

666/05

NOTE VERBALE

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights presents its compliments to the Delegations of the OSCE participating States and has the honor to draw to their attention:

- Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/03 to “increase efforts towards the younger generation in order to build up their understanding of the need for tolerance, with specific attention to education.”
- MC Decision No. 10/05 adopted in December 2005 whereby participating States are encouraged to “consider drawing on ODIHR expertise and assistance in order to develop methods and curricula for tolerance education.”
- Permanent Council Decision No. 607/04 on Combating Anti-Semitism and No. 621/04 on tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and discrimination which committed participating States to “promote and enhance, as appropriate, educational programmes for fostering tolerance and combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination” and tasked the ODIHR to “offer advice to participating States in their efforts to fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination.”

In order to effectively assume its mandated tasks under these Decisions, **the ODIHR invites participating States to forward by 16 January the contact details of resource persons in the field of education promoting mutual respect and understanding¹** at the national or regional level. Given that within some OSCE states responsibility for curricula, teacher training, development of text books used in public schools and other issues is divided amongst various authorities, the ODIHR would appreciate receiving all the relevant contact details should more than one public authority be in charge.

Upon receipt of the name and contact details of the resource person(s), the ODIHR will send a questionnaire to the contact person(s) in mid-January 2006 requesting information on educational programmes to promote mutual respect and understanding, as well as relevant material in this area. Please consult the attached supplement (Annex II) to this note for additional information on the project and planned follow-up activities.

Based on the initial information received from resource persons, the ODIHR will develop an assessment report which will examine – in consultation with the other agencies and intergovernmental bodies active in this field – what additional measures might be appropriate to further improve education programmes promoting mutual respect and understanding at national level as committed to in the above mentioned Decisions.

¹ Education promoting mutual respect and understanding may also be called, depending on national or regional preferences, intercultural education, Human Rights education, Education to combat anti-Semitism, civic education, citizenship education or anti-racism education.

Outcomes of the project will be a set of recommendations for national education authorities in regards to tolerance education, a report and an extensive collection of education material, which will be included in the TnD information database.

In addition, the ODIHR would like to take the opportunity to thank and commend those 36 participating States that have, to date, nominated a National Point of Contact on Hate Crimes Information to the ODIHR. A list of nominated contact points is hereby attached for your information (Annex III). Participating States that have not yet nominated a Contact Point are requested to do send such information to the ODIHR or to provide details through an on-line submission form available on the ODIHR website.

Those participating States that have not yet nominated a National Point of Contact on Hate Crimes information to the ODIHR are kindly requested to do so no later than 16 January 2005. All National Points of Contact will be invited to participate in the technical hate crimes data collection expert meeting planned by the ODIHR for April 2006, in order to discuss data collection challenges and best practices as well as identification of areas in which states require assistance. The ODIHR will provide further information on the meeting to the nominated contact points in early 2006.

The ODIHR expresses its commitment to continue to provide support and technical assistance to all participating States in the implementation of the recent commitments, and seizes this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration. The ODIHR expresses its appreciation for the support received on this activity.

The ODIHR uses this opportunity to convey to the Delegations of the OSCE Participating States the expression of its highest consideration.

Warsaw, 15 December, 2005



To the
Delegations of the OSCE Participating States

Annex I

Response to Note Verbale 666/05

Name of participating State:

The following contacts details are for the resource person(s)¹ who will complete a comprehensive questionnaire *Education promoting mutual respect and understanding*.

Title:

Name:

Position:

Institution:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Direct E-mail:

Website of institution (if relevant):

Any additional information:

Completed forms should be sent back either by e-mail or fax by 15th January 2006.

To be sent to:

E-mail: ndinfo@odihr.pl (please indicate PEP in the subject line)

Fax: 0048 22 520 06 05

¹ Should more than one form be required please copy as appropriate.



Annex II

Project on Education Promoting Respect and Diversity

Phase 1 (2006)

A project carried out by the Tolerance and non-Discrimination programme (TnD) of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Identifying the problem

The persistent problem of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and exclusion of visible minorities/communities and racialised groups since the early 1980s emphasizes the need to look at educational strategies that can have a positive influence on combating discrimination, racism and exclusion to foster respect in increasingly diverse societies. A high level of attention was and is still given by the OSCE and its participating States to tackle the phenomenon of discrimination and exclusion. The number of discrimination cases is increasing and violent incidents of hate crime are recognized to a larger extent. This may lead to the understanding that existing approaches (projects focusing on youth, campaigns, equality legislation, public institutions supporting victims of discrimination) do not show, or do not yet show their impact.

Information submitted to ODIHR demonstrates that a large number of OSCE participating States have undertaken activities to promote intercultural learning. Over the last two decades or so various concepts, approaches and methodologies were developed aiming to enhance the level of tolerance and respect of students. Very interesting material was developed, tested, and improved over the past few years. Education promoting respect and diversity exists in various forms and methods. However, it appears that

efforts made so far are not able to counteract the increasing exclusion and stereotyping of minorities or identifiable communities. In a number of commitments and decisions the OSCE has outlined the importance of education in the fight against racism, xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance (such as Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, etc) over the last years. This has given clear guidance to ODIHR and its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination programme to act in this framework.

It can be clearly stated that there is a solid level of understanding on what education promoting respect and diversity (ERD) means and aims for, but it appears that goal formulation is still inadequate and needs to be improved within the public education system(s). Defining clear objectives allows for the evaluation of methodologies and outcomes. Knowing that education systems are complex, it appears that only through a coordinated, strategic and systematic approach with the stakeholders supporting each other can visible changes and innovations be achieved. This programme explicitly aims to assess what already exists and to identify the gaps where they exist. Learning from this process the programme's activities aim to persuade education authorities and other decision makers to develop comprehensive and long-term strategic planning (such as an Action Plan on education promoting respect and diversity) to systematically define the needs as well as the aims and objectives for each individual country in regards to education promoting respect and diversity. Only through such a comprehensive approach targeting the structural level, through stringent implementation and properly resourced activities is it expected that the added value and the outcome of such undertakings can be seen after a certain period of time. By making changes at the institutional level, the long term objective of the project is to change the racist and discriminatory attitudes of students.

Partners and target group of the activities

The main institutions targeted by the project are education authorities of participating States of the OSCE. It is necessary to emphasize that considering the complex structures of public education systems, other stakeholders that support educational institutions will need to be involved, to achieve the objectives of the project in Phase 1. An experts group of highly qualified persons in the field of curricula development, drafting of text books or teacher training material, etc. will be invited to support the project.

Other intergovernmental institutions (UNESCO, CoE, etc.) will be cooperated with as extensively as possible.

Activities undertaken during Phase 1 of the project

A. Collecting information and material through a questionnaire

The initial step in implementing activities during Phase 1 of the project is to **collect comprehensive information** and material on education promoting respect and diversity to give an indication of how OSCE commitments have been implemented on education against racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination and other related phenomena. A **questionnaire** will be sent to OSCE participating States in early 2006 to collect information and material in a comprehensive manner. The information received will be organized into **country reports** that will help to gain an understanding of how education promoting respect and diversity is implemented in each particular state.

Additionally, a comprehensive **collection of material** on education promoting respect and diversity will be established. The collection will include student textbooks, teaching manuals, and tools, methodology, audio visual material, training material and methodology, curricula for schools at all levels pre- and in-service training of (future) teachers, etc.

The collection of materials will be made available on the **ODIHR website**. The TnD information management system will provide and facilitate easy access to the information. Alternatively hard copy **bibliographies** will be made available upon request as appropriate.

B. Recommendations for national strategies on ERD

With the help of experts **comprehensive recommendations** will be developed concerning the process of teaching and training in participating States, as well as the methodology and development of teaching material for education promoting respect and diversity at all levels. The material received by the participating States will be used as a basis for developing the recommendations to suggest how education promoting respect and diversity can be improved in OSCE participating States. A publication containing recommendations and country reports will offer participating States a supporting tool to **develop comprehensive strategies** at the national level towards improving education promoting respect and diversity.

Activities envisaged after Phase 1

With the recommendations developed in Phase 1 countries will be encouraged to develop coordinated long-term national strategies or plans on education promoting respect and diversity. Only through structurally accommodating ERD in the education system and giving it the space it requires to counter prejudice, exclusion and discrimination of vulnerable groups can progress be made. This may require amongst other things establishing curricula in all types of schools and universities, in-service training for teachers and looking into the role expertise in ERD plays in career promotion. Such a process will likely take a number of years. It is envisaged that Phase 2, 3 and 4 of this programme will accompany and constructively support the process some

governments/educational authorities might undertake. The ODIHR support mechanism will offer expertise and relevant knowledge networks to education authorities to commonly achieve this goal.

Time frame of the project

Phase 1 of the project will be carried out in year 2006 and is dependent on extra-budgetary contributions of participating States of the OSCE. Given the complex setting of education processes this project is structured in various Phases of 12 months each. A specific proposal for each Phase will be developed and will outline the concrete planned activities during the respective Phase.

Contact

Should you be interested in receiving more information or if you can contribute to the implementation of the project with your experience, knowledge and expertise please contact the project coordinator.

Vera Egenberger
Adviser on Anti-Racism and Tolerance
Tolerance and non-Discrimination Programme (TnD)
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Aleje Ujazdowskie 41
00557 Warsaw
e-mail: vera.egenberger@odhr.pl

Annex III



Final Checklist of Responses to ODIHR 2004/05 Notes Verbales Requesting Legislation, Statistics, Practical Initiatives and Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crime

Total Number of participating States that:	
Responded	46
Nominated Contact Points	36
Submitted Legislation	41
Submitted Information about Statistics	32
Submitted Practical Initiatives	36

STATE	DATE OF RESPONSE	LEGISLATION	STATISTICS	PRACTICAL INITIATIVES	NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT
Albania	13 Apr/04	√			
Andorra	19 Sept/05				Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Cooperation
Armenia					
Austria	28 Apr/04	√	√	√	
Azerbaijan	17 Oct/05				Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Belarus	25 Apr/04	√	√	√	
Belgium	10 Nov/04	√	√	√	Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism
Bosnia and Herzegovina	01 Dec/05			√	Ministry of Security Department of Organised Crime and Corruption

STATE	DATE OF RESPONSE	LEGISLATION	STATISTICS	PRACTICAL INITIATIVES	NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT
Bulgaria	14 Apr/04 30 Jun/04 9 Sept/05	√	√	√	Commission for the Protection against Discrimination Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria
Canada	29 June 2004 9 Sept. 2005	√	√	√	Canadian Heritage Multiculturalism and Human Rights Branch
Croatia	9 March 2004 4 July 2005	√	√	√	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Department for Human Rights Government of Croatia Office for Human Rights
Cyprus	21 Jul/04 1 Sept/04	√		√	
Czech Republic	15 Sept/04 1 Sept/05	√	√	√	Ministry of the Interior Inter-ministerial Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism and Xenophobia
Denmark	5 Apr/04 31 Aug/05	√	√	√	Ministry of Justice Law Department, Criminal Law Division
Estonia	7 Oct/04 8 Nov/05	√	√		Ministry of Justice Criminal Policies Department
Finland	11 Mar/04 29 Nov/05	√	√	√	Ministry of the Interior PL 26 (statistics) Ministry of Labour PL 34 (other)
France	12 Jul/04 10 Aug/05	√	√	√	Ministère de la Justice Service des affaires européennes et internationales Bureau des questions institutionnelles
Georgia					

STATE	DATE OF RESPONSE	LEGISLATION	STATISTICS	PRACTICAL INITIATIVES	NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT
Germany	18 Mar/04 29 Jun/04 10 Sept/04	√	√	√	Ministry of Interior
Greece	11 Oct/04 5 Nov/04	√		√	
Holy See	22 Mar/04 9 Nov/04	√		√	Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
Hungary	15 Jul/04 12 Oct/05	√	√		Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Human Rights and European Organisations
Iceland					
Ireland	4 Nov/04 17 Oct/05	√	√	√	National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism
Italy	24 Apr/04 18 Nov/04 26 Apr/05 17 Aug/05 10 Oct/05	√	√	√	Ministero dell'Interno Dipartimento della Pubblica Sicurezza Ufficio Coordinamento e Pianificazione delle Forze di Polizia Servizio Relazioni Internazionali - III Divisione
Kazakhstan	27 Jul/04 02 Dec/05	√	√		Committee on Law Statistics and Special Registrations of the Prosecutor's Office
Kyrgyzstan					
Latvia	15 Apr/04	√	√	√	The Secretariat of Minister for Special Assignments for Society Integration Affairs Latvian National Human Rights Office

STATE	DATE OF RESPONSE	LEGISLATION	STATISTICS	PRACTICAL INITIATIVES	NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT
Liechtenstein	4 May/04 12 Nov/04 17 Nov/05	√		√	Office for Foreign Affairs Working Group against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia Liechtenstein National Police Crime Investigation Division
Lithuania	1 Apr/04 2 Nov/04 16 Sept/05	√	√	√	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Interior Analysis and Research Division of the Public Safety Department
Luxembourg	1 Apr/04 28 Jul/04 18 Oct/04	√	√	√	Government's Commissionner for Foreigners Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité nationale et de la Jeunesse Centre d'Études des Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio- Économiques
Malta	5 Apr/04 19 Jul/04 31 Dec/04 2 Feb/05 9 Sept/05	√	√	√	General Police Headquarters Prosecutions Unit
Moldova	14 Apr/04	√	√		
Monaco	24 Nov/04	√		√	Department of the Interior Direction des Services Judiciaires
Netherlands	4 Aug/04	√	√	√	Foreign Ministry Security Police Department Netherlands Delegation to the OSCE

STATE	DATE OF RESPONSE	LEGISLATION	STATISTICS	PRACTICAL INITIATIVES	NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT
Norway	1 Sept/04 15 Sept/05	√	√	√	Ministry of Justice and the Police (main) Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Department of Integration and Diversity
Poland	1 Mar/04 25 Aug/05	√	√	√	Ministry of Interior and Administration Department of Religions and Ethnic Minorities
Portugal	30 Sept/05 11 Oct/05				Procuradora da República Gabinete de Documentação e Direito Comparado High Commission for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities
Romania	10 Mar/04	√		√	
Russian Federation	24 Dec/04	√	√	√	
San Marino					
Serbia and Montenegro	2 Sept/04 11 Nov/04 8 Nov/05	√	√	√	Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro
Slovak Republic	9 Jul/04 28 Oct/05	√	√	√	Ministry of Interior Committee for Coordination of Anti-Extremism policy Office of the Minister of Interior
Slovenia	9 Aug/04 9 Sept/05	√		√	Ministry of Foreign Affairs International Organizations and Human Security Division
Spain	Nov/04	√	√	√	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Justice

STATE	DATE OF RESPONSE	LEGISLATION	STATISTICS	PRACTICAL INITIATIVES	NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT
Sweden	11 Jun/04 16 Sept/05	√	√	√	Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention
Switzerland	17 Mar/04	√	√	√	Federal Department of the Interior Federal Commission against Racism Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs Section OSCE
Tajikistan					
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia					
Turkey	10 Sept/04	√		√	Ministry of Justice Directorate General of International Law and External Relations
Turkmenistan					
Ukraine	11 Aug/04				
United Kingdom	9 Sept/04	√	√	√	
United States	19 Apr/04 14 Jan/04 12 Sept/05	√	√	√	Human Dimension Officer US Mission to the OSCE
Uzbekistan					