



OSCE Factsheet The Conflict Prevention Centre

The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

The Conflict Prevention Centre, based in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, plays a pivotal role in OSCE efforts to promote peace and stability across the OSCE area.

Established by the landmark 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe to help reduce the risk of conflict, the CPC supports the OSCE and its 57 participating States in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation (conflict cycle).

From dialogue to action

The CPC does this by facilitating political dialogue among States, assisting with the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures, supporting the daily work of field operations, providing advice and analysis on matters related to the conflict cycle, as well as by supporting negotiation, mediation and dialogue facilitation efforts and processes to prevent and resolve crises and conflicts. These have been strengthened in line with Ministerial Decision 3/11 on “Elements of the Conflict Cycle”. The CPC functions as the OSCE-wide focal point for early warning, while its Mediation Support Team is in charge of dialogue facilitation and mediation-support.

The CPC continuously monitors developments in the region, helps to keep OSCE decision-making bodies and participating States informed and develops response options to address emerging crises, as well as a wide array of other issues that could have an impact on regional security and stability.

It also addresses specific threats to security, such as those posed by surplus stocks of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition, as well as challenges related to non-proliferation.

Building confidence

The CPC supports dialogue and co-operation among the participating States, particularly on regional political issues and measures to build confidence and trust among participating States and between parties to conflicts.

This includes increasing the transparency of military activities. The CPC supports the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the OSCE decision-making body which focuses on the politico-military dimension of security, and advises the participating States on the implementation of their commitments in this area.



OSCE States have agreed to a comprehensive set of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), including information exchanges, means for verification and compliance, and various forms of military co-operation. They aim to increase trust among the OSCE participating States and contribute to greater openness and transparency in the field of military planning and activities. Key CSBMs include the Vienna Document 2011 and the Code of Conduct.

The CPC supports this process by organizing, collecting, archiving, and reporting on 16 annual exchanges of information on politico-military activities, including holdings of major military equipment, transfers of conventional arms as well as defence budgets and expenditures.

24/7 - Situation Room

The Situation/Communications Room continuously monitors developments in the OSCE area affecting security and stability. It identifies and prioritizes issues for attention in line with the three dimensions of the OSCE's work, with a particular focus on emerging crisis situations. During times of crisis, the Situation Room is a vital link in the security chain between the Secretariat and the field operations, which is especially critical outside of working hours. The Situation Room supports field operations in emergencies, including medical evacuation.

OSCE participating States have also agreed on a range of mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes and for crisis response. The CPC provides substantive support and advice on their use and operational applicability.

On the ground

The CPC supports the work of OSCE field operations, which are one of the most important OSCE instruments for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Some 80 per cent of OSCE staff and 60 per cent of its core budget are dedicated to activities on the ground.

The field operations, located in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, assist host countries in the implementation of their OSCE commitments. They help to build their capacity to implement reforms and make progress in all dimensions of security - the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions. The CPC offers regional expertise, and acts as the field operations' primary link with other OSCE structures, including decision-making bodies in Vienna. It ensures the timely distribution of reports from the field, and in turn keeps field operations informed, and provides advice on programmatic and management issues, ensuring that policy guidance is communicated and reflected in a co-ordinated way in their work.

The CPC is responsible for planning the establishment, restructuring and closures of field operations. It also identifies lessons and best practices for the continuous improvement of field operations' work.

Because field operations work under country-specific mandates, the CPC has the primary responsibility for facilitating



regional initiatives and ensuring dialogue and co-ordination with other international organizations at the regional level.

Making an impact

The CPC is one of the Organization's key focal points on programme and project management matters. It particularly offers guidance and support for the development, implementation, and self-evaluation of programmes and projects in field operations and the Secretariat. The CPC provides training and tools on results-based management and performance-based programme budgeting to ensure the quality, effectiveness and impact of OSCE activities.

Secure Exchanges – the OSCE Communications Network

The OSCE Vienna Document and treaties agreed under OSCE auspices oblige participating States to regularly exchange military and other information. The Communications Network connects the foreign and/or defense ministries of OSCE States and provides the necessary means for them to share and exchange this information securely. The CPC manages this highly reliable electronic network, which is accessible around the clock, seven days a week. The CPC also chairs the OSCE Communications Group, comprising experts from OSCE delegations who oversee the network.

It also assesses all project proposals funded through voluntary financial contributions and ensures compliance with global project management standards. Another important aspect of the CPC's work is to document successful projects and practices that could be replicated in other field operations.

The CPC is active in addressing contemporary security threats and represents an important source of expertise to help participating States address challenges related in particular to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), and conventional ammunition.

The CPC helps OSCE participating States safely manage and destroy SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition through capacity building and managing projects. In addition, the OSCE has a mechanism through which a State can request assistance from other States according to its needs. Since 2003, more than 33 assistance requests from 16 participating States have been received, with the CPC providing technical and managerial expertise.

The CPC also offers assistance to participating States in their international commitments to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destructions, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as the technology used for their delivery. Next to promoting lessons learned and sharing experiences amongst participating States, the CPC – together with experts of the 1540 Committee and other international organizations - offers assistance in drafting National Action Plans and developing national legislation helping participating States with the implementation of UNSCR 1540.



Who we are and what we do

The CPC comprises the Policy Support Service – which includes four regional desks, the Operations Service – which in turn consists of the Planning and Analysis Team, the Mediation Support Team and the Situation/Communications Room – the Programming and Evaluation Support Unit and the Forum for Security Co-operation Support Section – which includes the Communications Network Unit.

The CPC supports political dialogue and work in areas including:

- Arms control
- Confidence-building measures (non-military)
- Confidence- and security-building measures (military)
- Co-ordination of regional initiatives
- Destruction of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition
- Early warning on security concerns
- Early action and crisis response
- Gender mainstreaming of OSCE activities
- Mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes
- Mediation, dialogue facilitation and mediation-support
- Operational guidance and lessons learned
- Performance-based programme budgeting
- Planning and operational support of field presences
- Policy advice and analysis
- Project management
- Strategic planning and self-evaluation of programmes and projects
- Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (UNSCR 1540)
- Support to parties of the Dayton Agreement Article IV

The Director of the CPC is Tuula Yrjölä. The CPC has approximately 60 staff members.

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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) works for **stability, prosperity** and **democracy** in 57 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.