



HUMAN DIMENSION
S E M I N A R

2015 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

The role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in promoting and protecting human rights in the OSCE area

WARSAW, 1-3 June 2015

INFORMATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV, the participating States agreed to facilitate informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and NGOs during OSCE meetings.

In line with these agreements, the OSCE would like to invite civil society organizations to its 2015 Human Dimension Seminar (HDS), to be held on the subject of “The role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in promoting and protecting human rights in the OSCE area”. The Seminar will take place in Warsaw on 1- 3 June 2015 at the hotel Sofitel-Victoria on ul. Krolewska 11. Additional information and further documents related to the Seminar are available on the OSCE website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/152336>. The annotated agenda will be posted shortly.

Civil society organizations whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Seminar, as well as those who wish to attend, are requested to register at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants wishing to attend are requested to **register preferably by 20th May 2015**. The registration will also be available after the date; however, early registration would be highly appreciated to facilitate the preparation of the HDS. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges at the Meeting’s venue as of Monday, 1 June 2015, from 8 a.m.

Civil society organizations will have equal access to the speakers’ list at the Working Sessions of the Seminar in order to make relevant interventions and concrete recommendations. Written statements and recommendations can also be forwarded in advance to hds@odihr.pl.

Civil society organizations are also invited to organize side events. As we are introducing 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. Organizations wishing to organize a side event are requested to register and book the slot at their earliest convenience as the system is based on the ‘first come, first served principle’. **The system will be open on Monday, 11th of May, at 12.00 (CET) and will be closed by Thursday, 21st of May, 23:59 (CET). No bookings will be accepted after this date.** Additional information on the content and objectives of planned side events, as well as on timing and duration, are available in the document Side Event Information.

Civil society organizations may display information materials about their organizations on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents

through the Documents Distribution System, in accordance with special guidelines that will be available on the website prior to the event. In addition, a fully equipped “NGO room” will be available for the duration of the Seminar.

Participation in the Seminar is free of charge, although all travel and accommodation costs should be borne by participants. Civil society organizations are kindly requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. The following documents might facilitate accommodation arrangements: ‘List of chosen hotels in Warsaw”, “Hotel special rates”, “Booking form” at the Novotel hotel and at the Sofitel where the meeting takes place.

For further information about the content of the Seminar, please contact:

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