

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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**THE WORLD'S LARGEST REGIONAL
SECURITY ORGANIZATION**

working to ensure peace and stability for more than a billion
people between Vancouver and Vladivostok.

Keeping on top of it all in Avdiivka, Donetsk region

Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The crisis in and around Ukraine continued to dominate the OSCE's agenda in 2015. The OSCE's facilitation role, both within the Trilateral Contact Group and through its monitoring presence, remains critical to efforts to de-escalate tensions and work towards a return to stability and peace.

The Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), now in its second year of operation, continues to be the most visible OSCE activity for external partners, the media and the wider public. In 2015, the Mission consolidated its structures while expanding the overall number of monitors and increasing its footprint in eastern Ukraine. With this Mission, for the first time the OSCE began using advanced technical means such as unmanned aerial vehicles, sophisticated cameras and satellite-based information. The Secretariat continued to provide significant ongoing support to the Mission.

Our 17 field operations are uniquely placed to assist participating States with the implementation of their OSCE commitments and they remain a cornerstone of our programmatic activities. Increasingly, they have become an important tool to support the implementation of agreed OSCE policies across the three dimensions and to promote regional co-operation.

OSCE engagement in the negotiation formats dedicated to the protracted conflicts continued in 2015. Despite limited progress, there is no alternative but to continue our efforts to push for lasting settlements. We owe it to the people who continue to suffer from the consequences of these conflicts.

In July, high-level representatives of the participating States and Partners for Co-operation gathered in Finlandia Hall, where the Helsinki Final Act was signed 40 years earlier. The frank debate on the current crisis in European security held in various formats throughout the year clearly demonstrated how difficult it has become to engage in constructive and forward-looking dialogue.

Due to the prevailing circumstances, the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act could not be the hoped-for catalyst for revitalizing the role of the OSCE. As the three-year Helsinki +40 Process drew to a close, there was a clear need to continue a broad-based and open-ended informal dialogue on critical aspects of security in the OSCE region.

Even as trust and confidence among OSCE participating States have continued to erode, worrying trends in regional and global security have been growing. As a result, transnational threats such as terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings, as well as the global challenge of climate change, are gaining prominence on the OSCE agenda. In 2015, Europe was also dramatically affected by large-scale migration movements, with serious repercussions along transit routes and in recipient countries. To help address these complex and often interconnected challenges, we need to identify and capitalize on the added value that the OSCE can bring to global and regional solutions.

In 2015, we also witnessed a series of deadly terrorist attacks in the OSCE area and adjacent regions. In response, participating States at the Ministerial Council in Belgrade vowed to strengthen their efforts to counter terrorism and to co-operate more closely on preventing and countering violent extremism. This was a key theme throughout the year and also one that I personally endeavoured to take forward, including through the informal and multi-stakeholder format provided by OSCE Security Days. In May, I convened a Security Days event devoted to exploring the root causes of violent extremism and possible countermeasures to radicalization involving the media, education, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, and the empowerment of women and youth. This built on discussions at a Security Days event on challenges to Euro-Atlantic Security, held in March in Washington, DC, which featured a session on radicalization that leads to terrorism. Together with the Serbian Chairmanship, I also launched a social media campaign under the slogan “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism”, which has attracted significant interest.

The 70th anniversaries of the end of World War II and the United Nations (UN) Charter offered a number of opportunities to reflect on global challenges. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE continued to expand our partnerships with the UN and other international and regional organizations in many areas: from mediation, dialogue facilitation and protection of national minorities, to capacity-building activities, election observation and humanitarian assistance. At the UN Secretary-General’s high-level retreat for heads of regional organizations in May, I shared lessons learned from the OSCE experience in responding to the crisis in and around Ukraine.

More broadly, we need to think harder about creating synergies between the global agenda and that of the OSCE. In September, I addressed the Sustainable Development Summit to communicate how the OSCE is already working to promote sustainable development as a cornerstone of security. I also organized an OSCE Security Days event on climate change and security in the run-up to the COP 21 Climate Change Summit, and linked another Security Days event to the 15th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security.

The OSCE's privileged relationship with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation continued to offer a valuable platform for exploring ways to adapt to the changing international security context. Our strengthened engagement with civil society and academia has also offered fruitful exchanges of expertise and ideas on how best to approach critical issues on our agenda. In this respect, the OSCE Academic Network of think tanks and research institutions and the New-Med Network, as well as the OSCE Troika-mandated Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project, contributed valuable ideas and recommendations that can be taken up in future discussions.

In closing, I commend the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship for its commitment to providing opportunities for dialogue among the participating States and for successfully steering us through another challenging year. I am confident that the Organization will continue to enjoy strong support under the German Chairmanship in 2016. I would also like to thank the staff of the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations, whose enduring commitment and professionalism continue to serve our Organization so well.



Lamberto Zannier
OSCE Secretary General
Vienna, 2015



Helsinki Final Act

1975 • HELSINKI FINAL ACT • 2015





REPORT OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP- IN-OFFICE

The Chairmanship is selected by the Ministerial Council, and the post of the Chairperson-in-Office is held by the foreign minister of the selected participating State for a one-year term.

Serbia: Bridging Differences, Building Trust

www.osce.org/cio

WORKING TOGETHER TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE, PROSPERITY AND DEMOCRACY

The Republic of Serbia assumed the OSCE Chairmanship in one of the most challenging moments for European security and stability in the past several decades. An atmosphere of mutual distrust, antagonism and competing narratives had been generated mostly by the crisis in and around Ukraine. Serbia's Chairmanship started around the time of a major terrorist attack in Paris and the escalation of the conflict in the Donbas region of Ukraine, and it ended against the backdrop of the most severe refugee and migration crisis since World War II.

The Chairmanship, in co-operation with other participating States and the relevant OSCE executive structures, invested large efforts in order to define the Organization's response to these serious threats. Strengthening the OSCE's engagement on these issues with other international actors, in particular with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, is vital to addressing these complex and often interconnected threats that affect all our participating States.

"There can be no compromise on the applicability of the fundamental principles and commitments that provide the foundation for co-operative security in the OSCE area. Assuring their effective implementation is the only possible basis on which trust and confidence can be rebuilt."

Ivica Dačić
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Serbia



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić
Photo by Micky Kröll (OSCE)

UKRAINE

The grave violation of the ceasefire agreement at the beginning of 2015 was followed by the signing of the Package of Measures to implement the Minsk agreements in February. Shortly thereafter, four Working Groups were established within the Trilateral Contact Group, and talks started on the implementation of the Minsk Package. The mandate of the SMM was extended by a year, and it was decided to increase the number of monitors to up to 1,000. Participating States ensured the SMM's stable financing, which strengthened its technical and human resource capacities.

The efforts of the SMM and of many other parts of the OSCE were aimed at establishing peace and stability. The Addendum to the Package of Measures pertaining to the withdrawal of some additional categories of heavy weapons was signed in September. SMM monitoring activities related to the withdrawal of heavy weapons intensified. Yet, towards the end of 2015, the security situation once again became more tense and volatile, with regular flare-ups at a number of hotspots.

Chairperson-in-Office Dačić was actively engaged by convening meetings with his Special Representatives, the SMM Chief Monitor and the Secretary General, and by maintaining contact with his counterparts from different participating States. He met with the Trilateral Contact Group and Working Group co-ordinators in July in Minsk.



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Minister Ivica Dačić (left) and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin met in Kyiv in July.

Photo by Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Office

TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP

The security situation in the Donbas region of Ukraine continued to dominate the agenda of the Minsk meetings. In May 2015, four Working Groups were established to assist the work of the Trilateral Contact Group.

The Trilateral Contact Group and its Working Groups provided a critical mechanism for conducting a dialogue on complex security, political, socio-economic and humanitarian issues. This enabled the sides to intensify their engagement aimed at implementing the high-level agreements adopted in the Normandy Format.

The Working Group on Security concentrated its efforts on establishing a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire and completing the withdrawal of heavy weapons. It further focused on mine removal action where it reached consensus on 12 priority areas for demining (mainly around objects of vital infrastructure).

The Working Group on Political Issues primarily discussed modalities for local elections in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, but also touched on other issues such as amnesty and local self-governance, in accordance with Ukrainian legislation, OSCE standards and under OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) monitoring.

The release of detainees (over 80 detainees since May 2015) and improved access for humanitarian assistance were key topics on the agenda of the Working Group on Humanitarian Issues.

The Working Group on Economic Issues concentrated its activities on the rehabilitation of water supply, electric power lines, railway infrastructure and coal deliveries across the contact line, as well as pension payments, *inter alia*, through the establishment of a mobile banking system.

The implementation of the Package of Measures should have been completed by the end of 2015. Despite the efforts of the Special Representative and the Working Group Co-ordinators, a sustainable ceasefire as a basic requirement for many other aspects of the Package was not attained. Ultimately, all sides in the Normandy Format agreed that work should continue in 2016.

In June 2015, Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini of Switzerland was succeeded by Ambassador Martin Sajdik of Austria as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group.

HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS CONVENED BY THE CHAIRMANSHIP

An Informal High-Level Meeting held in Helsinki on 10 July marked the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and contributed to an open and substantive exchange of views on the current security situation in the OSCE area. The meeting was held back to back with a commemorative event, which highlighted the enduring relevance of the Helsinki Decalogue for governing relations between participating States and maintaining peace and security in the OSCE area. Participating States used the opportunity to discuss key issues on the OSCE agenda, including the broader implications of the crisis in and around Ukraine on Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security. Participants concluded that progress towards a durable settlement of the crisis can only be achieved when all participating States work in a constructive and forward-looking manner to re-establish trust and confidence, and revive a sense of common purpose.

“Our dialogue should be based on the full respect for OSCE principles and implementation of the commitments in all three dimensions undertaken by all OSCE participating States.”

Ivica Dačić
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
Foreign Minister of Serbia

The Serbian Chairmanship organized a Ministerial Event on OSCE Peace Operations on 1 October, on the margins of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. This event demonstrated the renewed attention by high-level officials from the participating States towards the OSCE. The ministerial event, chaired by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ivica Dačić, provided a venue to discuss and exchange views on the development of OSCE capabilities to undertake complex peace operations. It was concluded that, as the world’s largest regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE, with its comprehensive and multidimensional approach to security, was uniquely placed to contribute to the peaceful settlement of disputes. Participants expressed support for making further concerted efforts towards enhancing OSCE operational capabilities in all phases of the conflict cycle.



HELSINKI +40 PROCESS

The Serbian Chairmanship, supported by the Troika, facilitated a continued dialogue within the framework of the Helsinki +40 Process in 2015 through numerous consultations and meetings of the Informal Helsinki +40 Working Group. Although the process continued and fostered useful and open informal discussion, there were no concrete deliverables when the process concluded at the end of the year.



The 2015 OSCE Troika of former, present and future Chairpersons: Foreign Ministers Didier Burkhalter of Switzerland, Ivica Dačić of Serbia and Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany
Photo by Jonathan Perfect (OSCE)

REINFORCEMENT OF THE TROIKA FORMAT

In 2014-2015, Switzerland and Serbia introduced the concept of “consecutive Chairmanships”, which contributed to the strengthening of the Troika format. In 2015, for the first time in OSCE history, Troika ministerial meetings took place five times, including in Munich and Magdeburg, where the OSCE received the prestigious Ewald von Kleist Award and Emperor-Otto Award for its significant contribution to international peace and conflict resolution.

The Troika supported the activities of the Panel of Eminent Persons, which issued two reports. Besides an interim report on the lessons learned from the OSCE engagement in Ukraine, the Panel’s final report on European security as a common project made recommendations for overcoming the current crisis in European security, even though not all proposals were supported by all Panel members.

“We should draw inspiration from the courage of those Cold War leaders who managed to draw up a new foundation for regulating relations between States despite an ideologically charged atmosphere of intense antagonism.”

Ivica Dačić
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
Foreign Minister of Serbia

22nd OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
3-4 DECEMBER, BELGRADE, SERBIA

The 2015 Ministerial Council marked the first time since 1998 that Belgrade hosted an OSCE high-level meeting, with substantive participation of foreign ministers.

For the second year in a row, the Ministerial Council meeting was dominated by the crisis in and around Ukraine. In lieu of consensus on a political declaration, the Serbian Chairmanship released a Summary of the Discussions at the Ministerial Council reflecting the two-day deliberations. The following was reported:

“Deep concern was expressed about the crisis in and around Ukraine, which was one of the central elements of discussion. There is a shared interest in responding as a community to the challenge of terrorism and violent extremism, which is having a profound impact on all of Europe and all of the Middle East. Recognition was given to the urgency of the migration and refugee crisis and its significant impact on a number of participating States and Partners for Co-operation, since the OSCE can play a valuable role in responding to the crisis.”

Extract from the Closing Statement by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office at the 22nd OSCE Ministerial Council in Belgrade on 4 December 2015



OSCE Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations pose for a family photo at the 2015 Ministerial Council in Belgrade, 3 December 2015.
 Photo by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia

It was affirmed that the OSCE’s engagement in Ukraine offers valuable lessons and demonstrates the critical importance of the OSCE as a forum for inclusive dialogue and joint action, particularly in times of crisis. While acknowledging the persistence of divergent security threat perceptions, the participating States recognized that, especially at a time when the OSCE region faces an array of complex challenges to security that cannot be tackled by any single State alone, efforts to rebuild trust and confidence among the participating States must be intensified.

Recognition was given to the significant role of the OSCE as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter in contributing to international peace and security in all three dimensions, as well as to promoting security and confidence in the OSCE area through confidence- and security-building measures.

Recognition was given to the urgency of reacting to the migration and refugee crisis and to responding as a community to the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism. It was affirmed that the OSCE can play a valuable role in addressing these problems.



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić delivers a speech during the closing session of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Belgrade on 4 December 2015.
 Photo by Jonathan Perfect (OSCE)



Participants and panellists of the working session on Youth and Politics in Participating States, “Working with Youth for Youth: Protection against Radicalization” conference, Belgrade, 3 September 2015.
Photo by OSCE

COUNTERING TERRORISM

Under the Serbian Chairmanship, the OSCE continued to be very active in the field of countering terrorism. The Chairmanship organized the 2015 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference on “Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters” on 30 June-1 July in Vienna. This conference was convened to contribute to the high-level discussions on Countering Violent Extremism, which followed at the UN General Assembly in September. The discussions and recommendations from the conference contributed to paving the way for the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism.

During the conference, the Serbian Chairmanship, together with the Secretary General, launched a communication campaign highlighting the relevance of the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security in countering violent extremism that leads to terrorism. The “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism” campaign aimed to rally OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, academia, civil society organizations and religious institutions throughout the OSCE area in combating this phenomenon.

In response to repeated deadly terrorist attacks against civilians across the OSCE area and in its neighbourhood, participating States expressed their commitment to reinforcing efforts to address the threat of terrorism in Permanent Council statements and in a Ministerial Declaration on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of Recent Terrorist Attacks.

CYBERSECURITY

In the area of cybersecurity, the Serbian Chairmanship organized an event in Belgrade that primarily served as a platform for discussing good practices related to effective cyber/information and communications technology (ICT) security strategies, as well as to cross-sectoral crisis communication channels. The event built on the conclusions of the 2014 Swiss OSCE Chairmanship on this topic and identified recommendations to further promote implementation and support negotiations in the area of confidence-building measures on cyber/ICT security.

COUNTERING DRUGS

The Chairmanship organized the OSCE Conference “Enhancement of Mechanisms to Cope with Increasing Spread of Illicit Drugs amongst Young People” on 10-11 September in Vienna. Conference participants discussed practical proposals on future co-operation, finding long-term solutions to reduce an ever-increasing demand for illicit drugs among young people through improved co-operation and co-ordination between law enforcement agencies and civil society.

In view of the upcoming UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) 2016, the Chairmanship ramped up its efforts to focus more on countering drugs and promoting further OSCE activities in this area. This resulted in the adoption of the Declaration on the OSCE Activities in Support of Global Efforts in Tackling the World Drug Problem in which participating States declared their support for enhancing OSCE efforts to confront the threat of illicit drugs and enhance co-operation with UN and other international organizations for a global approach.

ENHANCING SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND REFORM

Based on a joint initiative by the two consecutive Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships, an open-ended Group of Friends on enhancing security sector governance and reform was established to assist OSCE executive structures, and in particular the Secretary General, in strengthening the coherence of the Organization’s support to participating States in this area. The Group advised focusing on cross-dimensional approaches, regional approaches, comprehensive needs assessments and sustainable and impact-oriented approaches.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

This year’s Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting centred on good governance and the problem of corruption in particular. The Serbian Chairmanship circulated a paper titled “Enhancing the OSCE institutional capacity in the field of combating corruption”, which included input from a number of participating States and proposed several concrete options for the fight against corruption.

Serbia also held a number of thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings focused on labour migration, transport, anti-corruption and money laundering, energy security, and climate change and disaster risk reduction.

WATER UNITES AND CONNECTS

In 2015, the main emphasis in the second dimension and the topic of the 23rd Economic and Environmental Forum was “Water governance in the OSCE area: increasing security and stability through co-operation”. Serbia’s primary motto was “water is fundamental, water unites and water connects”, topics that were approached in a positive manner based on best practices and oriented towards further strengthening co-operation.

During the meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum process, the Chairmanship discussed in great detail the issue of water governance and how to increase co-operation in this field. These deliberations demonstrated that OSCE participating States attach great importance to water governance and increasingly recognize that the scope and complexity of water-related challenges extend beyond national and regional boundaries, therefore requiring a truly international approach.



Floods in Serbia in 2014
Photo by Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Office

PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

The Serbian Chairmanship focused on the structured and substantive work of the Human Dimension Committee, emphasizing the implementation of existing OSCE human dimension commitments and identifying relevant areas in which an update of commitments is needed.



25 YEARS OF THE CHARTER OF PARIS

Events promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms, tolerance and non-discrimination, including:

- Protection of Safety and Integrity of Journalists in the OSCE Region
- Reinforced Human Dimension Committee on Combating Hate Crime
- Special Human Dimension Event on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees
- Election Seminar
- Conference on Enhancing the Efforts in Preventing and Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Focusing on Hate Crimes, Exclusion, Marginalization and Denial of Rights

Close co-operation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media was maintained throughout 2015, including in organizing regular OSCE Human Dimension Meetings.

Three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings were held in Vienna on the following topics: Freedom of Assembly and Association, with emphasis on Freedom of Association; Freedom of Religion and Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding; and the OSCE's Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities.

The Serbian Chairmanship paid special attention to National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). The role of ombudspersons, commissions and other NHRIs in promoting and protecting human rights; interaction between NHRIs and governments and civil society; and the challenges NHRIs face in exercising their mandates effectively and efficiently were on the agenda of the Human Dimension Seminar held in Warsaw on the topic "The Role of the National Human Rights Institutions in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in the OSCE Area."

Enhancing the role and voice of civil society was a common priority of the Swiss and Serbian consecutive Chairmanships; therefore, in 2015 further efforts were invested in strengthening the overall participation of civil society in the activities of the OSCE, namely through continued thematic workshops. In addition, recommendations adopted by a civil society conference in Belgrade were handed over to the members of the Troika.

CROSS-DIMENSIONALITY

Serbia's Chairmanship paid particular attention to cross-dimensional aspects of topical issues such as combating terrorism and the migration and the refugee crisis. For the first time, joint meetings of the three Committees (Security, Economic and Environmental, and Human Dimension) were organized on these topics with prominent keynote speakers from participating States, relevant international organizations and civil society.

The cross-cutting issues of combating trafficking in human beings and gender mainstreaming remained high on the Chairmanship's agenda. Furthermore, building on the Basel Ministerial Declaration on Youth, particular attention was given to youth, a group deserving special protection due to its vulnerability, but also capable of contributing in addressing youth-related aspects of security across all three dimensions through active participation in various OSCE activities.

The Chairmanship drafted the OSCE Action Plan on Youth and Security and worked to update the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in order to adapt it to current and emerging trends and challenges.

PROMOTING RECONCILIATION AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

AMBASSADOR GÉRARD STOUDMANN
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE WESTERN BALKANS

In the Western Balkans, the Serbian Chairmanship continued to support the process of reconciliation and regional co-operation, in line with the policy agreed with the outgoing Swiss Chairmanship. Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, in his capacity as Special Representative on the Western Balkans, contributed to the successful visits of the Chairperson-in-Office to the OSCE field operations in the region.

Given the political and institutional crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, he encouraged the OSCE's efforts to prevent an escalation of the crisis and possible polarization along ethnic lines. Ambassador Stoudmann encouraged the parties to seek technical assistance from the OSCE on electoral matters to prepare the ground for holding early parliamentary elections in 2016. This recommendation was included in the agreement between the government coalition and the opposition, under the leadership of the EU.

The Special Representative also provided concrete recommendations to strengthen the confidence of Montenegrin citizens in their electoral system.

PLANNING FOR PEACE

THE HIGH-LEVEL PLANNING GROUP

www.osce.org/hlpg

Launched in 1994, the High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) makes recommendations to the Chairperson-in-Office on developing a plan for the establishment of a multinational peacekeeping force for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

Colonel Markus Widmer, Head of the HLPG, joined the delegation of the Chairperson-in-Office on his visit to Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2015, which allowed for contacts with the highest political authorities of both countries. HLPG members attended three monitoring exercises on the Line of Contact, organized by the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

Twice in 2015, the HLPG visited the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, establishing a solid partnership. Analysing previous visits to the UN and the European Union (EU), and drawing on conclusions from briefings by military officers from Austria and Ireland, the HLPG made recommendations on its future planning to the Chairmanship.

“Thanks to the permanent support of the Serbian Chairmanship, the High-Level Planning Group is now seen as a visible, professional and relevant player, and represents a useful asset of the OSCE tool box for the moment when there is a peace agreement.”

Colonel Markus Widmer
Outgoing Head of the HLPG,
at the end of his term of duty



AMBASSADOR ANDRZEJ KASPRZYK
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON
THE CONFLICT DEALT WITH BY THE
OSCE MINSK CONFERENCE
www.osce.org/prcio

Throughout 2015, the Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, continued to support the Chairperson-in-Office and OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in their efforts to assist a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Personal Representative and his team supported the visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to the South Caucasus in June and four visits of the Minsk Group co-chairs to the region in February, June, July and October.

Meeting regularly with representatives of the sides, including at the highest military and political levels, the Personal Representative kept the Minsk Group co-chairs informed of relevant developments. He supported the co-chairs in a series of separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as one joint meeting, and helped them prepare for a meeting of the presidents in December in Bern. Apart from regular briefings of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Kasprzyk participated in the briefings with Ministries of Foreign Affairs organized by Minsk Group co-chairs in Helsinki, Rome, Washington, Paris, Berlin and Moscow.

With the support of the sides, the Personal Representative and his team conducted 24 monitoring exercises, seven on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and 17 on the Line of Contact. During an October exercise, he led the Minsk Group co-chairs across the Line of Contact to demonstrate that the line should not become a permanent barrier to contact between neighbouring peoples. Representatives of the HLPG were also able to take part in three monitoring exercises.



CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia
- UN Deputy Secretary-General
- Armenian and Azerbaijani diaspora representatives in the United States
- EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Civil society organizations



SOUTH CAUCASUS

**AMBASSADOR ANGELO
GNÄDINGER**
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-
IN-OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH
CAUCASUS

In 2015, Ambassador Angelo Gnädinger continued actively engaging in support of peace processes in the South Caucasus. Along with representatives from the UN and the EU, he co-chaired four rounds of the Geneva International Discussions, and, together with the Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, co-facilitated 12 meetings of the related Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti. These remain instrumental in preserving a calm and stable security situation despite persisting political and humanitarian challenges in the region.

The Special Representative continued to put forward initiatives to translate the political process into concrete actions, such as deploying an expert mission to help resolve several cases of missing persons.

The Chairperson-in-Office visited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, where he held fruitful exchanges with high-level government officials, parliamentarians and civil society representatives. He reiterated the OSCE's continued support for Georgian authorities and civil society in addressing challenges throughout the three dimensions. In Armenia and Azerbaijan, he called for intensified efforts towards the resolution of the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference.



TRANSDNIESTRIAN CONFLICT

AMBASSADOR RADOJKO BOGOJEVIĆ
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-

IN-OFFICE FOR THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS

In 2015, the Chairmanship, together with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, undertook efforts to reinvigorate the settlement process of the Transdniestrian conflict. Internal political changes and increasing tensions in the OSCE region continued to affect the Transdniestrian Settlement Process and prevented official meetings in the 5+2 format.

In defusing tensions and facilitating dialogue between Moldova and Transnistria, as well as between all participants in the 5+2 format, the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Radojko Bogojević, and respective OSCE executive structures played a key role. In 2015, he travelled to the region four times; visited Moscow, Kyiv and Brussels; and facilitated the special consultations of the participants of the “Permanent Conference for Political Questions in the Framework of the Negotiating Process on the Transdniestrian Settlement” in the 5+2 format in Vienna in April. The situation remained stable between the conflict parties. All participants of the 5+2 format are committed to continuing their efforts to reinvigorate the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, and at the Ministerial Council in Belgrade, the participating States unanimously reaffirmed the foundations and goals of the process in a Ministerial Council Statement, and encouraged the sides to intensify their regular dialogue, empower their political representatives, and establish an annual calendar for negotiations.

GENDER EQUALITY

MELANNE VERVEER

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON GENDER ISSUES

Ambassador Melanne Verveer became Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office on Gender Issues in spring 2015.

The Special Representative addressed the 2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and participated in side discussions on women’s participation in politics. She also spoke at the Human Dimension Committee’s meeting on gender equality.

In November, she participated in a panel discussion at an OSCE Security Days event: “In the Pursuit of Peace and Stability: How Gender Makes a Difference”. Having travelled to Ukraine for a country visit, Ambassador Verveer, in her intervention, focused on the role of women in peace and security within the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine.



“Gender equality cuts across all three dimensions; it is essential to advancing human rights and democracy, to achieving economic prosperity and to ending conflicts, advancing security and building sustainable peace. Gender equality and security go hand in hand.”

Melanne Verveer

Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues

15 JANUARY

Opening Address by Minister Dačić, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

20 JANUARY

Chairperson-in-Office welcomes Permanent Council Declaration calling for an immediate ceasefire and full implementation of the Minsk Agreements

7 FEBRUARY

OSCE receives Ewald von Kleist Award

24 FEBRUARY

Chairperson-in-Office addresses the UN Security Council

26-27 MARCH

Chairperson-in-Office Conference on Protection of Safety and Integrity of Journalists

VIENNA

MUNICH

NEW YORK

BELGRADE



YOUTH AND SECURITY

ANNA-KATHARINA DEININGER AND MILENA STOŠIĆ
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE
ON YOUTH AND SECURITY

The first Special Representatives on Youth and Security in OSCE history co-operated closely with the Chairmanship, executive structures and civil society to enhance youth participation in the OSCE. Inclusion of youth in the peace and security agenda and ensuring permanent participation mechanisms is vital for the OSCE.

YOUTH VOICES HEARD AT:

- SECURITY DAYS
- OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY SEMINAR ON HELSINKI +40
- ODIHR AND OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA REGIONAL SEMINAR ON YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
- SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
- PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA'S CENTRAL ASIAN YOUTH NETWORK
- GROUP OF FRIENDS OF YOUTH'S MEETINGS
- HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
- MINISTERIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP SIDE EVENT ON YOUTH RADICALIZATION
- OSCE CAMPAIGN "UNITED IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM" (#UNITEDCVE)



The OSCE Youth Ambassadors have been dedicated supporters and messengers of the #UnitedCVE campaign since its launch, Belgrade, 3 December 2015.

Photo by OSCE

In 2015, the Chairmanship and its Special Representatives organized the conference "Working with Youth for Youth: Protection against Radicalization" in Belgrade, providing a discussion platform for participating States' representatives, researchers, civil society, youth organizations and Youth Ambassadors in all three OSCE dimensions. Findings and recommendations can be found in the conference report.

The Declaration on Youth and Security and the Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism adopted at the 22nd Ministerial Council in Belgrade paved the way for more inclusive work with youth for youth.

21-22 APRIL

Chairperson-in-Office Conference on Security Sector Governance and Reform

11-13 MAY

2nd Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum

1-3 JUNE

Human Dimension Seminar on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions

16 JUNE

Joint Meeting of Three Committees on Combating Terrorism

23-25 JUNE

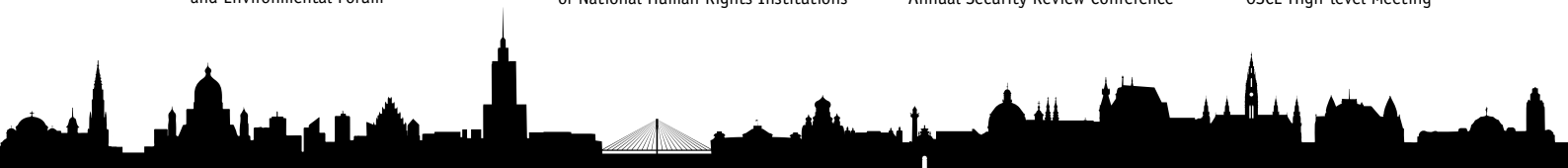
Annual Security Review Conference

9 JULY

Chairperson-in-Office addresses the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

10 JULY

OSCE High-Level Meeting



WARSAW

VIENNA

HELSINKI

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

RABBI ANDREW BAKER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM

TALIP KUCUKCAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST MUSLIMS

ALEXEY AVTONOMOV

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS

The three Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, appointed by the Swiss Chairmanship, continued their activities during Serbia's Chairmanship in 2015.

The Personal Representatives made joint visits to France in January and the Netherlands in June. In addition, Rabbi Baker joined ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link on a visit to Hungary in June. During the visits, the Personal Representatives met with government representatives, local authorities and civil society to discuss the situation of different religious communities and possible measures to be adopted for the improvement of their status.

The Personal Representatives attended jointly or individually a number of meetings in their official capacity, including the Human Dimension Committee, the Conference on "Enhancing Efforts to Prevent and Combat Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Focusing on Hate Crimes, Exclusion, Marginalization and Denial of Rights", the Fifth Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the Permanent Council and the Belgrade Ministerial Council.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal status of the OSCE and its impact on operations continued to be a focus in 2015, particularly with respect to the duty of care for OSCE officials and protection of OSCE assets. The Serbian Chairmanship and its Special Advisor on the OSCE Legal Framework, Ambassador John Bernhard, sought solutions through informal channels and three meetings of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE. The options under consideration were reduced to four, and there was general recognition of the need to solve this long-standing issue as soon as possible.

3-4 SEPTEMBER

Chairmanship Conference "Working with Youth for Youth: Protection against Radicalization"

14-16 SEPTEMBER

Economic and Environmental Forum

19 SEPTEMBER

Ministerial Troika Meeting, OSCE receives Emperor-Otto Award

21 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, first time opened by Chairperson-in-Office

8 SEPTEMBER

Lessons of the Second World War: Memories and Public Policies



BELGRADE

PRAGUE

MAGDEBURG

WARSAW

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The Serbian Chairmanship continued successful co-operation with OSCE Partners for Co-operation through the Meetings of the Contact Groups, as well as through the Mediterranean and Asian Conferences.

ASIAN CONTACT GROUP

Asian Partners for Co-operation: Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand
Chair: **Switzerland**



The 2015 Swiss Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group assisted the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship in its activities to promote an open and interactive dialogue between the OSCE and the Partners for Co-operation following a demand-driven approach and responding to the interests and priorities of the Asian Partners. The focus of this year's work with the Asian Partners was to identify areas for concrete joint activities and opportunities for enhanced institutional exchange between the OSCE and Asian security mechanisms. The Contact Group met five times in 2015 and discussed the following topics:

- The situation on the Korean Peninsula and the importance of dialogue and confidence-building measures (CBMs)
- European and CSCE/OSCE experience and lessons learned that could inspire multilateral security co-operation in Asia

- Cybersecurity, also with a focus on the role of CBMs
- The UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its outcome for the work of the OSCE
- The Northeast Asia Peace and Co-operation Initiative (NAPCI)
- Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) and conflict prevention from the perspective of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the OSCE
- The transformation process in Afghanistan and the role of women
- The Afghan refugee situation

Representatives of the respective Partner countries briefed participants at these meetings on the situation in their States and made suggestions for further co-operation and activities.

2015 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

The 2015 OSCE Asian Conference held in Seoul, Korea, on 1-2 June 2015 focused on the changing global security environment and visions of multilateral security co-operation in Asia. Discussions showed a mutual interest in strengthening institutional ties and enhancing structured exchange between the OSCE and Asian security mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and in identifying more concrete joint activities in specific thematic areas, including counter-terrorism, cyber security, and disaster risk reduction.



(L-r) Ambassador Vuk Žugić, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea Yun Byung-se and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Tanasak Patimapragorn at the opening of the 2015 OSCE Asian Conference, Seoul, 1 June 2015
Photo by Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Korea

1 OCTOBER

OSCE Ministerial Event on Peace Operations

6 OCTOBER

Joint Meeting of Three Committees on Migration Crisis

29-30 OCTOBER

Workshop on effective strategies to cyber/ICT security threats

3-4 DECEMBER

OSCE Ministerial Council



NEW YORK

VIENNA

BELGRADE

MEDITERRANEAN CONTACT GROUP

Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia

Chair: **Germany**



Germany, as Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2015, worked closely with the Mediterranean Partners on fostering an intensified dialogue. The liveliness and substance of the Partnership was underlined by well-attended, timely and extensive discussions during the Mediterranean Conference and at the meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group, and by the active involvement of representatives from Mediterranean Partner countries in various OSCE events, including their participation in concrete projects. The Partners and the OSCE Secretariat co-operated to identify the principal topics of terrorism and radicalization, migration (with a cross-dimensional approach), energy and interreligious dialogue. The Contact Group met six times in 2015 and discussed the following:

- Freedom of the media and countering violent extremism
- Counter-terrorism and addressing the conditions conducive to radicalization as well as its impact on our societies
- International migration, human trafficking and refugee protection in the Mediterranean
- Implementation of the counter-terrorism declarations on kidnapping for ransom and foreign terrorist fighters adopted at the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel
- Sustainable energy: advancing stability and security
- The positive potential of migration for the economy and stability in the Mediterranean region

In addition to meetings, practical co-operation took place in the context of a number of fruitful projects and workshops with the Partners in all three dimensions. Substantial studies were also carried out, such as the field study on sustainable energy for the Mediterranean Partners, intended for completion in spring 2016.

2015 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

The annual Mediterranean Conference was held under the title of “Common Security in the Mediterranean Region” on 20-21 October in Jordan.

The Conference focused on countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, the role of interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and addressing current challenges related to migration. For the first time, the Mediterranean Conference served as a platform for high-level political discussion on common security challenges. It brought together around 225 participants from 44 Mediterranean Partner countries and participating States, including 16 foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers, a number of key representatives of international organizations and representatives of civil society, academia and the media. Keynote speeches were delivered by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan Nasser Judeh and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier, among other prominent speakers.

Fundamental political questions were addressed, related to the conditions, structures and tools of co-operative security and confidence-building, and on the potential significance of the CSCE and OSCE processes for other regions of the world. Furthermore, the Conference brought forward suggestions on how to strengthen the Mediterranean Partnership through a more structured type of co-operation, and on how to facilitate a more substantive dialogue with the Partners.



“Our experiences in Europe are not a blueprint. But perhaps they can provide a range of principles and processes that can also offer countries a glimmer of hope for political settlements in the Middle East.”

Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

PERMANENT COUNCIL

The Permanent Council is the OSCE's regular body for political consultation and decision-making. It is responsible for the daily business of the Organization.



Permanent Council

www.osce.org/pc

The Permanent Council is the principal decision-making body for governing the day-to-day operational work of the OSCE between the meetings of the Ministerial Council. During the 2015 Serbian OSCE Chairmanship, the Permanent Council was chaired by Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna.

The Serbian Chairmanship invested a lot of effort to maximize the potential of the Permanent Council meetings to be a real platform for dialogue for the 57 participating States of the OSCE. In 2015, 51 meetings of the Permanent Council and three joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and Permanent Council took place. Many high-level guests at the rank of minister, deputy minister and head of international organization addressed the Permanent Council and exchanged views with the delegations of participating States upon the invitation of the Chairmanship. In order to organize and prepare the meetings of the Permanent Council, the Chairmanship conducted 48 Preparatory Committee meetings, 42 informal meetings and 316 political dialogue meetings.

The Chair of the Permanent Council appointed the chairs of three general committees as follows: Ambassador Cristian Istrate, Chair of the Security Committee; Ambassador Tomislav Leko (from 1 January to 30 June) and Andreas Papadakis (from 1 July to 31 December), Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee; and Ambassador Robert Kvile, Chair of the Human Dimension Committee.

The Permanent Council adopted 36 decisions and three declarations under the Serbian Chairmanship.



Photo by Micky Kröll

“When presenting Serbia’s Chairmanship priorities, I highlighted some key directions that should determine our action at this point in time more than ever before: dialogue and compromise, peaceful resolution of disputes, confidence-building, solidarity, responsibility and co-operation. In such complex circumstances, the issue of rebuilding consensus on European security must be our central concern.”

Ambassador Vuk Žugić
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE
and other International Organizations in Vienna

HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS AT PERMANENT COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2015

15 January

Opening Address by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia,
Ivica Dačić



10 March

Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Belgium,
Didier Reynders



22 January

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and Head of the Serbian Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, **Roksanda Ninčić**



11 March

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia,
Edward Nalbandian



19 March



First Deputy
Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Georgia,
David Dondua

2 July



Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Germany,
**Frank-Walter
Steinmeier**

30 April

Secretary General
of the Organization
for Democracy
and Economic
Development
(GUAM), **Valeri
Chechelashvili**



23 July



Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic
Speaking States, **Ramil Hasanov**

Secretary General of TURKPA, **Jandos Asanov**

11 May



Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Spain,
**José Manuel
García-Margallo**

29 October

Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Bulgaria,
Daniel Mitov



21 May



Minister of
Women's Affairs
of Afghanistan,
Dilbar Nazari

29 October



Secretary General of the Regional
Cooperation Council, **Goran Svilanović**

4 June

Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Malta,
George Vella



9 June



Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Bosnia and
Herzegovina,
Igor Crnadak

11 June

Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the former
Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia, **Nikola
Poposki**



FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

The Forum is the OSCE's key decision-making body on politico-military aspects of security. Its participants meet weekly in Vienna to discuss such issues as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.



Forum for Security Co-operation

www.osce.org/fsc

The Forum for Security Co-operation continued to contribute to defusing the crisis in and around Ukraine and to addressing key developments related to the politico-military dimension. Many delegations, in particular Ukraine, the European Union, the United States and the Russian Federation regularly made use of the Forum and exchanged their views on the issue. The Forum also continued its efforts to strengthen the implementation of existing confidence- and security-building measures, and to discuss possible additional measures in line with relevant decisions adopted at the Ministerial Council meetings in Kyiv and Basel as well as with the common commitment to update and modernize the Vienna Document by the end of 2016.

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE

In 2015, the Forum continued to contribute to defusing the crisis in and around Ukraine and to addressing developments and security concerns related to the politico-military dimension. The Forum also served as a useful platform for participating States to clarify their positions and to bring new issues to the agenda. An active dialogue took place on matters related to topical European security issues. Initiatives put forward by the participating States led to the adoption of seven decisions aimed at strengthening the implementation of existing OSCE commitments and their further development.

All three 2015 FSC Chairmanships – Mongolia, Montenegro and Norway – continued to work jointly with the Permanent Council on cross-dimensional issues of relevance to both bodies. To this end, they held three joint meetings on the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, arms trafficking in the Mediterranean region and gender equality in the armed forces.



Demining activities are carried out as part of the project "Assistance to the Government of Ukraine in Clearing the Territories in the East of Ukraine from Explosive Remnants of War".

Photo by Alexander Savelyev (OSCE)

The 25th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting evaluated the state of implementation of agreed CSBMs and resulted in more than 45 suggestions on ways to further improve their implementation. The Heads of Verification Centres met in December to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of the Vienna Document 2011.

The Forum supported the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference in June, which highlighted the need for substantive modernization of the established mechanisms and regimes in the field of arms control and CSBMs.

The Forum continued to work towards enhanced implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The fourth Annual Implementation Discussion in July emphasized the undiminished value of complying with all principles and norms set out in the Code and examined its application in the context of the current security situation in the OSCE region. Several proposals were made on promoting and improving the implementation and outreach of the Code, including its annual information exchange.

The OSCE has further demonstrated its relevance as a platform for dialogue and assistance provider in the area of non-proliferation and strategic trade controls. In 2015, the OSCE continued to complement global efforts by facilitating the implementation of UNSCR 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The Organization's role was formalized by the adoption of the FSC Decision on the "OSCE's Role in Support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)". As 2015 marked the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the Forum deliberated various aspects of the WPS agenda and exchanged views on further steps and best practices in the implementation of the Resolution.

CO-OPERATION THROUGHOUT THE CRISIS

Many delegations, in particular Ukraine, the European Union, the United States and the Russian Federation, regularly seized the weekly Forum meetings to put forward their perspectives on the crisis in and around Ukraine. The Vienna Document 2011 was actively used to raise and address security concerns, as well as to conduct inspections and evaluation visits. Under its Chapters IX and X, 20 verification activities were conducted in Ukraine and six in the Russian Federation, while the document's risk reduction chapter was invoked five times. Whereas no Vienna Document Plus Decisions were adopted in 2015, 24 proposals were made covering five chapters of the document.



A September 2015 study visit to Germany by Ukrainian representatives of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine examined modern approaches and equipment used for clearing areas contaminated with mines, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war.

Photo by Alona Molchanova



FSC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN 2015

On Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Russian Academy of Sciences, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Benelux Arms Control Agency

On Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

Wassenaar Arrangement, Small Arms Survey, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Norwegian International Law and Policy Institute, Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies of Coventry University (United Kingdom)

On the Code of Conduct

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), Ombudsman for the Armed Forces of Norway

On Non-proliferation and UNSCR 1540

UNSCR 1540 Committee, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Main Committee II of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

On UNSCR 1325

UN Women National Committee of Germany, Finnish Ministry of the Interior, Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Serbian Ministry of Defence, Norwegian Ministry of Defence

DEALING WITH ARMS AND AMMUNITION SURPLUSES

In line with Basel Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/14 and the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the Forum and the Informal Group of Friends on SALW continued to work both on fostering implementation of existing commitments and on looking into means of making measures more effective and efficient. A number of capacity-building initiatives were undertaken. At the same time, several food-for-thought papers and proposals for draft decisions were under discussion in the FSC, in particular resulting in a decision to hold a two-day OSCE meeting in July to review the implementation of OSCE practical assistance projects on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA).

To address a decrease in donor funding, the OSCE Secretariat (Conflict Prevention Centre) developed Repository Programmes for the SALW and SCA projects, and for Ukraine.

Next page: photo by Hanne Salonen (Parliament of Finland)



OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57 OSCE participating States. It provides a forum for dialogue, leads election observation missions and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Secretary General: **Spencer Oliver** (until 31 December 2015)

Budget: €3,102,000

Staff: 19 full-time employees

8 research fellows

www.oscepa.org

From Donetsk to Guantanamo to the Turkish–Syrian border, the Parliamentary Assembly (PA) was vocal and visible on the international stage in 2015, providing input and grappling with some of the OSCE area’s most pressing human security issues. The PA provided a crucial forum for parliamentary dialogue on the crisis in and around Ukraine, the refugee situation and more, while defending international commitments and election standards and generating fresh ideas for tomorrow’s OSCE.

UKRAINE IN FOCUS

The crisis in and around Ukraine remained at the top of the PA’s agenda in 2015. Parliamentarians from across the OSCE area held debates on the crisis and the OSCE’s response at the PA’s Annual Session and Winter Meeting. The crisis in and around Ukraine featured prominently in the Helsinki Declaration, adopted by the Assembly in July, which criticized Russia’s breach of the Helsinki Final Act, urged full implementation of the Minsk agreements, demanded unfettered access for OSCE monitors, advocated nation-wide dialogue in Ukraine and called on Russia to reverse its annexation of Crimea.

The PA continued to support reconciliation by facilitating some of the only meetings between Russian and Ukrainian members of parliament since the crisis began, on the sidelines of its meetings and at a retreat on conflict resolution hosted by the German Bundestag.

PA President Ilkka Kanerva also continued his active diplomacy with parliamentary and government leaders in Kyiv and Moscow. He visited the Donetsk region in November to survey the situation and raise awareness of the humanitarian toll of the crisis.

PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE

24th ANNUAL SESSION, HELSINKI, 5-9 JULY

The Annual Session brought together nearly 300 parliamentarians in historic Finlandia Hall, where the OSCE’s founding document, the Helsinki Final Act, was signed 40 years prior. Held under the theme “Recalling the Spirit of Helsinki”, the Session featured keynote addresses by Finnish President Sauli Niinistö and Foreign Minister Timo Soini. It also included a commemorative event marking the Final Act’s anniversary and the release of the PA’s Helsinki +40 Project Final Report, containing recommendations for OSCE reform.

Following vigorous debate, the Session culminated in the adoption of the Helsinki Declaration, containing the Assembly’s policy recommendations for the OSCE and its participating States in the fields of political affairs and security, economics, the environment, human rights and humanitarian questions. Parliamentarians also approved resolutions on Ukraine, the refugee situation, terrorism, human trafficking, Arctic issues and more.

President Kanerva was mandated to serve for a second year, while the Heads of National Delegations elected Roberto Montella Secretary General of the Assembly, with a term beginning in January 2016.



OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (right) listens to an internally displaced person’s story at a dormitory facility in Artemivsk, Ukraine, on 12 November 2015.

Photo by OSCE PA



OSCE parliamentarians gathered in Mongolia, the Organization's newest participating State, for the 2015 Autumn Meeting.

Photo by OSCE PA

**AUTUMN MEETING, ULAANBAATAR, 15-18 SEPTEMBER
WINTER MEETING, VIENNA, 18-20 FEBRUARY**

The 2015 Autumn Meeting brought parliamentarians together in Ulaanbaatar to consider their role in fostering regional co-operation. Mongolian President Tsakhia Elbegdorj and Parliament Chairman Zandaakhuu Enkhbold addressed the meeting, which hosted a unique roundtable discussion on Central Asia with the Heads of OSCE field operations in the region. Parliamentarians also debated the refugee crisis and the potential of the OSCE to help, a topic that will be high on the PA's agenda in 2016.

Almost 250 parliamentarians from across the OSCE area participated in the Winter Meeting. OSCE officials, including the Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini and SMM Chief Monitor Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, opened the parliamentary debate on the OSCE's response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ivica Dačić was among other senior officials to engage with members of parliament on the situation. The PA's Mediterranean Forum was also held, featuring the participation of parliamentarians from four Partners for Co-operation.

IN THE FIELD

PA members were active and outspoken in 2015, conducting field visits, holding high-level consultations and raising awareness on a wide range of issues. Along with his visits focusing on the crisis in and around Ukraine, President Kanerva visited refugee facilities on the Turkish-Syrian border in January alongside the Chairperson of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Isabel Santos. She and other parliamentarians highlighted challenges related to the refugee crisis on a visit to Lampedusa, Italy. The leadership of the human rights committee also visited the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, calling for its closure.

The PA's Special Representatives were also hard at work: Roberto Battelli promoted political dialogue and accountability in Skopje, while Benjamin Cardin visited the

sites of anti-Semitic attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, and Ignacio Sanchez Amor discussed border issues in Kyrgyzstan. Along with its Ukraine-focused retreat in partnership with the Bundestag, the PA and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized an event hosted by Turkmenistan's parliament on parliamentary engagement. The PA also supported the Kyrgyz parliament in organizing a gender conference in Bishkek.

ENVISIONING TOMORROW'S OSCE

2015 saw the culmination of the PA's Helsinki +40 Project, an ambitious series of seminars aimed at inspiring OSCE reform in the Organization's 40th anniversary year. After events in 2014 and 2015 in Moscow, Washington, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Belgrade and Helsinki, and drawing on the input of parliamentarians, diplomats and experts, the Project's Final Report offered a wealth of recommendations to ensure optimal OSCE functioning in future years. They included: modifying the OSCE's consensus-bound decision-making to enable swifter action in crisis situations; increasing investment in field operations; better addressing human rights issues through regular reviews of countries' records; intensifying work towards a legal personality for the OSCE; and strengthening the role of the PA to make better use of its connection with the people.

Parliamentarians at the Annual Session adopted a Helsinki +40 Resolution, giving democratic backing to many of the report's recommendations.



ELECTION OBSERVATION

In 2015, the PA provided leadership to OSCE election observation missions in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey (June and November). The PA also assessed the general elections in the United Kingdom, demonstrating its commitment to upholding standards both east and west of Vienna. In total, more than 200 OSCE parliamentarians from 33 countries participated in observation.





SECRETARIAT

Secretary General: **Lamberto Zannier**

Budget: €39,630,900 (Unified Budget), €7,074,567 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 366

www.osce.org/secretariat

Led by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, the OSCE Secretariat based in Vienna is responsible for supporting dialogue and negotiation processes between the participating States and for implementing the Organization's political decisions. The staff of the Secretariat works with the Chairmanship – in 2015, Serbia – providing operational support to participating States on a wide range of mandated activities across the three dimensions.

THE SECRETARIAT CONSISTS OF:

- Office of the Secretary General
- Conflict Prevention Centre
- Department of Human Resources
- Department of Management and Finance
- Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Office of Internal Oversight
- Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Transnational Threats Department

The OSCE Secretariat headquarters in Vienna's Palais Palfy-Erdody

Photo by Victoria Segovia (OSCE)

Conflict Prevention

Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre: **Ambassador Adam Kobieracki** (until August 2015) and **Ambassador Marcel Peško** (from September 2015)
 Staff: 55

www.osce.org/what/conflict-prevention

The OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) is the Secretariat's direct link to field operations, helping to address all phases of the conflict cycle through proactive guidance and advice on relevant tools and instruments, as well as through the provision of early warning of potential conflicts to participating States. The CPC is a cornerstone of the OSCE's politico-military dimension and efforts to find lasting political settlements for existing conflicts.

CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE CRISIS IN AND AROUND UKRAINE

Throughout 2015, the CPC continued to play a key role in co-ordinating efforts as the crisis in and around Ukraine evolved. The year began with serious challenges. After the signing of the 12 February 2015 Minsk Package of Measures, the CPC supported and helped facilitate the new tasks assigned to the SMM, which gradually increased its number of monitors and added new technologies to enhance its monitoring and verification abilities. The CPC backed the work of the Political Working Group of the Trilateral Contact Group to further conflict resolution efforts in and around Ukraine. The CPC continued to support the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

DEMINEERING EFFORTS IN UKRAINE



New extrabudgetary project to enhance the capacity of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine to clear territories contaminated by explosive remnants of war by increasing the efficiency and safety of explosive ordnance disposal teams.



Comprehensive Review of Chemical Safety and Security in Ukraine, under the auspices of UNSCR 1540, to analyse the current state of chemical safety and security, and identify gaps in the regulatory and control system of chemicals in circulation, including in the east of Ukraine.



Monitors from the SMM talking to local residents, Luhansk region, 6 July 2015.

Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka (OSCE)

ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The CPC was instrumental in supporting the conflict resolution process in Moldova, working closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Radojko Bogojević, to further efforts towards a negotiated solution to the Transdnestrian conflict.

The work of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Angelo Gnädinger, was supported during the four rounds of the Geneva International Discussions (GID) and the 12 meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism held in 2015 in Ergneti. The GID address the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia. The CPC actively participated in numerous consultations in Tbilisi, Sukhumi, Tskhinvali and Moscow, and co-moderated the working group of the GID dealing with humanitarian issues. In support of the GID, the CPC successfully organized a first OSCE Summer School in Vienna to familiarize youth from the region and beyond with OSCE values and commitments. Other CPC projects focused on humanitarian issues, such as preservation of cultural heritage and provision of a potable water distribution network in two villages near the administrative boundary line.



Participants during the 54th meeting under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism.

ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The CPC took an active part in the ninth annual Task Force meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. A record 218 participants discussed OSCE-Tajikistan co-operation in all three dimensions, evaluated past achievements and jointly agreed on future priorities and plans for 2016 and beyond. Continued support was provided to OSCE flagship initiatives in Central Asia, including the Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The CPC also participated in the final assessment of the Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan (discontinued in December 2015).

MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS 24/7

The Situation/Communications Room continued to monitor developments affecting security and stability in the OSCE area, serving as a vital link in the security chain between the Secretariat and the field operations

514 DAILY BRIEFINGS COMPOSED

2,014 UPDATES AND SPECIAL REPORTS ISSUED

22,458 ALERT MESSAGES CIRCULATED

197 FIELD OPERATION REPORTS DISTRIBUTED TO DELEGATIONS OUTSIDE REGULAR WORKING HOURS

At the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) held in Dushanbe, the OSCE and CSTO confirmed their intentions to further strengthen dialogue and co-operation between the two organizations, to avoid duplication of effort and build on mutual efforts, particularly regarding activities on the Tajik-Afghan border.

EARLY WARNING

The CPC organized the fourth annual meeting of the OSCE Early Warning Focal Point Network in Vienna with 20 representatives of field operations and other executive structures. In addition, the CPC facilitated a number of regional meetings and capacity-building workshops focused on the use of the OSCE's conflict cycle toolbox.

MEDIATION

The second OSCE mediation course was organized in Pamhagen, Austria. It aimed to strengthen the mediation skills of key staff who advise high-level OSCE structures in their mediation and negotiation processes, and who are responsible for dialogue facilitation projects in the field. During the year, the CPC also managed several other training and coaching events, such as two ceasefire mediation workshops for the SMM, and supported the facilitation of National Dialogue events in Ukraine. High-level mediation coaching for the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office Special Representative for the Transdnestrian Settlement Process was also provided.

IMPLEMENTING POLITICO-MILITARY COMMITMENTS

Continuing its support to participating States in implementing their commitments, the CPC's Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Support section held a dozen capacity-building events on issues related to the implementation of the OSCE politico-military tools, including on the Vienna Document 2011, small arms and light weapons and the Code of Conduct. Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Tajikistan saw particular progress in small arms and light weapons stockpile security and capacity-building, as well as in destroying surplus weapons, ammunition and other military material. Ukraine benefited from the provision of targeted capacity-building and equipment for increasing its efficiency in humanitarian demining. FSC Support also organized country-specific dialogues and helped develop national action plans for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

SHARING INFORMATION

The CPC facilitates the exchange of military information between participating States as stipulated in the Vienna Document 2011. This sharing of information is a key element to building confidence and trust within the OSCE area. The OSCE Communications Network, established by the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, provides all participating States with a reliable, timely and secure channel for transmitting military information.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TO FIELD OPERATIONS AND THE SECRETARIAT

The CPC continued to provide programme and project management support to the Secretariat and field operations, including the SMM, and ensured the quality control and compliance of all extrabudgetary project proposals with the OSCE Common Regulatory Management System. Expert advice was provided on 109 project proposals worth €77.3 million. Furthermore, the CPC facilitated training sessions on project cycle management, programme and project planning and self-evaluation for over 130 OSCE staff members. The CPC also facilitated the administrative closure and reporting on extrabudgetary projects of the discontinued Project Co-ordinator in Baku.



ADDRESSING HUMAN DISPLACEMENT IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The OSCE-supported Regional Housing Programme

- Apartment building completed in Korenica, Croatia, and keys delivered to selected beneficiaries
- Construction of 62 apartments in Niksic, Montenegro, completed
- Delivery of building materials to more than 100 families in Serbia
- Agreements signed with over 60 municipalities in Serbia to provide more than 2,000 housing solutions
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20 families assisted through the delivery of building materials, construction of individual houses began in Gorazde and Ustikolina municipalities

The programme, which addresses outstanding human displacement from the 1991-1995 conflict, remains a positive example of regional co-operation. The OSCE has been a strong supporter of this programme, which will assist some 27,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families (74,000 people) with their housing and reintegration needs.



Next page: A resident of the village of Pisky, 24 October 2015

Photo by Evgeniy Malaletka (OSCE)



Transnational Threats

Director of the Transnational Threats Department: **Alexey Lyzhenkov**
Staff: 27

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) was created in 2012 to strengthen co-ordination and coherence and to consolidate relevant mandates within the OSCE in addressing transnational threats. The Department aims to better translate political commitments into effective and sustainable programmatic actions, *inter alia*, by convening joint expert meetings, sharing information and best practices, and co-ordinating the implementation of projects and plans of action. Headed by a Director, the Department includes a Co-ordination Cell and three thematic units: the Action against Terrorism Unit; the Border Security and Management Unit; and the Strategic Police Matters Unit.

COUNTER-TERRORISM: A JOINT RESPONSE

The OSCE's focus in 2015 included raising awareness and building capacity in response to challenges posed by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. To this end, the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship and TNTD engaged with experts from participating States and Partners for Co-operation at the Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference on "Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters" held in June to facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned.

As a concrete response to the Charlie Hebdo events, TNTD and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media jointly organized a cross-dimensional expert workshop on "Media Freedom and Responsibilities in the Context of Counter-Terrorism Policies". Participants underscored the shared

responsibility of media and counter-terrorism officials to work together in order to protect media freedom while developing and implementing effective counter-terrorism policies.

"We have to be creative to effectively counter terrorist radicalization and build bridges on many levels; between and within countries, societies, organizations."

Lamberto Zannier
OSCE Secretary General



#UnitedCVE: together against violent extremism
Photo by Jakub Rozypal (OSCE)

TNTD's work also focused on tackling kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking perpetrated by terrorists, including through an expert workshop on networking mechanisms, which was aimed at increasing co-operation on this particular issue throughout the OSCE area.

The OSCE's counter-terrorism efforts in 2015 also included the successful launch of the OSCE #UnitedCVE Campaign (visit www.osce.org/unitedCVE).

At the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Belgrade, participating States adopted two Declarations on "Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of Recent Terrorist Attacks" and on "Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism".

CYBERSECURITY

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have added a complex dimension to interstate relations. To reduce the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of ICTs, TNTD continued supporting participating States in implementing relevant OSCE ICT confidence-building measures (CBMs). In 2015, the implementation rate of the CBMs rose to almost 70 per cent - one of the highest rates for any political document of this kind in the OSCE context.

BORDER SECURITY

An escalation in terrorism and the flow of irregular migrants present new challenges for border security and management and call for new solutions. International and inter-agency co-operation, sharing of information and good practices as well as adopting effective and modern border management technologies are key elements in responding to these challenges.

The Border Security and Management National Focal Points, a network of representatives from almost all 57 OSCE participating States, met twice in 2015 to discuss some of these issues. The first meeting featured a practical table-top exercise to establish an international crisis-response command centre. At the second meeting, the Focal Points exchanged views and experiences on new and emerging technologies, including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

The OSCE also organized a conference on "Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation" that took place in Monaco. Representatives of OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation discussed challenges related to irregular migration, illicit financial flows, seaport and airport security and illicit weapons smuggling in the Mediterranean region.

In 2015, the OSCE's Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, delivered training courses for over 400 officials from 25 participating States and seven Partners for Co-operation, 86 of whom were women. The first Border Security and Management Senior Leadership course was successfully completed in 2015. Since the establishment of the College in 2009, 682 Tajik and 727 Afghan border officials have been trained there.



"Transnational criminal organizations are progressively taking advantage of the vulnerability of irregular migrants, identifying their desperate situation as new market opportunities to exploit for financial profits."

Alexey Lyzhenkov
Director of the Transnational Threats Department

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO POLICE REFORM AND TACKLING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

The OSCE continued supporting participating States and Partners for Co-operation in developing transparent and accountable police services capable of protecting the public and meeting the security challenges of modern societies.

TNTD organized a number of training events and multi-agency seminars for law enforcement, prosecutors and judges in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia aimed at improving competencies and cross-border co-operation. Practical workshops were organized for criminal justice experts from South-Eastern European and Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan to examine organized crime cases and to identify and address relevant legal and procedural gaps and obstacles.

TNTD counter-narcotics activities focused on awareness raising, training and capacity-building of participating States and Partners for Co-operation. In 2015, 23 Afghan law enforcement officers received diplomas as trainers through OSCE-facilitated training courses at the All-Russian Advanced Training Institute in Domodedovo, Russian Federation.

The OSCE organized a conference on "Enhancement of Mechanisms to Cope with Increasing Spread of Illicit Drugs amongst Young People" that allowed 160 participants to discuss ways to reduce the demand and supply of illicit drugs to young people.

The Belgrade Ministerial Declaration on "OSCE Activities in Support of Global Efforts in Tackling the World Drug Problem" underscores the importance of joint anti-drugs actions and highlights the OSCE's role in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016).

Economic and Environmental Activities

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities: **Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**

Staff: 21

www.osce.org/what/economic

www.osce.org/what/environmental

The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security includes the economic and environmental dimension. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) leads the Organization's work in this area.

GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE

The Economic and Environmental Forum's 2015 theme, "Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through co-operation", addressed issues such as water governance and its relationship with sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as the role of water governance in local, regional and global security. Forum participants visited Bijeljina in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sremsko-Mačvanski district in Serbia, which were among the most affected regions during the May 2014 floods. The OCEEA engaged in a number of activities related to water governance, including a special event during the Stockholm World Water Week.

STRONGER AARHUS CENTRE PARTNERSHIPS

The OCEEA continued to support 60 Aarhus Centres in 14 countries of the OSCE region in promoting active public participation in environmental policy debates. A big step was made during this year's Annual Aarhus Centres Meeting when the Aarhus Centres of the South-Eastern Europe region - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia - signed a Joint Declaration for Co-operation. The Centres committed to strengthening the promotion and implementation of the Aarhus Convention, facilitating a dialogue across borders among civil society organizations and more effectively addressing common environmental concerns.

2015 was also a crucial year for global processes with the adoption of key documents with strong links to OSCE environmental activities: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Here are some of the highlights of OCEEA engagement in these areas:

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: FIRST OCEEA PROJECT IN MONGOLIA

Wildfire management is a key environmental challenge for Mongolia. Switzerland and the OCEEA supported the Global Fire Monitoring Centre and the National University of Mongolia in establishing the Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Centre in Ulaanbaatar. This Centre fosters cross-boundary co-operation in fire management. Its first activity was organizing field training for experts from Mongolia, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic focused on fire management in Central Asian forest and steppe ecosystems. The Centre also contributes to national policy and co-ordination mechanisms, and conducts training courses in community-based fire management.

TRANSBOUNDARY ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY RISKS

At a high-level event in Kyiv in April, the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the OCEEA facilitated the finalization and launching of the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change for the Dniester River Basin, one of only a few such adaptation strategies worldwide. It was endorsed by the Ministers of Environment of Ukraine and Moldova, and, once implemented, will reduce negative climate change impacts and contribute to the basin's sustainable development. The activities were part of a larger Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative project on climate change and security implemented in three regions and supported by the European Union Instrument for Stability and the Austrian Development Co-operation.



Participants of a community-based fire management training course in Mongolia

Photo by the Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center, Mongolia

WOMEN, WATER AND CONFLICTS

A joint project of the OCEEA and the OSCE Gender Section focused on “Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention - Comprehensive Approach to Security” in Central Asia. Funded by Finland, Norway and Switzerland, the project included a regional workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan, which trained more than 30 water professionals from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in gender-mainstreaming and gender-sensitive conflict resolution with a focus on water. It was followed by a one-week training course organized by the Women’s Water Initiative in Copenhagen to advance the career opportunities of women in Central Asia in the water sector.

ENERGY

The OCEEA continued its focus on sustainable energy and risks to the energy sector from natural disasters, closely in line with the two 2013 Ministerial Council decisions on energy and the environment. Below are some of the highlights from 2015:

- The Secretary General delivered a keynote address at the 2015 Vienna Energy Forum “Sustainable Energy for Inclusive Development”, which contributed fresh ideas for a more sustainable future;
- “Sustainable energy: Advancing stability and security in the OSCE Mediterranean region” was addressed in a thematic meeting of the Mediterranean Contact Group, reinforcing the interest in further cooperation in this field; and
- Significant progress was made in the preparations of the Handbook on the protection of electricity networks from natural and man-made disasters, to strengthen resilience of electricity networks in the OSCE area.

COMBATING CORRUPTION

The OCEEA worked closely with field operations and international partners to implement the UN Convention against Corruption, promote regulatory reform, and engage civil society and the private sector. In partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the OCEEA conducted a regional seminar in Chisinau to more effectively tackle corruption at the public-private sector interface, in particular through enhanced multi-stakeholder co-operation. In Vienna, the OSCE co-organized the Regional Seminar on Enhancing Public Procurement Regulations, with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

In 2015, the Serbian Chairmanship put the thematic focus of the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on good governance and combating corruption.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

This year marked the culmination of the OCEEA’s support to authorities in Croatia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where final workshops were held on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, and assessing the countries’ threats and vulnerabilities. In addition, a regional workshop was held in Tashkent to discuss challenges in developing financial investigation capabilities and improving interagency co-operation for detecting and disrupting criminal networks.



“Dangerous Deals” by Fran Hdez from Spain, the winner of an OSCE and eYeka crowd-sourcing competition on climate change and security.

SECURITY DAYS: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY: UNPRECEDENTED IMPACTS, UNPREDICTABLE RISKS

On 28 October, an OSCE Security Days event brought together more than 140 participants from governments, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the academic community and the media to discuss the security impacts and risks of climate change, as well as approaches for effectively addressing these risks. The debate also highlighted the security benefits of co-operation on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

High-level speakers included Andrä Rupprechter, Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals. Participants underlined that the compound risks posed by climate change require a multidimensional response and emphasized the key role of regional and international organizations. The Security Days Event reached over 30,000 people through Facebook and more than 1.6 million through Twitter.

LABOUR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

The design of policies that encourage inclusiveness in economic sectors in the Mediterranean basin was discussed at a workshop in Valletta in October. Organized in co-operation with ODIHR, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), it specifically explored promoting equal opportunities for male and female migrant workers and making migration a successful experience for both origin and destination countries and migrants.

FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE

The OSCE continued to help landlocked developing countries across the region overcome their specific transit transport challenges. The OCEEA supported the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Euro-Asian Transport Links project, which makes overland links between Europe and Asia more operational, especially with regard to financing infrastructure projects and facilitating the removal of physical and administrative border-crossing bottlenecks.

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Special Representative and Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova**

Staff: 12

www.osce.org/what/trafficking

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings assists participating States to better prevent human trafficking, to prosecute those who commit human trafficking crimes and to protect victims of trafficking. In 2015, the Office of the Special Representative continued to lead the OSCE's anti-trafficking efforts and build partnerships between governments, international organizations, civil society, trade unions, the media and the private sector in order to strengthen co-operation at regional and international levels.



Sergey Lebedev (left), Chairman of the Executive Committee and Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General, at the 15th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, Vienna, 6 July 2015

Photo by Micky Kröll (OSCE)

COUNTRY VISITS

Country visits are a fundamental part of the Office's activities, as they enable the sharing of good practices, the promotion of the full implementation of the OSCE commitments and allow the Special Representative to provide tailor-made recommendations to individual countries.

In 2015, the Special Representative travelled to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan and the Czech Republic and undertook a follow-up visit to Azerbaijan, establishing a direct and constructive dialogue with these participating States on anti-trafficking policy. During her visits, the Special Representative held consultations with government authorities and other key actors in the struggle to eliminate modern-day slavery. She paid particular attention to victim protection, anti-trafficking legislation and each country's work with civil society.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE CRISIS CONTEXT

As a result of the crisis in and around Ukraine, more than 1 million people have been displaced and now form an at-risk group for human trafficking. The Special Representative worked hard to ensure that this issue remains in the spotlight, collaborating closely with the Government, the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the SMM on various anti-trafficking projects. As part of this work, she undertook a series of trips to raise awareness about human trafficking among the OSCE monitors and meet with officials in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv in order to ensure that they remain committed to combating trafficking.



Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova (centre) and members of the SMM meet with staff at the Stantsia Kharkiv NGO, 21 May 2015

Photo by Alfred Kueppers (OSCE)



Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova (second from left) and Dmitry Kaportsev (far right), Team Leader of the Monitors in Dnipropetrovsk, meet with an internally displaced person at the Dopomoha Dnipro NGO, Dnipropetrovsk, 9 November 2015

Photo by Alberto Andreani (OSCE)

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE

Expert workshops and publications allowed the Office to raise awareness of trafficking issues and enhance the sustainability of its efforts. An April event in Minsk was a particular highlight, bringing together leading practitioners from Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus to share their expertise on preventing child trafficking. The participants form a core group that will continue the work of the Office's 2011-2015 Moldova project to support the social and professional integration of children without parental care. The Special Representative also organized a two-day expert meeting in Milan, Italy, on preventing human trafficking in supply chains in co-operation with the UK's Gangmasters Licensing Authority, allowing her to share the insights of a 2014 OSCE publication on this topic. In addition, the Office issued a *Commentary to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its Addendums*, providing essential tools for anti-trafficking experts seeking to fully understand the participating States' anti-trafficking commitments.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES

Against the backdrop of the European refugee and migration crisis, the Special Representative played a major role in addressing human trafficking risks among people on the move in the OSCE region. Throughout the year, Ambassador Jarbussynova contributed to numerous international debates, and in July she convened the 15th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, gathering representatives of participating States, and regional, international and non-governmental organizations in Vienna to focus on this issue. Experts at the conference highlighted the following main points:

- Human beings should be at the centre of the discourse on migration and trafficking
- Criminal law enforcement against traffickers must go hand in hand with the protection of trafficked persons
- When examining situations involving migrants and refugees, due attention should be paid to potential indicators of exploitation and trafficking



A shipwreck is only one of the many risks involved in the journey across the Mediterranean.

Photo by Ranieri Meloni (stock photo)



As part of an OSCE-supported training seminar providing police officers with the theoretical and legal knowledge, as well as practical skills, to respond to calls involving victims of abuse, participants debate their views during a group exercise, Odesa, 29 September 2015.

Photo by Inna Sokolovska (OSCE)

CAPACITY-BUILDING

The Special Representative and her staff carried out training events in a number of areas, including preventing and combating trafficking in conflict and post-conflict scenarios, best practices in identification, and referral and assistance to victims. In these areas, the Office worked with OSCE field operations, as well as Frontex and the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units in Vicenza, Italy. The Office also contributed to training courses for judges and prosecutors organized by the field operations, and co-organized a Strasbourg event on the non-punishment principle as part of its enhanced partnership with the Council of Europe.

Gender Equality

Senior Adviser on Gender Issues: **Ambassador Miroslava Beham**

Staff: 5

www.osce.org/gender

With a broad policy framework for gender equality, the OSCE recognizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to security for the benefit of both men and women.

WOMEN AND CONFLICT

In a year marking the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the OSCE focused strongly on women in the conflict cycle. The OSCE contributed to the UN-led Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by organizing a workshop where governmental and civil society representatives from across the region discussed best practices and challenges in the resolution's implementation. At an OSCE Security Days event on UNSCR 1325, discussion continued with a strong emphasis on ways to move the women, peace and security agenda forward in the years to come.

The OSCE Gender Section, in co-operation with the Peace Institute in Oslo, developed an analytical study on the 27 national action plans on UNSCR 1325 that currently exist in the OSCE region. The study identified lessons learned and best practices and will be used as a tool to assist participating States to develop or update existing national action plans.

“Involving women throughout the conflict cycle is the best way to achieve comprehensive security. Women have a rightful place at the negotiation table. In many conflicts, women have bridged the gap between opposing parties, even though their efforts have seldom been recognized. A failure to include women is a waste of resources and a wasted opportunity to use all possible factors to create sustainable peace.”

Lamberto Zannier
OSCE Secretary General,
OSCE Security Days on UNSCR 1325, 13 November 2015



Photo by Eric Gourlan (OSCE)

MENTORING

The Gender Section recognizes the potential of mentoring schemes to enhance the role of women in different spheres in society. Together with KVINFO (the Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Diversity), the Section adapted KVINFO's methodology to the OSCE context and introduced a mentoring scheme in six participating States, where successful women from different walks of life support other women from minority, migrant or socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The Section is looking into adapting the scheme to the current migrant/refugee crisis to facilitate the inclusion of women from these groups into their new environment.



Ambassador Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

Photo by Micky Kröll (OSCE)

REAL MEN NEVER HIT WOMEN

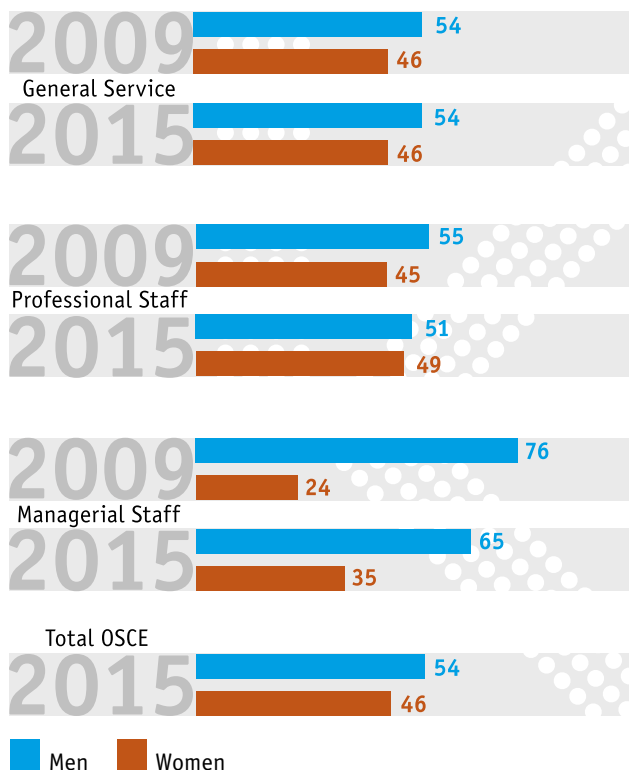
Poster from an OSCE Mission in Kosovo campaign on violence against women with the message “Real men never hit women” from boxing champion Armend Xhoxhaj. (OSCE)



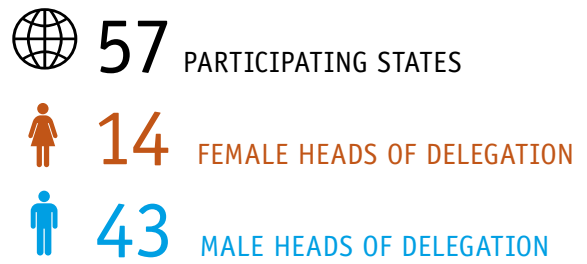
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence is one of the major security threats facing women and girls. The 2014 European Union survey on violence against women published by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) showed that one in four women in the EU has experienced some form of domestic violence. In co-ordination with FRA, the OSCE Gender Section expanded the survey to other parts of the OSCE region by launching a project in 2015 to collect data on gender-based violence from the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus, as well as from Ukraine. This project enhances the understanding of the security threats women face in the OSCE region.

STAFF AT OSCE (%)



WOMEN IN THE OSCE



OVERALL OSCE HISTORY

Heads of Field Operations



Heads of Institutions and Secretaries General



Water professionals attend training in gender-responsive approaches to conflict resolution in water governance at a regional training course for Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan, jointly organized by the OSCE Gender Section and OCEEA with the Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre.

Photo by Hedda Femundsden (OSCE)

OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Director: **Michael Georg Link**

Budget: €18,306,400 (Unified Budget including Supplementary Budget), €2,471,637 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 80 international

68 local

www.osce.org/odihr

As the primary institution within the OSCE focusing on the human dimension, the Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provides support, assistance and expertise to participating States and civil society to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and tolerance and non-discrimination.

During 2015, ODIHR continued its efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, as well as to counter threats to human rights and those working to defend them across the OSCE region. In 2015, the Office launched a major project to strengthen dialogue and co-operation among civil society and the government in Ukraine.



“2015 was the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 25th anniversary of the Charter of Paris, but also was marked by the migration crisis and continuing crisis in and

around Ukraine. In the face of these challenges, ODIHR remains dedicated to assisting our participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments as we have for the past 25 years.”

Michael Georg Link

Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

2015 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING IN NUMBERS

10,144 TWEETS (INCLUDING RETWEETS)

REACHING **15.7** MILLION TWITTER USERS

1,014 ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LIVESTREAMING VIEWERS

ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS IN 2015

Comprised of a core team of experts and long- and short-term observers

** denotes Limited Election Observation Missions, comprised of a core team of experts and long-term observers*

*** denotes either Election Assessment Mission or Election Expert Team comprised only of a core team of experts.*

1 March

TAJIKISTAN
Parliamentary

1 March**

ESTONIA
Parliamentary

ELECTIONS

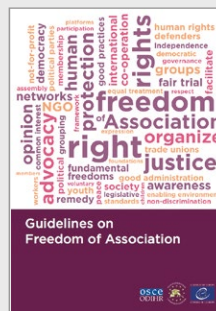
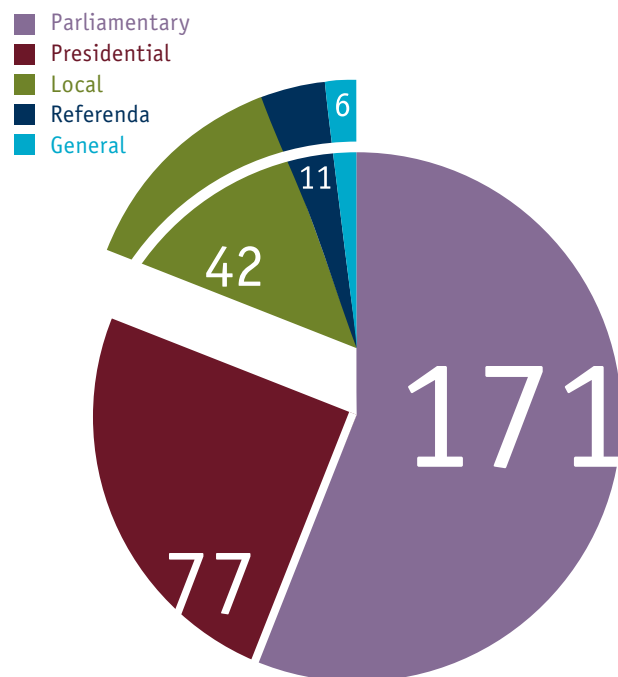
In 2015, ODIHR conducted 17 election-related activities in OSCE participating States. The Office's election work goes beyond observing proceedings on the day voting takes place, and includes expert assessments of, among other things, legal frameworks for elections, campaign finance, election administration, voter and candidate registration, and the media environment in the country where an election is being held. ODIHR recommendations and follow-up activities assist participating States in their efforts to improve electoral processes.

Observers look for compliance with OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards for democratic elections, as well as with national legislation. Election observation is often conducted in co-operation with parliamentarians from the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

300 ELECTIONS OBSERVED

The local elections in Ukraine on 25 October 2015 marked the 300th time that ODIHR has observed elections since establishing its comprehensive election observation methodology.

Types of elections observed (some missions observed multiple elections):



LAUNCH OF NEW GUIDELINES ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

ODIHR, together with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, launched new *Guidelines on Freedom of Association* in 2015. These guidelines represent a comprehensive and hands-on toolkit to assist lawmakers in

drafting human rights-compliant legislation and are the first of their kind in this field.

"International treaties merely set out broad frameworks to protect our rights – and by their nature they don't get into the everyday nuts and bolts of exactly what the rights look like on the ground [...] That's why these guidelines are so critical. They fill in the gaps, and help flesh out exactly what the right to freedom of association entails."



Maina Kiai

UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

DEMOCRATIZATION

The development of societies based on pluralistic democracy, the rule of law and inclusive, responsive, representative and accountable institutions is a prerequisite for ensuring human security. For this reason, ODIHR supports the efforts of participating States to increase the participation of women and youth in politics and public life, strengthen parliaments, develop multiparty political landscapes, improve the integration of migrants and strengthen the independence of the judiciary, along with the legislative assistance the Office provides.

29 March*

UZBEKISTAN
Presidential

26 April

KAZAKHSTAN
Early Presidential

7 May**

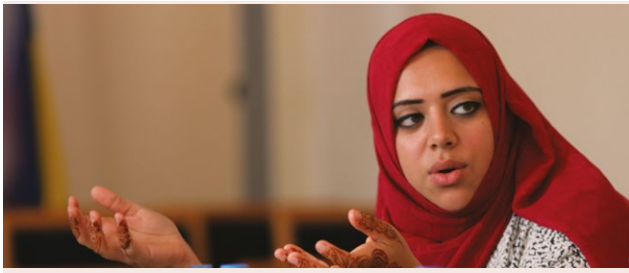
UNITED KINGDOM
General

7 June*

TURKEY
Parliamentary

14 June*

MOLDOVA
Local



Ethar El-Katatney, Senior Producer at Al Jazeera Plus, at an ODIHR event on news media and Muslim communities in Warsaw on 14 September 2015
 Photo by Murat Gungor (OSCE)

REPORTING HATE CRIMES
<http://hatecrime.osce.org>

ODIHR continued to use its website to make public cases of hate crimes reported by participating States and civil society. The reporting in 2015 provided data submitted from 43 governments and 122 NGOs covering incidents from 46 participating States. The 2015 report represents the largest number of submissions from participating States and civil society to date.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2015, following two years of work comprehensively assessing the human rights situation of detainees at Guantanamo, ODIHR presented its findings in a report launched in Washington, DC, and in Vienna in November. Upon the request of a participating State, the Office, together with the HCNM, also assessed the human rights situation in Crimea and issued a public report. Likewise, ODIHR initiated its third cycle of monitoring the policing of peaceful public assemblies, with five monitoring missions completed during 2015.

Fifty-three human rights-focused events organized by ODIHR throughout the year offered capacity-building and expert advice to state and non-state actors on human rights and security. These events covered human rights issues related to counter-terrorism, foreign terrorist fighters and the policing of peaceful assemblies, as well as the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms through human rights monitoring, the freedom of religion or belief, the protection of human rights defenders and NHRIs. ODIHR's work on torture prevention was also strengthened.

ODIHR launched *Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities*, a benchmark document containing minimum international standards in the area of recognition of religious or belief communities, and actively promoted the guidelines across the OSCE.

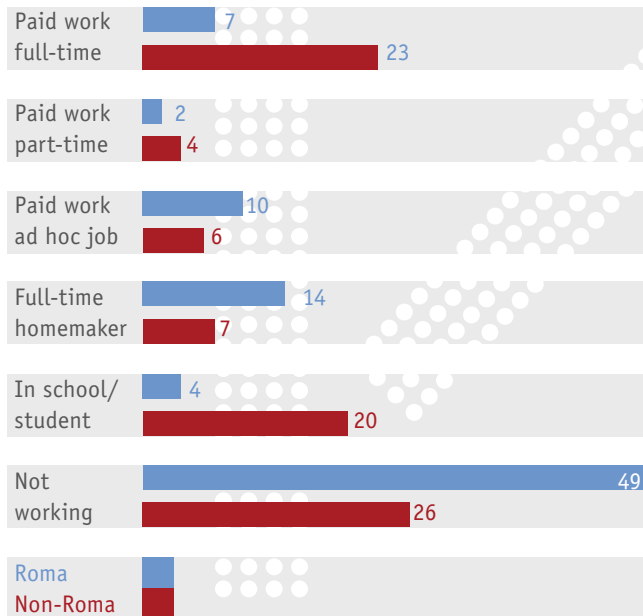
TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

ODIHR continued its efforts to counter hate crime through its reporting and capacity-building efforts, publishing data on hate crimes in the OSCE region and delivering training programmes for law enforcement officials, prosecutors and civil society groups. ODIHR also built on the momentum created by its 2014 conference marking the 10th anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism by organizing a consultative meeting on the security of Jewish communities in April. This was followed by a conference on countering intolerance against Christians in May and a conference on coalition-building for civil society, held in parallel to the annual meeting of the national points of contact on hate crime in November.

ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

The OSCE has pledged to improve the lives of Roma and Sinti by countering racism and hate crimes against them and promoting their equal access to opportunities. Roma and Sinti have historically been subject to racism, discrimination and persecution, culminating in the murder of an estimated half million Roma and Sinti during World War II. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of that war, ODIHR presented an overview of practices to teach about and commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide in the OSCE region. Among its many other activities, ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues continued to promote dialogue to raise awareness and remember the experience of Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust as a tool to challenge discrimination and promote equality.

ACTIVITY STATUS OF ROMA AND NON-ROMA YOUTH (%)





TEACHING ABOUT AND COMMEMORATING THE ROMA AND SINTI GENOCIDE:

Practices within the OSCE Area

Published by OSCE/ODIHR in 2015



Mirjam Karoly, ODIHR's Senior Advisor on Roma and Sinti Issues, presents the publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide* in Stockholm on 23 April 2015.

Photo by Karl Gabor

PROMOTING PARTICIPATION OF ROMA AND SINTI YOUTH – CLOSING THE GAP

ODIHR continued to work on enhancing the participation of Roma and Sinti youth in the public and political spheres. Compared to their peers, Roma and Sinti youth are disadvantaged. ODIHR supported the creation of the report, “Activism, Participation and Security among Roma and Sinti Youth”, which provides important new statistical data on the situation of Roma youth in 12 OSCE participating States in the areas of access to education, employment, personal documents, social and health care, as well as discrimination.

ODIHR IN UKRAINE

From the outset, ODIHR has played an important role in the OSCE response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. The Office is actively involved in OSCE efforts to resolve the crisis, including through election observation, further assessment of the human rights situation in the country, monitoring the situation of Roma and Sinti, strengthening dialogue between the government and civil society, and the implementation of a project on promoting the security of religious or belief communities and others in Ukraine.

Launched in April 2015, the project for *Strengthening Dialogue among Civil Society and with Key Government Stakeholders in Ukraine on Human Dimension Issues* is aimed at enhancing the effective mechanisms of multi-stakeholder dialogue, with civil society as a competent and trusted actor, to address key human rights issues in Ukraine in line with OSCE commitments and other international

standards. In 2015, hundreds of Ukrainian stakeholders benefited from training events, workshops, meetings and seminars across the country. These focused on human rights monitoring, democratic governance and lawmaking, and tolerance and non-discrimination.

BENEFICIARIES & STAKEHOLDERS



The Ministry of Justice



Ukrainian Commissioner for Human Rights



The Parliament of Ukraine



Human rights organizations



Civil society organizations working on political reforms



Organizations addressing hate crime and bias-motivated violence

25 October

UKRAINE
Local

25 October*

POLAND
Parliamentary

1 November*

TURKEY
Early parliamentary

8 November*

CROATIA
Parliamentary

20 December*

SPAIN
Parliamentary

HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

High Commissioner: **Astrid Thors**

Budget: €3,407,600 (Unified Budget), €609,679 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 21 international

9 local

www.osce.org/hcnm

The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) was created in 1992 to identify and seek early resolution of ethnic tensions that might endanger peace, stability or friendly relations within or between OSCE participating States.

In 2015, the High Commissioner supported participating States in addressing a range of challenges to the integration of societies and promoting good governance, respect for human rights, including minority rights, and effective equality, all of which are fundamental to preserving stability in societies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Country visits to participating States enable the High Commissioner to obtain first-hand information, facilitating the implementation of her mandate, which is centred on objectivity and impartiality. Confidential exchange of information and recommendations, legislative expertise and project assistance remained important tools in the HCNM's work in 2015.

The HCNM visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia twice in 2015 to assess the situation in the country amid the political crisis. During her visits, she warned against misusing the crisis to trigger inter-ethnic tensions and emphasized the importance of finding a resolution that ensures that trust in democratic institutions is restored.



High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors
Photo by Arnaud Roelofs (OSCE)

*The High Commissioner's mandate includes regular visits to OSCE participating States to discuss minority issues with government officials, minority representatives and members of civil society. **IN 2015, THE HCNM MADE 13 COUNTRY VISITS TO EIGHT STATES.***

February

Serbia
Former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia

March

Ukraine

April

Georgia
Moldova

In Georgia, the HCNM supported the development of a new State Language Law and a National Strategy on Civic Equality and Integration for 2015-2020 with recommendations and expert advice. Both documents were adopted in 2015.

In Moldova, a strategy on the integration of society was finalized for public consultation with HCNM support. Based on recommendations made by the High Commissioner, a parliamentary decision was adopted to establish a working group to address issues related to the functioning of the Gagauz autonomy.

In 2015, the High Commissioner made four visits to Ukraine, including one to the western regions of Ukraine and one to the eastern and southern regions of the country. Based on her findings, she put particular emphasis on the need to develop a stronger institutional framework for minority policy and to promote a balanced approach to issues of language and identity, including allowing multiple perspectives of history.

In September, upon the request of a participating State, HCNM published a Human Rights Assessment on Crimea, jointly with ODIHR, identifying human rights violations, including regarding minority communities. The HCNM's repeated calls for access to Crimea have not been accommodated.

EDUCATION

Since its creation over 20 years ago, the HCNM has supported multilingual education, integrated education and teaching of state languages, promoting the positive role education can play in preventing conflicts.

Within the Central Asia Education Programme, two joint conferences on multilingual education were organized in Kazakhstan with the National Center for Professional Development (ORLEU). The conclusions of an HCNM study on multilingual education piloting in minority schools in Kazakhstan were presented and discussed.

In July, the HCNM, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Kyrgyzstan, held a regional summer school in Cholpon Ata on "Multilingual and Multicultural Education for Integration" with the participation of representatives from educational institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The number of schools in Kyrgyzstan piloting multilingual education programmes supported by the HCNM has more than doubled as a result of collaboration with UNICEF.



Students participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for the premises of the Bujanovac Department of the Subotica Faculty of Economics of the University of Novi Sad.

Photo by Milan Obradovic (OSCE)

STRENGTHENING MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION IN SERBIA

In November, the permanent premises of the Bujanovac Department of the Subotica Faculty of Economics of the University of Novi Sad were inaugurated, marking a significant milestone in a process that began over six years ago. In 2015, 12 students graduated, the first to do so from an institution with a truly multilingual, multi-ethnic higher-education curriculum in southern Serbia.

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

In October, the HCNM, in co-operation with the Serbian Chairmanship and ODIHR, organized a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the OSCE contribution to the protection of national minorities, bringing together 172 participants from 45 countries. The sessions focused on 25 years after the adoption of the Copenhagen Document, integration of diverse societies, and national minorities in inter-state relations, making reference to the most recent HCNM thematic recommendations: the Ljubljana Guidelines and the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations. A side event examined the importance of gender mainstreaming when designing and implementing integration policies.

May

*Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Ukraine*

June

*Turkmenistan
Kazakhstan
Ukraine*

November

*Ukraine
Kyrgyzstan*

December

Serbia

REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

Representative: **Dunja Mijatović**

Budget: €1,481,600 (Unified Budget), €433,713 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 15

www.osce.org/fom

Challenges to media freedom, including ensuring the safety of journalists and safeguarding freedom of expression online and offline, in 2015, topped the list of concerns addressed by the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, a Vienna-based OSCE institution with a mandate to assist participating States in fulfilling their commitments on free media and free expression.

Highlighting the importance of media safety, Representative Dunja Mijatović brought together more than 400 participants at the “Conference on Journalists’ Safety, Media Freedom and Pluralism in Times of Conflict”, including media and authorities in Ukraine and the Russian Federation, countries affected by the conflict and the whole OSCE region. The conference produced a set of recommendations on best practices and the development of practical tools on the issues of conflict and war reporting, journalists’ safety, ethics and propaganda.

In order to counter propaganda for war and hatred, the Representative published the treatise *Propaganda and Freedom of the Media*, which sets forth the historical and legal basis against the use of propaganda for war and hatred.

To address the growing trend of online abuse of female journalists, the Representative launched a project to gather more information, raise awareness of the issue and find ways to combat it. During the year, she engaged journalists,



media experts, the information technology (IT) industry and government and civil society representatives to discuss strategies and possible solutions. This resulted in a set of recommendations for the participating States, the IT industry and media outlets.

Developments in journalism and new practices of using readers' content stir up a variety of legal, regulatory and ethical questions. Such questions relate to issues attached to traditional journalism, including protection of sources, access to information and editorial independence. In December, the Representative addressed the role of Internet intermediaries in freedom of expression, resulting in a set of recommendations to the participating States.

OBSERVING MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS AND SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE COMMITMENTS

The Representative's activities can be divided into two distinct areas: observing media developments to provide early warning about potential challenges to media freedom and free expression, and helping participating States honour their commitments. In 2015, the Representative engaged the governments of 43 participating States more than 200 times on a broad array of issues, including violence and threats against journalists and their property, unjust criminal charges, verdicts and prison sentences precipitated by unfavourable media coverage and moves to enact or enforce laws that would damage journalists, media and media pluralism.

As in 2014, the Representative hosted regular meetings bringing together media members from journalism unions and trade associations in Ukraine and Russia to develop dialogue on relevant issues, including monitoring the violation of journalists' rights and the promotion of ethical standards.

TRAINING

Training and professional development for members of the media organized by the Representative:

- Workshops for young Russian and Ukrainian journalists
- Study trip by the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine to the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Master class in broadcast regulation for the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine
- Seminar on free expression issues for Turkish judges and prosecutors
- Study trips for Montenegrin journalists to observe the work of the Press Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Awareness-raising training sessions for the Media Council of Mongolia
- Workshop on the transformation of public service media for Georgian broadcasters



Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Photo by OSCE

REGIONAL MEDIA CONFERENCES

The Representative continued to offer regional media conferences for Central Asian and South Caucasus participating States, bringing together media practitioners from those areas to share experiences with colleagues, government authorities and international experts. The conferences in 2015 explored opportunities associated with the transformation from analogue to digital broadcasting.



OPEN JOURNALISM: ROLE OF INTERMEDIARIES

The Representative continued to examine issues arising from the burgeoning media technology environment by organizing an expert meeting in web-based media, also referred to as "open journalism".

More than 100 experts from media, business and academia debated the role of intermediaries, including Internet service providers and social media sites such as Facebook. Participants discussed corporate social responsibility, community standards affecting social media content and sensitive issues such as online harassment and hate speech, and the responsibility of companies when addressing governmental requests.

FIELD OPERATIONS

In addition to its political bodies, the OSCE maintains a network of 17 field operations, located in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.



Field operations in 2015

Field operations assist governments, institutions, people and communities in transforming the commitments of the OSCE's participating States into practice. They may work on issues in support of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and/or post-conflict rehabilitation. Activities vary with the context of the individual field operation and host country, and are governed by the mandate of the field operation. Some field operations conduct activities in all three dimensions; others focus on specific areas.

THE OSCE HAD 17 FIELD OPERATIONS IN 2015:

■ SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

Presence in Albania (PiA)
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
Mission in Kosovo (OMiK)
Mission to Montenegro (MtMon)
Mission to Serbia (OMiS)
Mission to Skopje (OMtS)

■ EASTERN EUROPE

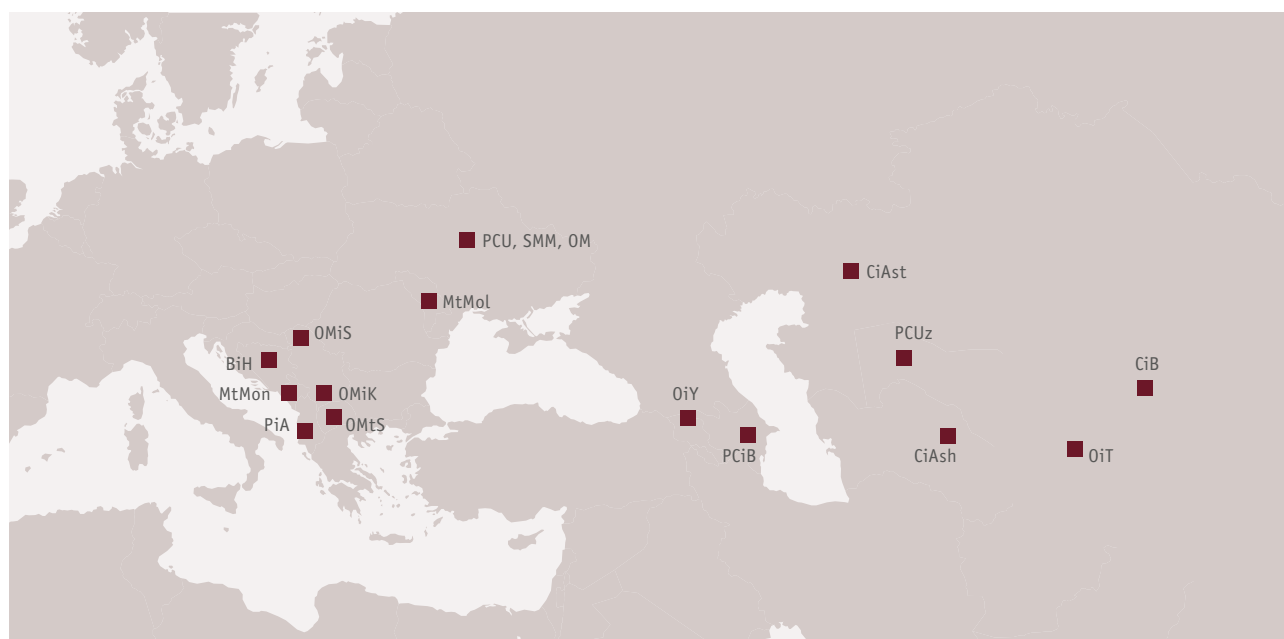
Mission to Moldova (MtMol)
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU)
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM)
Observer Mission at the Russian
Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk (OM)

■ SOUTH CAUCASUS

Project Co-ordinator in Baku (PCiB)
Office in Yerevan (OiY)

■ CENTRAL ASIA

Centre in Ashgabat (CiAsh)
Programme Office in Astana (CiAst)
Centre in Bishkek (CiB)
Office in Tajikistan (OiT)
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz)



Previous page: SMM monitors visiting Pavlopil to assess the general security situation, 8 December 2015.

Photo by Evgeniy Malaletka (OSCE)

Presence in Albania

Head of Presence: **Ambassador Florian Raunig**
Budget: €2,918,500 (Unified Budget), €301,876 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 20 international
 62.5 local
www.osce.org/albania

In 2015, the Presence in Albania focused on enhancing the effectiveness, accountability and interoperability of institutions and on improving their relationship with citizens, while promoting the protection and advancement of fundamental rights. The Presence emphasized responsibilities as well as rights and advocated a change in mentality towards a rule of law culture, a respect for values and empowered and respected citizens.



#WeStartTalking – opening a depoliticized, public discussion on the country’s totalitarian past
 Photo by Joana Karapataqi (OSCE)

the parliamentary committee on the environment to direct more efforts to managing waste in the country. The Presence helped the committee improve its oversight function with outreach activities, cross-border meetings and public hearings. Working with a range of government agencies, the Presence also fostered a multi-agency approach to fighting environmental crime and corruption.

In 2015, the Presence was a key supporter of the justice system reform led by Albanian institutions, facilitating a systematic, transparent approach and fostering public consultations among stakeholders. Presence experts participated intensively in technical drafting to bring legislation in line with OSCE commitments. The parliamentary committee accepted over 75 per cent of the Presence’s recommendations, incorporating them into early legislative drafts. These constitutional reforms will provide the foundation for a renewed justice system that will better serve Albanian citizens.

TRANSFORMING PARTNERSHIP INTO SOLIDARITY

The Presence worked to improve the responsiveness and accountability of parliament, to protect the environment and strengthen civil society, and to fight corruption.

The Presence engaged with a civil society organization to produce an award-winning documentary on river pollution in Albania, which stimulated a public debate and encouraged

The Justice without Delays project was expanded to two more district courts in 2015. The initial pilot court demonstrated the sustainability of this effort: the judges of Kruja court concluded almost 90 per cent of cases within the standard time limits provided by the justice authorities, a first in Albania.



Visit to the Ishëm River delta with parliamentarians from the committee on the environment
 Photo by Elton Tahirlari (OSCE)



*Albanian and Serbian youth participate in a summer school exchange programme in Tirana.
Photo by Elton Tahirlari (OSCE)*

The Presence and the Mission to Serbia helped bring together Albanian and Serbian youth to discuss the involvement of youth in public and political life, youth policies, promotion of democratic values and cross-cultural dialogue, the role of media in intercultural dialogue and ways to challenge prejudices and stereotypes. The event was organized as a follow-up to the memorandum of understanding on youth concluded in late 2014 by the Prime Ministers of Albania and Serbia.

“OSCE assistance projects were numerous. They meant co-operation, assistance and funding for the crucial issues that an Armed Force inherits from a dictatorial past. The elimination of chemical substances and cleaning hotspots with explosive residues has made Albania even more secure, day after day. Other projects are being discussed, negotiated and will be finalized soon. Because partnership is transformed into solidarity. And your Representative Office in Tirana deserves my best congratulations.”

Mimi Kodheli
Minister of Defence of Albania

Following the June 2015 local government elections, there were 550 women councillors in Albania, many of whom were trained and coached by a national women’s network created by the Presence.

The Presence supported Albanian authorities in progressing on demilitarization efforts, with the safe export and destruction of 116 tons of hazardous chemicals. The Presence also conducted preparation work for the safe repackaging, export and destruction of 140 tons of the two chemicals that form napalm.

At the request of, and in partnership with, local authorities, the Presence developed a range of activities to improve the efficiency of the justice system, fight corruption and address domestic violence. This approach proved successful in increasing the capacity of local officials and strengthening inter-institutional co-operation, as well as in encouraging local ownership and initiative.

“They will be my work plan.”

Ylli Manjani
Albania’s new Minister of Justice,
on Presence-led recommendations on reducing prison overcrowding

The Presence, together with the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator’s Office, trained more than 100 anti-trafficking and border police in 2015 to help them take a victim-centred approach to human trafficking and use proactive investigation techniques. This type of training will increase identification of trafficking victims and help narrow the gap between the number of cases investigated and those successfully prosecuted.



PARTNERSHIPS

In 2015, the Presence worked closely with a range of Albanian Government agencies and institutions and Parliament, as well as several UN agencies, the Council of Europe, EU, European Assistance Mission to the Albanian Justice System (EURALIUS), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Program and the European Broadcasting Union.

Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Jonathan Moore**

Budget: €11,450,300 (Unified Budget), €613,080 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 40 international

278 local

www.osce.org/bih

2015 marked 20 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement and the establishment of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite internal political challenges, the year also presented grounds for cautious optimism. Regional relations generally improved. Authorities and politicians at all levels embraced the EU integration path, resulting in the entering into force of a Stabilization and Association Agreement. To maintain this positive momentum and promote stability and reconciliation in the country, the Mission continued to assist the meaningful implementation of reforms and to strengthen the rule of law, key democratic institutions and mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

ENHANCING INCLUSIVITY IN EDUCATION

In partnership with the head of state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Mission brought together mayors and key education officials from across the country to share best practices and promote inclusive and non-discriminatory education. The Mission continued to contribute to regional co-operation and progress towards sustainability in education, by supporting Serbia in the organization of the third Regional Conference of Education Inspectors in Belgrade, building upon the previous conference held in Sarajevo in 2014.



Education reform remains a high priority, as the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ambassador Moore meets with primary school students in the municipality of Rudo in April 2015.

Photo by Vedran Pribilovic (OSCE)

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HATE AND EXTREMISM

The Mission supported civil society in fighting hate and extremism, especially through the innovative Mission-supported Coalitions against Hate and accompanying Internet and social media tools. The 19 Coalitions against Hate, located across the country, implemented over 90 activities related to prevention of, and responses to, hate- and bias-motivated incidents. In just 30 days during the Month of Tolerance, 50 activities with 2,500 citizens were implemented to encourage citizen engagement in diversity and inter-ethnic and inter-religious co-operation. The Mission-run website *Supergradjani.ba* became widely known for promoting tolerance and reconciliation. Males aged between 18 and 24, previously identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies, were increasingly reached through social media, supporting prevention and countering narratives of hate.

ENHANCING SECURITY COMPREHENSIVELY

In addition to the ongoing efforts to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) international security commitments and modernization of weapons and ammunition storage sites, 2015 saw the expansion of the Mission's efforts to improve security sector governance and reform. The Mission was instrumental in facilitating the adoption of the BiH Action Plan for UNSCR 1540 on counter-proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and the BiH Counter-terrorism Strategy for 2015-2017.

The Mission also initiated youth educational programmes on BiH security policy, supported the further institutionalization of the Operations and Communications Centre for civil emergencies and promoted community-level dialogue nationwide between civil society organizations and authorities at various levels in the growing effort to counter violent extremism.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The Mission co-operated with Aarhus Centres to produce Action Plans on Raising Awareness of Local Communities in Disaster Risk Reduction in two municipalities, Vogosca and Banja Luka. Through this activity, the Aarhus Centres' capacities were strengthened, and the municipalities are now better prepared and more resilient to possible future disasters.

In addition, the Mission provided assistance to local authorities in Maglaj to produce a case study on the May 2014 floods with lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations for further action.

Together with the OCEEA and the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the Mission organized a visit to flooded areas in Serbia and BiH gathering over 80 representatives of OSCE participating States.

STRENGTHENING THE JUDICIAL RESPONSE TO CRIME

The Mission continued efforts to contribute to strengthening the capacity of domestic authorities to effectively prosecute and adjudicate sensitive crimes and to cope with the backlog of cases. In this context, the Mission:

- Developed, promoted and provided professional development opportunities on topics such as war crimes, trafficking in human beings and hate crimes;
- Published the second volume of a report on "Combating impunity for conflict-related sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina";
- Monitored the effectiveness and fairness of criminal proceedings and advised on the implementation of the National War Crimes Strategy; and
- Undertook a comprehensive analysis of the processing of war crimes and provided recommendations.

ENHANCING INTEGRATION OF THE MOST MARGINALIZED

The Mission assisted BiH authorities in its role as Chair of the Roma Decade, organizing a key Regional Conference on Roma Housing. The Mission worked with 35 commissions to select housing beneficiaries among the most vulnerable Roma and assisted in overcoming local resistance to construction of Roma housing. In 2015, 80 houses were completed in municipalities across BiH, and the first beneficiaries moved in.

The Mission continued to work to give a voice to marginalized social protection beneficiaries, including persons with disabilities and returnees, protecting their access to rights and their position within society. Additionally, the Mission worked to improve the relevant legal framework, supporting the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees to prepare revisions to the Laws on Prohibition of Discrimination and on the Human Rights Ombudsman.

Monthly Hate Monitor: Tracking Incidents 2014 to 2015

 DECREASE IN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

 SHIFT AWAY FROM SERIOUS INCIDENTS



Hate Monitor is a monthly visualization of the Mission's hate crimes monitoring data on all known bias-motivated incidents and responses to these incidents by the justice sector, local authorities and civil society throughout BiH.

Photo by Vedran Pribilovic (OSCE)



PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission co-organized the Review Conference on Compliance with UN and OSCE Security Commitments with the UN, BiH and DCAF, and with the participation of RACVIAC, SEESAC, EUFOR, NATO and the IOM. The Mission co-ordinated with the UN 1540 Committee on drafting BiH's national action plan. The Mission also partnered with the German Ministry of Defence, UN Women, the ICTY, the UNDP BIH, the EU and the UNHCR.

Mission in Kosovo

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger**
Budget: €18,886,600 (Unified Budget), €325,145 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 134 international
 398.5 local
www.osce.org/kosovo

The Mission in Kosovo focused on improving the performance of institutions with an emphasis on oversight, transparency and inclusiveness. Throughout 2015, the Mission monitored and advocated various issues concerning the promotion and protection of communities’ rights in Kosovo, and worked with partners to create conditions for sustainable voluntary returns of displaced persons and reconciliation. The protection of human rights continued to be at the core of the Mission’s work.

In the north, the Mission helped consolidate the municipalities through peer-to-peer exchange and training programmes for representatives of the legislative and executive branches in Mitrovica North, Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zveqan.

DIALOGUE

Together with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the Mission in Kosovo organized a Dialogue Academy for 22 young women activists from NGOs, students and professionals from Pristina and Belgrade. For two weeks, participants learned about mediation and negotiation techniques and how to use them in promoting gender equality. The academy was part of the OSCE-facilitated “Follow Us” initiative aimed at encouraging co-operation and dialogue between the two societies through prominent women from Belgrade and Pristina.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

After years of delay and upon consistent advocacy by the Mission and partners, the Rahovec/Orahovac municipality established the Council for the Velika Hoča/Hočë e Madhe Special Protective Zone. The establishment of the Council carries great importance both in terms of protecting cultural heritage sites and supporting the livelihood of the local Kosovo Serb community. Mission funds have been allocated to the Council for supporting infrastructure projects in the area.



Alumnae of the first OSCE Dialogue Academy for young women from Pristina and Belgrade
 Photo by OSCE

COMMUNITY RIGHTS IN FIGURES

389 officials and community representatives participated in Mission training on community rights

526 officials and community representatives participated in meetings to develop policies for communities (resulting in 12 policy documents)

274 participants attended targeted advocacy meetings on community rights

LAW AND JUSTICE

The Mission monitored over 2,000 hearings, commented on almost 50 laws (64 per cent of comments accepted) and issued four justice sector publications. The Mission also supported the drafting and publication of a Supreme Court bulletin and organized 14 training courses for prosecutors to harmonize judicial practice.

In 2015, the Mission initiated a civil society trial-monitoring coalition and created a co-ordination mechanism between police and courts in northern Kosovo to assist in the notification and enforcement of court orders.



Screenshot of the #OSCEKosovoApprentice video, featuring 17 young people from various communities placed in different government ministries for three months to gain hands-on experience and develop their competencies. The Mission started this project to strengthen youth inclusion and participation in decision-making.



OFF THE SHELF

In December, the Mission published the latest edition of its *Community Rights Assessment Report*, which measured the progress made by Kosovo institutions in the areas of inter-community dialogue, security and justice, language, education, returns of displaced persons, culture and media.

ANTI-CORRUPTION CORE GROUP

With support from the German Government, the Mission helped establish and train a core group of six criminal investigators and two special prosecutors from the Kosovo Police and Special Prosecution Office to fight high-level corruption.



The OSCE Mission in Kosovo traditionally supports Mini-Olympic games for young people with disabilities. A decade of great partnership (2005-2015) Vushtri/Vučitrn, 28 June 2015. Photo by Edon Muhaxheri (OSCE)

PUBLIC SAFETY

Based on long-standing support by the Mission to the Kosovo Agency on Forensics, five laboratories were accredited in 2015 in the areas of DNA, chemistry, fingerprint, documents and manuscripts, and ballistics. The Mission also carried out 46 specialized and advanced training courses for around 750 law enforcement officers.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

The Mission organized a series of follow-up meetings to support durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo, with institutional representatives from Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica and Skopje, resulting in the adoption of three joint documents referring, respectively, to guiding principles for the inter-institutional process, specific measures on the identified priority areas, and the method and scope of work. The finalization and endorsement of these three documents represents a landmark achievement and the completion of the first phase of the inter-institutional process, providing the framework for its new, more operational phase.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission in Kosovo and the UNHCR co-organized a series of meetings with institutional representatives from Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica and Skopje to support durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo, resulting in the endorsement of guiding principles and a work plan for a sustainable returns process.

Mission to Montenegro

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Janina Hrebickova**
Budget: €2,146,200 (Unified Budget), €85,775 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 10 international
 31 local
www.osce.org/montenegro

The Mission to Montenegro co-operated with national and international partners on projects to support the implementation of new legislation and strengthen accountability, transparency and efficiency of national institutions, the media and NGOs – all aimed at assisting the country’s reform process. The Mission adopted a cross-programmatic approach in 2015 by combining activities in order to reach a wider public audience and successfully helped establish a national platform for dialogue among all segments of society.

MEDIA TRAINING

In 2015, the Mission organized a training course for media professionals to improve their understanding of the rule of law and law enforcement institutions. In particular, the course emphasized finding the right balance between the public’s right to know and the presumption of innocence, protection of human and individual rights and freedom of expression.

relating to the transparency of institutions and aimed at encouraging dialogue on topics of public importance. In addition to providing financial support, the Mission actively participated in identifying key topics and international experts for all talk shows.

INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC DEBATE

As part of the TV programme “Reaching Trust Together”, 20 talk shows were aired on the public service broadcaster. These shows served as a platform for dialogue between representatives of institutions, the media and civil society, with participation of members of the public, on issues

GENDER EQUALITY AND FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION

The Mission supported the organization of the 17th Cetinje Parliamentary Forum on “Human Rights and Gender Equality in the Sector of Security and Defence”. A major outcome of this event was the adoption of a joint regional declaration with a series of recommendations aimed at further complying with the international obligations pertaining to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.



The Mission supported the Parliament in organizing the 18th annual Cetinje Parliamentary Forum on Women in Business, 8-9 June 2015 in Cetinje, Montenegro, bringing together parliamentarians from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.
 Photo by Ana Milutinovic (OSCE)

The Mission was also active in promoting ethics commissions at the local level, leading to the adoption in all municipalities of a code of ethics, a guidebook and a decision on the establishment of these commissions.

In addition, the Mission and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights organized five training workshops aimed at enhancing the capacities of prosecutors to implement the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination by fully recognizing and dealing with cases of discrimination. A group of selected prosecutors from all municipalities in Montenegro discussed the causes of discrimination and the challenges in implementing the law in question.

COMBATING CORRUPTION AND CRIME

To promote the law on free access to information as part of the fight against corruption, the Mission worked with the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free Access to Information, as well as relevant local NGOs. A number of activities were carried out in 2015, notably a regional conference aimed at sharing experiences and best practices in the implementation of this law.

The Mission worked on capacity-building for judges, prosecutors and police to support the implementation of new amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code. The Mission also hosted a regional conference to exchange experiences in the fight against cybercrime, including violence against children, risks associated with social media, money laundering, terrorism, human smuggling and trafficking, as well as how to improve regional co-operation.

The Mission also worked on enhancing the transparency and accountability of the prosecution, namely by providing technical assistance to the State Prosecutor's Office in the development of a communication strategy.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission to Montenegro launched the public campaign "Respect Life - Return Weapons" together with the Ministry of the Interior, the UNDP, and with the support of the EU and the German Government, including the NGO Centre for Democratic Transition, as an implementing partner in the project.



An activist from the Centre for Democratic Transition reaches out to citizens at an information point during the "Respect Life - Return Weapons" public awareness and illicit weapons collection campaign.

Photo by the Centre for Democratic Transition, Podgorica

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON GENDER EQUALITY

In 2015, six municipalities in Montenegro signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mission and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, thus reinforcing co-operation in the area of gender equality and resulting in now nationwide support with all 23 municipalities having signed. More than 20 activities aimed at strengthening the economic empowerment of women and the fight against gender-based violence, envisaged by local action plans, were implemented in 11 municipalities.

PREVENTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In co-operation with the EU's Border Management Agency Frontex, the Mission conducted training courses for 240 first-line border police officers aimed at strengthening the capacity of the border police to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and providing care for victims of trafficking.

FREE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

In 2015, 508 displaced persons received their legally required personal documents free of charge thanks to support from the Mission, the Ministry of the Interior and the UNHCR. The recipients, in addition to a further 307 persons in the process of also acquiring their documents, opted in favour of reintegrating into Montenegrin society.

Mission to Serbia

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Peter Burkhard**

Budget: €6,429,000 (Unified Budget), €1,644,459 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 25 international

103 local

www.osce.org/serbia

During Serbia's 2015 OSCE Chairmanship, the Mission focused on assisting the host country in building strong, independent, accountable and effective democratic institutions, and working with government institutions, civil society and the media in the areas of rule of law and human rights, police affairs, democratization and media development.

COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

The Mission continued to support Serbia in strengthening its capacities to counter organized crime and in establishing more effective operational co-operation with the police services of neighbouring countries. Serbia's first Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment, developed with the support of the Mission, was published on the website of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior. The document is a strategic overview of serious and organized crime in the country, including drug trafficking, irregular migration and cybercrime. The significance of this assessment is its potential to become a platform for all future strategic and operational planning of the national law enforcement authorities responsible for fighting serious and organized crime.

MODERNIZING SERBIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Building upon earlier efforts to support the reform of Serbia's criminal justice system, the Mission provided expertise to the Ministry of Justice working groups drafting several laws and by-laws, and conducted over 30 training seminars for relevant local partners. The Mission reached out to over 300 prosecutors throughout Serbia to assist in the implementation of the reformed Criminal Procedure Code providing cross-examination techniques, case presentation and pleadings in opening and closing remarks. Training topics also included investigation and prosecution of procurement fraud, anti-money-laundering techniques and counter-terrorism financing investigations. The Mission also finalized its work on developing guidelines for the application of the non-punishment principle to victims of human trafficking.



The Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Peter Burkhard, with students representing the Union of High School Councils from Novi Pazar, 22 September 2015

Photo by OSCE

FIRST STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM UNIVERSITY IN ALBANIAN AND SERBIAN LANGUAGES



In 2015, the first 12 students graduated from the Bujanovac Department (south Serbia) of the Subotica Faculty of Economics of the University of Novi Sad. The Department is the only one in South-Eastern Europe offering education in Albanian and Serbian languages and was set up thanks to the joint efforts of the following:



- Ministry of Education of Serbia
- Co-ordination Body for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa
- University of Novi Sad, including its Subotica Faculty of Economics
- Municipality of Bujanovac
- National Council of the Albanian National Minority
- EU Delegation to Serbia
- European Partnership with Municipalities Programme/United Nations Office for Project Services
- HCNM
- OSCE Mission to Serbia

“Ten to fifteen years ago, this was a dream, given that there was war here. Now you have youth who study together.”

Nagip Arifi
Mayor of Bujanovac



Participants of the “Gaining a Digital Edge: Freedom of Expression” conference, Belgrade, 16 October 2015
Photo by Milan Obradovic (OSCE)

PROMOTING DIALOGUE OF PROMINENT WOMEN FROM BELGRADE AND PRISTINA

The active role of women in conflict resolution lies at the core of the “Follow Us” initiative, launched by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in 2012. In 2015, several screenings of the “Follow Us” documentary film promoted the initiative further as a successful dialogue forum for restoring trust between post-conflict societies.

MEDIA FREEDOM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

One of the Mission’s key activities in the field of media was supporting implementation of newly-adopted legislation on media, particularly digital, and on freedom of expression. The Mission organized the third regional consultation on freedom of expression on the Internet, in Belgrade, with the participation of some 200 representatives from 14 South-East European and Central European countries. The Mission also closely monitored the implementation of new legislation designed to enhance media independence after the State’s ownership of the media ended.



Participants of an OSCE/ODIHR seminar held in Belgrade to discuss ways to promote political participation of youth in the OSCE region, Belgrade, 2 June 2015
Photo by Milan Obradovic (OSCE)



PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission to Serbia co-operated with the European Police Office (EUROPOL) in the field of organized crime. As part of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), the OSCE, through the Mission to Serbia and its field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, in tandem with the UNHCR, continued to provide assistance to some 27,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families (74,000 people) with their housing and reintegration needs. The Programme, which addresses outstanding human displacement from the 1991-1995 conflict, remains a positive example of regional co-operation. The Mission also worked with the United States Department of Justice and the Council of Europe (CoE) in the fields of anti-corruption and criminal justice.

Mission to Skopje

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Ralf Breth** (until May 2015) and **Ambassador Nina Suomalainen** (as of September 2015)

Budget: €6,257,200 (Unified Budget), €194,293 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 42 international

106 local

www.osce.org/skopje

The OSCE Mission to Skopje continued to support state authorities and civil society organizations towards: advancing the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA), improving inter-ethnic relations and promoting security and stability. In 2015, the Mission also assisted the host country in responding to emerging challenges related to the political situation in the country, as well as closely following the refugee and migration crisis.

SUPPORTING THE COUNTRY WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF URGENT REFORM PRIORITIES

In the framework of the Przino Agreement agreed upon by the main political parties in July 2015, and in line with the Government's action plan for implementation of urgent reform priorities, the Mission assisted the Przino Agreement working group during thematic sessions on: promotion of the rule of law, changes to electoral legislation, combating crime and corruption, improving inter-ethnic relations and media freedoms. The Mission continued to work closely with the national electoral structures on a number of Electoral Code amendments in line with ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations. It also participated in high-level discussions between the four major political parties by providing expertise to support the implementation of the 2014 ODIHR recommendations in the newly-adopted Electoral Code. To facilitate dialogue among the youth branches of political parties, the Mission also organized debates and workshops on electoral reforms, leadership and democratic decision-making.

MISSION RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

The Mission's ability to deploy mobile teams to affected borders proved to be a crucial asset in terms of following security developments related to the migrant and refugee

crisis. Field-deployed staff followed events at the country's northern and southern border crossings and participated on a regular basis in meetings related to the crisis. To strengthen government responses to the crisis, the Mission also adapted some of its existing project activities with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to include a special focus on the response to organized crime, the smuggling of irregular migrants, and border management.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OFA

Resuming a 2012 Mission-facilitated government effort, this year saw significant progress towards the finalization of the "OFA Review on Social Cohesion". In co-operation with the European Institute of Peace, the Mission assisted the Government in assessing the status and modalities of OFA implementation in the light of advancing integration policies and a more cohesive society. Through an inclusive process that included state institutions, politicians, academics, civil society and experts, analyses focused on anti-discrimination, decentralization, education, equitable representation, smaller communities and the use of languages. The finalized review report compiles policy recommendations for decision makers and will serve as a launch pad for reforms and new initiatives towards integrating the country's diverse society. The OFA review also aims to encourage the development of a comprehensive government policy framework in line with HCNM's Ljubljana Guidelines.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, TRIAL MONITORING AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

Trial monitoring of 550 hearings resulted in a comprehensive assessment report on the application of criminal procedure in courts. The Mission continued monitoring high-profile court cases that could have an impact on the overall security and stability of the country by attending 20 cases and approximately 100 trial sessions. The Mission prepared a commentary on the Law on Criminal Procedure, which will serve as a practical guide for legal practitioners in implementing the new adversarial criminal procedure and help the country in the system shift.



OSCE Mission staff monitor the refugee/migrant crisis in Gevgelija.
Photo by Gabor Kemeny (OSCE)

INTEGRATED EDUCATION

Building a Multicultural and Integrated Education System with the Government's Strategy towards Integrated Education and project activities:



Mediation clubs established in 20 secondary schools



Basic training in school mediation for 275 teachers and 285 students



22 secondary schools in six multi-ethnic municipalities offered:

- *school safety teams and mediation clubs for students*
- *training on hate speech, hate crimes, discrimination and protection of personal data for 136 teachers*



Training for work in multicultural environments and informal education for 62 future teachers and social workers working with 250 pupils



Border police officers from Skopje are trained on how to better detect illegal border crossings and crimes, as part of an OSCE-supported training course in Hungary, 23 April 2015.

Photo by Gabor Kemeny (OSCE)

FIGHTING ORGANIZED CRIME AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

Advanced, tailor-made training courses and exchange of international best practices were offered to police departments within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) with the aim of strengthening their capacities in fighting organized crime, transnational threats and border management. The Mission also supported strengthening the capacities of the MoIA in combating terrorism by providing training courses on topics such as the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (VERLT). These courses, together with extensive intelligence-led policing training, provided participants with an effective tool in combating terrorism. The Mission also continued supporting the MoIA Training Centre in the provision and development of specialized training, implementing the 2014-2019 Training Strategy, but also decentralizing the learning capacities.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission to Skopje continued its active role within the Security Principals mechanism with the EU Delegation, the Embassy of the United States and NATO Liaison Office to Skopje. Co-ordination with the UN family increased in light of the ongoing migrant/refugee crisis, particularly with the UNHCR.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

The Mission helped introduce a quality management system (Common Assessment Framework) in 20 public institutions and established a national pool of trainers for the implementation of human resources management standards in the public sector, based on merit and equitable representation.

FIELD PRESENCE

The Mission's field presence remained one of its defining features and added-value, with field-deployed staff gathering timely first-hand information on security issues and trends. With a special focus on inter-ethnic relations, political developments and police matters at the local level, the Mission continued supporting a wide range of interlocutors, including state authorities, civil society organizations and religious leaders. When needed, mediation was offered to avoid escalation of tense situations. Project activities implemented by the Mission supported coexistence and promoted confidence-building.

Mission to Moldova

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Michael Scanlan**

Budget: €2,200,000 (Unified Budget), €180,470 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 14 international

41 local

www.osce.org/moldova

The primary mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova is to help achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the Transdnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova and a special status for Transdnistria. To this end, the Mission facilitates co-operation between both sides of the Dniester/Nistru River on various levels, ranging from technical working group meetings on practical issues impacting the daily lives of people on both banks to higher-level political negotiations directly between the two chief negotiators or in the international 5+2 format.

MAINTAINING DIALOGUE IN THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS

The first half of 2015 saw high-level engagement between the sides, including two meetings of the leaders and the first meeting in 13 years of the heads of the legislatures in Chisinau and Tiraspol. Although no formal 5+2 talks were held in 2015, 5+2 participants reaffirmed their commitment to the settlement process in special consultations held in Vienna. The sides also agreed on a structure of meetings of the political representatives and the working groups, both of which are facilitated by the Mission to help maintain a steady dialogue and contact between the sides, essential to moving forward with the settlement process. In 2015, with the Mission's support, meetings of the leaders of the sides, the chief negotiators and the working groups took place more frequently than in 2014 despite multiple government changeovers in Chisinau and the challenging regional context.

In October, a two-day conference in Germany organized by the Mission gathered the chief negotiators, 5+2 representatives and members of key working groups to discuss confidence-building steps in the fields of ecology, transportation, road infrastructure, economy and trade. The conference, which was financed by Germany, resulted in the signing of a draft protocol decision on the use of Dniester/Nistru River's natural resources.

REMOVING HAZARDS

In 2015, the Mission facilitated an agreement between the authorities in Chisinau and Tiraspol on the removal and disposal of sources of ionizing radiation, including radioactive waste, from five factories and facilities in Transdnistria. Over two days in April, some 200 radioactive sources were collected to be stored in safe facilities.

2015 IN NUMBERS

4 Visits to the region by Ambassador Radojko Bogojević, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdnistrian Settlement Process

9 Meetings held between the sides' political representatives

22 Technical working group meetings



Eight Moldovan military personnel successfully completed an OSCE-supported training course on testing the safety and stability of ammunition.

Photo by Maurice Dunand (OSCE)



In May, a workshop for psychologists from women's shelters explored mentoring techniques towards addressing the shortage of psychologists trained to handle domestic violence cases in Moldova.

Photo by Igor Schimbător (OSCE)

SUPPORTING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Together with the HCNM, the Mission supported and held a number of public discussions, roundtables and public lectures aimed at engaging national minorities in public life and creating a more inclusive society in Moldova. A promising signal in 2015 was the decision to create a parliamentary working group to ensure the full implementation of the 1994 Special Status Law of Gagauzia, an autonomous territorial unit in southern Moldova.

ENGAGING YOUTH TOWARDS A SECURE FUTURE

From summer schools to concerts, workshops, internships and training courses, the Mission organized activities to forge links between future generations on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River. The Model OSCE negotiation skills training and simulation game based on the OSCE Permanent Council was held for the third year running. For three participants, this culminated in a visit to Vienna to attend a real Permanent Council meeting.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Through training events and public lectures, the Mission facilitated access to state-guaranteed legal aid in Moldova by equipping law students and paralegals with the skills and knowledge needed to represent vulnerable individuals and raise awareness of free legal services.

The Mission conducted a range of activities to tackle the issues of gender inequality and domestic violence. These included workshops to train psychologists and students of social work on handling cases of domestic violence, as well as an art competition to promote gender equality.



PARTNERSHIPS

In close co-operation with the Norwegian Mission of Rule of Law Advisers to Moldova, the OSCE Mission to Moldova engaged 140 lawyers from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River in a series of Human Rights Clubs to discuss and share the commonality of everyday legal issues facing local people.

DEBATE TRAINING AND TOURNAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people from across the country had the opportunity to hone their debating skills after being introduced to debate techniques in a specialized training event. The debate tournaments aimed to empower young people, including those from national minorities, to engage meaningfully in civic life and public discussions.



Students from different regions of Moldova prepare their introductory arguments for a youth debate tournament.

Photo by Piotr Garciu (OSCE)

Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Chief Monitor: **Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan**

Budget: €88,677,100 for the period 21 March 2015 to 31 March 2016, with €65,000,000 from assessed contributions, €3,600,000 from forecast savings, and €20,077,100 from extrabudgetary contributions

Staff: 1,025 (740 international, 285 national staff) as of 31 December 2015 (666 monitors)

www.osce.org/ukraine-smm

The Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), the OSCE’s highest-profile field mission in 2015, continued playing an essential role in establishing and reporting the facts on the ground. The aim of the Mission remained to contribute to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability and security, and ultimately impacting positively on the lives of those most affected by the conflict. The SMM continued to facilitate de-escalation and a peaceful resolution in Donbas in line with its mandate and tasks stipulated by the Minsk agreements.

RAPID, REGULAR REPORTING

The SMM’s daily reporting, in line with the Mission’s mandate, documented the dynamics of the crisis in and around Ukraine, providing stakeholders with facts on which to base local, national and international dialogue. This impartiality and the SMM’s increased presence on the ground also strengthened the Mission’s capacity to co-ordinate the Trilateral Contact Group’s Working Group on Security Issues in Minsk.

ON THE GROUND AND IN THE AIR

The Mission continued to grow after the Permanent Council decided in March 2015 to extend its mandate to March 2016, and by the end of 2015 reached 666 monitors, more than 500 of whom are deployed in the Donbas region alone. The situation in the Donbas region of Ukraine remained volatile in 2015, and monitors often had to overcome practical and security challenges to carry out their duties. Still, the Mission expanded beyond Donetsk and Luhansk cities and by the end of the year was maintaining continuous presence, through Patrol Hubs and Forward Patrol Bases, in 10 locations in the east, including five near the contact line. The SMM enhanced its technical observation capabilities in order to achieve maximum possible monitoring of the conflict zone, with a particular focus on the 30-km-wide security zone along the 487-km stretch of the contact line. These capabilities include: short-, medium- and long-range civilian unmanned aerial vehicles that carry a variety of cameras and recording devices, video observation, as well as other aerial surveillance means. These technical means allow the Mission to monitor areas where deployment of patrols is difficult or impossible.

On the ground

- Over 4 million km of patrolling – 100 times the distance around the globe
- Over 18,000 patrols
- 284 armoured vehicles

SMM REPORTING BY NUMBERS





*The Chief Monitor (left) meets with representatives of minorities in Sloviansk.
Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka (OSCE)*

SECURITY CHALLENGES

Being a civilian mission in a conflict zone carries specific security challenges for OSCE mission members and property.

One patrol was caught in mortar and automatic grenade launcher fire in July in Shchastia, several vehicles were set on fire in Donetsk city in August, and a monitor was lightly wounded after an explosion in Shyrokyne in July.

The SMM remained vigilant and constantly reviewed its security and safety measures.



*SMM monitors observe mines on a bridge in Shyrokyne.
Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka (OSCE)*

REOPENING THE STANYTSIA LUHANSKA BRIDGE OVER THE SIVERSKYI DONETS RIVER

Following the SMM's facilitation of the partial repair and mine clearance of the bridge and adjacent roads, the bridge reopened for pedestrian traffic on 27 October for the first time since March. During the time the bridge was not operational, some civilians were using dangerous pathways to cross the river through areas contaminated with mines.

WATER SUPPLY REPAIRS

In July and August, the SMM facilitated demining and urgently needed repairs to the water-supply infrastructure around Horlivka and Maiorsk – spanning the contact line. The water began to flow again on 14 August.



*The SMM facilitates repairs to water pipelines near Horlivka
Photo by Cliff Volpe (OSCE)*

AT THE UNITED NATIONS

In his presentation to the UN Security Council on 11 December, Ambassador Apakan highlighted the SMM's work with regard to mine action and the Mission's role in de-escalating tensions on the ground. He also called on the sides to consolidate the ceasefire and adhere to the agreements in letter and in spirit.



“All activities by the SMM are guided by the aim to achieve normalization and stabilization of the

situation in Ukraine. As our numbers expand, these efforts will be further strengthened. But the political will for a full ceasefire and a political solution and peace must come from the sides.”

OSCE SMM Chief Monitor Apakan,
11 December statement at the UN Security Council

FOSTERING PEACE, PROMOTING DIALOGUE

On many occasions, the SMM's facilitation efforts contributed to the freedom of movement and access for the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the conflict zone. The SMM played a role in the reopening of the Stanytsia Luhanska pedestrian bridge, which spans the contact line. The Mission also facilitated and continuously monitored adherence to the ceasefire in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which enabled repair works to waterlines, gas lines, electric lines and other elements of critical infrastructure.

The Mission continued to closely collaborate with other international actors on the ground in facilitating humanitarian access, and remained fully engaged with the international community. The agreement reached at the Trilateral Contact Group's Working Group on Security Issues in Minsk, co-ordinated by Chief Monitor Apakan, led to tangible results with regard to the withdrawal of artillery weapons and mine clearance. The Chief Monitor and his Principal Deputy briefed the UN Security Council on the crisis in and around Ukraine, and regularly informed the OSCE Permanent Council, as well as the broader diplomatic community, including the Normandy Group.



PARTNERSHIPS

The SMM regularly shared information with the UN offices and agencies working in the country, as well as with other international actors, including Médecins Sans Frontières and the ICRC. The Mission maintained contact with the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination, in particular to provide details on humanitarian concerns for civilians, which facilitated the provision of essential food and medicines.



*SMM monitors assessing the impact of shelling in Mariupol, January 2015
Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka (OSCE)*

*Next page: OSCE vehicles approach Donetsk airport.
Photo by Cliff Volpe*



Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Vaidotas Verba**

Budget: €2,993,000 (Unified Budget), €2,144,028 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 3 international

41 local

www.osce.org/ukraine

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine assisted the Government in implementing reforms aimed at strengthening the implementation of Ukraine's OSCE commitments in all three dimensions and continued to respond to challenges related to the crisis in and around Ukraine. The OSCE contributed actively to major transformations, which are critical for a stable and democratic future in Ukraine. These include legal advice to the country's Constitutional Commission on amendments within constitutional, judicial and law enforcement reforms, training of new Ukrainian police and efforts to ensure inclusive dialogue on the substance of those transformations. The Project Co-ordinator worked to improve education for legal professionals, including judges and advocates, and assisted in elaborating government strategies to address new dimensions of conflict-related risks, such as increased threats of trafficking in human beings or the need for post-conflict psychological rehabilitation and to ensure that women are included in conflict resolution activities.

DIALOGUE TO RESTORE TRUST IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

Beyond consolidating a fragile ceasefire in the Donbas region of Ukraine, it is also critical to bring communities that have suffered from hostilities back to normal life. The Project Co-ordinator launched the Reconstruction through Dialogue Forum initiative to foster confidence-building and direct discussion of local problems between conflict-affected communities and the government. Three dialogue forums in Kramatorsk, Krasnoarmiisk and Sievierodonetsk helped identify issues and possible responses to challenges affecting internally displaced persons, civil-military relations, movement across the contact line, economic and environmental problems, elections, media freedom and civil society development. Follow-up events provided further opportunities for Donbas communities to speak to decision makers and express their opinions on issues related to local elections, constitutional change and judicial reform. The Project Co-ordinator also assisted the National Reforms Council, created by the President of Ukraine, to improve its communications with the public by redesigning the content and interface of its website, producing a dialogue-based talk show and organizing public discussions on judicial and constitutional reforms. In December, the Project Co-ordinator trained 55 local dialogue facilitators and convened a conference to allow Ukrainian and international experts to brainstorm on ways to resolve the conflict and strengthen the country's cohesion through dialogue.



Eastern Ukraine dialogue forums, organized by the Project Co-ordinator, also provided an opportunity for officials, international organizations, diplomats and donor organizations to participate in awareness-raising tours to better plan assistance to the region and align their efforts with local needs.

Photo by OSCE

PROMOTING INNOVATION TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT REFORMS

The Project Co-ordinator used innovative digital solutions to strengthen institutions and practices that are critical for the implementation of reforms and for enhancing democracy and security. Such solutions include an upgrade of the content and interface of a portal to enable citizens to track reform processes, the introduction of e-services in land management to ensure transparency and to fight corruption, and improving e-learning tools for election commissioners.



In July 2015, new police started to patrol the streets of Ukrainian cities in a bid to restore the trust and confidence of the public in effective and corruption-free law enforcement.

Photo by Inna Sokolovska (OSCE)

EQUIPPING NEW POLICE WITH SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

As Ukraine embarked on a decisive reform of its law enforcement system with a new patrol police, the Project Co-ordinator helped ensure that the newly-recruited officers had the necessary professional skills and knowledge. In 2015, almost 9,000 police cadets in 17 cities in Ukraine were trained on how to handle domestic violence incidents and deal with various forms of trafficking in human beings.

ENSURING RESPONSIBILITY OF MEDIA IN CONFLICTS

Balanced and in-depth media coverage is crucial for conflict resolution and reconciliation. To this end, the Project Co-ordinator worked to ensure Ukrainian journalists are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to work in conflict zones, by supporting efforts to establish hostile environment awareness training at the facilities of the country's Ministry of Defence.

A special focus of the Project Co-ordinator is on professional standards and ethics of the Ukrainian media. The Project Co-ordinator helped develop a methodology to monitor coverage of conflict-related issues, and supported research on how regional and nationwide TV channels, press and online outlets deal with sensitive conflict-related issues and depict vulnerable groups.

During the 2015 local electoral campaign, the Project Co-ordinator organized five training courses for over 100 regional journalists on explaining the new local election system to the general public.



More than 80 reporters, camera operators and fixers developed survival skills for working in a conflict zone during pilot training courses organized by the Project Co-ordinator at the International Centre for Peacebuilding and Security in Lviv, Ukraine

Photo by Emine Ziyatdinova (OSCE)

OSCE-SUPPORTED E-GOVERNANCE IN FIGURES



*Over **1 million** views in an online library developed by the OSCE to help prepare election commissioners for administering local elections*



*Over **1.1 million** views of an OSCE YouTube video explaining the local elections process to voters*



*More than **2,500** digital certificates on land value issued and over 350,000 unique views since the October launch of e-service providing access to information and cadastre services on land ownership*



*In 2015, the Project Co-ordinator and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining piloted and introduced the Information Management System for Mine Action in **four** regions of Ukraine, providing equipment and training the system's operators.*



PARTNERSHIPS

The Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine agreed on a co-operation framework with the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform; co-ordinated with the Council of Europe; joined efforts with the IOM, various UN agencies and La Strada International to address human trafficking, cybercrime, and gender issues; and continued to co-operate with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

Chief Observer: **Paul Picard** (until September 2015) and **Simon Eugster** (as of October 2015)

Budget: €1,463,100

Staff: 20 (as of 31 December 2015)

www.osce.org/om

In its first full calendar year, the Observer Mission carried on its round-the-clock presence at the two Russian checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, working under the principles of impartiality and transparency. The Mission continued to implement its mandate while maintaining contact with regional authorities and officials in its area of operation. Permanent Council Decision 1178 saw the Observer Mission extended until 31 January 2016.

The Mission remained part of the OSCE's efforts to accurately report on the crisis in and around Ukraine. Under their mandate, observers were the eyes and ears of the Chairmanship-in-Office and of the participating States, reporting on trends and events at the two border crossing points. The Mission kept the public and participating States informed of developments by issuing 52 weekly reports. In addition, a spot report was issued each time a Russian convoy bound for Ukraine crossed the Donetsk Border Crossing Point. In 2015, 38 spot reports were issued.



A border observer monitors the crossing of a Russian convoy bound for Ukraine at the Donetsk Border Crossing Point.

Photo by Sergey Kazak

TRENDS

Between 9 January and 14 February, when hostilities intensified, nearly 24,000 people fled eastern Ukraine through the Gukovo and Donetsk Border Crossing Points. After adoption of the “Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements”, the cross-border movement for the rest of the year showed a clear reverse in the flow of people back to Ukraine.

In 2015, observers noted the diversification and intensification of vehicular traffic other than passenger vehicles. In addition to regular bus lines connecting cities in Ukraine with cities in the Russian Federation, the Mission noted an increased number of irregular bus routes connecting cities in the Donbas region with the rest of Ukraine predominantly passing through the Donetsk Border Crossing Point. Of particular note was the dramatic increase in traffic of cargo trucks starting in April. Traffic of minivans, both cargo and passenger, remained regular throughout the year.

BORDER CROSSING OBSERVATIONS IN NUMBERS



3,351,000 PEOPLE

15,824 PEOPLE IN MILITARY-STYLE CLOTHING

28 FUNERAL VANS

10 VANS WITH “CARGO 200” INSCRIPTION
(“Cargo 200” is a well-known military code used for “military personnel killed in action”)

38 RUSSIAN CONVOYS OBSERVED



New Chief Observer Simon Eugster (left) and outgoing Chief Observer Paul Picard (centre) meet with Vadim Artyomov, Deputy Governor of the Rostov region, on 10 November 2015.

Photo by Alexander Titov (Rostov region government)



CHIEF OBSERVER

Mr. Paul Picard, who had led the Mission since its inception in 2014, ended his mandate at the end of September. In October, the new Chief Observer, Mr. Simon Eugster, joined the Mission. Prior to his appointment as Chief Observer, Mr. Eugster held a number of positions as an officer in the Swiss army and in Switzerland’s Federal Department of Defence.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk exchanged information with the ICRC and the UNHCR related to the humanitarian situation.



Chief Observer Simon Eugster (third from left) and members of the Observer Mission meet with the local authorities of the city of Kamensk on 17 December 2015.

Photo by Townhall of Kamensk press service

Project Co-ordinator in Baku

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Alexis Chahtahtinsky**

Budget: €1,800,000

Staff: 5 international

16 local

www.osce.org/baku

After the Government of Azerbaijan terminated the Memorandum of Understanding on the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku, operations were discontinued on 4 July 2015. Prior to this, the Project Co-ordinator implemented projects in combating cybercrime, promoting religious tolerance and preventing domestic violence.

COMBATING CYBERCRIME

The Project Co-ordinator organized several training courses for Azerbaijani law enforcement officials on cybersecurity and basic digital forensics.

PROMOTING RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, organized an exhibition for schoolchildren, as well as a presentation of an online Holocaust learning tool for schools.

The Project Co-ordinator submitted an assessment report on *Introducing Holocaust Education into the school curriculum in Azerbaijan* to the Ministry of Education. The report was drafted by international and national consultants who evaluated the current school curriculum in terms of the presence of Holocaust-related topics and gave relevant recommendations.

PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Project Co-ordinator organized a study visit for Azerbaijani officials and civil society representatives to Spain to learn about best practices in the areas of the collection of domestic violence data, the work of state-funded shelters and hotline services, as well as the operation of specialized jurisdiction on gender-based violence. They received information about Spanish legislation and the country's national strategy on preventing and combating domestic violence, and reviewed Spain's experience on inter-institutional co-ordination mechanisms between central and regional bodies.

Next page: Baku
Photo by Aziz Karimov (OSCE)



Office in Yerevan

Head of Office: **Ambassador Andrey Sorokin**
Budget: €2,954,400 (Unified Budget), €33,859 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 7 international
 41 local
www.osce.org/yerevan

The Office in Yerevan continued to assist Armenia across all three dimensions of security, focusing in 2015 on supporting judicial and police reforms; promoting human, social and economic rights and media freedom; and engaging with youth and civil society.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN REGIONS

The Office-supported network of Women’s Resource Centres opened new centres in the Vayots Dzor and Tavush regions. In 2015, the network became an official member of the European Association of Women Resource Centres and was renamed WINNET Armenia.



President of WINNET Sweden and WINNET Europe Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson and Ruzanna Torozyan, Chairwoman of OSCE-supported Goris Women’s Resource Centre and President of WINNET Armenia, during a press conference to promote collaboration among women’s resource centres in Armenia, Yerevan, 7 May 2015.
 Photo by Melik Baghdasaryan (Photolure)

HELPING ADDRESS CYBERCRIME

The Office helped the Police and the Investigative Committee study best international practice in order to establish a framework of co-operation between law enforcement agencies and Internet service providers that is based on national law and consistent with Council of Europe guidelines.

EXPLORING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

To support entrepreneurship, an Office project identified gaps in the country’s regulatory frameworks and developed guidelines for business entities on trade regulations and customs procedures within and outside the Eurasian Economic Union area. Other projects identified new markets and investment opportunities for local and foreign business, including for Armenia’s agricultural crops.

CO-OPERATING TO PREVENT POLLUTION

In co-operation with the UNDP, Syunik regional authorities and local communities, the Office helped restore a 4-km-long irrigation canal, preventing direct pollution of 30 hectares of land and providing water to irrigate 70 hectares in two communities, thus ensuring additional livelihood for 160 families.

BRINGING BUSINESSES TOGETHER AGAINST CORRUPTION

In co-operation with the Ministry of Justice and a national civil society coalition, the Office brought representatives of business, government and civil society together to examine how risk assessment systems, codes of ethics and corporate social responsibility can help address challenges faced by the private sector.

MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

The Ministry of Defence included a one-semester human rights course for third- and fourth-year cadets at two military academies in 2015. The course was developed with Office support for interactive teaching techniques.

ACTIVITIES IN 2015

282

TRAINING COURSES,
WORKSHOPS, ROUND TABLES

5,000

BENEFICIARIES

TOPICS: migrants’ rights, gender issues, community policing, domestic violence, anti-trafficking, human rights, civil-military relations, torture prevention and non-discrimination, constitutional reform, legislation, democracy



The Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Sorokin, and Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandyan at the photo exhibition launched on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of signing the Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE's founding document, 16 September 2015.

Photo by Gayane Ter-Stepanyan

MARKING THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT

High-level representatives from the government, the OSCE Secretariat, civil society and the media gathered in Yerevan on 16 September at a celebration organized by the Office to mark the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. A special commemorative OSCE postage stamp, postmark and envelope were launched at the event, which also included a photo exhibition and a publication with messages from senior officials and information about the OSCE and the Office. University students competed nationwide on a 40th anniversary debate topic, and Model OSCE alumni convened at an informal "OSCE Café".



A special envelope with an OSCE postage stamp and special postmark launched on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act: (left to right) Hovik Musaelyan, President of Armenia's Union of Philatelists, Ambassador Sorokin, Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and Marcel Peško, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, 16 September 2015.

Photo by Photolur

PREVENTING TRAFFICKING FOR LABOUR

To help strengthen co-operation between state agencies and civil society in combating human trafficking, the Office supported a pilot baseline study on the vulnerability of specific demographic sectors to trafficking for forced labour.

SUPPORTING JUDICIAL REFORM

To promote understanding of precedent in cases involving human rights issues, the Office published a volume of Cassation Court decisions and supported a practitioners' workshop. A nationwide moot court competition culminated at the Court of Cassation, and a public service spot about the Court was broadcast on national television.



A photography exhibition entitled "A happy family in my eyes" showcasing artwork by children, launched during an OSCE-supported discussion on strengthening the role of police in combating domestic violence, Yerevan, 26 November 2015.

Photo by Gayane Ter-Stepanyan (OSCE)



PARTNERSHIPS

On International Human Rights Day, the Office, the UN, the Council of Europe and the EU Delegation jointly supported a new technologies' "UnConference", the agenda of which was crowdsourced by participants from universities and civil society organizations.

Centre in Ashgabat

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Ivo Petrov**

Budget: €1,570,800 (Unified Budget), €139,553 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 6 international

19 local

www.osce.org.ashgabat

2015 was marked by the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan’s neutrality status, culminating in a conference on the policy of neutrality with heads of state and government, and of international organizations, including the OSCE Secretary General. The Centre’s work in 2015 focused on border security and transnational threats, good governance and environmental awareness, legal reforms and human rights.

BORDER SECURITY

The Centre continued an extrabudgetary project to strengthen border guard capacities with courses on border management, threat assessment and train-the-trainer formats, held at the Imamnazar Border Crossing Point on the Turkmen-Afghan border. The Centre donated non-lethal paramilitary equipment and outfits worth some €167,500 to the State Border Service.

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

Jointly with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department, the Centre organized a workshop on international co-operation in criminal matters between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, which addressed mechanisms and tools aimed at enhancing investigations into cross-border terrorism and organized crime; another workshop for the benefit of Turkmen security and law enforcement officials was related to cyber- and information and communications technology (ICT) security and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and cybercrime. Two seminars on measures to prevent terrorists from crossing borders undetected under false identities were also held. Twenty-five operational-level officials representing Turkmenistan’s law enforcement and military bodies were trained in counter-terrorism hostage negotiation tactics. Twenty-two law enforcement officials enhanced their skills to conduct anti-drug controlled delivery operations.

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

Nineteen officials from the Defence Ministry of Turkmenistan were trained in reciprocal inspection procedures under the Vienna Document.

PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

To mark the 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan’s neutrality, the Centre organized seminars on preventive diplomacy and negotiation for young diplomats from the Foreign Ministry as well as for students from the Foreign Ministry’s Institute of International Relations and the International University for Humanities and Development.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The OSCE-supported Good Governance Resource Centre, which was established in 2014 in the premises of the Finance Ministry of Turkmenistan, hosted activities on the national risk assessment system and risk-based approach to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism, as well as the development of a national anti-corruption system. A study visit to Georgia introduced officials from relevant institutions to best practices in good governance.

 **BORDER SECURITY COURSES**

- *Examination and Detection at Borders for law enforcement officials*
- *Port Control Procedures and Security Management Operations at Port Checkpoints*
- *Border Security Management for 250 cadets from the Border Institute in Ashgabat and the Naval Institute in Turkmenbashi*



Participants of the OSCE-organized Border Management and Threat Assessment training course during a platoon tactical march field exercise at the Imamnazar Border Crossing Point on the Turkmen-Afghan border, 24 April 2015.

Photo by Ruslan Ovezdurdyev (OSCE)

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

As part of co-operation with the Aarhus Centre of Turkmenistan and regional Public Environmental Information Centres, awareness-raising seminars on the Aarhus Convention were held in six cities across Turkmenistan, and a volume of national legislation addressing environmental protection and the use of natural resources was published. A study visit to Spain exposed representatives from the Mary State Energy Institute in Turkmenistan to alternative energy projects and best practices.

SUPPORTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The Centre supported vocational and marketing training courses in the area of traditional crafts to enhance the skills of women entrepreneurs from a rural area.

LEGAL SUPPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The OSCE supported legal counsel for:



165 INDIVIDUALS



47 APPEALS ON
16 CASES DRAFTED

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

The Centre supported members of the Mejlis (Parliament) in improving their ability to analyse draft laws on an article-by-article basis. A study visit for Turkmen parliamentarians to Denmark facilitated an exchange of legislative practices. Representatives of law-making and law enforcement bodies discussed experiences in criminal justice reform during a study visit to the Netherlands. Jointly with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Centre held a seminar on the structure and activities of the OSCE parliamentary dimension for members of the Mejlis.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF

The Centre promoted freedom of religion and belief by organizing a seminar on relevant international standards and a study visit to the United States for members of the Mejlis and law enforcement officials.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

A lecture course introduced 40 students from the Interior Ministry's Institute and the Foreign Ministry's International Relations Institute to international human rights standards at the pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings and investigations. In co-operation with ODIHR, the Centre organized a seminar on gender equality and the participation of women in public life for members of the Mejlis, representatives from law enforcement bodies, research and educational institutions, as well as the Women's Union and public organizations. A study visit to France familiarized penitentiary and law enforcement officials with best practices of upholding prisoners' rights.

ELECTIONS

Jointly with ODIHR, the Centre organized a workshop on the electoral and legal framework of elections for 25 election officials.

EDUCATION

The Centre organized a study visit to the United Kingdom to facilitate the exchange of practices in implementing educational reforms. The Centre is preparing a commentary and recommendations for possible amendments of education-related legislation.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

Independence of the judiciary was promoted at a seminar for lawmakers, representatives of law enforcement agencies and state institutions, as well as members of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

The Centre promoted an exchange of practices in the area of access to information and mechanisms for the accreditation of journalists, as well as freedom of the journalistic profession. Print, broadcast and online journalists from across the country were trained in online journalism skills. Twenty staff members from Turkmenistan's TV news channels enhanced their capacities in TV news production.



An interview takes place during a practical exercise as part of the Centre-organized training course on TV news production skills.

Photo by Svetlana Ostroushenko



PARTNERSHIPS

The Centre and the TNTD Action against Terrorism Unit partnered with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to hold a regional workshop on border security and management for countering terrorism.

The Centre collaborated with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to train law enforcement officials in examination and detection at borders.

Programme Office in Astana

Head of Office: **Ambassador Natalia Zarudna**
Budget: €2,148,700 (Unified Budget), €63,075 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 6 international
 22 local
www.osce.org/astana

Working under a new mandate in 2015, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana enhanced its partnership with host authorities, civil society and international actors in strengthening regional security, combating organized crime and countering violent extremism, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It worked on facilitating trade, furthering water governance, advancing gender mainstreaming, promoting green growth and sustainable development, good governance, democratic policing and fundamental freedoms. The Office continued developing social services for victims of human trafficking, supporting justice and penitentiary reforms and engaging youth and academia in regional security dialogue.

ADDRESSING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

Engaging civil society, youth, women, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies in preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters, were high on the Office’s agenda. Six OSCE-supported events involved some 500 parliamentarians, high-level government officials, judges, civil society activists and international experts. Another 480 law enforcement officers from across the country were trained to combat transnational organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime, trafficking in drugs and counterfeit goods; use dogs to detect explosives; enhance border security; and manage public assemblies and policing in multi-ethnic societies. The sixth Central Asian Internet Forum brought together 120 practitioners and experts from the region and beyond, and focused on cybersecurity and ways to counter the abuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

PROMOTING DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL SECURITY

The Office engaged over 700 young leaders in debates on regional security issues at the annual Central Asian Youth Network seminar for university students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia (marking 11 years since the first seminar); the sixth *Zhas* (Youth) Camp events; and the eighth Law Student Forum on the protection of human rights in fighting terrorism. The Office’s annual Summer School and sixth Central Asian Leadership Programme helped young

PROJECTS OF THE PROGRAMME OFFICE

59 projects implemented in all three dimensions
98 training events conducted for 4,570 experts nationwide

OSCE ADVICE PROVIDED ON KEY LEGISLATION APPROVED IN 2015

	ACCESS TO INFORMATION	
	COUNTERING CORRUPTION	
	LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE	
	ORGANIC FARMING	
	PUBLIC COUNCILS	
	DECISIONS TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT	

TRAINING EVENTS FOR

620

- Central and local government officials
- Law enforcement officers
- Judges
- Representatives of banking and non-financial sectors
- Representatives of civil society

On

- Good governance
- Anti-corruption
- Anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT)

environmental leaders from the region and Afghanistan learn about sustainable development and water governance in a security context.

The Office, the Foreign Ministry and the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies co-hosted a high-level international conference in Astana. The 150 participants, including speakers from the OSCE network of think tanks and academic institutions, discussed the importance and relevance of the Helsinki Final Act and the Astana Commemorative Declaration in relation to the challenging security situation in the OSCE region. In 2015, the Office-supported annual regional seminars on confidence- and security-building measures under the Vienna Document 2011 and on the disposal of explosive ordnance were complemented by pre-deployment training courses for UN peacekeeping missions for military officers from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

PROMOTING LEGISLATION ON FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

The Office consistently supported criminal, administrative and civil justice reform by facilitating public and expert discussions of draft legislation, organizing a study visit to Belgium on probation, and training government officials, judges and defence lawyers. The Office supported the Third Penitentiary Forum on the resocialization of convicts, which gathered over 200 high-level participants. The Office continued assisting the national preventive mechanism against torture through capacity-building activities.

Multi-year efforts helped establish an effective framework in 2015 for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring their protection. An OSCE-supported study visit to Belgrade led to the adoption of social services standards for victims of human trafficking, which were presented to 380 officials, judges and social workers nationwide.



Head of OSCE Programme Office in Astana, Ambassador Natalia Zarudna (right), delivering a welcome speech during the Central Asian Internet Forum, Almaty, 14 May 2015

Photo by Almaz Toleke



Students discussing human rights protection in countering terrorism at the annual Zhas (Youth) Camp, Astana, 17 October 2015

Photo by Adilet Mukushev (OSCE)

In the area of freedom of the media, the Office supported the drafting of a new law on access to information, engaging 350 parliamentarians, officials, journalists, national and international experts, and launched training seminars to help implement it upon its adoption.

GREEN ECONOMY PROMOTION

The Office continued to promote a competitive market economy based on energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources, effective water governance, organic farming and sustainable fisheries. It helped develop a legal framework for the green economy; and proposals for decarbonizing the national economy, supported a side event on energy efficiency at the Astana Economic Forum; engaged the Aarhus Centres, Water Basin Councils, schools and universities in promoting the green growth principles; and trained some 960 officials, parliamentarians, entrepreneurs, academics and NGO activists on these topics.



PARTNERSHIPS

The OSCE Programme Office in Astana co-operated with the UNODC on countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, UN Women on implementing UNSCR 1325, the UNECE on water governance and the Aarhus Convention, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea on dam safety and sustainable fisheries, the EU and the UNDP on the green economy, the IOM on labour migration management and the Venice Commission on justice reform.

Achieving

- Adoption of anti-corruption and local self-governance legislation
- Publication of a guidebook on a risk-assessment approach to AML/CFT in financial and non-financial sectors
- Establishment of a national certification programme for AML/CFT compliance officers
- Training for 100 teachers from 68 high schools nationwide on an anti-corruption module

Centre in Bishkek

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Sergey Kapinos**

Budget: €6,909,600 (Unified Budget), €1,888,114 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 23 international

125 local

www.osce.org/bishkek

In 2015, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek carried out activities in all three OSCE dimensions, including parliamentary elections, regulatory reform, building public trust in the national police, training Kyrgyz and Afghan customs officers, the promotion of good governance and combating corruption, and the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

SUPPORTING THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES

In 2015, the Centre supported local stakeholders in organizing parliamentary elections in accordance with international standards. This was achieved through conducting educational activities on the electoral process and by supporting the host government's initiative to enact new modalities for voter registration, which are based on the introduction of biometric passports. Moreover, the Centre supported the development of an innovative e-training platform for the members of the Central Electoral Commission, and enabled local non-governmental organizations to carry out in-depth monitoring of the entire electoral process.

SECURING BORDERS

The Centre continued to facilitate enhanced border security, which remains fragile because large segments of the Kyrgyz border in the country's south are not delimited. The Barrier-2015 border security exercise was conducted in August 2015 thanks to a partnership between the Centre and Kyrgyz authorities, and in close co-ordination with the OSCE Office in Tajikistan. The exercise brought together participants from the border, police and emergency services of both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.



The OSCE Centre in Bishkek hands over mountain equipment to the Special Force Brigade, General Staff of the Kyrgyz Armed Forces, at Kok-Zhangak, 8 July 2015.

Photo by Vasilina Brazhko (OSCE)

STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH, REDUCING CORRUPTION

In 2015, the Centre supported the Kyrgyz government's systematic regulatory reform aimed at removing unnecessary laws and at reducing the regulatory burden on businesses. This was achieved through the implementation of a regulatory simplification mechanism known as the "Regulatory Guillotine". In December, the first phase of the reform was completed by assessing 3,344 legal acts regulating business activity.

COMBATING MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM

In partnership with the Kyrgyz government, the Centre offered training activities in criminology, taxation, and accounting to Kyrgyz law enforcement personnel who are involved in investigating cases of corruption and other illegal financial and economic activities. It also contributed to Kyrgyzstan's efforts in joining the Group of States against Corruption and the European anti-corruption conventions, which are expected to facilitate investigation and extradition procedures. The Centre assisted Kyrgyzstan's preparation for the 2015 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) country evaluation in implementing the recommendations of the FATF and establishing an effective anti-money-laundering and anti-terrorist financing regime.



The OSCE Centre in Bishkek, in co-operation with the General Staff of the Kyrgyz Armed Forces, opens an obstacle range at the Special Force Brigade compound, Kok-Zhangak, 8 July 2015.

Photo by Vasilina Brazhko (OSCE)



The OSCE Centre in Bishkek and local authorities rehabilitated the Kara-Suu canal, easing disputes with communities across the Uzbek border over irrigation water

Photo by Kakhramon Nurmatov (OSCE)

IRRIGATION WATER CHANNEL IN KARA-SUU REDUCES INTER-ETHNIC TENSIONS

Tensions and conflicts over water access were common between the Saray and Savay multi-ethnic communities of the Kara-Suu district in southern Kyrgyzstan. This was because of the constant shortage of irrigation water, which ran through a canal straddling the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border. Residents of these municipalities suffered during the spring and summer, competing for the water needed to irrigate their fields and raise their cattle.

Striving to prevent such conflicts, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Office of the Mayor of the town of Kara-Suu in the Osh region joined efforts to rehabilitate 3 km of an irrigation canal, twisting along the border with Uzbekistan. The work started in 2014 and by late December 2015 more than 1,000 households had access to irrigation water. The Mayor of Kara-Suu noted that the project had immediately resolved several critical problems for residents. "This OSCE initiative is the best example of conflict prevention and peace building in Kyrgyzstan," said Meerimbek Apyshov from the Plenipotentiary Representative Office of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs in southern Kyrgyzstan.

In addition to revamping the irrigation infrastructure, the Centre provided training to the representatives of the Water Users Associations and of the Saray and Savay municipalities. They were trained on irrigation water supply management, inter-ethnic tolerance and mechanisms of water-related conflict prevention.



The Kara-Suu district in the south of Kyrgyzstan before the construction of water channel

Photo by Kakhramon Nurmatov (OSCE)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY: RESTORING COMMUNITIES' TRUST IN POLICE



COMMUNITY SECURITY INITIATIVE WORKED IN 15 DIFFERENT REGIONS OF KYRGYZSTAN



18 MOBILE POLICE STATIONS SET UP TO VISIT 63 VILLAGES AND REMOTE LOCATIONS



OVER 82,000 PEOPLE HAVE BENEFITED FROM 24/7 ACCESS TO POLICE SERVICES SINCE 2010



MORE THAN 2,500 KYRGYZ POLICE OFFICERS TRAINED



FEMALE PRESENCE IN THE POLICE INCREASED BY 30%

OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

The OSCE Academy is a truly regional institution for dialogue and research, as well as education, promoting regional co-operation, conflict prevention and good governance in Central Asia. The student body comes predominately from the five states of Central Asia and Afghanistan. In 2015, the Academy had more than a thousand applicants, a record, for its two Master of Arts (MA) programmes on Politics and Security and Economic Governance and Development. As of 2015, more than 330 young professionals had graduated from the MA programmes, with most of the graduates working in national administrations, civil society and at universities.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Centre led the co-ordinated support for the FATF with the OECD, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on Kyrgyzstan's efforts in fighting money laundering and terrorist financing. The Centre collaborated with the UNDP and USAID/ International Foundation for Electoral Systems to help Kyrgyzstan conduct largely free, fair and transparent parliamentary elections. The Centre also worked with the UNODC on police and penitentiary reform, and with the UNHCR to train State Border Service personnel on refugee and migrant rights.

Office in Tajikistan

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Markus Mueller**
Budget: €7,338,200 (Unified Budget), €3,372,649 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 32 international
 198 local
www.osce.org/tajikistan

In 2015, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan maintained the focus of its work on border security, police reform, gender issues, good governance and economic development to improve the security of the people of Tajikistan. The Office’s achievements were made possible thanks to the goodwill and co-operation of the Government and civil society in the host country. The participation of Afghan counterparts featured as an important component in many projects.

BORDER SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION

The Office continued to lead the only international initiative providing capacity-building support of an operational, planning and practical nature for border security and management to the Tajik, Afghan and Kyrgyz border services. New activities in 2015 focused on improving border agencies’ abilities to detect and interdict illegal cross-border movements across both the Tajik-Afghan and Tajik-Kyrgyz borders. In 2015, 307 border officers (including 29 from Afghanistan and 12 from Kyrgyzstan) took part in training courses organized by the Office. The inclusion of Kyrgyz border troops followed a series of incidents on the Tajik-Kyrgyz border in 2014, which highlighted the need for better co-operation and co-ordination between the two border agencies. Strengthened cooperation contributed, in part, to a reduction in the level of tension between both parties on the border throughout 2015.

In 2015, the Office partnered with a local NGO to support reforms for good economic governance and better cross-border trade, notably with Afghanistan, by supporting four resource centres in markets along the Tajik-Afghan border. The NGO provided free individual consultations to 1,264 local traders from both sides of the border to make the rules and regulations regarding import, export, customs and other border controls and procedures more transparent, clear and accessible to them.

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES

In view of the inclusion of anti-corruption assessments of proposed legislation in the draft National Development Strategy of Tajikistan, the Office was requested to carry out two assessments in 2015. The first one analysed several administrative laws and evaluated their ability to minimize bureaucratic arbitrariness and overreach, while preserving the necessary flexibility of administrative bodies to function effectively. The second assessment investigated the provisions of the new tax code focusing on procedural efficiency, taxpayers’ rights and application of discretionary powers. The outcomes were shared with national and international development partners to steer the discussion on anti-corruption policies, and were widely recognized as tools to help improve the investment climate in Tajikistan.



As part of an Office-supported awareness campaign, local students in Kurgan-Tyube participated in a drawing competition devoted to International Women’s Day, 6 March 2015.
 Photo by Erica Masiero (OSCE)

HUMANITARIAN DEMINING ON AFGHAN-TAJIK BORDER



209,064 m² CLEARED LANDS = 32 FOOTBALL FIELDS



85 ANTIPERSONNEL MINES UNCOVERED



111 ITEMS OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE UNCOVERED



Afghan border police officers conduct a river crossing near Karatag during a patrol leadership course, Gissar, 16 December 2015.
Photo by Firdavs Kurbanov (OSCE)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2015, with the support of the Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs opened three new Gender-Sensitive Police Units as part of its efforts to counteract domestic violence. Together with the OSCE-supported network of 18 Women's Resource Centres, the police units conducted awareness-raising activities among the local population. The units play a crucial role in identifying and processing cases of domestic violence and currently serve as a model for police inspectors who also deal with domestic violence cases.

The Office also supported the work of the permanent Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming in Police Reform. This group meets to share data on good practices and challenges related to the protection of domestic violence victims. They offer capacity-building initiatives for police officers, strengthen co-operation with civil society organizations and develop referral mechanisms for the protection of victims.

TELECOMMUNICATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES

To meet the World Trade Organization requirement for an independent regulator for telecommunication services, the OSCE, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and the World Bank conducted and released a feasibility study of the convergence of the two existing regulators into one single regulatory authority. The study was presented to the Government at a conference, and it is now considering implementing the convergence of the two regulators.

BORDER MANAGEMENT STAFF COLLEGE

In 2015, the BMSC delivered 21 training courses and other educational events for 431 mid- to senior-ranking officials (86 of whom were women) from 25 participating States and seven Partners for Co-operation.

The inaugural one-year Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership course, which combines face-to-face and online education, alongside two one-month Border Management Staff Courses, were successfully completed.

A number of thematic courses were designed and delivered in close co-operation with DCAF, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the UNECE, the UNODC, the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented Border Management Northern Afghanistan project and ODIHR. A total of 122 Afghan participants took part in the activities of the BMSC.

Topics considered at 2015 roundtable discussions and a research conference included the developments in and around Afghanistan and addressing the current and emerging border security challenges through the application of innovative solutions and new technologies.



Zamira Makhkamova, Senior Inspector at the Customs Department of Tajikistan, participates in a discussion on providing equal training opportunities and maintaining the same standards of competence and performance of female and male border security and management officers, Dushanbe, 23 October 2015.
Photo by Eraj Asadulloev (OSCE)



PARTNERSHIPS

The Office co-operated with the UNECE in hosting the 13th Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Linkages, holding a workshop promoting the OSCE-UNECE *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings*, and on promoting Tajik-Afghan co-operation on shared water resources.

The Office and the United States Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs held a roundtable discussion to introduce the concept of community policing in Tajikistan.

The BMSC developed academic partnerships with a number of international organizations and institutions including DCAF, the WCO, the UNECE, the UNODC, the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented Border Management Northern Afghanistan project and ODIHR.

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador György Szabó**

Budget: €1,994,900

Staff: 3 international

22 local

www.osce.org/uzbekistan

In 2015, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan continued to support the host country’s efforts to address terrorism-related threats, promote transparency in governance, fight corruption, combat money laundering and counter trafficking in human beings and drugs.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Project Co-ordinator assisted the host authorities in enhancing international co-operation in the fight against terrorism by organizing an international conference and a national seminar on effective criminal justice responses to terrorism based on the rule of law. More than 120 government officials and civil society experts participated in the discussions on current trends and experiences. The Project Co-ordinator also provided financial support to Uzbek experts to participate in

several events abroad in order to share experiences and learn best practices.

The Project Co-ordinator supported the National Centre for Drug Control in developing the National Interagency Online Database on Drug-Related Crimes. The database will enable users to search for information on seizures of drugs, precursors and psychoactive substances and facilitate information sharing in the field of countering illicit drug circulation.



*Confiscated illegal drug burning ceremony, Tashkent, 25 June 2015
Photo by Otabek Rashidov (OSCE)*

GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE

National authorities received assistance from the Project Co-ordinator in implementing the National Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment.

The Project Co-ordinator produced a video on prevention of corruption in higher education in co-operation with the Prosecutor General's Office to support efforts in this area. Jointly with national and international stakeholders, the OSCE assisted investigators and prosecutors in developing capacities in financial investigations, asset recovery, mutual legal assistance and advanced methods to address challenges in combating corruption.

CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Emphasizing the key role of civil society and the need for social partnership between government and non-government stakeholders for effective public oversight of state institutions, the Project Co-ordinator expanded its work on civil society development by reaching out to NGOs across Uzbekistan. From April to December, a total of 54 specialized seminars and workshops were organized in nine regions in co-operation with the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society. Participants discussed newly-adopted laws on social partnership and assessed the transparency of government activities with a focus on practical tools for public oversight.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Project Co-ordinator focused on boosting local efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and develop a comprehensive victim-support system throughout the year. It created opportunities for government officials and civil society to share views on laws and regulations dealing with the protection of victims and prosecution of offenders, as well as protocols for managing human trafficking cases, including providing legal services to victims and raising public awareness. In January, a group of police officers received training on an innovative model of investigative interviewing that establishes a rapport between the interviewer and the victim. In total, more than 200 police officers working at airports and railway stations as well as tourism sector professionals and newly-appointed judges and defence lawyers were engaged in cross-sectoral training and awareness-raising sessions on anti-trafficking topics.



Participants during an international conference on fighting terrorism as a transnational threat to security, supported by the OSCE, Tashkent, 22 April 2015
Photo by Mehdi Knani (OSCE)



A 15-day training course in tailoring for unemployed women and girls, 18 August 2015, Navoi region
Photo by Murod Khusanov (OSCE)

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Enhancing the role of women in the economy remained a priority in 2015. The Project Co-ordinator provided professional training to 195 women from vulnerable social groups, in particular from rural areas, to increase employment and self-employment opportunities. Training sessions on national embroidery, bakery, sewing and hairdressing were organized in nearly every region of the country.



Seasonal monitoring of transboundary water resources in the Syrdarya River Basin, 9 May 2015, Ferghana Valley
Photo by Murod Khusanov (OSCE)



PARTNERSHIPS

The Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan co-operated with international partners, including the UNODC, to address terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and other transnational threats; the OECD and Basel Institute of Governance on corruption and money laundering; and USAID on combating trafficking in human beings.

Representative to the Latvian–Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

Representative: **Helmut Napiontek**

Budget: €9,000

www.osce.org/lrmpc

The Representative continued in 2015 to assist in implementing the 1994 bilateral agreement between the Latvian and Russian governments on social guarantees for military pensioners of the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia. 2015 marked the seventh year in a row without a single request or appeal from a military pensioner brought to the commission. Currently, 8,843 people are covered by the bilateral agreement, which stems from the withdrawal of Russian military personnel from Latvia in 1994.

ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

ELIGIBILITY DISPUTE RESOLVED

The difference of opinion as to who is subject to the agreement and how an individual might be considered an eligible military pensioner has been resolved. Therefore, no commission meetings took place in 2015.

Taking this into account, while speaking to the Permanent Council in October, Representative Napiontek suggested a less active role for the Representative and a sharp budgetary reduction in 2016.

DISCUSSION ON COMPENSATION OF COSTS FOR MEDICAL SERVICES

Under the agreement, the Russian Federation is to cover medical expenses for its military pensioners. The Latvian authorities have requested an increase in Russian reimbursement levels, given that the current compensation does not reflect the actual costs for medical care of aging military pensioners and their family members. However, no particular progress has been achieved in resolving this question.



Next page: photo by Jakub Rozsypal (OSCE)

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Organisation für Sicherheit und Zusammenarbeit in E
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Eur

Organizatsiya
Organizatsiya



ADVANCING SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Against the background of global and transnational challenges that the OSCE area shares with adjacent regions, establishing joint approaches to security is gaining in importance. This is why the OSCE continues to develop its relations with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, and to build on its extensive network of co-operative relationships with other international and regional organizations.

Asian and Mediterranean Partners

ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION 2015



The OSCE-Asian Partnership marked its 20th anniversary in 2015. Against this backdrop, the Secretariat, together with the Swiss Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group and the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship, issued the publication *The OSCE Asian Partnership for Co-operation: Reflections and Perspectives* to pay tribute to this close and productive association.

Further efforts were made towards enhancing the Asian Partners' involvement in the OSCE's political dialogue and activities, using the impetus provided by the 2014 Basel Ministerial Council Declaration on the Co-operation with the Asian Partners.

Throughout the year, the Secretary General used every opportunity to engage with the leadership of the Asian Partner countries, meeting with senior government officials from Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. He also gave a keynote speech at the 2015 OSCE-Asian Partners Conference on the "Changing Global Security Environment and Visions of Multilateral Security Co-operation in Asia" in Seoul, which focused on global efforts and regional complementarity to enhance disaster risk reduction.

2015 was further marked by a number of important meetings with high-level Afghan officials. The Secretary General met with President Ashraf Ghani, Minister of Women's Affairs



Secretary General Lamberto Zannier (fourth from right) with the Ambassadors of Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, as well as the Deputies of Afghanistan and Australia and the Serbian and Swiss Ambassadors with their copies of *The OSCE Asian Partnership for Co-operation: Reflections and Perspectives*.

Photo by Micky Kröll

Dilbar Nazari, Minister of Counter Narcotics Salamat Azimi and Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai. All Afghan interlocutors highlighted the importance of enhancing OSCE support to Afghanistan in particular in view of the fragile security situation.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation continued to actively contribute to the OSCE dialogue and provided financial and human resources to OSCE activities, *inter alia*, through generous contributions to the work of the SMM and the BMSC. The Asian Partners demonstrated a growing interest in studying the OSCE's experience and practices with regard to the comprehensive approach to security and to CSBMs as possible sources of inspiration for their own region. The Partners shared experiences in responding to transnational threats, managing borders, addressing transport issues, combating trafficking in human beings, building democratic institutions and administering elections. Likewise, the OSCE Secretariat shared its experiences, best practices and lessons learned, and will continue to support the Asian Partners' activities in these areas in 2016.



THE PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Partnership Fund finances joint activities and sponsors the participation of representatives from Partner States in OSCE events.

€1,579,033 PLEDGES SINCE CREATION IN 2007

€269,441 PLEDGES IN 2015

31 SPONSORED PARTICIPANTS FROM PARTNER STATES IN OSCE ACTIVITIES IN 2015

41 PROJECTS DEVELOPED SINCE CREATION

34 projects completed

9 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2015

7 new projects

2 multi-year projects already implemented in 2014

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION



2015 saw a series of mutually beneficial exchanges of views and expertise in the framework of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners under the German Chairmanship – a dedicated forum for informal dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation – leading to a high-profile Mediterranean Conference in Jordan (20-21 October).

The Secretary General also maintained his regular dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, both in formal and informal settings, which resulted in a number of co-operation projects.

The Secretariat organized several events with special interest for the Mediterranean Partners, such as the conference on “Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation” in Monaco on 1-2 June and the Workshop on “Gender and Labour Migration: Contemporary Trends in the OSCE Area and Mediterranean Region” in Malta on 7-9 October. Experts from the Secretariat also shared their expertise and good practices at events hosted by Mediterranean Partners, such as the regional conference on the outreach of the OSCE Code of Conduct for the Southern Mediterranean Region in Tunisia on 1-3 September and the international conference on “Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism: The Challenge of Terrorists Acting Alone or in Small Cells” in Israel on 9-11 November. The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation played an active role in the Security Days event on “Building Bridges: Promoting Dialogue to Prevent Radicalization and Violent Extremism”, organized by the Secretary General in May.

An Egyptian counter-terrorism delegation visited the OSCE in April to exchange views with the Action against Terrorism Unit. A similar visit of high-level civil servants from Tunisia to the OSCE took place in November.

In 2015, the Secretariat, with the aid of substantial funding from Germany, also relaunched a programme that places young



(Left to right) Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, German Foreign Affairs Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Jordanian Foreign Affairs Minister Nasser Judeh and Serbian State Secretary Roksandra Nincic open the 2015 Mediterranean Conference, 20 October 2015, Jordan.

Photo by Thomas Koehler (photonet.net)

diplomats from Partner countries in some of its departments to foster an in-depth familiarization with the commitments and workings of the OSCE. Three young diplomats from Morocco and Tunisia took part in this programme and worked in the Secretariat from September to December 2015.

With the same objective of making the OSCE better known in the Mediterranean region, a brochure on the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership that had been issued in 2014 in the context of the 20th anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group was translated into Arabic and French thanks to financial contributions of the OSCE Delegations from Germany, Belgium and Monaco.

The New-Med Network, launched in 2013, came to full fruition in 2015. Events involving academics and researchers were organized throughout the year in Rome, Tunis, London and Ankara. These activities, complemented by several publications, raised the profile of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership in the international think tank community, created additional channels of communication with civil society and generated ideas on how to strengthen OSCE-Mediterranean co-operation. New-Med contributed to the organization of the conference on the Helsinki Final Act’s Mediterranean Chapter and the Future of Mediterranean Co-operation, held in Malta on 10 November.



Students from the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta, with Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, 10 November 2015

Photo by Audrey Cassar (MEDAC)

CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE SECRETARY GENERAL



UNITED NATIONS

As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE strives to align its agenda with the UN's global goals, while carrying out its distinct regional mandate. In 2015, the OSCE further consolidated its well-established co-operation with the UN in areas such as the conflict cycle, mediation and sustainable development.

Within the framework of the regular exchanges between the two Organizations, the Secretary General contributed to several key UN events. These included the UN Secretary-General's Retreat with Heads of International and Regional Organizations, the UN General Assembly Debate on Strengthening Co-operation between the UN and Regional Organizations, and the Sustainable Development Summit. In the context of the latter, Secretary General Zannier pointed to the important contribution the OSCE can make in implementing the 2030 Development Agenda, and called for enhanced partnerships between international organizations in conflict prevention and resolution and peacekeeping activities.

At the operational level, the implementation of existing co-operation agreements with the UN family, including the OSCE-UNODC Action Plan and the memoranda of understanding with the UNDP and the UNODA, continued.



EUROPEAN UNION

In 2015, much of the OSCE's interaction with the EU focused on the crisis in and around Ukraine. The EU continued to provide considerable support, including financial and material assistance, to the SMM. In March, the OSCE Secretary General attended the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers (Gymnich) in Riga to exchange views on the implementation of the Minsk Agreements. The OSCE Secretary General also compared notes on other European security issues with a number of EU officials, including from the European External Action Service, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Political and Security Committee.



Secretary General Lamberto Zannier addressing a joint hearing of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees of the European Parliament
Photo by © European Union 2015

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION



The OSCE and NATO Secretariats continued to engage on topical matters on their co-operation agenda, such as arms control and confidence-building measures, countering transnational threats, their respective engagement

with Afghanistan and the partnership with the Mediterranean countries. OSCE and NATO staff also took part in each other's events, such as NATO's 2015 edition of the Comprehensive Approach Awareness Course, which provided an important opportunity to exchange information on crisis management processes.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The close co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe continued throughout 2015, with enhanced information sharing and co-ordination of activities in four priority areas: promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, the protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against terrorism and combating trafficking in human beings. In keeping with the well-established tradition of information exchange between the OSCE and the Council of Europe, the respective Chairmanships presented their priorities for 2015 at each other's permanent bodies, while the Secretaries General participated in each other's ministerial meeting.

In addition, the Serbian OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary General met their counterparts in the Council of Europe, Chairperson and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium Didier Reynders, and Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, to assess co-operation and review common agenda items between both organizations.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Throughout the year, the Secretary General consulted with the heads of a number of international and regional organizations to foster greater interaction and shared approaches. Among others, the Secretariat interacted with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the CSTO, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, ASEAN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Central European Initiative, the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and the Union for the Mediterranean.

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURES AND PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

SECRETARIAT

CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTRE

The OSCE, in tandem with the UNHCR, continued to provide essential monitoring of the Regional Housing Programme's process of beneficiary selection through three of its field operations (BiH, Montenegro and Serbia).

In April, the CPC accompanied the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CSTO held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. This was the first time the OSCE had been invited to a CSTO Ministerial Council.

Co-ordination and co-operation continued in 2015 with key partner organizations, including the UN and the EU, on the OSCE's conflict cycle toolbox, specifically with regard to early warning and early action, as well as dialogue facilitation and mediation support.

TRANSNATIONAL THREATS DEPARTMENT

The Transnational Threats Department continued to strengthen its regional and international networks of partner organizations. TNTD's main partners were:

- Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
- CSTO
- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
- Council of Europe
- European Cybercrime Training and Education Group
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
- European Police College
- EU
- Europol
- Frontex
- Global Counterterrorism Forum
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Internet Hotlines
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- ILO

- IOM
- INTERPOL
- Migration, Asylum Refugees Regional Initiative
- NATO
- Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe
- RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
- SCO
- Southeast European Law Enforcement Center
- UN Counter-Terrorism Centre
- UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
- UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force
- UNHCR
- UNODC
- World Health Organization

OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR OF ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

In 2015, the OSCE continued its active engagement in the ENVSEC Initiative along with the UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, the UNECE and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe. The OCEEA worked closely with the ENVSEC partners, relevant OSCE field operations and national stakeholders to implement joint projects on various topics ranging from transboundary water management to hazardous waste management, from disaster risk reduction and climate change to strengthening civil society.

In the economic field, the OCEEA partnered with the UNODC, the OECD's Anti-Corruption Network, the World Bank, the FATF and the Eurasian Group to promote good governance and combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The OCEEA also worked with the UNECE on transport issues, and with the WCO, the IOM and the ILO.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings strengthened the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons by convening the group of senior government officials, national anti-trafficking co-ordinators, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, business groups and trade unions, as well as employers' organizations and human rights groups. Speakers at the 2015 conference included Yury Fedotov, Executive Director, UNODC, and Sergey Lebedev, Chairman of the Executive Committee and Executive Secretary of the CIS. The Office also welcomed the CIS as the newest member of the Alliance in 2015.

The Office worked closely with the Council of Europe, jointly organizing a pair of workshops in 2014 and 2015 that focused on the implementation of the non-punishment principle, which holds that human trafficking victims should not be punished for unlawful activities they were forced to commit by their exploiters. The workshops, held in Strasbourg, included judges and prosecutors from across the OSCE region.

GENDER SECTION

The OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Ambassador Miroslava Beham, on behalf of the Secretary General, attended the High-Level UN Security Council debate on women, peace and security on 13 October, where she presented an outline of the OSCE's activities on UNSCR 1325, ranging from supporting OSCE participating States in their implementation of national action plans to providing gender-enhanced mediation support.

HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

The HCNM co-operates closely with counterparts in organizations such as the UN, the EU and the Council of Europe, including regular consultations and participation in relevant events. In 2015, the High Commissioner participated in meetings of the Council of Europe Venice Commission, Ministers' Deputies and the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. She also met with both the European Commission and the European Parliament, and participated in the UN High-Level Policy Dialogue on Guarantees of Non-Recurrence held in Stockholm.

OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2015, ODIHR continued its close co-operation with the Council of Europe in the field of legislative assistance, democratic governance and the rule of law, issuing joint opinions on human dimension legislation, with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission). In the observation of elections, ODIHR regularly partnered with parliamentary delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. The Office also collaborates with the Council of Europe Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UNHCR and the IOM.

REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media engaged with several international organizations during 2015, including at World Press Freedom Day events in Riga co-hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focusing on quality journalism, gender equality in media and safety for female journalists working online.

The Representative also co-operated with the special rapporteurs on free speech from the UN, the Organization of American States and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights to author a joint declaration on freedom of expression and responses to conflict situations.

The Representative also spoke at the Eastern Partnership Media Conference, a UNESCO informational meeting in Paris on the situation in Crimea and an event on journalists' safety hosted by the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs in the run-up to the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution on the issue.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its leading members pursued active engagement with other international organizations on issues ranging from the crisis in and around Ukraine to election monitoring to sustainable development. PA President Ilkka Kanerva addressed international conferences, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) World Conference of Speakers of Parliament and the Russian International Parliamentary Forum, meeting with the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the UN General Assembly. Isabel Santos, the Chairperson of the PA's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions met with the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, the Director General of the IOM, European Parliament members and Red Cross officials on the migrants crisis; former PA President Joao Soares spoke at the IPU Assembly; PA Special Representative Jürgen Klimke addressed the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference; and PA Vice-President Christine Muttonen met with SCO officials. Also in 2015, PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver participated in IPU, NATO PA and UN events and continued trilateral consultations with his NATO PA and PACE counterparts.

ANNEXES

List of Abbreviations

- ASEAN** – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- BiH** – Bosnia and Herzegovina
- BMSC** – Border Management Staff College
- CBM** – Confidence-building measures
- CSBMs** – Confidence- and security-building measures
- CSTO** – Collective Security Treaty Organization
- CPC** – Conflict Prevention Centre
- DCAF** – Democratic Control of Armed Forces
- EU** – European Union
- EUFOR** – European Union Force
- Europol** – European Police Office
- FATF** – Financial Action Task Force
- FSC** – Forum for Security Co-operation
- GID** – Geneva International Discussions
- HCNM** – High Commissioner on National Minorities
- ICT** – Information and communication technology
- ICRC** – International Committee of the Red Cross
- ILO** – International Labour Organization
- IOM** – International Organization for Migration
- IT** – Information technology
- NATO** – North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- NGO** – Non-governmental organization
- OCEEA** – Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- ODIHR** – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- OECD** – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- OFA** – Ohrid Framework Agreement
- OSCE** – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- PA** – Parliamentary Assembly
- PACE** – Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

SALW – Small arms and light weapons

SCO – Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

SMM – Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

TNTD – Transnational Threats Department

UN – United Nations

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund

UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

USAID – United States Agency for International Development

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNODA – United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

UNSCR – United Nations Security Council Resolution

WCO – World Customs Organization

Unified Budget

FUNDS RELATED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	UNIFIED BUDGET (€)	% OF TOTAL
Secretariat	39,630,900	28%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	18,306,400	13%
High Commissioner on National Minorities	3,407,600	2%
Representative on Freedom of the Media	1,481,600	1%
TOTAL FOR FUNDS RELATED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	62,826,500	44%
FUNDS RELATED TO OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS		
South-Eastern Europe		
Mission in Kosovo	18,886,600	13%
Tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina	11,450,300	8%
Mission to Serbia	6,429,000	4%
Presence in Albania	2,918,500	2%
Mission to Skopje	6,257,200	4%
Mission to Montenegro	2,146,200	1%
Total for South-Eastern Europe	48,087,800	34%
Eastern Europe		
Mission to Moldova	2,200,000	2%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2,993,000	2%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners	9,000	0%
Total for Eastern Europe	5,202,000	4%
South Caucasus		
Office in Yerevan	2,954,400	2%
Project Co-ordinator in Baku	1,800,000	1%
High-Level Planning Group	251,300	0%
The Minsk Process	927,500	1%
Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference	1,173,000	1%
Total for South Caucasus	7,106,200	5%
Central Asia		
Programme Office in Astana	2,148,700	2%
Centre in Ashgabat	1,570,800	1%
Centre in Bishkek	6,909,600	5%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	1,994,900	1%
Office in Tajikistan	7,338,200	5%
Total for Central Asia	19,962,200	14%
TOTAL FOR OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS	80,358,200	56%
GRAND TOTAL	€ 143,184,700	100%

The Unified Budget excludes the SMM.

Includes the Unified Budget of €141,107,600 as approved by PC Decision 1158 and the ODIHR's supplementary budget of €2,077,100 as approved by PC Decision 1177.

Contributions by participating States

PARTICIPATING STATE	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS 2015 UNIFIED BUDGET (€)	% OF TOTAL
Albania	86,696	0,1%
Andorra	86,696	0,1%
Armenia	44,928	0,0%
Austria	3,242,838	2,3%
Azerbaijan	44,928	0,0%
Belarus	190,099	0,1%
Belgium	4,725,638	3,3%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	86,696	0,1%
Bulgaria	349,003	0,2%
Canada	7,640,956	5,4%
Croatia	199,770	0,1%
Cyprus	199,770	0,1%
Czech Republic	676,187	0,5%
Denmark	2,920,551	2,1%
Estonia	122,894	0,1%
Finland	2,721,534	1,9%
France	14,679,830	10,4%
Georgia	44,928	0,0%
Germany	15,508,383	11,0%
Greece	1,169,310	0,8%
Holy See	86,696	0,1%
Hungary	658,726	0,5%
Iceland	182,687	0,1%
Ireland	1,092,474	0,8%
Italy	14,679,830	10,4%
Kazakhstan	251,734	0,2%
Kyrgyzstan	44,928	0,0%
Latvia	127,165	0,1%
Liechtenstein	86,696	0,1%
Lithuania	127,165	0,1%
Luxembourg	475,287	0,3%
Malta	90,967	0,1%
Moldova	44,928	0,0%
Monaco	86,696	0,1%
Mongolia	44,928	0,0%
Montenegro	44,928	0,0%
Netherlands	5,477,491	3,9%
Norway	2,909,789	2,1%
Poland	1,648,699	1,2%
Portugal	1,024,100	0,7%
Romania	436,640	0,3%
Russian Federation	5,476,833	3,9%
San Marino	86,696	0,1%
Serbia	95,049	0,1%
Slovak Republic	284,058	0,2%
Slovenia	271,999	0,2%
Spain	6,821,483	4,8%
Sweden	4,717,097	3,3%
Switzerland	3,888,248	2,8%
Tajikistan	44,928	0,0%
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	86,696	0,1%
Turkey	1,203,100	0,9%
Turkmenistan	44,928	0,0%
Ukraine	498,276	0,4%
United Kingdom	14,679,830	10,4%
United States of America	18,362,819	13,0%
Uzbekistan	237,623	0,2%
Gap in Scales	-56,255	0,0%
TOTAL	141,107,600	100%

Extrabudgetary pledges and expenditures

Extrabudgetary (ExB) pledges represent all pledges received and approved in 2015.

ExB expenditures represent funds spent in 2015 against all ExB projects related to current-year pledges, as well as pledges received in previous years.

DONOR	APPROVED PLEDGE AMOUNT (€)	%
European Union	4,000,000	15,69%
Germany	3,581,078	14,04%
United States	2,747,297	10,77%
Netherlands	2,694,633	10,57%
Japan	2,257,812	8,86%
Canada	1,955,369	7,67%
Switzerland	1,571,101	6,16%
Sweden	1,086,075	4,26%
Norway	1,026,850	4,03%
Italy	614,900	2,41%
France	610,000	2,39%
United Kingdom	477,299	1,87%
Denmark	404,527	1,59%
Finland	245,000	0,96%
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	185,000	0,73%
World Customs Organization (WCO)	182,809	0,72%
Liechtenstein	180,553	0,71%
Luxembourg	175,000	0,69%
Czech Republic	150,180	0,59%
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)	147,600	0,58%
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	139,400	0,55%
Austria	139,000	0,55%
ENVSEC Trust Fund	133,950	0,53%
Ireland	131,928	0,52%
Monaco	112,400	0,44%
Serbia	90,000	0,35%
Belgium	82,500	0,32%
Latvia	52,610	0,21%
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	52,164	0,20%
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	47,193	0,19%
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)	33,368	0,13%
Turkey	30,000	0,12%
Malta	25,000	0,10%
Russian Federation	21,000	0,08%
International Media Support	20,720	0,08%
Andorra	20,000	0,08%
Poland	19,267	0,08%
Australia	13,500	0,05%
Israel	10,000	0,04%
Lithuania	10,000	0,04%
South Korea	9,214	0,04%
Hungary	6,000	0,02%
Folke Bernadotte Academy (Sweden)	2,970	0,01%
The Finnish Institute of International Affairs	2,000	0,01%
GRAND TOTAL	25,497,268	100%

Extrabudgetary pledges and expenditure to the SMM are included.

DONOR	EXPENDITURE (€)	%
European Union	7,082,096	16,47%
United States	5,951,552	13,84%
Germany	4,688,435	10,91%
Switzerland	4,558,459	10,60%
Finland	2,838,593	6,60%
Norway	2,346,861	5,46%
Netherlands	2,289,968	5,33%
Sweden	2,004,881	4,66%
Japan	1,854,858	4,31%
Canada	1,795,723	4,18%
Denmark	1,131,619	2,63%
Italy	849,545	1,98%
United Kingdom	849,517	1,98%
Russian Federation	477,382	1,11%
Austria	400,783	0,93%
Ireland	377,648	0,88%
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	314,805	0,73%
Turkey	312,776	0,73%
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	308,796	0,72%
ENVSEC Trust Fund	300,396	0,70%
World Customs Organization (WCO)	239,722	0,56%
Luxembourg	235,617	0,55%
Poland	185,530	0,43%
Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)	182,177	0,42%
Liechtenstein	141,537	0,33%
Czech Republic	132,684	0,31%
Monaco	129,892	0,30%
Australia	109,203	0,25%
Hungary	99,364	0,23%
Serbia	83,863	0,20%
Belgium	63,630	0,15%
Iceland	60,056	0,14%
Spain	57,289	0,13%
Lithuania	53,579	0,12%
Thailand	50,000	0,12%
Georgia	39,950	0,09%
Estonia	39,025	0,09%
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)	37,071	0,09%
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)	34,525	0,08%
Kazakhstan	33,887	0,08%
South Korea	30,531	0,07%
Latvia	26,491	0,06%
France	23,751	0,06%
Slovakia	23,608	0,05%
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	21,333	0,05%
Israel	20,467	0,05%
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)	17,622	0,04%
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	17,396	0,04%
Andorra	12,246	0,03%
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	11,488	0,03%
Croatia	10,000	0,02%
ExB - Various HCNM	7,659	0,02%
Bulgaria	4,568	0,01%
Arab Republic of Egypt	4,283	0,01%
Malta	3,987	0,01%
International Labour Organization (ILO)	2,970	0,01%
Stiftung EVZ	1,805	0,00%
San Marino	1,621	0,00%
Press Now	560	0,00%
Albania	558	0,00%
Center for Energy Systems (Slovakia)	542	0,00%
United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)	213	0,00%
Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina	90	0,00%
GRAND TOTAL	42,987,075	100%



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Staff

NATIONALITY	Kosovo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Skopje	Serbia	Montenegro	Albania	Yerevan	PR CiO Minsk Conference	Moldova	Ukraine	Astana	Ashgabat	Bishkek	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Totals for Field Operations	Secretariat	RFOM	HCNM	ODIHR	Totals for Secretariat and Institutions	GRAND TOTALS
Albania	2													1		3	2			1	2	5
Armenia													2			2	2			1	3	5
Austria	2		1	4		3								1		11	10	1		2	13	24
Azerbaijan															1	1	1			1	2	3
Belarus																	2			2	4	4
Belgium																	1			1	2	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9		1	1	1									1		13	5	1		4	10	23
Bulgaria		1						1			1	1	2	1		7	1			1	2	9
Canada	4	1				2							2			9	5			3	8	17
Croatia	3															3	1		1		2	5
Czech Republic	3	1	1		1		1	1								8	1			1	2	10
Denmark																			1		1	1
Finland	2		1											1		4	6		3		9	13
France	4								1					1		6	10	1	2	4	17	23
Georgia	2										1			1		4	4			3	7	11
Germany	4	4	1	1		1			1		1		1	3		17	24	2	2	7	35	52
Greece	4		2											1		7	4				4	11
Hungary	4		5		1								2		1	13	2	1		1	4	17
Iceland																	1				1	1
Ireland	4	4	3			1								1		13	7				7	20
Italy	13	7	3	8	1	3					1		2	2		40	11		2	4	17	57
Kazakhstan																	4	1		1	6	6
Kyrgyzstan	1			1					1							3	1			1	2	5
Latvia													1			1				1	1	2
Lithuania										1						1	1				1	2
Luxembourg																	1				1	1
Malta																	1				1	1
Moldova			1	1		1							3	2		8	4		1		5	13
Montenegro	1					2										3	1				1	4
Netherlands		1	1										1			3			1	1	2	5
Norway														1		1	2	1		2	5	6
Poland	1		3					1	1			1	2	2		11	1			11	12	23
Portugal	1															1						1
Romania	1		1													2	1			1	2	4
Russian Federation	1	2	1		1		1						9	3		18	9		1	3	13	31
Serbia		1			1								1		1	4	2			2	4	8
Slovakia	1	1	1									1				4	2				2	6
Slovenia						1								1		2	2			1	3	5
Spain	1	3	1													5	5	1		1	7	12
Sweden	4			1				1	3							9	3	1		1	5	14
Switzerland	1			2					1			1		1		6	6				6	12
fYR of Macedonia	18	2				1								2		23	2			2	4	27
Turkey	3		1									1				5	4			1	5	10
Turkmenistan														1		1						1
Ukraine	1		1					1			1		1			5	3			3	6	11
United Kingdom	15	1	5	1	2	2	1	1	2					2		32	7	1	1	5	14	46
United States	3	7	3	5	1	1	1		3	1	1	1	6	3		36	12	1	2	6	21	57
Uzbekistan							1			1		1				3	2			1	3	6
Internationally recruited staff	113	36	37	25	9	18	5	6	13	3	6	7	35	32	3	348	176	12	17	79	284	632
Locally recruited staff	404	283	103	129	31	61	43	11	39	66	22	20	123	183	21	1,539	191	3	13	69	276	1,815
Total number of staff	517	319	140	154	40	79	48	17	52	69	28	27	158	215	24	1,887	367	15	30	148	560	2,447

Includes staff in posts as of 31 December 2015 financed from the Unified Budget and extrabudgetary contributions, but not staff from the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine or the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

Previous page: A monitor from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine holding a flower, 10 April 2015.

Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka (OSCE)


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