

ODIHR Update

No. 6, 12 October 2015



Migrant crisis the focus of human rights discussion at HDIM opening



Foreign Minister Dačić, Director Link and Foreign Minister Schetyna during the HDIM opening, 21 September 2015.

Opening the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), in Warsaw on 21 September, ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link stressed that human rights are at the core of how OSCE participating States should address the current migration crisis in Europe.

The ODIHR Director joined OSCE Chairperson in Office and Foreign Minister of Serbia Ivica Dačić, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Special Representative of Germany's 2016 OSCE Chairmanship Gernot Erler and Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna in reminding the audience of the critical importance of the human dimension of security in co-ordinating a response to the migra-

tion crisis.

"Too many of those caught in this crisis have fled horrible conditions, only to be confronted by discrimination, violations of their human rights and, in some cases, the loss of their lives," said ODIHR Director Link. "These dangers have to be addressed directly. Instead of pouring resources into building walls that leave human beings vulnerable, I call upon all states concerned to ensure that the human rights of all are protected while managing the refugee crisis."

HDIM remains the world's largest human rights conference of its kind and this year had 1,386 participants over two-weeks.

ODIHR and Polish judicial school agree to strengthen hate crime prosecution



First Deputy Director Balbin and Leszek Pietraszko, Director of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution in Poland, at the signing ceremony in Warsaw, 16 September 2015.

ODIHR and Poland's National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution signed an agreement on 16 September in Warsaw to help strengthen prosecutors' skills to understand, recognize and successfully prosecute hate crimes.

"Hate crimes not only affect individual victims, but send a message of inequality and rejection throughout whole communities. Only a powerful response by the authorities can break the cycle of violence that hate crimes trigger," said ODIHR First Deputy Director Beatriz Balbin.

Trainers from ODIHR and the national judicial school will work together using a customized version of ODIHR's Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training. "Polish prosecutors are determined to fight crimes motivated by hatred" said Marzena Kowalska, Deputy Prosecutor General of Poland at the signing ceremony.

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Director Link meets with EU Enlargement Commissioner Hahn



Director Link and Commissioner Hahn in Brussels.

ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link met with Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, and other senior officials in Brussels on 2 September.

In a discussion focusing on the

human rights situation and the current state of democracy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the two agreed to continue close co-operation, especially in light of the upcoming early parliamentary elections scheduled for 24 April 2016.

The ODIHR Director confirmed the Office's readiness to observe the elections, contingent on the recommendations of a needs assessment mission scheduled to take place in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in November.

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Rule of Law Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Seconded

Closing date: 26 October 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Hate Crime Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Seconded

Closing date: 19 October 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Procurement/Travel Assistant

Location: Warsaw

Grade: G5

Closing date: 19 October 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

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