

Annual Report 2017








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Published by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Communications and Media Relations Section
Office of the Secretary General
OSCE Secretariat
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna Austria
www.osce.org

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ISBN 978-3-903128-11-8

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Design and Layout: **comma | communications design**
Front cover photo credit: **Mihajlo Lahtov**

Printed in Austria by **Ueberreuter**

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Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General, speaks at a meeting of the Permanent Council, Vienna, 31 August 2017. (OSCE/Benjamin Erasin)

Message from the Secretary General

I have taken up the position of Secretary General at a time when our security environment is increasingly complicated and unpredictable, and trust between OSCE participating States has hit historic lows. At this critical juncture, the need for a regional security organization like the OSCE has never been more apparent to prevent crises from turning into conflicts, to confront transnational challenges, and to seize opportunities for co-operation.

Reinvigorating the OSCE as the most relevant forum for inclusive, results-oriented security dialogue in Europe is one of my strategic priorities, along with strengthening and leveraging partnerships, and ensuring that the Organization is fit for purpose. I intend to play a unifying role, helping to build a positive agenda for the Organization. I will support participating States in upholding OSCE principles and commitments, and work with them to build on common ground where interests coincide.

They already co-operate effectively to combat transnational threats like terrorism, violent extremism, and trafficking in drugs, arms and people. Common efforts to create confidence-building measures to prevent crises stemming from cyber/ICT security threats, for which the Ministerial Council reiterated its support in Hamburg, show the value of an incremental approach to building mutual confidence.

The Structured Dialogue, launched at the 2016 Hamburg Ministerial Council, developed over the course of 2017 into a useful platform for constructive engagement in the politico-military dimension. Eventually, this informal process should produce results, including military risk reduction measures and confidence- and security-building measures. Further down the road, I hope this leads to renewed focus on conventional arms control.

Economic connectivity and environmental co-operation are also areas with unifying potential and where the OSCE builds trust and adds value in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda. I am hopeful that as our participating States make progress through co-operation in the first and second dimensions, they will also come together to reaffirm and strengthen our shared commitments to human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

Working toward a sustainable resolution of the crisis in and around Ukraine remains the Organization's top priority. In 2017, the OSCE steadfastly continued its efforts to de-escalate tensions on the ground and facilitate the political discussions aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement. The year was marked by continued, at times intense, military activity and a worsening humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine, and the risk of escalation remains high. The international community must push harder to break the political stalemate and achieve full implementation of the Minsk Agreements by all sides. After almost four years of fighting, the people in the conflict zone deserve a return to peace and stability, and the chance to rebuild their lives. The tragic death in the line of duty of one of our colleagues in the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in April 2017 highlighted the dangers to which OSCE Mission members are exposed. We are continuously adapting our security posture to mitigate risks to our monitors, but we also depend on an enabling environment to do our work. The sides to the conflict need to fulfil their obligation to guarantee the safety of OSCE monitors, and to grant them full and unhindered access throughout the conflict zone.

The OSCE continued its co-chairmanship of the Geneva International Discussions and its co-facilitation of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism meetings in Ergneti, which aim to address security and humanitarian challenges on the ground.

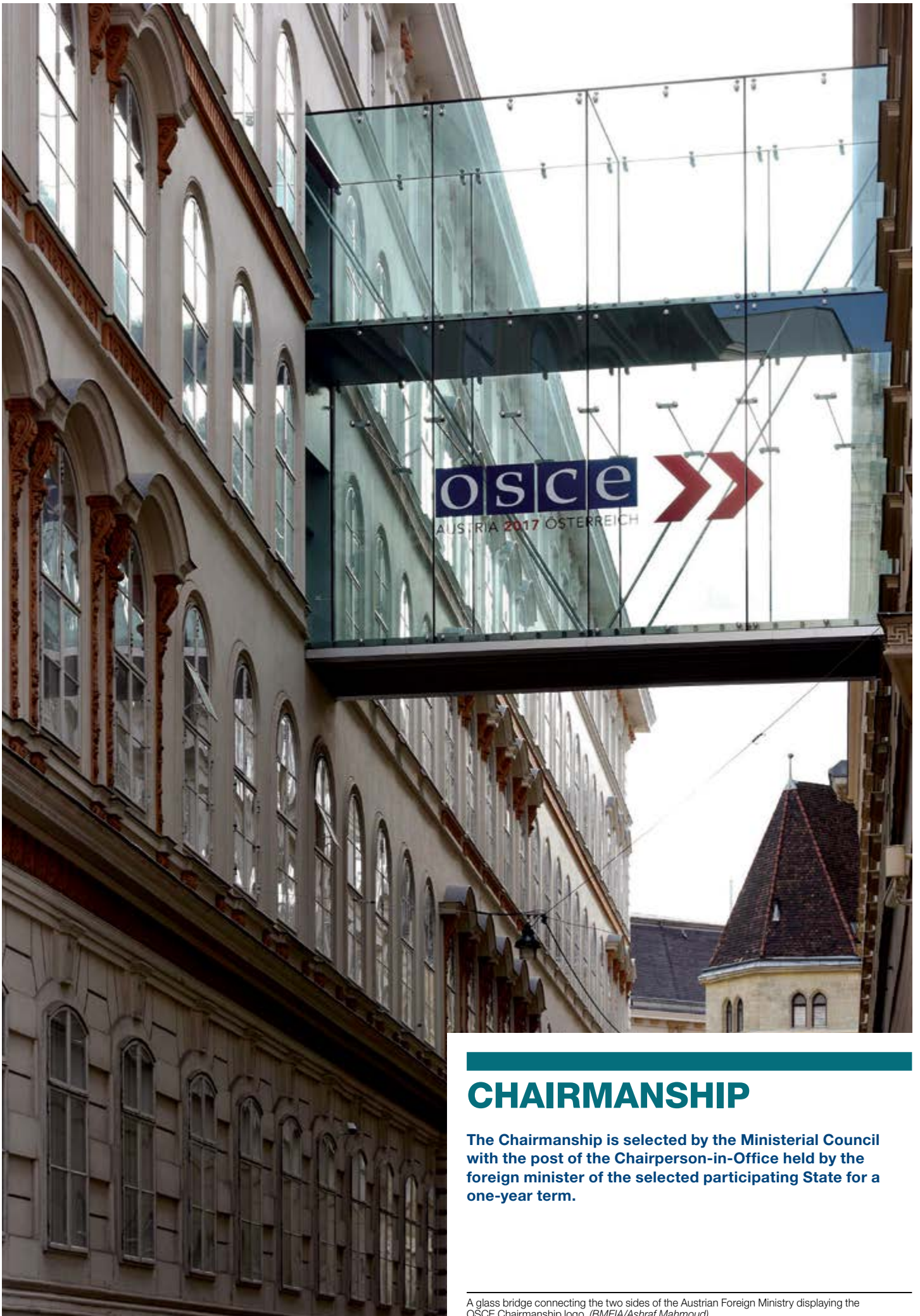
Peaceful, durable solutions to the crisis in and around Ukraine and the protracted conflicts in the OSCE region ultimately depend on the political will of the parties to the conflicts. In the Transdniestrian settlement process, the recent agreement on concrete steps between Chisinau and Tiraspol shows that progress is possible even after many years of deadlock. I hope this positive dynamic will give new momentum to the settlement process, and inspire greater will among the parties to resolve other conflicts in the OSCE region.

The OSCE is well equipped to respond to crises, but we should also be ready to make the most of openings for co-operation. In 2017, we not only witnessed progress in the Transdniestrian settlement process, but also a new, co-operative spirit in Central Asia, transformations in South-Eastern Europe, and broad recognition of the need for co-operation on shared security concerns in the Mediterranean. The OSCE can and should respond to these positive developments in a meaningful way, including by leveraging our Partnerships for Co-operation and our relations with other international and regional organizations, above all the United Nations. Several countries hosting OSCE field operations want to work more closely with the Organization, and others are looking for new forms of co-operation in the field. My side event at the Vienna Ministerial Council on field operations as a tool for co-operation highlighted the need for flexibility and tailoring our work to host country priorities; it also paved the way for deeper reflection on how to enhance the OSCE's added value on the ground.

To successfully meet the many complex challenges facing our region, we need to make sure that our Organization is up to the task. I am fully committed to this goal and ready to work together with the participating States to enhance the OSCE's role as a valuable platform for inclusive dialogue and joint action. I believe that the OSCE is a space where, together, we can make real progress in reconciling differences and tackling challenges to common security across our region and beyond.

The 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship steered the OSCE through difficult times and I am grateful for the strong support that Austria has traditionally extended to the Organization. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the professionalism, commitment and hard work of all the women and men who work in the Secretariat, institutions and field operations. Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of my distinguished predecessor, Lamberto Zannier, now OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, whose dedicated work is reflected throughout this report.

Thomas Greminger
OSCE Secretary General
Vienna, 2017



CHAIRMANSHIP

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

A glass bridge connecting the two sides of the Austrian Foreign Ministry displaying the OSCE Chairmanship logo. (BMEIA/Ashraf Mahmoud)

Austria's priorities: defusing existing conflicts, addressing radicalization and violent extremism, re-establishing trust and confidence

Chairperson-in-Office: Sebastian Kurz (from 1 January until 17 December 2017), Karin Kneissl (from 18 until 31 December 2017)
www.osce.org/chairsteam

Austria assumed the Chairmanship of the OSCE during a critical phase, when the participating States were facing a multitude of serious challenges to peace and security, including armed conflicts and crises, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and an increasing lack of trust between states. Moreover, violations of the OSCE's principles and values in recent years and a failure to implement agreements in good faith have damaged relations among the participating States.

Convinced that the OSCE plays an important part in addressing these complex challenges and restoring trust, the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship focused its efforts on fostering open and constructive dialogue and on searching for practical and effective common solutions.



(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

“Given the challenges the OSCE participating States are facing, a strong OSCE as a real platform for dialogue and co-operation is more necessary than ever. But this requires political will. Only the full engagement and ownership of all 57 participating States will enable sustainable progress and contribute to meeting the expectations of their populations.”

Sebastian Kurz
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Austrian Federal Minister for Europe,
Integration and Foreign Affairs

DEFUSING CONFLICTS

In 2017, conflicts continued to cause much suffering, displacement and destruction in parts of the OSCE region, resulting in heavy impact on the affected communities. The crisis in and around Ukraine remained the greatest source of instability in the OSCE region and caused an alarming humanitarian situation on the ground, putting it at the top of the Chairmanship's priority list.

The Chairmanship facilitated the agreement on a timely renewal of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, including the important decision to strengthen



Assessing the humanitarian situation on the contact line east of Mariupol (eastern Ukraine), the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Sebastian Kurz (centre left), speaks with Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Pavlo Klimkin (centre right), 3 January 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)

the SMM through a substantial increase in the budget to allow for more monitors, increased monitoring activities and improved technical equipment.

The Chairmanship focused on enabling political solutions to existing crises and conflicts, while emphasizing the need to do more to help the local populations that are suffering the most. The 24/7 monitoring by the SMM using the latest technology along the contact line in Ukraine, the significant progress achieved in the 5+2 negotiations on Transnistria, and concrete work in the framework of the Geneva International Discussions dealing with the consequences of the 2008 war in Georgia, to fight imminent environmental threats and promote unhindered co-operation across the administrative



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Sebastian Kurz (centre) on his way to a meeting under the "Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism" in Ergneti, Georgia, 4 February 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)

boundary lines, led to tangible benefits for conflict-affected communities.

The OSCE's response to the political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in April, under the guidance and with the active involvement of the Chairmanship, demonstrated the Organization's ability to react quickly and effectively to critical situations and to contribute in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner to defusing tensions and bringing underlying challenges to resolution.

FIGHTING RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Recognizing the significant threat posed to all participating States by violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), the Chairmanship over the course of 2016 and 2017 organized five regional workshops in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions as well as Western Europe with young experts, brought together more than 500 experts for a major counter-terrorism conference in May, and engaged foreign ministers from across the OSCE area on this issue. The Chairmanship's Special Representative on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism prepared recommendations and a compilation of best-practice models to assist states in effectively combating this phenomenon and making better use of the OSCE as a networking hub. Austria provided €250,000 to support continued work of the OSCE and the development of a handbook on countering violent radicalization.



(l-r) Sebastian Kurz, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Julian King, European Commissioner for the Security Union, and Nadia Murad, Goodwill Ambassador of the UN for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking, at the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference 2017, Vienna, 23 May 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)



Prime Minister of Moldova, Filip Pavel, and Transnistrian leader, Vadim Krasnoselski, reopen the Gura Bicului-Bychok Bridge together with high-level OSCE representatives, 18 November 2017. (OSCE/Igor Schimbator)

REBUILDING TRUST

The Chairmanship focused on fostering open and constructive dialogue, addressing disagreements and differing perceptions, and making efforts to find compromise solutions and improve trust amongst the participating States.

Based on the mandate provided by the Hamburg Declaration, the Austrian Chairmanship launched the Structured Dialogue on the current and future security challenges in the OSCE area, which aims to overcome the climate of confrontation. The Chairmanship organized a series of interactive meetings with participating States, with the goal of fostering understanding and identifying common ground to reverse the negative trends in the arms control architecture and to revitalize co-operative security in Europe. The meetings focused on the topics of threat perceptions, security concerns, challenges to the European rules-based security order and the role of military communication in de-escalation and risk reduction. The Chairmanship also initiated an in-depth analysis of force postures and military exercises. This process will continue in 2018.

Additionally, Austria focused on topics such as cyber/ICT security, economic connectivity and green economies. Progress made in these areas aims to generate more trust and confidence, and to act as a catalyst for further joint work. Chairmanship events throughout the year brought together high-level officials from participating States, businesses and communities to discuss ways to strengthen good governance, increase economic participation and improve environmental co-operation and risk reduction.

The human dimension of security remained at the core of the OSCE's work in 2017. Despite divergent perceptions and priorities, the Chairmanship was able to bring together participating States and civil society to discuss key issues such as freedom of the media, freedom of religion or belief, tolerance and non-discrimination, gender equality and access to justice. The Chairmanship advocated a consistent human rights "mainstreaming" within the OSCE, across all of the activities and the three dimensions of the Organization, most notably in the fight against terrorism and VERLT.

The Chairmanship invested considerable effort into restoring trust in the OSCE to optimize its functionality and credibility for overcoming the challenges and security risks the OSCE participating States are facing. The Chairmanship promoted the use of the OSCE and its instruments, in particular the



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Sebastian Kurz welcomes the newly appointed OSCE leadership: (l-r) Lamberto Zannier (Italy) as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; Thomas Greminger (Switzerland) as OSCE Secretary General; Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Iceland) as Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; and Harlem Désir (France) as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Vienna, 18 July 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)

institutions and field operations, and overcame numerous political obstacles in an effort to ensure that the Organization has the necessary means to carry out its mandate. It brokered agreement on a budget for 2017 and built consensus on the appointment of the new leadership of the OSCE and its institutions. In addition, Austria engaged with OSCE field operations and their respective host countries to ensure ownership in the missions' work – focusing on impact and results in support of agreed reform priorities.



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Sebastian Kurz, outlines the priorities of Austria's 2017 OSCE Chairmanship at a Permanent Council meeting, Vienna, 12 January 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)



Graphic recording of the conference Freedom of the Media in the Western Balkans, Vienna, 27 February 2017.



OSCE foreign ministers and heads of delegations at the 24th Ministerial Council in Vienna, 7 December 2017. (BMEIA/Georges Schneider)

24TH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL 8-9 DECEMBER 2017, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The Vienna Ministerial Council meeting was the culmination of Austrian efforts to provide an impulse to renew the OSCE's collective commitment to work together to tackle common threats and challenges, and to reaffirm the importance of a rules-based security order in Europe. The Ministerial Council continued the emphasis on genuine dialogue that had started at the informal ministerial meeting in Mauerbach in July 2017.

Over the course of two days, discussions among the foreign ministers were held in a variety of formats, both formal and informal, and at varying levels. Many ministers used the opportunity for bilateral meetings, for example Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov and Secretary of State of the United States of America Rex Tillerson. A series of 16 side events allowed ministers to exchange views on a range of key issues, including on the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine, the Structured Dialogue and VERLT. Most of these events were accessible to civil society representatives, media and youth. Other events focused on relations with the OSCE's Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and on a possible UN peacekeeping operation in eastern Ukraine.

Foreign ministers adopted 11 decisions and declarations in Vienna. They agreed to enhance OSCE efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and to reinforce and expand efforts to lessen the threat posed by small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. Decisions were also adopted to strengthen activities to prevent trafficking in human beings, and to combat all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation. With the adoption of a decision on economic participation in the OSCE area, ministers agreed on wide-ranging measures to intensify co-operation on economic activities, promote good governance, and further enhance efforts to encourage employment opportunities for women and young people as one means to reduce the risk of radicalization. Referring to the positive developments in the Transdniestrian settlement process, the participating States adopted a statement welcoming the concrete confidence-building measures agreed by the Sides and called on them to continue to

work towards further tangible progress. Furthermore they confirmed the appointments of the new leadership of the Organization, indispensable for a well-functioning OSCE.

In addition, the 2017 OSCE Chairmanship Troika (Germany, Austria, Italy), together with Slovakia as the incoming Troika member, highlighted its concern about deepened mistrust, increased tensions, and conflict and instability within and between OSCE participating States.

The OSCE Troika also called for the implementation of a durable and verifiable ceasefire and a new impetus to intensify efforts to resolve the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Finally, Austria issued Chairmanship declarations on greening the economy and fostering environmental co-operation, together with the Kazakh Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee, and on preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT.



Karin Kneissl, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, speaks at a meeting of the Permanent Council, Vienna, 21 December 2017. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

“Current challenges cannot be addressed by each state alone. Multilateral forums like the OSCE allow us to respond together – to succeed together.”

Karin Kneissl
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
Austrian Federal Minister for Europe,
Integration and Foreign Affairs



Participants at the opening session of the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council, Vienna, 7 December 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)

DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2017 OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

1. Decision on the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
2. Decision on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
3. Decision on the appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
4. Decision on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General
5. Decision on enhancing OSCE efforts to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies
6. Decision on strengthening efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings
7. Decision on strengthening efforts to combat all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children
8. Decision on promoting economic participation in the OSCE area
9. Decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
10. Decision on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition
11. Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the "5+2" format

OTHER DECLARATIONS:

1. "Quadriga" Declaration by the Foreign Ministers of Germany, Austria, Italy and Slovakia
2. Troika Statement on the Crisis in and around Ukraine by the Foreign Ministers of Germany, Austria and Italy
3. Declaration of the 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee Kazakhstan on greening our economies and fostering our environmental co-operation
4. Chairmanship Declaration on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism

TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP

AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group

The Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), which includes the OSCE, Ukraine and Russia as well as agreed participants from certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions – the only forum where the conflict sides meet on issues of common concern – followed an active pattern of meetings throughout the year. It discussed issues of essential importance for the civilian population in Donbas, ranging from the ceasefire and water supplies to improving conditions for crossing the line of contact. Regarding humanitarian issues, the TCG devoted consistent attention to the preparation of a release and an exchange of persons detained in relation to the conflict. It put in place an attestation mechanism to verify which of the detainees were willing to participate in such an exchange. The exercise involved the Ukrainian Ombudsperson and civilian participants from certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk

regions of Ukraine. It was acknowledged as a success by all sides. By agreeing an ad hoc payment mechanism, the TCG also succeeded in renewing and stabilizing the supply of water to the entire population residing in the part of the Luhansk region that is outside the control of the Ukrainian government. Thanks to a substantial decrease in military activity after the conflict sides re-committed to the “harvest ceasefire” in June 2017 and the “back-to-school ceasefire” in August 2017, the number of civilian victims steadily declined. In the August-October period, their number dropped fourfold compared to the May-July period. Although in November and December the violence along the contact line increased, following a renewed commitment to a sustainable and comprehensive ceasefire by the sides at the TCG meeting of 20 December, ceasefire violations decreased again.



(r-l) Ambassador Martin Sajdik and Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan at a press conference, Vienna, 5 April 2017. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)



Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, speaking at a the Permanent Council, Vienna, 8 November 2017. (OSCE/Salko Agovic)

AMBASSADOR ANDRZEJ KASPRZYK

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

www.osce.org/prcio

Throughout 2017, Ambassador Kasprzyk and his team conducted monitoring exercises, providing a continuous review of the situation on the ground related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Office played an active role in assisting the Chairperson-in-Office and the co-chairs of the Minsk Group (MG) in advancing the peace process, responding quickly to any outbreaks of violence and informing about developments on the ground.

Ambassador Kasprzyk continued to look for opportunities to promote further confidence-building measures with the consent of the sides. At the request of the sides, the Office supported a number of ad hoc humanitarian operations during the year including negotiations to return human remains, supporting a search and retrieval operation to recover the bodies of killed servicemen from minefields in no-man's land, and visits to villages affected by civilian casualties.

With the support of the sides, Ambassador Kasprzyk and his team conducted 24 monitoring exercises, six on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and 18 on the Line of Contact. These activities also enabled representatives of the High-Level Planning Group to visit the region four times.

The Office continuously informed the Chairmanship and MG co-chairs about all aspects of the situation on the ground as well as about activities and key events having an impact on the negotiations. It provided logistical support for the three visits by the MG co-chairs to the region. Ambassador Kasprzyk assisted the co-chairs in organizing a presidential summit and five meetings at the level of foreign ministers throughout the year.

Ambassador Kasprzyk also continued to co operate with representatives of international organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

THE “WHOLE OF OSCE APPROACH” FOR PEACEKEEPING PROVED ITS VALIDITY

THE HIGH-LEVEL PLANNING GROUP

www.osce.org/hlpg

“Integration of a gender perspective into planning was an area where the ‘whole-of-OSCE-approach’ proved invaluable – it provided an excellent example of effective mentorship and mutual support between OSCE structures.” Colonel Hans Lampalzer, Head of the High-Level Planning Group, reporting to the Permanent Council on 9 November 2017.

A closer co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat, including the Conflict Prevention Centre, the Gender Section, Legal Services and the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the United Nations Global Service Centre fed significantly into the High-Level Planning Group’s efforts to review and update its planning options for a possible peacekeeping operation for the area of conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.



“Integration of a gender perspective into planning was an area where the ‘whole-of-OSCE-approach’ proved invaluable – it provided an excellent example of effective mentorship and mutual support between OSCE structures.”

Colonel Hans Lampalzer
Head of the High-Level Planning Group,
reporting to the Permanent
Council on 9 November 2017

SOUTH CAUCASUS



**AMBASSADOR
GÜNTHER BÄCHLER**
Special Representative
of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office
for the South Caucasus

The situation related to the aftermath of the 2008 war in Georgia remained relatively calm and stable, in spite of increased military activities noticed in the region. Together with his fellow co-chairs from the EU and the UN, Ambassador Bächler co-chaired four rounds of the Geneva International Discussions (GID). The participants came close to agreeing on a joint declaration on the non-use of force and remained committed to addressing security and humanitarian issues in this format. The GID and its associated Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM) remain the only platforms for defusing potential tensions that are accepted by all participants. Together with the Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, Ambassador Bächler co-facilitated 11 meetings of the IPRM in Ergneti. These meetings continued to be an important tool for constructive dialogue between the participants and contributed to solving concrete issues around the administrative boundary line.

Having in mind the impact of the situation on the local population, the Chairperson-in-Office visited a camp for internally displaced persons and addressed the participants of an IPRM meeting in Ergneti. He underlined the Chairmanship's overall commitment to prioritize efforts to resolve conflicts and strengthen dialogue and confidence-building measures.

3–4

Chairperson-in-Office visits eastern Ukraine

12 / VIENNA

Opening Address by Minister Kurz, Chairperson-in-Office

16–18

Chairperson-in-Office visits Kyiv, Moscow

23–24 / VIENNA

1st Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum on good governance, business partnerships and prevention of radicalization

25 / VIENNA

Chairperson-in-Office opens the Chairmanship Business Conference on partnership and innovation

JANUARY

TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT



**AMBASSADOR WOLF
DIETRICH HEIM**
Special Representative
of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office
for the Transnistrian
settlement process

As was underscored during the visit of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to Chisinau and Tiraspol in early 2017, the Chairmanship remained committed to the results-oriented 5+2 process stipulated in the 2016 OSCE Ministerial Statement adopted in Hamburg. Ambassador Wolf Dietrich Heim encouraged the Sides to focus on the core issues and to use the expert working groups to find technical solutions. This approach culminated in the groundbreaking decision by the Sides on 3 November to open the bridge at Gura Bicului-Bychok for civilian traffic, which represented substantial progress on the issue of freedom of movement for people, goods and services. Furthermore, the opening of this bridge on 18 November made it possible to hold a formal meeting in the 5+2 negotiation format on 27 and 28 November in Vienna. With additional agreements on other issues – including those part of the Berlin Protocol – the Austrian Chairmanship succeeded in establishing a new active rhythm in the negotiation process.

2–3

Chairperson-in-Office visits Moldova, holds talks in Chisinau and Tiraspol

3–4

Chairperson-in-Office visits Georgia, addresses IPRM participants in Ergneti

12–13

Chairperson-in-Office visits Belgrade, Skopje

15 / VIENNA

Chairperson-in-Office opens the Chairmanship conference on cybersecurity for critical infrastructure

22 / NEW YORK

Chairperson-in-Office addresses the UN Security Council

23–24 / VIENNA

Chairperson-in-Office addresses the OSCE PA Winter Meeting

27 / VIENNA

Chairperson-in-Office opens the Chairmanship conference on freedom of the media in the Western Balkans

FEBRUARY



Professor Peter Neumann, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office (right), presenting a report identifying areas of good practice in VERLT across the OSCE area, 29 September 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM

PROFESSOR PETER NEUMANN

Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism

Professor Neumann's aim was to sharpen the OSCE's focus on countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). In addition to engaging with the OSCE executive structures, Professor Neumann visited many of the OSCE participating States in Western Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the European institutions. This enabled him to identify the best practices and recommendations that were compiled in his final report. He also contributed his expertise to the OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference, the Annual Security Review Conference, the informal foreign ministers meeting and several workshops throughout the year.

The report Professor Neumann presented to the participating States made a number of practical recommendations. These included establishing a hub for the exchange of best practices and capitalizing on the OSCE's local presence in strategically important regions such as South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Implementing these proposals will strengthen the OSCE's capability to make an effective contribution to countering VERLT.

3–4 / VIENNA

Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference focuses on combating trafficking in children

APRIL

4–5 / VIENNA

Intersessional OSCE Dialogue on Military Doctrines promotes more intensive military-to-military contacts

15–16 / LINZ

Chairmanship academic conference on a common economic space aims to reinvigorate the second dimension

23–24 / VIENNA

Chairperson-in-Office opens the OSCE counter-terrorism conference on preventing and countering VERLT

MAY

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



**AMBASSADOR
MELANNE VERVEER**
Special Representative
of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office
on Gender Issues

Ambassador Verveer undertook several initiatives to advance gender mainstreaming in the OSCE. At the Gender Equality Review Conference, she put emphasis on issues critical to advancing progress for women across the three dimensions of the OSCE's mandate. At a high-level mediation retreat in April, she underscored the necessity of women's participation across the conflict cycle. Ambassador Verveer made a country visit to Ukraine, where she focused, among other issues, on gender-based violence, the implementation of Ukraine's national action plan on women, peace and security, and the role of women in the SMM. She presented her findings to the Permanent Council, offering recommendations on mainstreaming gender across the work of the OSCE. She further emphasized that the OSCE, as the largest regional security organization, can and must take the lead in this regard. In September, Ambassador Verveer delivered the keynote address at the ODIHR conference on the human dimension of security in Ukraine.

12–13 / VIENNA

Austrian Minister for Families and Youth opens the 2nd Gender Equality Review Conference

14–16 / ASTANA

Greening the economy and building partnerships are the main themes at the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum

19–20 / BERLIN

OSCE Asian Conference on Common Challenges and Opportunities

22–23 / VIENNA

1st Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on freedom of religion or belief

27–29 / VIENNA

Chairperson-in-Office opens the Annual Security Review Conference

10–11 / VIENNA

OSCE-wide Anti-Drugs Conference

11 / MAUERBACH

Informal Ministerial Meeting

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

Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism

Professor Bülent Şenay, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

Professor Ingeborg Gabriel, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

The Austrian Chairmanship continued the practice of appointing Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-discrimination to strengthen the OSCE's activities in this area.

In May, the Personal Representatives undertook joint country visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Germany. During these visits, they met with representatives from the governments, civil society organizations, the religious communities and the international community. In addition, Rabbi Baker visited Moldova in February/March and joined the ODIHR Director at a presentation in Berlin of the practical guide *Understanding Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Jewish Communities*.

The Personal Representatives jointly or individually attended a number of meetings, including the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief, a conference on religious rites and practices, as well as the conferences "Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Hatred against Muslims" and "Preventing and Countering Hate Crimes against Christians and Members of other Religious Groups", as well as the "2nd Athens International Conference on Religious and Cultural Pluralism and Peaceful Coexistence in the Middle East".

6–8 / PRAGUE

Austrian Minister of Finance opens the Economic and Environmental Forum

11–22 / WARSAW

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

26–27 / VIENNA

Annual Police Experts Meeting

29 / VIENNA

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and his Special Representative on the Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism, Peter Neumann, address Special Permanent Council meeting on preventing and combating VERLT

JUNE

JULY

SEPTEMBER

ASSISTANCE WITH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS



HELMUT NAPIÓNTEK

Representative to the Russian-Latvian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

The Representative continued to assist in the implementation of the 1994 bilateral agreement between the governments of Latvia and the Russian Federation on social guarantees for military pensioners from the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia. The latest available overview registers 7,701 people falling under the special provisions of the bilateral agreement. There were no new fundamental issues concerning the work of the Commission in the past year. As a stable trend since 2008, no individual complaints were brought to the attention of the Commission by military pensioners in 2017. As it is impossible to rule out such complaints in the future, the 2017 report to the Permanent Council concluded that the function of a Representative should continue to exist as a stand-by arrangement.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal status of the OSCE continued to be a focus of the OSCE under the Austrian Chairmanship in 2017. A Headquarters Agreement between Austria and the OSCE was signed in June 2017, a clear recognition by Austria that it considers the OSCE as enjoying international legal personality on the basis of customary international law.

Special Advisor Ambassador Helmut Tichy chaired three meetings of the informal working group on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE. Short of a solution that would grant international legal personality in accordance with one of the four options discussed in the informal working group, the participating States explored ways to

enhance the legal status of the OSCE through domestic legislation and/or through bilateral agreements with the OSCE, as well as by concluding an agreement on the legal status, privileges and immunities of the OSCE between interested participating States outside of the OSCE's framework. An extended meeting of the informal working group in July 2017 allowed for intensified discussions amongst delegations and with legal experts, and provided valuable insight on the practical implications for field operations, also with regard to the duty of care.

YOUTH AND SECURITY

The Special Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security, Anna-Katharina Deininger, Asif Safdary, Nico Schernbeck, Matteo Pugliese and Mehmed Alajbegović, dedicated their work to strengthening the voice of young people and increasing meaningful youth participation and structural youth mainstreaming within the OSCE. They advised the Chairmanship on youth issues; voiced the views of young people at OSCE events on issues such as preventing and countering radicalization and terrorism, migration, human rights, political participation and cybersecurity; and championed the concerns of young people in the OSCE region.



(l-r) The OSCE Special Representatives on Youth and Security, Nico Schernbeck, Mehmed Alajbegović, Anna-Katharina Deininger, Asif Safdarym and Matteo Pugliese, Vienna, 12 January 2017. (OSCE/Alice Zimmermann)

11–12 / WARSAW

Human Dimension Seminar on the rights of the child

13 / VIENNA

Internet Freedom Conference

16–17 / VIENNA

Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

24–25 / PALERMO

OSCE Mediterranean Conference

OCTOBER

2–3 / VIENNA

2nd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the role of the free media in the comprehensive approach to security

3 / VIENNA

Chairmanship Conference on Cyber Security

16–17 / VIENNA

3rd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on access to justice as a key element of the rule of law

22 / YEREVAN

Conference on preventing and countering hate crimes against Christians and members of other religious groups

1 / VIENNA

Chairmanship Conference: The Gender Dimension of Internal Displacement

7–8 / VIENNA

24th OSCE Ministerial Council

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The Austrian Chairmanship promoted the involvement of the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in OSCE events and activities, ensuring continued dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners.

ASIAN CONTACT GROUP

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



Speakers at the 2017 OSCE Asian Conference, Berlin, 19 June 2017. (Federal Foreign Office of Germany)

In close consultation with the five OSCE Asian Partners and the Secretariat and based on recommendations from annual reports by previous Chairmanships and Ministerial Council Troika meetings, Germany set out a cross-dimensional work plan for 2017 which also reflected priorities of the Austrian OSCE Chair. Supporting a demand-driven approach and responding to the interests and priorities of the Asian Partners, Germany focused on deepening and operationalizing the dialogue and co-operation with the Asian Partners. The Contact Group continued exchanging experiences and lessons learned on issues of mutual concern, in particular common security challenges in the OSCE and Asia-Pacific regions.

The Contact Group met five times in 2017 and discussed in particular the following topics:

- global security implications of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula, including implementation of UNSCR 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- empowering youth in countering violent extremism – sharing experience between the regions;
- Indo-Pacific security dynamics;
- latest developments on the Korean Peninsula;
- migration and its impact on security and development – exchange of experiences in the OSCE and the Asia-Pacific regions.

High-level representatives from Partner countries and OSCE participating States as well as international organizations, renowned academics and experts from the OSCE Secretariat initiated fruitful discussions and exchanged best practices.

Germany also promoted practical co-operation and contributed to the OSCE Partnership Fund to allow representatives of the OSCE Partners to take part in OSCE activities and events, as well as to finance the OSCE's "Young Diplomats" extrabudgetary project.

2017 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

The 2017 OSCE Asian Conference, focusing on common challenges and common opportunities, took place in Berlin, Germany, on 19 and 20 June, with the participation of several deputy foreign ministers and other high-level representatives. The event's three thematic sessions and the side event, reflecting the OSCE's three dimensions, provided a timely opportunity for OSCE participating States and Asian Partners to share views and experiences on topics of particular interest to the participating States and the Asian Partners, including confidence-building, connectivity and regional economic co-operation, the region's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how to further engage with Afghanistan and its neighbours on empowering women.

MEDITERRANEAN CONTACT GROUP

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



Asma Mansour, President and Co-Founder of the Tunisian Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, speaks at a meeting of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group, Vienna, 25 September 2017. (OSCE/LCarmona)

The 2017 Italian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group focused primarily on the common ground rather than the differences that may exist between the OSCE region and the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners by developing a "positive agenda". Building upon efforts undertaken by previous Chairmanships, Italy worked on finding areas of co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners through an inclusive and tangible approach.

In 2017, the Mediterranean Contact Group meetings were devoted to topics such as:

- combating trafficking in cultural property and its implications for security and stability in the OSCE region;
- promoting dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation with a view to reducing risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies;
- energy security in times of economic and political uncertainty – thinking green when looking at the future of the Mediterranean;
- women, peace and security: increasing political participation of women and the role of women in prevention and mediation processes as a factor of positive change in the Mediterranean;
- economic development as a way to address the root causes of instability: the role of small and medium enterprises; and
- building the "Mediterranean of the future" by fostering dialogue between think tanks and policy planners from the two shores.

The Italian Chair, together with the OSCE Secretariat, established and funded a number of extrabudgetary projects as follow-up to discussions, such as the workshops Combating Illicit Cross-border Trafficking in Cultural Property in the Mediterranean and Understanding Mediation Within the Framework of Women, Peace and Security, and the launch of the OSCE GEMS Award, which will award young green and social entrepreneurs from the six Mediterranean Partners with educational grants.

2017 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

The annual Mediterranean Conference took place on 24 and 25 October in Palermo, Italy, and was devoted to challenges and opportunities of large movements of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean. The event attracted a large turnout, with 71 delegations and organizations taking part, including a delegation from Libya invited as a guest of the Italian Chair. The conference put an emphasis on issues affecting Mediterranean security, including drug trafficking, organized crime, smuggling and trafficking in human beings. It also focused on the economic and social potential of migration and the role of integration policies for inclusive growth, sustainable development, peace and stability. Participants engaged in an open dialogue; their debate highlighted how emergencies and crises, if dealt with in a spirit of responsibility and solidarity, can be turned into opportunities for renewed regional and international co-operation.



PERMANENT COUNCIL

The Permanent Council is the OSCE's regular body for political dialogue and decision-making among representatives of the OSCE participating States, meeting weekly in Vienna.

During a session of the Permanent Council meeting, Vienna, 8 November 2017.
(OSCE/Salko Agovic)

Permanent Council

www.osce.org/permanent-council

During the 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council were chaired by Austria's Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Ambassador Clemens Koja.

Throughout the year, Ambassador Koja welcomed distinguished guest speakers to the Permanent Council, including ministers and deputy ministers from the participating States and high-level representatives from international organizations. Guest speakers highlighted issues of special relevance to the Chairmanship, such as the humanitarian situation in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine, countering radicalization, protection of journalists and the fight against corruption.

Besides the work of the OSCE institutions and field operations, in view of unresolved conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area, various conflict settlement efforts played an important part in many of the 39 sessions of the Permanent Council in 2017. On the crisis in and around Ukraine alone, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, and Chief Monitor of the SMM, Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, briefed the Permanent Council six times. The Chairperson also called special meetings following the escalation of violence in eastern Ukraine and the death of an SMM team member.

The meetings of the Permanent Council provided an opportunity to foster close, mutually beneficial co-operation with other international organizations active in the OSCE area through participation of high-level representatives of the CoE, the UNHCR, the ICRC, the International Anti-Corruption Academy, the EU, the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, GUAM, and the Eurasian Economic Commission.



“The current security situation requires urgent action. By fostering constructive dialogue between the participating States, the Austrian Chairmanship created a real opportunity to strengthen transparency and predictability and rebuild trust. I urge the participating States to use the OSCE as a tool to explore ways to enhance strategic stability and improve the security landscape in Europe.”

Ambassador Clemens Koja
Austria's Permanent Representative
to the OSCE and 2017
Chairperson of the Permanent Council

CHAIRS OF THE THREE GENERAL COMMITTEES AS APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL:

- **Ambassador Steffen Kongstad**, Norway – Security Committee
- **Ambassador Kairat Sarybay**, Kazakhstan – Economic and Environmental Committee
- **Ambassador Sian Macleod**, United Kingdom – Human Dimension Committee

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL APPOINTED CHAIRS FOR INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS (IWG) WHO REPORTED THE RESULTS OF THEIR WORK TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL:

- **Ambassador Helmut Tichy**, Austria – IWG on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE
- **Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl**, Austria – IWG on Scales of Contribution
- **Ambassador Károly Dán**, Hungary – IWG established by PC Decision 1039
- **Ambassador Eberhard Pohl**, Germany – IWG on the Structured Dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area pursuant to the 2016 Ministerial Council Declaration

12 January



SEBASTIAN KURZ
*Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian
Federal Minister for Europe,
Integration and Foreign Affairs*

9 March



TERESA HAVLICEK
Online Editor at wienerin.at

26 January



IOANNIS KASOULIDES
*Chair of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe, Foreign
Minister of Cyprus*

16 March



NIKOLA POPOSKI
*Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign
Minister of the former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia*

26 January



MIHNEA CONSTANTINESCU
*Chair of the International
Holocaust Remembrance Alliance,
Ambassador*

23 March



MARTIN KREUTNER
*Dean and Executive Secretary of
the International Anti-Corruption
Academy*

2 March



VOLKER TÜRK
*United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees' Assistant High
Commissioner for Protection*

5 April



PATRICK VIAL
*Statement by the Regional
Director for Europe and
Central Asia of the International
Committee of the Red Cross*

9 March



HANNA HERBST
Deputy Editor at VICE Austria

18 May



MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ
*Vice-President of the European
Commission*

1 June



IVO ŠRAMEK
Representative of the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Security and Multilateral Issues of the Czech Republic

19 October



CHRISTINE MUTTONEN
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

8 June



ALTAI EFENDIEV
Secretary General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM

19 October



TIGRAN SARGSYAN
Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission

20 July



ANGELINO ALFANO
*Foreign Minister of Italy, 2018
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office*

16 November



NILS MUIŽNIEKS
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

29 September



Professor **PETER NEUMANN**
Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism

23 November



FILIPPO LOMBARDI
Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

12 October



NIKOLA DIMITROV
Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

18 December



JOHANNES HAHN
European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

12 October



CHRISTINE BEERLI
Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

21 December



KARIN KNEISSEL
Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs



FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

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

A representative of the Russian Federation poses questions to a United States Army captain as part of the observation of the joint military exercise Dragon-17 under Chapter VI of the Vienna Document 2011, eastern Poland, 26 September 2017. (OSCE/Kristijan Podbevsek)

Forum for Security Co-operation

FSC Chairmanships – Romania, the Russian Federation and Serbia



www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation

Discussions on the crisis in and around Ukraine continued to be the dominant topic at the weekly sessions of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). Throughout the year, the Forum addressed key issues and developments related to the politico-military dimension, including arms control and CSBMs, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), as well as subregional military and defence co-operation. The Forum adopted seven decisions designed to support the implementation of existing commitments. The substantial work of the FSC was crowned by the adoption of the decision on SALW and SCA at the Vienna Ministerial Council.

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE

The FSC continues to provide valuable opportunities for dialogue and discussion on the most pressing military-related security issues in the OSCE region as well as on its political and military commitments. The three successive 2017 FSC Chairmanships – Romania, the Russian Federation and Serbia – invested considerable effort in strengthening the OSCE's focus on politico-military security by maximizing the use of the FSC as a forum for negotiations and consultations on military security and stability in the OSCE area. A total of 19 so-called Security Dialogues with guest speakers were devoted to matters related to topical European security issues, including CSBMs, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, SALW and SCA, UN Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000), as well

as subregional military and defence co-operation. Some innovative topics were also discussed, including the role of military chaplains in the armed forces and freedom of belief in peacetime or at war, the role of parliaments in the democratic control of armed forces, and bilateral agreements on the prevention of military incidents.

All three FSC Chairmanships co-operated closely with the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the Permanent Council on cross-dimensional issues of relevance to both bodies in line with the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. To this end, four joint meetings were held: one on military aspects of cybersecurity, two on the Structured Dialogue, and one on support to the national authorities in the migration crisis by the security forces.



Soldiers of the Light Dragoons cavalry regiment of the British Army on a reconnaissance mission during the observation of the joint military exercise Dragon-17 under Chapter VI of the Vienna Document 2011, eastern Poland, 26 September 2017. (OSCE/Kristijan Podbevsek)

The 27th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in February-March provided an opportunity for the OSCE participating States to discuss the current and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. In accordance with its mandate, the FSC contributed to the Annual Security Review Conference held in June, focusing on politico-military aspects of security. The Sixth annual discussion on the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was also held in Vienna in June. A further conference on the Code of Conduct in Washington, D.C. in October, the first such conference in the United States, provided a unique opportunity to discuss the implementation and promote awareness of the provisions of the Code in the North American context and to support outreach in its regard. The Heads of Verification Centres met in December to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of the Vienna Document 2011.

Significant work was accomplished in the area of SALW and SCA: A meeting on deactivation of SALW was held in March, which resulted in enhancing the process of developing minimal standards for the deactivation of SALW. Furthermore, an online reporting tool was introduced to allow the participating States to simultaneously submit national SALW reports to both the OSCE and the UN, contributing to transparency, predictability and stability. This helped lessen the reporting burden on the participating States. In October, the FSC organized a special meeting to review the implementation of OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA, and to discuss various aspects of project management issues. The efficient work on this topic stimulated the participating States to adopt the Decision on SALW and SCA at the Vienna Ministerial Council in December.

FSC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN 2017

The FSC worked with the following international organizations and partners: United Nations (UN), UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BSTRC), Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), European Union External Action Service (EEAS), EUROPOL, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA).

It also supported the OSCE participating States and relevant ministries as follows:

- Foreign ministries of Croatia, France, Montenegro, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey
- Defence ministries of Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and the United States of America
- Interior ministries of Moldova, Serbia and Spain
- Other national ministries/entities: Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and Serbia's Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and its National Assembly
- Armed Forces of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Germany, Moldova, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United States of America



A Eurofighter Typhoon EF2000 combat aircraft in the hangar of the Tactical Air Force Wing 73 Steinhoff of the German Air Force during a visit to the Rostock-Laage Airbase under Chapter IV of the Vienna Document 2011, near Rostock, Germany, 30 May 2017. (OSCE/Kristijan Podbevsek)



OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region. It provides a forum for OSCE parliamentarians to engage in dialogue, observe elections, and strengthen international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

OSCE PA delegates vote at the Plenary Session of the OSCE PA Annual Session in Minsk, 9 July 2017. (Belarusian Parliament)

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Secretary General: **Roberto Montella**
Budget: €3,161,000
Staff: 18 full-time employees, 8 research fellows
www.oscepa.org

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) deepened its focus in 2017 on issues such as migration, cybersecurity, terrorism and gender aspects of security. A new Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism was established at the Annual Session in Minsk, and the Assembly continued to develop its relations with partners, holding meetings with officials from the United Nations, the European Union, the International Criminal Court and the Commonwealth of Independent States, among others. Election observation remained a central focus of OSCE PA activities, with elections observed in five countries, including the PA's first-ever missions to Germany and Mongolia. Austrian parliamentarian Christine Muttonen was re-elected Assembly President at the Minsk Annual Session. Georgian parliamentarian George Tsereteli succeeded her in November.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The PA conducted high-level diplomacy throughout the OSCE area, including North America, the South Caucasus, North Africa and Central Asia. President Muttonen visited OSCE participating States, including Belarus, Canada, Kazakhstan, the United States of America and Uzbekistan. She also visited the OSCE Partner for Co-operation Morocco for talks centring on Mediterranean engagement and counter-terrorism, as well as China, where she met with representatives of the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. In March, together with the Austrian Parliament, the PA organized a major conference, OSCE Security Policy – Female Perspectives, with broad participation of parliamentarians from many participating States.

Senior OSCE PA members visited Turkey in June to follow up on developments after the attempted coup of July 2016. Members noted the extraordinary challenges faced by the country such as terrorism and large migration flows, and urged full transparency and due process in the aftermath of the coup attempt.

OSCE PA Special Representatives Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia) and Kristian Vigenin (MP, Bulgaria) conducted regional visits to South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, holding high-level meetings in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Montenegro. In September, former OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus, Kent Harstedt (MP, Sweden), was appointed Special Representative for Eastern Europe, tasked with confidence-building, reconciliation and dialogue facilitation in the region.

PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AND BEST PRACTICES ON MIGRATION

The Assembly focused on the issue of migration throughout the year, with working visits to Greece, Italy and Turkey and a major report issued in October by the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. Briefings were also held in Brussels and in Geneva with key international actors dealing with migration. The Ad Hoc Committee met several times, and the Assembly debated the topic of refugees and migrants at its Autumn Meeting, Winter Meeting and Annual



OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Chair (and Member of Parliament of Greece) Makis Voridis (centre left), with other committee members at a meeting with the UNODC, Vienna, 14 November 2017. (OSCEPA/Maria Pavlova)



Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany (right), speaks with the OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Isabel Santos (left) and George Tsereteli (centre) at a polling station, Berlin, 24 September 2017. (OSCEPA/Nat Parry)



OSCE PA Special Representative on the South Caucasus (and Member of Parliament of Bulgaria) Kristian Vigenin views the administrative boundary line in Georgia, 28 September 2017. (OSCEPA/Andreas Baker)

Session. At the Annual Session, the Assembly formally adopted a set of recommendations to OSCE participating States on ways to increase co-operation and co-ordination to improve migration governance.

Members exchanged views on migration-related work with high-level OSCE governmental representatives, including at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Palermo in October, and shared the PA's experiences with partners, including the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM

OSCE parliamentarians made countering terrorism and violent extremism a key priority in 2017. Members of the OSCE PA participated in several international conferences across the OSCE area, stressing the urgency of developing effective and innovative counter-terror strategies to keep the citizens of the OSCE area safe. In particular, President Muttonen took part in the Parliamentary Conference on Combating International Terrorism organized by the OSCE PA and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States on 28 March 2017 in St. Petersburg. At the Assembly's 26th Annual Session in Minsk, the Standing Committee agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, which met for the first time on the margins of the Autumn Meeting in Andorra. Its first working visit was to Vienna, where members of the Ad Hoc Committee met with OSCE and UN officials on 13 and 14 November to develop co-ordinated international strategies to counter violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism.

ANNUAL SESSION, MINSK, 5–9 JULY AUTUMN MEETING, ANDORRA, 3–5 OCTOBER WINTER MEETING, VIENNA, 23–24 FEBRUARY

The 26th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly brought together some 260 parliamentarians in



“Co-operation is a necessity in this interconnected world, and no country – no matter how big it may be – can afford to ensure its security on its own.”

Christine Muttonen
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



“Only through co-operation and dialogue can we ensure mutual security, but while co-operation in some cases might require compromise, we cannot compromise on our values or on the founding principles of the OSCE.”

George Tsereteli
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

the Belarus capital under the theme “Enhancing mutual trust and co-operation for peace and prosperity in the OSCE region”. The Session culminated in the adoption of the 2017 Minsk Declaration highlighting priority topics by parliamentarians as input to the OSCE’s Ministerial Council.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s 16th Autumn Meeting brought together about 180 parliamentarians for a Mediterranean forum and debates on cybersecurity, climate change and the importance of education as a guarantee of stability. Some 250 members of parliament gathered at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna for the Assembly’s 16th Winter Meeting with a special debate on protecting human rights in times of crisis.

CONTRIBUTING POLITICAL EXPERIENCE TO OSCE ELECTION OBSERVATION

OSCE PA election observers worked closely with colleagues from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and other international organizations, contributing their political experience, judgment and visibility to this essential OSCE endeavour. The OSCE PA deployed 215 observers to five countries in 2017, including first-time election observation in Mongolia and Germany. Missions were also deployed to Albania, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.





SECRETARIAT

Led by the Secretary General, the OSCE Secretariat is based in Vienna and assists the Chairmanship, supports OSCE field activities, maintains contacts with international and non-governmental organizations, and provides conference, language, administrative, financial, personnel and information technology services.

Secretariat

Secretary General: **Thomas Greminger** (as of 18 July 2017),
Lamberto Zannier (until 30 June 2017)
Budget: €41,164,000 (Unified budget), €18,738,279 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 389 (including 15 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/secretariat

In 2017, the Secretariat continued implementing the Organization's political decisions and supporting the process of dialogue and negotiation between the 57 participating States. Working closely with and assisting the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, the staff of the Secretariat monitored trends, provided expert analysis and carried out projects in the field. It provided operational support to the participating States on a wide range of mandated activities across the three OSCE dimensions.

THE SECRETARIAT CONSISTS OF:

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

Conflict prevention

Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre: **Ambassador Marcel Peško**
Budget: €5,207,800 (Unified budget), €7,785,949 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 57 (including 4 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/secretariat/conflict-prevention

The OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) is the main point of contact on all matters concerning OSCE field operations. It addresses all phases of the conflict cycle through policy and operational guidance and advice, including through early warning and support of the OSCE's response in crisis situations, and through efforts to find lasting political settlements for existing conflicts. The CPC is a core structure of the OSCE's work in the politico-military dimension and provides organization-wide support for project management.

CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE CRISIS IN AND AROUND UKRAINE

The CPC continued to play a key role in co-ordinating the OSCE's response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. The CPC facilitated efforts to support stabilization on the ground and the implementation of the Minsk agreements. It worked with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) to further consolidate the Mission's internal procedures and policies, as well as to strengthen its technical surveillance capabilities. The CPC provided close support for the work of the Trilateral Contact Group's (TCG) Political Working Group to further conflict resolution efforts. It also assisted the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The CPC supported the Transdniestrian settlement process in Moldova, working closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process. It actively supported efforts by the Chairmanship and the Mission to Moldova to reach an agreement on

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, AMMUNITION, DEMINING, AND CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN UKRAINE

- The CPC is enhancing the capacity of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine to clear territories of explosive remnants of war by increasing the capacity of explosive ordnance disposal teams. Through the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, it provided support for the development of two projects on humanitarian demining. It carried out an assessment of the capacity of the National Police to counter improvised explosive devices and an ongoing assessment of the capacity of the State Border Guard Service to curb illicit trafficking of small arms, ammunition and explosives.
- Together with the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the CPC manages chemical safety and security projects in Ukraine under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The projects aim to strengthen oversight of controlled and toxic chemicals and improve Ukraine's regulatory system in chemical safety and security.



The co-facilitators of the OSCE and the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM), Ambassadors Günther Bächler (centre left) and Kęstutis Jankauskas (centre right), opening the 78th meeting under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, Ergneti, 7 June 2017. (EUMM)



The Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Andrea Orizio, at a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of 40 apartments in Sremska Mitrovica, held as a part of the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme Sub-project 2 in Serbia, Sremska Mitrovica, 17 March 2017. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

several social and economic issues. The opening of the Gura Bicului–Bychok Bridge to civilian traffic on 18 November 2017 marked a significant breakthrough. After an agreement was reached between Chisinau and Tiraspol, the CPC participated in a 5+2 meeting in Vienna on 27 and 28 November 2017. When implemented, this agreement will improve the lives of residents on both sides of the Nistru/ Dniester River.

The CPC supported the work of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus during four rounds of the Geneva International Discussions (GID), which address the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia, and at 11 meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti. The CPC participated in numerous consultations in Tbilisi, Sukhumi, Tskhinvali and Moscow, and co-moderated the GID working group dealing with humanitarian issues. In support of the GID, the CPC organized a summer school in Vienna to familiarize youth from the region and beyond with OSCE values and commitments, and to build ties among populations divided by the conflict. Other CPC projects focused on humanitarian issues such as missing persons from the 2008 war.

The CPC also assisted the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference in dealing with issues related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

The CPC supported efforts of the Chairmanship to reach agreement on extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. In the absence of an agreement, the CPC co-ordinated the steps necessary for closing the Office on 31 August 2017. At the request of the Armenian authorities, it also co-ordinated a programme of projects to support continued co-operation.

ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The CPC supported the work of Ambassador Markus Müller, Personal Envoy for the Work of the Field Operations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, in negotiating new mandates for the Programme Offices in Bishkek and Dushanbe. The Permanent Council adopted new mandates for the Programme Office

in Bishkek on 27 April and for the Programme Office in Dushanbe on 1 June. The CPC co-ordinated support to the field operations in planning for and adapting to the new mandates, which required closing their field offices in both countries, but confirmed continued thematic work in all three OSCE dimensions countrywide, according to the needs and priorities of the respective host governments.

The CPC worked with field operations and the OSCE Transnational Threats Department to secure funding and support planning for the medium-term future of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe. Additionally, the CPC provided assistance to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in securing funding for the medium-term future and developing a new funding strategy.

ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The CPC supported efforts to de-escalate political tensions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In particular, the CPC assisted the OSCE Secretary General and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office during their respective visits to the country in March and May. The CPC worked with the OSCE Chairmanship, the Mission to Skopje, OSCE institutions and the Parliamentary Assembly to assist the country with the implementation of the reform agenda and strengthen its capacity to implement OSCE principles and commitments.

MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS 24/7

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

- 515 daily morning and afternoon briefings composed on working days as well as official holidays when required
- 1,591 updates and special reports issued
- 9,276 alert messages circulated
- 210 field operation reports distributed to delegations outside regular working hours

EARLY WARNING

The CPC continued to promote a structured and systematic approach to early warning across the Organization, specifically through the Network of Early Warning Focal Points in OSCE executive structures. It organized the Network's sixth annual meeting, gathering 30 representatives for information sharing and capacity building. Recognizing the essential role of conflict analysis in early warning reporting, the CPC facilitated conflict analysis workshops as a key capacity-building tool, alongside regional meetings and other events focused on the OSCE's overall conflict cycle toolbox.

MEDIATION SUPPORT

The CPC's Mediation Support Team (MST) provided mediation and dialogue facilitation support and became more integrated in OSCE-led mediation formats. Based on observations of the negotiations within the Transnistrian settlement process, the GID, and the TCG, the MST provided methodological feedback to the mediators in those processes. The MST conducted its biennial OSCE Mediation Course to build the mediation capacities of selected staff from OSCE executive structures and the Troika. Together with the OSCE Gender Section and the Austrian Chairmanship, the MST organized a retreat to discuss the inclusion of women and the effectiveness of peace processes.

IMPLEMENTING POLITICO-MILITARY COMMITMENTS

The CPC's Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Support Section held numerous capacity-building and outreach events on issues related to the Vienna Document 2011, small arms and light weapons (SALW), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and other agreed Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs).

The Section also provided support to the Structured Dialogue process to foster a greater understanding of current and future challenges to security in the OSCE area, which could serve as a solid basis for a way forward to rebuild trust and confidence among the participating

ADDRESSING HUMAN DISPLACEMENT IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The CPC continued to support the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) – an excellent example of co-operation between states in the region and international organizations in addressing the concerns of the approximately 74,000 of the most vulnerable persons still displaced as part of the legacy of the 1991–1995 conflict.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 321 individual housing units were completed in 2017, with 40% of beneficiaries moving in. Construction of three buildings (35 apartments) was also completed in the municipalities. In Serbia, 1,207 housing solutions were delivered to the most vulnerable beneficiaries. Construction of 235 apartments at the biggest RHP construction site in Belgrade was finalized; construction began at another Belgrade site that will provide 270 apartments to already selected beneficiaries.

In Montenegro, 182 housing units were delivered: 62 in Niksic and 120 family apartments in Podgorica/Konik. Construction of an additional 51 housing units commenced in May 2017.

States, in accordance with the 2017 Ministerial Declaration entitled "From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control".

The FSC Support Section compiled exchanged military information and provided overviews and implementation reports to the OSCE participating States. Assistance for project activities on SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile management continued in 2017. In Belarus, over 580 out of 690 tonnes of rocket fuel components, also known as *mélange*, were safely removed from the country and sent for environmentally sound disposal. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Serbia, the physical security and safety of stockpiles was improved. In Georgia, the destruction of cluster and aviation bombs and artillery shells is in progress, with some 347 of 461 tonnes destroyed. Implementation of the demilitarization programme MONDEM in Montenegro was extended until the end of 2018 to maximize its outcomes. Assistance activities started in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to increase the physical and IT security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles at 15 border police stations and at one regional centre for border affairs.

The Section continued to support the States Parties to the Dayton Peace Accords in their implementation of the Sub-regional Arms Control Agreement under Annex 1-B, Article IV, and the participating States in their implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It continued its assistance in developing a more coherent approach of the OSCE executive structures to security sector governance and reform.

SHARING INFORMATION AMONG OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

The CPC has historically facilitated the participating States' exchange of military information as stipulated in the Vienna Document 2011. This sharing of information is key to building confidence and trust within the OSCE area. The OSCE Communications Network, established by the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, continued to provide all participating States with a reliable, timely and secure channel for exchanging information across all dimensions.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

In 2017, for the first time in the history of the Organization, the CPC facilitated a comprehensive overview of project management portfolios as well as of programme budget key performance indicators for all OSCE executive structures. It continued to provide programme and project management support to the Secretariat and field operations, and ensured quality control and the compliance of all extrabudgetary project proposals with the OSCE Common Regulatory Management System. Expert advice was provided on 92 project proposals worth €40.3 million, as well as with respect to SMM activities funded through voluntary contributions amounting to €21.1 million. Furthermore, the CPC facilitated 11 training sessions in the Secretariat and in seven field operations on project cycle management, programme and project planning, and self-evaluation, in which over 210 OSCE staff members took part.



OSCE SMM monitors observe a camera site near Marinka entry-exit checkpoint, Donetsk region, 12 October 2017. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Transnational threats

Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats: **Rasa Ostrauskaite**

Budget: €2,955,500 (Unified budget), €2,221,361 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 33 (including 6 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/secretariat/cyber-ict-security

www.osce.org/secretariat/terrorism

www.osce.org/secretariat/policing

www.osce.org/secretariat/borders

polis.osce.org

Throughout 2017, the OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) supported the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, upon their request, in their efforts to counter transnational threats. The Department provided assistance in translating political commitments into effective and sustainable activities such as convening expert meetings, sharing information and best practices, and co-ordinating the implementation of projects and plans of action. TNTD consists of a Co-ordination Cell dealing inter alia with security issues in cyber/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and three thematic units: the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Border Security and Management Unit and the Strategic Police Matters Unit.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

The focus of many states on developing cyber capabilities has added a complex layer to international peace and security. To reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs, in 2017, TNTD helped the OSCE participating States develop crisis communication mechanisms to prevent escalation, including the use of the OSCE Communications Network to raise concerns with other states.

TNTD continued to support the participating States, upon their request, in implementing the OSCE cyber/ICT security confidence-building measures (CBMs). This support included the commissioning of an analysis of the challenges states face in implementing the CBMs and the facilitation of the development of a work plan to tackle these challenges. In addition, an interregional conference on cyber/ICT security enabled OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation to contribute to efforts designed to promote cyber stability between states. Subregional training events promoted co-operation on ICT-related challenges between policymakers and technical experts, focusing on national preparedness, strategies and resilience.



Afghan border police officers practise masking techniques by using camouflage netting during a four-week OSCE patrolling and leadership training course, Gissar, Tajikistan, 26 July 2017. (OSCE/Daler Khamidov)

COMBATING TERRORISM

Anti-terrorism activities continued to receive high priority. Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) was the focus of the OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference, which highlighted the importance of a multifaceted approach in addressing terrorism and its root causes. The event gathered more than 500 high-level participants, practitioners, academics and civil society representatives, from the majority of OSCE participating States as well as all Partners for Co-operation, 35 international and regional organizations and over 95 civil society organizations.

Underscoring the importance of their engagement, youth representatives reiterated that they are part of the solution to the threat of terrorism. They presented recommendations elaborated at four subregional youth workshops held under the umbrella of the #UnitedCVE social media campaign, which reached more than 40 million individuals online.

In support of national efforts to counter terrorist financing, a series of advanced training and train-the-trainer courses focusing on analysis, investigation, financial disruption of terrorist networks, and UN sanctions listing cases was started in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in joint co-operation with the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering.

In response to renewed interest from participating States, four national risk assessment and crisis management exercises on the protection of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks emanating from cyberspace were held in Belgrade, Bratislava, Skopje and Tirana. To prevent the exploitation of the Internet by terrorists, a publicly accessible online course was launched demonstrating how terrorists exploit the Internet for their nefarious aims and explaining how to counter this threat. Seminars on strengthening rule of law-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism were held in Prishtinë/Priština and Astana, based on the



Afghan border troops use the technique of belaying in a bundle, learned at an OSCE-organized training course, Khoja Obigarm, 17 April 2017. (OSCE/Firdavs Kurbanov)

Global Counterterrorism Forum Rabat Memorandum. Training was held for NGOs working in high-risk areas on preventing and countering kidnapping for ransom, as well as for law enforcement officers in charge of resolving such cases. A national seminar on a whole-of-society approach to prevent and counter VERLT was held in Ulaanbaatar.

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT

The OSCE Border Security and Management (BSM) National Focal Point Network continued to promote dialogue and networking through training events, thematic seminars and workshops. The Annual Meeting of the Network, focusing on emerging threats and cross-border co-operation and supported by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, was held in March in Austria.

The OSCE mobile training team comprised of 17 border officers and counter-terrorism officials to identify potential foreign terrorist fighters conducted training courses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The first-ever OSCE-wide seminar on passenger data exchange was held in September, preceded by a series of national workshops on establishing Advance Passenger Information systems organized in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kyrgyzstan.

TNTD developed a guidebook on delimitation and demarcation, which includes a compilation of good practices in the OSCE area, and launched it in November in Belarus.

TNTD established the Mediterranean Points of Contact Network on BSM and organized workshops on combating trafficking in cultural property in Cyprus and Italy.

POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN RESPONDING TO TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

TNTD focused on building law enforcement capacities of the OSCE participating States by assisting in police development and reform and addressing organized crime, counter-terrorism, illicit drugs, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and cybercrime.

It published a guidebook on intelligence-led policing in English, Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian and Russian. Following the launch of the guidebook in Vienna, it organized two regional events in Skopje and Astana.

To respond to the flow of migrants, a particular challenge for countries in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) in recent years, TNTD and the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, together with the IOM and the UNODC, organized a regional seminar on crimes related to migration in SEE.

Training and awareness-raising activities were conducted in Belarus and Uzbekistan on drug-related crimes facilitated by the darknet and cryptocurrencies. The nexus between illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism was addressed at the 2017 OSCE-wide anti-drug conference.

Money is the main incentive and motivation behind serious crime. Crime Should Not Pay was the title of the 2017 OSCE Annual Police Experts meeting, during which participants discussed ways to strengthen measures to identify and trace illicit financial flows and confiscate criminal assets.

Economic and environmental activities

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities: **Ambassador Vuk Žugić**
Budget: €2,262,000 (Unified budget), €2,045,230 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 22
www.osce.org/secretariat/economic
www.osce.org/secretariat/environmental
www.osce.org/secretariat/eeforum

Following the priorities of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship for the second dimension, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) strengthened its engagement in the areas of economic participation and greening the economy, including within the framework of the Economic and Environmental Forum, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2017.

The 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum focused on greening the economy and building partnerships for security in the OSCE region. Discussions during the meetings contributed to the Ministerial Council Decision “Promoting Economic Participation in the OSCE Area”. As a follow-up to the Second Preparatory Meeting of the Forum in Astana, the OCEEA organized the OSCE expert workshop on sharing best practices in renewable energy with Central Asia, which was held in Vienna in December.



Participants at the concluding meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Prague, 8 September 2017. (OSCE/Ludek Pravda)

COMBATING CORRUPTION

The OCEEA supported the OSCE participating States in the development and implementation of anti-corruption tools and mechanisms. In Mongolia, it conducted a training course on collective action in the fight against corruption. The Office developed a set of recommendations for improving legal certainty, efficiency and consistency of administrative processes and presented it to the State Great Khural, Mongolia's Parliament.

The OCEEA also responded to direct requests for assistance from the participating States. As a follow-up to an anti-corruption needs assessment mission to Ukraine, it collaborated with municipalities in western Ukraine to develop tools that enhance good governance procedures.

In Vienna, the OCEEA organized a workshop on applied anti-corruption policies and best practices for senior representatives of anti-corruption agencies from Moldova, Mongolia, Ukraine and Tajikistan.



Ambassador Vuk Žugić (OSCE/Ludek Pravda)

The year 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the position of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities with the mandate of “strengthening the ability of the Permanent Council and the OSCE institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security”. Ambassador Vuk Žugić was appointed to this position in April 2017. When reporting to the Permanent Council, he stated: “The Economic and Environmental Dimension has proved to be a tool at the disposal of our organization for building confidence among participating States. The long-standing engagement of the Office in areas such as good governance and corruption prevention, water diplomacy, disaster risk reduction, energy and, most recently, economic connectivity are excellent examples in this regard.”

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

The OCEEA continued assisting the participating States in conducting national risk assessments and strengthening their ability to prevent and suppress money laundering. It supported the government of Moldova in launching the country’s national risk assessment (NRA) and an action plan on combating money laundering and terrorism financing. The OSCE, the World Bank and the EU jointly organized a workshop for stakeholders to review the NRA results and to address remaining challenges in legislation and enforcement.

CONNECTIVITY AND FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE

As a follow-up to the Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity, the OCEEA assisted Kazakhstan and Belarus in shaping national trade facilitation efforts. During its needs assessment and consultation missions, the OCEEA provided guidance and advice to reinforce dialogue and co-ordination among relevant public and private sector stakeholders.

LABOUR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The year 2017 was characterized by renewed and continued efforts to raise awareness and understanding about key migration governance challenges, following the adoption of the Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision on the OSCE’s role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees and in light of ongoing discussions regarding adoption of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The OSCE-organized expert

meeting Strengthening the Resilience of Local Communities to the Presence of Migrants identified areas for enhanced co-operation with respect to large movements of people. To mark International Migrants Day on 18 December, the Office organized a high-level panel discussion in the second consecutive year entitled Perception is not Reality: Towards a New Narrative of Migration. The discussion focused on the representation of migration and the impact of this on public opinion. The Summer School on Migration Studies, co-organized with the IOM, was held in Prague. It provided an opportunity for OSCE field operations to network and exchange views.

WATER MANAGEMENT

The OSCE continued its long-standing engagement in the Dniester River basin by supporting the negotiation, signing and ratification of the Dniester River Basin Treaty between Moldova and Ukraine. The Treaty, a modern framework for transboundary water co-operation and sustainable development, entered into force in July 2017. To support its implementation, the OCEEA started a new Global Environment Facility-funded project with the OSCE field operations, the UNDP and the UNECE.

The Office also carried out activities to connect water experts from Central Asia and Afghanistan, with a focus on academics, women and youth. In the South Caucasus, technical consultations for a draft framework agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Kura River basin were finalized in preparation for initiating official negotiations between the two countries.

ENERGY SECURITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTION

The OCEEA continued to support the OSCE participating States in building capacity in renewable energy and energy efficiency. This included organizing a workshop in Astana, Kazakhstan, on green building standards in September and a visit by Turkmenistan energy experts to Austria, as well as assisting Turkmenistan in developing a strategic roadmap for solar energy.



Energy experts from Turkmenistan inspect solar panels at the Austrian Biotech University of Applied Sciences, Tulln, 12 May 2017. (OSCE/Daniel Kroos)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

An OSCE-led project on climate change and security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus was successfully completed in the summer of 2017 under the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, with the support of the EU and the Austrian Development Cooperation. Key project results were climate change and security assessments for each region, a transboundary adaptation strategy for the Dniester River basin, and increased awareness and capacity to assess potential security risks stemming from climate change. The OCEEA initiated preparations for a follow-up project that will also aim at engaging countries from South-Eastern Europe.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The OCEEA continued to support community-based activities in the field of disaster risk reduction. The project Disaster Risk Reduction and Security in the OSCE Area was implemented in selected countries in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia. As part of the project, the OCEEA organized local training courses, and supported the development of local disaster risk reduction plans and co-operation among neighbouring, cross-border local administrations.



As part of an ENVSEC project on stakeholder engagement in uranium legacy remediation, the Aarhus Centre Osh trains volunteers in the community of Maili-Suu, 7 June 2017. (OSCE/Kanybek Isabaev)



GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

In 2017, the network of 60 OSCE-supported Aarhus Centres in 14 OSCE participating States celebrated its 15th anniversary. These centres provide platforms where citizens, governments and the private sector can engage in dialogue on environmental challenges. At the Sixth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, held in Budva, Montenegro, the members of the network discussed their contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

The OSCE assisted the South Caucasus countries in addressing environmental risks stemming from hazardous waste stored at abandoned industrial legacy sites. In Georgia, the OSCE helped to assess risks at selected sites, prioritized hotspots based on the magnitude and severity of the risks, and developed risk mitigation measures. Similar activities were launched in Armenia. The outcomes of the assessments are intended to inform policy development and action planning in Armenia and Georgia.

Uranium waste dumps in Central Asia pose risks not only to the local population, but also to regional security due to seismic activity and their proximity to transboundary rivers. With the support of the EU and within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative, the OSCE supported stakeholder engagement in uranium legacy remediation at several priority sites, as for example at Maili-Suu, Kyrgyzstan, through training and awareness raising activities conducted by the Aarhus Centres.



Site of the world exhibition, EXPO-2017: Future Energy in Astana, where the OSCE presented its activities in one of the booths. Concurrently, it held the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 2017 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in the nearby Nazarbayev University. (OSCE)

Combating trafficking in human beings

Special Representative and Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova**
Budget: €1,003,300 (Unified budget), €437,229 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 10
www.osce.org/secretariat/trafficking

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings assists the OSCE participating States in their efforts to prevent human trafficking, prosecute those who commit this abhorrent crime, and protect its victims. In the midst of ongoing crisis situations in and around the OSCE region, the Office of the Special Representative invested in devising good practices to enhance criminal justice responses and undertook country visits to share them. The Office also sought to foster collaboration with multi-stakeholder partnerships at both the national and international levels.

TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

The risk of trafficking in human beings, particularly for the purposes of labour and sexual exploitation, continues to increase in and around the OSCE region due to crisis situations such as large scale migratory flows, conflicts, displacement and humanitarian emergencies. Trafficking in persons in crisis situations remained an area of focus this year. In 2017, the Special Representative carried out several official visits to temporary protection and first reception centres in Greece, Italy and Serbia. These fact-finding visits informed a needs assessment publication, First Identification and Reception Facilities for Refugees and Migrants in the OSCE Region, later issued by the Office. In Ukraine, the Office conducted training courses for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine monitors on how to report potential cases of human trafficking and ensure that the Mission's activities do not contribute to any form of exploitation. Since June 2017, the Office has conducted research on possible links between terrorist activities and human trafficking, identifying and analysing cases and case studies across the OSCE region of deceitful or forced recruitment of persons by terrorist groups for various exploitative purposes.

COUNTRY VISITS

To support the OSCE's efforts to combat human trafficking, the Office of the Special Representative undertook a number of country visits to meet with governments, parliamentarians, members of the judiciary, international organizations and NGOs. Such visits and follow-up visits were made to several OSCE participating States, including Canada, Denmark, the Russian Federation and Mongolia. Country visit reports were published on Armenia, the Russian Federation and Turkey.

ENDING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Since children are especially vulnerable and at risk of labour and sexual exploitation, forced marriage, organ removal, begging and other criminal activities, the 17th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference in April 2017 focused on identifying threats to children in crisis, promising practices for protection systems, and developing

LIVE SIMULATION TRAINING FOR COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES

Over 190 law enforcement officials, lawyers, prosecutors, labour inspectors, financial and criminal investigators, journalists, public social service providers, cultural mediators and civil society representatives from 47 OSCE participating States and four Partners for Co-operation participated in three OSCE live simulation exercises in Vicenza, Italy. These training courses sought to improve cross-border co-operation, address regulatory frameworks for the identification and protection of victims, raise awareness of the gender aspect of human trafficking, increase the use of financial tools to investigate traffickers and compensate victims, and explore new means for enhanced co-operation and data exchange at the national and international levels. The simulations dealt with sexual and labour exploitation cases among migrants and children, focusing on investigation and prosecution effectiveness while maintaining a victim-centred approach.



Following a raid by criminal investigators, a simulated arrest of criminals involved in trafficking of migrant victims takes place during the second simulation-based training on combating human trafficking along migration routes, Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), Vicenza, 8 June 2017. (Italian Carabinieri)



OSCE staff observe first reception practices while doing research for a needs assessment publication, Pozzallo, Ragusa Province, Sicily, 12 July 2017. (OSCE/Claudio Formisano)



Opening of the fourth OSCE workshop on the prevention of trafficking in human beings in supply chains through government practices and measures at the Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan, Astana, 15 June 2017. (OSCE/Radu Cucos)

policies to prevent and combat trafficking in children. The conference provided the basis for concrete discussions leading to practical and child-focused recommendations, with particular attention being given to human rights and the best interests of the child.

PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SUPPLY CHAINS THROUGH GOVERNMENT PRACTICES AND MEASURES

In November 2017, the Office of the Special Representative held in Geneva the last in a series of five workshops on the prevention of trafficking in human beings in supply chains through government practices and measures. Well-attended workshops were also held in Berlin, London, Stockholm and Astana. These workshops brought together participants from governments, civil society, international organizations, the private sector and academia. Topics of discussion included promising practices for preventing human trafficking in public procurement and supply chains. In December 2017, the Office completed the first draft of *Flexible Model Guidelines for Governments on Preventing*

Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains, aimed at harmonizing policies and regulations across the OSCE region so that businesses do not have to adapt to disparate rules across different areas of jurisdiction.

MOSCOW CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

In co-operation with the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation, in July 2017 the Office organized an OSCE-wide two-day conference on public-private partnership in the fight against human trafficking at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. The event gathered some 200 representatives of 40 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, as well as countries outside the OSCE area, international organizations, non-governmental entities, the private sector, trade unions, academia and the media. They discussed relevant international frameworks and instruments, the magnitude of human trafficking in the private economy, the roles of governments and the private sector, and related OSCE projects and activities.



OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova promoting the 17th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, Vienna, 2 March 2017. (OSCEPA/Jonathan Perfect)

Gender equality

Senior Adviser on Gender Issues: **Amarsanaa Darisuren**

Budget: €426,800 (Unified budget), €235,208 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 8

www.oscepa.org/secretariat/gender

Gender equality is a priority area for the OSCE, since equal rights for men and women and the empowerment of women contribute to the achievement of comprehensive security. The OSCE works to promote gender equality in the framework of comprehensive security, including women, peace and security, women's economic participation and combating violence against women. Progress was assessed in all three OSCE dimensions during the second Gender Equality Review Conference on 12 and 13 June, organized by the Gender Section, the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Despite the recognition of the significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building, women are still largely under-represented in conflict mediation, including in the OSCE region. To address this challenge, the OSCE's Mediation Support Team and the Gender Section organized a high-level retreat on the inclusion of women and effective peace processes. The retreat had 20 participants, including senior representatives from the Austrian Chairmanship, field operations, institutions and the Secretariat, as well as from the OSCE Group of Friends of Mediation.

The Gender Section, in partnership with the Washington-based organization Inclusive Security, organized the second OSCE National Action Plan (NAP) Academy in Vienna. The NAP Academies support the OSCE participating States in drafting and improving their national action plans to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Nineteen participating States have benefited from this initiative to date. In addition, a workshop on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 was organized in Ukraine for representatives from regional administrations, national police and civil society organizations.



OSCE-developed infographic on the gender pay gap.



The Serbian theatre group Reflektor performs Macho Men as a side event at a MenEngage expert meeting, Vienna, 23 November 2017. (OSCE/Ghada Hazim)

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women across the OSCE region are still subjected to violence every day. During 2017, the Gender Section organized a side event at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, together with UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The event addressed the root causes of violence against women and girls and included a presentation by the Chair of the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women Committee, Dalia Leinarte. Participants discussed measures to combat gender-based violence, and ways to increase knowledge of it.

The Gender Section continued to support the engagement of men and boys in combating gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. More than 50 government representatives, international organizations, civil society representatives and academics from across the OSCE

region participated in an expert meeting to share good practices on increasing men's engagement. The meeting included a theatre performance, Macho Men, by the Serbian theatre Reflektor, a project that encourages young men to challenge harmful behaviour and practices.



"As the world's largest regional security organization, the OSCE has an important role to play to ensure women and girls are safe, in their home, in schools, at work and in public spaces."

Thomas Greminger
Secretary General

osce

16 Days
of Activism
against
Gender-based
Violence

#16Days campaign logo / OSCE supported the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, which was organized between the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and International Human Rights Day on 10 December.



Sophie Karmasin, Austria's Federal Minister for Families and Youth, delivers the opening speech at the OSCE Second Gender Equality Review Conference, Vienna, 12 June 2017. (OSCE/Ashraf Mahmoud)

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Director: Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (as of 19 July 2017),
Michael Georg Link (until 30 June 2017)
Budget: €16,279,300 (Unified budget), €7,296,195 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 84 international, 77 local (including 31 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/office-for-democratic-institutions-and-human-rights

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

During 2017, ODIHR launched a new election observer database, continued to promote the protection of human rights, supported tolerance and non-discrimination, and continued to monitor elections across the OSCE region.



“Only strong democratic institutions and practices, based on principles of pluralism, inclusion and the rule of law, can provide the foundation for societies in which the rights and interests of all can be promoted and protected. Societies based on these values are also the best equipped to find peaceful solutions when these rights and interests collide.”

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, speaks during the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, 11 September 2017. (OSCE/ Piotr Dziubak)

Election observation in 2017

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

12 February

Turkmenistan Presidential election



Voters at a polling station in Ulaanbaatar preparing to cast their ballots to elect a new president of Mongolia, 26 June 2017. (OSCE/Maria Kuchma)

ELECTIONS

In 2017, ODIHR continued to support democratic processes across the OSCE region by observing elections and referendums in 20 participating States. In the course of the year, ODIHR published over 60 reports on election activities. These reports comprehensively assessed electoral processes against OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards, and provided recommendations to participating States on how they might improve the transparency and quality of their elections. The Office supported 13 participating States in their efforts to implement ODIHR's electoral recommendations by providing technical expertise during country visits or reviewing proposed amendments to electoral legislation. ODIHR also strengthened its methodology for election observation by training election observers and by releasing two new publications: *Guidelines for Public Security Providers in Elections* and the *Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Electoral Participation of Persons with Disabilities*. On 28 November, ODIHR hosted the third annual Electoral Seminar in Vienna, with a focus on election observation and the role of technology in electoral processes.

DEMOCRATIZATION

In 2017, ODIHR continued its work to promote judicial independence, judicial accountability, and diversity and equal gender representation within the judiciary. As part of this work, ODIHR built the capacity of 46 NGOs to monitor fair trial rights. The Office's democratic governance work focused on promoting parliamentary ethics and

OSCE/ODIHR LAUNCHES NEW DATABASE OF ELECTION EXPERTS

On 26 June 2017, ODIHR launched a new Election Expert Database (electionexpert.odihr.pl) to improve the management of staff recruitment for all ODIHR election observation activities. The new database is designed to increase the transparency and efficiency of observer registration and recruitment procedures, and to enable the monitoring of the geographical and gender balance of election mission staff.



strengthening frameworks that regulate political finance; strengthening the role of women in decision-making processes; promoting gender-sensitive democratic institutions; and promoting the political participation of under-represented groups, including young people and persons with disabilities. ODIHR assisted participating States in their efforts to develop legislation in compliance with international standards and to make their legislative processes more transparent and effective. This work was complemented by improvements to ODIHR's online legislative database (legislationline.org), which helps participating States bring their legislation in line with international human rights standards. Throughout the year, ODIHR responded to requests for support in the field of migration, providing capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for over 500 professionals, generating policy recommendations on emerging migration-related challenges, and launching an important new resource on identity management and travel documents, the *Compendium of Good Practices in Identity Management*.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2017, ODIHR continued to monitor freedom of peaceful assembly in participating States. The Office published





Barbara Jouan-Stonestreet, a member of the ODIHR Core Group of Experts on Political Parties, speaking at an ODIHR organized meeting on political party regulation, Warsaw, 3 November 2017. (OSCE/Maria Kuchma)

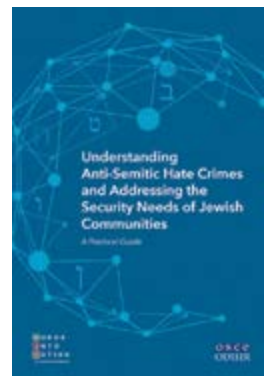


Marco Ventura, professor of law and religion at the University of Siena in Italy and a member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, addresses the opening of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Vienna, 22 June 2017. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

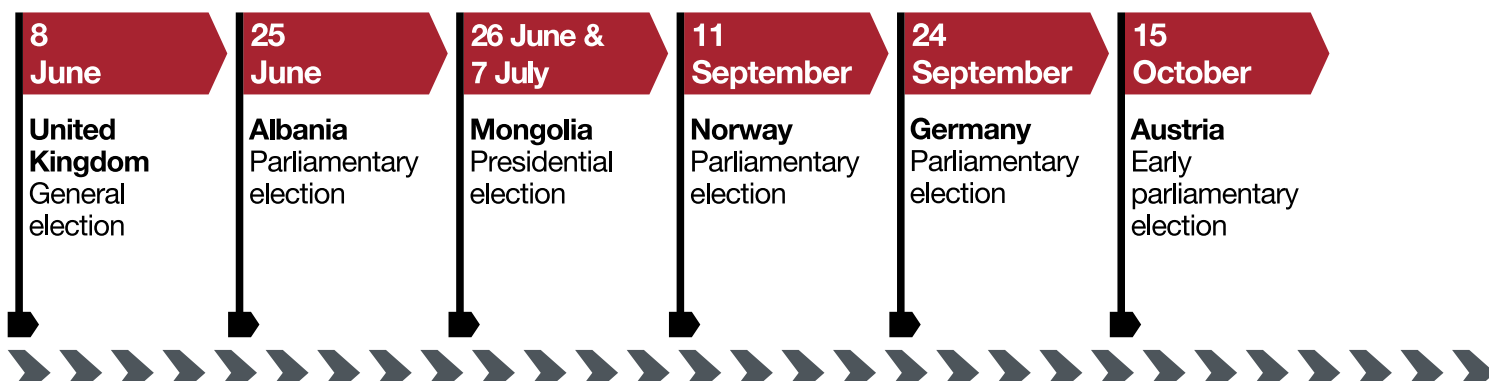
a report on the situation of human rights defenders in the OSCE region entitled “*The Responsibility of States: Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the OSCE Region (2014–2016)*”. Through a series of country visits, ODIHR also gathered information on national anti-trafficking practices for the purpose of updating the existing publication *National Referral Mechanisms – Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: A Practical Handbook*. ODIHR organized capacity-building events and provided expert advice to state and non-state actors on human rights issues. These training and discussion events focused on the following topics: human rights and counter-terrorism; the policing of public events and freedom of peaceful assembly; mainstreaming gender and human rights in the security sector; and the prevention of torture. Other projects covered freedom of religion or belief; the protection of human rights defenders; the strengthening of national human rights institutions; and human rights education. Also, the theme of the annual Human Dimension Seminar was the rights of the child, focusing on children in situations of risk.

TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Throughout 2017, ODIHR continued its work with OSCE participating States and civil society on tolerance and non-discrimination issues. The majority of participating States agreed to implement the *Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement* and *Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training programmes*, which provide guidance on how police and prosecutors can recognize and pursue hate crimes. ODIHR also published detailed hate crime data from participating



States on a dedicated website (hatecrime.osce.org). On 16 November 2017, ODIHR representatives met with national points of contact on hate crime to discuss best practices for recording and processing hate crimes. The year 2017 also marked the beginning of a two-year project on finding a comprehensive response to hate crime in four participating States. The Office pursued its efforts to counter racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance against Muslims and Christians. Two conferences were held during the year: one on intolerance against Muslims and another on intolerance against Christians. As part of the project *Words into Action to counter anti-Semitism*, ODIHR issued a publication entitled *Understanding Anti-Semitic Hate Crime and the Security Needs of Jewish Communities*. It provides educational guidelines on anti-Semitism for teachers and information on how to build coalitions between different communities.



ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

The OSCE is committed to enhancing the safety and security of Roma and Sinti communities, and to promoting the public and political participation of Roma and Sinti people, particularly women and young people. As part of the European Parliament's EU Roma Week, ODIHR organized the workshop Strengthening Diverse Leadership, Participation and Representation of Roma, Including Women and Youth, in Public and Political Life in co-operation with the U.S. Helsinki Commission. During the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, the Office organized a side event on good practices for supporting the political participation of Roma and Sinti youth in the OSCE region. Prior to this event, ODIHR conducted a preparatory training session on political participation and advocacy for civil society representatives from Roma and Sinti communities. It also delivered five two-day training courses on effective and human rights-compliant policing in Roma and Sinti communities for law enforcement officers in Poland, Hungary and Ukraine.



Atanas Stoyanov, a young Roma activist from Bulgaria, contributes to the ODIHR's workshop on Roma and Sinti participation, Brussels, 27 March 2017. (Michael Chia)

OSCE/ODIHR HOSTS DISCUSSION ON WAYS TO ADVANCE THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF SECURITY IN UKRAINE

More than 150 representatives of civil society, international organizations and academia, as well as government and elected officials, gathered in Kyiv on 26 and 27 September to review the results of activities carried out with ODIHR support to strengthen the human dimension of security in Ukraine.



Valeriya Lutkovska, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, delivering opening remarks at a conference on the human dimension of security in Ukraine organized by ODIHR, Kyiv, 26 September 2017. (OSCE/Maria Kuchma)



High Commissioner on National Minorities

High Commissioner: **Ambassador Lamberto Zannier** (as of 19 July 2017)
Budget: €3,407,600 (Unified budget), €342,270 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 17 international, 14 local (including 3 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/high-commissioner-on-national-minorities

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

For the first half of the year, the office was led by Director and Officer-in-Charge Henrik Villadsen, pending the appointment of a successor to Astrid Thors, whose mandate ended in August 2016.

Lamberto Zannier was appointed as the new High Commissioner in July 2017, whereupon he started to implement his mandate. He addressed a range of challenges related to national minorities and conflict risks in the OSCE area. This included a thematic focus on access to justice and national minorities, as well as on the management of diversity.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

In November, the High Commissioner launched a new set of recommendations, *The Graz Recommendations on Access to Justice and National Minorities*. This was followed by side events at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in November and the OSCE Ministerial Council in December, both in Vienna, where these recommendations were presented to OSCE participating States and other stakeholders.

The Graz Recommendations aim at supporting OSCE participating States' efforts to improve the trust of national minorities in their justice systems. Lack of trust can undermine social cohesion, foster alienation and increase the risk of ethnic conflict.

INTEGRATION OF DIVERSE SOCIETIES

The High Commissioner continued the office's long-term work to promote the development and implementation of integration policies across the OSCE region, in line with *The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*. He supported Moldova's work to implement its Strategy on the Consolidation of Interethnic Relations, including by assisting in the development of an Action Plan, which was adopted in November 2017. The office of the High Commissioner also contributed to an assessment of the implementation of Kyrgyzstan's State Concept on Strengthening the Unity of the People and Interethnic Relations (2013–2017) as a basis for subsequent integration policies. In Georgia, the High Commissioner continued to provide advice and project



Children from a kindergarten that piloted an HCNM-supported project on bilingual education, Comrat, 2 November 2017. (OSCE/Iurie Foca)



OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Lamberto Zannier, launches *The Graz Recommendations on Access to Justice and National Minorities*, Graz, 14 November 2017. (Foto Fischer)

support for the implementation of the State Strategy on Civic Equality and its five-year Action Plan (2015–2020).

EDUCATION

The office of the High Commissioner continued to support education in southern Serbia, including through its long-term work with the Bujanovac Department of the Subotica Faculty of Economics of Novi Sad University. The High Commissioner engaged with the government of Ukraine on how best to accommodate the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the country's society, particularly in the context of its new law on education. Addressing the matter during his visit to Ukraine in December, he expressed full support for policies aiming at strengthening the role of the state language for effective integration, at the same time highlighting the importance of an inclusive policy in which the needs of diverse groups are taken into consideration.

The office of the High Commissioner continued to assist the Central Asian countries with a regional programme on education. In May, the HCNM supported the first Olympiad on multilingualism in Central Asia, held in Kazakhstan, which focused on mother tongues, state and official languages, as well as foreign languages. The Olympiad attracted 102 students from 25 universities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and

Tajikistan who collectively speak 18 languages. In December, the High Commissioner organized a multilingual and intercultural education conference in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, for specialists and policymakers from ten OSCE participating States. In Moldova, the High Commissioner supported the introduction of multilingual education in kindergartens in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia. The High Commissioner also visited the South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo, where he highlighted the need to honour the legacy of the first High Commissioner, Max van der Stoep, the founding father of SEEU, including by opposing and reversing segregation in education and society.

BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

As part of a long-term effort to promote the integration of societies, improve multilingual education and help build bridges between communities in South-Eastern Europe, the High Commissioner led the development of illustrated bilingual dictionaries for primary school children. Print copies of the first such dictionaries for Serbian-Albanian/Albanian-Serbian and Macedonian-Albanian/Albanian-Macedonian were distributed to schools in Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar and other locations in southern Serbia. Both dictionaries are also available online and as mobile apps for iOS and Android.



OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Lamberto Zannier (right), presents the first ever children's illustrated Macedonian-Albanian/Albanian-Macedonian dictionary for primary schools to Education Minister Renata Deskoska, Skopje, 10 November 2017. (OSCE/Tomislav Georgiev)

Representative on Freedom of the Media

Representative: **Harlem Désir** (as of 19 July 2017),
Dunja Mijatović (until 10 March 2017)
Budget: €1,481,600 (Unified budget), €582,869 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 15
www.osce.org/representative-on-freedom-of-media

In 2017, the OSCE marked the 20th anniversary of the decision by the participating States on the Mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. The Representative's mandate is to observe media developments in the participating States and to advocate and promote full compliance with the Organization's principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media.

MAJOR ISSUES

Attacks against journalists took place almost daily in the OSCE region. The majority of the Representative's interventions – 203 in 2017 in 34 participating States – concerned the safety of journalists and their right to work free of threats to their physical security. The Representative also frequently intervened in cases in which journalists were imprisoned, accused of supporting terrorism, or charged with economic crimes or criminal defamation. Over 170 journalists are currently in prison in the OSCE region.

In order to quantify the extent of impunity for killings of journalists, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media compiled a list of members of the media who have been killed in the OSCE region in the last 25 years and the justice response to these killings. The list includes 399 names and shows that in 85 per cent of the cases the perpetrators or masterminds were not brought to justice. The fight against impunity remains a priority for the Representative.



Threats and intimidation, offline and online, including the targeting of female journalists, constitute a severe threat to media freedom. The Representative increased efforts in 2017 to assist the participating States in combating online threats to female journalists. A series of workshops in Vienna, as well as the online campaign Safety of Female Journalists Online (#SOFJO), brought together journalists, academics and members of civil society to discuss advocacy, best practices and innovative responses for countering online harassment.



OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir (right) meets with heads of journalists' unions in the margins of the Cyprus Dialogue project, Nicosia, 9 October 2017. (OSCE/Gunnar Vrang)



Participants at an OSCE-organized Safety of Female Journalists Online (#SOFJO) workshop, Vienna, 15 November 2017. (OSCE/Ghada Hazim)



BBC journalist Kate Adie delivers the keynote speech at an OSCE conference on media freedom in volatile environments, Vienna, 19 June 2017. (OSCE/Julia Shropshire)

Disinformation, sometimes referred to as “fake news”, and propaganda persisted in 2017. The Representative consistently advocated quality journalism, the debunking of disinformation, and investment in media literacy. A joint declaration entitled Freedom of Expression and Fake News, Disinformation and Propaganda was issued by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information. It includes a series of recommendations.

STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM AND PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN JOURNALISTS

In 2017, the Representative continued to promote the dialogue between Russian and Ukrainian journalists initiated by the Office in 2014. Representatives of the journalists’ unions met for roundtable discussions on three occasions under the auspices of the Office to discuss common needs and professional standards. A group of young journalists from Russia and Ukraine, together with senior representatives of the journalists’ unions, participated in a media production workshop in Vienna.

The Office started a dialogue with representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot journalists in an effort to assist in improving developments in ethical standards and self-regulation mechanisms in Cyprus. In close co-operation with

the unions of journalists on the island, the Representative launched the creation of a glossary of sensitive words used by the media, and recommendations for alternatives to language that propagates stereotypes. He also launched an exchange for young Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot journalists.

CONFERENCES

The Office organized annual regional media conferences for OSCE participating States in South-Eastern Europe (in Vienna), the South Caucasus (in Tbilisi) and Central Asia (in Tashkent), bringing together media practitioners to share experiences with colleagues, government authorities and international experts.

Major threats to media freedom and freedom of expression, particularly in regions affected by conflict and crisis, were the focus of the conference Media Freedom in Volatile Environments, organized by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in Vienna in June.

The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, together with the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the Czech Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, organized a conference in October on the role and responsibilities of Internet intermediaries.

In early December, the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, in co-operation with the University of Vienna, organized a panel discussion on the challenges to media freedom caused by the impunity for murders of journalists.

OBSERVING MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE COMMITMENTS

During the year, the Representative:

- intervened in 203 cases in 34 participating States;
- visited 19 participating States;
- provided ten legal reviews in seven participating States; and
- released a study on defamation and insult laws in the OSCE region, which examined the existence of criminal defamation and insult laws in all OSCE participating States and concluded that criminal law continues to be misused to excessively limit media freedom.



Young journalists from the Russian Federation and Ukraine interview mezzo-soprano Elena Zhidkova of the Vienna State Opera, Vienna, 16 June 2017. (OSCE/Irina Sozykova)



FIELD OPERATIONS

In addition to its political bodies, Secretariat and institutions, the OSCE maintains a network of 16 field operations located in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

An OSCE SMM monitor operates a mini-unmanned aerial vehicle in eastern Ukraine, 23 January 2017. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Field operations in 2017

The OSCE's field operations assist host countries in putting their OSCE commitments into practice and fostering local capacities through specific projects that respond to their needs. Activities vary with the context of the individual field operation and host country, and are governed by the mandate of each field operation. The field operations enable the OSCE to manage crises and to play a critical post-conflict role, helping to restore trust among affected communities. A number of field operations contribute to early warning and conflict prevention, some also monitor and report on developments on the ground.

THE OSCE HAD THE FOLLOWING FIELD OPERATIONS IN 2017:

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

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

EASTERN EUROPE

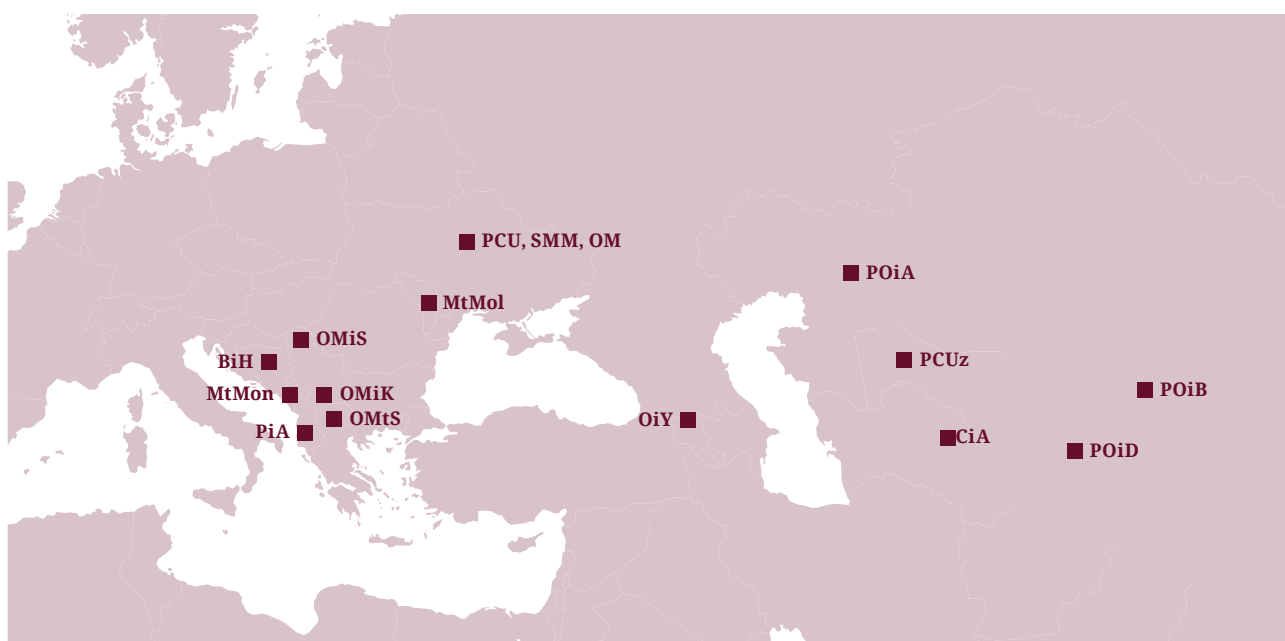
- Mission to Moldova (MtMol)
- Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM)
- Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU)
- Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk (OM)

SOUTH CAUCASUS

- Office in Yerevan (OiY), *closed on 31 August 2017*

CENTRAL ASIA

- Centre in Ashgabat (CiA)
- Programme Office in Astana (POiA)
- Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB)
- Programme Office in Dushanbe (POiD)
- Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz)



Presence in Albania

Head of Presence: **Ambassador Bernd Borchardt**

Budget: €2,892,700 (Unified budget), €259,291 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 16 international, 62 local (including 4 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/presence-in-albania

In 2017, the Presence in Albania maintained its partnership with Albania's institutions according to their shared priorities. It continued to assist in strengthening the role of citizens and use the OSCE's regional reach to address regional challenges.

SHARED CHALLENGES, SHARED COMMITMENTS

The Presence continued its multi-faceted work against corruption, co-operating with central and local authorities, young people and the private sector. It strengthened the capacity of the Inter-Institutional Group against Environmental Crime to identify, address and prosecute environmental crime and corruption.

Anti-trafficking efforts continued to be supported by the Presence through a multi-disciplinary approach based on prevention, protection and prosecution.

In addition, the Presence contributed to improving the country's capacity to fight serious and organized crime by means of intelligence guided policing. It provided concrete recommendations for improved forensic procedures and handling of informants by the state police.

Together with the OSCE Chairmanship, the Presence initiated a new focus on young people in 2017. A first-of-its-kind programme called Youth Trail: Promoting OSCE Values in the Western Balkans brought together 37 young participants from across the region. It resulted in a lively exchange of information and ideas on democracy, activism, security and co-operation.

ACTIVE CITIZENS

The Presence continued to support the active participation of citizens in activities related to all three OSCE dimensions. Working in underdeveloped areas, including with vulnerable groups, the Presence increased the ability of citizens to engage in democratic participation and monitoring processes by providing training courses, practical tools and access to information.

Prior to the 2017 parliamentary elections, the Presence ran a voter education campaign for 760 Roma women and



(r-l) Head of OSCE Presence in Albania, Ambassador Bernd Borchardt, Minister of Justice, Etilda Gjonaj, and Albanian National Co-ordinator on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism, Agron Sojati, sign a memorandum of understanding on implementing a project aimed at preventing and countering VERLT in the country's prison and probation systems, Tirana, 17 November 2017. (OSCE/Brunilda Rustani)



Young people from various Western Balkan countries engage in a lively discussion during a Youth Trail event organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania to mark its 20th anniversary, Tirana, 15 September 2017. (OSCE/Lucia Carmona)



OSCE Presence in Albania assists in training recruits at the Security Academy of the Albanian State Police, Tirana, 22 September 2017. (OSCE/Brunilda Rustani)

youth. Under the motto “For Roma, with Roma”, young Roma took on the function of creating focal points in eleven Roma electoral offices across the country, providing their communities with information on electoral rights. The Presence also supported the production and airing of a TV spot against electoral fraud.

The Presence supported the outreach of Members of Parliaments to their constituents, and encouraged and assisted cross-party activities. To foster transparency, accountability and democratic governance of institutions, it also facilitated debates and public engagement in the Assembly’s Committee on Labour, Social Issues and Health.



HUMAN SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

The Presence continued to facilitate multi-agency and community resilience against the threat of extremism and radicalization. It organized capacity-building events for Local Security Councils by supporting citizen engagement and community policing. In 2017, the Presence began assisting authorities to focus on the human rights aspects of violent extremism cases, as well as on the prevention of radicalization in the prison and probation systems.

The Presence’s advocacy and awareness-raising activities related to human rights included supporting the 12th International Human Rights Film Festival in Albania. The festival explored the root causes and complex dynamics of populism and radicalism, encouraging lively public debates on how to address such issues without jeopardizing human rights.

Building on its earlier success in encouraging public debate on Albania’s past, the Presence supported a summer

school on Albania’s communist legacy. Students explored this topic in discussions and visits to sites that were notorious during the communist regime. The Presence also provided in-house expert support for Albania’s newly established authority for dealing with the files of the communist-era state security police.

STRONGER INSTITUTIONS, TRUSTED INSTITUTIONS

As part of its multi-year support to transform Albanian Radio and Television into a credible public broadcaster, the Presence assisted with a new development strategy, as well as with preparations for establishing a training centre and public forums on the role of public service media.

The Presence continued to help the country with reinforcing an inclusive, transparent and accountable law-making process, placing emphasis on the efficient use of consulting mechanisms. It carried out capacity-building events for public officials, NGOs and academics. Building on these events, the Presence developed guidelines on the Law on Public Consultations and Notification in order to increase the capacities of relevant stakeholders.

Within the framework of Albania’s justice reform, the Presence partnered with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights as well as various local and international actors to train 23 representatives from NGOs on fair trial rights and the monitoring of judicial proceedings. Due to the initiative “Justice without delays” of the Presence, which is aimed at increasing the efficiency of court proceedings, the length of proceedings and the number of unproductive hearings decreased in all participating courts. The Presence continued to raise awareness of alternatives to imprisonment, and enhance co-operation between probation officers, judges and prosecutors, with the result that the use of such alternatives progressively increased.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners in 2017 included the Council of Europe, the European Broadcasting Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the EU, several UN agencies, the European Assistance Mission to the Albanian Justice System (EURALIUS), the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), the U.S. International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Program, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Central European Initiative.

Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Bruce G. Berton** (as of 2 September 2017),
Ambassador Jonathan Moore (until 1 September 2017)
Budget: €11,373,600 (Unified budget), €932,889 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 29 international, 290 local (including 11 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/mission-to-bosnia-and-herzegovina

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to play a vital role in enhancing Bosnia and Herzegovina's ability to foster a sustainable and stable security environment, to strengthen environmental governance and to encourage its consolidation as a democratic society. The Mission supported key reforms and worked to promote and protect the human rights of all citizens.

YOUTH AND GENDER

The Mission focused on promoting the political participation of women by working with political parties to improve internal structures and processes, as well as on combating domestic violence through building the capacities of police officers. It supported domestic violence trial monitoring and provided technical tools for enhancing collaboration among responders to such crimes. The innovative Youth Advisory Group, consisting of young volunteers from across the country, helped the Mission integrate youth perspectives, for example, by involving young people in the planning and implementation of activities aimed at preventing radicalization and violent extremism.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

The Mission issued a report entitled *Towards Justice for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Progress before Courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014–2016*. Based on the trial monitoring findings, the Mission organized a series of training sessions for the judiciary and police on selected topics related to the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes. It provided technical assistance to its counterparts in an effort to find effective solutions to problems affecting the judicial response to war crimes, hate crimes and trafficking in human beings.

As a result of the Mission's persistent advocacy efforts, a long-awaited provision on non-persecution and non-punishment of victims of trafficking was adopted in the Republika Srpska criminal legislation.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HATE AND EXTREMISM

Thirty-one Coalitions against Hate continued to be active across the country, comprised of 280 organizations and individuals. With the Mission's support, the Coalitions organized 150 events in 34 locations aimed at preventing hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents, as well as promoting tolerance and interethnic co-operation.

QUALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATION

Working with elected officials, school administrators, teachers and parents, the Mission continued to exercise its leading role in assisting the host country in reforming its education system and preventing discrimination in education. It responded to emerging challenges and tensions provoked by the use of education to deepen societal divisions.

The Mission finalized the *Guidelines for Recognition of Discrimination in Education*, designed to help children, parents, school administrators and education beneficiaries to recognize and act against discrimination in education.

STRENGTHENING INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The Mission intensified its promotion of inter-religious dialogue among different ethnicities and religious groups, especially in ethnically and religiously sensitive communities. It supported eight events in different local communities



Participants at an OSCE-organized event marking the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zenica, 19 June 2017. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilovic)

In Jajce, the Mission successfully supported students in preventing the establishment of a new “two schools under one roof” system, which would have deepened ethnic segregation in education. This was achieved through enhanced co-ordination with the international community and extensive lobbying with high-level political structures, local authorities, school directors, teachers, religious leaders and students.



Participants at an OSCE-organized expert training programme on countering violent extremism for judicial and other legal professionals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, 5 October 2017. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilovic)

across the country and two major events at the state level. The Mission also facilitated the work of the country's Inter-Religious Council (IRC). Among other initiatives, in April, the Mission assisted visits of IRC members to four locations where atrocities were committed against Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats and Jews during the 1990s war and World War II. This was the first time leaders from different religious communities jointly paid their respects to victims from each other's ethnic groups.

SUPPORTING ANTI-CORRUPTION AT ALL LEVELS

The Mission kicked off new activities aimed at supporting authorities at the state and local levels in their efforts to fight corruption. Its engagement focused on the development and effective implementation of priority anti-corruption legislation, as well as the co-ordination between various anti-corruption bodies. The Mission helped the country streamline its efforts to fight corruption in the currently highly complex institutional framework, which includes fragmented anti-corruption policies that have been implemented at different levels of government. In 2017, the Mission continued to support the strengthening of parliamentary oversight for security sector institutions and administrative bodies, while promoting transparency and accountability through improved whistle-blower protection, conflict of interest prevention and asset declaration for public officials.

SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM (VERLT)

Building on the country's action plan on the Counter-Terrorism Strategy for 2015–2020, the Mission expanded

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

- The Mission organized a workshop on international criminal law and transitional justice for 20 law and criminology students from seven universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The first indictment in Bosnia and Herzegovina for hate crimes was raised, based on the 2016 hate crimes legislation, which was amended in line with the Mission's recommendations.

its assistance to local-level actors in preventing VERLT through its broad field presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and holistic approach by mainstreaming the prevention of VERLT into all aspects of the Mission's work. The Mission led international efforts to upgrade the physical security and stockpile management of weapons and ammunition, and initiated support in the fight against cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

As part of its efforts to strengthen environmental governance and protection, the Mission continued to provide logistical assistance and advocacy support to the network of Aarhus Centres across the country. It developed local disaster risk reduction and preparedness capacities by supporting the organization, monitoring and assessment of a Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Co-ordination Centre Field Exercise. Amongst other scenarios, the field exercise simulated the 2014 floods.

MEDIA FREEDOM

The Mission monitored violations of free expression and raised its voice in defence of the media community. In September, it supported the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina in presenting its special report on the status and safety of journalists in the country. Improving professional standards in journalism with a specific focus on the reporting of political campaigns and finding solutions for financing the public broadcasting service continued to be at the core of the Mission's work.



Participants at a workshop on women, peace, youth, security and the associated United Nations Security Council resolutions, organized by the OSCE to mark International Youth Day on 12 August, Sarajevo, 9 August 2017. (OSCE/Anja-Lejli Hesarbani)

PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission supported Bosnia and Herzegovina's European Youth Parliament in holding its annual national session; the country's Presidency Chair in organizing an unprecedented visit to local communities in western Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the Inter-Religious Council's visits to Sarajevo, Vitez and Knežev. An information and media freedom conference was co-organized with the Joint Committee on European Integration of the Parliamentary Assembly. The Mission and the UNHCR office jointly marked World Refugee Day by screening the film *Chasing a Dream* in Sarajevo.

Mission in Kosovo

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Jan Braathu**

Budget: €17,510,500 (Unified budget), €348,953 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 76 international, 370 local (including 1 under an extrabudgetary project)

www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo

Politically, the year 2017 was eventful in Kosovo¹. The Mission adapted well to the circumstances and demonstrated its relevance to all stakeholders. Key activities for the Mission were its support of the Kosovo-wide collection of votes for the Serbian presidential election and, in the four northern Kosovo municipalities, of the conduct of the Kosovo Assembly and municipal elections. In all three large-scale operations, the Mission enabled access to the polls and contributed to alleviating possible tensions. The Mission engaged in extensive field monitoring, in particular regarding non-majority community issues, and facilitated immediate solutions to identified concerns.

COMMUNITY RIGHTS

As a result of the Mission's advocacy efforts to promote inter-community dialogue, 19 municipalities from three regions signed joint declarations committing to develop and endorse common plans for the promotion of inter-community relations.

The Mission organized a first high-level forum on language compliance, bringing together officials and speakers from bilingual and multilingual jurisdictions to raise awareness among local institutions on language rights, and to enhance the implementation of the legal framework in Kosovo, considered in line with advanced international standards of multilingualism. The forum provided a basis for further Mission advocacy in this area.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

The Mission reviewed 20 draft laws, six regulations, six administrative instructions and six concept documents drafted by government entities. To improve language compliance and support judicial integration, the Mission



Participants at the third OSCE-supported Dialogue Academy for Young Women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade engaging in team-building exercises, Stadtschlaining, 6 October 2017. (OSCE/Novak Pestic)

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

The Mission assisted returnees in Lubozhdë/Ljubožde in obtaining personal civil identity documents.

The Mission facilitated a multifaceted and multi-ethnic response to water shortage problems and cattle thefts in Novo Brdo/Novobërdë.

The Mission assisted in finding a solution acceptable to both the Islamic community and the Serbian Orthodox Church in relation to the Special Protective Zone around the Serbian Orthodox Church in Lipjan/Lipljan.

The Mission facilitated the purchase of motion sensor lights and encouraged increased police patrolling for the property of Kata Grujić, a returnee whose property was subject to repeated robberies.

conducted a review of nine laws important for the functioning of the judiciary. It identified 49 substantive errors in the Serbian-language versions of these laws, and strongly advocated the approval of a draft law on legal acts by the government. This resulted in the swift approval of improved Serbian-language versions of all laws; they have equal status with Albanian-language legislation. The Mission monitored 2,404 hearings related to 1,414 court cases, both criminal and civil. The priority areas for Mission court monitoring were cases pertaining to terrorism, corruption, women's rights, domestic violence, war crimes and community rights, including, notably, interethnic property disputes.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

In the context of the Mission's work with journalist associations and institutions of justice, a prosecutor co-ordinator was appointed to deal with cases of crimes against journalists. This resulted in the sentencing of several perpetrators in October.

The Mission, together with the Ministry of Education, launched a media literacy initiative and trained 14 local schoolteachers on media literacy. Following a pilot phase in seven lower secondary schools, it is planned to integrate media literacy into the formal education curriculum.

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population in this Report should be understood in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.



Members of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, young people from different communities, police and representatives of municipalities clean defaced road signs, Prishtinë/Priština, 6 November 2017. (OSCE/Yllka Fetahaj)

PUBLIC SAFETY IN FIGURES

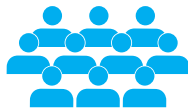
- 60 LPSCs with some 600 members, 11 LPSCs in the four northern municipalities
- 26 training courses for over 500 participants of public safety agencies and civil society
- 68 workshops, seminars and roundtable meetings for some 2,000 participants from public safety agencies and civil society
- Workshops to review 11 strategies and action plans in the area of security and safety
- Over 50 activities conducted to support the implementation of the Government's strategy and action plan against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT)

ELECTORAL SUPPORT

In 2017, the Mission played a leading role in facilitating electoral processes.



2 April 2017
Collection of votes operation in Kosovo for the Serbian presidential election



11 June 2017
Support in the conducting of the early Kosovo Assembly elections in northern Kosovo



22 October 2017
Support in the conducting of local elections in northern Kosovo

PUBLIC SAFETY

To strengthen co-operation between the police and the general public, the Mission helped establish and train new Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC) on community policing. This brings the total number of established LPSCs to 60, including 11 in the four northern municipalities, with some 600 members engaged in implementing various local initiatives to improve the security and safety in their areas. With Mission support, the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety received an overall institutional accreditation as well as the accreditation of its Bachelor's programme.

GENDER

The Mission worked with the Association of Women in Kosovo Police to develop the management and leadership skills of women police officers, and trained Association members in including women in positions of operational command. In 2018, the Mission plans to prepare a final module of this training platform, with the aim of establishing

an internship programme in European police environments for some 14 high-ranked women officers who have completed the previous modules.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

The Mission continued facilitating interfaith dialogue and promoting religious tolerance by engaging representatives of the Islamic community, the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Catholic community, the Protestant Evangelical Church, the Jewish community, and the Tarikat Order in joint activities, forums, lectures, workshops and religious site visits.

As a result of the Mission's facilitation of interfaith forums, 21 September was proclaimed the "Day of Religious Tolerance" by the municipal assembly in Pejë/Peć.



The Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Jan Braathu, and the Mayor of Obiliq/Obilić, Xhafer Gashi, lead a 10-km long peace march organized by the municipality to bring different communities together and promote inter-community relations in Kosovo, Obiliq/Obilić, 19 May 2017. (OSCE/Yllka Fetahaj)



Participants at a workshop organized by the Mission in Kosovo to establish networks to monitor, record and investigate hate crimes more efficiently, Obiliq/Obilić, 30 October 2017. (OSCE/Besfort Oruç)

PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission supported and promoted the work of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) in an effort to promote reconciliation and regional co-operation. It organized eight information sessions to inform the public about the establishment and purpose of the RYCO, as well as about related funding opportunities. Substantive co-operation plans were developed during a November meeting of regional OSCE youth focal points and RYCO representatives. Here, the Mission co-operated closely with the OSCE Presence in Albania. It also co-organized a major OSCE-RYCO planning meeting in Tirana to identify further opportunities for joint activities.

Mission to Montenegro

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Maryse Daviet**

Budget: €2,146,200 (Unified budget), €211,333 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 8 international, 29 local

www.osce.org/mission-to-montenegro

In 2017, the Mission continued to assist Montenegro's ongoing reform process and support the country in addressing the recommendations of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights with regard to Montenegro's October 2016 parliamentary elections. The Mission also supported the Montenegro's State Election Commission to strengthen its capacities in electoral administration, and its Agency for Electronic Media to follow up on the recommendations regarding political advertising. It co-operated closely with national partners to further promote freedom of the media, good governance, human rights, security co-operation and gender equality.

SUPPORT FOR ELECTION REFORMS

The Mission provided technical assistance to the State Election Commission (SEC) to strengthen its institutional capacities. Support included providing international election experts; training on strategic and operational planning for SEC members and staff and Municipal Election Commissions; training in the use of new technologies in election processes; promotion of gender mainstreaming; and delivery of new office equipment to increase the SEC's efficiency. To support the efforts of the Agency for Electronic Media (AEM) to

improve the legal framework regulating political advertising, the Mission commissioned a comparative study on political advertising and media campaigning. This study, which provides a broad comparison of methods in different legal systems and offers recommendations for improving existing legal frameworks, was shared with stakeholders.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARMFUL MEDIA AND INTERNET CONTENT

In co-operation with the AEM and Montenegro's Office for the Protection of Human Rights, the Mission designed and implemented an awareness-raising campaign to enhance standards of professional reporting, promote the rights of children, and protect children from being used in political advertising. It supported a regional conference that examined ways to protect children from harmful media and Internet content, with a special emphasis on preventing the exploitation of children in political advertising.

A GUIDE ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS REPORTING ON PROTESTS

Following arbitrary arrests, mistreatment and intimidation by the police and hindrances to journalists covering public protests in Montenegro, the Mission produced a Montenegrin-language guide for media outlets on journalist safety when reporting on protests. Five hundred copies of the guide were distributed to journalists and media representatives, as well as one hundred sets of journalism equipment, including visible press insignia for additional safety during reporting.

SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Mission supported Montenegro to establish a national Advance Passenger Information (API) system. An OSCE road map for API implementation in Montenegro was developed together with the Border Security Management Unit of the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department.



Destroying unstable conventional ammunition at the "Poliex" factory in Berane as part of the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme MONDEM (MONDEM)



Members and service staff of the State Election Commission participating in a group exercise, Podgorica, 28 September 2017. (OSCE/Iva Šćepanović)



Moderator Dragoljub Duško Vuković (c) discusses the protection of children from harmful media content during a workshop in Podgorica, 23 November 2017. (OSCE/Iva Šćepanović)

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION OFFICE

The Mission contributed to regional reconciliation and co-operation among youth by supporting a Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) event. At the event, young photographers from the region presented their work in an exhibition entitled “View of My Neighbour”. The Mission facilitated the RYCO’s call for projects by co-organizing ten public information sessions for some 340 students across Montenegro. The sessions supported the development of projects promoting reconciliation through youth mobility, co-operation and activism within the region. The Mission also worked to strengthen the capacities of NGOs to develop relevant proposals.



Information brochure for RYCO applicants created by the OSCE Mission and its partners

EXAMINING THE ISSUE OF EARLY FORCED MARRIAGES

The Mission commissioned an analysis to determine factors that contribute to early forced marriages in six municipalities (Podgorica, Cetinje, Nikisic, Berane, Bjelo Polje and Herceg Novi), as well as to develop a local model plan to help municipalities implement the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians. The conclusions of the analysis were shared at a national conference, where participants stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing early forced marriages.

DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

To safeguard the rights of victims of trafficking, the Mission, in partnership with Montenegro’s Ministry of Interior Affairs, supported a working group of experts from the OSCE and Montenegro’s National Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as the judiciary, prosecution representatives, the police and civil society, to develop guidelines for police, prosecution representatives and judges.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE PARLIAMENT

In co-operation with the Montenegro parliament and ODIHR, the Mission offered workshops to enhance the skills and capacity of parliamentary committees to conduct gender-sensitive analyses of legislation. These workshops used the ODIHR’s tool for lawmakers entitled *Making Laws Work for Women and Men: A Practical Guide to Gender-Sensitive Legislation*. The Mission also facilitated discussions with parliamentary staff members on how to enhance their service, and provided examples of best practices in administrative and procedural work.

ASSISTANCE TO MONDEM TO DESTROY UNSTABLE CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

As part of the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme MONDEM, a total of 91.41 tonnes of unstable conventional ammunition were safely and securely destroyed in partnership with the Montenegrin Government and the UNDP.

PARTNERSHIPS

In implementing its activities, the Mission worked closely with a wide range of government agencies and institutions, as well as with a number of international partners, including agencies of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Broadcasting Union, DCAF and various diplomatic missions in Montenegro.

Mission to Serbia

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Andrea Orizio**

Budget: €6,238,000 (Unified budget), €3,073,414 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 20 international, 119 local (including 11 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/mission-to-serbia

In 2017, the Mission assisted Serbia in strengthening its institutional and policy framework for accountable and efficient police and justice systems, inclusive democracy, and independent and quality media. Adapting its activities to the evolving needs of the host country, the Mission worked in partnership with state institutions, civil society and media, fostering ownership, building their capacities and facilitating regional co-operation.

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

Building upon the regional prosecutors' declaration of intent to step up regional co-operation in combating organized crime, the Mission continued to support the networking of prosecutors of organized crime and facilitated the organization of a third regional conference in Rome. The conference enabled organized-crime prosecutors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia to improve co-operation and share information on combating serious transnational crime and terrorism.

The Mission partnered with the Interior Ministry in operationalizing the Task Force to Combat Migrant Smuggling, which quickly became a model for other countries in the region. To further enhance regional co-operation, the Mission facilitated the exchange of information between the Task Force and its counterparts in neighbouring countries. As part of its comprehensive efforts to help Serbia tackle emerging transnational threats, the Mission also partnered with relevant counterparts in

examining new challenges in cybersecurity and ways to address them.

INCLUSION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES – SERBIAN AS NON-MOTHER TONGUE

To assist Serbia in ensuring that youth from national minority communities have equal access to the labour market and state institutions, the Mission continued its work to develop standards for teaching Serbian as a non-mother tongue. This subject is taught in primary and secondary schools that provide education in the languages of national minorities. In 2017, the Mission supported the development of corresponding curricula, and facilitated training in teaching standards for 400 teachers from 90 primary and 40 secondary schools where instruction is in Albanian or Hungarian.

SUPPORTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA PROFESSIONALISM

In 2017, the Mission fostered dialogue between state institutions, media professionals, the academic community, and civil society in debating media policy solutions:

- To involve the academic community in analyzing public interest media content and rethinking media policy, the Mission organized a regional conference on media credibility, bringing together media researchers from South-Eastern Europe.
- To help policymakers and media professionals respond to the demands of the digital era, the Mission, in partnership with Germany, organized an international conference in Belgrade entitled *Agenda for Change: Developing Media in the Digital Age*, in Belgrade.
- At the local level, the Mission facilitated ten debates on media literacy and on the role of local media outlets in providing public interest content. Involving civil society and local self-governments, the debates involved over 400 participants.
- The Mission supported a journalistic exchange between two prominent journalists from Serbia and Albania. In a total of 12 articles, the two journalists discussed topics intended to further mutual understanding between their respective societies.



Tasked with developing a curriculum for teaching Serbian as a non-mother tongue, a working group supported by the Mission visits the elementary school Sečenji Ištvan where instruction is in Hungarian, Subotica, 2 June 2017. (OSCE/Milan Obradović)



In partnership with the Embassy of Israel, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, and the Ministry of Health, the OSCE Mission to Serbia launched the crime prevention pilot project "To succeed, together!" in the primary school Sveti Sava, Vrčin, 31 October 2017. (OSCE/Milan Obradović)

TOWARDS A MODERN JUSTICE SYSTEM

To ensure an independent, accountable and effective justice system, the Mission supported Serbia's ongoing judicial and constitutional reform and assisted members of state institutions and legal associations in developing their skills. Working with a range of institutions, from the Anti-Corruption Agency to the Chamber of Commerce, the Mission also supported Serbia in the fight against corruption. In partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the Mission assisted the correctional service in adopting progressive measures to improve the education and re-integration of offenders, focusing particularly on women and youth.



Two off-road vehicles donated by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and IT equipment funded by Austria and Italy were delivered to Serbia's Task Force to Combat Migrant Smuggling by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Austrian Foreign Minister, Sebastian Kurz, and the Head of Mission, Andrea Orizio, Belgrade, 13 February 2017. (OSCE/Milan Obradović)



"The most successful strategy for curbing violent behaviour is to prevent and defuse extremism before it turns into violence. Education, working with local communities and with young people, and raising media literacy are some of the preventive activities. This task calls for a multi-dimensional, comprehensive approach and co-ordinated efforts of all relevant institutions and community actors. Their active involvement and ownership are pivotal for long-term sustainability of the preventive actions."

Ambassador Andrea Orizio
Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia

PARTNERSHIPS

To promote connections between young people in the region as well as women's empowerment, the Mission worked together with the OSCE Presence in Albania, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. For addressing the long-standing issues of displacement and migration, the Mission continued to co-operate with the UNHCR through the Regional Housing Programme, as well as with the OSCE Mission to Skopje. The Mission also co-operated with the Council of Europe in training prison officials to identify signs of radicalism and terrorism among inmates.

Mission to Skopje

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Nina Suomalainen**

Budget: €6,442,600 (Unified budget), €1,090,459 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 37 international, 111 local (including 6 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/mission-to-skopje

In 2017, the OSCE Mission to Skopje focused on supporting the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, advancing interethnic relations, providing early warning on security-related developments, and assisting in the country's reform process. The year 2017 was also a milestone for the Mission as it marked its 25th anniversary.

FIELD PRESENCE AND EARLY WARNING

Early warning is at the core of the Mission's mandate. Being the only international organization in the country with the capacity and expertise to monitor security-related developments countrywide, the Mission continued to add value in 2017 through its field presence. Throughout the winter, the Mission monitored the situation as a political crisis in the country intensified and there were daily demonstrations over an extended period. This political crisis culminated on 27 April with an attack on the parliament, during which the Mission provided real-time information from the ground to the OSCE Secretariat and the Chairmanship.

IMPROVING ELECTION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

One of the Mission's goals remains the improvement of election management procedures. In 2017, the Mission supported the State Election Commission (SEC) to introduce structural changes in line with the

recommendations of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. To improve access to the electoral process for persons with disabilities, the Mission supported the SEC in mapping all polling stations that are wheelchair accessible and provided expert guidance to SEC on how to produce ballots in Braille.

TRIAL MONITORING

The Mission continued its trial monitoring activities by attending more than 105 trial hearings on 16 high-profile cases and 96 court hearings on 21 cases under the competence of the Special Prosecution Office. In addition, the Mission supported the monitoring of some 500 trial hearings on different criminal law-related cases by the NGO Coalition All for Fair Trials.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

The Mission fostered discussions among 120 judges on judicial independence and transparency, and trained more than 180 judges and prosecutors on criminal procedure and



Border police officers performing an exercise during an OSCE-supported training course on green border observation, Vodno Mountain, 12 October 2017. (OSCE/Afrim Bajrami)



Mission-supported #OpenYourEyes campaign on combating human trafficking.

international co-operation in criminal matters. In addition, the Mission supported the establishment of the first Legal Clinic on Anti-corruption Law at the Law Faculty of the University of Skopje.

DEMOCRATIC POLICING AND FIGHTING ORGANIZED CRIME

The Mission continued to work on strengthening the institutional capacity of the Interior Ministry by focusing on the principles of democratic policing in a multi-ethnic society. The Mission organized training courses for police officers on recognizing and countering gender-based discrimination in the workplace, investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, and responding to critical incidents. To help the police address transnational threats and tackle organized crime, the Mission organized workshops on real-time data exchange, green border observation and anti-money laundering.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM

In partnership with the Embassy of the United States and the Partnership for Peace Consortium (PfPC), the Mission organized a table-top exercise for more than 100 participants on the response of the country and the region to the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. In addition, it helped 75 students and 15 teachers strengthen their resilience to radicalization through OSCE-organized training courses on conflict resolution.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Mission, together with the National Anti-Trafficking Commission, the Bureau for Development of Education, the Skopje-based NGO Open Gate – La Strada, and UNITAS Fund Serbia, launched the #OpenYourEyes campaign aiming to raise awareness of the dangers of human trafficking among young people through the use of new technologies.

PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In an effort to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, the Mission trained 70 judges, 130 youth workers, 20 young politicians, and 300 law faculty students on how to adequately respond to discrimination and hate crime. The Mission partnered with national authorities and supported

EMPOWERING YOUTH

To increase youth engagement and advance dialogue among students from different communities, the Mission:

- organized four workshops on community organization activities for more than 110 students from six Kumanovo high schools and training courses on teamwork and conflict resolution for more than 100 students from 25 schools and six ethnically-mixed municipalities;
- supported the Agency of Youth and Sport in preparing a guideline on effective Local Youth Councils (LYC);
- supported the preparation of the Local Youth Strategy of the Municipality of Shtip and the revision of the Local Youth Strategy of the Municipality of Cair; and
- provided technical support to the local branch office of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) in Skopje and organized training courses on communication skills for members of five LYC.

the drafting process of the new Anti-discrimination Law and amendments to the Criminal Code related to hate crime.

ROMA INCLUSION EFFORTS

The Mission continued to support national authorities in their efforts to enhance the implementation of Roma community rights, including by offering technical support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to develop an official database on unregistered persons of the Roma community.

INTEGRATION THROUGH EDUCATION

The Mission continued to work with the Ministry of Education and Science and supported the implementation of state grants for integrated education activities, as well as a nation-wide survey on perceptions and attitudes towards integrated education. To support integration in schools and enhance interaction among students from different communities, the implementation of the Building Bridges project continued in 2017.



High school students during a team building exercise at the United in Krusevo seminar on nonviolent communication, conflict resolution and creative problem solving, Krusevo, 6 October 2017. (OSCE/Mihajlo Lahtov)

PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission worked closely with national authorities and agencies, political parties, civil society organizations, media associations, diplomatic missions and international organizations. It also co-operated closely with OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe and continued its active role within the Security Principals mechanism with the EU Delegation, the Embassy of the United States and the NATO Liaison Office to Skopje.

Mission to Moldova

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Michael Scanlan**

Budget: €2,264,000 (Unified budget), €94,567 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 9 international, 40 local (including 1 under an extrabudgetary project)

www.osce.org/mission-to-moldova

The core mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova is to help achieve a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for Transdniestria within Moldova. In 2017, with the Mission's continuous support, the Sides achieved a breakthrough in the settlement process, signing agreements on five priority issues. Implementation of these agreements will contribute to shaping the realities on the ground in line with the end state endorsed by all 57 OSCE participating States. The Mission, in close co-operation with the OSCE institutions, also continued to support Moldova in achieving its political commitments to uphold human rights, and to promote an inclusive civic identity and a culture of tolerance, which are important corollary issues to the settlement process.

HISTORIC MOMENTUM TO ACCELERATE THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS

The Gura Bicului-Bychok Bridge over the Dniester/ Nistru River connecting the two Sides was re-opened for automobile traffic on 18 November for the first time since its destruction in the armed conflict in 1992 and the completion of repairs in 2001. This historic decision signed in the Mission's Office paved the way for agreements on several important social and economic issues signed by the Sides on 25 November 2017. These developments were welcomed at a 5+2 meeting organized in Vienna on 27 and 28 November, where the Sides committed to achieving additional practical outputs in the course of 2018. The talks in the 5+2 format included the participation of representatives of the Sides, Mediators and Observers –

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- the opening between the Sides of the Gura Bicului-Bychok Bridge, the primary east-west international transportation corridor, which was closed for traffic for the past 25 years;
- realization of the aspiration declared in the 2016 OSCE Ministerial Statement for an output-based approach to the Transdniestrian settlement process;
- reaching of agreements by the Sides on four priority issues that start the process of defining the end state;
- implementation of an action plan for the consolidation of interethnic relations, and for the study and commemoration of the Holocaust.



(L-r) Moldova's Chief Negotiator Gheorghe Balan, Head of OSCE Mission to Moldova Ambassador Michael Scanlan and Transdniestrian Chief Negotiator Vitaly Ignatiev, Chisinau, 3 November 2017. (OSCE/Juric Foca)



Moldova's Prime Minister Pavel Filip (left) and Transnistrian leader Vadim Krasnoselsky (right) at the opening ceremony on the Gura Bicului-Bychok Bridge over the Dniester/Nistru River, 18 November 2017. (Government of the Republic of Moldova)

Moldova, Transnistria, the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, as well as the United States and the European Union. A critical factor that ensured the joint ownership of the Sides in the negotiation process was the personal engagement of the leadership in Chisinau and Tiraspol, which complemented the efforts and dedication of the Sides' Chief Negotiators and experts of the Working Groups.

PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE CIVIC IDENTITY AND AN OPEN, TOLERANT SOCIETY

Promoting an inclusive society and identity in Moldova remains an important goal for achieving the end state of the settlement process. The Mission aligned its activities with Moldova's recent commitments to promote the consolidation of interethnic relations in the country, to encourage both quality teaching of the State language and education in minority languages, and to ensure the representation of national minorities in the public sector

and their access to the justice system. In this regard, the Mission worked closely with OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The Mission also encouraged greater focus on translating these international commitments into policies and actions by supporting the government in drafting a three-year Action Plan for 2017–2020 for the implementation of the Strategy for the Consolidation of Interethnic Relations approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 15 November 2017.

The Mission also provided technical assistance to the joint Working Group convening Moldova's Members of Parliament and deputies in the People's Assembly of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, a regional legislature, with the goal of laying the groundwork for harmonizing Moldova's legislation with the 1994 law on Gagauzia's special status, and of clarifying and affirming Gagauzia's autonomy.



Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism Rabbi Andrew Baker (centre left) reviews items to be displayed in the planned museum commemorating Jewish heritage in Moldova, Chisinau, 3 March 2017. (OSCE/Lurie Foca)

PARTNERSHIPS

As part of the ODIHR regional project Turning Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism, the Mission discussed ways to combat anti-Semitism through education with state authorities, civil society, academia and international organizations. The Mission fostered ties between Moldova's experts and their Romanian peers to enable the country to change its history course curriculum to accurately reflect the tragic events of the Holocaust in the local context, as well as to establish a museum commemorating Jewish heritage. The Mission also facilitated interaction between Moldova's officials and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. In September Moldova's Public Property Agency extended authorization to the Jewish community in Moldova to restore the building of the former Rabbi Tsrilson Synagogue in Chisinau.

Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Chief Monitor: Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan

Budget: €105,501,500 for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, with €84,401,200 from assessed contributions and €21,100,300 from extrabudgetary contributions with €10,175,563 pledged

Staff: 1,160 (785 international, 375 local) including 695 monitors as of 31 December 2017

www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine

With almost 1,200 staff members throughout the country, the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine contributed to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability and security throughout Ukraine. The Chief Monitor Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan was engaged in the work of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) format by co-ordinating its Working Group on Security Issues. He repeatedly called upon the sides, among other things, to reaffirm their commitments to the ceasefire, and the Mission closely monitored the implementation of these commitments on the ground. This resulted in brief periods of relative calm. The SMM also regularly contributed to discussions held in the Normandy format.

The SMM expanded its 24/7 presence by opening a new forward patrol base in Popasna and installing additional camera systems along the contact line. While the Minsk agreements have yet to be fully implemented, the Mission remains determined to carry out in full its mandate and its role in supporting their implementation, including monitoring and reporting on the security situation as well as facilitating dialogue.



OSCE SMM Chief Monitor Ertuğrul Apakan meeting with representatives of local authorities in Ivano-Frankivsk, 12 September 2017. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)



OSCE SMM monitors observing and facilitating repairs to water pipelines near Artema, Luhansk region, 11 January 2017. (OSCE/Igor Danis)



OSCE SMM monitors crossing the damaged bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region, 7 August 2017. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

SECURITY SITUATION

Throughout the year, the security situation in eastern Ukraine remained volatile. The highest levels of violence in 2017 were recorded during the first three months of the year, resulting in significant destruction and loss of life. The SMM observed the continued use of heavy weapons, also close to residential areas.

Despite the Framework Decision of the TCG on 21 September 2016 to disengage forces and hardware from three areas – Stanytsia Luhanska, Petrivske and Zolote – disengagement was only partially implemented, with the Mission reporting ceasefire violations in or around these areas on a regular basis. The Mission increased its monitoring capacity through a security upgrade of a forward patrol base and the installation of a new camera near the Stanytsia Luhanska disengagement area.

The SMM continued to monitor the security situation in other parts of Ukraine as well, including by monitoring public gatherings. The Mission also followed up on the situation of internally displaced persons (IDP) in collective centres and, in close co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, supported the facilitation of dialogue between IDPs and their host communities.

SECURITY RISKS

In late April, the Mission suffered the most serious security incident since its inception: an explosion, most likely caused by an anti-tank mine, killed a member of an SMM patrol and injured two others. Following the incident, the SMM adopted additional security measures requiring its patrols in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions to use asphalt or concrete roads only. In addition, the Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, due to denial of access, direct threats to monitors and the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance, among others.

MEANS OF REMOTE OBSERVATION

Given the restrictions to the SMM's freedom of movement and other impediments to the fulfilment of its mandate, the Mission continued to employ a range of technology, including unmanned aerial vehicles and other remote observation technology, and to install camera systems in hotspots and disengagement areas. This allowed the

SMM to increase its nighttime monitoring capacity and overcome significant risks and limitations associated with deploying ground patrols in high-risk environments.

CIVILIANS LIVING NEAR THE CONTACT LINE

Continued ceasefire violations, including the use of heavy weapons, resulted in loss of life, particularly of persons living near the contact line; this was exacerbated by the sides firing from and into residential areas. As of 31 December 2017, the SMM corroborated over 470 civilian casualties (about 80 killed and about 390 injured), including over 40 children. About one-third of the casualties were caused by mines and other explosive devices.

Freedom of movement of civilians remained curtailed, with only five entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) open along the contact line. Tens of thousands of people passed through these EECPs on a daily basis to meet family members or buy supplies such as food and medicine. In the Luhansk region, near Stanytsia Luhanska, there is only one EECP for pedestrians, where civilians cross deteriorating wooden ramps of a broken bridge. After repeated calls by the Mission, essential repairs were carried out on



Residents of the non-government-controlled Pikuzy village, Donetsk region, meeting with the OSCE SMM Principal Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug and other monitors on 14 October 2017. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)



“The plight of the civilian population of eastern Ukraine, especially with the onset of winter, demands immediate attention and action.”

Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan,
OSCE SMM Chief Monitor



OSCE SMM monitor operating a mini unmanned aerial vehicle in the non-government-controlled Pikuzy village, Donetsk region, on 14 October 2017. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

9 and 10 December to replace the bridge’s broken ramps. The SMM also urged the sides to open new EECPs.

While crossing and queuing at the EECPs, civilians were exposed to the dangers of armed violence. To enhance its monitoring of the security situation at EECPs, the Mission installed cameras at the Marinka, Maiorsk and Pyschchevyk EECPs.

As fighting continued to damage essential civilian infrastructure, the plight of civilians was often worsened by interruptions in the supply of basic utilities such as water, power and gas. The presence of forces and formations near utility facilities contributed to the risk of damage from fighting. Of particular concern was the ongoing fighting around the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), since any substantive damage to the chlorine storage containers at the facility would result in a serious environmental disaster and disruption of water supply to hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the contact line. The SMM therefore increased its monitoring capacity by installing a camera at the DFS and continued to regularly report on the security situation around the facility.

Many people expressed concerns to the SMM over water shortages during the summer and lack of heating during the winter. In 2017, the Mission monitored and facilitated almost 700 localized ceasefires, or “windows of silence” co-ordinated by the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC), to enable repairs to and maintenance of over 90 essential infrastructure facilities, including the DFS. In September, the SMM facilitated and monitored the successful completion of repairs to the Toretsk-Horlivka water line, which supplies potable water to approximately 70,000 people on both sides of the contact line.

PARTNERSHIPS

The SMM regularly co-operated and shared information with the United Nations and other international actors working in the country, such as the ICRC. The Mission also worked closely with the JCCC, in particular for reducing tensions and providing security guarantees.



OSCE SMM monitor operating a mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle on road M03 near the town of Luhanske, Donetsk region, 2 August 2017. (OSCE/Kevin Adams)



“Facts Matter” OSCE Café in Lviv conducted by a member of the OSCE SMM team, 15 August 2017. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

2017 OSCE SMM activities in figures

336

Daily and spot reports published



Patrols conducted

25,194

401,336

Ceasefire violations recorded



Instances when weapons in violation of Minsk withdrawal lines were observed

4,065

2,422

Impediments to fulfilment of mandate



Mirror patrols to support infrastructure repairs

715

www.osce.org/ukraine-smm

Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

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

Budget: €3,598,800 (Unified budget), €2,797,831 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 4 international, 72 local (including 26 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/project-coordinator-in-ukraine

The need to support Ukraine's accelerating reforms raised the demand for the OSCE Project Co-ordinator's help, especially in building consensus among various stakeholders – the government, the expert community and civil society groups – on the major changes required to ensure the stable and democratic future of the country. The Co-ordinator facilitated reform processes and provided valuable international expertise. Assisting Ukraine in overcoming challenges related to the ongoing crisis was also a focus of the Office's efforts.

PROVIDING IMPETUS TO CRUCIAL CHANGES AT THE TOP ECHELON OF THE JUDICIARY

The Co-ordinator assisted Ukraine in its multi-year effort to ensure justice and the rule of law and to reform the judiciary, focusing on the top judicial institutions, the supreme and higher courts, as well as the legal framework for the judicial system. It also supported opening the doors of the Constitutional Court for citizens to seek the protection of their constitutional rights and freedoms.

The Co-ordinator promoted inclusive expert dialogue in the process of developing key legislation pieces, particularly new commercial, civil and administrative procedural codes. This contributed to their swift adoption by the Parliament in October 2017. OSCE experts participated in drafting the recently adopted Law on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, which has triggered a constitutional complaint mechanism, a tool enabling citizens to appeal governmental acts that abridge human rights and freedoms. These developments paved the way for the launch of a new Supreme Court in Ukraine.

THE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR SUPPORTED:

- the online courses European Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights for over 2,000 registered users and How to Effectively Prepare and Conduct Dialogue for over 6,500 registered users;
- an induction course for 113 newly elected Supreme Court judges selected through a competitive process conducted for the first time in Ukraine;
- a first national sociological survey on perceived levels of corruption; and
- training of over 600 advocates and over 300 judges on issues of constitutional and judicial reform.

To help streamline debates on the design, principles and mode of establishing an anti-corruption court in Ukraine, and ensure the synergy of international support, an OSCE-initiated informal working group of international and national stakeholders developed and documented a common understanding on basic principles for establishing a high anti-corruption court in Ukraine. The document was appreciated highly by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in its estimation of anti-corruption court bills.

IMPROVING SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH DIALOGUE

To further improve and promote people-to-people dialogue in the country, the Co-ordinator actively supported youth activities, in particular the Youth Contact Group initiative. Aiming at challenging stereotypes, building trust and establishing dialogue, the group's representatives conducted over 20 workshops on critical thinking, media literacy and human rights across Ukraine, also involving national minorities and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The Co-ordinator also conducted a series of mediation and dialogue facilitation events for the IDP shelters in the Lviv and Kyiv regions. These will serve as a model for dialogues on matters of concern to IDPs planned for other regions.

To expand the number of experts able to deal with community disputes on the ground, in March the



OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Vaidotas Verba, opens the First Kharkiv International Legal Forum, a four-day expert dialogue on recent legal reform developments and outcomes, Kharkiv, 3 October 2017. (*National Law University/Yaroslav Mudryi*)



2017 OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Sebastian Kurz, meeting representatives of the Youth Contact Group supported by the Project Co-ordinator to discuss the challenges faced by young people in Ukraine, Kyiv, 17 January 2017. (BMEIA/Dragan Tatic)

Co-ordinator brought together mediation and dialogue networks from across Ukraine to elaborate and launch the first online course on basic skills in conducting dialogue as a tool for dispute resolution. Over 6,500 people enrolled in the course in 2017. It was complemented by a series of four-day in-person training sessions for over 160 persons who had successfully completed the online course, providing them with intensive training in dialogue competencies.

REVAMPED APPROACH TO THE EDUCATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

The Co-ordinator continued working to improve the quality of legal education, which is a key precondition for enhancing justice and adherence to the rule of law. To make the admissions process more fair and transparent, the Co-ordinator supported the Ministry of Education and Science in creating a high-quality test database to launch the country's first-ever standardized entrance exam at the master's degree level in law. The new exam aimed to close avenues for various types of corruption and bias, to level the playing field for law school applicants and to ensure that successful applicants have a basic grasp of fundamental legal concepts, critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate in a foreign language. In the 2017/2018 academic year, over 16,000 candidates took the test.



Ukraine's Minister of Education and Science, Lilia Hrynevych (centre), among students as they prepare to take the new standardized entrance exam, Kyiv, 3 August 2017. (Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine)



“The road to the new Supreme Court was not an easy one. Constitutional amendments, new legislation on the judicial system, a complete revision of procedural codes, a new independent and transparent system of judicial government – each of these was a tremendously difficult but courageous moved forward. Open, transparent and competitive selection of candidates to the highest bench in the country, broadcast live at each step and stage, rigorously scrutinized by the public, civil society and the international community, has brought about a new Supreme Court capable and willing to reboot the whole judicial system. These achievements would have been unthinkable without the helping hand lent by our international partners, including the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.”

Oleksiy Filatov
Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine
Coordinator of the Judicial Reform Council

PARTNERSHIPS

To promote synergy in the human dimension, the Co-ordinator and the CoE exchanged letters of co-operation. To help establish the Anti-corruption Court, the Co-ordinator launched a working group together with the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the CoE, the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Ukraine, the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative, the UNDP, the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement and USAID. It co-operated with the EUAM Ukraine, the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to develop training courses for law enforcement officials and the mobile anti-domestic violence services of the Police anti-domestic violence network (POLINA). It also partnered with UN Women.

Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

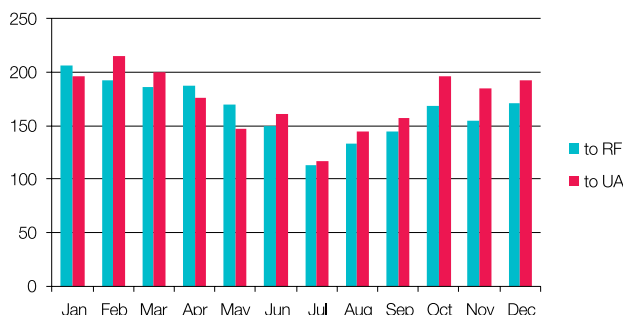
Chief Observer: **György Varga** (as of 15 November 2017),
Flavien Schaller (until August 2017)
 Acting Chief Observer: **Predrag Stanković** (from August 2017 until November 2017)
Budget: €1,404,400 (for the period 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018)
Staff: 22 observers, 3 Vienna-based staff
www.osce.org/observer-mission-at-russian-checkpoints-gukovo-and-donetsk

In 2017, the Observer Mission maintained its permanent presence at the two Russian checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency. The Mission continued to contribute to the OSCE’s efforts through regular weekly updates that informed the Chairmanship and the participating States on the situation at these two checkpoints as well as on movement across the border. Originally distributed in English, since July 2017 these reports have also been distributed in Russian. The Mission also issued 12 spot reports concerning Russian convoys bound for Ukraine. The OSCE Permanent Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission until 31 January 2018.

CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE MEDIA

The Observer Mission enhanced its working relationship with the authorities present at the two border crossing points, as well as with the Rostov Regional Administration and Rostov representative office of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation, and with local authorities in Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, including the mayor and representatives of the security and safety services. The Observer Mission also strengthened ties with the local media, which resulted in regular articles on the Mission’s activities and the work of its observers. This helped

Persons in military-style outfits



OSCE vehicle on a daily shift to the border crossing points Gukovo and Donetsk, escorted by Russian Federation police, Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, 7 December 2017. (OSCE/Suzana Asenova)



Team of the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk discuss key issues at a staff meeting, Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, 6 December 2017. (OSCE/Suzana Asenova)

BORDER CROSSING OBSERVATIONS IN 2017

- 4,117,806 people
- 4,074 people in military-style outfits
- 27 funeral vans/vans with a “Cargo 200” inscription (“Cargo 200” is a known military code used for “military personnel killed in action”)
- 12 Russian convoys

the local population to better understand the Mission’s mandate and the role of the OSCE in addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine.

OBSERVATIONS OF TRENDS

In 2017, the Mission’s observers noted a 36 per cent decrease in the number of people in military-style outfits crossing the two border crossing points in comparison to 2016. Crossings of passenger cars and other vehicles remained steady throughout the year. The average amount of cross-border movement of people increased slightly during the summer.

CHIEF OBSERVER

Ambassador György Varga has been the Chief Observer since November 2017. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Varga held a number of positions as a career diplomat in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Observer Mission and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) maintained a regular exchange of information on the situation, primarily about the movement of trains in the vicinity of Gukovo and of Russian convoys crossing the Donetsk border crossing point. They also identified possibilities for further exchange of data at the working level.

On 24 April 2017, the Director of the OSCE Secretariat’s Conflict Prevention Centre, Ambassador Marcel Peško, visited the Mission and the two checkpoints. He and Chief Observer Flavien Schaller also met with the head of the regional office of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation in Rostov.



Member of the OSCE Observer Mission deployed at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk leaving for a 24-hour duty shift, Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, 7 December 2017. (OSCE/Suzana Asenova)

Office in Yerevan

Head of Office: **Ambassador Argo Avakov** (until its closure on 31 August 2017)

Budget: €1,450,900 (Unified budget included the actual expenditures as of 5 May 2017 and the anticipated budget amount for the closure process of the Office)

Staff: 7 international, 41 local (as at 1 January 2017)

www.osce.org/office-in-yerevan-closed

Following the Chairmanship's announcement of the discontinuation of mandate negotiations on 4 May 2017 and its instruction to initiate the closure process, the OSCE Office in Yerevan closed on 31 August 2017. Prior to 31 December 2016, when its mandate expired, the Office was entrusted with:

- promoting the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Armenia within the OSCE framework in all OSCE dimensions, including the human, political, economic and environmental aspects of security and stability;
 - facilitating contacts, co-ordinating activities and promoting information exchange with the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and other OSCE institutions, as well as co-operation with international organizations and institutions;
 - establishing and maintaining contacts with local authorities, universities, research institutions and NGOs, and assisting in arranging events with OSCE participation; and
 - performing other tasks deemed appropriate by the Chairperson-in-Office or other OSCE institutions and agreed on between the Republic of Armenia and the OSCE.
-



A sign at the entrance to the OSCE Office in Yerevan, 30 June 2016. (Florian Gaertner/photothek.net)

Centre in Ashgabat

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Natalya Drozd**

Budget: €1,655,400 (Unified budget), €1,075,277 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 7 international, 22 local (including 3 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/centre-in-ashgabat

In 2017, the Centre enhanced its assistance to the host government in addressing transnational threats, strengthening confidence-building measures and border management, promoting good economic governance and sound environmental management, and supporting independence of the judiciary, media freedom and respect of human rights.

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Centre assisted the government in preparing for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games held in Ashgabat in September by organizing training courses on security procedures at air travel checkpoints and the analysis of X-ray images for air travel. It provided computer equipment and related software for training at the facilities of the International Airport in Ashgabat.

The Centre also held training events for 36 customs and law-enforcement officials on how to interdict the movement of drugs and chemical precursors from across Turkmenistan.

Jointly with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department, the Centre trained law-enforcement officials on how to detect forged documents and fraudulent identities.

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

The Centre held a training seminar on the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 and the conduct of related inspections for 20 mid-level military officers.

The Centre supported the development of a national strategy to counter biological, nuclear and chemical proliferation, and organized a roundtable meeting on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, held jointly with the UNODA.



Participants analyse X-ray images during a practical training course on air travel security procedures, Ashgabat, 22 November 2017. (OSCE)

SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL CO-OPERATION WITH AFGHANISTAN

The Centre supported the organization of the fifth meeting of the regional infrastructure technical groups on confidence-building measures within the framework of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan, a platform to discuss regional issues, particularly encouraging security, political and economic co-operation between Afghanistan and its neighbours. It also organized an academic forum held as part of the Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan.

BORDER SECURITY

The Centre continued to implement a project on strengthening border guard capacities and organized training courses on profiling and reading body language, as well as on border security and customs facilitation for 20 Turkmen border guards and 22 Afghan border police officers. The Centre also trained some 39 Turkmen border officers in patrolling, and organized a study visit on delimitation and demarcation to Belarus for them.

It also launched a new phase of a project in which 84 border guards received training, including on the use of special dogs and patrolling in mountainous and desert settings.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Centre continued to support the Good Governance Resource Centre at the Ministry of Finance and Economy in its efforts to improve legislation on anti-money laundering and to combat the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). It built the capacity on AML/CFT of representatives from relevant governmental agencies, financial institutions, law enforcement and regulatory bodies by organizing focused workshops and a know-how exchange programme in Belarus on preventive and regulatory mechanisms for countering corruption and money laundering.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The Centre, jointly with the State Committee on Environment Protection and Land Resources, hosted a Central Asian seminar on sound waste management. It



Ambassador Natalya Drozd, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat (right), delivers the opening address at an OSCE-supported academic forum held as part of the Seventh Regional Economic Co-operation Conference on Afghanistan, Ashgabat, 13 October 2017. (OSCE)



Expert from the United Kingdom, Marek Bekerman (right), speaking to a participant at an OSCE-supported training course on TV coverage of major events, Ashgabat, 4 May 2017. (OSCE)

provided a platform for governmental authorities, NGOs and academic and business circles to discuss best practices and standards in the area of sustainable waste management.

With the Centre's support, the Aarhus Centre of Turkmenistan promoted environmental activities at the local level and organized environmental clean-up and tree planting events.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Centre supported the development of a national road map on the use of renewable energy sources and shared international practices on energy consumption with representatives from the Turkmen State Energy Institute. This included a study visit for Turkmen officials to Austria.

TRANSPORT FACILITATION

The Centre organized a seminar for authorities dealing with transport logistics, finance, customs and border issues on secure transport and trade management.

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The Centre, jointly with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, supported an awareness-raising event on international standards for economic migration governance.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Centre provided an advanced training course for officials from the State Commission for Emergency Situations on mechanisms for responding to emergencies caused by natural disasters.

SUPPORT TO THE OMBUDSPERSON

The Centre supported the Office of the newly-elected Turkmen Ombudsperson, and together with the UN agencies present in Turkmenistan, organized a high-level roundtable discussion on the implementation of the new ombudsperson law.

A Centre-supported study visit to Finland introduced the Ombudsperson to the practices of Finnish national human rights institutions.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

The Centre facilitated the participation of 16 Turkmen officials working on religious affairs in a train-the-trainer course in Warsaw and two training events in Ashgabat on freedom of religion or belief, and on security for state officials and representatives of civil society. These events

were organized as part of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights regional project on advancing freedom of religion or belief.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

The Centre organized a seminar for penitentiary officials on providing psychological support to inmates and preparing them for reintegration upon release.

It continued to provide support to the public organization "Keik Okara" to run shelter and hotline services for victims of domestic violence and conduct awareness-raising seminars for the general public.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

With support from the British Embassy, the Centre organized seminars on the role of an independent judiciary in the context of criminal justice. The seminars were held in Mary and Dashoguz for 60 judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law-enforcement officials.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Models of media financing, private media and competition were discussed at a roundtable meeting with representatives of parliament, relevant institutions, media and educational establishments. The Centre supported Turkmenistan in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2016–2020 and provided a training course for judges, lawyers and media representatives on the rights and duties of journalists.

Twenty editors and camera operators from Turkmenistan's TV channels were trained in covering major events. Twenty-five journalists representing national print and broadcast media enhanced their digital media skills in an OSCE-supported training course.

The Centre also organized a course to enhance the professional skills of the press officers of Turkmenistan's state institutions and a study visit to Poland for representatives of key ministries on establishing and running press services in state institutions.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Centre in Ashgabat partnered with the UN agencies and the British Embassy in Turkmenistan to support the activities of the Ombudsperson and address issues related to border management, non-proliferation and independence of the judiciary.

Programme Office in Astana

Head of Office: **Ambassador György Szabó**

Budget: €2,174,500 (Unified budget), €23,000 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 7 international, 22 local

www.osce.org/programme-office-in-astana

In 2017, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana built on the impact and achievements of long-term projects to better identify the key challenges to security in Kazakhstan and the Central Asia region. It strengthened relationships with government officials, leaders of civil society and international actors with a view to promoting regional co-operation in combating violent extremism and countering organized crime. It worked to promote transboundary water resource management and to facilitate more efficient trade practices as well as sustainable economic growth and green economy. The Office also assisted Kazakhstan in its efforts to promote democratic policing and fundamental freedoms. It helped the host country develop social services for victims of human trafficking, and supported justice and penitentiary reforms. It engaged youth and academia in regional security dialogue. In total, the Office implemented 150 events through 51 projects in all three OSCE dimensions with over 7,200 participants nationwide.

TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

In supporting the country's efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the Office engaged civil society, youth, women, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies. Six OSCE-supported events with a focus on combating transnational threats involved some 300 parliamentarians, high-level government officials, judges, civil society activists and international experts. Law enforcement officers from across the country were trained to combat transnational organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime, trafficking in drugs and counterfeit goods smuggling, as

well as to enhance border security and law enforcement, particularly community policing. Ways to counter Internet use for promoting hate speech were the focus of the Eighth Central Asian Internet Forum, which brought 120 practitioners and experts from the region and beyond to Almaty. The Office, together with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, conducted annual regional seminars on confidence- and security-building measures under the Vienna Document 2011 and on the management of explosive ordnance.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

In co-operation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Civil Society and the Association of Religious Organizations of Kazakhstan, the Office co-organized a roundtable meeting on legislation related to the freedom of religion or belief. Some 80 participants, including representatives of different religious communities and NGOs in Kazakhstan, academia, state officials and law enforcement bodies, discussed new draft legislative provisions, including those related to obtaining religious education abroad, the participation of minors in religious rites and the additional requirements for the registration of missionary activities, which were of particular interest to local religious communities.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Some 850 government, business and civil society representatives in the area of good governance participated in projects focused on developing anti-corruption standards, regulation of cryptocurrencies, combating money laundering and improving migration administration. The Office promoted trade by co-operating with Kazakhstan's State Revenue Committee and by enhancing risk management, transit procedures and the temporary release of goods.



Mid-level police officers and instructors learn the fundamentals of risk profiling at a training seminar on ensuring public safety during large events organized by the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, Karaganda, 12 April 2017. (OSCE/Colin McCullough)



Tatyana Nemtsan from the Annasai Green Technology Centre meets participants in a training seminar on the application of green technologies supported by the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, Arnasai, 13 April 2017. (OSCE/Aigul Zharas)



Some 70 participants of the eighth annual Zhas Camp for young people gather in Petropavlovsk, 29 October 2017. (Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan/ Irina Mednikova)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Office promoted energy efficiency, organic farming, water governance and youth engagement activities. To enhance gender mainstreaming, the Office supported the Women's International Forum in promoting green technologies and social entrepreneurship among women. It supported efforts towards the ratification of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Protocol under the Aarhus Convention. In total, some 1,655 government officials, youth activists, entrepreneurs, NGOs and representatives of the Aarhus Centres were involved in the Office's activities.

LEGAL REFORM

The Office consistently supported criminal, administrative and civil justice reform by facilitating public and expert discussions for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers on how to apply newly adopted codes and relevant laws. It supported seminars on mechanisms for human rights protection for some 900 members of local administrations, civil society and the judiciary. Around 110 government officials and defence lawyers took part in Office-supported seminars concerning the development of the legal profession. In the area of combating human trafficking, the

Office built the capacity of some 80 National Preventive Mechanism members, placing special emphasis on the methodology and practical aspects of monitoring the rights of children in closed institutions. The Office organized training courses on the Istanbul Protocol for 25 prosecutors, defence lawyers and forensic experts, and helped 30 defence lawyers to strengthen their skills in working with torture victims. It also supported training seminars for 400 judges on handling cases related to trafficking in human beings and domestic violence.

ENGAGING YOUTH

In line with the Austrian Chairmanship's prioritization of fostering youth exchange and political participation of young people, the Office organized cross-dimensional activities that engaged over 350 young leaders regionally. It supported the annual Central Asian Youth Network seminar for university students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia, which was held in part at the venue for EXPO-2017. It also supported a youth camp, Zhas Camp, in three cities with over 200 participants, and the Central Asia Leadership Programme for young environmental experts.



Military officers inspect hardware during a simulated inspection visit to the 36th Air Assault Brigade Base under the 2011 Vienna Document, Astana, 26 May 2017. (OSCE/Colin McCullough)

PARTNERSHIPS

The OSCE Programme Office in Astana worked closely with UN agencies, the EU, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Embassies of Austria, Canada, Germany and the United States, the International Organization for Migration, Penal Reform International, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (the German society for international cooperation), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in areas such as countering violent extremism, border security, environmental protection and promoting media freedom.

Programme Office in Bishkek

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Pierre von Arx**

Budget: €6,797,400 (Unified budget), €825,321 (Extrabudgetary pledges, including the OSCE Academy in Bishkek)

Staff: 12 international, 68 local (including 2 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/programme-office-in-bishkek

With the adoption of a new mandate in 2017, the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek remained steadfast in supporting Kyrgyzstan to implement nationally-led efforts to strengthen security in all three OSCE dimensions. The Office focused on a range of security issues, from transnational threats such as human trafficking and terrorism to the risks posed by economic and environmental issues, on enhancing fair and democratic electoral system, as well as on promoting youth and gender equality. New initiatives in the host country were also supported.

SUPPORT TO THE NEW GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVE “TAZA KOOM”

The Office assisted the government in implementing the e-governance initiative “Taza Koom”. In particular, it facilitated the establishment of a research centre to support the government’s decision-making through providing in-house research and analysis capabilities. At the request of the host country, the Office also made possible the assessment of the national secure data exchange platform “Tunduk”, as well as its upgrade.

STRENGTHENING EFFORTS IN COUNTERING TERRORISM

The Office continued to support the host country in strengthening inter-agency co-operation to prevent violent extremism and radicalization. The Issyk-Kul Anti-Terror 2017 exercise made it possible to meaningfully improve

SUPPORTING ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATION

The Office helped enhance the capacity of state institutions to administer elections and improve electoral legislation. It promoted effective use of the voter identification system and established a centre for training operators on newly introduced technologies. Over 700 election observers were trained.



Alumni from the Central Asian Youth Network during a discussion on VERLT at the workshop ReBootCamp2017/ Peer-to-Peer Xperiment, Issyk-Kul province, 30 August 2017. (OSCE/Andrey Butsman)



Representatives of the NGO Eagl and local election commissions assess a polling station for accessibility to persons with disabilities, based on a methodology developed with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, 26 June 2017. (OSCE/Kanybek Zemlyanski)

the co-ordination between key governmental agencies of Kyrgyzstan and to check the current state of operational readiness to counter terrorist attacks.



Special operation forces conduct a hostage rescue operation during a one-day command-staff exercise, Issyk-Kul Anti-terror – 2017, supported by the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Issyk-Kul region, 16 September 2017. (OSCE/Altynai Nanaeva)

ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Promoting environmental security remained one of the Office's priorities. To contribute to the implementation of the fundamental principles of the Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan, the Office supported the opening of a third Aarhus Centre in the Issyk-Kul region.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

The OSCE-supported project "Strengthening regulatory governance" assisted Kyrgyzstan in improving its economic competitiveness, stimulating market-driven growth and reducing corruption. As a result of the three-year project:

- 1,068 legal normative acts and 604 administrative procedures were assessed by applying e-Guillotine methodology;
- Recommendations were made by the Office for reducing administrative and compliance costs for businesses and improving Kyrgyzstan's ranking in the World Bank Group's "Doing Business" index.

EMPOWERING YOUTH FROM THE REGION

Nearly 2,000 young reporters, students and young professionals in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia participated in training courses to increase their capacity to provide objective and impartial coverage of security-related issues. The Office also facilitated regional co-operation between young leaders by supporting the Central Asian Youth Network.

OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek is a well-known educational and research institution that provides high quality graduate education to young people from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. In 2017 it celebrated its 15th anniversary. For the academic year 2016/2017, the Academy received 1,500 applications for two graduate programmes. Following a highly competitive selection process, 50 students were accepted.



Regional representatives of the State Registration Service and members of the Central Election Commission learn how to use automated ballot boxes as part of an OSCE-supported training course on voting procedures, Batken province, 23 August 2017. (OSCE/Gulmira Usubalieva)

PARTNERSHIPS

The Programme Office further strengthened its co-operative network through collaborating with various UN agencies, international organizations, state partners and OSCE field operations. These partnerships focused on the areas of border control, police and penitentiary reforms, gender issues, improvement of the electoral system, good governance and environmental protection.

Programme Office in Dushanbe

Head of Office: **Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä**

Budget: €7,554,800 (Unified budget), €759,975 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 19 international, 154 local (including 10 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/programme-office-in-dushanbe

Following the entry into force of its new mandate on 1 July 2017, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe continued working in close partnership with the Tajik government and civil society organizations both in Dushanbe and in rural areas of the country across the three OSCE dimensions of security. The Office focused on capacity-building for law enforcement agencies, including for Afghan and other regional counterparts. It also provided support for developing green economy and energy efficiency, and promoted improved water management, human rights, good governance and the rule of law.

BORDER SECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Office trained some 350 Tajik and 40 Kyrgyz border officers, as well as 56 Afghan border police officers on human surveillance techniques in border areas. In co-operation with an expert from the Russian Federation's Border Troops, the Office also assisted Tajikistan in assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's border crossing points, including at airports, in handling the inflows and outflows of people and goods.

With the aim of addressing the financing of terrorism, the Office and the UNODC organized a training course for the banking sector and law enforcement officials on identifying illicit financial transactions.

In line with the National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the Office helped improve conditions for interactive training sessions

at a regional training centre established in 2017. The centre, certified by the International Atomic Energy Agency, was assisted by the Office in renovating two training classrooms. The Office also provided 30 PC workstations.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND ENERGY SECURITY

The Office continued promoting the implementation of green economy principles, involving government officials, representatives from the Aarhus Centres and civil society in training activities on sustainable development and energy efficiency, thereby building bridges between communities, governmental authorities and the private sector.

The importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy was tested in a secondary school in Nurek, where students were given the opportunity to experience the benefits resulting from the Office-led installation of thermos insulation, solar panels and insulated windows.



Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, is greeted with traditional Tajik bread and honey by schoolchildren at the handover ceremony marking the installation of energy efficient devices in Secondary School No. 11, Nurek city, 22 November 2017. (OSCE/Esfandiar Adineh)



Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (left), and Mansurjon Umarov, the First Deputy of the State Security Committee, during the official opening of the Inter-Agency Secretariat for Border Management and Security of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, 12 September 2017. (OSCE/Munira Shoinbekova)



A micro-hydropower station in the village of Langar, built with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Rasht district, 15 September 2017. (OSCE/Eraj Sabzalleev)

In line with the national water sector reform programme, the Office continued to build the capacity of Water User Associations. It also supported the construction of one micro-hydropower plant in eastern Tajikistan, as well as the connection of two remote settlements to the national electricity network.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

The Office continued supporting the implementation of the State Programme on Human Rights Education through capacity-building activities for some 36 government and civil society representatives on human rights and train-the-trainer skills.

The Office supported advocacy efforts to promote the signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also continued to support national efforts to eradicate torture through training courses for lawyers on international standards and effective litigation, including compensation for victims and their families. As a result, progress was noted in seven compensation cases, and two monetary claims were satisfied. The Office

organized ten monitoring visits by Ombudsman staff and civil society representative to places where liberties are deprived; the findings of these visits may contribute to improving existing human rights monitoring toolkits.

BORDER MANAGEMENT STAFF COLLEGE (BMSC)

In 2017, the BMSC hosted 14 educational initiatives, including three one-month staff courses. These initiatives promoted the implementation of the OSCE Border Security Concept to 348 participants, including 120 women, from 20 OSCE participating States, six Partners for Co-operation, and Afghanistan.

Challenges related to migration management, virtual frontier protection and the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism were explored during expert conferences.

The BMSC concluded its second one-year Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership course, with 16 border and customs officials graduates defending their coursework in Dushanbe in June.



Afghan border troops use the technique of belaying in a bundle, learned at an OSCE-organized training course, Khoja Obigarm, 17 April 2017. (OSCE/Firdavs Kurbanov)

PARTNERSHIPS

In co-operation with the UNDP and building on the National Border Management Strategy, the Office supported the establishment of a Border Inter-Agency Secretariat, a governmental entity aimed at improving the co-ordination of all border-related agencies, and the rehabilitation of radioactive and contaminated uranium production sites to mitigate environmental and public health risks.

The Office co-operated with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in organizing an international workshop on the implementation of the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The BMSC maintained co-operation with the UNDP on the Border Management Northern Afghanistan project. Among other partners were also the DCAF and the UNODC.

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador John MacGregor**

Budget: €2,134,200 (Unified budget), €60,000 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 4 international, 24 local (including 1 under an extrabudgetary project)

www.osce.org/project-coordinator-in-uzbekistan

In 2017, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan continued to support the host country's efforts to address transnational threats, promote transparency in governance, fight corruption, combat money laundering, and counteract trafficking in human beings and drugs.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Project Co-ordinator continued its activities in support of the fight against terrorism, addressing the prevention and countering of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) and the question of how to deal with the return of foreign terrorist fighters, with a focus on youth and women.

As part of the OSCE #UnitedCVE social media campaign, the Project Co-ordinator supported the development of an informational web portal, a resource tool for individuals, policymakers, educators, community-based and NGOs as well as parents and families. The portal aims to prevent and counter violent extremism and limit the pool of potential terrorist recruits.

The Project Co-ordinator, together with representatives from 11 state agencies, reviewed and updated Uzbekistan's national action plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

Jointly with the National Centre on Drug Control, it supported the implementation of a national anti-drug programme focused on country-wide preventive measures to fight illicit trafficking of drugs and chemical precursors.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

The Project Co-ordinator facilitated the implementation of the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including on the protection of critical infrastructure, by raising awareness activities among key national stakeholder agencies. Over 60 officials and experts from six OSCE participating States took part in a subregional conference on the role of ICTs in regional and international security organized in Tashkent and discussed practical measures to enhance cyber stability between states.

GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE

The Project Co-ordinator continued assisting the national authorities in combating corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing, as well as in increasing transparency of government institutions by introducing open government data principles.

In 2017, public awareness activities promoting zero tolerance for corruption triggered a significant public response. Particular attention was paid to projects aimed at public education institutions – one of the most vulnerable sectors for corruption.



A member of the team of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan monitors pollution in the Syrdarya River basin, Syrdarya, 23 July 2017. (Uzbekistan's State Committee on Ecology and Environment Protection /Khurshid Ismatov)



The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador John MacGregor, opens Uzbekistan's first cycling lane, Namangan, 23 September 2017. (OSCE/Murod Khusanov)

The Project Co-ordinator also held capacity-building events for government authorities and the private sector in the area of identification, analysis and mitigation of money laundering and terrorism financing risks.

PROMOTION OF A GREEN ECONOMY

The Project Co-ordinator supported the promotion of green economy policies in the host country. This included providing assistance to national stakeholders in promoting sustainable transportation through the establishment of Uzbekistan's first cycling lane and an urban living area with sustainable lighting systems powered by renewable energy. It is planned to replicate these pilot projects across the country.

Sustainable waste management policies were also widely promoted. The Project Co-ordinator facilitated discussions on investment opportunities, barriers for waste recycling development in Uzbekistan, and necessary regulatory mechanisms.

ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF PARLIAMENTARY JOURNALISM IN UZBEKISTAN

To achieve greater transparency in the work of the parliament, the Project Co-ordinator facilitated capacity-

building activities for some 60 parliamentary journalists on parliamentary reporting with the aim of publishing and broadcasting accurate, objective and relevant information on parliamentary proceedings for the benefit of citizens. It also assisted the parliament in developing and launching an information system that has been integrated into the official website of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan. It provides a platform for registering and processing statistical data on received appeals and for sending direct answers to appealing citizens, including journalists.

IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS

Based on an analysis of newly adopted laws and regulations, as well as of information provided by state bodies and human rights monitoring systems, including on public control over the work of state bodies, the Project Co-ordinator assisted the National Human Rights Centre in setting up a road map for state policy on the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms commitments. It also supported national human rights institutions in co-ordinating between governmental and non-governmental organizations, with the aim of developing quality reporting related to human rights indicators.



Participants engage in discussion at the OSCE-supported workshop National Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment, Tashkent, 23 October 2017. (OSCE/Murod Khusanov)

PARTNERSHIPS

The Project Co-ordinator co-operated with various international partners. These included the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee and the UNODC in addressing VERLT, illicit drug trafficking and other transnational threats; the UNODC for a national competition for students on creative solutions for combating corruption; the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism in holding a regional training course on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism evaluators; UNDP and the Office in Central Asia of the OHCHR on enhancing the capacities of national human rights institutions; and USAID on anti-trafficking issues.



ADVANCING SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The OSCE recognizes that close co-operation with the neighbouring regions and partner organizations is critical for advancing peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space. Throughout the year, the OSCE continued to engage in political dialogue and the sharing of experience with its Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, and to build on its well-established working relations with other international and regional organizations to confront common challenges.

Asian and Mediterranean partners

ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION



The OSCE participating States and its Asian Partners stepped up co-operation in 2017, focusing on common security challenges and shared priorities with a view to enhancing the Partners' involvement in the OSCE's political dialogue and activities. Particular attention was paid to the security situation on the Korean peninsula, the Indo-Pacific security dynamic, as well as empowering youth to combat violent extremism. Following up on the recommendations of the 2014 Basel Ministerial Declaration on Co-operation with the Asian Partners, the German Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group continued to promote a concrete and project-oriented mode of co-operation, which contributed to making the partnership more demand-driven and operational. The Asian Partners for Co-operation actively contributed to the OSCE dialogue and provided significant financial and human resources to the Organization's activities for 2017.

To promote sustainable and comprehensive security across the three OSCE dimensions, the Secretary General and his team promoted political dialogue with the Asian Partners for Co-operation through both high-level and informal consultations, sharing OSCE experiences and best practices.

The Secretary General engaged with the leadership of the Asian Partners, met with senior government officials from all five partner states and invited Seoul's Mayor Park Won Soon as a guest speaker to contribute an Asian perspective to the OSCE Security Days event Creating Inclusive, Safe and Sustainable Cities: Local Approaches to Global Challenges. He held opening remarks and moderated a high-level political segment entitled "Confidence building in times of geopolitical changes" at the OSCE-Asian Conference on 19 and 20 June in Berlin.

The Asian Conference in Berlin focused on the theme Common Challenges and Common Opportunities. During

THE PARTNERSHIP FUND

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

€3,244,191 PLEDGES SINCE CREATION IN 2007

€1,302,035 PLEDGES IN 2017

51 PROJECTS DEVELOPED SINCE CREATION

41 projects completed

7 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2017

3 new projects | **4** multi-year projects

the event, senior officials from the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the OSCE participating States discussed confidence-building, connectivity, economic co-operation as well as sustainable development. The OSCE Secretariat also supported the Republic of Korea in organizing the first inter-regional ICT/cyber-security conference to be held in Seoul in order to share the OSCE's experience and good practices in promoting cyber stability.



Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group (left), together with representatives of the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the OSCE Secretary General (centre right), Vienna, 30 June 2017. (Australian Embassy)

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION



Thanks to the efforts of the Italian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group, the Mediterranean partnership received a boost in 2017 and renewed interest from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The OSCE Partnership Fund saw unprecedented extrabudgetary contributions from the Contact Group Chair and other donors. Contact Group meetings took place under the umbrella theme of “a positive agenda” and focused on opportunities, not only challenges. New topics brought to the fore included the protection of the common cyberspace and the preservation of the Mediterranean cultural heritage. Economic and environmental issues were prominently featured, in particular the transition to renewable energy and the role that small and medium-sized enterprises can play in fostering growth and economic security across the Mediterranean. Issues related to women in peace and security were discussed during several OSCE events involving the partners, with a view to enhancing the role of women mediators in the Mediterranean region. A particularly positive development was the concrete follow-up provided to some of the Contact Group meetings through extrabudgetary projects.

Throughout the year, representatives of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation were involved in a large number of OSCE Secretariat-designed workshops specifically tailored to their needs. The 2017 Mediterranean Conference in Palermo drew the highest-level attendance on record and re-focused attention on the crucial issue of migration governance. The Secretary General re-confirmed the OSCE’s commitment to its Mediterranean dimension, advocating a more strategic approach to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, including through multi-year programmes and commitments.

The Track II New-Med (New Mediterranean) network continued to promote out-of-the-box thinking about Mediterranean co-operation. It delivered a number of research products supporting OSCE ongoing discussions, and carried out new initiatives on Mediterranean youth empowerment, including by providing awards to a selected group of emerging thinkers and leaders.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy Angelino Alfano (right) with participants in the margins of the 2017 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, Palermo, 24 October 2017. (MFA Italy)

Co-operation with international and regional organizations

Secretary General: **Thomas Greminger** (as of 18 July 2017), **Lamberto Zannier** (until 30 June 2017)



UNITED NATIONS (UN)

The UN–OSCE partnership advanced further in 2017 in a number of priority areas, such as conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building, disarmament, transnational threats, migration and women, and peace and security. Interaction with the UN Liaison Office on Peace and Security in Vienna, established last year, and the annual staff talks held in Vienna contributed to further strengthening working contacts and institutional dialogue between the organizations.

The OSCE Secretary General attended the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly in September 2017 where he confirmed commitment to closely co-operating with the UN during his tenure in office. The Secretary General also represented the OSCE at several UN events. He delivered the keynote address at the UN Security Council open debate Conflicts in Europe, which took place in New York on 19 February 2017.

At the operational level, the OSCE Secretariat signed a Letter of Understanding with the UN Department of Field Support, which will contribute to enhancing the OSCE's operational responsiveness.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)

Co-operation with the CoE continued to advance, in particular on tolerance and non-discrimination, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against terrorism, and combating trafficking in human beings. The two annual meetings of the CoE–OSCE Co-ordination Group remained an established format for jointly examining issues of mutual interest. The Group supported high-level interaction and joint activities by the two organizations and called for sustained future co-operation. The Group exchanged information to make full use of the respective strengths of both organizations pertaining to action against terrorism. It also encouraged stronger OSCE–CoE interaction in addressing minority-related issues, in particular in relation to the integration of diverse societies. Political contacts intensified thanks to the continuation of the well-established practice of special briefings that share the priorities of the respective Chairmanships.



EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

In 2017, the institutional relations between the OSCE Secretariat and the EU focused on a number of key issues of mutual interest. From a thematic perspective, the conflict cycle and the fight against transnational threats were the subject of regular dialogue with EU institutions, with geographic co-operation focused on developments in Central Asia, as well as in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

The Munich Security Conference and the UN General Assembly provided opportunities for high-level meetings between the two organizations. On 22 May, the ambassadors of the EU Political and Security Committee visited Vienna. They met with the OSCE Secretary General and received briefings from the OSCE's Chief Monitor in Ukraine and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine.

EU–OSCE staff talks provided once again an important opportunity for comparing notes on issues of common concern, with a special focus on the conflict cycle. On 18 October, the first trilateral UN–EU–OSCE staff talk took place at the director level. These talks were aimed to strengthen the mutually reinforcing relationship existing between the three organizations, while recognizing each organization's specific role, competence and particular strengths, as well as to fully exploit the potential of their complementarity on the ground.



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

Interaction between NATO and the OSCE developed steadily in 2017, through both high-level visits and contacts at the expert level. Ambassador Florian Raunig, Head of the Task Force for the 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, together with Ambassador Christian Strohal, Special Representative for the Austrian Chairmanship, visited NATO's headquarters on 22 February and addressed the North Atlantic Council. The Secretary General visited NATO in February and met with the Alliance's newly appointed Deputy Secretary General, Rose Gottemoeller.



Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General (left), meets with Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly (right), New York, 22 September 2017. (UN Photo/Rick Bajornas)

The Secretary General and his NATO counterpart Jens Stoltenberg exchanged views in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September. The annual OSCE–NATO staff talks, held on 23 and 24 November, allowed counterparts to compare notes and update each other on respective activities and perspectives. Targeted informal staff talks also occurred at the technical level in the form of video-conferences. The OSCE Structured Dialogue has been followed attentively by the Atlantic Alliance.



COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION (CSTO)

The OSCE and the CSTO Secretary Generals had a number of meetings throughout the year and used these opportunities to

exchange views on various matters on the security agenda with a focus on possible ways to enhance interaction between their respective Organizations. The Secretary General visited the CSTO's headquarters during his visit to Moscow, while the CSTO Secretary General attended the Ministerial Council in Vienna; they also held talks on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York. CSTO's officials took part in several OSCE events to present CSTO activities aimed at countering transnational threats and challenges and to share their views on security issues within the CSTO's area of responsibility.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretary General met bilaterally with the heads of many partner regional organizations to advance co-operation and foster joint approaches on issues of common interest and concern. Co-operation with the Central European Initiative (CEI) was further enhanced thanks to the establishment of the CEI Donor Fund to the OSCE, designed to facilitate the co-financing of joint projects. The Secretariat furthered its interaction with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the League of Arab States on several issues relevant to the OSCE's co-operation agenda.

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EXECUTIVE STRUCTURES AND PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

SECRETARIAT

CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTRE

- The UN Department of Political Affairs and the EU European External Action Service provided trainers for

the OSCE Mediation Course; both organizations also sent a participant to the course.

- The CPC conducted a staff exchange visit to the UN Mediation Support Unit.
- The CPC continued its long-standing close working relations with the EU and UN at the Geneva International Discussions.
- The CPC continued to develop operational partnerships with relevant departments at the UN Headquarters. In order to increase the operational responsiveness of the OSCE, the OSCE and UN signed a Letter of Understanding with the UN Department of Field Support that establishes collaborative arrangements and provides the possibility for enhancing technical capacities and expertise.
- The OSCE and UNHCR worked together closely in support of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) in South-Eastern Europe by assisting in the identification of eligible beneficiaries, monitoring their selection and ensuring that they receive adequate protection. Together, the OSCE and UNHCR continued to play a crucial role in ensuring that the RHP effectively provides sustainable housing solutions to those refugees and displaced persons most in need.
- The CPC continued to co-operate closely with UNHCR, supporting activities based on their joint "Protection Checklist". This included capacity-building workshops with staff of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the SMM.
- The Handbook on Statelessness in the OSCE Area, drafted by the UNHCR, ODIHR and the HCNM, was published by the CPC in English and Russian. This was followed up with an OSCE-UNHCR Seminar on Sharing Good Practices on Statelessness among OSCE participating States, held in Vienna on 2 October.

TRANSNATIONAL THREATS DEPARTMENT

In implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, TNTD continued to co-operate closely with international and regional organizations, including the UN, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the EU, NATO, the CSTO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

In the area of border security and management, TNTD co-operated with Frontex, INTERPOL, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, the UNHCR and the UNODC in building capacity. This included interagency and cross-border co-operation, addressing foreign terrorist fighters' cross-border travel and countering illicit cross-border trafficking, with a particular emphasis on irregular migration and the use of emerging technologies.

On police-related activities, TNTD worked closely with the UNODC through the organizations' Joint 2016-2017 Action Plan. Other key partners included CEPOL (the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training), the CSTO, the Council of Europe, Europol, INTERPOL, the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group and SELEC. All TNTD activities related to human trafficking and migration-related crime were co-ordinated with the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and co-organized with the UNODC and the IOM.

OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR OF ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

In the economic field, to promote good governance and to combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of

terrorism, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) partnered with the UNODC, the Anti-Corruption Network of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, the FATF, the Eurasian Group, and OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office).

In December 2017, the OCEEA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to deepen their co-operation and establish a strategic partnership to promote good governance, connectivity, economic development and environmental collaboration.

The OSCE's partnership with the UNDP, the UNEP, the UNECE and the Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe within the ENVSEC Initiative remained an effective platform for co-ordinated response to environment and security challenges. The OCEEA further expanded its partner base by building closer ties with other organizations, including the Union for the Mediterranean.

In the area of energy security, the OCEEA worked closely with the Energy Community and the Vienna Energy Club networks and partnered with the UNECE and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Of paramount importance to the Office was improving co-operation amongst OSCE executive structures and field operations, as well as with relevant anti-trafficking stakeholders. The *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* remained a key platform for supporting OSCE participating States to implement viable anti-trafficking strategies. Simulation-based training was held in Vicenza, with the active participation, among others, of the Italian Carabinieri, the UNHCR, Europol, Interpol, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and students and staff from the University of Padova. Representatives from the municipalities of Venice and Vicenza also took part, as did OSCE colleagues from TNTD and the CPC.

Moreover, the Office sought to foster new partnerships, including via the UN's Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). A side event at the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council, co-organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE, focused on improving the international co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts. Representatives from the UNODC, the IOM, the ICMPD and the UNHCR attended. Further, constructive co-operation with the UN led to the Special Representative addressing a number of high-level meetings of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council, particularly on the topic of trafficking in conflict and crisis situations. Co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE also remained strong, with both organizations continuing to exchange plans and co-ordinate visits.

GENDER SECTION

The Gender Section strengthened its co-operation with international organizations and international and national civil society organizations. Partnerships with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women were further strengthened in the context of the Gender Section's

survey project, as well as through the organization of a joint event on preventing violence against women. International organizations, including the UNFPA, UN Women, the CoE and the EU, civil society organizations and others participated in the second Gender Equality Review Conference organized by the Gender Section, the Austrian Chair and ODIHR.

HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) continued close co-operation with international organizations, including the UN, the EU and the Council of Europe. In 2017, the HCNM jointly developed the *Handbook on Statelessness in the OSCE Area: International Standards and Good Practices* with ODIHR and the UNHCR. The HCNM participated in the tenth session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues in Geneva.

OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ODIHR continued its close co-operation with the Council of Europe in the fields of legislative assistance, democratic governance and the rule of law, and with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission). In election observation activities, ODIHR regularly partnered with parliamentary delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. In its work on Roma and Sinti issues, the Office partnered with the UNHCR. The Office also co-operated with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the OHCHR and the IOM.

REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

In February, the Representative issued a joint declaration entitled "Freedom of Expression and Fake News, Disinformation and Propaganda" together with the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.

In September, the Representative and the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression issued a joint statement calling on Turkey to release journalists from prison and remove restrictions on media freedom.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly engaged extensively with counterparts in the OSCE and continued its efforts in developing relations with partners, holding meetings with officials from the UN, the EU, the International Criminal Court, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Council of Europe, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and NATO. OSCE parliamentarians also conducted diplomatic visits to North America, South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, Central Asia, as well as Turkey, Morocco and China.

List of abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BMSC	Border Management Staff College
CBM	Confidence-building measures
CEPOL	EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre
CSBMs	Confidence- and security-building measures
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
CTHB	Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EU	European Union
Europol	European Police Office
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation
GID	Geneva International Discussions
HCNM	High Commissioner on National Minorities
ICT	Information and communication technology
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPRM	Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism
KVINFO	Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Ethnicity
MASHAV	Israel's Agency for International Development and Cooperation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PA	Parliamentary Assembly
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
RHP	Regional Housing Programme
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center
SMM	Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
TNTD	Transnational Threats Department
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VERLT	Violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
WRC	Women's Resource Centre

Unified budget

THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	2017 UNIFIED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
The Secretariat	41,164,000	30%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	16,279,300	12%
High Commissioner on National Minorities	3,407,600	2%
Representative on Freedom of the Media	1,481,600	1%
TOTAL FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	62,332,500	45%
OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS		
South-Eastern Europe		
Mission in Kosovo	17,510,500	13%
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	11,373,600	8%
Mission to Serbia	6,238,000	4%
Presence in Albania	2,892,700	2%
Mission to Skopje	6,442,600	5%
Mission to Montenegro	2,146,200	2%
Total for South-Eastern Europe	46,603,600	34%
Eastern Europe		
Mission to Moldova	2,264,000	2%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	3,598,800	3%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners	5,500	0%
Total for Eastern Europe	5,868,300	4%
Caucasus		
Office in Yerevan	1,450,900	1%
High-Level Planning Group	264,000	0%
The Minsk Process	911,200	1%
Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference	1,235,800	1%
Total for Caucasus	3,861,900	3%
Central Asia		
Programme Office in Astana	2,174,500	2%
Centre in Ashgabat	1,655,400	1%
Programme Office in Bishkek	6,797,400	5%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	2,134,200	2%
Programme Office in Dushanbe	7,554,800	5%
Total for Central Asia	20,316,300	15%
TOTAL FOR OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS	76,650,100	55%
GRAND TOTAL	138,982,600	100%

* The Unified budget excludes the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk
 * The 2017 OSCE Unified budget was approved by the Permanent Council Decision 1252/Corr.1

Contributions by participating States

PARTICIPATING STATE	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS 2017 UNIFIED BUDGET (€)	% OF TOTAL
Albania	88,459	0.1%
Andorra	88,459	0.1%
Armenia	45,129	0.0%
Austria	3,204,233	2.3%
Azerbaijan	45,129	0.0%
Belarus	194,251	0.1%
Belgium	4,649,212	3.3%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	88,459	0.1%
Bulgaria	358,361	0.3%
Canada	7,531,441	5.4%
Croatia	199,100	0.1%
Cyprus	199,100	0.1%
Czech Republic	670,388	0.5%
Denmark	2,878,030	2.1%
Estonia	126,012	0.1%
Finland	2,676,749	1.9%
France	14,407,903	10.4%
Georgia	45,129	0.0%
Germany	15,195,626	10.9%
Greece	1,159,008	0.8%
Holy See	88,459	0.1%
Hungary	655,237	0.5%
Iceland	182,858	0.1%
Ireland	1,074,853	0.8%
Italy	14,407,903	10.4%
Kazakhstan	256,712	0.2%
Kyrgyzstan	45,129	0.0%
Latvia	130,073	0.1%
Liechtenstein	88,459	0.1%
Lithuania	130,073	0.1%
Luxembourg	474,559	0.3%
Malta	92,520	0.1%
Moldova	45,129	0.0%
Monaco	88,459	0.1%
Mongolia	45,129	0.0%
Montenegro	45,129	0.0%
Netherlands	5,418,093	3.9%
Norway	2,865,385	2.1%
Poland	1,632,639	1.2%
Portugal	1,020,953	0.7%
Romania	444,094	0.3%
Russian Federation	5,496,655	4.0%
San Marino	88,459	0.1%
Serbia	97,125	0.1%
Slovak Republic	283,580	0.2%
Slovenia	269,218	0.2%
Spain	6,706,479	4.8%
Sweden	4,641,091	3.3%
Switzerland	3,832,323	2.8%
Tajikistan	45,129	0.0%
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	88,459	0.1%
Turkey	1,192,582	0.9%
Turkmenistan	45,129	0.0%
Ukraine	506,555	0.4%
United Kingdom	14,407,903	10.4%
United States of America	18,013,214	13.0%
Uzbekistan	242,813	0.2%
Gap in scales	-56,138	0.0%
Total	138,982,600	100.0%

Extrabudgetary pledges and expenditures

Extra-budgetary (ExB) pledges represent all pledges received and approved in 2017. ExB expenditures represent funds spent against pledges received in 2017 and in previous years.

DONOR	APPROVED PLEDGES (€)	%
Andorra	10,000	0.02%
Austria	1,135,690	2.33%
Bulgaria	2,447,400	5.03%
Canada	2,029,104	4.17%
Central European Initiative (CEI)	30,000	0.06%
Czech Republic	137,570	0.28%
Denmark	1,169,236	2.40%
European Union	11,481,777	23.58%
Finland	520,000	1.07%
France	30,000	0.06%
Germany	9,015,855	18.52%
Ireland	34,980	0.07%
Italy	3,989,000	8.19%
Japan	880,802	1.81%
Liechtenstein	77,195	0.16%
Lithuania	45,000	0.09%
Luxembourg	160,000	0.33%
Monaco	112,500	0.23%
Netherlands	1,163,086	2.39%
Norway	235,541	0.48%
Poland	23,232	0.05%
Slovakia	33,000	0.07%
Republic of Korea	106,392	0.22%
Spain	20,000	0.04%
Sweden	1,369,260	2.81%
Switzerland	1,653,098	3.40%
Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)	67,203	0.14%
Turkey	22,000	0.05%
United Kingdom	1,013,093	2.08%
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	1,720,321	3.53%
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	81,578	0.17%
UN-Women	33,630	0.07%
United States of America	7,839,945	16.10%
TOTAL	48,687,486	100%

*Extrabudgetary pledges to and expenditure for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine are included.

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE	APPROVED PLEDGES (€)	%
Secretariat	18,738,279.18	38.49%
ODIHR	7,296,195.37	14.99%
HGNM	342,270.00	0.70%
RFOM	582,868.67	1.20%
Mission in Kosovo	348,952.83	0.72%
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	932,889.27	1.92%
Mission to Serbia	3,073,414.39	6.31%
Presence in Albania	259,290.68	0.53%
Mission to Skopje	1,090,458.52	2.24%
Mission to Montenegro	211,333.00	0.43%
Mission to Moldova	94,567.00	0.19%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2,797,831.15	5.75%
Programme Office in Astana	23,000.00	0.05%
Centre in Ashgabat	1,075,277.05	2.21%
Programme Office in Bishkek	825,321.14	1.70%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	60,000.00	0.12%
Programme Office in Dushanbe	759,975.00	1.56%
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine	10,175,562.93	20.90%
TOTAL	48,687,486	100%

DONOR	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (€)	%
Andorra	26,760	0.08%
Austria	633,767	1.85%
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)	73,225	0.21%
Belgium	17,648	0.05%
Canada	916,814	2.67%
Central European Initiative (CEI)	39,420	0.11%
Charity Ball	29,691	0.09%
Czech Republic	206,193	0.60%
Denmark	178,216	0.52%
European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)	2,234	0.01%
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	99,648	0.29%
European Union	10,739,009	31.30%
Finland	591,280	1.72%
Folke Bernadotte Academy (Sweden)	2,604	0.01%
France	571,620	1.67%
Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)	51,222	0.15%
Germany	5,987,292	17.45%
Hungary	112,503	0.33%
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	347,039	1.01%
Ireland	92,684	0.27%
Irish Aid	22,997	0.07%
Italy	1,247,427	3.64%
Japan	636,743	1.86%
Kazakhstan	2,494	0.01%
Liechtenstein	184,709	0.54%
Lithuania	36,199	0.11%
Luxembourg	139,963	0.41%
Monaco	91,489	0.27%
Netherlands	1,913,607	5.58%
Norway	1,228,306	3.58%
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)	41,024	0.12%
Poland	11,128	0.03%
Russian Federation	3,112	0.01%
Serbia	6,937	0.02%
Slovakia	31,809	0.09%
Republic of Korea	148,972	0.43%
Spain	34,728	0.10%
Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)	1,248,146	3.64%
Switzerland	744,768	2.17%
Trust Fund – ENVSEC	26,517	0.08%
Turkey	67,219	0.20%
United Kingdom	979,140	2.85%
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	84,347	0.25%
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)	29,389	0.09%
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	61,289	0.18%
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	61,852	0.18%
United States of America	4,508,071	13.14%
Total:	34,311,253	100%

Staff

Statistics of OSCE seconded and contracted fixed-term staff as at 31 December 2017*
(including staff financed from extrabudgetary contributions)

Nationality	Mission in Kosovo	Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mission to Skopje	Mission to Serbia'	Mission to Montenegro	Presence in Albania	PR CIO Minsk Conference	Mission to Moldova	Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Programme Office in Astana	Centre in Ashgabat	Programme Office in Bishkek	Programme Office in Dushanbe	Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine	Observer Mission at the two Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk	Totals for field operations	Secretariat	FROM	HCNM	ODIHR	Totals for Secretariat & institutions	GRAND TOTALS
Albania	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	10	2	0	0	0	2	12
Germany	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	26	1	40	22	1	2	3	28	68
United States of America	5	6	3	4	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	2	0	65	0	92	13	1	2	10	26	118
Andorra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armenia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	5	1	0	0	1	2	7
Austria	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	14	0	21	8	1	0	1	10	31
Azerbaijan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	2	5
Belarus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	8	0	10	2	0	0	2	4	14
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	57	4	0	0	4	8	65
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	34	2	39	0	0	0	0	0	39
Canada	3	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	0	39	5	0	0	3	8	47
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	11	1	0	1	0	2	13
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	2	0	2	6
Spain	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	19	8	0	0	0	8	27
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Finland	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	21	1	24	3	0	0	2	5	29
France	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	20	11	1	1	2	15	35
Georgia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	14	1	18	4	0	0	1	5	23
United Kingdom	6	2	5	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	74	7	2	1	7	17	91
Greece	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	1	27	3	0	0	1	4	31
Hungary	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	26	4	37	2	1	0	1	4	41
Ireland	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	14	7	0	0	0	7	21
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	3
Italy	10	6	6	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	23	2	58	12	0	4	4	20	78
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	5	2	1	0	0	3	8
Kyrgyzstan	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	24	0	30	0	0	0	1	1	31
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	1	0	0	2	3	10
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	14	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	28	1	47	4	0	1	4	9	56
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	5
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Moldova	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	38	1	51	4	0	0	1	5	56
Monaco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Montenegro	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Norway	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	16	5	0	0	3	8	24
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	4
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	8	6	1	2	2	11	19
Poland	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	46	3	0	0	9	12	58
Portugal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Romania	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	37	3	0	0	3	6	43
Russian Federation	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	40	0	49	9	1	1	4	15	64
San Marino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holy See	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serbia	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	2	19	3	0	0	4	7	26
Slovakia	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	14	2	0	0	0	2	16
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	1	2	5
Sweden	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	20	6	1	0	0	7	27
Switzerland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	0	11	8	1	0	1	10	21
Tajikistan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	12	4	19	0	0	0	0	0	19
Czech Republic	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	20	3	0	0	1	4	24
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2
Turkey	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	11	2	0	0	0	2	13
Ukraine	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	2	9	10
Internationally recruited staff	76	29	37	20	8	16	6	9	4	7	7	12	19	4	785	22	1061	194	12	17	84	307	1368
Locally recruited staff	370	290	111	119	29	62	10	40	72	22	22	68	145	24	375	0	1759	195	3	14	77	289	2048
Total number of staff	446	319	148	139	37	78	16	49	76	29	29	80	164	28	1160	22	2820	389	15	31	161	596	3416

*Includes staff in posts as at 31 December 2017 financed from the Unified budget and extrabudgetary contributions.



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