

Warsaw, October 4, 2011

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Tolerance and non-discrimination II

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration I would like to thank ODIHR OSCE for its help and cooperation in the field of trainings for police officers. I hope that this cooperation - inspiring for both sides – will be lasting and will contribute to the sensitization of the society on hate crime issues .

There are some articles in the Polish Penal Code, which criminalize offenses based on racism and xenophobia. However, Poland is one of these countries where there is no special regulation defining *expressis verbis* hate crime. In this context we consider the definition used by ODIHR as very helpful.

Polish government is taking steps to combating this type of crimes. Recently, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration has been paying particular attention to the proper realization of training programme for police officers aimed at preventing and combating hate crimes. This programme is being created within the framework of *Law Enforcement Officers Programme on Combating Hate Crimes* (LEOP), prepared by ODIHR OSCE. It has been implemented since 2006. This program is coordinated by the Ministry of Interior and Administration in cooperation with ODIHR OSCE and is being carried out by the Police force. One of the Program's elements is a system of cascade training courses, developed by a special team, that constitute the part of the policemen's continuous professional education. The training course has been organized on the central level for the trainers (5 days) and on the local level for the police officers, who works in the criminal, investigation and prevention level (one day).

The formation is being conducted by Police experts as well as ODIHR experts, Ministry of Interior and Administration and NGO representatives.

Specialist course on preventing and combating hate crime is composed of two parts: substantive and coaching, because its purpose is to prepare participants to act as trainers of the local trainings in particular provinces. By the end of September

2011 seven editions of the Course were held, in which 91 persons were trained. In the subsequent months of 2011, another editions are planned.

Since 2010, individual voivodeships have been also carrying out one-day training on preventing and combating hate crimes addressed to officers who are directly confronted in their work with hate crimes (e.g. primarily criminal division, prevention and investigation). In local trainings about 20 thousand Officers were trained till the end of February 2011. Trainings will be carried out at least until the end of 2011. Our aim is to increase the awareness of phenomena of hate crime within the Police for their everyday work but the intensity of training process is particular now before EURO 2012.

In order to support the educational process, teaching materials about hate crimes have been prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and Police General Headquarters in cooperation with "Never Again" Association and National Prosecutor Office (now General Prosecutor Office).

The Ministry of Interior and Administration visits and evaluates local courses to ensure the high quality of the trainings within whole country.

LEOP good practices and experiences:

**1<sup>st</sup>: Train-the-trainers part in training for the leaders** - each participant - the future local trainer - has the opportunity to perform twice the selected parts of the training under the guidance of coaches who are giving the feedback. That improves trainers' preparation to realize courses in their area.

**2<sup>nd</sup>: MIA vigilance over the implementation of the program, the preparation of national training program and its realization as well as over teaching materials for trainers** (e.g. free gain from TVP episode of the popular series, which shows the realities of Polish anti-Semitism and the local police behavior - as a starting material for discussion, participation in redaction of theoretical script editor for trainers) and for participants (e.g. assistance in the development of leaflets for the participants which have just been printed and are now being distributed). MIA's actions consist of:

- general recommendations - emphasis on the use of actives methods, help in obtaining external experts, analyzing the organizational issues (e.g. size of training groups),

– recommendations addressed to particular local units - we observe the training and trying to suggest appropriate modifications and help when needed (e.g. allowing the establishment of effective contacts in order to participate in training NGOs),

3<sup>rd</sup>: **Appropriate selection of persons who will provide training** – people with appropriate knowledge and experience of coaching,

4<sup>th</sup> **Provide the assistance of psychologists and NGOs experts,**

5<sup>th</sup> **Well-prepared materials for trainers** (presentations, scripts, practice exercises descriptions, multimedia materials illustrating the actual events of the entire country) and a short compendium for participants.

6<sup>th</sup>: **Entrusting the coordination of the implementation of local trainings to police human rights advisers as experts in the subject matter of the trainings.**

Finally, I would like to say a few words about Monitoring Team on Racism and Xenophobia. Since 2004, the Team has been functioning in the Ministry of the Interior and Administration. It monitors cases of racism, xenophobia or anti-Semitism. The Monitoring Team scrutinises how these cases are being considered from the moment it takes information about incidents, through the activity of the Police and prosecution authority, until the result of judicial proceedings. Information on racist incidents is acquired by the Team through the monitoring of the press and websites, thanks to notifications of non-governmental organizations and citizens' complains submitted to the Ministry of the Interior and Administration. The Monitoring Team cooperates with the consultant prosecutor on racism in the General Prosecution Office.

By way of conclusion, I would like to highlight that recently we have noticed increasing number of cases of hate crime dealt with by the Prosecutor Office. The main reason for that is growing awareness in the society of this phenomenon and greater willingness to report about hate crimes cases to the police. Some applies to media which are at present more sensitive to hate crimes and number of cases examined by the prosecutor office is the result of media reports. It clearly illustrates the important and increasing role of media in combating hate crimes.