

ISSUE 3, 2013

SECURITY COMMUNITY

THE OSCE MAGAZINE



Overview »



1 Haida Gwaii A remote island group off Canada's north-western coast holds a lesson about putting sovereignty disputes aside for the sake of the land. *_ p10*

2 Germany Germany is charting new ground with its radical shift to renewable energy. *time. _ p17*

3 Ergneti This village in the Caucasus hosts a mechanism whereby parties to the Geneva Discussions on the 2008 war in Georgia assist the population in solving practical problems. *_ p27*

3 Vaziani At this open detonation range twenty kilometres from Tbilisi, 19 Moldovan missiles were demolished together with Georgian cluster bombs with OSCE demilitarization assistance. *_ p30*

4 Tetovo Four international monitoring officers and four language assistants work in the Tetovo field station of the OSCE Mission to Skopje to build trust and mitigate tensions in the surrounding area. *_ p32*

Contents » Issue 3, 2013

The energy future we want

Energy drives our industries and provides us with comfort, but all too often is cause for aggression and bio-degradation. This issue's special section explores how renewable energy is pointing the way to a future we can all embrace. — 12

Security community
How to build a security community? Some answers from panelists at the OSCE Security Days 2013 — 4

OSCE — 7

Interview
Cathie Burton on creating a communications culture — 8

Cover Story
From sea bottom to mountain top A totem pole commemorates an unprecedented agreement between the Canadian Government and the Haida Nation — 10



Special section: Energy
Harnessing the sea, the sun and the wind
Three innovations point the way forward. — 12

Choosing energy without jeopardizing peace
Procuring energy does not need to be brutal. — 14

Learning from Germany's energy transition Four lessons to take home from the *Energiewende* — 17

Maintaining the colours of the planet; Women's power from the sun; The OSCE is watching its environmental footprint — 20

What the world needs now
We can provide global energy access and make progress on climate change. — 22



Civil Society
Elva: Georgian for "Lightning" Building a security network via SMS and smartphone — 24

First Person
A tent in no man's land A personal account of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Georgia — 27



Milestones
A tale of 19 missiles How a decade of OSCE

demilitarization assistance in Georgia came to be marked by the destruction of Moldovan missiles — 30



From the field
Mission to Skopje: A day in the life of two monitors
A job that requires a lot more diplomacy than muscles — 32

Your view — 36

Percolations
Tea and USB; A passion for tennis; Recent OSCE publications — 38

BUILDING

**the
Security
community**

A good first step would be to look backward

The OSCE is entering a new era. Patterns of the Cold War are rapidly being replaced by multi-dimensional issues which are overwhelming existing ways of doing business. The goal of a security community is a good one. But to succeed, we first need to understand what the task is. A good first step would be to look backward and better understand the foundations upon which this organization is built.

The fact that the OSCE is based on the Helsinki Declaration rather than a treaty was very deliberate. To conclude a treaty would have been to assume that there was a considerable amount of commonality among participating States. But in the early days there could be little hope of building a common security community. The idea was to get the East-West dialogue moving at a time when things were going very badly. Non-binding commitments were and remain the best means of seeking the necessary consensus.

The Helsinki Final Act is thus based on pragmatic principles on which a large number of very different countries could reach some agreement. The Final Act presents a

very creative integrated approach to security. And also after 1975, there was never an idea of a common community, there was discussion of how to do business with each other. Forty years later, the world has evolved dramatically. Many of the basic principles now represent common practice among participating States. But politically and psychologically we are far from a common interpretation of the evolving post-Cold War framework for security. In other words, we are again at a point of basic definition of goals and interests. The methods used forty years ago must still form the basis of OSCE efforts.

–John Kornblum, former United States Ambassador to Germany and to the CSCE

We need a clear political mandate

“We must take a sober and unbiased look at the current security situation in Europe. We do not have an integrated system; we still have West and East. There is mistrust; the OSCE has not become a community of values.

I believe we failed because neither side considered a strategic partnership in a strategic way. Everyone was busy minding their own business. So the OSCE did not evolve into an efficient

security institution.

But the OSCE could become a community of values. There are a lot of common perceptions. If we want to reform the OSCE and create a real security community, we need a clear political mandate. We need to take a decision at the highest level. We need to make a start. Without a start, there will be nothing.”

–Igor Ivanov, President of the Russian International Affairs Council, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Solidarity against poverty

Democracy in Kyrgyzstan has one main enemy: poverty. Poverty is also a real threat to security. We need to lift people out of poverty, provide jobs, help them to find work, even outside the country. Nine hundred and eighty of the 992 million people in the OSCE region live in countries with higher levels of income. The OSCE brings together the most prosperous countries in the world. Is it impossible or too difficult to open up the labour market to workers from Kyrgyzstan, a country with a population of just 5.5 million people, a country that shares common values with the people of the OSCE?

–Roza Otunbayeva, founder of the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative, former President of the Kyrgyz Republic

Fight complacency

We are now living in a world that has significantly fewer nuclear weapons than there were at the end of the Cold War. However, we still have, for some inexplicable reason, large stockpiles of those weapons, particularly in the Euro-Atlantic area, which are at minutes' notice to fire.

It is utter complacency to believe that we will be able to maintain the balance that we maintained in a bipolar world with significantly larger portions of nuclear weapons, in a multipolar world with multiple perceptions of threats.

We know what we need to do: reduce the salience of these weapons, and consequently their numbers; improve our ability to build non-proliferation regimes, improve nuclear material security.

Despite the fact that we know what to do, the nuclear arms states in this world plan to spend one trillion dollars in the next twenty years on modernizing or developing new nuclear weapons systems.

We here in Euro-Atlantic area hold 90 per cent of the world's stock of nuclear weapons. Of the 14 countries that have nuclear weapons in them, nine of them are in this region.

Whose responsibility is it to take leadership on this then?

–Des Browne, Chair of the European Leadership Network (ELN) and former UK Secretary for Defence

The views on this page were expressed at the OSCE Security Days 2013, held on 17 and 18 June 2013 at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna.

Visit the site at: www.osce.org/event/securitydays2013

A vigorous regional approach

We cannot say that the security of any country in this region can be seen in isolation from the countries around it, nor from the region, nor from the global situation. Security is indivisible and therefore it should be seen as such.

At the same time, security should be seen not in its classical context, according to what I would call the repressive approach. We have to focus on democratic institutions, health, education, human rights and freedom; we have to see all this in context, follow the integrated approach to security.

The countries of the Arab spring have some serious problems. Issues are emerging – drug trafficking, illegal migration, smuggling of human beings, ever more active organized crime, vulnerability of the borders – which have direct security implications in the neighbouring OSCE countries. If I take Libya as an example – we have about 4,000 kilometres of land borders and about 2,000 kilometres of sea borders –, to what extent is the Libyan government as a transitional government presently capable of assuring border security if there is not vigorous support and assistance from the countries that are concerned, be it neighbouring countries or countries to the north of the Mediterranean?

–Mohamed Imhammed Abdul-Aziz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya

Dare to open up

“Let me conclude with a thought about what the EU, of which my country is a member, might do to enhance the trust building role of the OSCE. The European Council has already announced that in December of this year it will deal with issues of security and defence in the EU. Let's assume the European Council will come up with some really interesting and forward leaning decisions and recommendations and points.

What will happen on the day after that summit in Brussels? Would the EU be capable of sending a senior person or delegation to Vienna to brief the participating States of the OSCE on what it is planning to do for the security and defence of Europe and beyond? That might only be a small step, but I think it could be a step that others would hopefully be inclined to follow.

Let's be a little more courageous in terms of opening up and demonstrating modes of transparency that transcend obligations that exist under present treaties.

I believe the whole big world is open out there for these types of ideas, which could actually in my view reinvigorate and give a whole new meaning to trust building, including right here in the OSCE.

–Wolfgang Ischinger, Chair of the Munich Security Conference, former German Deputy Foreign Minister

#OSCE

Fighting intolerance

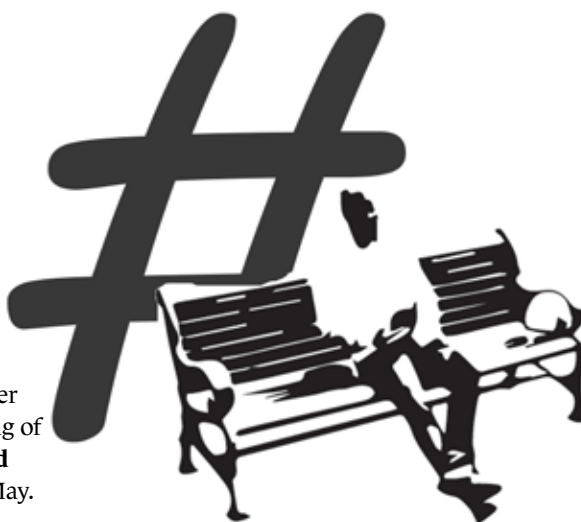
“Bias and prejudice exist in one form or another everywhere,” said Douglas Wake at the opening of the **High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-discrimination** in Tirana on 21 and 22 May. “It is definitely our collective responsibility to prevent and respond to manifestations of intolerance. We need to join forces in focusing attention on the plight of the victims,” he emphasized.

Focus on trafficking

Trafficked persons must get their lives back, and their money,” said Maria Grazia Giammarinaro at the **Alliance against Trafficking in Persons** conference that annually brings leading organizations working in this field to the OSCE in Vienna. This year’s meeting focused on how globalization is creating new inequalities and avenues of exploitation. Two week earlier, participating States met at a high-level Chairmanship conference in Kyiv to consider ways to update the OSCE’s 2003 Action Plan to address new trends such as rising labour exploitation and trafficking in organs.

Tracing small arms

Small arms and light weapons are widely available, easily concealed and cheap. Fallen into the wrong hands, they are a major cause of injury and death. The OSCE invited experts to discuss ways to trace illegal small arms, including through the newly developed INTERPOL information exchange tool iARMS, on 23 and 24 May in Vienna.



Stopping the Internet drug trade

“The Internet is a dynamic, global medium. To effectively prevent drug traffickers from abusing the Internet to expand their reach, participating States must co-operate more and more closely,” urged Lamberto Zannier, Secretary General of the OSCE at the **Conference on Prevention of Illicit Drug Trade on the Internet** in Vienna on 25 June. Experts considered new technologies to identify drug dealers on the open and “shadow” Internet and ways to expand the network of computer forensic specialists.

Mediation

Practitioners and decision-makers exchanged expertise on mediation in Bucharest on 15 and 16 July. The **Conference on Mediation in the OSCE Area** focused on how to further strengthen the OSCE's mediation-support capacity including in the areas of training and capacity-building. “Including women in mediation and peace processes strengthens a peace agreement and the establishment of a more stable and secure post-conflict society,” said Miroslava Beham, the OSCE's Senior Gender Advisor.

Resolving conflicts

Promoting lasting solutions to unresolved conflicts was the theme of a Security Days event in Vienna on 16 September 2013.

Cathie Burton

Cathie Burton, the OSCE Spokesperson since January 2013, answers questions by Security Community editor Ursula Froese on her vision for creating a communications culture.



Why is communicating important?

Every one of us communicates, every day. Ordering morning coffee, chatting to colleagues, penning an article or updating our Facebook status – we couldn't manage even our most basic needs without in some way engaging in this fundamental human skill. Without communication, we couldn't make friends, we couldn't do business, and we certainly couldn't carry out the OSCE mission of conflict resolution.

Communication is essential to any organization with a mission and a message. We need to bring the results of our work to a wide variety of audiences, persuade them of the importance of our values, and inspire them to work alongside us to achieve them.

The OSCE would not exist if courageous diplomats and politicians had not committed themselves to breaking a dangerous silence between East and West. They tested and proved an essential truth: you build trust and peace through engaging with each other. Thanks to a unique way of working through seeking political consensus, the OSCE lives and thrives by the willingness of states to talk out common problems and move together towards a common goal.

At a more general level, the OSCE has a story to tell and it is a story the world wants to hear. From talking to people from many different backgrounds – students and professors, youth groups, activists, colleagues in other international organizations, governments and politicians – it is very clear to me that there is a hunger for knowledge about what the OSCE is doing, and why.

The audience is out there, and it is our responsibility to give them the information they want, in the way they want it. We can do that by harnessing the power of new communications techniques, speaking their language both literally and figuratively and giving them the background they need to make sense of the top-line stories.

It is not an easy task – the region is vast and diverse, with different languages, cultures and histories. The essential messages can easily get lost, and that is why it is important to understand how to shape them so that they can be followed and understood.

What opportunities do the new social media offer to the OSCE as an organization dedicated to building trust through dialogue?

Changes in communication are happening dauntingly fast. Online communication has changed the game – news runs 24/7, attention spans are short and video is taking over from text. The days of the standard press release are numbered – journalists are increasingly looking to Twitter or similar online sites to get the lowdown on the latest story, and spending much of their time checking the accuracy of material harvested from the net.

Some players in international politics have embraced social media with enthusiasm; others remain skeptical. According to the Twiplomacy report by the PR company Burson-Marsteller on the use of Twitter by world leaders, Carl Bildt is the most connected of all leaders, and almost all of Europe's governments are now using the micro-blogging channel in one way or another.

The OSCE Twitter feed now has over 21,000 followers and the numbers are growing daily. It is an excellent means to send out messages quickly and to keep track of themes and communities that may be of interest in different areas of our work.

It is important, though, to understand that Twitter and other online platforms are just handy bits of the communications toolbox. The secret of success is to choose wisely according to the circumstances – and that means planning well in advance and thinking hard about the message, whom it should reach, and how it should reach them.

The OSCE is a forum for informal negotiations on very sensitive issues among 57 states. How in our public communication, can we support and promote this process of understanding?

Most journalists understand perfectly the need to debate sensitive issues out of the public eye; they simply need to know that the information will be available to them when the time is ripe. This is where a relationship of trust between the media and the Organization comes into its own – there is no better way to deal with journalists than to get to know them on a personal basis and treat them with honesty and respect.

“Everyone is a communications ambassador.”

If we let silence become a habit, we are putting a brake on our chances of carrying out our mission. Recent surveys we have carried out have shown that both journalists and the general public lack the context to understand what we are doing. We need to help them understand by providing richer levels of information, giving them the history of a particular issue, or providing interviews with experts. Communication needs to be designed to reach a number of different audiences – diplomats and politicians who need details to make day to day decisions, researchers and academics who seek obscure background elements, and the general public who want to hear about our most interesting and effective projects.

What steps can we take to install a communications culture at the OSCE?

This year will see a modernized approach to communication throughout the OSCE. By late autumn, the website will get a new face, following a long process of discovery to earmark exactly what will work best for the diverse communities. Visitors will be able to share stories on Twitter, Facebook and other platforms and access content through mobile phones and tablets. They can join the discussion in our magazine by commenting on security issues important to them.

At the same time, new technology will bring us closer to colleagues in offices outside of Vienna, enabling us to spot the best stories and prepare well in advance. The result will be to give the OSCE far wider scope and renew the enthusiasm of staff and delegations for sharing what they achieve. Everyone is a communications ambassador, and with good forward planning, creativity and the right methods, we can all be involved in the process of bringing the value and mission of the OSCE to a global audience.



From sea bottom to mountain top

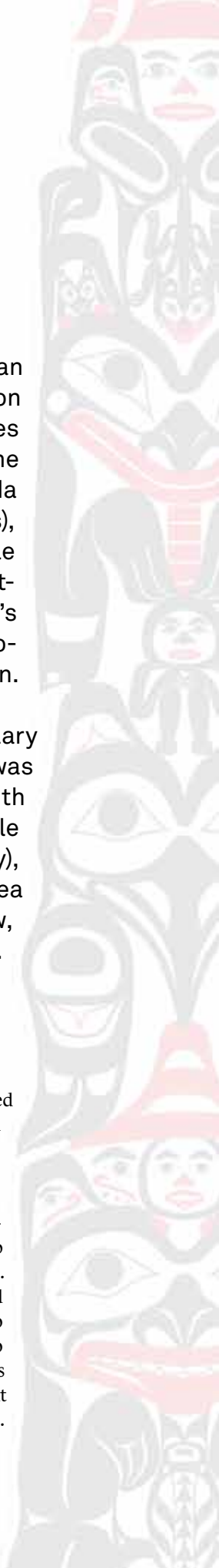
Two decades ago, the Canadian Government and the Haida Nation put aside their differences concerning the ownership of the southern portion of the Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), an ecologically fragile archipelago of rain forest-covered islands off Canada's north-western coast, to cooperate on its protection.

The success of the exemplary Gwaii Haanas Agreement was celebrated on 15 August 2013 with the raising of a 42-foot totem pole at Hlk'hay GawGa (Windy Bay), the first to be raised in the area for 130 years. Jaalen Edenshaw, the carver, tells the story.

How did the Gwaii Haanas Agreement come about?

The agreement came out of what happened around 30 years ago, when loggers started clear-cutting in Gwaii Haanas, sometimes cutting right over the salmon streams.

In the 1980s a group of Haidas and non-Haidas decided they had to physically stop the logging. They made a human barricade. No one had ever done that before around these parts, so they did not know what to expect. Probably a hundred people or so went down, the whole community was chipping in money, food or fish. But it worked, and the logging was stopped.



“Gam hlaamguulaay unhl wiidang.” Haida for: Don’t rush the work.

–Jaalen Edenshaw

Canada suggested making Gwaii Haanas a national park, but that would have meant we couldn’t fish or couldn’t hunt or any of the things that we were accustomed to do, essentially giving up ownership of the land. So we said no, and we went into negotiations. The result was the Gwaii Haanas Agreement.

On the front page, in the left-hand column it says: “The Haida Nation sees the Archipelago as Haida Lands (...).” On the right hand side of the page is Canada’s explanation: “The Government of Canada views the Archipelago as Crown land, subject to certain private rights or interests, and subject to the sovereignty of her Majesty the Queen (...).” And below, essentially, the two parties agree to disagree on ownership, but agree to work together on protection.

I think this is the only agreement of its kind, certainly in Canada, maybe in the world. Anything that is done on this land has to be approved by Canada and the Haida Nation.

What do the figures on the pole symbolize?

The eagle at the top of the pole and sculpin at the bottom represent the agreement to protect Gwaii Haanas from sea floor to mountain top. The group of five figures depicts the blockade.

The three watchmen near the top refer to something that developed in the early 1970s. People from off island were going into the old villages and taking parts of totem poles and other remains. Part of owning the land was that we had to occupy it, look after it. So we developed the



watchmen programme. Haidas are paid to stay in the villages in the summer months; they talk to visitors, invite them into the site and ensure that they are being respectful in our territory.

Actually, watchmen on the top of totem poles is an old tradition. In one story, two Haida warriors used to sit in the trees and look out for the enemy. They would talk back and forth in raven talk. It’s still basically the same job. They are looking after our villages.

How does your pole connect with the old tradition?

Originally there were ten to forty thousand Haida on the island, probably twenty to thirty villages. When smallpox hit, that number went down to 500 people. Missionaries were coming around and encouraging people to cut down their poles. People only started carving again around forty years ago, around the same time our people were starting to battle Canada over the land politically.

When you are invited to a pole raising, the story of the pole is told, and at the end you are given a gift, a payment. That makes it your job to remember. So for 100 years or so, until the pole goes back into the ground, its story will be remembered. When it goes into the ground, it makes space for more stories.

This pole is really celebrating the fact that the Gwaii Haanas Agreement has worked. There is no precedent for it. This is one of the best managed areas around.

Security Community editor Ursula Froese spoke with Jaalen Edenshaw on 29 August 2013.

Photos: Courtesy of Parks Canada

Harnessing the sea, the sun and the wind

Tidal power

In 1994 the British engineer Peter Fraenkel attached a small turbine to the bottom of his steel catamaran in Loch Linnhe in Scotland. This was the world's first tidal turbine. It generated 15 kilowatts of power, enough to boil seven kettles of water, confirming his vision that you could generate energy from the tides.

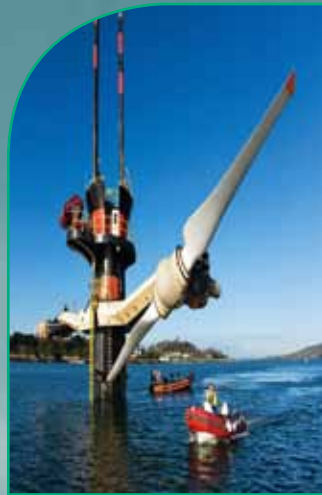
Together with his partner Martin Wright, Fraenkel went on to generate tidal power commercially. The Sea Gen tidal generator, which they installed in Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland in 2008, is an accredited power station now owned by Siemens that has generated over 8,000 megawatt hours of power into the UK grid by August this year.

In contrast to wave energy won from the widespread surface movement of the ocean, tidal energy is site specific: it occurs around headlands, where water is channelled through a narrow gap. The United Kingdom is well placed to exploit tidal power.

A tidal stream turbine is akin to a wind turbine turned on its head and plunged into the sea. Except that the water pushing the propellers is 830 times denser than air. One of the main challenges is deploying the machinery in the racing tide.

Another challenge is getting consent. In Strangford Lough, the regulators were worried about the grey harbour seals, a protected species. The consensus is that seals are not at risk as they do not go close to the turbine rotors when the tide is flowing strongly.

Stephanie Merry, Director of Focus Offshore Limited, an engineering consultancy specializing in wave and tidal power, kindly provided information for this article.



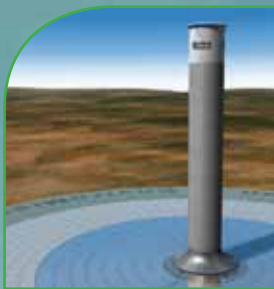
Left and bottom: Testing the world's first tidal turbine developed by Peter Fraenkel, Loch Linnhe, Scotland, 1994/5 (Courtesy Peter Fraenkel); Right top and centre: The SeaGen tidal turbine at Strangford Lough (Image courtesy of Marine Current Turbine, a Siemens business)



Photo: Martin Dee

Hot air rising

A solar updraft tower is a giant chimney that generates electricity using energy from the sun. Sunshine heats the air beneath a very wide greenhouse-like canopy surrounding the central base of the tower. Hot air rises, and in this case it has nowhere to go but up the inside of



© EnviroMission Limited

the hollow tower. This updraft drives wind turbines placed in the chimney to produce electricity.

The taller and wider the tower and the hotter the air, the more energy is produced. Since the ground absorbs much of the heat, electricity generation continues at night. As the ambient air temperature goes down, the ground releases its heat and the updraft continues to flow.

Solar tower technology was tested and proven with a small-scale pilot plant in Manzanares, Spain, which generated 50 kilowatts between 1982 and 1989.

The Australian company EnviroMission has developed the first large-scale solar tower billed to generate 200 megawatts, which it plans to build in Arizona, United States. The tower will be about eight hundred metres tall, making it the second tallest manmade structure in the world, about twice as high as the Empire State Building. Arizona has a standard requiring that regulated electric utilities must generate 15 percent of their energy from renewable resources by 2025.

Making cold with heat

Energy from the sun is becoming an option of choice for cooling our rooms. By the end of 2012, an estimated 1,000 solar cooling systems were installed worldwide, about eighty per cent of them in Europe, most notably in Spain, Germany and Italy. The market is growing fast.

Using solar energy to cool a building is very energy-efficient. That makes it an interesting option in the developed world, where building energy needs are responsible for more than forty per cent of total energy consumption. Solar air conditioning systems are environmentally friendly; most use non-hazardous liquids as refrigerants.

One system developed at the University of La Rochelle in France uses only water. Air coming from outside is first dried using a desiccant, then cooled in an evaporative cooler. The system is kept going by solar energy that heats the air as it leaves the building. Electricity from the grid is needed only to turn the fans.

Desiccant cooling can reduce energy consumption by almost half. But it also has limitations. The cooling needs must be low; otherwise too much electricity is needed for the fans. In hot and humid climates, this type of cooling has to be assisted by conventional cooling.

But in moderate climates where outside absolute humidity does not exceed 14 to 15 g/kg and temperature does not exceed 34 degrees C, solar desiccant cooling can be an interesting way to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Net positive.
The Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability at the University of British Columbia uses rainwater, solar power, waste heat from neighbouring buildings and a geo-exchange field to produce more energy than it consumes.
See: cirs.ubc.ca



Paul Bourdoukan of SORANE SA, formerly of La Rochelle University, kindly provided information for this article.

Choosing energy without jeopardizing peace

By Hélène Connor

Most developed countries are now radically restructuring their energy policies with a view to stabilizing climate change, and the needed transitions are likely to have major repercussions on their economies and beyond. As an example, in December 2008, the European Parliament adopted the EU Climate and Energy Package, which includes 2020 targets for carbon emissions reduction, energy efficiency improvements and the share of energy from renewable sources in European energy policies. Several countries are planning to go beyond the agreed 20 per cent. If they succeed, they will unwittingly get more than they bargained for: better energy policies for one, but additionally a lasting commitment to a world with fewer resource conflicts, particularly in relation to energy. They could also contribute to world peace; what a bonus!

“Renewable energy can be energy for all since it is the propriety of none.”

Too often the search for energy has been associated with land grabbing, assassinations, kidnappings and other acts of violence to secure access to fossil energy resources. Many of the recurrent conflicts in the Middle East are directly or indirectly linked to the ownership of oil-rich lands, and the costs in terms of money and human lives are huge. These costs have never been counted in the price users pay for their energy – an omission that adds to the distortions already present in the energy market, in the form of various subsidies for instance, and favours an overuse of energy. But they are tallied on another tab. One way or another, society has to pay the price, more often than not perpetuating an endless cycle of poverty. Procuring energy does not need to be so brutal. So let's try to be sensible and face the problem squarely.

Energy is a strategic tool, not an end in itself. What counts is not the sheer quantity of energy, but rather its efficiency at rendering services. Energy services are very diverse and are geared to improving human welfare. The latter, when measured not in terms of the traditional and inadequate Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but rather in terms of the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI), which accounts for social factors and environmental costs, peaked around 1978 and has been declining since. A recent study has shown that, coincidentally, the year when the GPI peaked was also the year when our ecological footprint began outstripping resources.

For the past thirty years we have been simultaneously increasing our use of energy and our ecological debt. The financial and other costs are reflected in the present state of both the environment and the economy. Resources wars and other power struggles continue unabated in several regions of the world. Despite the disasters engendered, some still want more access to energy and are ready to kill for it, unleashing the demons of terrorism in their wake.

Over the years, however, we have learned that our activities and our happiness are limited not so much by a lack of energy but rather by the impact of those activities, particularly those of the energy sector.

The need for energy security has to date been misunderstood by many analysts to mean the need to increase supply at all costs. But grabbing more resources is not the way. On the contrary, such an approach increases unacceptable risks at incalculable costs. Moreover, it is unethical, considering that it is often foreign companies that develop energy resources in countries where the population has not been consulted and may not even be aware of what is going on.

More energy is not the way to trigger progress or improve global human welfare. Even in less industrialized countries, the situation can only be assessed case by case. It is quality that counts, not quantity. Studies from the International Energy Agency and others show that we can do just as well with a lot less energy. Slowly but surely, we must phase out energy sources such as fossil fuels and nuclear reactors that irreversibly damage the environment or humankind's health and genetic pool. As stressed by Amory Lovins in his seminal book *Soft Energy Paths*, “surprisingly, a heroic decision does not seem necessary in this case, because the energy system that seems socially more attractive is also cheaper and easier.”

So it is with a free mind that we can turn to renewable sources of energy, such as the flow of the wind, the rise and fall of the tides, agricultural crops, that are available all over the globe and which we are re-discovering. All are accessible and, since they mostly depend directly or indirectly on the sun, they are inexhaustible. We only need to be smart about harnessing and using them efficiently. All can be collected by peaceful means and all can provide the whole range of needed services, even when they have to be stored or transported.

Renewable energy technologies are improving every day – they can provide low, medium and high temperatures, electricity and fuels for mobility. Green technology is leading everywhere – even in oil-producing countries. Electricians are installing smart grids, builders are designing smart buildings. Smart cities are springing up on all continents, led by smart mayors, and new businesses are coming to life, creating jobs galore. Decentralized energy production is closer to the place of consumption, thus saving

energy lost in transport. Hence it makes better use of investment and provides the physical resiliency so needed to protect against the risk of blackouts with the increased occurrence of extreme climate events. Now that a momentum has been created, wise political action is needed.

Renewable energy provides a freedom – within the strict framework set by the laws of nature. The new “energetician” must be smart and have an understanding of the world that goes beyond mechanics. He or she deals with living entities and works for human beings. This can be more complex than digging for black stones or extracting liquid matter from the soil. Certainly these underground substances have promoted part of mankind into a very comfortable material world, but this benefit should not have remained unshared. Renewable energy can be energy for all since it is the propriety of none.

Our world is in transition towards a more sharing humanity. Almost all countries have made this part of their political vision: a sign that our mental energy is getting used to inspiring a new way of thinking, redirecting us towards a wiser and smarter use of energy and other resources – what some people are calling Gaia or the noosphere.

The trend towards renewable energies is now gaining ground and a sense of empowerment has started rejuvenating active citizens now able to decide on their own energy supply, their own footprint, on how to impact the world. No need to wait for 2030 or 2020: it is happening today. Let's drop the aggressive search for fossil fuels and turn to the energy present in our own backyard, which we can enjoy without harming others. Thanks to the everlasting abundance of renewable resources, this is a new long-term trend, a "Yes in my backyard" movement in the making, which asserts that our energy systems can at long last bring local benefits and promote peace without frontiers.

Dr. Hélène Connor-Lajambe, former OECD administrator, is the founder and honorary president of HELIO International. Founded in 1997, HELIO is an independent, international network of leading energy analysts who identify, assess, measure and publicize the contribution of energy systems and policies to sustainable and equitable development. See www.helio-international.org



Read more!

HELIO International, *TIPEE: Politique énergétique et écodéveloppement* (2012) www.helio-international.org/ManualFinal.pdf

French manual explaining the energy approach to eco-development

Ida Kubiszewski, Robert Costanza et al , “Beyond GDP: Measuring and achieving global genuine progress” in *Ecological Economics* 93, 2013.

Shows that the global GPI peaked at the same time as the global ecological footprint/capita exceeded global bio-capacity/capita

Amory Lovins, *Soft Energy Paths: Towards a Durable Peace* (Penguin Books, 1977).

One of the first to champion a turn to renewable energy

“Distributed renewables save money, avoid price volatility and fuel insecurities, and prevent carbon emissions. But their unique strategic and marketing advantage is that if properly deployed in a largely distributed system, they can enable a resilient grid architecture (often called “netted islandable microgrids”) that makes big cascading blackouts improbable by design. This approach, already adopted by the Pentagon, would make vital power supplies resilient against superstorms, solar storms, physical or cyberattack and other risks. After Superstorm Sandy, demand for such resilience is starting to become an important market driver.”

– Anthony Lovins, “Amory’s Angles: three major energy trends to watch” in *Solutions Journal*, the online magazine of the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Learning from Germany's energy transition

By Christoph Senz

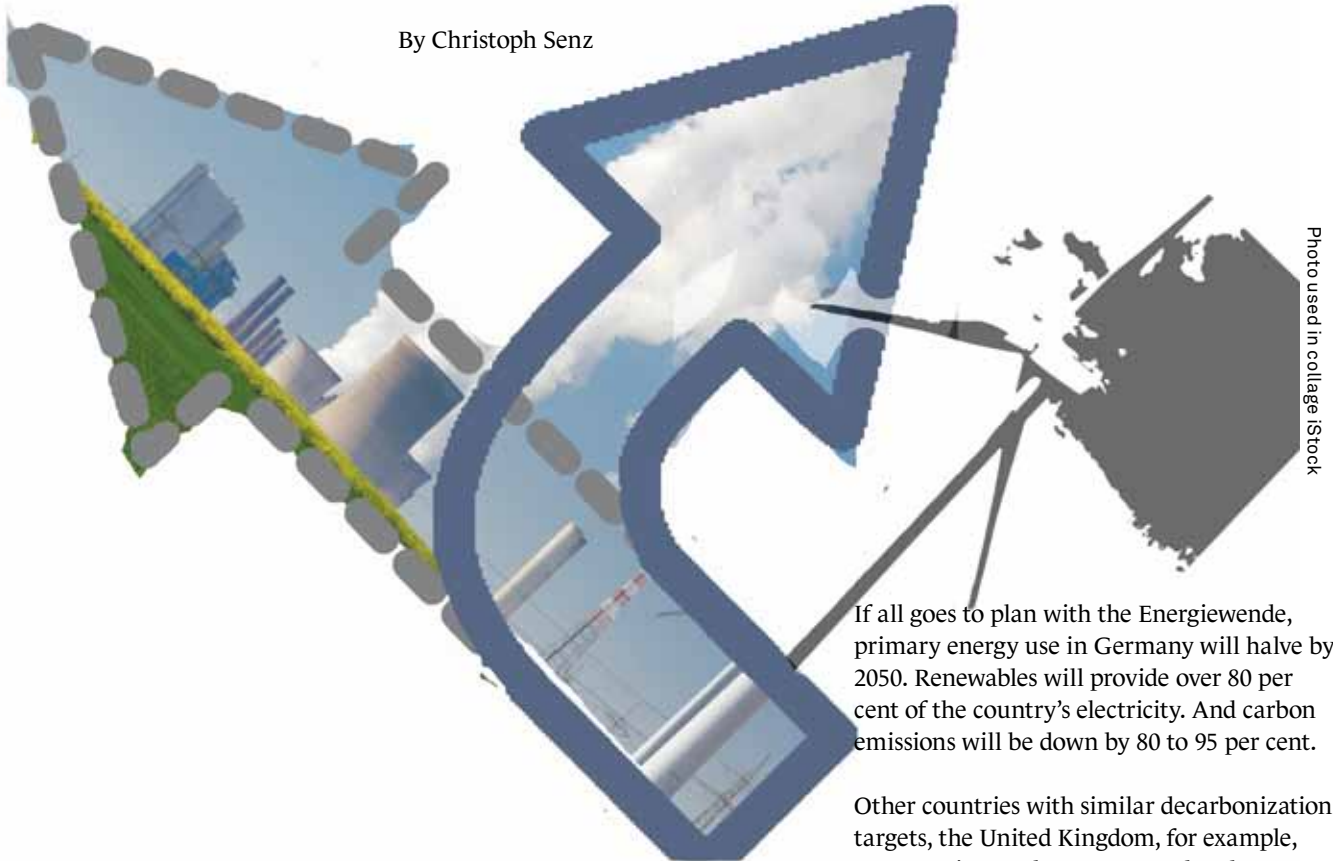


Photo used in collage iStock

The goal of the energy transition currently underway in Germany is for Europe's largest industrial economy to be powered almost exclusively by renewable energy within the next four decades.

If all goes to plan with the Energiewende, primary energy use in Germany will halve by 2050. Renewables will provide over 80 per cent of the country's electricity. And carbon emissions will be down by 80 to 95 per cent.

Other countries with similar decarbonization targets, the United Kingdom, for example, are pursuing nuclear power and carbon capture alongside renewables. Not so Germany, where the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster in 2011 catalyzed the political decision to close all nuclear plants by 2022.

Progress so far has kept pace with ambition. A quarter of Germany's electricity is now provided by renewable sources like the sun and wind.

What lessons does the German experience have to offer to other countries wanting to lower their carbon footprint and reduce fossil fuel dependency?

► Think in megawatts, not megawatt hours.

For most people, electricity simply comes from the socket. In our daily lives, we don't give any thought to the fact that demand and supply must be balanced every single second, and that it is technically almost impossible to store huge amounts of electricity. In fact, any unplanned changes in the transmission grid can cause serious problems, even a blackout.

In fossil fuel-driven power plants, engineers used to cope with this problem by carefully forecasting demand and planning production accordingly. The intermittent energy provided by the sun or the wind makes things much more complicated. Sunshine and wind cannot be controlled at will.

With the rising use of renewables, the electricity system is undergoing a paradigmatic shift, from forecast demand and scheduled production to forecast production and scheduled demand. More solar energy is likely to be produced around noon, for example. Industries therefore need to be encouraged to increase their midday demand, through incentives like lower electricity rates.

An advertisement for wind energy will typically say: "This wind turbine provides electricity for 5000 households." This may be true in terms of total energy produced over a year. But in reality, that wind turbine alone could not even provide electricity for a single household. Because there will always be times when the wind doesn't blow. It's not the amount of energy, measured in megawatt hours, but the rate at which it is produced, measured in megawatts, that matters.

Is the electricity produced at a given time needed at that time? That is the relevant question. And who provides the secured capacity during times with no wind and no sun? An analysis of the German power grid data shows that such periods can last up to two weeks. Unfortunately, they usually occur during winter, when the power demand is very high. Almost the full capacity of fossil fuel-driven power plants is needed to compensate at such times. But with a rising share of the energy market going to

renewables, it is becoming less and less economical to keep them running.

This point was brought home when the world's most efficient gas-fired power station in Irsching in southern Germany threatened to close earlier this year, since its operating hours had been halved over the last four years. Arguing that the station was essential for grid stability, the transmission system operator agreed to contribute to the operating expenses, a cost that is passed on to the electricity customers via grid charges.

Renewable energy sources fundamentally change the economics of the energy market. Flexibility and capacity become the core value drivers. When renewables reach a market share of about 30 per cent, a new market design will likely be needed, in which buyers pay not only for delivery of power but also for provision of capacity. Possible solutions, such as capacity markets, in which certificates for secured capacity are traded, are currently the subject of intense debate in Germany.

► Plan ahead for interconnectivity and storage.

How can flexibility and secured capacity best be achieved? One solution is to stabilize the grid by co-operating with neighbouring countries. As the use of renewables increases, there will be times when Germany produces more solar and wind energy than it needs. This excess could be exported, to meet demand in Scandinavia, for example. The Scandinavian countries, in return, could use their pumped-storage hydro plants to export power back to Germany when required.

Building interconnectors between countries takes time, however, and costs billions, especially if they traverse the sea. The interconnector currently being built between Germany and Norway, with a capacity of 1,400 megawatts, will not be finished until 2018.

At least for the next decade or so, flexibility will have to be maintained by using existing technologies: retaining fossil fuel plants capable of firing up quickly, providing incentives to certain industries to shift usage to times

when energy is abundant and using Germany's numerous combined heat and power plants to feed power into the grid at peak times.

The storage of renewable energy, with the exception of hydro power, is not likely to become widespread anytime soon, as the relevant technologies are still in their infancy. But they will be needed in the future, when renewables approach a 70 per cent share of energy production. Germany is therefore investing in technologies such as power to gas, which uses excess renewable energy to make methane from water and carbon dioxide to be stored for future use.

► **Avoid a completely decentralized process.**

The transition to renewable energy will require less investment if the government sets out not only a political agenda but also a comprehensive action plan regarding targets, technologies and locations.

In Germany, the generation of energy from renewable sources is currently promoted by means of fixed feed-in tariffs, which can, depending on location and technology, bring returns from six to ten per cent a year. This is one of the core drivers of the massive extension of renewables in the country. The disadvantage of this strategy is a lack of control concerning installed capacity, technology and location.

Government auctions would be one way to increase control. On the basis of an analysis of the power grid, the demand and conventional production in a given region, investors could bid for the installation of, say 200 megawatts of wind capacity. The bidder who is satisfied with the lowest investment bonus would win the auction. Not only would this provide more political control, it would lower required investment into the power grid.

► **There is no free lunch.**

Currently, many energy intensive industries in Germany are exempt from the renewable supplement on bills, with normal domestic and business consumers paying more than they otherwise would. For this reason, many are now calling for the industrial sector to pay a greater share.

However, increasing production costs for industry could be a risky strategy for a country whose economy is oriented towards manufacturing and exports. The advent of large-scale shale gas production and falling energy prices in the United States has intensified this debate. The Federation of German Industries has recently voiced concern that German firms are already suffering from high energy prices and could lose their competitiveness if current trends continue.

Whichever way you look at it, the issue of cost is establishing itself as an element that is central to the energy debate in Germany. Addressing it fairly may be no easy task, but will be essential for maintaining widespread public and political support for the energy transition.

Christoph Senz is a Strategic Consultant at ProCom GmbH in Germany. This article is based on a presentation he gave at the OSCE Expert Workshop on Sustainable Energy in the Southern Mediterranean, held in Vienna on 29 April 2013.



Painting by Michael Adonai (all rights reserved)

Maintaining the colours of the planet

Thirty-seven artists from 22 countries signed a manifesto in the Andorran mountain village of Ordino affirming their dedication to a world in which the natural beauty and energy resources of the earth will be maintained for the enjoyment of generations to come.

The 2012 edition of the biennial gathering organized by the Andorran Commission for UNESCO was devoted to the theme “Sustainable energy for all”.

“Once again, a magic moment happened with a group of artists arriving to our little country from around the world. They lived together, they worked and shared their knowledge about art, each of them bringing along a great number of vital experiences from abroad,” said the sculptor and art professor Faust Campamà, who initiated the Andorran art camp in 2008. Some of the artists came from countries that suffered or continue to suffer from violent conflict.

“The breathtaking beauty of Andorra combined with the unity of artists from around the world has consolidated my belief in human dignity and progress,” commented the artist Michael Adonai from Eritrea.

“Peace cannot be based exclusively upon political and economic arrangements among governments; it must also be founded upon intellectual and moral solidarity,” said Jean Michel Armengol, Secretary General of the Andorran Commission for UNESCO, at the 13 July 2013 opening of an exhibition of the artists’ paintings in the OSCE’s Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna. Another selection of paintings is currently on display at the Venice Biennale.

Women's power from the sun

By Anke Stock

Energy use affects women differently from men. Women's economic empowerment is essential for achieving sustainable development that meets the energy needs of the present without compromising future generations, as was already recognized in the Rio Declaration of 1992. But inefficient, labour-intensive methods of producing energy often hinder women from playing an equal role in society.

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is a network of over 100 organizations mainly from Western Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus and the Balkans that was founded shortly after Rio to bring women's perspectives to policy makers. WECF also implements local projects that promote a healthy environment and strengthen the role of women. Recently, it has helped women in the OSCE region to gain economic empowerment by harnessing the power of the sun.

In some regions of Ukraine and Georgia, wood is still a major source of energy for heating and cooking. Women are usually the ones who spend time gathering firewood and tending fires to heat water for household chores or prepare meals. WECF implemented a project in these regions to assist households in switching to solar heating systems. Together with its German partner Solar Partner Süd it trained women to install and maintain solar panels themselves.

In Tajikistan, many women and children are left to fend for themselves when men leave the country to seek employment abroad. In the town of Dehkanobod, about 30 km from the capital city Dushanbe, a group of women decided to supplement their incomes by growing and selling vegetables and fruits. A major obstacle was the high cost of energy to run greenhouses.

WECF proposed that they build solar greenhouses. In contrast to traditional models, they are not expensive and can be set up without great skill. They store warmth and allow growers to reap an early first harvest.

With funds from WECF and practical advice from its local partners, the women built the solar greenhouses and started using them in the spring of this year. They were able to sell tomatoes, cucumbers and herbs in Dushanbe and the local market.

These are just two examples, of modest initiatives bringing small changes. But WECF has learned that decentralized projects implemented with the help of local partners can have a snowball effect. They can be the beginning of a larger movement of taking responsibility, for gender equality and for the earth we live on.

Dr. Anke Stock is a senior gender and rights lawyer at the WECF. She presented a gender perspective on promoting sustainable energy at the Second Preparatory Meeting for the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, held in Kyiv on 16 and 17 April 2013.

The OSCE is watching its environmental footprint

Participating States are discussing ways to reduce the negative environmental impact of the ways in which they generate and use energy. The 21st Economic and Environmental Forum, held under the Ukrainian Chairmanship in Prague from 11 to 13 September 2013, was devoted to increasing stability and security through improving the environmental footprint.

Dialogue on energy has been on the OSCE agenda from the beginning. States formally expressed their support for the use of new and renewable energy sources in 2006.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities in Vienna serves as a centre for the exchange of best practices. The OSCE field operations support host countries in developing renewable energy, in Uzbekistan, for example, where renewable energy is high on the political agenda and where the OSCE supports the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy established in Tashkent in 2012.

Coming up! High Level International Conference on Energy Security and Sustainability – the OSCE Perspective, Ashgabat, 17-18 October

What the world needs now

By Kandeh K. Yumkella



© SE4ALL

Everyone in this world needs access to modern energy sources to manage their everyday lives and to thrive economically. Our current energy system based on fossil fuels is inequitable and unsustainable. We urgently need to reduce our energy-related carbon dioxide emissions that threaten our prosperity and security.

“...so that the world’s finite resources can fuel development rather than conflict.”

Reports estimate that one person in five still lacks electricity. That is 1.3 billion people – men, women and children. About twice that number, 3 billion people, rely on traditional sources of energy, such as wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. That is nearly forty percent of the world’s population.

The opposite is true in the developed world. Essential services such as access to light, fuel for heating and cooking purposes are available. Instead, there is waste and pollution. Inefficient, carbon intensive energy use destroys our economic productivity and contributes immensely to the changes in climate conditions causing extreme weather events.

We must confront these two challenges. We must ensure that the “energy poor” have access to clean, reliable, affordable and modern energy services. In the industrialized world, we need to turn down the thermostat and make improvements in energy efficiency and in the use of renewables.

To achieve this, we require a sustained political focus. We must move these issues up our political and development agendas and make them a top priority.

Both challenges can be solved. Providing global energy access to sustainable energy is not a luxury, but a necessity. It will help to lift millions out of poverty. We can do it while making progress on preventing dangerous climate change, by relying more strongly on cleaner sources of energy, including renewable energy and low-greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuel technologies.

As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon says, “energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increases social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive.” To address our huge current energy challenges he has launched his Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

Sustainable Energy for All seeks to meet three ambitious and achievable objectives: provide universal access to modern energy services, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Governments around the world have endorsed Sustainable Energy for All. Countries in Africa, the European Union and the Small Island Developing States have pledged their support and are committed to ensuring the three goals are met by establishing clear national targets and implementing national policies. They are also committed to supporting bottom-up approaches.

Recently, the governments of Tanzania, Mexico and Norway led a global conversation online and in various locations around the world on the importance of energy and its inclusion into the post-2015 development agenda.

After a successful Year of Sustainable Energy for all in 2012, the UN General Assembly has unanimously designated the decade 2014 – 2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

Energy for peace

Not only do we need to focus on energy for development, we should also focus on energy for peace. Too often, energy has been a source of conflict. The potential risks of getting our energy policies wrong are considerable; numerous conflicts have occurred as a result of competition for resources. You simply have to open a newspaper or switch on the television to see the close relationship between energy and security.

And yet there are few multi-lateral arrangements to defuse energy-related conflicts, or to promote confidence-building measures. This is a shortcoming that we need to address so that the world’s finite resources can fuel development rather than conflict.

Kandeh K. Yumkella holds the rank of Under Secretary-General in the United Nations. He is the Secretary-General’s Special Representative and Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and Chairman of UN-Energy.

Elva: Georgian for “Lightning”

By Tom Gagnon



eta#a#non00b#wed1c#7d

A group of young innovators is using a mobile phone platform to connect remote communities in northern Georgia with each other and international security providers.

“A man came to our village to visit his uncle. In the morning he went to buy tobacco, but he never returned. We suspect he was detained by the Russian border guards,” recounts Giorgi of the northern Georgian village of Dvani. Incidents like this occur regularly in Dvani and neighboring communities since the August 2008 war.

Although armed hostilities ended five years ago, the communities’ peace is still frequently disrupted by gunfire, and residents often spot armed groups roaming the fields around their homes. Moreover, local residents who knowingly or unknowingly cross the boundary line between their communities and South Ossetia to collect firewood, visit relatives or to trade are often detained by the de facto South Ossetian authorities.

The European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) has been on the ground since 2008 to monitor the situation and together with the OSCE works to address such incidents through the internationally agreed Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM).

#pol24ngo2

But monitors and security providers face one crucial challenge: obtaining timely and detailed information. Many of the communities are remote and hard to access. Getting good information on local security needs is time consuming and costly, if not impossible.

To resolve this problem, a team of conflict analysts and IT professionals, with the support of UNDP Georgia, have implemented a pioneering methodology using a mobile phone platform. Called Elva, Georgian for “lightning”, it allows conflict-affected communities to share brief reports on security needs, trends and incidents with monitors and security providers.

Tracking trends

Residents in northern Georgia have used Elva since 2010 to report local security incidents. The process is simple and works in even very remote communities. Participation is entirely voluntary.

Each week, village representatives send answers to a series of core questions to a central phone number by SMS. Using Elva’s SMS questionnaire format, which designates a single letter to symbolize each answer, they can respond to up to forty questions within the space of a single text message by making use of pre-defined answer codes.

The SMS messages provide information about incidents that have occurred and how they affected the communities. They rate the effectiveness of security providers’ responses and suggest possible solutions to outstanding problems. The few residents with access to a smartphone can use the Elva smartphone app to send photos and brief video reports about events in their village. This community-driven information is automatically presented online on Elva’s public website in interactive maps and graphs, so that security providers can easily spot security trends and needs and evaluate the effectiveness of their actions.

Responding to emergencies

Some incidents require an urgent response. This is why the communities also use Elva to request emergency assistance. They mostly use it to report missing persons and – if they prove to be detained – to request their release. “It used to take days before everyone became aware of detained persons and negotiate their return,” says local resident Nino. “But now we simply send an Elva text message and it immediately goes to the police and international observers.”

Weather forecasts

To ensure that the network remains a useful source of information, also in times of relative peace, the project team uses it also to distribute automated local weather forecasts, agricultural news and other announcements. “We had a stroke of bad weather a couple of weeks ago. But farmers in my village had enough time to get ready because I received an early notice about expected frost,” says Zaal, a farmer from Dvani. “There are everyday issues we need to discuss, such as water and irrigation. If South Ossetians could join Elva, it would be much easier to exchange information and find solutions,” he adds.

Tom Gagnon is a data analyst who conducts quantitative research and analysis for Elva. Elva is a free and open source platform. Organizations can set up their own projects at www.Elva.org.



The IPRM tent in winter (OSCE/Emmanuel Anquetil)

A personal account of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Georgia

By Siegfried Woeber

It is early morning when I arrive at Tbilisi airport: a quick passport control; friendly smiles from the border officials; inside, large groups of relatives waiting for their returning loved ones. This at least is one scene in Georgia that has remained the same, I tell myself. Peering through the crowd, I finally spot Gocha holding up his sign with the OSCE logo.

Gocha began working for the OSCE more than a decade ago, when the Mission to Georgia was still in operation. Since it closed, following the 2008 armed hostilities, he has been providing logistical support for the OSCE activities that are still going on in the country. Among his latest guests were Conflict Prevention Centre representatives that monitored the successful completion of the disposal of cluster munitions. As he calmly manoeuvres the shiny white OSCE car out of this busy theatre, I see tired-looking passers-by staring at the big blue letters painted on the sides – one of the few remaining visible signs of the Organization.

A tent in no man's land

I am here to represent the Conflict Prevention Centre at the 36th round of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), the main tool on the ground of the Geneva International Discussions, which deal with the consequences of the war. Whereas the discussions in Switzerland remain largely abstract for the outside world, the IPRM has yielded some concrete results for the local population.

One hour from Georgia's dynamic capital, a signpost at the side of the road puts things in perspective: "Teheran 1250 km; Sukhumi 430 km; Tskhinvali 110 km; Baku 560 km; Yerevan 290 km." And here is Tserovani a camp for about 7000 internally displaced persons, mainly from the Akhlagori area, built by the Georgian government. Several new vineyards and green plots have appeared since I was last here after the war.

I have joined Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative for Conflicts, and his advisor Christina Hayovyshyn. Both have taken this trip along the great Caucasus range a few times already this year. We are travelling on a new highway that will lead us to Gori, where our colleagues from the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) are awaiting us.

The city of Gori was one of the epicentres of the military conflict. Since 2008, the unarmed civilian monitors of the EUMM have been monitoring the situation in areas affected by the war, south of the so-called administrative boundary line (ABL). They have set up a 24-hour hotline which allows parties to transmit findings concerning missing persons, report incidents of concern or provide clarifications about events close to the ABL. And together with the OSCE, the EUMM hosts the meetings of the IPRM.

Ambassador Gerard Fischer, interim Head of the EUMM, and his team present us with their latest observations from the ground. We agree upon agenda items. Maps are circulated around the table. "Let's go," someone says, "the delegations will be there around 11:00."

We continue our journey for another 30 minutes, passing through villages and driving alongside busy farmers transporting their harvest, until our column of cars reaches its goal: Ergneti, just two kilometres to the southeast of Tskhinvali. Until 2004 there used to be a bustling market here, the main trading point among Russians, Georgians, Ossetians and the many other groups that populate the "mountains of tongues" – as a tenth century Arab geographer called the Caucasus due to its ethnic diversity. Now the little village Ergneti serves as the site of the IPRM. Russian and Georgian soldiers have set up camp and greet the arriving group of internationals with obvious routine.

And here it is: the tent. The air inside is pleasantly cool – clearly it is equipped with some sort of air conditioning – and there is a table replete with refreshments: Caucasian hospitality in no man's land.

Soon the members of the Georgian delegation arrive. Deshchytsia and Fischer, as co-facilitators of the IPRM, are eager to solicit their agreement on some of the points that will be discussed and to create a good atmosphere for the hours ahead. When the group of Georgian reporters rushes to the other side of the tent, it is a sign that the South Ossetian and Russian participants have arrived from Tskhinvali. They, too, are greeted by the two co-facilitators. Everyone seems to know everyone; the composition of the groups has not changed since the end of last year.

Whereas during the official talks in Geneva the parties sit across from each other 20 metres apart and stick to official statements and diplomatic posturing, the IPRM tent brings them together in a small space. Here they are not expected to find answers to the difficult fundamental issues such as the determination of borders. Over the course of the next six hours, problems of the population on the ground are the object of discussion.

All welcome the quick release of detained farmers and cow herders and inquire about the status of those still imprisoned. "Why did the new amnesty law not have an impact on his case?" – "What is the name of our national you mentioned among the detained?"

"I would kindly ask you to minimize politicizing, and focus on solving problems of the local population as the most important task," Deshchytsia reminds the speakers when occasionally they drift away from the agenda. The speakers agree to disagree and proceed to the next point.

One of the most sensitive issues is the topic of missing persons. Many disappeared a long time ago, but any effort to investigate their fate represents an important confidence-building measure and is met with appreciation. The Special Representative's personal involvement in bringing the sides together on this issue is given positive mention: "We were not expecting you to have details today, but we are hoping for an investigation into the matter." Promises are made and, on some issues, the simple fact that dialogue is taking place makes today's get-together significant. In times where contacts between Tskhinvali and Tbilisi are rare, every line of communication counts.

An important part of the meeting is a review of incidents. The tone of the conversation stays polite and constructive, but emotions run high when it comes to the issue of fencing and barbed wire installations on the ABL– an "occupation line" according to Tbilisi, a "state border" according to Tskhinvali and Moscow. "The inhabitants of D. asked me to convey their thanks to you for the fact that a solution to their problem with accessing drinking water could be found during the last IPRM. Now we would like to draw your attention to another issue in this village concerning access to cemeteries," Fischer states. The co-facilitators appeal to the participants to consider the situation of the people on the ground, to take into account farmers' increased activity during the ongoing agricultural season. They propose a visit to the villages where there are matters of concern. "We have to develop joint solutions and expect your ideas – via the hotline," Deshchytsia concludes.

We have reached the final points on the agenda: "No military exercises are planned close to the administrative boundary line in the upcoming weeks; the next IPRM will take place in September."

Participants bid one another farewell and, escorted by the press, depart in the direction from which they came. In the side mirror of the OSCE car, the white tent gets smaller and smaller. It has proved to be a good home for talks.

Siegfried Woeber first visited Ergneti about a decade ago as co-ordinator of a development aid program in the South Caucasus. In July 2013 he returned for the first time since the 2008 military conflict to represent the Conflict Prevention Centre in the 36th round of the IPRM.



A tale of 19 missiles

By Anton Martyniuk
and Ursula Froese

The demolition of 19 Soviet-era Moldovan combat missiles in Georgia marked the tenth anniversary of the OSCE's demilitarization assistance in Georgia.

Nineteen R-60M air-to-air combat missiles belonging to the Republic of Moldova were destroyed in the Republic of Georgia on 12 July 2013.

They were dismantled and exploded at the open detonation range at Vaziani, 20 kilometres outside of Tbilisi. Their demolition marked the end of a long road.

The missiles were originally built by the Soviet Union for Soviet fighter aircraft around 1982. Missiles of this type were widely exported, and remain in service in the CIS and many other countries.

In the aftermath of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, they became the responsibility of the newly established Moldovan Armed Forces. They were sent for repair to Georgia in 1992.

The 19 missiles ended up being stored at the Tbiliviamsheni aviation factory in Tbilisi. Twenty years passed. They were no longer needed by the Moldovan Armed Forces. Instead they had become not only dangerous to handle but also a political liability. By this time, Moldova was restructuring its armed forces. Having these weapons did not fit with its status as a neutral state, which it had

assumed under the constitution of 1994.

“In fact, these R60M missiles became a sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of the Moldovans,” explains Stephen Young of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. “When you are status neutral, there are certain weapons you retain for self defence and that is only natural. But these were air-to-air missiles, and when, as is the case for Moldova, you do not have the air capability, you have no justification for retaining them.”

In 2007, the Moldovan government decided that the missiles should be destroyed. But before they could disappear, they risked becoming an object of international contention. How was their destruction to be undertaken and under whose supervision? They had been in storage for 15 years in another country – who was going to pay? That is where the OSCE entered the picture.

OSCE assistance

Moldova approached the OSCE to request assistance with destroying the missiles. At that time, the OSCE was conducting a demilitarization project in Georgia, in co-operation with the military-scientific agency Delta, which is affiliated with the Georgian Ministry of Defence and holds the exclusive rights to implementing weapons and ammunition disposal in the country.

The OSCE has been working with Georgia on demilitarization since 2003. One of the early projects involved building a demilitarization facility in Dedoplistskaro to dismantle munitions down to their component parts and smelt out the TNT to be used for purposes like mining and road construction.

The current collaboration went back to 2008, when the OSCE and Georgia signed a memorandum of understanding for a three-year project to destroy all Soviet ammunition left on the territory of Georgia after withdrawal of the Russian Forces. The war in August and the closure of the OSCE Mission interrupted that work, but on request of the Georgian Government it was resumed in 2010 by the OSCE Secretariat in co-operation with UNDP. It envisages disposing of 1,800 tonnes of various types of obsolete ammunition, stored in precarious conditions in the open air.

It took several years to convince all the Georgian authorities and industries concerned to include the destruction of the Moldovan missiles into this resumed demilitarization programme. Delta helped to untangle much of the bureaucratic red tape. And Georgian authorities were able to waive the storage charges as a contribution to the OSCE project. Now it just remained to be seen how the demolition itself could be funded.

Here again, it was the OSCE's long experience in nurturing ties with participating States and donors that helped. The OSCE Mission to Moldova has been working with the Moldovan Ministry of Defense in a demilitarization programme of its own since 2007. Germany, one of the major donors, had funded disposal of other types of Moldovan missiles and now agreed to also fund the destruction of the 19 that remained in Georgia.

That is how they came to be destroyed, together with 1,289 Soviet cluster bombs left in Georgia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. With their demolition, witnessed and recorded by the Moldovan Ministry of Defence and the OSCE Mission to Moldova, another part of the hazardous Cold War legacy came to an end. It would be going too far to say that the missiles had become harbingers of peace. But in the end, their story was one of international organizations, governments and donor countries working together to find solutions, for making the world a safer place.

Anton Martyniuk is Projects Officer in the Conflict Prevention Centre in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. Ursula Froese is the editor of Security Community.

A day in the life of two monitors

Mission to Skopje

By Silke Tittel





One thing is for sure: You need a strong stomach to work as a monitor in Tetovo, as I quickly realize sitting next to Agustín Nunez-Vicandi while he negotiates one hairpin curve after another. He had to squeeze a protest in a nearby town into his already filled schedule today. Therefore the monitor drives as fast as the watchful eyes at headquarters (via the GPS tracking system in the cars) allow. “You have to like being on the road,” he admits apologetically.

Four international monitoring officers and four language assistants, who function as indispensable all-round consultants, work in the only remaining field station of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, based in the western town of Tetovo. The Mission supports the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement that ended a seven-month long conflict in 2001. Hostilities had started in Tetovo back then – and this is where sometimes it is very evident that old wounds still have not properly healed.

“I love the variety of my work,” says Nunez-Vicandi while carefully navigating his car between two vegetable stands. “Where else do you get to discuss politics, security, culture and education with different counterparts in the course of a single day?” The human rights expert from Spain has been working in Tetovo for two years now. “In the beginning it was a steep learning curve,” he confesses. “You really need at least a year to truly understand the background and context of everything you see and hear.”

The day has started at 8:30 am with a quick morning briefing of the whole team. Now we are headed for the first stop of the day, a short visit to what is locally known as the “fortress”, a memorial for fallen ethnic Albanian fighters near the mountain ridge where the conflict broke out 12 years ago. The monitors visit the nearby village on a regular basis.

Drinking an obligatory cup of coffee in the main square has greater significance than it seems. “We cannot just come up here when something happens. If we would do that, people would associate negative events with us,” explains Ulrike Schmidt, the head of the Tetovo Field Office. “The OSCE car parked out front signals we are here, we are approachable.”

Whenever Schmidt introduces herself for the first time, she explains her role at great length: “In the Macedonian and Albanian language the word for ‘monitor’ has a connotation of checking or surveillance,” she says. Even within the international community, she is often confronted with the stereotype of a person in military fatigues, peering through binoculars. She prefers to describe herself as a “confidence builder”, because this reflects the long term approach of her work. “Sometimes people ask how I, as a woman, manage to function in this strenuous position,” she says smilingly. “But this is a job that requires a lot more diplomacy than muscles.”

“This is a job that requires a lot more diplomacy than muscles.”



Most of the monitors have an educational background in political science or law. All of them are experienced mediators – by virtue of training and “a lot of learning by doing”, as Nunez-Vicandi puts it. An analytical mind, cultural sensitivity and general flexibility are basic skills needed for the job. Being on call 24/7 certainly takes some getting used to. “And you won’t get far without an overall likeable personality and good communication skills,” he says. “What really matters is that we can help solve issues locally.”

Success stories like what was achieved in the aftermath of the traditional carnival in Vevcani last year illustrate how significant the monitors’ work is: After a performance deemed offensive to Islam, the Tetovo team immediately reached out to every involved mayor and religious authority and initiated a joint meeting. Already scheduled protests were cancelled, announced lawsuits not filed, all parties involved slowly calmed down. “This is tangible, very satisfying work,” concludes Nunez-Vicandi.

Building trust, a reliable communication network and a friendly atmosphere is what the next visit is all about. We are at the Tetovo Tekke, the oldest compound of the Bektashi Islamic religious community in the Balkans. Long-standing disputes about land ownership, use of the property and the non-recognition of the Bektashi group (an Islamic Sufi order) in the country prompt the monitors to drop by a regular basis. And they seem truly welcome. We chat with a caretaker of the compound. “You don’t come often enough,” he complains with a hearty laugh as he sees us off.

Now it is time to observe the protest against the firing of municipal employees after the recent local elections in Gostivar, about half an hour’s drive away. It turns out to be smaller and much quieter than anticipated. Usually the monitors are tipped off about events and protests long before they are announced in the newspapers or on Facebook. “Establishing a good communication network built on mutual trust is one of our most important long-term goals,” says Nunez-Vicandi. This is crucial not just for the early warning function, but also in case facts reported in the media need to be verified.

We don’t want to be late for the next meeting with the new mayor of the town of Struga – after all, first impressions are lasting. Nunez-Vicandi runs up the stairs in the municipal building – just in time. They talk about the recent elections, complaints about the layoff of some municipal staff, possible solutions

“Building trust, a reliable communication network and a friendly atmosphere”

to alleviate the town’s huge debt and how to be a mayor who truly represents all citizens. The last stop of the day is a call on the Kichevo branch leader for “Dignity”, an ethnic Macedonian former fighter organization that recently formed a political party. The monitor inquires about a referendum initiative and attentively listens to the concerns of his counterpart. As with the mayor of Struga, he explicitly offers future mediation, if needed and so desired.

Over the past two years the monitors have been rather busy addressing urgent inter-ethnic issues. “I wish we had more time to also focus on long-standing conflicts like the building of churches and mosques in sensitive areas,” says Schmidt. Her team functions as the eyes and ears of the Mission in the west. Another group of monitors, similar in size, operates from Skopje in the northern part of the country. Good communications with Mission headquarters are crucial to ensure that their findings will translate into programmes on a national or regional level.

It has started to rain in the late afternoon, and the 130 kilometers return trip on the same windy mountain road add further strain to exhausted minds and sensitive stomachs – certainly to mine. Back in the office, after nine hours of travel, Agustin Nunez-Vicandi eagerly sinks into his desk chair to complete his activity report. “I know that some people think that monitors just sit around and drink coffee,” he says. “If only they could come out and spend a day with us.”

Silke Tittel is the Public Information and Media Officer for the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

Photos: p. 32 Monitors Agustin Nunez-Vicandi (left) and Ulrike Schmidt (right) with language assistant Alush Doda at “the fortress”.

p. 33 top: Mountains and village near Tetovo; centre: Road conditions are sometimes difficult. (OSCE/Bernard Segarra); bottom: The OSCE car in Tetovo (OSCE/Agustin Nunez-Vicandi)

p. 34 left: A demonstration in Gostivar; top: Alush Doda talks with Xhemali Sjdia (right) at the Tetovo Tekke; bottom: Language assistant Antoni Vojnoski.

All photos by Silke Tittel unless otherwise indicated.

Your View

Max Kampelman

One of the lesser publicized aspects of the life of Max Kampelman, whose account is quoted in Issue 2, 2013 of Security Community, is that he was a conscientious objector to military service during the Second World War. He had volunteered for a medical study on the impact of starvation on the body and undergone severe deprivation of food as part of the experience. He had close contacts with fellow pacifists during the war years, especially Quakers.

When I knew Kampelman in Geneva in the mid-1980s, I was also working for the recognition of conscientious objection as a human right in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. After efforts of many years, the Commission voted positively. Kampelman was pleased with the effort as he always stressed the importance of individual conscience and conviction. Although he had moved away from the position of nonviolence to accepting the existence of armies as a necessity, he always expressed his interest in nonviolent action and the role of conscientious objectors to military service.

Rene Wadlow
President of the Association of World Citizens
Geneva



Reconciliation

The OSCE is outstanding among international organizations for its quiet diplomacy and soft power. Reconciliation cannot be imposed from the top. Still, I do agree with experts who argue that the OSCE could serve as a forum for conflicting parties searching for reconciliation. The OSCE disposes of a wide range of mechanisms and procedures and has a very pragmatically developed structure.

If reconciliation fails, it cannot be considered the fault of the organization. Both theory and practice emphasize the primary role of states in current world politics. So the challenge is to convince them to take first steps toward reconciliation.

As a young person, I very much welcome current efforts to put the idea of reconciliation into practice. I believe the discussion started in the OSCE on reconciliation, also in this magazine, will continue to bear fruit.

Samuel Goda
Associated Fellow at the Slovak Foreign Policy
Association

National minorities

I am a veteran of the Second World War, enlisted at the age of 16 years to fight against Nazism, and later very active for the reconciliation of peoples. Especially in this regard I wish to congratulate the OSCE for its positive and concrete initiatives.

I was president of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), and initially president of its youth group. I believe we were the first to organize international youth meetings from 1949 and 1950. In Brittany we had an exceptional camp of German, Danish, Breton, Flemish and Tyrolian young people at the Chateau of Menez Kamp that was lent to us by the Breton writer and nationalist Vefa de Saint Pierre. I also represented FUEN at the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

My wish, before the end of my life on earth, is that you would give more consideration to unrepresented minorities such as in Brittany or in the Basque Country. In spite of my age, I remain at your disposition and wish the OSCE all the best for its work, which is absolutely indispensable for the peace and future of Europe.

Per Lemoine
Glomel, France

Afghanistan and the OSCE

Afghanistan faces three major challenges by and beyond 2014. First, there is the controversy over whether and how the coming presidential and provincial council elections, scheduled for 5 April 2014, will be held. Second, there is the on-going drawdown of international military and civil engagement by 2014. Third, eventual peace negotiations between the Afghan government and its armed opposition, particularly the Taliban, will be complicated and contentious.

An undesirable implication, at least from the Afghan point of view, might be the possibility of Central Asian participating States restricting cross-border economic and people-to-people interactions in order to stave off any Afghan spill-over. The Afghan government has been struggling to counteract this by fostering an environment of increased regional co-operation, particularly through the Heart of Asia process.

The relationship between Afghanistan and the OSCE has expanded considerably since 2003, when Afghanistan became an Asian Partner for Co-operation. This has been mutually beneficial, with both sides increasing their awareness of and co-operation with each other in areas such as law enforcement, particularly in border areas, and promotion of professional and educational development opportunities. The interaction is difficult but worthwhile and deserves further gradual, tailor-made enlargement.

Said Reza Kazemi
Visiting researcher in the Norwegian Institute of
International Affairs
Oslo

We'd like to hear from you!
Energy and security: what is the
way of the future?
Send your views to
oscemagazine@osce.org

Tea and USB

Two American inventors, Alexander Drummond and Jonathan Cedar, have developed a compact, ultra-efficient camping stove for wilderness enthusiasts who need to keep their smartphones charged. The BioLite stove generates electricity as it burns, enough to charge flashlights or phones via USB.

A larger version of the stove could bring real change to the lives of the many in underdeveloped regions who still cook on smoky indoor fires, a major health hazard, and lack access to electric power. The BioLite home stove, its developers claim, reduces smoke by 95 per cent and nearly eliminates black carbon. Part of the revenue from sales of the camping stove goes to fund marketing of the home stove in the third world.

Take a handful of twigs, place in the BioLite and ignite. A pot of water will boil in four minutes.



Throw in a teabag, plug in your mobile. Sip and enjoy.

Photo: BioLite

A passion for tennis

The Davis Cup is being hosted by Moldova for the first time. Marina Tauber, who has headed the Moldovan Tennis Federation since she was 25, believes this is about more than just tennis. "It's not only a sports event but something important for Moldova," she says.

Earlier this year, Tauber organized the Federation Cup Women's Tournament, also a first for the country. That is when she first met Jennifer Brush, the head of the OSCE's Mission to Moldova. Brush saw the Federation Cup as a chance to promote a public image of women as strong and successful. The OSCE sponsored the event.

Like Tauber, Brush believes in the transformative power of tennis. "Tennis demands dedication and discipline; it brings people together and teaches young players values like courtesy, respect for their opponents and honesty. And it makes people proud of representing their country," she says. She draws the comparison to Serbia, where she was previously posted: "There were players, like Novak Djokovic, Anna Ivanovic, Janko-Tipsarevic and Jelena Jankovic, who had that motivation, and they were able to demonstrate that their country had potential and talent."

Recent OSCE Publications

Self-Assessment Tool for Nations to Increase Preparedness for Cross-Border Implications of Crises Prepared by the OSCE Secretariat/ Transnational Threats Department (English)

Developing guidance for effective mediation Published by the OSCE Secretariat/ Conflict Prevention Centre (English)

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal in the OSCE region Published by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (English)

Policy and legislative recommendations towards the effective implementation of the non-punishment provision with regard to victims of trafficking Published by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (English)

Trafficking in Human Beings Amounting to Torture and other forms of ill treatment Published by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (English)

Simplified Forms of Procedure in Criminal Matters: regional criminal procedure legislation and experiences in application Published by the Mission to Serbia (English)

Best Practices for Roma Integration Regional Report on Anti-discrimination and Participation of Roma in Local Decision-Making Published by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (English)

Impressum

Security Community is published by the OSCE Secretariat Press and Public Information Section
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: +43 1 51436 6267
oscemagazine@osce.org

Available in print in English and Russian and online in English, Russian, German and French at www.osce.org

Security Community is available as a free app for iPad.

The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the OSCE and its participating States.

Editor
Ursula Froese

Editorial Board
Marcel Pesko, Miroslava Beham, Cathie Burton,
Ursula Froese, Adam Kobieracki, Alexey Lyzhenkov,
Ian Mitchell, Desiree Schweitzer

Design and Illustrations
Antoine van Dijck

Print
Imprimerie Centrale
Fonts LeMonde Journal; Akkurat

Security Community nurtures the development of a community of people committed to furthering trust and stability across the OSCE area. Written contributions on aspects of politico-military, economic and environmental or human security are welcome. Texts are subject to editing.

The cover of Security Community is a space for a visual debate on the idea of a security community and related issues. Artists are invited to contribute. Copyright remains with the artist.

All materials published at the OSCE's discretion. No fees are paid for published work. Please write oscemagazine@osce.org.

The OSCE thanks all authors and artists for their contributions.

Front Cover

The three watchmen, detail design for the Gwaii Haanas Legacy Totem Pole, 2013

Jaalen Edenshaw
Copyright: Parks Canada

