



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities

29-30 October 2015

Hofburg, Vienna

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Aim of the Meeting

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chair-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) assists the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

This meeting will address the topic of *OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities*. In particular, it will aim to assess the achievements as well as explore challenges and identify ways to address remaining gaps in the implementation of commitments. The Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting will focus on the following key areas: 1) Minority rights 25 years after the adoption of the Copenhagen Document 2) Integration of diverse societies and [The Ljubljana Guidelines](#) and 3) National minorities in inter-State relations and [The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations](#).

Recommendations may be addressed to participating States, the OSCE at large, OSCE executive structures, other inter-governmental organizations, as well as civil society actors in OSCE participating States.

Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including the annotated agenda can be found on the ODIHR website at www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_3_2015.

2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions, and OSCE executive structures, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society, and other civil society actors will participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil Society organizations can find more information in the document 'Information for Civil Society'.

3. Registration

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are advised to **register by 14 October 2015**. The registration will also be available after the date; however, early registration would be highly appreciated to facilitate the preparation of the SHDM. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges at the meeting's venue as of Thursday, 29 October 2015, from 9 a.m. in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg

Congress Centre. Those participants who experience problems with registration are requested to contact Ms. Anna Sierant (contact details below).

4. Modalities

The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

The meeting will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre. It will start on Thursday, 29 October, at 15.00 with an opening session and will be followed by three working sessions. The closing session will finish on Friday, 30 October at 17.30.

The Meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

5. Side events

Side events (SE) may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. As we have introduced a new on-line SE Booking System, please register first in the ODIHR Registration System (<http://meetings.odihr.pl>) and then proceed with the side event booking. Participants wishing to organize a side event are requested to register and book the slot at their earliest convenience as the system is based on 'first come, first served' basis. The system will be open on Wednesday, 23 September 2015, at 12.00 (CET) and will be closed by Friday, 9th October, 23:59 (CET). No bookings will be accepted after this date. Additional information on the content and objectives of planned side events, timing and duration are available on SHDM website.

6. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panellists' inputs, discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. To this end, a list of speakers is not envisaged in the course of the SHDM and interventions in the form of prepared statements are discouraged. Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre and hence can feed into the discussion.

In case of any questions, please contact:

Substantive content matters: Ms. Anna Koikkalainen at anna.koikkalainen@hcnm.org
or +31 70 312 5503

Organizational matters: Ms. Kamila Czerwinska at Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 657

Coordination of side events: Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 658

Registration of participants: Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 627