



Exit strategy

OSCE CiO and Secretariat annual meeting with
Heads of Field Operations and Institutions - Part I

Head of Office visits returnees in Western
Slavonia and Primorsko Goranska County

Government Housing
Care Programmes for
returnees expected to be
completed in 2009

War Crimes Trial
Monitoring in Požega and
Rijeka

INTERVIEW:
Anna-Maria
Radić, Head of
Directorate for
Areas of Special
State Concern

Anti-Discrimination
Act enters in force

The Španović family
received housing care in
their hometown of Nova
Gradiška



There is no doubt that the CSCE was one of the great diplomatic achievements of the 20th century, in particular subsequent to the accomplishment of surpassing the arduous chapter of the Cold War in a calm manner.

In the 21st century, with the transformation of the CSCE into an Organization, the Institutions and the Missions emerged – along with the General Secretariat and the Permanent Council – as the most original mechanisms of the new OSCE to the extent that the Organization would not be imaginable without those instruments. It could be said that if the Missions disappeared suddenly and groundlessly the OSCE would not be able to survive.

Nevertheless, the Missions were not created to exist indefinitely, in that they have a temporary character. They were conceived to resolve some specific problems in a series of countries born as independent entities or as a consequence of the disasters of war. Such is the case with all the participating states that have an OSCE presence in the countries of the former Soviet Union or the former Yugoslavia. Albania is the only exception.

The Missions, therefore, in contrast to the Embassies, have a temporary character and their eventual closing should not be seen as a failure of the system but as a sign of its vitality. It is indispensable however that the closing is conducted adequately, that is to say, surpassing the defects that motivated their opening.

The problem lies in the difficulty to judge with exact precision the time when the defects have been surpassed, when the objectives have been reached and when the country in question will be capable of advancing without the need of the support

offered by the Mission.

The Government of each country can tend to think that its situation is perfect and that the Mission is no longer necessary, in the belief that by removing the Mission, the problems that originated it will disappear at the same time. It is the old theory of the Mission – the stigma. The reality should be the opposite – the Mission will disappear only when the original problems have been resolved.

A Mission should continue for as much time as it turns out to be necessary in the understanding that the country of its seat will never be able to reach the levels of perfection of its system of 100%, levels that no country in the world, with or without an OSCE Mission, has managed to reach.

Up to now, four models of closing have existed:

- Former Missions in Estonia and Latvia closed in a premature manner in light of the host countries' upcoming accession to the European Union.

- The Mission in Georgia closed in an abrupt manner as a consequence of the war in South Ossetia. The OSCE should succeed in maintaining its presence in the country to avoid the serious consequences that could derive from its sudden closure upon the unilateral decision of a member country.

- Kosovo is under the threat of monthly renewals based on a tacit consensus, but for the time being the Organization succeeded in keeping a fundamental Mission that had been doomed to disappear.

- The Mission in Zagreb represents so far the only valid way of an exit strategy that took place in a progressive and cautious process based on a dialogue between the

OSCE and the host country through the creation of a political Platform that involved the Prime Minister, the leading members of the Government and the most pertinent Ambassadors in the country.

The process indeed started in 2000, implied a slow downsizing of the Mission from 800 staff members to a few dozen and had as landmarks the closing of four out of the six units (2006), the closing of the Mission with all the Field Offices (2007) and the transformation into an Office that takes care of the remaining tasks.

It is obvious that in its exit strategy each country will have some specific ways that have been adapted to its specific characteristics and needs. It will not be possible to maintain regular dialogue with each Government, whether through a Platform or by any another mechanism, during a prolonged period of time. The patience shown in Croatia in the course of four years, with the changes of holders of government positions, although with the continuance of Prime Minister Sanader who consistently facilitated the dialogue, cannot easily be repeated in other countries.

A final reflection: the role of the Head of a Mission should maintain a delicate equilibrium between the guidelines of the Permanent Council and the host country. That equilibrium should be inclined at times in favour of Vienna and at others in favour of the country of the seat, seeking at any rate to never break the established dialogue and confidence with the host country, since a break would involve a paralysis of the process and the impossibility of progressing in compliance with the Mandate.

Ambassador Jorge Fuentes
Head of Office



Calendar:

09 January 2009 Farewell
Lunch organized by HoO for
Amb. of India Mr. Rajiva Misra

15 January 2009 Annual Head
of Mission Meeting 15 and 16
Jan – Presentation of the Greek
OSCE Chairmanship Vienna

22 January 2009 Meeting with
Independent Diplomats Lon-
don Office: Mr. Edward Mason,
former British Deputy Head of
Mission in Zagreb and Amba-
sador David Boucher, former
British Ambassador in Prague

26 January 2009 HoO invited
by Mr. Jurica Malčić, to partici-
pate at “People’s Ombudsman as a
Central Equality Body” confer-
ence held in Zagreb

27-28 January 2009 Visit to
Stara Gradiška, Lađevac, Nova
Gradiška, Požega and Novska

30 January 2009 Meeting with
Prime Minister Dr. Ivo Sanader

30 January 2009 Meeting with
Head of EC Delegation, Amb.
Vincent Degert and Head of
UNHCR Office, Wilfried Bu-
chorn

02 February 2009 Visit to Ri-
jeka. Meeting with County Court
President, and with Housing
Care Recipients

04 February 2009 Meeting with
Minister Petar Čobanković

08 February 2009 Field visit to
Šibenik and Knin, meeting with
the County Court President and
the Mayor of Knin.

11 February, HoO met the Presi-
dent of Republic, Stjepan Mesić

19 February, visit by the represen-
tative of the OSCE chairmanship
country, Ambassador of Greece to
Croatia, Ourania Arvaniti at the
OSCE Office in Zagreb morning
briefing.

The OSCE has established a tradition held in January every year, to call the Ambassadors of all the 19 Field Operations and all OSCE Institutions for a meeting in Vienna taking advantage of the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of an incoming Chairmanship.

The meeting includes formal discussions with the new Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary General, followed by a working group for every of the OSCE regions and by panels with the heads of the administrative departments of the OSCE Headquarters. The Heads of Field Operations are also invited to attend all the events presided by the Minister. Consequently, on 15 January, at the impressive Neuer Saal of the Austrian Imperial Palace Hofburg, our Head of Office, Ambassador Fuentes, together with his colleagues from other Field Operations, attended the traditional address to the Permanent Council by the new Chairperson-in-Office, Minister Dora Bakoyannis, which officially opened the Greek Chairmanship by presenting to the States its programme for 2009.

Despite the troubled times that the world has been faced with due to climate change, a global financial cataclysm, with new conflicts in the OSCE area being added to our long-standing frozen ones, the speech by Minister Bakoyannis, succeeded in bringing renewed enthusiasm among delegations with regard to the positive role that the OSCE could play under the Greek Chairmanship. Her proposal to guide OSCE’s political initiatives in order to build and strengthen consensus through a triptych of S’s (Symmetry, Synergy and Strategy) as well as her conviction that the OSCE is a unique and irreplaceable forum for dialogue with an unparalleled ability to adapt to the ever-changing geopolitical environment, gained the full support of the Council.

Minister Bakoyannis stated that a prime pursuit of the Greek Chairmanship will be to strengthen the presence, role and mechanisms of the OSCE in early warning, as well as in the prevention and management of conflicts, in order to act effectively and quickly whenever a crisis might erupt. Then she passed to explain, in detail, how the Greek leadership intends to address the “plate more than full” of inherited issues announcing measures in the three OSCE dimensions: Pol-Mil, Economic and Environmental and Human. During her speech, the Minister did not avoid mentioning her views on all controversial issues in which the OSCE has not reached a consensus yet. She reminded the Council about the need to enhance the legal personality of the Organization by a possible Convention on the OSCE status, privileges and immunities of its staff and/or a Charter. She encouraged Participating States to apply imaginative and pragmatic solutions, in the best of OSCE’s traditions, to maintain an OSCE presence on both sides of the administrative border line set up for the crisis in Georgia. After analysing the long-standing Transdniestrian and Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts, she proposed activities to be undertaken by the OSCE in Kosovo, following the successful achievement of a status-neutral OSCE approach. The more important thing affecting our region, as mentioned by the Minister, was the additional attention that has to be given to Central Asia but, without jeopardizing the on-going work in South Eastern Europe. When examining the first basket, the Minister pointed out the work done in small arms, cyber-security, OSCE’s engagement with Afghanistan, CFE Treaty, border security, and the need to use OSCE’s unique situation for a contribution to international efforts in combating terrorism.

Enrique Horcajada,
Head of Executive Unit



On 27 January 2009, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, Head of OSCE Office in Zagreb paid a visit to Požega-Slavonija County and met with three returnee families. Former occupancy/tenancy rights (OTR) holders, who received housing care within the Government Housing Care Programme for OTR Holders - 2007 benchmark.

The first visit took place in Stara Gradiska, a small town on the bank of Sava River bordering with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<http://www.maplandia.com/croatia/slavonski-brod-posavina/stara-gradiska/>

Ambassador Fuentes' host was Mrs. Ruža Bogičević, a single lady who lost her tenancy rights over a flat in the same town after she had left it in May 1995 and settled in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After 12 years of refuge, she received housing care by being allocated a state owned flat. Though the flat is situated in an old and ruined building which requires many repairs, Mrs. Bogičević managed on her own in making her flat a decent living quarter.

Only 20 minutes away, another returnee family received housing care through the allocation of a state owned house. Mr. Milan

Maksimović, who also lost tenancy rights in 1995, used to have a flat in Okučani where he had lived with his spouse and two sons. This family had refugee status in B&H. In November 2007 they received the aforementioned APN house in Lađevac, a village near Okučani, where Mr. Maksimovic and one of his sons live currently.

<http://www.maplandia.com/croatia/slavonski-brod-posavina/stara-gradiska/>

Government Housing Care Programmes for returnees expected to be completed in 2009

According to the mandate adopted by the OSCE Permanent Council by the end of 2007, reporting on residual aspects of the implementation of the housing care programmes in Croatia is one of the two tasks performed by the OSCE Office in Zagreb. The Government of Croatia agreed to accommodate returnees eligible for housing care by implementing its Housing Care Programme for Former Occupancy/Tenancy Rights Holders in the course of three years set as benchmarks, starting with its activities in 2007 and completing the process by the end of 2009. The housing solution for this large group of around 5.000 registered families is one of the last remaining refugee issues to be solved in Croatia.

The Government programme is implemented outside and inside the Areas of Special State Concern and represents a solution to

the housing needs of those families, which lost their tenancy rights during and immediately after the recent war in Croatia, but wish to repatriate and do not own any other inhabitable property.

To date, the implementation has been conducted with certain delays. The 2007 benchmark was successfully completed in the second part of the last year, while the implementation of the 2008 benchmark is still ongoing. Nearly 50 percent of the aforementioned registered families already received the housing care, while many others received positive decisions and await to be physically accommodated in due time. The Government is constructing apartments for this group of returnees in urban areas, while inside the areas of special state concern a lot of apartment buildings are still under reconstruction but intended for the accommodation of former tenancy

rights holders. There are also state owned houses which the Government is allocating to the housing care applicants along with the construction material needed for the repair of those houses.

Nevertheless, a significant number of the returnee families in need still remains to be accommodated through this programme. It is envisaged that this programme will be completed in the year 2009 and consequently, the returnees will be settled in their new homes. It is obvious that huge efforts will have to be invested in order to complete successfully this task. However, this issue is of an enormous importance for the OSCE Office in Zagreb and it will largely affect the Office's future activities in Croatia.

Momir Vukmirović
National Programme Officer



The other son has settled in Serbia and has no intention of returning, while Mrs. Maksimović has no Croatian citizenship and still lives in Bosnia with her sister. The quality of the house is satisfactory. The main difficulty of this family is lack of financial means since Mr. Maksimović still has no pension, and his son receives social welfare. An employment opportunity for his son, a young man of 31, would

definitively contribute to the sustainability of their return.

While the first two families received housing care inside the Areas of Special State Concern, Španović family, the third host was accommodated in Nova Gradiška, a town placed outside the Areas of Special State Concern.

<http://www.maplandia.com/croatia/slavonski-brod-posavina/nova-gradiska/>

Mr. and Mrs. Španović left their flat in this same town in 1991, and ever since they have been changing addresses in Croatia and B&H. Prior to receiving housing care on 26 June 2007, they had resided nine years in a collective centre in Sisak. Now, they have a decent life in a 48 square metres flat at the fifth floor of an apartment building in the centre of the town.

On 3 February the visit in Rijeka started by meeting a three-member returnee family who lost tenancy right in 1991 after being more than three months absent from the flat where they used to live. Maksimovic family had been accommodated in Sisak collective centre in the period between 1998 and 2007. They received the new flat in Rijeka on 08 June 2007.

<http://www.maplandia.com/croatia/primorje-gorski-kotar/rijeka/>

Mrs. Bosiljka Adzic, a single lady from Viskovo lost her tenancy right over a flat

in Rijeka in the early nineties. After a long refuge in B&H, in 2007 she received housing care in a brand new building. In a building, constructed only 11 months ago, Mr. Milan Roknic, a former psychology teacher who spent a long period in Germany after losing tenancy rights, received a nice flat. Along with two previous families, Mr. Maksimovic represents a very positive return case.

The visit to Rijeka ended by meeting three-member Zeljkovic family. Just as some of the previously mentioned families, Zeljlović were also tenants of Sisak collective centre. However, in June 2007 they received a flat where they have been residing ever since. Unfortunately, this dwelling cannot be estimated as satisfactory. It is a place in the attic, in an old building, while the walls are entirely wet as a result of the roof leaking. During the visit, Ambassador Fuentes promised he would insist with the relevant authorities that another accommodation be allocated to this family.

Momir Vukmirović
National Programme Officer





On 28 January, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, together with the War Crimes Trial Monitoring Team for Western Slavonia - Milena Čalić-Jelić (Croatia) and Agnese Andreucci (Italy) - visited the Požega County Court and met its President, Branimir Miljević.

<http://www.maplandia.com/croatia/poze-ga-slavonija/poze-ga/>

The Head of Office thanked Mr. Miljević for facilitating the OSCE staff in monitoring an ongoing war crimes trial. The Ambassador also mentioned the role the

of OSCE – both at the Zagreb and field level - in relation to the implementation of the rule of law in Croatia, and expressed OSCE's views about the importance of independence and impartiality of the judiciary in relation to war crimes cases. The Head of Office also presented the Court President with legal literature, which was part of an Office project to supply requested legal books to courts and state attorneys.

After his meeting with the Court President, Ambassador Fuentes took the opportunity to attend a hearing in the ongoing war crime trial against six former members of

the Croatian Military Police, which is based in part on information provided by the ICTY Office of the Prosecutor, a so-called "Category II" case.

On this expedition, Ambassador Fuentes, also met in Novska with a survivor and widow of a victim of war-time crimes, which remain unprosecuted.

<http://www.maplandia.com/croatia/sisak-moslavina/novska/>

The survivor - Petar Mileusnić – explained in graphic detail how Croatian soldiers had invaded his home, killed his wife and daughter and a neighbor and severely wounded him. The widow – Marica Šeatović – also told the Head of Office how her husband together with several neighbors had been murdered in a similar incident. Both noted that the Croatian soldiers suspected of the murders were subsequently amnestied. Both also informed Ambassador Fuentes about their unsuccessful efforts to obtain compensation from Croatia through civil proceedings, which failed primarily due to the amnesty. They expressed the need for justice in their cases and drew the Ambassador's attention to the fact that they are not legally entitled to be considered as civilian victims of war by the State. The Ambassador committed to follow up on these issues at the forthcoming Plenary with the Ministry of Justice in Zagreb.

Mary Wyckoff
Head of Rule of Law Unit





On 3 February, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, together with members of the legal staff - Romana Schweiger (Austria), Jelena Borić and Biljana Alavanja (Croatia) - visited the Rijeka County Court and met its President, Veljko Miškulin as well as Judge Ika Šarić.

<http://www.maplandia.com/croatia/pri-morje-gorski-kotar/rijeka/>

The Court President presented the Rijeka County Court as one of four courts in Croatia specialized for trying war crimes, indicating that thirty experienced judges work in well-equipped courtrooms, which facilitate them in performing their duties effectively. The Court President informed that the ongoing war crimes trials were transferred from other courts in Croatia and abroad. In that regard,

Mr. Miškulin assessed co-operation with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as good. He further noted that the Judicial Academy had been active at the Rijeka County Court since 2001, in whose premises trainings were organized on a regular basis. The Court President concluded that recently the Court's Criminal Department had been praised by the Supreme Court for its results.

The Head of Office congratulated Mr. Miškulin and emphasized the common goal of the Republic of Croatia and the OSCE, namely the continued advancement of the judiciary, which guarantees an independent and impartial judiciary operating according to rule of law principles.

After his meeting with the Court President, Ambassador Fuentes attended a hearing in a war crimes trial against two high-ranking

officials of the self-proclaimed Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia. The two are accused of inhuman treatment of civilians detained in collection centers from 1993 to 1995 in the Bihac area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The local prosecutor in Bosnia and Herzegovina transferred the case file to the Rijeka County State Attorney given that the defendants, who settled in Croatia in the mid-1990s and are Croatian citizens, cannot under existing laws be extradited to face charges in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Presiding Judge is Ika Šarić known for the war crimes trial in 2001 of the 'Gospić Group' including Mirko Norac.

Mary Wyckoff
Head of Rule of Law Unit





On 18 February 2009 at her office in Zagreb, we spoke to the Head of Directorate for Areas of Special State Concern, Anna-Maria Radić. Radić is an important partner to the OSCE Office's Housing Care Unit as her Directorate within the Development Ministry is responsible for allocation of housing care to former Occupancy/Tenancy rights holders.

OSCE: Could you, first of all, tell us something about yourself, your work experience in relation to this position? How long have you been the Head of this Directorate within the Ministry? Can you tell us what is the scope of activities of this Directorate?

Anna-Maria Radić: I was appointed the Head of Directorate for the Areas of Special State Concern in June 2008 but I have been working for a long time within this Directorate. With regard to activities performed by this Ministry, I think they are going well. Our Directorate is one of the biggest in the Ministry as it covers activities related to the Areas of the Special State Concerns, and in its larger part covers issues related to provision of housing care

OSCE: The Housing Care for Former Occupancy/Tenancy Rights Holders. When did this Programme begin and with what aim?

Anna-Maria Radić: The provision of housing care for the former OTR holders began in the ASSC at the same time as provision of housing care for other beneficiaries, when the amendments were introduced into the Law on the ASSC, in the summer of 2002; at the end of that same

year we started collecting first applications, although the operation started even earlier through the reconstruction programme. In mid-2003, a regulation was adopted which defined the provision of housing care to OTR holders outside the ASSC and the submission of applications started. The deadline for application submission was 30 September 2005 while inside the ASSC it is still open.

OSCE: What is the basic difference between the housing care in the Areas of Special State Concern (ASSC) and outside the ASSC?

Anna-Maria Radić: When it comes to the ASSC, the provision of housing care is defined by the Law on ASSC and it envisages slightly bigger number of models and possibilities of housing care provision, while the housing care outside the ASSC falls within the special government programme that was established with in 2003 an adoption of a conclusion and subsequently with the Decision of the Government made in 2008 which defines that persons will be allocated apartments for lease. Inside the ASSC the beneficiaries can buy off the allocated housing while outside the area there is no such possibility.

With regard to establishing the eligibility to housing care, there is no difference between the ASSC and areas outside of the ASSC, and that is, the applicants must not own any other property, to be more precise - other property fit for human habitation.

OSCE: The Ministry/Directorate has started with the signing of lease contracts with beneficiaries who received housing units for lease. When is the purchase of the state

owned apartments assigned to beneficiaries inside the ASSC expected to happen?

Anna-Maria Radić: This question pertains mostly to the ASSC. In the ASSC we are the owner of a little less than 14 000 apartments, that is, in reality, the state owns apartments but the issue has not been processed yet in the register of titles. In spring 2007 we started with intensive registration of title over properties in favour of the state, mostly over the apartments. It was a joint action by our Ministry, Ministry of Justice and the State Attorney Office with the assistance of other state bodies, such as the Croatian Privatisation Fund. To date, we have registered little over some 5300 apartments, meaning until the end of 2008. With regard to the APN, they have purchased so far approximately 10 000 property units and most of those buildings are properly registered. I have also to emphasize here that for some 300 houses purchased by the APN which were transformed into apartment buildings, we are conducting a registration of condominiums. In the course of last year we began with the sale of state owned apartments and the process has been rather slow so far. Of course, the number of property units that needs to be evaluated is big and our people in the field are currently conducting those inspections and have been polling individual beneficiaries whether they are interested in the purchase of apartments or they wish to remain lessees. That means they can decide. There is also a portion of properties that is being donated. Those eligible to donations are Croatian war veterans and veterans of the Croatian Military Forces, based on the 2005 and 2006 Decrees of the Government which



In order to mark the recent entry into force of the Anti-Discrimination Act a conference entitled “People’s Ombudsman as the Central Equality Body” was held in Zagreb on 26 January 2009.

The Conference, organized by Croatian People’s Ombudsman Office and supported by the UNDP Mission to Croatia was very well attended. Besides the Ombudsmen, Jurica Malčić, the gathering saw the participation of Deputy Prime Minister, Jadranka

Kosor, Head of the OSCE Office in Zagreb, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, Head of the Delegation of the EC to Croatia, Ambassador Vincent Degert, UNDP Resident Representative to Croatia, Yuri Afanasiev, Executive Director of EQUINET (European Union Network for the Promotion of Equality and Combat Discrimination), Anne Gaspard and many other state officials and non-governmental activists.

The Discrimination Prevention Act entered into force on 1 January 2009 providing

protection and prohibiting discrimination against any potentially marginalized or discriminated group on racial, ethnic, national, social, religious, gender, sexual, marital status or genetic grounds. The Act provides victims of discrimination with a possibility to file three types of suits, one for establishing discrimination, one for eliminating it, and a third one for damages effects of simply discriminating.

Ankica Kuna
Executive Assistant

were incorporated last year into the adopted new Law on the ASSC.

OSCE: How many requests do you have, how many beneficiaries have you already provided with housing care in the past years and what has still remained to be resolved?

Anna-Maria Radić: With regard to requests for the provision of housing care for the former OTR holders, 13 505 requests in total were submitted, 8963 in the ASSC, 4562 outside the ASSC. When we talk about the issuance of decisions with regard to the submitted requests, some 8500 positive decisions have been issued already, with 7000 in the ASSC and around 1500 outside the ASSC. We have issued negative decisions, or procedures were halted, with regard to 2400 requests, in and outside the ASSC.

OSCE: Within what deadline do you expect to resolve the remaining number of cases and through which housing care models?

Anna-Maria Radić: Until the end of 2006

we resolved cases of 3300 former OTR holders in the ASSC, in 2007 we resolved around 1400 of such cases. In the course of last year also 1427 cases have seen administrative resolution and beneficiaries are at a various stage of moving in. What remains to be resolved during this year is 2346 requests which received positive decisions and those are the cases which according to our programmes are included into the benchmark for 2008 – administratively they are resolved, meaning they have been confirmed their eligibility to obtain housing care. They have been included into the plan for 2009 due to the budgetary reasons. It means that number of more than 5.000 OTR holders will be resolved within the 2007, 2008, 2009 benchmarks.

OSCE: Which are your priorities for the next months, that is, what should be completed by the summer in your opinion?

Anna-Maria Radić: Around mid-year of 2009 we will have most the addresses for the housing care beneficiaries. Outside the ASSC the situation is slightly different because we cannot know the addresses until

we have bought the apartments. Within the ASSC we currently have around 1300 apartments under reconstruction. Part of those apartments will be reconstructed this year and the remaining ones will be completed by the end of first half of 2010. Not all can be completed this year due to construction works.

OSCE: What message would you send to the Croatian citizens who are still refugees and have still not applied for housing care?

Anna-Maria Radić: With regard to the remaining people who still have not made a decision about the return and did not submit requests for the provision of housing care but are former OTR holders, I would like to inform them that deadline for applications in the ASSC has still not expired and they are free to apply. I would like to mention that for the ASSC we have some 300 new requests submitted in 2008. If they decide to return, they can still submit a request.

Dorijan Klasnić
Public Affairs Assistant



“Drying figs”

folio which brings us back to summer heat, island stillness and grandmother’s way of drying figs, while the other one is a colorful representation of incoming autumn. You can see more of Nena’s work in her online gallery at: <http://www.fotke.hr/p-2593-nenaloo.aspx>



“Door to autumn”

National Programme Officer, Nena Lukin started taking photos during her travels trying to capture breathtaking nature, different cultures, architecture and people, noticing both splendor and misery of the places around the world. Motives? Picturesque Provencal villages, lively streets of Paris, endless Atlantic coasts, magic and poverty of West Africa, Moroccan traditional crafts, Brazilian samba dancers...

Gradually she started seeing more of the details in her every day environment through the camera lenses, giving those

details an unexpected angle, a new perspective, and sometimes a completely new life, extracting them from the imperceptible into the visible world.

A photo workshop on island of Sestrunj was crucial for her work, since that little village in Zadar archipelago combined with the black/white technique and analog camera woke up almost forgotten childhood memories and a inspired awakening artist within.

Here we present Nena’s opus with two photos: one from her Lost Childhood port-

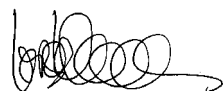
Farewell to our dear colleagues



Mary Wyckoff is leaving the OSCE and Croatia after seven years of a very efficient work as the Head of the Rule of Law Unit in the OSCE Mission to Croatia and since 2008 in the Office in Zagreb.

We will all remember Mary as a well mannered, warm and extremely hard-working person – it was very likely to find her in her office late in the evening or during the weekend – she also remained inflexible when she believed the defence of the rule of law principles was in question. During her years with the OSCE in Croatia she identified in a brilliant way the problems of the judicial system particularly in reference to the war crime trials. She was the soul of the Plenary meetings at the Ministry of Justice and succeeded in resolving many of the pending problems, giving a real momentum to the rule of law in Croatia.

She is leaving in the same quiet way she joined us: with little luggage, no big farewell parties, but with the respect and sympathy of all the members of the Mission and the Croatian society. Good luck, Mary, wherever you go, whatever your future job is going to be. Your departure will go sorely missed in the office and in our strolls in Gradec, climbing hundreds of steps without any sign of fatigue.


Ambassador Jorge Fuentes
Head of Office

On 14-16 January 2009 the Press and Public Information Section (PPIS) of the OSCE Secretariat organized the 18th Public Affairs Roundtable in Vienna. The meeting gathered spokespersons and media focal points from all OSCE presences in the field as well as the Vienna based personnel.

The roundtable was organised by the PPIS in an impeccable manner. All participants had the chance to meet the OSCE Spokesperson, Martin Nesirky along with his Vienna based colleagues and exchange ideas and concerns as well as to improve their understanding and knowledge about the organisation's policies and developments in the field of Public Affairs.

The roundtable was envisaged to cover general topics of interest to all the participants, such as individual reports on the media related work in 2008, future plans and innovations in the activities' presentation, communication with the press, interested groups and partners in the field.

The group also discussed working relations with Vienna, possible co-operation between field presences; the new Visual manual



created by PPIS, communication strategies, the Annual Report, the OSCE Magazine and had the opportunity to hear development plans for the launch of the new OSCE website. The participants commented the new features of the planned website and had a chance to propose extra features and possible ways for customisation and localisation. The group also discussed ways of improvement of the web presence in the interim period before the launch of the new site at the end of 2009.

The OSCE Office in Zagreb was represented by the Public Affairs Assistant, Dorijan Klasnić, who attended all workshops and meetings and who was especially interested in the developments and future plans of the web presence of the OSCE and multimedia possibilities.

Dorijan also presented the communication activities of the Zagreb based Office, especially concentrated around the Office's newsletter, The Courier, and offered advice and technical help to all interested field presences.

Photo story:

Some three years ago, a couple of promising youngsters – Gabriella Save, Swedish and Javier Fuentes, Spanish – participated in one of our morning meetings and explained to the staff members their recent experience in Kosovo, their projects and ambitions.

Both of them saw their dreams come true. Gabriella joined the Swedish diplomatic service and Javier the Spanish service. He appears in the photo wearing his proud father's uniform that, following the Spanish tradition, he will inherit one day



The Fuentes family celebrating with Javier and Gabriella his entrance in the Spanish Diplomatic Service.



Gallery



Visit to the OSCE Office of the representative of the OSCE chairmanship country, Greek Ambassador, Ourania Arvaniti, 19 February 2009.



The OSCE HCNM, Knut Vollebaek, Ambassador Fuentes and four MP's representing 22 national minorities in Croatia, Zagreb 16 November 2008.



Ambassador Fuentes donating his books for the Diplomatic Academy's library to the Director of the Diplomatic Academy, dr. Mladen Andrić, Zagreb, 18 December 2008.



HoO and Rijeka County Court President, Veljko Miškulin and Judge Ika Šarić, Rijeka 3 February 2009.



HoO, Ombudsman, Jurica Malčić and Deputy PM, Jadranka Kosor, at the People's Ombudsman as the Central Equality Body conference held in Zagreb, 26 January 2009. Photo by HINA.



HoO and Požega County Court President, Branimir Miljević, Požega 28 January