

ODIHR Update

OSCE CiO Steinmeier stresses importance of ODIHR's work during visit to Warsaw headquarters



ODIHR Director Link, OSCE CiO German Foreign Minister Steinmeier, Polish Foreign Minister Waszczykowski and ODIHR staff, during their visit to the ODIHR headquarters in Warsaw, 19 April 2016

On 19 April the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (CiO), German Foreign Minister Steinmeier and Polish Foreign Minister Waszczykowski visited the ODIHR headquarters, met with ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link and addressed ODIHR staff, in the context of the Office's 25th anniversary.

CiO Steinmeier stressed the continued importance of the Office's work: "I am in Warsaw to commend ODIHR, with its team of 150 people from 34 OSCE states, for its outstanding work: You are the chief promoters and defenders of the OSCE's principles and commitments in the Human Dimension - it builds on your dedication to human rights and fundamental freedoms, it requires a reliable budget and it deserves the full support of all OSCE participating States," he added.

Director Link took the opportunity to express his thanks to both guests for their countries' support for the Office: "Over the past 25 years, ODIHR has grown into the OSCE's principal human rights body, and this work is more important today than ever. We are grateful for our host country's continued support and appreciate the CiO's commitment to ODIHR and its mandate to promote human rights and democracy throughout the OSCE region."

"ODIHR plays a major role not only in the process of monitoring human rights, but also in providing assistance with the implementation of commitments undertaken in the OSCE area," said Polish Foreign Minister Waszczykowski. "ODIHR is an institution that truly makes a difference and, therefore, we fully support the work of every member of its highly devoted team."

OSCE Roma Focal Points meet at ODIHR



Focal points from OSCE missions at a meeting at OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw, 18 April 2016

On 18 and 19 April 2016 in Warsaw, the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues hosted the 11th annual meeting of OSCE Field Operations Focal Points on Roma. The meeting served to co-ordinate and exchange information between participants about OSCE activities promoting equal rights and access to services for Roma and Sinti, as well as ways to assist governments in their efforts to implement action plans for Roma integration. OSCE staff discussed progress and challenges with regard to improving housing rights of Roma in the Western Balkan region, the situation of Roma displaced persons and ways to enhancing security of Roma communities, including Roma women.

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Countering intolerance and discrimination is vital to meeting security challenges, say participants at OSCE meeting



Director Link (l), and Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, 2016 Chairperson of the Permanent Council, opening the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Countering intolerance and discrimination, Vienna, 14 April 2016. .

Promoting tolerance and effectively countering discrimination are vital to ensuring security, and must be at the centre of policies to address current threats, participants said at the opening of a two-day OSCE human dimension meeting in Vienna on 14 April.

The meeting, organized by the OSCE's 2016 German Chairmanship and ODIHR, brought together representatives of governments and of civil society organizations working on issues related to tolerance and non-discrimination in the OSCE region. "The threats to common security

in the OSCE are complex. We need multi-dimensional strategies to tackle them successfully. As part of these efforts we must resolutely address discrimination and intolerance as these, in particular, can cause and fuel conflicts," said Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE.

Michael Georg Link, Director of ODIHR said: "In addition to the focus on countering intolerance and discrimination, it is important that

we seize this opportunity to holistically discuss basic fundamental principles of a pluralistic society – freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression and movement – as well as to understand how these fundamental freedoms are maintained while addressing the growing threat of terrorism and the rise of more robust security methods and policies. While discussing these inter-related themes, it is also vitally important to examine the nexus between tolerance, or the lack thereof, and security."

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Data Entry Clerk (Short term)

Location: Warsaw

Grade: G 3

Closing date: 26 April 2016

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Budget Assistant (Elections)

Location: Warsaw

Grade: G5

Closing date: 27 April 2016

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Website Assistant (Part-time)

Location: Warsaw

Grade: G5

Closing date: 3 May 2016

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

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