

ISSUE 2, 2014

SECURITY COMMUNITY

THE OSCE MAGAZINE



Overview »



1 Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina When floods hit southeastern Europe in May, the OSCE Missions to Serbia and to Bosnia and Herzegovina were quick to join international relief efforts. p.6

2 Ukraine. The OSCE's response to the crisis in Ukraine includes negotiation, monitoring, election observation, military verification and dialogue. p.22

3 Geneva, Switzerland The OSCE's Court of Conciliation and Arbitration has untapped potential to resolve disputes among participating States. p.36

4 Denmark A Danish NGO and crime prevention initiative have teamed up to let the magic of football help kids steer away from extremism and radicalization. p.42

Contents » Issue 2, 2014

Milestones

**Cyber/ICT security:
building confidence**

4

Special Section

6



**When nature comes
unbound**

The OSCE joins flood relief action; The responsibility to predict; Case study: Monthey, Valais, Switzerland

Security Community

18



**Chapter VIII: what it is and
why it matters**

Focus

22



The OSCE in Ukraine
Fast tracking monitors;
Monitoring Ukraine's
presidential election

Quilt



Report



**Politically Exposed
Persons**

36

Inside the OSCE
The OSCE Court of
Conciliation and Arbitra-
tion

Civil Society

38



**Interview with Madeleine
Rees, Women's Interna-
tional League for Peace
and Freedom**

Debate

40

**Journalism's Pandora's
Box?**

Best Practice

42



The magic of football

Books

44



**Victor-Yves Gheballi's
monumental OSCE
history**

Percolations

46

Security Community is published by the OSCE Secretariat Press and Public Information Section
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: +43 1 51436 6267
oscemagazine@osce.org

Available in print in English and Russian and online in English, Russian, German and French at www.osce.org

Available as a free app for iPad.

The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the OSCE and its participating States.

Editor

Ursula Froese

Editorial Board

Miroslava Beham, Cathie Burton, Ursula Froese, Adam Kobieracki, Alexey Lyzhenkov, Ian Mitchell, Marcel Pesko, Desiree Schweitzer

Design and Illustrations

Antoine van Dijck

Print

Elanders, Hungary
Fonts: LeMonde Journal; Akkurat

Security Community nurtures the development of a community of people committed to furthering trust and stability across the OSCE area. Written contributions on aspects of politico-military, economic and environmental or human security are welcome. Texts are subject to editing.

The cover of Security Community is a space for a visual debate on the idea of a security community and related issues. Artists are invited to contribute. Copyright remains with the artist.

All materials published at the OSCE's discretion. No fees are paid for published work. Please write oscemagazine@osce.org. The OSCE thanks all authors and artists for their contributions.

Photos: OSCE unless otherwise indicated

Front Cover

Bird Before Flight
By Michel Buchs
© Municipality of
Montreux

**Being attentive to
early signs of
possible disasters
before they
materialize was the
theme of the OSCE's
second preparatory
meeting for the 22nd
Economic and
Environmental
Forum on 20 and 21
May in Montreux,
Switzerland.**



Information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructures – our telephone lines, broadcast cables, Internet connections, servers and computing clouds – are the fibre that connects us in the modern world. Once we would gather in the same room to talk and put messages on paper to send by post over land, sea or air; now we carry out our transactions electronically. Cyber space is the place where the drama of our lives is played out.

The result: an attack on our communication networks is now a much more personal affair. No matter where we are, this is a threat we share, and a threat that all governments need to address. It has the power to bring us together to solve a common problem, and at the same time, it carries the potential of being seriously divisive. Can we trust each other? Do we have a choice?



Security

BUILDING
Confidence

By Lamberto Zannier

OSCE participating States have set a precedent by adopting confidence building measures to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (ICT).

CYBER/ICT security

Cyber-attack is the epitome of a 21st century threat: global in nature, virtually untraceable, eminently deniable, and with perpetrators who can be based anywhere and who can take any form, from a single lone hacker to an organized group. What's more, as soon as means are found to track existing technologies, they have already evolved, making risk planning a pitfall of unknown factors that in themselves can act to destabilize efforts to maintain international peace and security.

This is a situation where confidence building measures come into their own. An innovation for the OSCE founders – those visionaries who prepared the first Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe 40 years ago – they now look like the best means to solve the problems of a world which would have seemed like science fiction all those years ago. Nuclear weapons and cyberspace are very different concepts, one a specific technology whose *raison d'être* was to never be used, the other ubiquitous and used all over the globe. Yet the answer to reducing the risk of nuclear war may also hold the answer to reducing our present cyber-threat.

The secret lies in the way that confidence building measures act to defuse tension, to allow states to slowly open up to each other, begin to share information, identify common problems and search for common solutions. Over the decades, the OSCE has amassed a rich experience in developing and adapting them to all areas of its work, and in April 2012, participating States decided to leverage that experience to the present threat of cyber/ICT security.

Embarking on an ambitious journey to search for ways to prevent misperceptions and reduce the risk of a cyber-attack escalating into real world conflict, they began negotiations chaired by the United States and supported by the OSCE Secretariat. These culminated last year in an agreement on an initial set of 11 cyber/ICT security confidence building measures. Focusing on increasing transparency, the measures represent a major breakthrough and a first for the OSCE region. They include provisions for communication and information sharing at government and expert level and for the use of the OSCE as a platform for exchanging best practices.

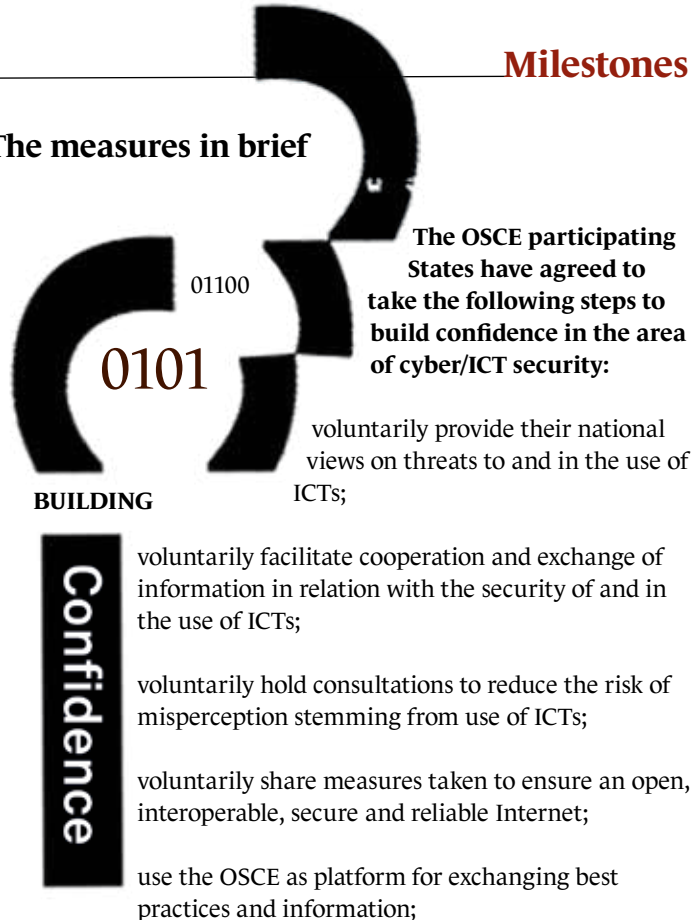
Most of the measures are voluntary, reflecting the experience that the key to success is to begin with what is easily doable and to progress as trust grows. One of the most basic and yet most potentially effective measures is creating a shared vocabulary, allowing states to speak the same language to avoid falling into dangerous misperceptions. To this end states have agreed to share their national terminologies, accompanied by an explanation for each term. The eventual goal is to produce a consensus glossary, and if this is achieved, it will be a great service to the international community. With cyber/ICT security now being discussed in many fora, these measures are also intended to feed into other regional and international processes.

In essence, these initial confidence and security building measures are an expression of goodwill among participating States – an invitation to dance. When insecurity is high, the first step is often the most difficult. After that, it is a matter of getting to know one another, of finding a common rhythm.

I fully expect that participating States will consider adopting additional measures to further reduce risk of misperception, escalation and conflict. How quickly they implement the initial set of confidence building measures and identify new ones will depend on their political will.

Lamberto Zannier is Secretary General of the OSCE.

The measures in brief



encourage modern and effective national legislation to facilitate co-operation on countering criminal or terrorist misuse of ICTs;

voluntarily share information on their national organization, strategies, policies and programmes relevant to security and use of ICTs, including on public-private partnerships;

nominate a contact point to facilitate pertinent communications and dialogue on the security of and use of ICTs;

voluntarily provide a list of national terminology related to security and use of ICTs. In the longer term they will endeavour to produce a consensus glossary;

use OSCE mechanisms such as the Communications Network, maintained by the Conflict Prevention Centre, for communications regarding the confidence building measures;

meet at least three times a year to discuss information exchanged and explore development of confidence building measures.

Read the full decision here: www.osce.org/pc/109168

For more information about the OSCE's work for cyber/ICT security contact: Ben.Hiller@osce.org

In May, a polar air mass met subtropical Mediterranean air and formed an extreme low pressure zone, causing the heaviest rainfall over southeastern Europe in the history of recorded weather data. At the same time, water from the west carried by the swollen Danube filled the Black Sea. The result was massive flooding of the Sava River and its tributaries Bosna and Kolubra, killing over 80 people and putting millions into distress.

When natural disaster hits, there is only one thing to do, react as quickly, as efficiently and as generously as possible. The OSCE has field operations in Serbia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Without delay they joined international efforts to provide relief.

The Swiss OSCE Chairmanship has made reducing the risk of natural disasters a priority on the Organization's agenda. When the waters subside – or better still, before they swell – is the time for the participating States of the OSCE, dedicated to the prevention of threats to stability and security in the region, to come together and determine how they could best work together to preempt mother nature's vicissitudes.



WHEN NATURE COMES UNBOUND

Charity fund

When the floods wreaked their devastation in southeastern Europe in mid-May, the OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier, immediately authorized €30,000 for the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and €15,000 for the Mission to Serbia from the OSCE Charity Fund.

Co-ordinating closely with the international community, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina bought rubber boots, sleeping bags, blankets. The Mission to Serbia responded to an urgent Red Cross request and bought 10,000 pair of underwear for displaced persons forced from their homes with nothing but the wet clothes on their back.

Both offices also drew on their own funds and staff generously volunteered their help and personal donations. The Mission to Skopje – later affected by flooding itself – was quick to offer each of the OSCE Missions €2,000 from its standing Blossom Fund.

Reprogramming in Serbia

“The Serbian authorities really needed equipment in the opening days. Our Democratization Department has an ongoing programme on emergency management, so that we were already in contact with the Interior Ministry’s Emergency Management Sector as a regular partner. We were able to reprogramme €23,551 in exchange rate savings from an extra-budgetary project funded by the Swedish government, with its very gracious and quick response. We procured one heavy duty pump, at cost, plus three smaller pumps,” said Paula Thiede, Deputy Head of the Mission to Serbia.

“We also have a Swedish-funded Roma Assistance Project within which we were able to reprogramme €155,000 to procure 1,000 sanitary kits for delivery to the Roma community and help with immediate needs of the Roma settlements in Obrenovac, the Serbian town worst hit by the floods,” she said.

Field office network in Bosnia and Herzegovina

“Visiting Sekovice on the Drina was heartbreaking. The garbage dump was on the river banks and when the flood hit it brought all the garbage back into town. It was strewn all over the village. Their own garbage dump, redeposited in the middle of town. We helped with volunteer aid and supply packages,” said Fletcher Burton, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has the only network of international field presences in the country outside of EUFOR (the EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina). We opened five additional temporary offices in the flood affected areas Maglaj, Bijeljina, Samac, Orasje and Prijedor. We offered the use of our network to the humanitarian agencies, who are the real experts in responding to natural disasters. Our colleagues briefed them and provided contacts and assistance with local peculiarities, which only we can offer because we live here; we know this region better than anybody,” he said.

Photos (L-R): 1 Flooding in Posavina Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) (OSCE/Gonzalo de Cesare); 2 Flooding in Obrenovac, Serbia (OSCE/Milan Obradovic); 3 Austrian Red Cross, BiH (OSCE/Danica Pelemis-Subotic); 4,5 landslides in Tuzla Canton, BiH (OSCE/Danica Pelemis-Subotic); 6,7 Cleaning and disinfection in Obrenovac, Serbia (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

The responsibility to predict

Dealing out disasters may be nature's prerogative, but reducing the risks is our responsibility.

The Swiss experience

During the past decade, one million people died as a result of natural occurrences, with earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and cyclones causing an estimated US\$1,000 billion in damages, according to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Yet the tragic deaths and large financial losses can't be imputed solely to nature. Security also depends on properly understanding the risks associated with an unpredictable environment and on adopting concrete measures to reduce its impact.

This phrase might appear to be simple common sense. But the fact is that in many parts of the world, a growing population density in areas prone to extreme events coupled with ignorance of risks, chaotic national planning, absence of appropriate construction codes and unscrupulous exploitation of natural resources is causing the number of natural disasters to consistently grow.

The OSCE works to reinforce awareness of risks to security and stability and to adopt necessary measures to reduce them. This is the spirit in which the 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship decided to rank the prevention of natural disasters among its top priorities.

Because of its topography, Switzerland is regularly confronted with hazards like landslides, avalanches or floods. This has been going on since the beginning of history. What is new, however, is that these phenomena are becoming more frequent with climate change, degradation of the permafrost and melting glaciers in the Alps. After intense river swellings in 1987, 1993, 1999, 2000 and 2005, Switzerland began developing an intense culture of integrated risk management at the municipal, cantonal and national levels.

Not content to sit on the knowledge gained, Switzerland is sharing its experience beyond its borders. In Tajikistan for example, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation is backing an integrated watershed management programme. The aim is to reduce the risk of rainfall-related disasters such as floods, landslides or debris flows for villages located in low-lying areas.

The project team decides on measures together with the local communities. They focus on five areas: pasture management, sustainable agriculture, agro-forestry, energy efficiency (to reduce pressure on the forests and other vegetation) and the infrastructures of mitigation.

Constructing watering points for cattle, covering watersheds with leguminous plants to prevent soil erosion, providing training in soil preservation techniques, planting fruit trees, modernizing ovens to reduce wood consumption, rehabilitating mudslide deviation channels, reinforcing bridges, building a retention basin for flood protection: these are some of the ways in which the project is building the resilience of the population against natural disasters.

It is important to bear in mind that absolute protection of the population, goods and resources does not exist. It is essential to consider which priority security measures to adopt, the effort needed to achieve them and the likelihood of residual risks.

Provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDA)

Read more about SDA activities here: www.sdc.admin.ch

Three experts

Montreux Disaster risk reduction

Switzerland welcomed over a hundred stakeholders to Montreux and the surrounding Valais Alps on 20 and 21 May 2014 for the Second Preparatory Meeting for the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. Three experts who participated explain why international co-operation is so important.



Do-how, not just know-how

Toni Frisch tells how the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) has been working to transform disaster response from chaotic to co-ordinated.

“In 1988 a heavy earthquake occurred in Spitak, Armenia, and there was a chaotic response – totally unco-ordinated and unprofessional. Too many of those involved had not been prepared in any way. This was the initial impetus for setting up an international group that would work together for urban search and rescue.

“Due to our international involvement over many years, we are privileged in Switzerland to have a whole range of expertise, in natural disasters and crisis, rapid response, relief, reconstruction, and also in prevention and preparedness. In 1989 I made a proposal that the three German-speaking countries Switzerland, Germany and Austria should work together. In 1991, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) was established, with 12 countries and the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as an umbrella. I was nominated as Chairperson – and I still have the Chair.

“Since then, INSARAG has developed tremendously. We are a worldwide well-anchored network of 80 countries, some ten international organizations and also several NGOs, all committed to search and rescue operations. The whole active world of search and rescue is now joined together in INSARAG. (So far, the OSCE has not been participating, but that is certainly a possibility.)

“Search and rescue is the spearhead of a relief operation after a heavy earthquake. To react effectively, we have to be on the spot, we have to make best use of the facts on the ground, we have to organize our action and we have to establish also from the outset a co-ordination centre, so that others rushing in can be properly organized. Only the best quality will do. INSARAG has established standards and guidelines for training, exercises and response, approved by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in 2002.

“Search and rescue operations are a very time-specific, limited aspect of relief, however. For a given disaster, there might be only a few people rescued, and thousands of people dead. So already 20 years ago I said, “we have to broaden, we have to work in capacity building.” And many countries have been doing that successfully now for many years.

“Training cannot just be chatting about theory. We need people training others who have personal practical experience, not only know-how but also do-how.

“In 2005, we made another important step forward. We started a system of certification, we call it classification, to distinguish between the ad hoc and the professional, based on peer review.

“These two things together, professional response in case of emergency and capacity building worldwide, are the best and most effective combination one can have.”

Ambassador Toni Frisch is the Chair of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG).



Dislodged, displaced, disenfranchised

Nina Birkeland explains the plight of people displaced across borders by natural disasters and how the Nansen Initiative is working to improve it.

“Most of the people who have been forced out of their homes by the recent floods in the Balkans will stay within their national borders, where their states have the responsibility to assist and protect them. But some, I am sure, will go to another country. What will be their fate?”

“When people are displaced across borders because of natural disaster, they fall into a gap. They have no formal legal status. They are not refugees, since displacement caused by natural disasters is not covered by the United Nations refugee convention.

“At the Norwegian Refugee Council, we monitor and report on forced population movements. We have found that people in at least 25 OSCE participating States have experienced displacement caused by natural disaster or effects of climate change in the past six years.

“Some people think you could include people displaced by disaster in the refugee convention. I

don't think you should, because what has been achieved there is very clear: The refugee convention [United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees] aims to protect people against “persecution”, which implies a state's intention to breach human rights or its tolerance of such breaches. It would be a very complicated and long process to have the convention changed without weakening the rights of those already covered by it. For cases of displacement due to disaster and climate change, we need to find other ways of protecting these people. That is why Norway and Switzerland started the Nansen Initiative.

“This is not something that will be solved in two or three years, it will be a longer process. But already now we are seeing some good practices emerging.

“The first step is to recognize what is happening and to find out how these people are managing. Some might cope by themselves, some might get help from civil society or faith based organizations and some might find a way to present themselves as labour migrants.

“The Nansen Initiative consults with the government and with civil society in a country and tries to establish what the specific realities are in different regions. We bring facts to the table and we ask them what the issues are in their countries, and which further actions can be taken at the community, national, regional and international level to address those challenges.

“What we have seen is that access to jobs, education and healthcare is often more difficult for those who are displaced, even within a country. Public support may be given not through the nation but at the local level. And if you are not home you may not be eligible.

“A second step is to find examples of good practices, which countries could share. The overall goal of the Nansen Initiative is to build consensus on key principles regarding the protection of persons displaced across borders in the context of natural disasters.

“Is there a role for the OSCE? Participating States could include displacement and prevention of it in their national policies on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. For those already displaced, they could search for durable solutions from a regional perspective, which the OSCE field missions are in an excellent position to monitor.”

Nina M. Birkeland is Senior Adviser on Disasters and Climate Change in the Partnerships and Policy Department of the Norwegian Refugee Council, which supports the Nansen Initiative.



Prepare for political earthquakes

Fred Tipson argues that we have entered an era in which popular attitudes toward security will change drastically in response to environmental degradation.

What changes are in store?

The latest report of the International Panel on Climate Change confirms that the deteriorating Arctic and Antarctic ice sheets are going to lift the sea level much higher than anticipated, and sooner than previously supposed. As we all know, the sea does not have to rise very much, just a few inches, before storm surge impacts become much greater. This is going to change peoples' priorities in fundamental ways.

We still tend to think of natural disasters as one-off events rather than symptoms of a broader trend that we should be taking far more seriously. The cause is not just climate change, but also population growth, the progressive evolution of food and water scarcity and expense, coupled with a very pervasive political incapacity to make large and difficult decisions. Even where there are pretty obvious steps to be taken – if not solutions, then risk management approaches – governments are finding themselves unable to take those decisions. This combination of things will change the way people think

about their personal and family security, and it will affect where people decide to locate, relocate or remain.

Politically, this may exacerbate anti-immigration attitudes within Europe and also in the United States. And given what I expect will be a series of large and symptomatic natural disasters from place to place, people will begin to connect the dots and have a much different attitude to what is going on all around them.

What could be done?

The challenge is to recognize that the kinds of impacts we are talking about – floods, droughts, famine and disease – are really transnational issues, which individual governments and politicians have difficulties dealing with in national political terms. It may be that through a more intense international discussion of these matters we can provide encouragement to local leaders to address them more courageously.

In some ways we should learn from our efforts to avoid catastrophe during the Cold War. Our principle concern in those days was preventing a nuclear exchange, whether deliberate or, much more likely, through miscalculation and escalation. We didn't talk so much in terms of scientific certainty of the threats we were facing, we talked in terms of risks, probabilities and scenarios. We thought, at least in the security community, in meticulous detail about how something like that could happen. Not to scare everybody to death, but to come up with ways to adjust, to lower the tensions, to use diplomatic processes for communicating better. This led to the security conference in Helsinki in 1975, and the beginnings of the OSCE.

Where should our focus be?

The implication of many of the scientific projections concerning environmental change is that certain parts of the world will become uninhabitable. We need to think about the implications of that, in terms of political pressure, conflict potential, the darker side of human behaviour.

Certainly a stoic response of increasing resilience is of the highest importance. And of course we also want to work on our heroic capacity for relief assistance. But if we read the symptoms and the scientific projections with any honesty, we have to realize that these stoic and heroic responses are not going to be sufficient. As we enter the era of environmental change I call "ecozoic", some people are going to have to move to survive. The sooner we begin to realize which parts of the world are most likely to be

vulnerable to that kind of pressure, and begin to prepare for it, the easier it will be to manage. Confronting these matters now will be a whole lot easier than if it has to be done in a crisis of the moment, when there is no time, and no ability to adjust and preserve basic political stability and freedoms.

International solidarity, in the end, is our only hope. The danger, I fear, is that we won't come to grips with these issues soon enough to avoid very self-interested and self-protective responses, popularly generated by unscrupulous politicians who will exaggerate them for their own purposes. There is also the danger that terrorist and criminal groups will take advantage of these threats of natural disaster to compound panic and mayhem. Corrupt governments will have an even harder time sorting this out.

That is why I feel such ambivalence about all of the effort being put into disaster risk reduction in the United Nations and other international bodies – the development of principles and programmes, the preparations for the meeting next March in Sendai, Japan [Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015]. It is all very constructive discussion, but within a limited stovepipe of expertise, with very little visibility or public support. It is very likely that many of these principles will not be implemented, or if they are, that they will be narrowly constructed in a way that does not take account of these broader political dangers.

We still think of environmental risk reduction essentially in economic, engineering and technical terms, and not as huge political challenges that have the potential to unravel into conflict.

What could the OSCE do?

In 1975, the Helsinki Final Act created a kind of higher authority, above that of individual states, to which people could appeal. Coming up to 40 years after Helsinki, we should think about concluding a new pact of solidarity to co-operate on trans-national environmental, demographic and resource-related risks.

We are already doing this to some extent in what I would call the first two baskets: developing stoic resilience on the one hand and an heroic ethic of assistance on the other – assistance that is not only compassionate and generous but also quite realistic about not using assistance funds simply to reinforce situations that are not sustainable over the long run. But the most difficult basket, as was the case with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, will be

the third: developing solutions for the ecozoic era, when compounded environmental stresses will impose drastic responses such as relocation.

We need to make planned relocation an international topic of discussion, about what the most vulnerable places are, where current communities are not sustainable. We need to consider this a common problem that we can talk about managing together. And again, hopefully that discussion will give political cover to politicians who couldn't possibly discuss these issues alone domestically.

The idea of a new pact, a new Final Act sounds naïve, I know. Governments are not ready; the public is not ready. But it is my opinion that the realization of the danger will sink in more quickly than we currently think. Many environmental groups are concerned that the general public seems so apathetic. I predict that as we begin to see more disasters, on a larger scale than we are used to, the public will begin asking its own questions, for its own safety and security. It will begin to realize how vulnerable some of us, most of us, are. And that will change the politics in place after place—and then on a global scale. There will be public demand, and this will change the receptiveness of governments to addressing those issues.

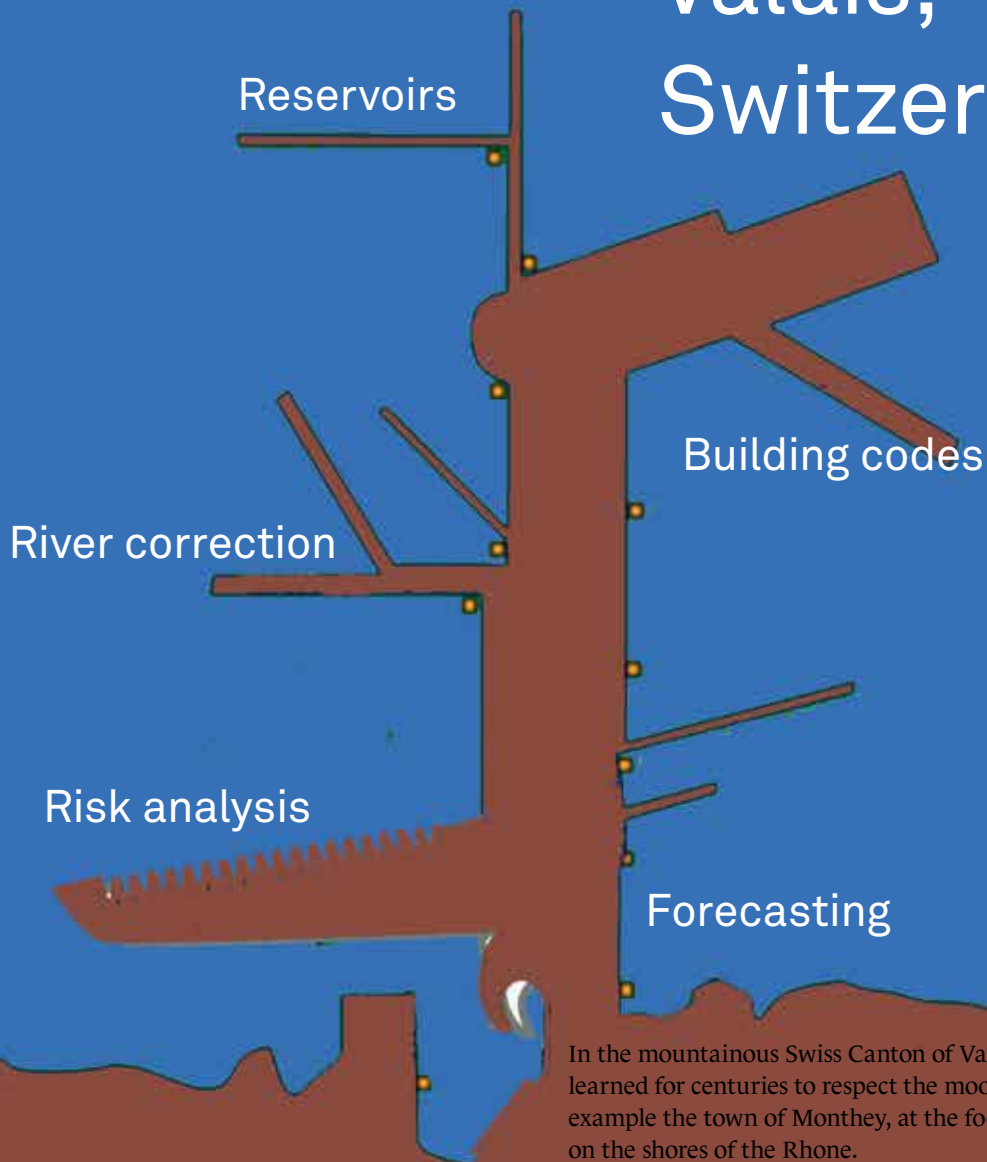
So if the OSCE is still the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, we should think now about this important agenda of our future together.

Fred Tipson is Special Advisor at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C..

The OSCE and climate change

The OSCE, together with its Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) partners, has since 2013 been conducting a project to assess the security implications of climate change and identify hotspots in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia. The € 2.1 million project is supported by the European Commission Instrument for Stability and the Austrian Development Agency. National consultations, which took place in 11 countries from January to May 2014, will be followed by regional consultations, in a participatory process that includes governments, NGOs and academia.

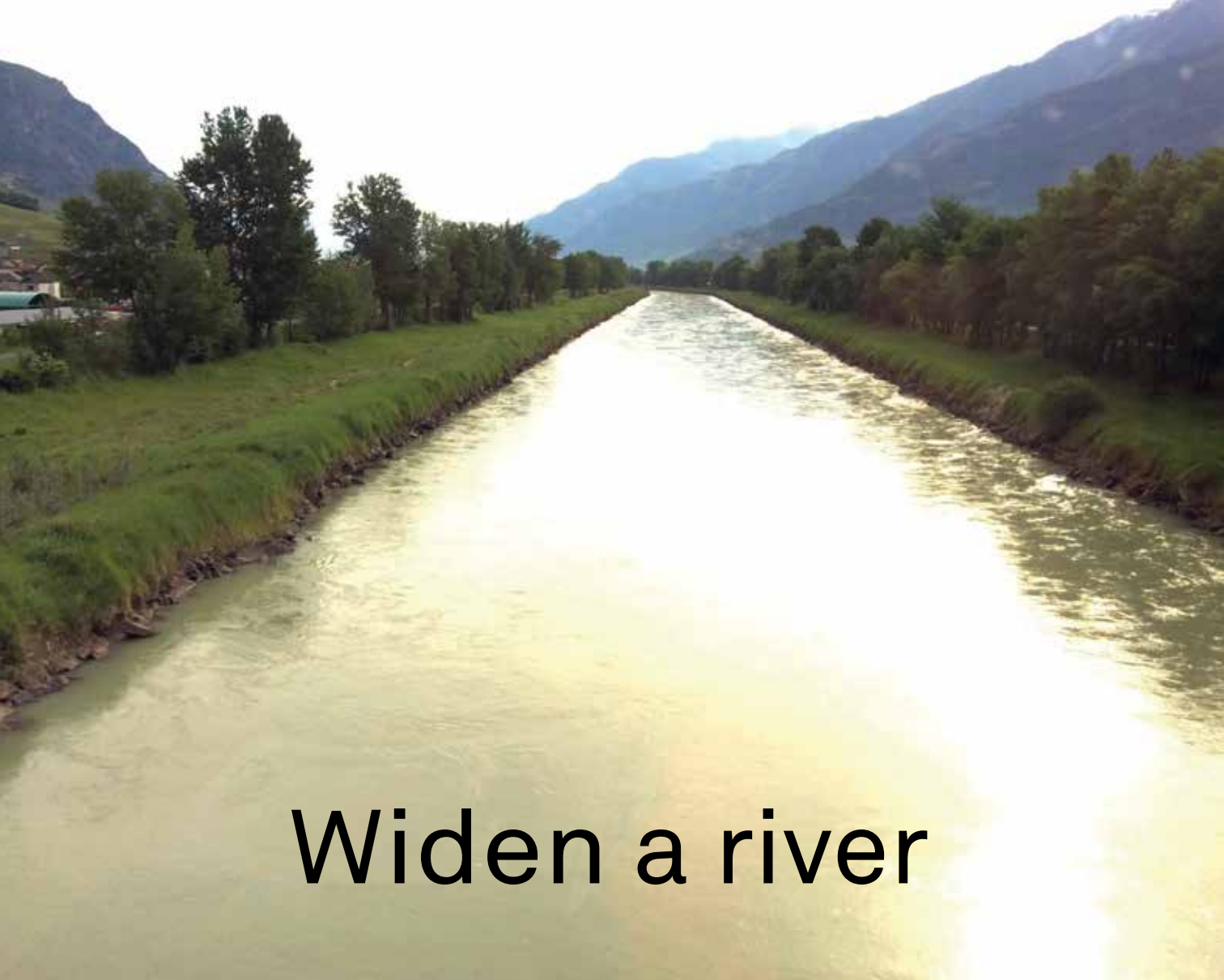
Case study: Monthey, Valais, Switzerland



In the mountainous Swiss Canton of Valais, inhabitants have learned for centuries to respect the moods of nature. Take for example the town of Monthey, at the foot of the Dents du Midi on the shores of the Rhone.

Host to major international chemical manufacturers, Monthey is the economic motor of Valais. It's a situation that can trigger a doubly devastating scenario: a natural disaster compounded by a consequent industrial catastrophe.

Here , we look at how Monthey is keeping the danger of swelling torrents, floods, landslides and earthquakes at bay.



Widen a river

The Rhone River flows for 170 km from the Rhone Glacier to Lake Geneva before continuing south through France and flowing into the Mediterranean. It has nourished the population along its banks for centuries. But when the river swells it can spell death for thousands. Fourteen thousand hectares of land are considered to be in danger of flooding from the Rhone, with an estimated potential damage of 10 billion Swiss Francs.

Already twice, from 1863 to 1894 and from 1930 to 1960, huge projects were conducted to modify the river's course to mitigate the threat. After the 1987 flood it became clear a third Rhone River correction was needed.

The point was underscored in 2000, when the Rhone valley suffered the largest flood in a century.

Many years of planning go into such a project. Colour-coded hazard maps are an important tool. Protection measures in Switzerland are calculated to withstand a 100-year flood. A draft was developed in a broad partnership and completed in 2008. In 2012 the project was approved.

Where space is sufficient, the river will be widened. In urban areas, where space is tight, it will be deepened.

Catch the outpour of a mountain stream

The mountain stream Nant des Choex is beautiful as it cascades through the forest and flows into the Vias that traverses the town of Monthey. But once in ten years a storm will hit that can cause a flash flood, bringing severe danger of damage to the residential houses nearby.

What to do in such a case? Building a parallel channel capable of containing a 100-year flood would have taken up a large amount of space and incurred an expense disproportionate to the danger.

The answer here was containment. A grassy reservoir big enough to hold 30,000 m³ was built on the forest edge, well integrated into the landscape. It is large enough to reduce a 23m³/second torrent (that is what is expected in a typical flash flood) to a manageable 10m³/second. Water flows into the reservoir from the stream through a special channel 25 metres long, with a controllable orifice that lets the water enter the reservoir over a loose stone ramp that prevents erosion.

And what happens if the ten year flood is a 100 year flood, more than the reservoir can handle? In former times, eventualities like this would be left out of the planning equation, potentially spelling a worse disaster than one was trying to prevent. This basin, however, is equipped with an overflow, which directs water to a zone where it will cause the least damage should the amount of water discharged by the Nant des Choex exceed its capacity.

The importance of making sure protection measures do not create hazards worse than the ones they are meant to prevent is a lesson that was learned the hard way in Valais. In the year 2000, for instance, during a landslide in the tiny village of Gondo on the Swiss-Italian border, a protection wall above the village exploded and three concrete blocks weighing 500 tonnes each surfed on the mud and tore through the town, causing havoc and injury much more severe that would have resulted from a purely natural disaster.



Look into the future

When disaster strikes, having advance warning and being able to react quickly can make the difference between life and death.

Minerva was the name of an Etruscan goddess, meaning “she who measures”. In the upper Rhone valley, MINERVE is a forecasting tool that was developed for modeling extreme events, such as flooding.

Based on data on water discharges, precipitation, temperature, the state of hydro plant reservoirs and snow cover, which is corroborated with historical data, it can foretell floods in the Canton of Valais three to five days in advance.

MINERVE is a decision-making tool. Thousands of measurement points feed data to 21 stations where flood forecasts are automatically generated. For each of these stations, levels have been set at which the municipal and Canton authorities have to be informed.

MINERVE is also a disaster management tool. A group of experts ensures that the system provides not only numerical data but also advice on preventive action, for instance on how to manage the hydro reservoirs up in the mountains.



Buttress a school

Next to Basel, the Canton of Valais is the Swiss region most at risk of earthquakes. Calculations predict that once every 100 years Valais will be hit by an earthquake of magnitude six on the Richter scale. The last one was in 1946, so the next one is expected this century, probably within the next 50 years.

As only one in three generations experiences an earthquake, the risk is not necessarily foremost in people's minds. Many buildings in Monthey and surroundings were not built to withstand a seismic shock. The primary school College de l'Europe is one of them. Constructed before seismic building codes were introduced, it stands on small concrete pillars able to resist only vertical force.

Since 2004, the Canton has worked with the municipalities to analyze all buildings for their quake resistance. A detailed earthquake response plan was adopted in 2013.

The College de l'Europe was found capable of resisting only ten per cent of seismic forces. With a major earthquake it would certainly collapse, with 450 pupils aged 10 to 14 inside. It had to be reinforced.

The chosen remedy was twofold: Two concrete cores were inserted in the space between the three buildings of the school complex, stabilizing them horizontally and providing them with 600 m² more surface.

But a problem of torsion remained. So steel reinforcements were fitted onto the corners and backside of the school. The architects were inspired by the complexity of the problem and reminded of the game of Tangram. So they chose a Tangram-like geometric design for the steel buttresses. They won the Prix de Genie Parasismique Suisse for their design.

Control chemical hazards

The chemical production site in Monthey has been in operation for over a century. There were good reasons to establish it here. The first was transport – the railway system that developed the economy of the region. Second, all chemical production needs water, and this was provided by the Rhone. Third, the nearby village Bex has a salt mine – the brine could be used for synthesizing chemicals. And fourth, Monthey was one of the first towns to install a hydroelectric plant, on the Viaise River, to produce electricity.

At the beginning, the town and the chemical plants were far apart, but now they are side by side. There are vegetable gardens directly adjacent to the site. Earthquakes or flooding of the Rhone could trigger serious chemical or biological accidents affecting thousands of people.

The Monthey site is one of 2,477 establishments in Switzerland subject to the Swiss Ordinance on Protection against Major Accidents (MAO). The MAO requires companies to produce a report of potential dangers and estimated damages. If these are considerable, they must prepare a risk study indicating the probability of a major accident and describing safety measures. On the basis of that, public authorities order further safety measures that can go as far as restricting or prohibiting operations.

Three multinational companies are currently working at the site. BASF makes red and yellow pigments and optical brighteners for laundry detergents. Huntsman makes polymers, such as the resins found in the Airbus or the BMW cars manufactured in Bern. Syngenta makes plant protection products. Around 2,000 employees work at the site.

A fourth company, the Compagnie Industrielle de Monthey (CIMO), bears responsibility for the site's infrastructure and safety. There is a complete emergency plan for each building.

CIMO has a corps of firefighters (professional and volunteer) on duty day and night, together with security forces and a medical team. Its equipment includes a canon that can emit 4,000 litres of water a minute, fed from a special network. It has instruments to measure toxicity of the air, the earth and the water, inside and outside the site. It is also responsible for radiation protection.





Chapter VIII

By Luk Van Langenhove

The OSCE defines itself as a regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. What does that mean? Could it mean more?

When the UN Charter was being drafted, some favoured a centralized security organization, others preferred a regionalized structure. In the end, when the Charter was finalized in 1945, the universal approach prevailed.

Nonetheless, an entire chapter – Chapter VIII – was devoted to regional arrangements and the terms of their relationship with the UN in the field of peace and security.

Few invocations of Chapter VIII's provisions were made during the Cold War period. But when the bipolar world system collapsed and spawned new global security threats, the explosion of local and regional armed conflicts provoked a renewed interest in regional organizations and their role in the maintenance of regional peace and security. The United Nations was forced to acknowledge its inability to solely bear the responsibility for providing peace and security worldwide. It started to contemplate potential opportunities to develop collaborative relations with regional organizations.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali gave the initial impetus, when he spoke to the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1992 of a new era of opportunity for regional arrangements. "Regional action [...] could not only lighten the burden of the (UN Security) Council but also contribute to a deeper sense of participation, consensus and democratization in international affairs," he said.

Since then, the UN has taken various initiatives to enhance regional and global security partnerships. Secretaries-General have hosted High-Level Meetings and Retreats for regional organizations including the OSCE. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1631 on the co-operation between the UN and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security in 2005, after holding several debates on the topic.

These developments lead me to make three observations.

First, despite UN efforts since the Cold War to strengthen ties with regional organizations, formalized and systematic co-operation between them remains limited.

Second, progress in increasing co-operation is sporadic. One of the reasons for this is that the process is driven by the UN Secretaries-General and the UN Security Council. The strategic directions of the latter are heavily affected by its rotating membership, and experience has shown that it is often non-permanent member states who advance the debate.

Third, since regional organizations are very diverse and not all of them are mandated or capable of performing peace-keeping, peace-building or mediation operations, the debate has somewhat shifted from a comprehensive to an ad hoc one.

But while pragmatism can be valuable, the challenge remains how to weave the often disparate purposes and objectives of regional organizations into a global multilateral governance perspective. The only way forward seems to me to be to create a forum of trust-building between the different regional organizations and the UN at the highest level. This could be done by creating a global mechanism of learning transfer from one organization to another or from one case to another. Each regional organization operates in a specific context, but they are all faced with similar challenges and issues. They therefore have an interest in exchanging information and sharing their respective experience and best practices in implementing their mandate.

The OSCE has already since 1999 its own Platform for Co-operative Security, on the basis of which it offers itself as a co-ordinating framework for organizations working for security in its area.

The Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy, organized by the Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, an inter-governmental organization of 25 states from every part of the world, offers another, global platform for open exchange among regional organizations, a model that could be expanded to other areas such as conflict management and mediation.

The UN is increasingly working together with regional organizations in their mediation engagements. It could continue to strengthen the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution by taking the lead in creating a global inter-regional dialogue on mediation bringing together the UN and regional organizations. This would help to reveal the potentials of regional organizations to help the UN in dealing with the complex security challenges of today's world.

Prof. Dr. Luk Van Langenhove is director of the United Nations University Institute for Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges. This contribution is written in a personal capacity.

Read more!

Luk Van Langenhove et al, “The UN and regional organizations for Peace: Tracking a Slippery Partnership” in *The United Nations and the Regions* (Dordrecht: Springer, 2012).

The full text of Chapter VIII: www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter8.shtml.

Mediation dialogue: the Chapter VIII ball is rolling

Friends

The Group of Friends of Mediation was established in 2010 in New York at the initiative of the foreign ministers of Finland and Turkey. It played an important role in drawing up the UN Secretary-General’s Guidance for Effective Mediation. The membership of the Group of Friends includes 34 countries, the UN and regional organizations – the African Union, the Arab League, ASEAN, the EU, the OSCE, the Organization of American States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Resolutions

UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 65/283 (2011) underscored the role of mediation in peaceful settlement of disputes and the importance of international regional and sub-regional partnerships; UNGA Resolution 66/291 (2012) encouraged the use of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation. Watch for the introduction by the Friends of Mediation of a new draft UNGA Resolution in 2014, focusing on mediation and regional and sub-regional organizations.

Consultations

In January 2010 the High-Level Retreat with heads of regional organizations hosted by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in New York provided inspiration for meetings of regional, sub-regional and other international organizations on mediation. The OSCE has co-organized three meetings since then, in December 2010 in Vienna, in April 2012 in Jeddah and in February 2014 in Cairo. Find out more at: www.osce.org/mediation.

OSCE Security Days

On 27 May 2014, over 300 practitioners and experts met in Vienna for a Security Day to explore ways for the OSCE to strengthen its co-operation arrangements with the UN and other regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, particularly in conflict prevention and resolution.

Read the final report with recommendations that emerged from the discussion; listen to podcasts by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Erkki Tuomioja, former President of the Republic of Slovenia Danilo Türk and Executive Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue David Harland at: www.osce.org/secdays/chapter8.

The OSCE in UKRAINE

Mediation and negotiation

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Swiss President and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter has intervened throughout the crisis to find a diplomatic solution. Secretary General Lamberto Zannier has travelled to various capitals, including Moscow and Kyiv, to defuse tensions and offer OSCE action.

Seasoned Swiss diplomat Heidi Tagliavini is representing the OSCE Chairmanship in a Contact Group that also includes Ukraine and the Russian Federation for negotiations aimed at ending violence in Ukraine.

National Unity Roundtables led by the Ukrainian government are part of a roadmap by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for implementing the Geneva Joint Statement of April 17. So far, three roundtable meetings were held in May in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv, with German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger representing the OSCE.

The Chairperson-in-Office appointed Swiss Ambassador Tim Guldemann as Personal Envoy on Ukraine. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations have met for talks aimed at defusing tensions.

Monitoring

The Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine was deployed following a consensus decision by the 57 participating States on 21 March. It is one of the OSCE's largest monitoring missions.

Ten teams of unarmed civilians monitor the situation in Kyiv, Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernivtsi and Luhansk. They engage with authorities, civil society, ethnic and religious groups and local communities to reduce tensions. They gather information and reports facts in response to specific incidents. Their daily updates are posted on the OSCE website.

There are currently more than 250 civilian unarmed monitors from more than 40 OSCE participating States.

Election observation

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights deployed its largest election monitoring team ever, 1,000 observers, to the 25 May Ukrainian presidential election.

One hundred long-term observers arrived in Ukraine on 20 March to assess compliance with the OSCE commitments and provide recommendations for improvement. They were joined by 900 colleagues just before election day to monitor the counting and





tabulation of election results. The team presented its statement of preliminary findings and conclusions in Kyiv on 26 May, the day after the election.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly sent a mission to observe the presidential election. Parliamentarians travelled to Kyiv in late March to meet with the acting president and other senior officials and Parliamentary Assembly President Ranko Krivokapic visited both Kyiv and Moscow to discuss the upcoming elections and prospects for inter-parliamentary diplomacy.

Military verification

Fifty-six unarmed military experts from 30 participating States were deployed to southern and eastern Ukraine from 5 to 20 March at the request of the Ukrainian authorities. The visit took place under Chapter III of the Vienna Document 2011 on military confidence- and security-building measures, which provides for voluntary hosting of visits by a participating State to dispel concerns about unusual military activities.

After 20 March, smaller inspection teams of unarmed uniformed military experts from participating States working on behalf of their countries have been on the ground in Ukraine under the Vienna Document. In addition, also under Vienna Document, Canada, Estonia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States addressed requests for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities. They led to three joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council, on 7, 17 and 30 April 2014.

Human rights assessment

A joint Human Rights Assessment Mission in Ukraine was carried out from 18 March to 12 May by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities. A report was released on 12 May 2014.

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors travelled to Kyiv and Simferopol in early March to assess the situation for national minorities. She visited Ukraine again a month later and posted her comments online.

Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović has visited Ukraine several times and issued statements and reports on media freedom in the country.

Permanent presence

The Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is the permanent OSCE field presence based in Kyiv. It has run several projects in response to the crisis.

The four-week National Dialogue Project from 20 March to 30 April 2014 gathered information about social, humanitarian and minority issues in different regions of the country. Fifteen international experts spoke with local authorities and NGOs and followed public events to gather information about issues of concern. Their recommendations for future OSCE engagement to foster social cohesion and dialogue in Ukraine were presented to all participating States at the Permanent Council in Vienna on 30 April 2014.



Fast tracking monitors to Ukraine

Twenty four hours from decision to deployment

By Claus Neukirch

On a Friday evening that happened to be an OSCE holiday, the 57 participating States, meeting in Vienna, decided to deploy within 24 hours an advance team for the buildup of a Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), consisting initially of 100 civilian monitors. Mission impossible? Not for the OSCE.

The Permanent Council Decision was taken on 21 March. By the morning of Saturday, 22 March, an advance team had started its work in Kyiv. Only three days later, the first teams had been trained and deployed to regions outside Ukraine's capital.

Within a week, monitors had been deployed to Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv, all the locations specified in the Permanent Council decision. And within one month, on 22 April, the SMM hit the target of 100 monitors deployed. All this was accomplished at a time when the OSCE was formally without a budget for 2014.

How was it possible?

Preparedness

The OSCE was conceptually and operationally prepared for rapid response. The participating States had shown foresight in December 2011 when the Foreign Ministers resolved to improve the OSCE's ability to act during all stages of potential or actual conflict.

On the basis of that decision, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) worked intensively with other OSCE institutions and field operations for the past two years to develop its early warning system, conceptualize systematic mediation support and – crucial for the rapid deployment of the SMM – establish an internal roster for rapid deployment, a virtual pool of equipment and an operational framework for crisis response. These tools were ready for action when the Ukraine crisis kicked in.

The rapid deployment roster is open to all OSCE staff members who are willing to be temporarily deployed in times of crisis to a new duty station. The idea of drawing on existing staff to meet urgent demands is not new. What is new, however, is that this roster gives human resources staff immediate access to information on available staff and their core competencies, such as language skills or field experience.

Thirty-two so called "first responders" from the Secretariat and nine OSCE field operations were selected from this roster and deployed to Ukraine within four days to work as monitors and fill crucial command and administrative posts in the head office of the new Mission. The first monitors recruited via the regular secondment system arrived in Kyiv on 30 March, some nine days after the decision was adopted. By the end of April, all first responder monitors had been replaced by seconded staff, while some first responders continue to play a key role in the Mission's administration.

The virtual pool of equipment was created in recognition of the fact that the OSCE can't afford to keep large quantities of expensive equipment in stock. Instead, it keeps a small contingent of less expensive items, such as laptops and satellite phones, and a database showing where in crisis situations the OSCE can procure critical equipment such as armoured and unarmoured 4x4 vehicles, satellite phones or flak jackets. A special system of contracts allows the OSCE to purchase such critical items quickly.

As the OSCE was moving staff from Vienna, Sarajevo, Pristina and elsewhere to Kyiv, it was at the same time moving vehicles, laptops, computers and satellite phones. Thanks to the pre-arranged contracts, the Secretariat was able to buy up all the flak jackets in stock in Austria, get a range of new armoured vehicles on a truck to Kyiv within days and purchase other important equipment. When the people arrived in the field, they had the equipment they needed.

The operational framework is an internal document covering the processes and procedures by which the Organization addresses a crisis or conflict in the OSCE area through properly orchestrated collective action. It takes into account lessons learned from previous experience, such as those gleaned from deploying additional military monitors after the 2008 war in Georgia or from deploying the Community Security Initiative following the violent unrest in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010. The document provided the framework for swiftly developing an implementation plan plus a budget for the SMM's deployment.

Of course, the decision to deploy a monitoring mission did not come entirely unexpected; it was taken after several weeks of intensive political negotiations. During this time, the CPC and the other departments in the Secretariat did not just sit and watch; they planned and prepared. When the final decision was taken on 21 March, it took just minutes to publish the vacancy notices and key documents such as the operational plan for the set-up of the Mission, as finalized drafts were already in place. With the button pressed, the machine started working.

Flexibility

Another strength of the OSCE came into play during the rollout of the Ukraine monitoring mission, its flexibility – and its wide field presence. The very fact

that the OSCE has 16 field operations gave it the resources to deploy staff and equipment within a couple of days. The flexible administration system of the OSCE allowed this to happen without cumbersome procedures. Critically, a way was found to allocate funds for the deployment of this Mission in the absence of both an approved budget and an agreed “crisis response facility” – in other words, a pot of money set aside for financing responses to unforeseen and hence non-budgeted crisis situations.

The OSCE contingency fund and cash savings from previous years were available to finance the set-up of the new operation and its running costs for the first month. Voluntary contributions by participating States ensure that the Mission can continue for the months to come.

Motivation

The critical ingredient for the speedy deployment of the SMM, though, was the motivation of OSCE staff. The entire Secretariat team worked very hard over weeks to plan and prepare an operation which nobody could be really sure would ever happen. OSCE staff and mission members across the whole Organization volunteered to go to Ukraine within days, even hours, and their supervisors were ready to let them go, giving them cars and other equipment on their way. Everyone involved worked overtime and long weeks from the very first Friday evening with no questions asked, giving proof to the adage that the OSCE's people are its greatest asset.

Claus Neukirch is Deputy Director for Operations Service in the Conflict Prevention Centre in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

Read more!

Permanent Council Decision no. 1117: Deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (Vienna 21 March 2014), like all OSCE decisions, was taken by consensus and therefore explicitly supported by all 57 participating States. Read the decision here: www.osce.org/pc/116747

Ministerial Council Decision 3/11: Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE's Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-conflict Rehabilitation (Vilnius, 7 December 2011): www.osce.org/mc/86621

Daily posts from the Special Monitoring Mission here: www.osce.org/ukraine-smm





Monitoring Ukraine's presidential election

By Tana de Zulueta

It had been a time of great upheaval for Ukraine, but there was also hope when our 24-member core team opened its office in Kyiv on 20 March. Following an official invitation to observe the 25 May 2014 early presidential election, the quick response from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) signalled commitment and support for Ukraine's democratic process.

With 100 long-term observers deployed across the country by 29 March, I was part of the largest election observation mission in the organization's history. On election day more than 1,200 ODIHR observers and parliamentarians from partner organizations, from 49 countries, were reporting across Ukraine.

We were in the country long enough to observe election preparations from the start. Our observers were present in all regions except the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, where no voting took place. During our time in the country we witnessed growing turmoil in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, where in early April public administration buildings began to be occupied by armed people. Protests and occasional clashes spread to nearby regions, culminating in the dramatic incident on 2 May in

which 46 people lost their lives in Odessa. The counter-insurgency operation that began on 14 April was still underway when we left the country on 7 June.

Yet, in spite of these huge challenges, the electoral authorities sustained their efforts to conduct the election throughout the country to the very end. In all regions but two, election preparations proceeded without outside interference.

According to our observations, close to four million voters in the troubled regions of Donetsk and Luhansk were deprived of the possibility of voting as a result of the

“Many of our interlocutors told us how important it was that we were present at this sensitive juncture.”

violent turmoil. One of my vivid memories from this election is the reports we continued to receive from our long-term observers in those two regions describing the attempts by some election commission members to maintain the election process, even as the violence mounted and they became the targets of direct threats and intimidation.

We understood that motivation was high. For all their differences, all but one of the candidates and supporting party leaders we spoke to saw the election as a necessary step towards the stabilization of the country. This view was shared by the members of government, NGO representatives and media commentators whom we met. Many of our interlocutors told us how important it was that we were present at this sensitive juncture.

Together with our OSCE Parliamentary Assembly partners, we were able to make a positive assessment of the election, declaring that it was largely in line with international commitments and fundamental freedoms.

Violence in the east was not the only challenge. Election preparations had to be made within an unusually short time and an uncertain economic and political context. That makes it all the more noteworthy that both the electoral

authorities and the acting government of Ukraine set some positive precedents, which hopefully will become embedded in national practice and public expectations.

We commended the members of the Central Election Commission for the independence, impartiality and efficiency they sustained. They were collegial and open in making their decisions, and this should be preserved. We received no reports of misuse of state resources by presidential candidates or their supporters. Here again, a government order to all regional governors to abstain from supporting, covertly or overtly, any of the candidates, signalled political commitment to what should remain an abiding principle.

Another welcome initiative taken during our watch was the passing of a long-promised law transforming the state television company into a public service broadcaster, in line with previous ODIHR recommendations. The law now has to be implemented. Its objectives of impartial coverage are particularly important in a media environment where corporate interests remain preponderant. As for the dangerous work of all journalists in the eastern part of the country, some of whom I was able to meet on a visit in April to Donetsk, it remains unacceptable that media outlets and journalists should continue to be the targets of threats and harassment.

Election day was the climax of a long and, in many ways, extraordinary mission. There were technical difficulties, and, in some places, long queues, but the overall assessment of our observers was positive.

The weather, first blazing sun, then storm, did not appear to deter voters. Most importantly, the outcome was not challenged by any of the participants.

For many of the polling staff it was a very long day and night. Special thanks for this successful election should be given to the national staff, 71 per cent of which were women. In a political system still largely dominated by men, it is the women who shouldered the bulk of election work on that crucial day.

Tana de Zulueta was the Head of the ODIHR election observation mission for the 25 May 2014 early presidential election in Ukraine.

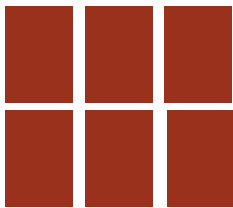
QUILT



Security Community has created an electronic canvas for you: the Quilt. Be inspired by the questions of security!

What do you think?

Write a letter, take a photo, shoot a video or record a sound bite. Send it to quilt@osce.org. Open to young people from all OSCE participating States and partner countries.



Be part
of it

how to participate, how it works

Step 1 CREATE

A text (250 words max.);
A photo;
A sound bite;
A video (one minute max.).

Step 2 LOAD IT UP

Send it to quilt@osce.org.

Step 3 LOOK FOR IT

Find the Quilt at osce.org/magazine.

Step 4 IF YOU DONT SEE IT, TRY AGAIN.

Take a look at some contributions
we received from Ukraine: >>>>>

From Kyiv, Ternopil, Luhansk and Chernihiv, Ukrainian young people tell in words and pictures about their hopes for a secure world.

Hello, friends! I am Ukrainian. My name is Yaroslav, I am ten. I want to have peace on our planet. I want all people to be able to communicate and be friends. I am against war! Thank you for reading my letter.

Yaroslav Trostianskii

I am writing to tell you that my name is Anya Kucherenko. I live in Kiev, I am 12 years old. My mother is Russian. So I can talk both Russian and Ukrainian. I like reading, writing and acting in the theatre. A lot of people think that in Ukraine people can speak only one language, Ukrainian. It is not true. I like two languages, Russian and Ukrainian. "Make love, not war" © John Lennon

Anya Kucherenko

Ukrainians want to put an end to the cult of money and corruption, they want to live in a democratic and civilized country. And they've almost reached their goal. In the end I would like to admit that I've never been so proud of being Ukrainian. People finally understood that only together they can change something. I love Ukraine for its language, amazing people, culture, Roshen sweets and babushkas that know everything

Malanka

We speak two languages, Ukrainian and Russian. But it doesn't disturb our mutual understanding. On the contrary, as many languages as you speak, so many times a human you are. We can belong to different confessions but it doesn't prevent us from being friends and living in peace and harmony. Many other nations have found their reliable home here, on our Ukrainian earth.

Maria Tuchkova

Every country is nice but we want to live in Ukraine, it's our motherland. We have wonderful nature: seas, mountains, lakes, rivers, forests and fields. People of different nationalities live in our country. For example, my uncle is from Russia but he learned Ukrainian, lives here and loves this land. We just want to live in peace, see blue cloudless sky and be happy. We love our country and we don't want to lose it.

Bogdana Gots

I am Sophia. I am from Ukraine. This is my motherland. I was born and have always lived here. We are proud of our rich history and traditions. Ukraine is known for its national dishes, such as varenyky and borsh. We have a lot of places of interest, beautiful buildings and charming places. I hope that one day I will wake up and

see Kyiv calm and happy, where people don't talk about war, where I will probably know what will happen tomorrow. We don't want to have warfare with Russia, because for example I have friends in this really big country and I think that Russia is our friend not enemy. Many of us speak Russian. We also welcome tourists and we are very hospitable. In fact, we want only one thing: Peace all over the world!

Yours faithfully,
Sophia Yershova

I am writing to you because of the situation in Ukraine. As a native Ukrainian, I just cannot be indifferent to the things which are happening nowadays. My biggest wish is to live in an independent and democratic country. Maybe you have already realized that our people are determined and struggling to change this country. I really see Ukraine as a flourishing and successful country, and we can make it like this!

Yours faithfully,
Natalia Solovyova

When you understand that darkness is coming, it gets scary. I am scared to lose my parents, relatives and friends. I close my eyes just to see all of those people who died in the recent events and to feel the tears pouring down my cheeks. Why do people have to start a war to solve problems that can be solved in a peaceful manner? For me, Ukraine has always been "covered in cherry blossom", as the famous Ukrainian poet Volodymyr Sosyura once wrote. I want it to stay that way.

All of my peers have heard their grandparents tell stories about war. We know that the only thing that is worse than war is famine. We do not know what war really is, though, and we do not want to know. This is not an experience we want to have.

Sincerely yours,
Maria Zazirna

You adults often think that a child doesn't understand anything when it comes to problems. That is the reason why you want to push us aside and don't want to discuss things with us.

It's true – I don't understand much about politics. I haven't studied the whole history of Ukraine. But I know one thing – my friends who live in Donetsk and Luhansk are also citizens of Ukraine. I know that we are Ukrainians who deserve peace regardless what language each of us speaks.

Maria Kachurovska

I love my cozy home. I love my green street. I love my beautiful and clean city. It is my Motherland. Why are there menacing planes flying over our heads? Why are

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Адреса відправника, Індикс

Тисяча ма
єдину!

10

2

from Ukraine

the adults so sad and concerned? Why are the children crying?

Now I know what the war is. This is not that scary movie we have been watching with my family. This is when the shops are empty. This is when your parents stop arguing what town in Crimea to choose to spend the holidays. This is when the grandmother of the girl who lives nearby has been killed on the balcony. This is when the relatives in the village have built a bunker in case of bombing. Adults, I know what you have to do – shake your fingers and say ‘Never, never break with friends, if you do, you’ll catch the flu, and that will be the end of you!’

Milena Rozmyslova

Once my friend told me, “We are our future,” and recently I have realized the power of these words! And I am very happy to realize that my generation can affect the development of my country, my motherland. We are talented, creative, clever and we have nothing to lose. I know that together we are powerful.

I want to spend my university years with my friends. I want to become a good professional and work for the welfare of Ukraine and for this we should stop all these cruel things and think about our future. Do we want to live in a country full of lies and cruel things?

Sincerely yours,

Oksana Mikalenko

When I am asked to describe Ukraine, I usually tell people about the place where I live. I tell them about the lake near my house, the road which leads to the old forest where on beautiful green glades grow a lot of magnificent flowers. I tell them about people who smile when they meet me, and about the nightingale, which sings at dawn. But for Ukrainians, their homeland starts not only from the place where they live, but rather from their soul. For me and my countrymen, the love for our homeland is the feeling of highest priority. It is difficult to find any other folks in the world that would stand for their rights so firmly, or respect democracy and freedom of choice so deeply. Ukrainians are known worldwide as people who think independently, but at the same time are eager to listen to other people’s point of view. One of the most renowned features of Ukrainians’ character is hospitality and great respect to all other nations. Indeed, Ukraine has become a home for many other folks: Poles and Hungarians, Russians and Tatars, who have always gotten on well with each other and in particular with the Ukrainians.

My second name is Yaslunin and it has a purely Russian origin. I speak fluent Russian. But some of my ancestors came also from Poland. And no one blames me that I have foreign roots or speak the Russian language. Nonetheless, I consider myself to be Ukrainian and I am proud to bear this name. So, this is Ukraine as I see it. I love my country,

I love my nation. I don’t want the things I described to be changed. I want Ukraine to be known worldwide as a prosperous, friendly European country. Ukrainians want peace and development of their country. We want friendship in the whole world. And I am sure our dream will come true.

Yours faithfully,

Alexander Yaslunin

*Nastya Marchenko
Forum 6a
school № 155
Kiev, Ukraine.*

Living here is wonderful and you can

*flo
son
boy
boy
m*



7 D W D T



Лев, 5 років, ТМЦ „АРТСВІТ“, Чернігів



politica



Making Good on the

Politically exposed persons



Dublin Declaration

Politically Exposed Persons

By Christian Nils Larson

Financial Action Task Force Recommendations

In 2012, the finance ministers of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which includes 22 OSCE participating States and three OSCE partner countries, adopted revised standards, commonly referred to as the FATF Recommendations, to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

Building on the original standards issued in 1990, the FATF Recommendations call not only for technical compliance with legislative requirements, but also for effective use of anti-money laundering tools in practice.

Through the FATF's regional associates, including the Council of Europe's MONEYVAL and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, all of the OSCE participating States have now committed themselves to the revised standards.

Two years since the Financial Action Task Force issued its revised standards, the FATF Recommendations, for combating money laundering and terrorism financing, some countries have achieved high levels of technical compliance while stumbling to effectively implement them. Other countries have work to do in both areas. FATF Recommendation 12, on reviewing the financial activities of Politically Exposed Persons, or PEPs, is proving particularly challenging.

PEPs are individuals who have been entrusted with prominent public functions, including but not limited to heads of state or government and other senior politicians. State officials rarely find it enjoyable to have others scrutinize their finances, but the public interest in doing so is clear: many of the countries that have recently faced political turmoil and violence, including Egypt, Tunisia and Ukraine, have identified high-level corruption among political elites as a major destabilizing factor.

The OSCE's Dublin Declaration on Good Governance, adopted in 2012, clearly notes the negative impact of financial crime on social cohesion, stability and security. The Dublin Declaration recognizes "the need to enhance the implementation of our international and national anti-corruption commitments" and acknowledges "the fundamental importance of effectively preventing transfers of proceeds of crime."

Indeed, had the proceeds of corruption in Egypt and Tunisia remained in the country from which they were stolen, they may, at a minimum, have been reinvested into the national economy. The reality, however, is that enormous sums of money were transferred from these countries to international financial centres, many of which are in OSCE participating States.

According to the World Bank's Corruption Cases Search Centre, asset recovery cases linked to former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and their entourages are pending in Canada, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Media reports and official statements indicate that these OSCE participating States have frozen hundreds of millions of US dollars that are believed to be linked to the former regimes in Egypt and Tunisia.

That powerful political figures move proceeds of corruption into financial centres is not a new phenomenon. Financial regulators around the world have long called upon banks to monitor the accounts of foreign PEPs and their immediate family members for signs of financial crime.

What is new under the revised FATF standards, however, is that countries must now require banks under their supervision to monitor the financial activity of their own domestic PEPs. This is certainly a step forward in preventing proceeds of corruption from being laundered abroad, but doing so is effectively hindered by several challenges.

A key question is the extent to which a particular PEP's financial activity should be monitored. While some PEPs are corrupt, many are not. There is a resulting need to weigh expectations about financial privacy against the security risks of unchecked corruption. Privacy concerns are legitimate, but the cost of corruption to countries and their citizens is staggering, both in economic and security terms. Many countries have struck a balance by requiring PEPs to submit detailed asset and income declarations. In a well-functioning system, banks and law enforcement can jointly use those declarations to monitor financial transactions for any activity that does not match a PEP's officially declared financial profile.

One challenge to an effective system is the fact that, within a given country, the officials who are to be subjected to additional scrutiny are often the same individuals responsible for applying the stricter oversight. Numerous examples have shown that individuals who control the enforcement mechanisms for the rules by which they are ostensibly bound are often able to act in violation of them and, at least while in power, with impunity.

The simple matter of defining what constitutes a PEP can also be difficult. Some countries define a PEP as "a high-level official together with his or her spouse, parents and children." A PEP under these terms seeking to launder proceeds of corruption, however, may face little difficulty in doing so, simply by placing funds into the account of an attorney, business partner or other individual outside of the letter of the definition. Banks and law enforcement agencies that rely only on strict definitions and fail to make common sense connections based on known information

about a PEP's business partners and other close associates, make it all too simple for PEPs to steal from their country and transfer funds abroad.

Banks that rely on clients opening accounts to declare themselves as PEPs similarly do a disservice to the population in the PEP's country of origin. Presented with such an opportunity, it should be unsurprising that some PEPs seeking to avoid scrutiny have simply declared themselves to be non-PEPs and some banks have accepted those declarations without digging deeper.

To fully comply both with the letter and the spirit of the revised FATF standards on anti-money laundering, countries must turn away from these easy-to-flout rule-based approaches. They must instead require and empower their financial institutions to make their own risk-based determinations of whether and to what extent to scrutinize a particular individual's financial activity. By basing the scope of their monitoring activities on an ongoing assessment of all available information about a PEP, including that provided by law enforcement authorities, financial institutions can use broader and less predictable definitions of PEPs and, consequently, be better at identifying suspicious activity.

To be truly effective, however, banks need support from governments. Lists of PEPs around the world are commercially available, but the companies that produce them generally have access only to publicly available information. Individual countries know the names of their key officials, their family members and their close associates, and could assist banks and law enforcement by making that information public.

Civil society and individual citizens can also play a role. English language lists of PEPs often miss information contained in publicly available reports in other languages. By including key publicly available information in an English language wiki, journalists and regular citizens can assist both the producers and end users of commercial PEPs lists.

The OSCE Secretariat and field operations offer a number of tools to participating States. At the technical level, we help set up training, produce handbooks and maintain networks of experts. At the political level, we provide a

platform for the exchange of good practices and the identification of gaps in political will.

What is discussed less, however, is the extent to which the OSCE participating States, both east and west of Vienna, use the tools the OSCE provides. Surely the limit to what we can do is little more than what we are willing to try, and so I close with an idea. Create a voluntary initiative for countries that wish to mutually monitor the financial activities of ministers, heads of state and their families for discrepancies from official asset and income declarations. A single country, or a single bank, can have but a limited picture of a PEP's financial activities, but joint monitoring across a number of countries can provide a picture that is much more comprehensive and accurate.

A concerted international effort to monitor the highest-level PEPs will build trust among all who choose to be bound by a shared standard for income and asset declarations. If effectively implemented, the system will directly fulfil the ideals of the Dublin Declaration: money that might have been stolen and transferred abroad will instead remain in the PEP's country, producing public goods and strengthening security.

Christian Larson is an Economic Officer in the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

Read more!

About the Dublin Declaration: "Good governance on the public agenda" in Security Community 1/2013.

Download the Declaration here: www.osce.org/cio/97968



The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was established in 1995, after 12 participating States ratified the Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration (Stockholm Convention) adopted by the Ministerial Council in 1992. Thirty-three participating States have now ratified the Convention. In September 2013, a new Bureau of the Court was elected for a six-year term.

The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, located in Geneva, may be the least well known institution of the OSCE. Since it came into being 18 years ago, it has remained unused. Why has the Court hitherto led no more than a shadow existence? The reason may be that even the diplomatic world is not well informed about its attractive features.

Unlike other OSCE mechanisms, the Court has a legal foundation. Yet it is not solely a judicial body. It combines under one roof a conciliation and an arbitration mechanism. The two mechanisms are open to all participating States that are party to the Stockholm Convention, but not to private parties, nor to the OSCE as such.

The Court can be seized with regard to any international dispute; the Convention indicates no restrictions as to the subject. Nor does the Court hold jurisdiction solely over matters covered by earlier OSCE understandings or agreements.

Conciliation is a flexible procedure. It may be requested by a State party unilaterally or, by common agreement, disputes involving other participating States may also be submitted. The power of a conciliation commission is confined to issuing recommendations, which the litigant parties are free to accept or reject.

Whereas the OSCE provides many procedural opportunities for conciliation, including the “Valetta Mechanism” adopted in 1991, the Court is the OSCE’s only arbitration framework. In contrast to conciliation, arbitration ends with a legally binding decision. It is strictly tied to the principle of consent which generally underlies the regime of international adjudication. Ratification of the Convention is only a first step. The jurisdiction of the Court must be accepted either by virtue of a

Sleeping beauty

The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration

By Christian Tomuschat

unilateral declaration, which both parties to a dispute must make, or by agreement between the parties.

As far as arbitration is concerned, the OSCE Court inevitably competes to some degree with other judicial bodies for settling international disputes, the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration or the Court of Justice of the European Union. In the preamble of the Stockholm Convention, the States parties emphasize that they see the Court's role as subsidiary to these. When a dispute arises, governments wishing to submit it to adjudication will have to weigh the respective pros and cons of the available remedies.

Arbitration under the Stockholm Convention has many advantages. The bench is not pre-determined as in the case in the International Court of Justice, where a party not represented on the regular bench of 15 judges may only request the addition of an ad hoc judge. In the OSCE Court, two of the five members of the tribunal are appointed as permanent arbitrators by the respective sides. All of the arbitrators on the permanent list are highly experienced lawyers, well versed in the specificities of European legal thinking, and the neutral arbitrators will never be appointed against the objection of one of the parties – a feature that applies also to conciliation commissions. Any panel thus constituted deserves full confidence.

The states that are party to the Stockholm Convention bear collectively the full expenditure of a conciliation commission or of an arbitral tribunal, similarly to the procedure in the UN system. Arbitration, on the other hand, can become quite burdensome financially, since the

litigant parties have to assume the financial responsibility not only for their agents and counsel, but also for the arbitrators they appoint.

An additional advantage of the OSCE Court is that the institutional structure already exists, although currently only in modest dimensions, given the absence of actual litigation since its establishment.

While it is unlikely that the Court will be called to settle any major disputes, it is an appropriate institution for settling controversies which, although not surrounded by major political tensions, nonetheless could not be resolved by diplomatic means and are negatively affecting good neighbourly relations. Governments should consider the fact that the consultation of a neutral third party can clarify the essential elements of a dispute and divest it from emotional overtones.

The fact that the Court has lain dormant for a long time should not be taken to mean that it has lost its *raison d'être*. It cannot be denied that there are quite a number of conflicts of a somewhat hidden nature which it would be useful to address in an open and transparent manner. Particularly in view of such instances the Court is ready to provide its assistance for securing peace and stability in Europe.

Christian Tomuschat, emeritus professor of public international law and European law at the Humboldt University in Berlin, is President of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

Learn more about the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration at www.osce.org/cca

**We have gender
mainstreamed
so well we can't
even see
it anymore.**



Interview with Madeleine Rees, Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom



How does one make sure the end of a war is the beginning of peace? “Make women part of the peace process” is one answer that has been promulgated by the Geneva-based Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) for almost 100 years.

What is the purpose of the WILPF?

Our organization was founded in 1915 to try to stop the First World War. One thousand one hundred and thirty-six women from all over the world crossed borders to meet in The Hague and discuss how to persuade the neutral powers to step in and pressure the belligerent nations to put an end to the killing. It did not work, obviously, but the analysis of the root causes of war these women came up with is something we still hold dear today. Our core aim is to work for peace and freedom by claiming women’s right and responsibility to participate in decision-making on all aspects of peace and security. We try to identify the root causes of armed conflict so that measures can be taken to address them. That includes demilitarization, investing in peace and supporting the multilateral system so that it can be used to prevent conflict.

How has the group's agenda changed over time?

The fundamental principles of our work have remained the same, but our strategy has become much more integrated. We have always worked for disarmament, although naturally our focus expanded with the invention of nuclear weapons. We also look at human rights violations as causes of armed conflict. And we have a programme supporting United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which aims to ensure the participation of women not just in peace agreements to end conflict but also as a conflict prevention strategy.

It is important for us that these three programmes are closely connected. There is no point in talking about conflict prevention if you do not talk about disarmament, and no point in talking about women's participation without talking about human rights.

We also have a Middle East and North Africa programme, which was launched in response to the Arab Spring. And the other big part of our work is gender analysis.

What is gender analysis and why is it important?

Gender analysis, as opposed to sex discrimination analysis, looks at gender relations and the deconstruction of masculinity as an element of what makes conflict possible. Looking only at male-female ratios is insufficient, and putting more women into positions of power does not necessarily influence the dynamics we are trying to change.

Gender is something that has been talked about a lot, but has been very badly misunderstood. International organizations have focused very much on gender mainstreaming, but as someone from the United Nations has said, we have gender mainstreamed so well we can't even see it anymore.

What we have been looking at is gender relations and the deconstruction of masculinity as an element of what makes conflict possible. It is one of the very big areas of academic research. The basic idea is that violence can arise as a product of gender relations, that in order to understand where violence comes from and how militarization takes place you really have to examine who has power and how this power is exercised.

It all comes down to the way we bring up little boys and girls. When a three-year-old boy falls over, he will be picked up and told to be a little man, whereas when a girl falls over, she will be cuddled and told it's okay. It starts there – toughening up the men in order for them to be the providers.

There is an excellent study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (it has not been published, unfortunately) which shows how male psychology works in the build-up to a conflict. Before a conflict, a male will see himself as the protector, the provider, the husband, the father, but as things move on, he will see himself as the warrior, a different sort of protector, with access to women and so on and so forth. So he moves away from the normal role he was playing and develops this violent masculinity. We saw it manifest itself quite horrifically in the Bosnian context with the human trafficking that was happening there.

You have many years of experience as a human rights lawyer in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Can you tell us about WILPF's recent project to arrange a meeting between Syrian and Bosnian women?

We invited 25 women from Syria to Bosnia last February to exchange ideas with women there. Bosnian women have learned some very hard lessons. It started with their exclusion from the preparation of the peace agreement that ended the war in 1995. The Dayton agreement institutionalized the ethnic dimensions of the conflict at the expense of any other analysis.

The result has been a severe reduction of any space for women to be part of the political process, to work together for change. It was evident to us that in the Syrian context women are similarly excluded. We wanted to work with Syrian women to see what could be done to get them involved in peace negotiations before any agreement is reached, so they can influence the process of transition.

I have to say it was one of the most incredible experiences I have had in terms of seeing how much the Bosnian women had learned and achieved in trying to overcome the system, the constitutional framework which has created divisions. That helped the Syrians enormously. They felt solidarity from the Bosnian women, who had lived through the same horrors that they were going through.

The Bosnians were able to encourage the Syrian women by telling them that they are way ahead of where they themselves were three years into their own conflict, because they have had much more support. And also because of the Internet, which makes it much easier to organize and engage. Not that there is access all over Syria, but where there is, it has made communication that much easier.

The Syrians, in turn, were able to nudge the Bosnian women into action with regard to the anti-government protests that were underway in their country at the time. “You should make your voices heard,” they said. Now we are working with the Bosnian women, to recreate the solidarity that they had before, to recreate a dynamic for change.

Do you have plans for marking WILPF’s 100th anniversary next year?

We are going to have an enormous celebration in The Hague, the place of our birth. In April, we will have our Triennial Congress, which is the decision-making body of the WILPF, and this will be followed by an international conference where we will collaborate with the Women Nobel Laureates to invite women and men from all over the world to discuss what progress has been made and what must be done to make peace and security a reality.

Maria Kuchma spoke with Madeleine Rees.

Academia and the OSCE



New Mediterranean

The recently-launched New-Med Network unites experts inspired by a common commitment to peace and security in the Mediterranean region and an interest in how the OSCE can move Mediterranean co-operation forward.

Discussions were set in motion at a workshop in Turin on 4 and 5 June, supported by the Compagnia San Paolo of Turin. The international seminar “Towards Helsinki +40: the OSCE, the Global Mediterranean and the Future of Co-operative Security” will be held in Rome on 18 September 2014, sponsored jointly by the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Italian Presidency of the European Union.

OSCE Think Tank Network

The OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions published the results of its first study, “Threat Perceptions in the OSCE Area”, in April 2014. A second study on the future of OSCE field operations is underway and will be presented in the autumn. For latest developments visit: osce-network.net.



Journalism's Pandora's Box?

Open journalism is a new practice whereby professional journalists involve social media commenters, tweeters and bloggers in crafting the stories that inform world opinion. What regulatory, legal and ethical problems does that raise? On 5 May the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media invited journalists, experts and policymakers to Vienna to explore open journalism's promises and perils. Read some of their comments here.

"There is one word that explains the Vienna conference - diversity. The range of attitudes from absolute insistence on the positive impact of the Internet and social media to the pointing out problems of open space for independent media, investigative journalism and media content told me that I was in a place of lively discussions and many different arguments. That is, in the right room!"

Boro Kontić
Director, Mediacentar Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

"Does open journalism mean that journalism has ever been closed?" asked one participant during the event, and this question somehow intrigued me. Because on the one hand, of course, good journalism has always been about openness to our public, our audience, so in a way, there is nothing new here. But as one other participant said, we

cannot speak about an audience any more. It is better to apply the term "the people formerly known as the audience". So we have the whole notion of openness in a context where there is no more audience in the traditional sense. We have people who want to be part of how journalism is done; they want to make an impact on content – from how questions are framed to how issues are presented.

"I am working for an investigative journalism NGO in Hungary, Atlatzso.hu, whose whole existence is about experimentation with open journalism. Through different crowdsourcing tools, we empower people to be part of our journalism, by using our freedom of information request machine (KiMiTud.org), the anonymous corruption tracker website, the Hungarian version of Ipaidbribe.com (Fizettem.hu) or the anonymous leaking platform (MagyarLeaks). The

people are basically in charge of Atlatzso.hu's coverage. We also ask them to be part of our operation by offering volunteer services or contributing financially.

"I believe that we as journalists have a new and exciting period ahead of us: technology will help journalism to be more open than ever to the people it is meant to serve."

Attila Mong
Atlatzso.hu
Hungary

"For me, open journalism – and I mean open journalism, not citizen journalism, definitions are important! – boils down to the recognition, by newspapers and journalists, that the Internet has fundamentally changed their relationship with their readers. Much of this change is due to the fact

that if news used to travel in one direction and readers were (more or less) passive consumers of what newspapers decided to give them, the instant, mass communication possibilities of the Internet means readers are now far more than simply an audience: they are contributors (they provide ideas and input to our work), fact-checkers (they comment on and correct our work when we get things wrong) and distributors (they play a key role in ensuring our work gets seen more widely).

“As far as I am concerned, this means we have a duty to involve them far more in our work than has traditionally been the case, by asking them to help with expert input, experience or contacts, and by consulting them more during the journalistic process. This is of course not possible, nor sometimes even desirable, for every story. But the greater involvement of “the people formerly known as the audience” is, in my opinion, effective (it produces good journalism), beneficial (it builds bridges between our audience and us), and necessary (put simply, they expect it, and if we do not change the way we work they will stop listening to us).

“This does not mean we are abandoning our journalistic principles: now more than ever, we have to be absolutely accurate, objective and balanced, because that is what will distinguish us on the Internet. But we cannot continue working as we used to, or our days will be numbered.”

Jon Henley
The Guardian
United Kingdom

“I was honoured to take part. It was an extraordinary event, devoted to freedom of the press as well as to the

future of journalism as a whole, presenting diversities and voices from the region as well as expert judgements on the main issues of current media development – legislation, professional standards, convergence, safety, solidarity of media professionals and new challenges for free expression.

“It became clear that all of us – journalists, leaders of media and professional organizations, scholars and human right defenders – need to meet more often to talk about hot issues of media development on a regular basis. It was clear also that media literacy and media education are needed, and it was important to know that the OSCE has plans to arrange further meetings with politicians and decision makers from the region.

“Open journalism is a new reality of global media, but traditional journalism based on ethical and quality standards, as a public good, is even more important today. We should talk about it more and share experiences, and the OSCE seems to me really pioneering in this regard.”

Nadezhda Azhgikhina
Secretary of Russian Union of
Journalists
Vice-president of European Federation
of Journalists
Russian Federation

“What is surely shared by all of us is that the Internet and social media have tremendously affected traditional journalism and, in particular, contributed to the current crisis of traditional journalism and traditional media. Definitely, social media have broken the monopoly on the truth – that was mentioned several times today – which is in itself a great contribution and a great achievement for both freedom of expression and also, I

believe, for freedom of the media. The “people formerly known as the audience” have become the watchdog of the watchdog, the messenger of the messenger and a very strong alternative voice to traditional journalism and traditional media.

“Maybe we can start dividing open journalism into two major categories just as we do traditional journalism: “quality” and “sensationalist”. Sensationalist journalism has always been popular. So it may well be that most open journalism is sensationalist, but the same is true for traditional journalism. The issue, and that is very important for us, is whether the first group, the practitioners of quality open journalism, require high-level protection by us, by this Office and by other freedom of the media organizations. That raises legal issues.

“Journalism itself is not a sacred profession and it is shared by millions of people. If they practice journalism, they will have to engage in journalist-like activities in the sense that they will have responsibility in a very wide sense of this word and – as was also mentioned today – a key part of this responsibility is commitment to the values of the profession.”

Andrey Georgievich Rikhter
Director, Office of the OSCE
Representative on Freedom of the
Media

Read more!

Watch for a continuation of the debate; find interviews and policy papers at: www.osce.org/event/open-journalism



The magic

The Danish NGO Cross Cultures Project Association uses the game of football to give young people in countries that have experienced civil war a respite from mistrust and hate.

The Open Fun Football Schools bring boys and girls, trainers and volunteers from across ethnic, religious and political divides together for five intense days when the language of the game takes the upper hand and fun, friendship and joy are given a space to work their magic. The organizers call it an “island of opportunity”.

The Open Fun Football Schools are also the story of one man’s relentless drive to quench the horror of war in an ecstasy of reconciliation.

“Football is emotion. It is precisely the totality and the rhythm that gives sport its special quality and, in my view, the most fantastic thing is that you do not have to be a superstar to experience these great moments. I am sure that all sportsmen, regardless of their own talent, can talk about an experience when time, space and the situation fused together and created their own metaphysical whole.”

This is how Anders Levinsen, CEO of Cross Cultures Project Association, describes the power at work in the Open Fun Football Schools he initiated in war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1998.

Levensen witnessed the monstrosities of the war first hand. As head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Central and North-eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1993, he fought a futile battle for an evacuation route for 40,000 men, women and children trapped in the besieged enclave in Srebrenica during the most horrible episode of the conflict. “The evacuation failed. So did the whole UN approach to the conflict and I decided to stop my assignment,” he says.

Ever since, he has been working indefatigably to set statistics of joy against the tragic ones of war. Six years after the Srebrenica massacre, he was able to return to the site, bringing together 200 local Bosnian-Serb boys and girls with the same number of Muslim children bussed in from Vogosca, a small town just outside Sarajevo where their families had resettled as refugees, to play ball. He describes the liberating effect of that day:

“The Muslim children got off the bus. The local Bosnian-Serb children, patiently lined up in four long columns, spontaneously started to applaud. So did the 200 to 300 spectators who had gathered next to the playground. It was a completely unexpected reaction.

“The atmosphere was great. It was as if the sports ground generated its own rhythm in time with the music we had brought along, streaming from the sports ground’s loudspeaker system. The trainers and former enemies played with and cheered the children in a way that sometimes made it difficult to distinguish between them and the kids. All the children were in non-stop motion at the same time. One hundred and forty footballs, 30 hula-hoop rings and skipping ropes were in the air and 400 happy children fought and laughed and clapped their hands and gave “high-fives” to one another as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

“It was the heartbeat which, as I believe, gives our Open Fun Football Schools in the Balkans a special magic. It made my painful memories from wartime Bosnia disappear and left me with a feeling of peaceful lightness as if a painful vacuum in my inner ear had finally disappeared following a rough flight.”

It is a simple therapy of joy and it is helping thousands of children create the germ of a new approach to life. Today the Cross Cultures Project Association runs Open Fun Football Schools in the Balkans, Caucasus, Moldova, Ukraine and the Middle East.

In 2011, a community policing dimension was added to the games when Cross Cultures Project Association began co-operating with the leading Danish institution of crime prevention School+Sport+Police (SSP). For 30 years, SSP has built on the perception that efficient juvenile crime prevention requires co-ordinated and joint efforts by all persons who are in direct daily contact with children, youth and their parents. In connection with the games, it is now assisting with the formation of cross-sector crime prevention networks in local communities.

A large-scale crime prevention project is underway in Georgia, and community policing is also an important component of the Open Fun Football Schools in Ukraine. All through the current crisis, kids have had the chance to play across ethnic divides. Eleven Open Fun Football Schools were organized in Crimea in January and February, and another ten in the end of May to celebrate the UEFA week of grassroots football. The football schools in Ukraine are always accompanied by two community police officers. A five-year co-operation agreement between the Open Fun Football Schools, the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Education ensures that the Open Fun Football Schools are used systematically for juvenile crime prevention.

Over 1,500 Open Fun Football Schools have been organized in total, for 340,000 boys and girls from 7 to 12 years old of five days duration; 500,000 children have enjoyed the so-called fun-festivals of one-day duration; 70,000 volunteers have been recruited and trained as local leaders, coaches, coach assistants; and 48,000 parents and municipal officials have attended workshops and parents’ meetings. This summer, the Open Fun Football Schools are expecting their one millionth participant.

Read about the Open Fun Football Schools and their community policing component at the Cross Cultures Project Association website: ccpa.eu.



Victor-Yves Ghebali (†)

The Role of the OSCE in Eurasia: From the Lisbon Summit to the Maastricht Ministerial Council (1996-2003)

By Alexandre Lambert

This new academic masterpiece by the late Victor-Yves Ghebali is a must for anyone interested in the OSCE, multilateral security co-operation and the geopolitical settings of this unique regional security community integrating the Euro-Atlantic region with Eurasia.

A massive body of work, it bears the trademarks of its author, the former professor at the Graduate Institute in Geneva whom many will remember by his nickname “Mr. OSCE”. Written in French, it is 800 pages long (with 13 main sections) and incorporates a vast number of references and documents. The monograph is the third and last volume of a stand-alone history of the OSCE, the first one covering the time of the Cold War (1973-1989) and the second the post-Cold War years (1990-1996).

The period covered saw two major geopolitical developments. First, EU and NATO enlargement, mainly into post-communist Europe, with the corresponding

responses by the Russian Federation marked by a policy shift between President Yeltsin and President Putin at the threshold of the new millennium.

Second, the terrorist attacks of 9/11, which had a major impact on the OSCE’s agenda and ironically helped, at least partially, to manage a continuing trend that is otherwise coined in the book as the “Russia problem”.

Ghebali not only draws a very sharp picture of the changing geopolitical dynamics, he also analyses in depth how the OSCE has successfully applied its comprehensive and co-operative security approach to new challenges: organized crime, human trafficking, illicit drug and arms trafficking and terrorism. At the same time, he highlights the merit of the OSCE to explicitly base its actions on the concept of co-operative and indivisible security, and this in a geographical zone which is otherwise shaped by geopolitical tensions. In the OSCE the United States and Russia “do sit in concert”, Ghebali claims. He teaches us that while the OSCE plays a complementary or subsidiary role to other regional organizations such as

NATO and the EU, the added value of the OSCE remains “by no means insignificant”.

The book comes with a preface by the OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier. As pointed out by Zannier, Ghebali was both the OSCE’s “most ambitious critic” and its “most ardent defender”. His work is addressed equally to academics and diplomats. With his passing away, the OSCE community has lost someone irreplaceable.

Ghebali’s study was published by Bruylant posthumously on the basis of an authorization by his family and an arrangement between the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Swiss Foreign Department of Foreign Affairs to formally issue the publication during the Swiss 2014 OSCE Chairmanship.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the book is written and currently available only in French. There is nothing comparable in terms of research and analysis to bring the OSCE into such sharp focus in time and space. The current situation in Ukraine has brought the OSCE back onto the radar screen. This monumental work is not just a historical recreation of what happened, but it also provides an important perspective on what is happening today.

Dr. Alexandre Lambert is Academic Director and Professor at the School for International Training in Geneva, Switzerland.

Read all three volumes of Ghebali’s trilogy:

La diplomatie de la détente – Le CSCE d’Helsinki à Vienne (1973-1989), Brussels: Bruylant, 1989.

L’OSCE dans l’Europe post-communiste (1990-1996), Brussels: Bruylant, 1996.

Le rôle de l’OSCE en Eurasie, du sommet de Lisbonne au Conseil ministériel de Maastricht (1996-2003), Brussels: Bruylant /DCAF, 2014.



OSCE CAFÉ

When in Vienna, don't miss the chance to join in on an OSCE Café at the Café Korb in the heart of the first district. Launched by Security Community on 4 July, the first OSCE Café was a rare chance to sit down and converse face-to-face with the people making the OSCE's monitoring operation in Ukraine happen. At the second OSCE Café on 22 July, a diplomat, a field officer and a historian shared their different perspectives on explaining the Organization's work.

For more information or to register for an event write oscecafe@osce.org.

Recent OSCE Publications

Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Published by OCEEA, OSR/CTHB, TNTD (English)

Protection Checklist: addressing displacement and protection of displaced populations and affected communities along the conflict cycle Published by the Conflict Prevention Centre (English)

A comparative study for women MPs in the OSCE region Published by ODIHR (English)

Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Published by ODIHR (English)

Baseline study on cross-border mobility in the OSCE region Published by ODIHR (English)

Integrating a Gender Perspective into Internal Oversight within Armed Forces Published by ODIHR (English)

A new OSCE guidebook

Community policing can be an effective strategy to help reduce crime and enhance wider community safety, consistent with democratic policing standards. With adequate planning and preparation, community policing can also make a tangible and durable contribution to wider efforts to prevent terrorism while upholding human rights and the rule of law.

The OSCE has published a new guidebook in its policing series that offers practical advice that can help address the risks and maximize the potential benefits in using a community-policing approach to prevent terrorism and to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

The guidebook provides a concise conceptual overview, a glossary, and valuable tips for implementation – including risk analysis, training and project evaluation. It offers 26 case studies, including examples of police efforts to engage with young people.

Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach is published jointly by the Transnational Threats Department and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Financial support was provided by Australia, Switzerland, the United States and Liechtenstein. Available in Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, English, Russian and Serbian.

Download the guidebook here: www.osce.org/atu/111438

Riblja čorba

Bački Monoštor, a small village in Serbia on the backwaters of the Danube River, has had centuries of experience with flooding. It is also known for its riblja čorba, the fish soup traditionally made by fishermen fresh from the river. Making the soup is a man's affair, with recipes guarded for generations. Miodrag Sandin, who has won prizes for his version, shares some of his secrets: "The fish has to be the highest quality, 80 % carp – remove the gills and teeth as they make the soup bitter – , 20% mixed fish, including at least two to three pieces of pike, which provides exceptional flavour – and paprika from Bački Monoštor, sweet and hot."

To taste a good riblja čorba for yourself, come to Bački Monoštor in the second week in August, for the Bodrog festival. The festival is named after the town that ancient writings say stood here long ago, before it disappeared without a trace, presumably into the waves of the Danube.

