCE to support projects which actively seek to build bridges across borders;
- Several interventions called upon the OSCE to issue recommendations.

Recommendations for civil society, international organizations and other actors.

- Several interventions urged the international community to work on multicultural education and aim for integration through the education system.

SESSION III: Empowering civil society to build bridges on the grassroots level

Moderator: **Dr. Giorgi Sordia**, Director, Centre for Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism

Introducers: **Dr. Nina Bagdasarova**, Associate Professor, American University of Central Asia
Ms. Britta Tästensen, President, Youth of European Nationalities
Ms. Alev Tuğberk, Co-President, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research
Mr. Loizos Loukaidis, Educational Programmes Officer, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research

In the third working session, participants examined and shared positive examples of building bridges on the grassroots level. Starting from the premise that integration of states and national minorities is a complex process, participants focused the discussion around the importance of involving grassroots actors in building societies with respect for the rights of national minorities.

Dr. Nina Bagdasarova, Associate Professor at the American University of Central Asia, gave a presentation that focused on culture, intercultural dialogue and education. The presentation focused on examples of co-operation between groups on the grassroots level in two main areas: (1) culture, intercultural dialogue and education, and (2) healthcare and services. The examples included the activities of the Dungan people in Central Asian countries, such as the Dungan Network of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan. The second example focused on the interactions between two villages near the Armenia-Azerbaijan border where the Cultural Heritage co-operation of Armenia and Azerbaijan connects two village communities on a very personal level through reciprocal support to help community members settle into their new environment as well as the preservation of cultural heritage, involving intercultural understanding and sensitivity. The third example was of a project to reconstruct clean water in Kyrgyzstan where the leaders of the Turkish community together with the Turkish Centre of the Kyrgyz Assembly found donors and helped to implement the project in co-operation with the local authorities. The last example given by Ms. Bagdasarova was of an organization of Turkish Women in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) – OTWM-DERYA. Bagdasarova also mentioned that healthcare for women from different minorities is an example that illustrates co-operation between people which further enhances social cohesion and support.

Ms. Britta Tästensen, President of Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), opened her presentation with a short introduction to YEN and a summary of their work on human and minority rights promotion and intercultural dialogue. She reiterated her point that well-established integration is possible without assimilation and that no one should leave their cultural luggage at the border, in other words: it is possible to live in two different cultures

simultaneously. Ms. Tästensen pointed out that the work of YEN is important as it contributes to awareness raising about national minority issues; it contributes to strengthening the usage and promotion of minority languages and provides support to non-kin State minorities. Ms. Tästensen related this to a few points on what national minorities actually need: namely, support on a national, regional and European level, as well the chance to be fully fledged partners in institutional processes as opposed to only being seen as ‘receivers’ of grants from the State. Finally, it was proposed that in order to ensure the success and sustainability of bridge-building initiatives, sustainable and long-term support and funding is needed whereby the partners are also taken seriously by the government.

Ms. Alev Tuğberk, Co-President of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) and Loizos Loukaidis, Educational Programmes Officer, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), discussed their own experience with building bridges for co-operation on the divided island of Cyprus. The speakers explained how AHDR envisions an education system that prepares children and youth to live in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-faith society such as that of Cyprus. In order to promote education that prepares children and youth to live in multi-ethnic societies, rather than one that focuses on the integration of one minority group into a particular society, we should teach the children and young people of all cultural groups to be sensitive to human rights, democracy and social justice values and provide them with the skills needed to participate in activities that promote these values.

In particular, the introducers noted that they envision an education system that encourages a critical and self-reflective understanding of the complexity of history and one that avoids the tendency to reduce ‘culture’ and ‘identity’ in monolithic ways, especially within the context of history teaching. In that way, the work of the organization challenges the foundations of these traditional hegemonic views and proposes new ways to understand the past, based on a discipline-grounded model of history education with an emphasis on multiperspectivity, empathy and critical thinking. Furthermore, the introducers noted that perhaps the most significant contribution of the AHDR to education in Cyprus is to offer opportunities for the transformation of the monolithic mind-set. This is done through teaching and learning history using a disciplinary approach which enables educators and students alike to look at the past, present and the future from a different perspective with the aim of developing a more advanced historical understanding.

The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) also presented their projects, including the Home for Cooperation, which is a unique community centre located in the heart of Nicosia and established in 2011. The Centre is the embodiment of inter-communal co-operation, contributing to the collective efforts of civil society in their engagement with peace building and intercultural dialogue. Another project is the educational programme called ‘Imagine’ which follows the principles of education for a culture of peace and anti-

racist education. The programme was piloted during the 2015–2016 school year. Furthermore, there is also the ‘education for a culture of peace’ project which aims to bring about structural changes in society through training and other educational activities. Finally, the AHDR has embarked upon the intensive and all-inclusive process of developing a policy paper focusing on how it envisions education in a multi-cultural, multilingual and multi-faith society such as the one in Cyprus.

During the discussions that followed, several delegations highlighted their appreciation for the HCNM’s important work and the significant contribution it makes to the advancement of peace and multiculturalism in the OSCE region. Participants also commended the work of AHDR and discussed the importance of addressing different, and sometimes painful, historical events with critical thinking and multi-perspectivity. The importance of communication and networking was also highlighted: not only between certain national minority groups, but through a constructive dialogue between the majority and the national minority communities as well. The discussion also emphasized the need for participating States to abide by their OSCE commitments and to follow relevant HCNM thematic guidelines. Several participants highlighted the role of non-governmental actors and urged states to make greater efforts to understand the grievances of national minorities as a way to build a healthy integrated society. Some participants outlined the situation of minority communities in certain participating States and the inadequate government policies for the protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities. Other issues that were raised included concerns regarding the situation of various ethnic minorities as well as internally displaced persons in the OSCE area.

The following specific recommendations were made in Session III:

Recommendations for the OSCE participating States:

- Participating States were encouraged to allow the HCNM and other International Organizations unfettered access to their territories;
- Participating States were encouraged to make better use of the HCNM’s thematic recommendations;
- Participating States were encouraged to establish a functioning mechanism for dialogue with national minorities;
- Participating States were encouraged to further co-operate to ensure the protection of the rights of national minorities;
- Participating States were urged to implement their commitments arising from international obligations
- Participating States were urged to make greater efforts to understand issues specific to national minorities.

Recommendations for the OSCE institutions and field operations:

- OSCE was encouraged to re-examine the terminology and classification it uses for some national minority groups
- HCNM was encouraged to continue to support local actors
- OSCE was urged to set up groups to look at individual countries' programs and processes
- OSCE was urged to initiate work with majority communities in certain countries as a way of improving national minority policies.

CLOSING SESSION

The meeting concluded with a plenary session featuring short reports by the working session moderators and concluding remarks by Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE and Mr. Henrik Villadsen, Director of the office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ambassador Pohl began his closing remarks by saying that the meeting has shown once more that living together peacefully with different nationalities is not self-evident, sometimes troublesome, and requires continuous effort from all sides. The discussions at the current meeting, and the preliminary results of the study presented, have shown that there are numerous examples across the OSCE area of successful integration and the bridge building potential of national minorities.

Ambassador Pohl expressed his belief that the study succeeded not only in examining the frameworks for the successful integration of minorities and good practices but that it has also highlighted examples of personal relationships between persons belonging to minorities and majorities under sometimes difficult circumstances, in situations of crisis and after conflict. He was glad that the European Centre for Minority Issues will be presenting the final results of the study within the margins of the Ministerial Council in Hamburg on 9 December and expressed his hope that the study will yield recommendations to the OSCE participating States on how to manage national minority issues with a view to bridge building.

Where the rights of minorities are respected, where minorities are integrated and an inherent part of society, they can develop the potential to bring states and cultures together and thereby make an important contribution to security and stability in our region. We should be encouraged by this positive potential of minorities. The current meeting has also inspired us to learn from the good practices of others. Ambassador Pohl expressed his gratitude to all

participants for their interest in this event, which has been so important for the Chairmanship, and to all speakers for sharing their knowledge and insights and thereby enriching the discussions.

Director Villadsen thanked the introducers and participants for the very interesting presentations and discussions on behalf of the Institution of the OSCE HCNM. He said that the interventions reminded us of the positive examples of integration and “bridge-building” with and through national minorities, which exist in different regions of the OSCE. Such positive examples are often overlooked and all too easily forgotten, which makes it even more imperative to remain aware and mindful of them, and continue to build upon their good example.

Director Villadsen recounted that during the three working sessions a number of positive practices in cross-border co-operation, which benefit members of national minorities directly or indirectly, had been introduced. The examples presented included bilateral agreements between neighbouring countries to address the mutual concerns and interests of the national minorities on both sides of the border, more than 30 geographical cross-border areas in the OSCE area where there is multilateral and bilateral co-operation were mentioned as well as examples from the education field wherein cross-border co-operation benefits not only members of national minorities but also society as a whole. Mr. Villadsen also recounted hearing about examples of how bridge-building in history teaching is benefiting all communities concerned. He noticed that a shift in the perceptions of borders is underway which views cross-border co-operation as an opportunity – as ‘bridge-building’ – rather than something that is merely tolerated: this he welcomed as a positive sign.

Director Villadsen observed that many of the delegations had referred to the use of HCNM guidelines and recommendations in their interventions, including the *Bozen/Bolzano Recommendations on National Minorities and Inter-State Relations*, the *Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies* and the *Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities*. Before declaring the SHDM closed, Director Villadsen assured the participants that meetings such as this one are not mere academic exercises, or gatherings of experts, but rather effective tools which guide the HCNM as it continues its important work on conflict prevention and the integration of diverse societies.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: SHORT AGENDA

AGENDA

Day 1 10 November 2016

15:00 – 16:00 **OPENING SESSION**

Opening remarks:

Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE

Mr. Henrik Villadsen, Director of the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ms. Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Keynote Speech:

Professor Dr. Dr. Rainer Hofmann, Professor of Constitutional Law, Public International Law and European Law, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

16:00 – 18:00 **SESSION I: Legal mechanisms for bridge building across States**

Introducers:

Professor Dr. Jens Woelk, Professor of Law, University of Trento and Senior Researcher, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano

Ms. Ana Nikolov, Director of Planning Balkans, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives and Coordinator for Balkans, Association of European Border Regions

Dr. Milan Bošnjak, Special Adviser for Croatian National Minorities Issues Abroad and Vice Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee for the Protection of Minorities between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary

Dr. Csaba Pákozdi, Senior International Legal Adviser to the Ministerial Commissioner Responsible for Developing Neighbourhood Policy of Hungary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Moderator:

Dr. Walter Kemp, Visiting Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences

18:00 – 19:00 Reception hosted by the German OSCE Chairmanship

Day 2 **11 November 2016**

10:00 – 12:00 **SESSION II: Promoting the bridge building role of national minority issues across various policy areas**

Introducers:

Dr. Zora Popova, Senior Research Associate and Head of Cluster Culture and Diversity, European Centre for Minority Issues

Dr. Maria Golubeva, Education Policy Consultant, Member of Access Lab and Owner of RHC Consulting

Dr. Alessandra Argenti Tremul, Journalist, RTV Slovenija, R-tv Koper Capodistria

Moderator:

Professor Dr. Joshua Castellino, Dean of the School of Law, Middlesex University London

12:00 – 14:00 Break

14:00 – 16:00 **SESSION III: Empowering civil society to build bridges on the grassroots level**

Introducers:

Dr. Nina Bagdasarova, Associate Professor, American University of Central Asia

Ms. Britta Tästensen, President, Youth of European Nationalities

Ms. Alev Tuğberk, Co-President, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research

Mr. Loizos Loukaidis, Educational Programmes Officer, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research

Moderator:

Dr. Giorgi Sordia, Director, Centre for Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism

16:00 – 16:30

Break

16:30 – 17:30

CLOSING SESSION

Reports from the working sessions

Comments from the floor

Closing remarks:

Mr. Henrik Villadsen, Director of the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE

17.30

Closing of the meeting

ANNEX II: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Keynote Speaker, Introducers and Moderators (as provided by speakers and moderators)

Day 1: Thursday, 10 November 2016
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15.00 – 16.00: OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks: **Mr. Henrik Villadsen**, Director of the office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities; Officer-in-Charge of the Institution

Mr. Henrik Villadsen has been Director of the office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities since December 2014. He holds a master's degree in law with a specialization in human rights under armed conflicts and has been a qualified barrister with the Danish Ministry of Justice since 1997. As a commissioned officer in the Danish Armed Forces, Mr. Villadsen served with the European Union Monitoring Mission to the Former Yugoslavia in 1993–1994 and has, since 1997, served with various intergovernmental organizations, such as the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union in Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, mostly working on issues related to the countries' minorities and the rule of law. He also served as Head of Mission of the Danish Refugee Council in the Russian Federation.

Inter alia, Mr. Villadsen was chief of staff of the OSCE Co-ordination Centre in Vukovar, Croatia, when the OSCE took over police monitoring responsibilities from the United Nations in 1998. In Kosovo, he held management positions in the Kosovo Trust Agency and also served as Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Kosovo and subsequently as chief of staff of the European Union's rule of law mission in the region. Prior to re-joining the OSCE, he served as the European Union's General Legal Counsel and Head of Legal Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, working with the European Union integration process and the restructuring of Bosnia and Herzegovina's legal system.

Opening remarks: **Ms. Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan**, First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Ms. Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, the First Deputy Director of ODIHR, is responsible for managing the operations of the ODIHR, overseeing the preparation, co-ordination and implementation of the activities of the Election, Democratization, Human Rights, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programmes and of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, as well as formulation of the ODIHR public message.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Ms. Jarosiewicz-Wargan is an expert in management, strategic planning and capacity building, with thematic expertise in human and children rights and social welfare, and more than 20 years of professional experience from Poland, the United States, Western Balkans, South Caucasus and Central Asia. Prior to her current appointment, she was the Head of ODIHR's Human Rights Department, and had earlier supported setting up the ODIHR civil society program in Ukraine and developing and institutionalizing a system of project monitoring and evaluation in the Office.

Trained in conflict resolution and mediation, in 2003–2011, Ms. Jarosiewicz-Wargan served as the director of conflict resolution, human rights and child/social welfare reform programs in the South Caucasus, with advisory and capacity building roles in similar programs in Central Asia. In 2000–2002, she led programs focused on human rights, minorities and inter-ethnic dialogue in Western Balkans. Fluent in Polish, English and Russian, Ms. Jarosiewicz-Wargan holds a Master's Degree in social sciences.

Opening remarks: **Ambassador Eberhard Pohl**, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE

Eberhard Pohl holds a degree in Law, has over 30 years of experience working in the German diplomatic service with a focus on security policy. Since July 2015 Ambassador Pohl has served as Head of Mission at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE in Vienna and, since the beginning of 2016, he has been Chair of the Permanent Council in the framework of the German OSCE Chairmanship. Before that, from 2011 until 2015, Pohl served as Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. From 2007 to 2011 he served as Deputy Political Director at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

Keynote Speech: **Professor Dr. Dr. Rainer Hofmann**, Professor of Constitutional Law, Public International Law and European Law, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

Rainer Hofmann holds the chair for Public Law, Public International Law and European Law at Frankfurt University. He is President of the German Association for International Law, Member of the Advisory Council on Public International Law of the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Vice-Chairman of the Board of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg and sits on the Executive and the Management Boards of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, representing the Council of Europe. He was Member and President (1998–2004, 2008–2012) of the Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe Frameworks Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and has extensively published in the field of human rights, in particular minority rights law.

16:00 – 18:00 **SESSION I: Legal mechanisms for bridge building across States**

Introducer: **Professor Dr. Jens Woelk**, Professor of Law, University of Trento and Senior Researcher, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano

Jens Woelk is Associate Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento (Italy) and Coordinator of the interdisciplinary PhD Programme in International Studies. Woelk gained his PhD in Legal Sciences at the University of Regensburg (Germany) and has been Senior Researcher at the European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen since 1994 (Institute for the Studies of Federalism and Regionalism). His research fields are comparative federalism, constitutional law of the EU, legal management of diversity, minority rights and constitutional transformation in South-Eastern Europe. In the Western Balkans he has been engaged in projects and expert missions for the EU and the Council of Europe.

Introducer: **Ms. Ana Nikolov**, Director of Planning Balkans, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives and Coordinator for Balkans, Association of European Border Regions

Ms. Ana Nikolov is an expert for cross-border co-operation and a PhD candidate (Spatial Planning) at the University of Belgrade. Since May 2014, she has worked as the coordinator of the *Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)* for the Balkan region; an attaché for the Balkans of the *AEBR Task Force of External Borders*; and a creator and a supervisor of the *AEBR Network of Young Leaders for Cross-border Cooperation*. From February 2015 onwards, she has also had tasks as the director of planning at the *Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives Balkans – CESCO Balkans*.

Earlier, in 2013–2014, Ms. Nikolov worked as a team leader for the cross-border co-operation chapter in the *Spatial Plan of Republic of Srpska 2025*. During the years 2009–2014, she was a research associate at the *European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD) established by the University for Peace of the United Nations* and in 2007–2009 as a consultant for sustainable development at CTD3. Ms. Nikolov worked as an editor for the Engineering magazine “Geodetski žurnal” during the years 2005–2009.

Ms. Nikolov is passionate about cross-border co-operation, sustainable development and the transfer of knowledge and has also been active as a fire officer at the Voluntary Fire Department “Zvezdara” in Belgrade since 2010.

Introducer: **Dr. Milan Bošnjak**, Special Adviser for Croatian National Minorities Issues Abroad and Vice Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee for the Protection of Minorities between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary

Milan Bošnjak was born on 13th February 1974 in Gospić, Croatia.

He graduated in 1998 from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, on a double major study program in Philosophy and Comparative literature. In 2010 he enrolled in a doctoral program of Croatian language and literature and in 2015 he publicly defended his doctoral thesis “Literary practices of Croatian writers in Germany from 1990 to 2013”, the writing of the dissertation is in progress.

He began his professional career by teaching in several schools from 2000 to 2001. He continued working as a teacher (2001–2003) and as a coordinator (2003–2005) of Croatian language and culture classes in Germany. After returning to Croatia he worked at the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports from 2006 to 2014, as an associate, adviser and head of section, working in the field of international co-operation and co-ordinating the system of teaching Croatian abroad, which is, under the Ministry, held in 20 countries worldwide. Since 2014, he has been working at the State Office for Croats abroad as head of sector and special adviser for Croatian national minority issues abroad.

From 2007 until today he serves as a member or deputy co-chairman of Intergovernmental Joint Committees for the Protection of Minorities which have been established with Hungary, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia, as well as several bilateral professional bodies with German-speaking countries. During his stay in Germany for three years, as a mentor, he has actively participated in the implementation of the international project KoLIBRI (assistance in professional orientation to children of migrants). He is a member of numerous intergovernmental bodies, expert committees and review groups.

He organizes cultural events and professional meetings, actively participates and gives lectures in numerous seminars, workshops and forums at home and abroad (Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, USA).

He publishes scientific articles in the field of Croatian cultural heritage, teaching Croatian abroad and Croatian literature abroad. He also published two books of poetry, edited one eco-tourist guide and two professional books.

He is fluent in German and English and has a passive knowledge of Italian.
He is married, father of one daughter, and lives and works in Zagreb.

Introducer:

Dr. Csaba Pákozdi, Senior International Legal Adviser to the Ministerial Commissioner Responsible for Developing Neighbourhood Policy of Hungary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Moderator: **Dr. Walter Kemp**, Visiting Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences

Walter Kemp is a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna and a Senior Fellow at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime.

Between 2010 and 2016 he was Senior Vice President at the International Peace Institute (IPI). Previously he served for four years as spokesman and speechwriter at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Between 1996 and 2006 he worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including as Senior Adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and Senior Adviser to the Secretary General and OSCE Chairmanships.

Among his publications are *Blood and Borders: The Responsibility to Protect and the Problem of the Kin-State* (2010), *Quiet Diplomacy in Action: The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities* (2001) and *Nationalism and Communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union* (1999). He was also one of the drafters of *The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations*.

Walter, who is Canadian, has a PhD in international relations from the London School of Economics, as well as degrees in political science and history from the University of Toronto and McGill University.

Day 2: Friday, 11 November 2016
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10:00 – 12:00 **SESSION II: Promoting the bridge building role of national minority issues across various policy areas**

Introducer: Dr. Zora Popova, Senior Research Associate and Head of Cluster Culture and Diversity, European Centre for Minority Issues

Dr. Zora Popova obtained her PhD degree from the University of Bath, UK. The focus of her research thesis “*The role of social capital for post-ethnic-conflict reconstruction (Bosnia and Herzegovina)*” is on the problem of re-building disintegrated societies. Zora Popova also has an MA degree in Cultural studies from the University of Sofia, Bulgaria (2000) and an MA degree in Southeast European Studies from the University of Athens, Greece (2001).

Dr. Popova has professional experience as a researcher and as a public policy analyst. She has been involved in a number of research projects on topics such as the *New Security Challenges, Rise of the Extreme Right in Europe, Charismatic Leadership, Bulgaria and the European Political Values*, etc. Between 2008 and 2012 she worked as an expert in the Unit for Alternative Prognoses, Analyses and Actions at the Administration of the President of Republic of Bulgaria. Since 2010 she has been an associate analyst and regular contributor to Bulgarian media.

Introducer: Dr. Maria Golubeva, Education Policy Consultant, Member of Access Lab and Owner of RHC Consulting

Maria Golubeva is a policy analyst and public policy consultant. Since 2003, she has been engaged in education policy research and consulting in the public and private sector, first in Latvia and later in Brussels. In 2004–2010, and in 2015–August 2016, she has worked mainly with the Latvian think-tank PROVIDUS. In 2013–2014, she was a Senior Consultant with ICF International (earlier ICF GHK) in Brussels, leading research and consultancy projects in EU education policy for the European Commission. Maria is currently a Board member at RHC Consulting.

Her areas of expertise include school reforms, governance and management practices in education, inclusive education, integration of migrants, and education of national minorities. She has a PhD in History from the University of Cambridge.

Introducer: **Dr. Alessandra Argenti Tremul**, Journalist, RTV Slovenija, R-tv Koper Capodistria

Dr. Alessandra Argenti Tremul, was born in Koper/Capodistria (Slovenia) on the 24th of December 1971. She has taught at the Middle school for Italian Minority in Pirano-Pirano (Slovenia). Since 1999 she has been employed as a Journalist in the Regional Radio and Tv Station Koper-Capodistria. After graduating from the University of Trieste (Italy) in Contemporary history, she also studied the History of Europe at the University of Primorska in Koper-Capodistria. She is the mother of two young girls.

Moderator: **Professor Dr. Joshua Castellino**, Dean of the School of Law, Middlesex University London

Joshua Castellino is Professor of Law and Dean of the School of Law and Business at Middlesex University, London. He worked as a journalist in Mumbai, and was awarded a Chevening Scholarship to pursue an MA in International Law & Politics and completed his PhD in International Law in 1998. He has authored and edited eight books on international law and human rights law, on self-determination, title to territory and indigenous peoples' rights. He is on the Leadership Council of the United Nations SDSN where he co-chairs the Thematic Group on Social Inclusion, Gender & Human Rights. He was appointed Chair by the UNOHCHR of the 8th Forum on Minority Issues. Joshua has co-authored a Massive Open Online Course entitled "Human Rights Human Wrongs"

14:00 – 16:00 **SESSION III: Empowering civil society to build bridges on the grassroots level**

Introducer: **Dr. Nina Bagdasarova**, Associate Professor, American University of Central Asia

Nina Bagdasarova, PhD, associated professor of the American University of Central Asia. She has been working in the field of diversity management as a researcher and expert since 2001. She is involved in projects devoted to policy development at national and local level, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, and the implementation of peace education in school and university curricula. This project activity is combined with participation in

academic life and regular publications within the scope of studies on nationality and conflict management.

Introducer: **Ms. Britta Tästensen**, President, Youth of European Nationalities

Britta Lessow Tästensen was born in Denmark in 1992. She grew up in the Danish-German border region. She attended a small private German school as well as the German high school, where she graduated with a German-Danish University-entrance diploma.

Already during her high school period, Britta Tästensen was actively involved in the political youth organization – JungeSPitzen – of the German Minority in Denmark as well as in the organization ”Student-ambassadors”, which aims at visiting different schools in Denmark in order to present the German, as well as the Danish, minority to the students.

In 2012 Britta Tästensen started her Bachelor’s degree in Modern India and South Asian Studies at the University of Copenhagen, from which she gained academic knowledge about the politics, economics as well as culture and traditions of South Asia. Furthermore she speaks Hindi and completed a semester at Delhi University in India.

Britta Tästensen actively pursues her interest in culture, language as well as intercultural exchange by working voluntarily in different organizations. Amongst others, she has been part of the Cultural Ambassador Team, a project initiated by the Border Association of the Danish Minority in Germany (Grænseforeningen). The aim of the project is to gain a better understanding of the various minorities, and to contribute to a better social cohesion, by fostering dialogues about identity, nationality and citizenship.

Britta Tästensen became active in the network of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) in 2014, where she became part of the co-ordination group for the campaign #DiversityConnects. YEN is an active network of 39 youth organizations in 20 countries across Europe. It aims at encouraging today’s youth to become actively involved in their minorities in order to preserve their culture, language and traditions as well as creating awareness amongst the majority population.

Furthermore, Britta Tästensen has been active in the working group communication as well as in the planning of the YEN-Autumn Seminar (Youth Leader Seminar) in the Danish-German border region in 2015. In March 2016, Britta Tästensen was elected as the president of YEN and has since been leading a board of seven representatives. Besides her work in the Youth of European Nationalities, Britta Tästensen is part of the FUEN Presidium (Federal Union of European Nationalities).

In 2016 Britta Tästensen completed a 6-month internship at the Danish Embassy in Ankara. Britta stayed in Ankara from January–August; a quite challenging period, both in the political field, as well as in terms of human rights and socio-cultural change.

Currently, Britta Tästensen is enrolled at the University of Copenhagen as well as Copenhagen Business School, in order to complete her Master’s degree in Intercultural Market Studies (Cand.ling.merc).

Introducer: **Ms. Alev Tuğberk**, Co-President, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research

Ms. Alev Tuğberk (Nedjet), formerly Assistant Director of General Secondary Education Department at the Turkish Cypriot Office of Education and the Educational Director of AHDR-MIDE 1 and MIDE 2 Projects, is a senior English Language and History teacher. She worked as a part-time instructor at the Middle Eastern University Department of Educational Sciences. Ms. Tuğberk has also been serving as a teacher trainer in Cyprus. She has taken part in many different educational projects with the Council of Europe and other international organizations as well as actively taking part in restructuring the educational system in northern Cyprus. Ms. Tuğberk has also acted as the leading author of a series of three (Content Based) Academic English Language textbooks. She holds an M.A in English Language Teaching and Education and is now currently the Co-President of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research and the Director of a private educational institution in Cyprus.

Introducer: **Mr. Loizos Loukaidis**, Educational Programmes Officer, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research

Loizos holds a BA in Primary Education from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and an MA in Peace Education from the UN mandated University for Peace where he specifically sought to examine the viewing of History Teaching as a vehicle for promoting a Culture of Peace. Loizos has extensive experience in the education sector both as a Primary School Teacher and as a Peace Education activist and researcher. His research interests include Education for a Culture of Peace, Gender and Trafficking, Interculturalism, Human Rights and History Education and he has conducted research for the AHDR, UNDP-USAID, the Council of Europe, EEA Grants, the University of Cyprus, the Open University of Cyprus and the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies. In December 2016, Loizos was appointed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus as a member of the Bi-communal Technical Committee on Education in the context of the ongoing peace negotiations.

Moderator: **Dr. Giorgi Sordia**, Director, Centre for Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism

Giorgi Sordia holds a PhD from Tbilisi State University (Georgia). He is a founder and director of the Tbilisi-based Center for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CSEM). His major fields of expertise are ethnicity studies, inter-ethnic relations, minority rights and different aspects of cultural diversity. He also teaches political sciences at the University of Georgia and provides consultancy for a number of state agencies and international organizations.

16:30 -17:30 **CLOSING SESSION**

Closing remarks: **Mr. Henrik Villadsen**, Director of the office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities; Officer-in-Charge of the Institution

Closing remarks: **Ambassador Eberhard Pohl**, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE

(see the opening session)