



OSCE Border Management Staff College Factsheet

What is the BMSC?

As part of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Border Management Staff College works to enhance the knowledge of senior border security and management officials while promoting greater co-operation and exchange of information among them. The College, located in the heart of Central Asia, supports the OSCE's 57 participating States, and the Partners for Co-operation.

An OSCE Centre of Excellence – A Vehicle for the Exchange of Best Practices

Security touches on many aspects of the way we live and are governed. The OSCE views security as comprehensive and takes action in three dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental, and human.

This approach has been a guiding tenet for the OSCE's work on border security and management. To effectively tackle multiple border-related threats of an increasingly transnational nature, sound border and security management is required. All OSCE participating States face threats like terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking of human beings, weapons and narcotics, and disputes linked to unresolved border delimitation and demarcation. Countries are also confronted with challenges related to migration, asylum seekers, refugees and issues related to trade and transport facilitation.

In recognition of these issues and within the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (2005), the College works to strengthen co-operation and capacities by promoting and helping to ensure open and secure borders across the OSCE area. It serves as a centre of excellence and a vehicle for the delivery of expertise and best practices in border management and security for the whole of the OSCE.

The College was inaugurated on 27 May 2009 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. It falls within the programmes of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and is located within their premises.

Designed as a comprehensive training centre, the BMSC aims to enhance the knowledge of present and prospective senior managers of border security and management agencies of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation and to promote greater co-operation and information exchange among them.

The College brings together knowledge and experience from across the OSCE region and beyond. Utilizing the OSCE network to collect and disseminate best practices and lessons learned, it offers opportunities for in-depth analysis of international standards in border management, as well as the challenges of modernization in a world much focused on security matters.

Comprehensive Border Security and Management – The Dialogue of the College

Since 2009, the College has conducted over one hundred specialized training courses and thematic events for more than 2,200 officials from border guards, border police, customs, drug control and transnational crime agencies from OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation.

The primary activities of the College designed for current and future senior border security managers are a one-month intensive Border Management Staff Course offered three times per year and a one-year blended learning programme on Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership (BSMSL).

To date, the Staff Course has been attended by more than 300 commanders and managers of captain to colonel rank, or civilian equivalent. By focusing on senior officials, this course fills an existing gap, complementing the work of other organizations which typically train junior-level staff. Since 2014, a Staff Course has been organized once a year for Women Leaders only.

The course curriculum addresses border security and



management across the three OSCE dimensions. Its aim is to consolidate the participants' knowledge about border-related challenges across the OSCE area; the global impact of transnational threats, middle- and senior-management techniques, operational planning, organizational modernization, the difficulties and critical roles of human capital development as well as intra-agency, inter-agency and international co-operation. The course includes study visits to the nearby borders with Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

The BSMSL aims to enhance the professional skills to international standards of current and future border security officers. It combines knowledge from various disciplines to achieve inter-operability and harmonization in securing and managing borders. Participants learn and research important features of the contemporary security environment, different aspects of threats, the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, conflict-solving methods, strategic thinking, as well as management and leadership.

Thematic seminars and outreach events focus on topics such as national border management strategies, delimitation and demarcation, false travel documents, hazardous waste movement, terrorism and human rights issues, regional cross-border interdiction, anti-corruption, and border conflict management. These events promote and support cross-border dialogue and inter-agency co-operation through the exchange of information and lessons learned, as well as through the identification and development of best practices.

The College continues to offer a wide range of thematic seminars, in addition to seminars organized and delivered in co-operation with its partners, with the aim of helping partners and participating States meet their staff training needs, and are in line with the OSCE Border Security Management Concept.

Participating States and Partners for Co-operation also provide materials for the reference and training library of the College, which is rapidly growing. The development of the library, the outreach work of the network of alumni and friends of the College, as well as enhanced research opportunities for course

participants and interested researchers, completes the comprehensive offering.

The Wisdom of Others – Our Affiliates

The BMSC has a number of affiliated organizations and institutions sharing their expertise during the College Staff Course and thematic seminars. They also serve on the Academic Advisory Board. The affiliates include the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies; the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD); the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL; the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC); the Border Troops Commanders' Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (SKPV); the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); the Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the World Customs Organization (WCO); and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

The Generosity of Others – Our Donors

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