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Democratic Institutions
& Human Rights

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Office for Democratic Institutions
& Human Rights

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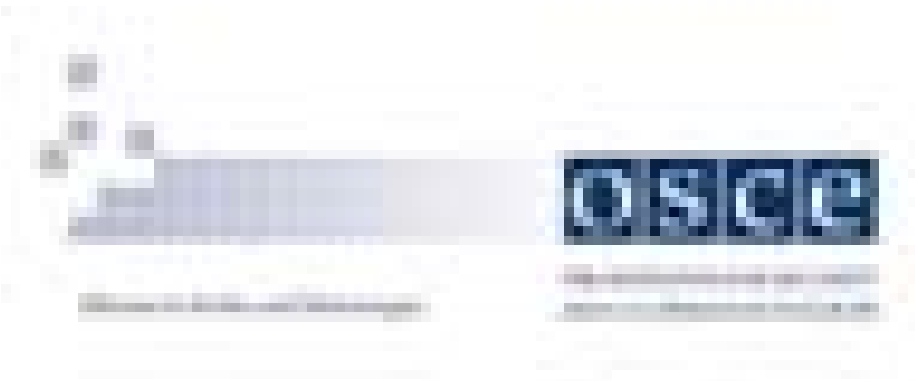
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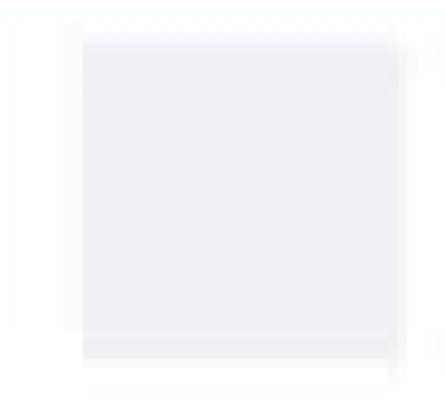
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Annual Report on OSCE Activities 2004





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Annual Report on OSCE Activities 2004

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Introduction

The Annual Report has been prepared by the Press and Public Information unit of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro in order to provide our partners at all levels of government, other international organisations, embassies and the public at large general information on the activities of the Mission in 2004.

The OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro is now entering its fifth year of operation, having been established by an OSCE Permanent Council decision in January 2001. Following the ratification of the Belgrade Agreement, the "OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" was renamed the "OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro" in February 2003.

According to its mandate, the Mission, acting in close cooperation with the Government of Serbia and Montenegro, provides assistance and expertise to the republican authorities at all levels, working with interested individuals, groups and organisations, in the fields of democratisation and the protection of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The Mission's many activities are divided into three main baskets: Politico-Military Dimension Activities, Human Dimension Activities and Economic and Environment Dimension Activities. The staff of the Mission works in 5 programmatic departments: Law Enforcement, Rule of Law/Human Rights, Media, Democratisation, Economy and Environment, supported by a department of Administration and Finance. Much of the work of the Mission is inter-departmental, focussing on a number of issues. This Annual Report will focus on the Mission's activities on these issues in the past year and which will remain a prime focus of the Mission's activity in 2005.

The OSCE Mission believes that Serbia and Montenegro's future lies in Europe as a full member of the Euro-Atlantic Institutions and remains committed to assist the country on its path towards this future.





Message from the Head of Mission

Message from the Head of Mission, Ambassador Maurizio Massari

In 2004, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro faced a number of challenges in consolidating its democratic institutions. The staff of the Mission's headquarters in Belgrade (Serbia), its Office in Podgorica (Montenegro), its presence in south Serbia and its law enforcement training centres in both republics continued to support democratic reforms in the two constituent republics.

The Mission takes pride in successes in 2004, with positive changes in areas covered by the Mission's mandate. Highlights include the consolidation of progress in maintaining stability and fostering inter-ethnic integration in southern Serbia. The region of southern Serbia with its diverse communities of ethnic Albanians and Serbs remained calm despite the unrest in neighbouring Kosovo. In Montenegro, the Mission played a key role in encouraging the major opposition parties to return to the Parliament after a lengthy boycott so that urgent political and economic reforms could be discussed in the proper forum.

These are only two examples of the "on the ground" work of OSCE staff contributing their expertise and assistance and act as an "honest brokers" between deeply divided political forces and communities.

Two successful elections were held in Serbia (Serbian Presidential elections in June and local elections in October). The democratic pro-European bloc was strengthened by the election on June 28 of the Boris Tadic as President of Serbia, a post that had been vacant for nearly two years.

Much of the day-to-day effort of the Mission is centred on supporting the ongoing reforms in Serbia and Montenegro - human and minority rights are advanced, the fight against corruption and organised crime supported, and reform of the media sector promoted. The OSCE is helping Serbian investigators and the judiciary strengthen their capacity to prosecute domestic war crimes trials in accordance with international standards. And the OSCE continues to emphasise the need for Serbia and Montenegro to co-operate unconditionally with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The fight against organised crime remains a top priority. In 2004, OSCE experts supported development in Serbia of key laws such as the Law on Witness Protection. In Montenegro such a law is in force and could become an important instrument in bringing criminals responsible to justice. In the ongoing fight against corruption, the police and judicial institutions in both republics will benefit from additional OSCE sponsored training and assistance in 2005.

To highlight the continued plight of refugees in the region, the Heads of the OSCE Missions to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro joined with the UNHCR and European Union representations in all three countries to launch a new initiative. They proposed to the respective leaders a "road map" to address the needs of the refugees and displaced and create conditions for their return.

In 2005, the Mission will continue to focus on strengthening the common institutions of the State Union as well as republic-level institutions in both Serbia and Montenegro. The OSCE will assist and advise Serbia and Montenegro in its efforts to adhere to its international obligations and place it on the path towards full integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.



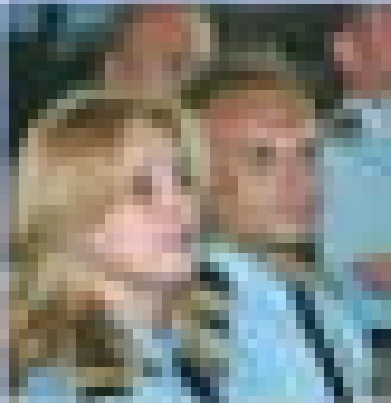
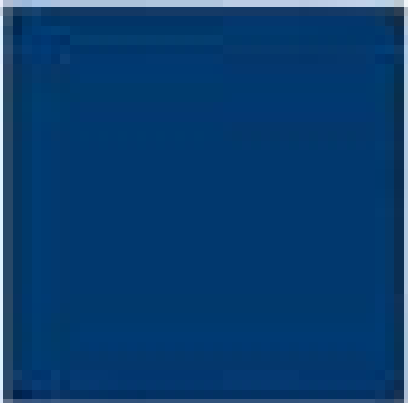
Maurizio Massari



- Police Reform
- Fight Against Corruption
- Combating Organised Crime
- War Crimes
- South Serbia

Politico-Military Dimension Activities

Politico-Military Dimension Activities



Police Reform

Despite much progress, the Serbian and Montenegrin police services have not yet fully realised the goal of the establishment of a modern, representative and democratic police service.

Since March 2001 the role of the Mission in this sphere has been to assist, advise and monitor the process of police reform. In Serbia, the focus of assistance provided was on the 'Six Priority Areas' identified in co-operation with the Serbian Ministry of Interior. These priority areas are: Police Education and Development, Accountability and Internal Control, Organised Crime, Forensics, Border Policing, Community Policing.

In the field of police education, the Missions is directing the implementation of Police Development Programmes (PDP) in line with training needs identified by both the Serbian Ministry of Interior and international community. This programme, featuring modern curricula, targets different levels of serving officers. The emphasis is on Community Policing Courses and Management and Supervision Courses.

In Montenegro, the Ministry of Interior is in the process of developing its reform priorities. In May 2004, the Mission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior establishing a liaison office and co-ordination role. The Ministry has agreed to open a Strategic Development Unit and the OSCE will assign a police advisor to it. Since Spring 2004, the Mission's co-operation with the authorities in Montenegro has developed significantly with the shift of police training activities from operational training to the development of management skills and capacity-building in the area of community policing.

The Law Enforcement Department of the Mission is also the co-ordinator for the international community assistance to the Ministries of Interior in Serbia and Montenegro in the reform of the police education system. Providing advice and recommendations on the Law on Police Education has been an important focus of the department's activities.

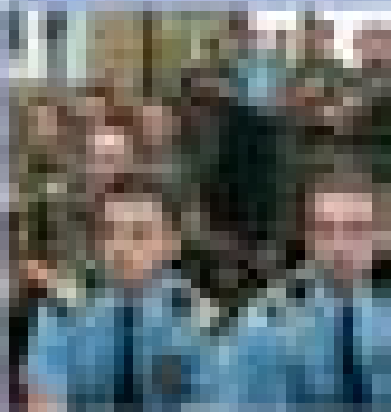
A modern police force also needs to ensure that the officers uphold the law at all times and are accountable to parliament. The Serbian Inspector General's Office plays an important role in rooting out corruption in the ranks of the police. The Mission has therefor provide the Inspector General's Office with assistance in developing internal affairs regulations, procedures and practices within the Ministry of Interior. Technical assistance such as computers and surveillance equipment to build the capacity of the Inspector General's Office to investigate cases has also been provided. A pamphlet for the public on how to lodge complaints against the police with the Inspector General has also been developed with the Ministry.

In order to strengthen civilian oversight of the police in Serbia, the Law Enforcement Department has provided advisors to the Committees for Defense and Security in both the Serbian and state union Parliament. In addition a handbook and training for MPs involved in the oversight process was handed out. Legal assistance is being provided for the establishment of the Supreme Auditing Institution and for the drafting of the Serbian law on Ombudsman.

The need to develop a new comprehensive crime scene investigation policy has also been identified. This includes developing a quality management system for an unbroken chain from the crime scene to the laboratory. New equipment is being delivered to Serbia and Montenegro which will be combined with the necessary training, seminars and study visits abroad.

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Politico-Military Dimension Activities



Police Reform

The Law Enforcement Department has also focused on capacity-building through equipment and specialist training to combat trafficking, smuggling and to establish effective migration management. Both the Serbian and Montenegrin Ministries of Interior were assisted in developing criminal intelligence analysis capacity for the border service through a range of seminars with international experts. The OSCE SEE Cross-Border Co-operation Programme (OSCCP) also supported the Ohrid Process by participating in two major regional conferences in Serbia and Montenegro. In Serbia, a conference on Joint Training Measures was held in Belgrade in July 2004. This was followed on a conference on the management of Blue Border (rivers, ports) in Montenegro in September 2004. These conferences enable an exchange of information and experiences between professionals from the countries of the region and help establish personal contacts between officers from various countries.

The assistance provided to the development of the border policing and forensic capacities of the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior should also significantly influence the effectiveness of Montenegrin police in fighting organised crime.

Community Policing has been one of the major concepts that the Mission has been promoting in Serbia and Montenegro, especially in ten pilot sites all over Serbia. International Assistance for this program has been co-ordinated by the OSCE Mission through the Inter-agency Co-ordination Meetings. The Mission has developed an evaluation mechanisms jointly with other agencies sponsoring pilot sites, in order to assist the Ministry of Interior in developing a national strategy on community policing based upon the findings and experiences of the pilot sites.

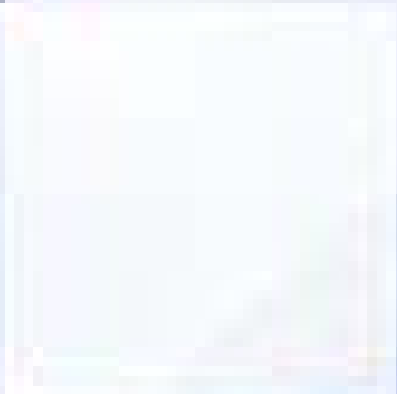
Community policing is an area that has seen promising developments in Montenegro, with the commissioning of public and police perception surveys, as well as the beginning of the process to choose several community policing pilot sites.

Two more areas - War Crimes and Strategic Development - have been added after an evaluation of police reform carried out in 2003.

Moreover, the Mission plays a key role in peace maintenance and confidence-building in southern Serbia, where it has contributed to the establishment and training of the Multi-Ethnic Police Element (MEPE). The MEPE continues to play an important role in the reduction of tensions in this area. The Mission has entered a second phase of its engagement with the police service and political authorities in the southern Serbia region, to further integrate the MEPE into government structures and to enhance police-public relations.

In Montenegro, on the request of the government, the Mission provided expert opinion on a range of draft laws such as the Law on Identification Documents, the Law on Montenegrin citizenship and the Law on Temporary and Permanent Residence.

Politico-Military Dimension Activities



Fight Against Corruption

Fight Against Corruption

In Transparency International's 2004 Corruption Perceptions Index - which charts levels of corruption in the public sector and politics, as perceived by business people, academics and risk analysts - Serbia and Montenegro ranks 97 out of 145.

This high level of corruption is detrimental to Serbia and Montenegro's efforts to attract foreign investment and create new employment opportunities for its people. High levels of corruption are directly linked to low economic growth and underdevelopment. The creation of jobs is considered by a large majority of citizens of Serbia and Montenegro as the most urgent social issue.

In order to address this issue, the Mission has pledged to put the fight against corruption high on the governmental agenda and has organised several high-level events focusing on this problem. A two-day international conference on corruption was organised by the Mission and included participants from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD), government officials and NGOs. This conference primarily aimed a fostering regional co-operation on this issue.

The Mission provides assistance and legal expertise to both the Serbian and Montenegrin governments for a broad range of legislation related to good governance and economic transparency. More specifically, it supports the implementation of anti-corruption legislation in three areas: public procurement; political parties financing; and the prevention of conflicts of interests among high-level officials. The OSCE is furthermore the only international organisation participating as an associated member of the Anti-Corruption Council (ACC), a body established by the Serbian government to provide advice and inputs in the fight against corruption.

In the second half of 2004, the ACC launched a public information campaign to increase public awareness for the work of the Council.

The challenges of investigating and prosecuting high-level corruption cases in south-eastern Europe was the focus of a two-day conference held in Podgorica in October this year. Specialised anti-corruption prosecutors, judges, police and intelligence experts from Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Romania and Moldova discussed methods to combat high-level corruption. They were joined by representatives from the EU countries and the South East Europe Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG). In addition, experts from international organisations, such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe and bilateral donors joined in the deliberations.

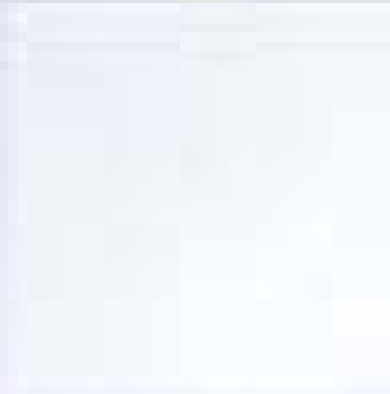
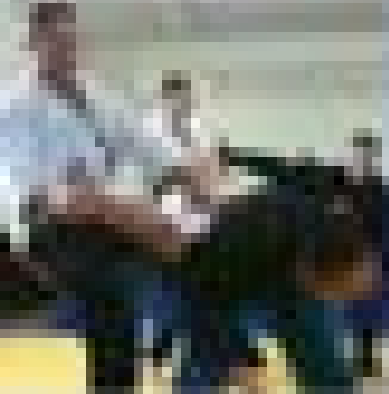
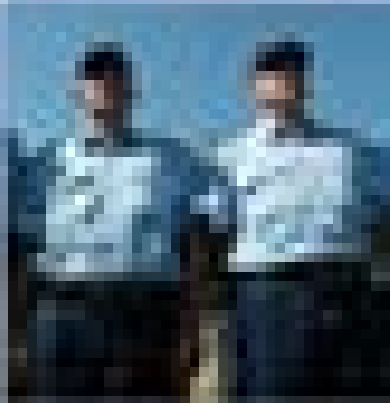
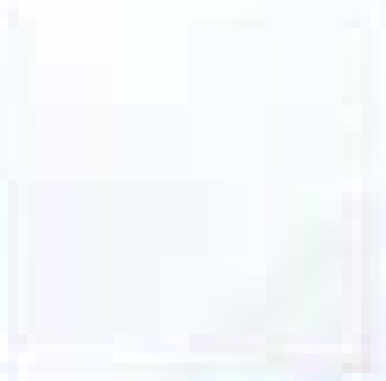
Further improvement and development of internal accountability/oversight mechanisms in the police service was also the focus of the Mission's programmatic work (See Police).

As part of our efforts reduction of bribery and extortion in the public service, The Mission assisted in the implementation of the Serbian Law on Public Procurement and its sub-laws. It also delivered training and capacity-building assistance to the Serbian Public Procurement Agency and Commission for Protection of Rights.

The adoption of further anti-corruption legislation is also necessary in order to prevent conflicts of public and private interest among public officials. The Mission lobbies for the establishment of a state audit institution. The transparent use of public funds in public procurement procedures through the training of budget-users and bidders is also being supported. The Mission also helps put the fight against corruption high on the governmental agenda by providing legal advice on the development of a national strategy to fight corruption in the framework of ministerial working groups.

The participation of other international organisations (Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative, Council of Europe Programmes) in these initiatives helps ensure that the Union of Serbia and Montenegro will abide by its international obligations.

Politico-Military Dimension Activities



Combating Organised Crime

Combating Organised Crime

Organised crime still poses a serious threat to the stability of Serbia and Montenegro and to the whole political and economic reform process. Furthermore, in view of the inherently trans-national nature of organised crime, this problem poses a severe threat not just to Serbia and Montenegro but also to the region and Europe as a whole.

Despite the considerable progress already made, the Serbian and Montenegrin authorities are still unable to effectively combat the threat posed by organised crime. This is partly due to insufficient specialist training and resources, poor anti-corruption strategies and a poor legislative framework, but it is also due to the sheer extent of the problem. Fighting organised crime became a Mission priority in 2002, especially after the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic.

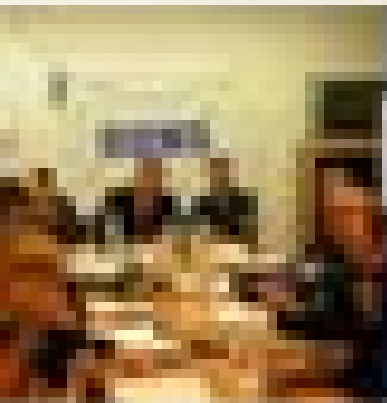
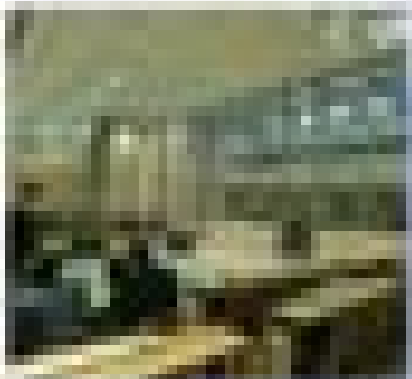
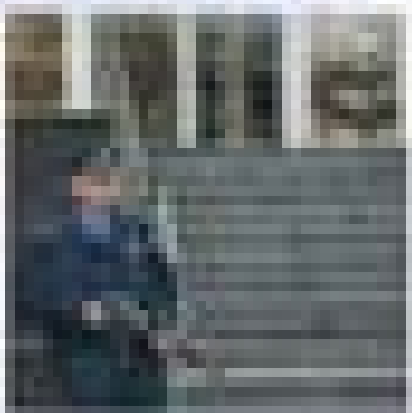
In order to support the Serbian and Montenegrin authorities in combating this problem, the Mission has developed a comprehensive approach, which tackles both the legal framework and the law enforcement aspects of the problem. This centres around four main elements: First, instituting the appropriate legislation to fight organised crime; second, building the capacity of police, prosecutors, judges and penal institutions involved in the area of organised crime; thirdly, assisting and advising the Ministries of Justice and Interior of both Serbia and Montenegro; and finally, monitoring of organised crime trials with a view to assessing their conformity with domestic and international standards and highlighting areas of the judiciary that require assistance.

Thanks to the Mission's efforts, a draft Law on Witness Protection is nearing completion and a Law on Asset Seizure and Confiscation is being developed. Fruitful working relations have been established with the Crown Prosecution Service of England and Wales. Further to this, a cyber-crime-training programme has been developed. Good relations have also been forged with the Italian Anti-Mafia Directorate, who are supporting the creation of a database model for the Serbian Prosecution Service. The Prosecution Service has been supported in joining the international association of prosecutors and the latter is now assisting in preparing a Code for Prosecutors. The activities of the Mission have focussed primarily on providing the Prosecutors' offices with appropriate legal tools which guarantees their statutory and operational independence in the fight against organised crime.

The Mission also assisting in the implementation of the Montenegrin Law on Witness Protection and the development of an effective witness protection programme. The Mission also initiated the establishment of an Expert Group, which will develop a National Strategy on the Fight against Organised Crime for the Serbian Ministry of the Interior.

Specialist training and resources for law enforcement agencies to effectively upgrade crime scene management and forensics science is also being provided. The Mission has also participated in a project to strengthen the IT capacity of the Montenegrin police such a data storage and networking. The Office in Podgorica also staged a number of training courses and workshops together with partners in the International Community to train special units of the police in surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Politico-Military Dimension Activities



War Crimes

The prosecution of war crimes before domestic courts is important for the country to demonstrate its commitment to international law and the further integration of Serbia and Montenegro into Euro-Atlantic structures. The adoption, in June 2003, of the Law on the Organisation and Jurisdiction of Government Authorities in Prosecuting Perpetrators of War Crimes was a first move in this direction. The Law sets forth specialised judicial and police authorities. However, this requires capacity building in the Serbian police and judiciary and enhanced regional judicial co-operation in criminal matters.

Another urgent issue facing Serbia in the prosecution of war crimes is the lack of an established system for witness protection which should be addressed by the draft Law. The issues regarding the admissibility in Serbian courts of evidence collected by The Hague Tribunal also needs to be addressed; and amendments to the Law on War Crimes which are currently in drafting may provide a basis for resolving this problem. Further, the absence of legal provisions or jurisprudence in the local courts regarding the implementation of certain international legal standards, such as command responsibility, may also become an obstacle to the prosecution of senior officials responsible for war crimes. As part of its activities the Mission has provided support for the establishment of a War Crime Investigation Department within the Serbian Ministry of Interior. In addition support was provided to the government in implementing the Law on War Crimes, This includes the conduct of investigations, prosecutions and trials in line with international standards.

The Mission also monitored a number of local war crimes trials to determine if they are being conducted according to international standards.

War crimes trials depend on the evidence and witness testimonies being provided. It is therefore essential that witnesses can make their testimony without fear or intimidation. An effective witness protection programme is part of any modern judicial system and the Mission has been working with the Ministry of Justice to establish a witness protection programme which will assist in the prosecution of war crimes cases but also in criminal court cases.

The Witness Protection Law in Montenegro will need further support by the International Community in future.

Enhancing the capacity of the police and court officials has also played an important role. A number of training programmes were organised for war crime judges, prosecu-

tors and police investigators. In October a number of prosecutors from the ICTY conducted training seminars which not only provided valuable information to their local interlocutors but also enabled a fruitful exchange of information and experiences. In addition the Mission participated in a number of initiatives to strengthen co-operation between police and prosecutors, including at the international level. Participants, such as deputy prosecutors, investigative judges and legal experts from other ministries involved in this issue have also gone to The Hague to meet their counterparts at the ICTY.

The legal framework was also given extensive assistance including advising the government on resolving other legal issues, including the application of international humanitarian law, the admissibility of evidence, and command responsibility. The Mission also provided support to and technical advice on legal documents, such as the draft Serbian Criminal Code.

It is not an act of weakness to deal with war crimes and the horrors of the past. On the contrary it is an act of courage and a demonstration of inner strength. It is the best way for Serbia and Montenegro to enter the family of European democracy with full self-confidence. War crimes are therefore not only about the past but also about the future. Europe is above all a community of values and principles. Among these, principles of justice and the rule of law stand above all. It is for that reason that the international community has made the arrest and extradition of war crime suspects to the ICTY a pre-condition for the full integration of Serbia and Montenegro into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

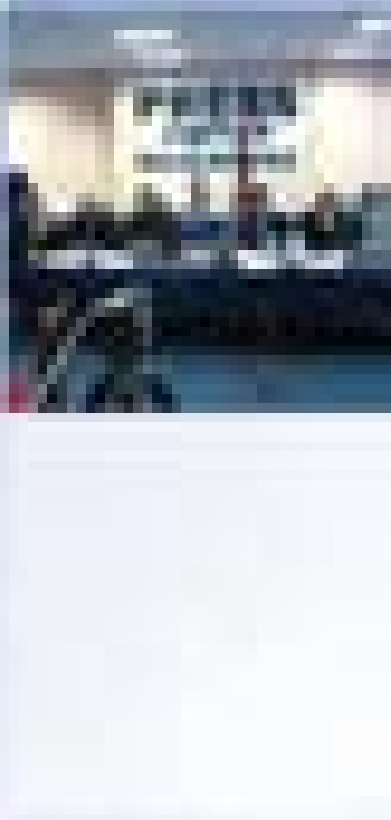
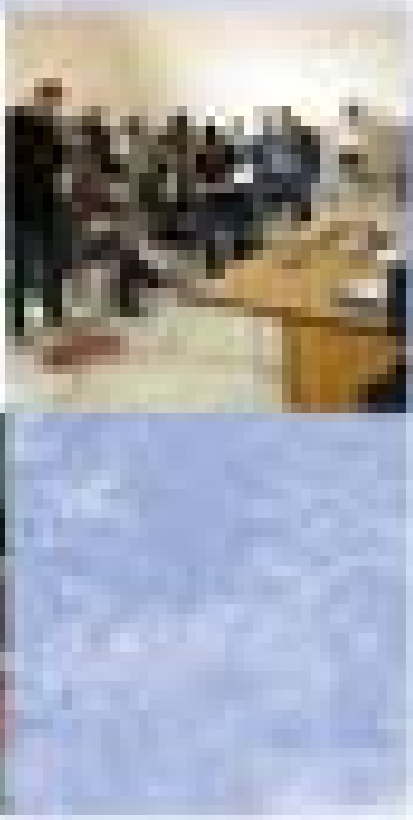
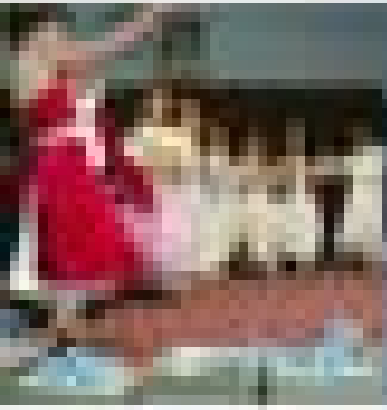
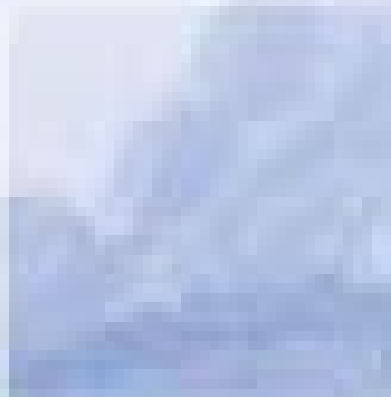
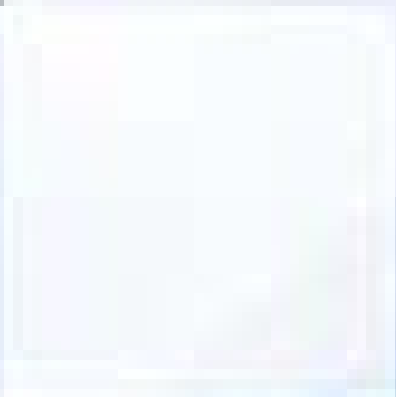
Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Head of Mission,
Vecernje Novosti, 6 October 2004

The Mission also believes that the public has to be clearly informed about the importance of these war crimes trials.

A website for the Belgrade District Court, under whose authority the War Crimes Chamber and the Department against Organised Crime were established, was launched in October. This site will facilitate a wide dissemination of information released by the court including verdicts, explanations of decisions by the courts and details on the different trials that are ongoing.

In addition, the Mission established and conducted a public awareness raising campaign, including training journalists on reporting on war crimes (see Media).

Politico-Military Dimension Activities



South Serbia

The ethnic Serbian and Albanian communities in south Serbia have been at the centre of the Mission's successful conflict prevention activities. Since 2001, the Mission has assisted in implementing a 2001 Agreement aimed at re-integrating the ethnic Albanian community. To prevent tension, a range of structures have been set up which enable community and political leaders, senior police officers and representatives of the local administration address all problems that may arise. To underpin these efforts, multi-ethnic policing has been introduced to reduce tensions between the communities and the security forces.

To inform the public, resources have also been provided for the development of multi-lingual programmes on local broadcasters through training and technical assistance. Specialised training has been provided to students from minority communities in order to enable them to work in the local authorities, the judiciary and municipal assemblies.

The Mission also lobbied the Serbian government to maintain its financial support for development projects which also have the support of international organisations.

All these efforts are aimed at giving the ethnic Albanian community a stake in the work of their local authorities, break down feelings of mistrust between the various ethnic communities and create local judicial and security structures viewed as working for all in the municipalities.

The Head of Mission, Ambassador Maurizio Massari, also visited the region regularly to meet community leaders, representatives of civil society and the local administration. These visits enable him to receive first-hand information on developments in the region and adjust Mission activities accordingly.



- Refugee Return
- Independence Of The Judiciary
- Prison Reform
- Parliamentary And Local Government Support
- Human Rights
- National Minorities
- Anti- Human Trafficking Programme
- Education And Youth Programme
- Media
- Gender

Human Dimension Activities

Human Dimension Activities



Refugee Return

Refugee Return

Serbia and Montenegro is the country hosting the highest number of refugees in the region: 276,281 in Serbia and 13,399 in Montenegro¹ in addition to some 230,000 IDPs from Kosovo.

Given the humanitarian implications, refugee/IDP work is one of the core tasks of the Mission, as emphasised in the Mission's Mandate. This work is done in close co-operation with UNHCR and other OSCE Missions in the region. Throughout 2004, the government of Serbia and Montenegro has continued to take a pro-active approach in attempting to negotiate bilateral or trilateral treaties aimed at accelerating return, and/or enabling access to rights and better protection for refugees living in the country, especially with regard to social rights. The 'National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and IDPs' (adopted 30 May 2002) remains a positive step in listing actions in support of return or integration, but there is still much to be done, requiring co-ordinated efforts of the international community and/or neighbouring countries. The main objective of the project is to assist in resolving refugee crises in the region, by taking a regional approach and through support given to activities creating conditions for return and (re)integration of refugees and IDPs.

After three training events and one evaluation meeting, a regional body - a 'think tank' - has been established consisting of lawyers who provide free legal aid and deal with refugee and minority rights. Taking into consideration the number of unresolved legal issues related to return, and the complexity of the legal issues involved, there is a need for additional training for this regional group on a broad range of available human rights protection mechanisms. The OSCE has been working on this issue in close co-operation with the other international organisations such as the OSCE, UNHCR and European Commission.

To highlight the continued plight of refugees in the region, the Heads of the OSCE Missions to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro joined with the UNHCR and European Union representations in all three countries to launch a new initiative. They proposed to the respective leaders a "road map" to address the needs of the refugees and displaced and create conditions for their return.

The Mission has also continued to work on establishing a network of skilled lawyers in Serbia and Montenegro, able to address human rights violations, especially in the area of refugee/IDP protection. These legal experts could also provide legal assistance in cases of securing recognition and enforcement of the right to housing for former Occupancy/Tenancy rights holders.

Throughout 2004, all the Government's of the region have restated their commitment to the unconditional right to return and the need to find a durable solution for these refugees. However, this broad political commitment has only been partially translated into concrete progress on the ground: national bodies with the responsibility for refugees returns need to function more effectively, and the current, sporadic, inter-State dialogue in this respect must be different.

Ambassador Maurizio Massari,
UNHCR conference on IDPs/refugees,

¹ Source: UNHCR Statistical Summary, September 2003. Division by country of origin: 1. Bosnia and Herzegovina: 99,761; 2. Croatia: 189,472; 3. Macedonia:10 ; 4. Slovenia 437

Human Dimension Activities



Independence Of The Judiciary

Independence Of The Judiciary

Reforms of the judiciary in Serbia and Montenegro were one of the priorities of the post-Milosevic governments, and the momentum for change has to be maintained. The existing constitutional and legislative frameworks relating to the judiciary and the courts must still be brought up to basic international standards, including the principle of separation of powers that governs democratic society.

The Mission has supported the development of clear legislation for the judiciary that guarantees independence for judges and prosecutors in both republics.

In April 2004 there were a number of changes to three laws on the Serbian judiciary: The Law on Judges, the Law on Prosecutors and the Law on the High Judicial Council. Despite these important changes the judiciary continues to struggle for true independence from the influence of the government and the legislature and the structural reform for an improved legal framework remains an essential element. Further, after a decade of isolation and degradation, the judiciary is in great need of training so as to implement European and international standards and develop the skills necessary for their enforcement.

One of the objectives of the Mission in Serbia and Montenegro is to provide assistance and legal expertise to the authorities in restoring the rule of law and reform the country's legal and judicial system. Bringing the Law on Judges and Law on the Public Prosecutors Office in Serbia into conformity with international legal standards is one of the priorities. To fulfil this objective, the Mission provides training on international human rights to judges and prosecutors from throughout Serbia and Montenegro. The Judges' Association of Serbia, the Public Prosecutors Association of Serbia, and the Judicial Training Center, also receive support with institutional development and training of members of the judiciary, including training for judges and prosecutors. This has led to the establishment of a branch office of the Judicial Training Center in Novi Sad.

The Mission also supports the development of training programmes for judicial assistants and interns working in the courts to allow for advancement to judgeships, especially for under-represented elements of society. One very successful project was completed in south Serbia which provided special courses for more than 70 Serb and ethnic Albanian lawyers preparing for the bar exam. This exam is an important pre-condition for gaining employment in the civil administration.

Legal advice is also given to the Serbia and Montenegro governments in the area of civil procedural legislation in order to modernise legislation, enhance the capacity to effectively process civil cases, and increase investors' confidence in the domestic justice system. This also means advising on the drafting and implementation of laws and regulations clearly defining and guaranteeing the independence, professionalism and accountability of the judiciary and prosecutors office.

The Human Rights/Rule of Law department has been providing expertise to the draft Laws on Criminal Code, Civil Procedures and especially Witness Protection.

The overarching aim is to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the professionalism of its staff in order to protect it from political interference.

Human Dimension Activities



Prison Reform

Serbia opened its first Prison Staff Training Academy in Nis in September 2004, a major step forward in creating a modern prison system. It will also consolidate the good working relationship that the Mission has been building with the Serbian Ministry of Justice as the OSCE will assist in creating a modern curriculum.

The OSCE Mission has been engaged with the governments of Serbia and Montenegro in reforming the penal system in order to bring it up to international standards.

Since 2001 the Mission has been active in training of prison Staff both in Serbia and Montenegro. Specific training to over 500 Prison Staff members has been delivered in Serbia. In Montenegro, the Office in Podgorica, which trained over 1000 inmates and 300 staff, shifted its focus from training to accountability and oversight within the prison service as a whole. Assistance was also provided to increase the capacity of the prison Training Center in Montenegro. One specific training module was aimed to train prison staff in addressing the issue of drug use in the prisons.

In April 2004, a working group was established by the Serbian Ministry of Justice on the review of the draft Law on Implementing Penal Sanctions and to give recommendations for changes of internal prison regulations.

The Mission was invited to comment on the new draft Law and participate at a series of roundtables and public debates. An OSCE analysis, finalised at the beginning of September was handed over. Following an assessment, the Mission developed a strategy to increase both the internal and external mechanisms of control of prisons to bring it in line with other European countries. To this end, the Mission is developing with the Serbian Ministry of Justice a Standing Agreement to allow NGOs to systematically monitor prisons and to ensure that prisoners and detainees have a system of appeals that guarantees their fundamental rights.

As an evolution from the OSCE training programme implemented in prisons in Belgrade, Vojvodina, and southern Serbia, the Mission is carrying out a comprehensive project of defining professional profiles and competencies of all prison staff in both Serbia and Montenegro. This exercise is part of the commitment undertaken by OSCE to prepare all training curricula by the end of this year. Additionally, the Mission has organized with the Ministry of Justice in June this year the first Regional Conference of all Prison Administrations in SEE. Workshops between prison governors and journalists and human rights NGOs were facilitated. As a result, prison administration has become more accessible for human rights groups.

The Directorate for Prisons is also developing a long-term strategy for prison reform. The Mission supports the 13 point Agenda for Prison Reform drafted by the new Director of Prison Administration. This will include the re-activation of internal control mechanisms to supervise the work of prison wardens.

The OSCE Mission also participated in organising a major donor's conference held in Belgrade's Central Prison in November to assist the Serbian government in implement the needed reforms.

The Serbian government has expressed its commitment to modernise the prison system in order to provide humane living conditions for prisoners, adequate medical facilities and adhere to its international commitments under the Convention for the Prevention of Torture.

The Missions' programme to strengthen the capacity of and engage NGOs in the external oversight and monitoring of the prison system was also an important activity this year, providing direct accountability to citizens while fostering activities of civil society.

Reforms of the legal framework were addressed in the Missions' support for the review of the Law on Implementing of Penal Sanctions.

Human Dimension Activities



Parliamentary And Local Self-Government Support

Parliamentary And Local Self-Government Support

On every first Saturday of the month, the Serbian parliament now stages an "Open Day", during which citizens are given a guided tour of the building by the speaker of the parliament. More than 1000 high school students from Serbia also participated in an OSCE sponsored essay competition "As Prime Minister, I would..." which generated great interest by the media and demonstrated the political awareness of young people.

These initiatives helped generate greater interest for and understanding amongst the public for the work of parliament, an institution that is also trying to improve the quality of its staff and the work of the parliamentarians through OSCE training projects.

In view of local elections in September 2004, the Mission to Serbia and Montenegro has intensified its work with local assemblies as well. In co-operation with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, a training scheme for newly elected councillors is being developed to help locally elected officials better cope with their roles, responsibilities and rights with an overall aim of promoting efficient and effective local governments. A Handbook for Local Councillors will be published accordingly and distributed throughout Serbia.

The main objective of the Missions' work in this field is to develop responsible and accountable parliamentary government in Serbia and Montenegro. This includes institutional development of parliamentary bodies and improving the quality of parliamentary work by building the capacity of MPs and staff, and modern staff management practices. In view of this, the Mission provided a Human Resource Advisor to the Serbian Parliament to design staff training and reform the organisational structure of the service. This expert also provided the committee staff of the Serbian Parliament with international placements in the parliaments of accession countries and EU member states.

The Mission also assisted in the building of the capacity of parliament to establish oversight mechanisms towards the executive and the security sector. This was done by organising roundtables and workshops led by international and local experts for the Security and Defence Committees. The Mission also promoted the consensus-based co-operation on a broad range of "pro-Europe" reforms between democratically oriented, progressive political parties.

To improve the parliaments efforts to increase the understanding of the work of the parliament among the population, the Mission assisted in the production of a 20-minute educational video on Serbian National Assembly and the State Union Assembly. This video is shown to the visitors of the assemblies and distributed to the high schools in Serbia to be used as a part of the civic education curriculum. This is part of the efforts to support high school education on parliament through school visits to Parliament and the staging of a model parliament session.

The training of a new generation of parliamentary staff was also the focus of the Mission's support for an internship programme for 60 interns to work in various Union and Serbian government/parliamentary bodies and in the provincial bodies of AP Vojvodina.

The Essay Competition "As Prime Minister I would ..." is only a small example of the OSCE support to the young generation. The response to the competition was overwhelming. More than 1000 students from 100 schools submitted essays, from which the 16 best ones were chosen. All 16 candidates were invited to the Serbian parliament for the award ceremony. The three top prize winners then visited the OSCE headquarters in Vienna where they were able to meet members of the Serbian and Montenegrin delegation to the OSCE and were briefed on the activities of the organisation. The schools of the three prize winners also received a substantial financial contribution to their libraries.

Ambassador Maurizio Massari,
Head of Mission

Human Dimension Activities



Human Rights

The promotion and protection of Human Rights as a core task of the Mission as stipulated in the mandate. The Mission therefore provides assistance and expertise to the authorities at all levels, as well as to groups and organisations active in the fields of democratisation and protection of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The areas in which the Mission established its priorities in the field of Human Rights in Serbia and Montenegro are: establishment and capacity building of institutions protecting human rights such as the Ombudsperson; protection of national minorities; refugees/internally displaced persons (IDPs); support to local-governance; gender/equal opportunity programme; anti-trafficking (See these sections); access to justice/legal aid; human rights monitoring. Note that the first six points are further itemised in this Aide-Mémoire and the reader is invited to refer to these issues directly.

Through its Human Rights Monitoring and Information Management (HRIM) Project, the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro continued to assist and advise the authorities, individuals and organisations, about key human rights policy issues, incidents with a human rights dimension, and individual cases involving legal or other offensives against human rights organisations. HRIM is conceived as a **management** tool providing the Mission and other interlocutors with accurate and timely internal information about the human rights activities of the Mission. HRIM also serves as a mechanism for assessing how the Mission's human rights mandate is reflected in the Mission's activities. Secondly, the Mission is active in the field of Human Rights Monitoring (HRM) in Serbia and Montenegro. Human Rights Monitoring builds on HRIM by collating relevant, accurate and communicable information on the human rights situation in Serbia and Montenegro.

Finally, the Mission is also active in the field of access to justice/legal aid to assist the process of reform of the legal aid system in Serbia and Montenegro to ensure better access to justice to its citizens. Further, as part of its police education programme, the Mission promotes the reform of the police curricula, to include modules on human rights (See Police).

The main activities in 2004 therefore included training for NGOs, lawyers and judges in case-preparation for domestic courts and on the international mechanisms for redressing human rights violations. A Project Education and Training for Human Rights Lawyers designed to improve the capacity of human rights lawyers to access international remedial mechanisms has also been promoted.

The Mission has also promoted the establishment of a self-sustainable regional network of skilled lawyers in order to be able to address human rights violations efficiently, particularly in the area of refugee/IDP protection and minority rights.

The Mission also initiated a project promoting the creation of a national system of civil legal aid and to increase citizens' awareness on the means of obtaining legal assistance.

Human Dimension Activities



National Minorities

National Minorities

Minority groups residing in Serbia and Montenegro make up one third of the total population. These groups need to be certain that they are granted full human rights to avoid their discrimination or assimilation. Assistance to and empowerment of the national minorities to integrate in official structures, such as the state education system, the judiciary, the police forces, the media, and the structures of local self-government is therefore core to the Mission's mandate. Particular attention is given to develop effective measures to eradicate discrimination and to ensure education opportunities and active participation of members of minorities in social and political life.

As a framework to its activities, the Mission is building upon various instruments already existing, of which some have yet been endorsed at the political level. These instruments include the National Minority Councils (NMCs), the National Strategy on Empowerment and the Integration of Roma. According to the Law, the NMCs function as advisory bodies to the government and represent national minority in the fields of the use of language, education, information in the language of national minority and securing the cultural autonomy for the respective national minority.

In addition there is the Agreement on Basic Principles for the Re-organisation of the Municipal Media in southern Serbia which has led to multi-lingual programs being broadcast.

The Road Map for southern Serbia, and the Federal Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities have also been implemented.

The "Strategy Empowerment and Integration of Roma" was approved by the Roma National Council in April 2004 but has yet to be adopted at the political level as a National Strategy of the government. Further, most of the elected representatives of the NMCs have very scarce political and administrative skills. That is why the Mission has been providing training and technical assistance to them.

In Montenegro, the draft Law on Minorities has been finalised and is currently being considered in Parliament.

In 2004, the Mission continued to provide support to the state institutions in order to build the capacity of several state institutions which deal with human rights such as the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Ministry of Education, the provincial Secretariat for National Minorities, municipal civil servants, the Inter-Ethnic Municipal Councils and the elected NMC. The role and the activities of the Parliamentary Interethnic Committee were also promoted through a media information campaign.

Special emphasis was also placed on assisting the Roma Secretariat which consists of a team of local experts established within the State Union Ministry for Human and Minority Rights. The aim was to strengthen its co-ordination role in the implementation of the Strategy on Empowerment and Integration of Roma at state union, Republican and local levels. In Montenegro the authorities were assisted in drafting a "Roma Strategy". These activities are part of the efforts to develop an action plan which will address urgent issues in the field of housing, employment, health and social welfare.

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Human Dimension Activities



National Minorities

In the field of media, the Mission provided training and education for minority journalists in Serbia and Montenegro to improve their presence in the media landscape. This included supporting the production and broadcasting of multilingual TV and radio programmes to include minority programmes, news desks, and relevant weekly productions by minority journalists.

Minority language media are often part of the municipality. As they have to adapt to the new legal framework prescribed by the Serbian Broadcasting Act of 2002, the Mission has been assisting these municipal media outlets transform their legal status and develop strategies for financial self-sustainability.

Members of the various minorities also need to be represented in the local judicial institutions in Serbia and Montenegro. To assist in this process, the Mission has provided experts to conduct training for court apprentices and other lawyers who are preparing to pass the bar exam. The first 68 participants received the certificates for the training at the end of October.

Education is a critical issue to all the minorities. The Mission has been promoting the introduction of legal provisions to include the specific educational needs of minorities in the curricula of the educational system. This includes education in the language of the various minorities, teaching of history, tradition and the culture of national minorities. In Montenegro, the Office in Podgorica has tried to address the chronic poor school attendance of Roma youth through an internship programme which has encouraged young Roma to carry on with their education right up to university level.

To promote tolerance and understanding between all the nationalities living in Serbia, the Mission has co-operated with the Youth Section of the Ministry of Education and Sport to support multi-ethnic youth centers in southern Serbia and Sandzak as places of tolerance and respect for the diversity.

The OSCE believes that respect for the law and police can also be promoted by integrating members of minorities into the police. The Mission has therefore been conducting in-service training for the Multi-Ethnic Police Element in southern Serbia, in accordance with the international community's recommendations (Road Map for southern Serbia). This will make the Serbian police service more responsive to local needs to confidence-building measures in the area.

The Mission believes that interethnic tolerance can be promoted through a culture of diversity that helps respect and preserve identity, language and history.

This has also meant working closely and in co-operation with a network of minority NGOs and building on their capacities.

Minority Rights are an integral part of basic human rights. Those who violate the rights of minorities also violate the basic rights of all.

The full acceptance and democratic integration into one family of different nations, people, ethnic and religious groups represents one of the major achievements of modern Europe. Today and in the years to come, Serbia Montenegro and other countries in the region have an opportunity to give their positive contribution to the consolidation of such European achievements.

Ambassador Maurizio Massari
Danas, April 2004

Human Dimension Activities



Anti-Human Trafficking Programme

Anti-Human Trafficking Programme

Researches indicate that nine out of ten victims trafficked in or through Serbia and Montenegro are not identified nor assisted as victims of this particular form of organised crime¹.

To help remedy the situation in Serbia and Montenegro, the Mission has identified as one of its main objectives, the development of an institutional framework through a comprehensive National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victim identification, protection of victims, assistance and referral. Particular focus is placed on strategic planning, policy development, inter-governmental co-ordination, budgeting and the development of human resources.

In Montenegro, the Mission's Office in Podgorica has undertaken a number of steps to develop a national anti-trafficking strategy, together with the Government and under the leadership of the Office of the National Co-ordinator. One project has focused on the training of police women in human trafficking and domestic violence, in co-operation with the NGO "Safe Women's House".

In Serbia, the Mission is part of the National Anti-trafficking Project Board and the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the implementation of the strategy. The Serbian and Montenegrin National Co-ordinator and the Republican team are being assisted to create and implement a National Action Plan. This includes the drafting of clear human rights standards for the treatment of trafficked persons, the drafting of standard operating procedures for law enforcement agencies, international organisations and NGOs.

The Council for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia will together with the OSCE formulate this National Action Plan to combat the trafficking of human beings.

Organised crime, which profits from the trafficking of human beings, is a regional phenomenon. Therefore regional approach to combat this form of organised crime is being encouraged through the exchange of technical expertise and sharing of best-practices on anti-trafficking and shelter management. Specialised training was also being provided to a variety of officials who are involved in the combat of human trafficking. Training was provided to judges and prosecutors, police, social workers, governmental personnel and NGOs on standard operating procedures, victim identification, interviewing techniques, shelter management and security. The prosecution of more than a dozen human trafficking cases is also being monitored by the Mission in order to see if they are being conducted in accordance with international standards.

Another important aspect of the Missions' work was raising of public awareness to this problem. A range of specialised educational programmes aimed at raising public awareness was conducted. Media awareness workshops were organised for journalists reporting of the trafficking of human beings.

This public awareness course was followed up with a special programme in regions which may be targeted by human traffickers due to the socio-economic conditions. The young female population in these areas were provided especially designed "Young Entrepreneur Spirit" (YES) courses.

¹ The First Annual Report (2003) by the Regional Clearing Point.

Human Dimension Activities



Education And Youth Programme

Education And Youth Programme

In line with the Chairman-in-Office's 2004 priorities, the Mission to Serbia and Montenegro has recently launched an Education and Youth Programme. Although education represents a new area of engagement for the Mission, it has its basis in the Mission's mandate since education is a major tool in creating democratic institutions, securing democratic governance, and enhancing respect for human and national minority rights. The Mission has worked throughout the year with the Ministry for Education and Sports, building upon institutions already established, such as the National Councils and the Strategy for the Empowerment and Integration of Roma.

Priority areas in which the Mission has been concentrating on are quality and access to education, including minority language education, teaching of history, tradition and culture of national minorities; and political education for young people and support of youth activities in multi-ethnic regions. Special emphasis is being placed on education for Roma, where chronic poor attendance at schools has been noticed. (See Minorities).

The main objective is to reform the education system which will facilitate the introduction of modern teaching methods and a modernisation of the curriculum. Part of these objectives is to promote equal access to education for students belonging to the national minorities. In this regard the Mission has been the monitoring of the implementation of the reforms and the provision of support to the National Minority Councils in the field of education. This will strengthen their skills and competencies while at the same time assisting the Ministry of Education in the development and implementation of curricula for national minorities. This pertains especially in the implementation of the Ministry's implementation of the strategy on "Improvement of Roma Education in the Republic of Serbia".

The Mission has also advised the Serbian Ministry of Education and Sports on the drafting of history textbooks and curricula for the Albanian national minority in southern Serbia and the Bosniak community.

Together with other International Organisations and domestic NGOs, the Mission is developing a National Youth Strategy aimed at encouraging young people to take an active role in political participation. A particular successful campaign was the "As Prime Minister, I would..." essay competition. More than 1.000 high school students from over 100 schools in Serbia participated. The three finalists not only won a financial grant for the libraries of their schools but also went on a study trip to the OSCE headquarters in Vienna, Austria, where they met, among other dignitaries, the representatives of Serbia and Montenegro delegation to the OSCE.

The Mission hopes to make this type of competition an annual event.

At every Outreach , the Head of Mission not only meets local officials. He also addresses high school students to discuss current political issues within the context of Serbia and Montenegro's progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

Human Dimension Activities



Media

The promotion of a vibrant independent and professional media in Serbia and Montenegro is high on the agenda of the Mission. The media in the country played a significant negative role during the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia. However, a professional media reflecting high standards of professionalism and promoting basic human rights can play an important role in the democratic transformation of Serbian and Montenegrin society. Therefore the Mission is promoting freedom of expression as a fundamental and recognised human right and as a basic component of a democratic society with free, independent and pluralistic media being essential for an accountable system of government.

The main focus is to assist and advise Serbian and Montenegrin authorities, as well as public and private media operators, on media development and protection of Freedom of the Media. The Mission focuses on developing and implementing new media legislation to enhance the creation and consolidation of a coherent and comprehensive legal framework.

Since 2001, the Mission has been assisting in the transformation of formerly state-owned media outlets, at national and municipal level, into genuine public service broadcasters or prepare for their privatisation. Likewise, it helps independent media strengthen their operations and deal with emerging situations in a developing media market through management training. The promotion of media freedoms, journalistic ethics, professional standards, as well as support to initial and higher journalistic education are among the Mission's priorities.

The Mission is also trying to improve media coverage of topics related to corruption, anti-trafficking, minority issues and human rights by providing, amongst others, media training to journalists covering these topics. Similarly, training in parliamentary reporting and media coverage of judiciary and police are also part of the Mission long-term engagement.

In 2004, the Mission was actively engaged with the Serbian Government in facilitating expert discussions between the relevant authorities, professional associations and international organisations in order to address the problems facing the Broadcasting Agency Council and the implementation of the Broadcasting Law.

As a result parliament approved a number of amendments to the Broadcasting Law on 24 August, re-initiating the process of appointing the members of the Broadcasting Council. At this occasion, the Mission emphasised that transparency and independence from any political forces and economic interests must prevail in the establishment and ensuing work of the Broadcasting Council. Only through impartiality and professionalism will the Council be recognised as an independent regulatory authority. In this context, the Mission called for the prompt establishment of the Telecommunication Agency which will have the important role of regulating the frequency spectrum.

It is crucial for the regulation of the broadcast sector in Serbia that the Broadcasting Council takes up its duties as soon as possible in order to pass the broadcasting development strategy and issue licences following a public tender procedure. The Broadcasting Council will also play an important role in the further transformation of the national broadcaster Radio Television Serbia (RTS) into a genuine public broadcasting service. The OSCE contributed to the initial phases of transformation and stands ready to further assist RTS.

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Human Dimension Activities



In Montenegro, the OSCE Office in Podgorica has been supporting the activities of the Broadcasting Agency through the provision of advice on several key issues, including the broadcasting development strategy, copyrights matters and licensing procedure. The Office in Podgorica also assisted the Broadcasting Council deepen the regional co-operation with other regulatory bodies who are facing similar challenges by organising a regional conference of the broadcast regulatory bodies from Southeastern Europe in September 2004. Jointly with other international operators, the Mission has also provided expert assistance for the internal reorganisation of Radio TV Montenegro (RTCG), as well as tailored training courses for journalists. This training included the use of modern digital technology for technical staff and management training courses.

The privatisation of broadcast media founded by municipal and regional authorities that according to the Broadcasting Law must be completed by July 2006, represents another challenge to the Serbian authorities. The Mission has been providing expert advice on the various issues that have to be addressed for this reform to be implemented. Once the administrative instructions are in place, the Mission will provide assistance in the legal transformation of the media outlets and provide training to their staff.

Particular attention was paid to the professionalism of municipal media operating in multiethnic communities. With the establishment of an Albanian news desk in Radio Medvedja at the beginning of October 2004, all three South Serbian municipalities of Bujanovac, Medvedja and Presevo now feature multilingual radio broadcasting. Radio Bujanovac broadcasts in both Albanian and Serbian since September 2002 and programs with feature stories since October 2002 and a weekly program in the Romany language. Radio Presevo launched its pilot weekly program in Serbian in August 2004. Many local public broadcasters in Montenegro are also facing stiff competition from new private stations. Together with the Association of Local Public Broadcasters (ULES), the Mission is preparing a set of initiatives aimed at assisting these broadcasters.

A strategy for strengthening Roma media outlets was also implemented by providing expert assistance and supporting the academic education of young Roma journalists.

The Mission contributed actively to the drafting process discussions on the Law on Free Access to Information by organising public and expert discussions. The law was adopted in November 2004. It paves the way for an effective and transparent process of releasing information kept by various levels of government to the public. Whereas the law generally meets internationally accepted standards and principles, the Mission is hopeful that the Serbian Government will further improve the adopted Law and it has offered its full support to contribute to the implementation phase.

Human Dimension Activities



Gender

The State Union of Serbia and Montenegro is one of the few countries in south-eastern Europe still without functioning and legally regulated institutions for gender equality. The Mission therefore assists the government in meeting its international obligations regarding the official introduction of gender equality mechanisms¹, as well as spreading a culture of gender equality.

During the past three years, the Mission has promoted the adoption of legislation on gender equality and of national strategies for the fight against gender based and other discriminations. These efforts have resulted in the establishment of a system of gender equality mechanisms, ranging from the local to the national government level. Those are: gender/equal opportunity focal points in 30 municipalities in Serbia and three municipalities in Montenegro; the Serbian Parliament's Committee on Gender Equality, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender Equality in the Serbian government, and the Vojvodina Secretariat for Labour and Gender Equality.

The Mission conducted gender awareness training for senior managers of eight departments of the Serbian Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and "Women Can Do It" training in various municipalities in Serbia and Montenegro.

Moreover, thanks also to the Mission's assistance, the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina adopted in August 2004 a Decision on Gender Equality. It is of paramount importance because it represents the first legal instrument regulating gender equality in Serbia, as well as the basis for introducing a bill on gender equality at state-level.

"With the OSCE assistance we have, as the women's political network, organized the creation of an office for gender equality at the local level. 30 such offices have been created so far."

Leila Ruždi , President of the Serbian Assembly Gender Equality Commission

Danas, 10 September 2004

¹ This is particularly in relation to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the UNSCR 1325 (2000)



- Promoting Economic Development
- Protection Of The Environment

Economic and Environmental Dimension Activity

Economic and Environmental Dimension Activity



Promoting Economic Development

Promoting Economic Development

The economy of Serbia and Montenegro has been shaped by more than a decade of political and social instability and international isolation. High foreign trade deficits, poor economic growth, poor investments and exports coupled with poor governance and lack of transparency represent heavy burdens for the fragile economy.

The country is slowly recovering and the Mission plays a fundamental role in building a sound economic policy. This policy aims at the development of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector, helping the development of the private sector, ensuring that the business environment is more conducive to growth, exports and employment, and making the economy more attractive for direct foreign investments.

The Mission wants to ensure sustainable development through the creation of adequate conditions for market competition, the development of SMEs and the private sector, as well as promote good governance. Legislation for the advancement of transparent and accountable institutions is being encouraged through public participation in decision-making processes.

The Mission participated in the building of the capacities of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and young entrepreneurs in co-operation with South Eastern European Democracy (SEED) through the "Young Entrepreneur Spirit" (YES) programme. This was conducted throughout the country, including in southern Serbia.

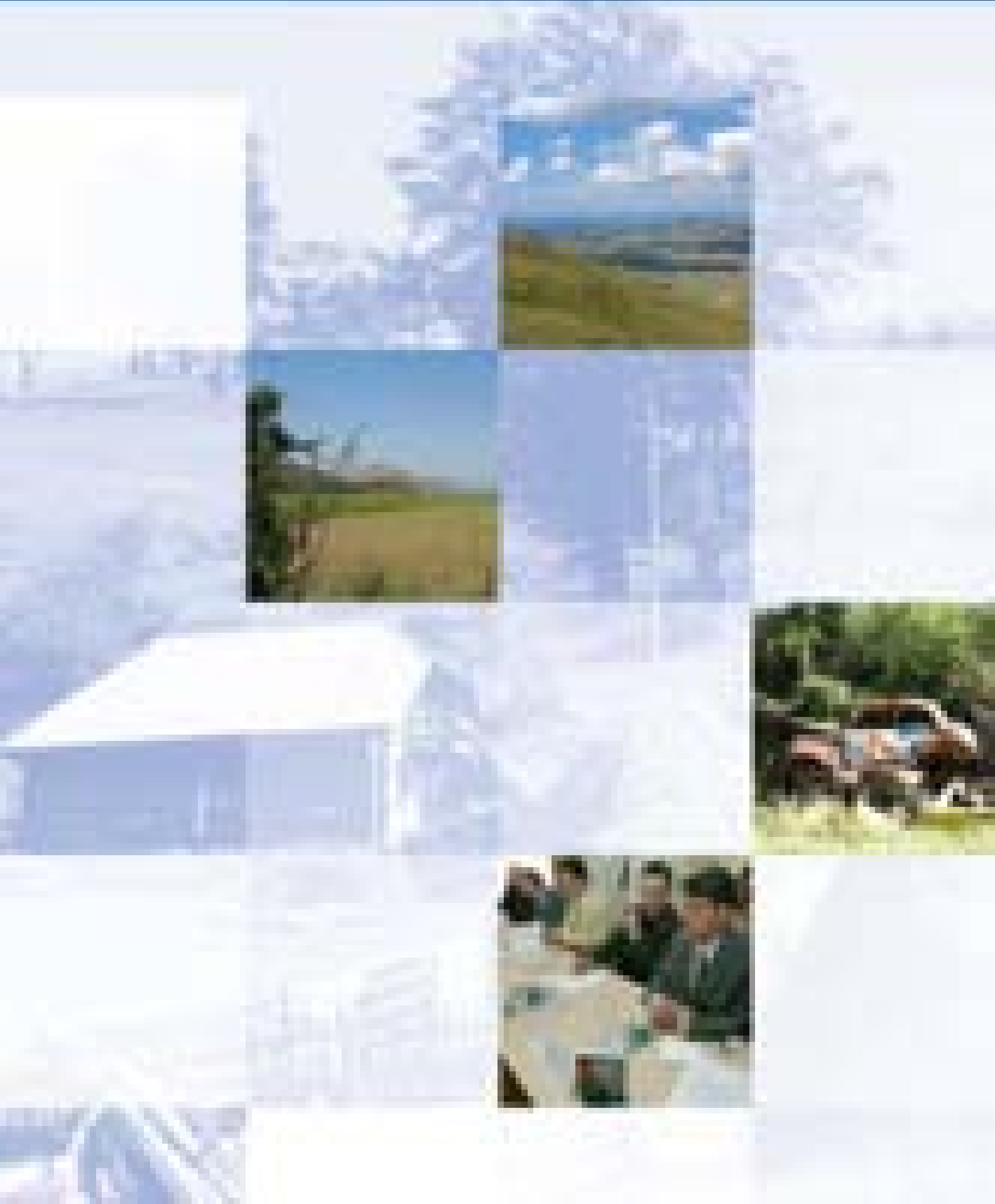
A "Young Entrepreneur Award" was also launched by the OSCE this year. The winners being announced at the Mission's Christmas Reception.

In addition management training programmes were developed for senior management in private companies on the latest management techniques. The Serbian version of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Code of Corporate Conduct was also distributed to the business community.

As part of its activities, the Mission created business incubators centres in Kragujevac and Kikinda to enhance private entrepreneurship and creating suitable enterprising conditions. A pilot project for a centre for tourism development in Sokobanja, central Serbia, was launched recently.

Good governance was also promoted through projects called 'Local Socio-Economic Partnership' and 'Local Good Governance Programme'. A number of workshops were held for members of parliaments to increase their capacity and knowledge of economic and environmental issues. Journalists dealing with economic and environmental issues also benefited from a series of information seminars to improve their knowledge on these issues.

Economic and Environmental Dimension Activity



Protection Of The Environment

Protection Of The Environment

When the Mission was established in 2001, the environmental sector in Serbia and Montenegro showed the signs of years of neglected environmental protection. The lack of adequate environmental legislation and institutions, coupled with scarce public awareness on this issue, posed a heavy burden on the state of the environment. Hence, the Mission decided to focus its activities on the assistance to Serbian and Montenegrin institutions - both in terms of elaborating policies and legislation - as well as on raising awareness on the environment. A lot has been accomplished so far: the draft Serbian Laws on Environment and Reproductive Material of Forest Trees were completed, together with a PR strategy for the Ministry of Environment and a plan for the setting up of an environmental agency. The Mission has also distributed various publications on specific issues.

The main objective continues to be the promotion sustainable development by harmonising the current legal framework with international standards. This includes promoting renewable energy, supporting the development of a regional energy market and raising environmental awareness.

The Mission is also fostering regional co-operation and regional initiatives, and encouraging public participation in decision-making processes by disseminating public information on environmental protection.

To this end the Mission is provided assistance in the elaboration of a national energy strategy in Serbia and Montenegro. This includes the harmonisation of existing laws with European acquis on environment, e.g. the Laws on Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, Integral Pollution Prevention and Information access.

The Mission also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Nis in Serbia which provides for support to the implementation of a comprehensive framework for the sustainable development of the city of Nis. As part of the information strategy, a booklet on the link between energy, economy and environment was published.

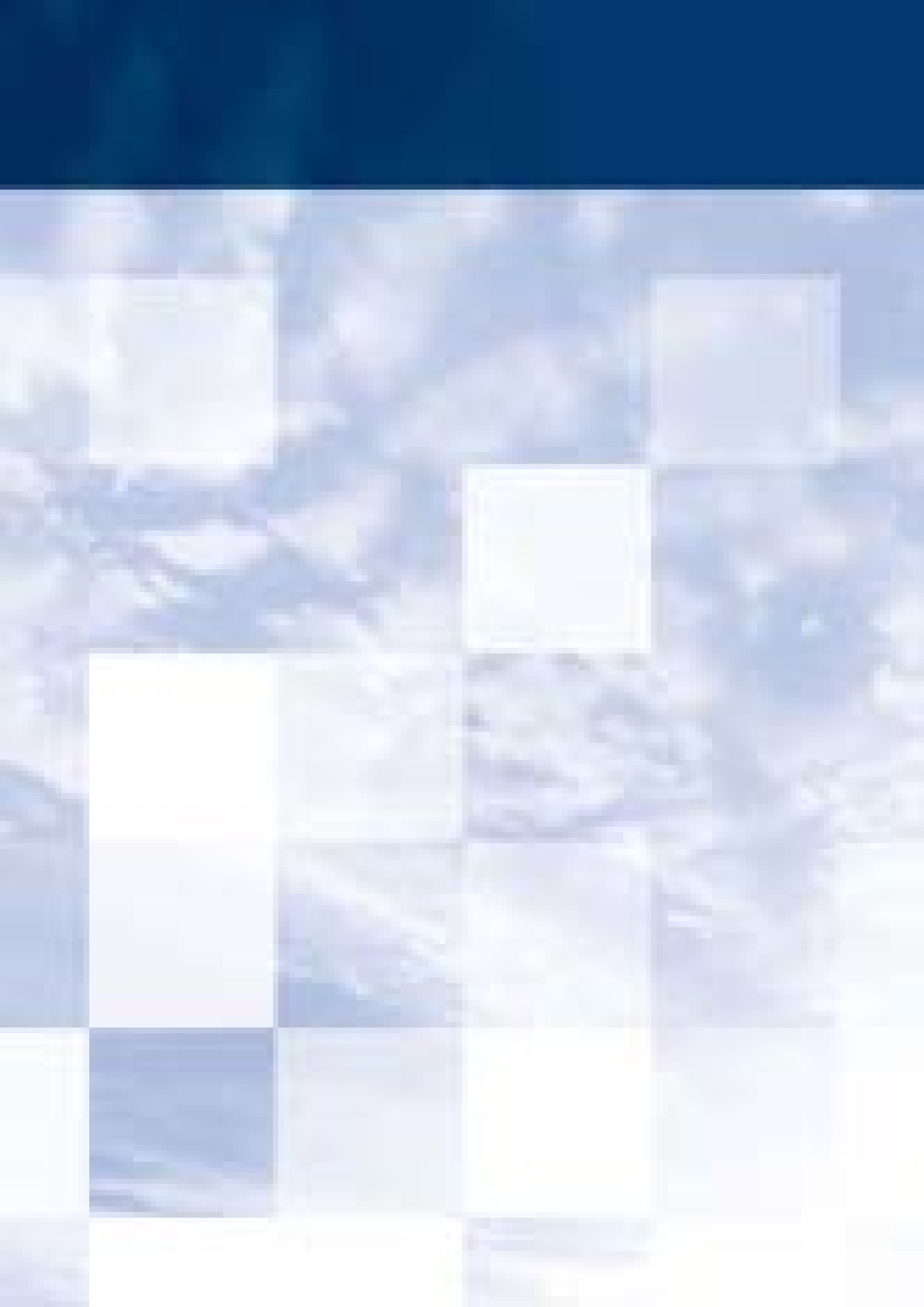
On the regional level the Mission has been supporting Serbia and Montenegro's participation in regional mechanisms of co-operation such as the Sava River Initiative and Euro-region Danube 21.

This also includes encouraging the participation in international processes such as the Pan-European Kiev Conference of both officials and civil society.

In Montenegro, the Office in Podgorica has been lending its support of the Austrian government funded project for the development of the Biogradska Gora National Park in Montenegro/ Municipal Environmental Program in the Bjelasica Area which will run until 2006. This will not only focus on the protection of the environment but also on the development of eco-tourism which could become an important economic factor in Montenegro.



Annex

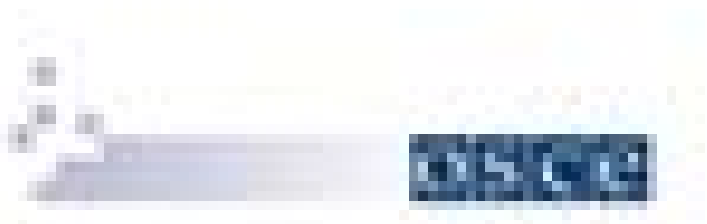


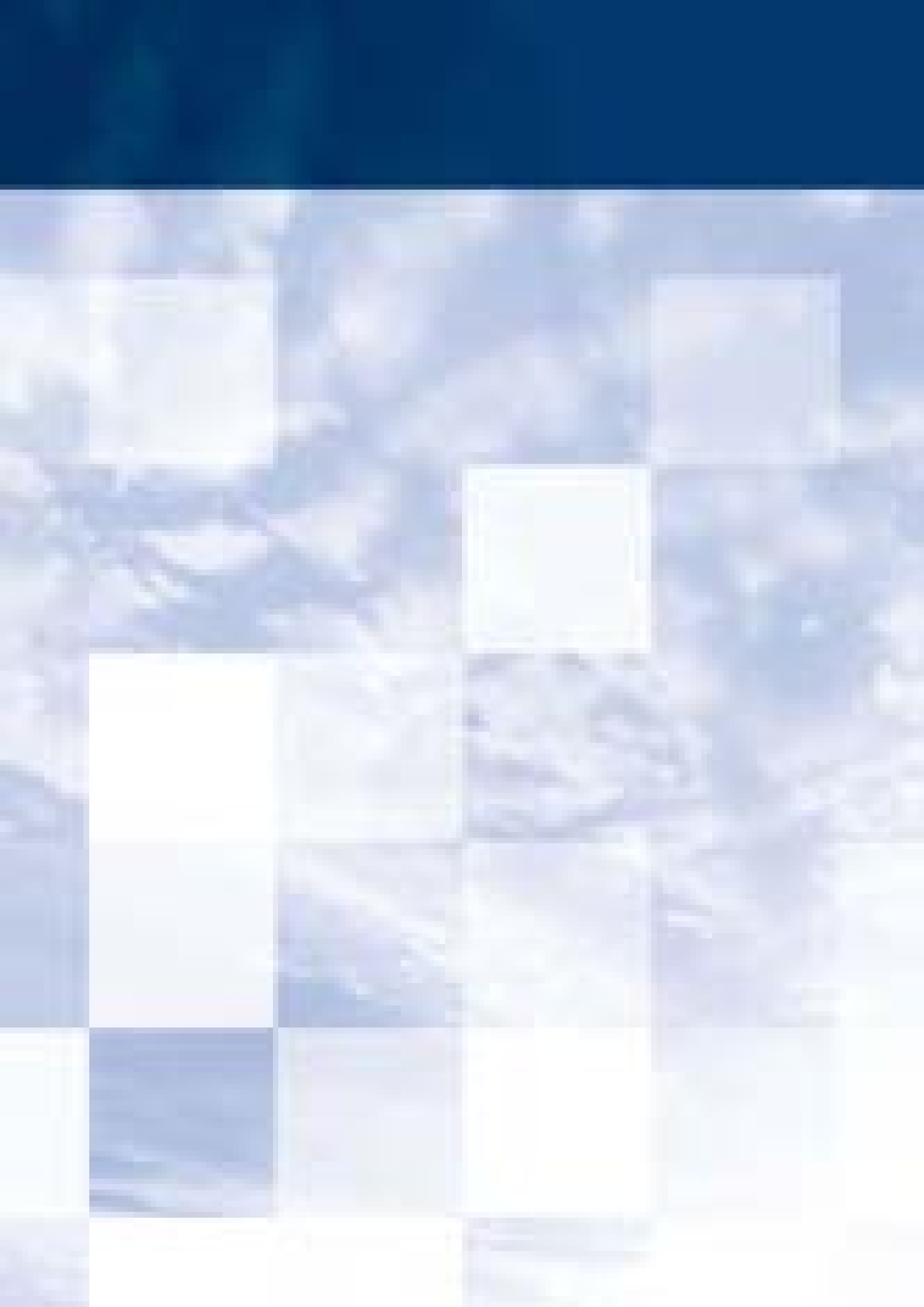
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 Sub-department

Last updated on 10 September 2004



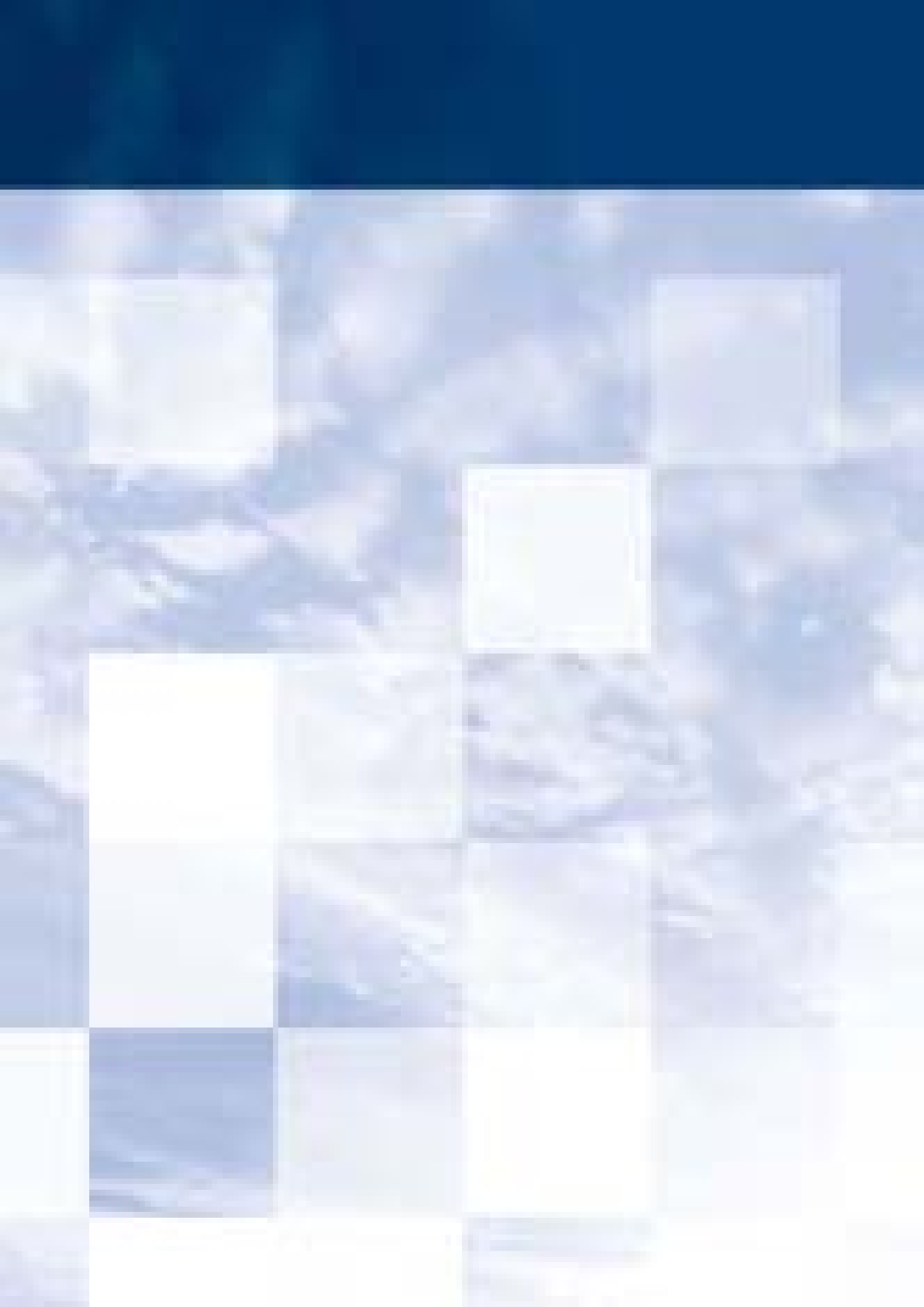


Staffing Table of the Mission

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Department	Executive Staff	Senior Staff	Total
Administrative Services	1	1	2
Business and Finance	1	1	2
Communications	1	1	2
Legal and Governmental Affairs	1	1	2
Local Government	1	1	2
Policy	1	1	2
Planning and Development	1	1	2
Public Programs	1	1	2
Public Works	1	1	2
Total	9	9	18





Budget

Budget

Department / Initiative	2019 Budget	2020 Revised Budget
Administrative Services	1,000	1,000
Information Systems	1,200	1,200
Public Safety and Police Services	1,500	1,500
Public Works	1,800	1,800
Public Health	500	500
Other	500	500
Reserve and Contingency	500	500
Total	7,000	7,000



- Public Safety (30%)
- Public Works (25%)
- Information Systems (15%)
- Administrative Services (15%)
- Public Health (15%)



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In Memory to Jimmy





