

Annual Report 2016



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is

THE WORLD'S LARGEST REGIONAL
SECURITY ORGANIZATION

working to ensure peace and stability for more than a
billion people between Vancouver and Vladivostok.

Cover photo:
Monitoring Officers Maria Torelm and John Yuhas prepare to inspect weapons storage sites in
eastern Ukraine, 1 June 2016. *Photo by Evgeniy Maloletka*



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Message from the Secretary General

As my second term as Secretary General draws to a close, I am proud to look back on how the OSCE has responded to a rapidly evolving security landscape and the growing array of threats and challenges facing our region in recent years. The Organization has proved to be an effective tool for addressing conflict, providing political space for dialogue and tools to follow up and deliver. In so doing, it has reasserted its relevance, increased its visibility and aligned its work ever more closely with the global peace and security agenda.

In 2016, efforts to de-escalate the crisis in and around Ukraine and restore peace and stability in the broader OSCE region remained a central priority of the Organization. Since the beginning of the crisis, the OSCE has responded quickly and nimbly, facilitating the political process through the Trilateral Contact Group and efforts to reduce tensions on the ground through the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). As the conflict unfolded, the Organization adapted flexibly to new tasks, and it proved to be a bridge-builder, trusted by all sides. Yet, as our role has evolved, expectations for the OSCE have increased. It is worth recalling that the Organization is a facilitator, and that it is up to the sides to end the conflict.

The OSCE continued its engagement in the negotiation formats dedicated to the protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus and Moldova. Despite a deadly spike in the confrontation over Nagorno-Karabakh and limited progress overall, we persist in striving towards peaceful and durable settlements to these conflicts.

Although the SMM is the most visible of the OSCE's 16 field operations, all of them are important partners for their host countries. They play a key role in supporting participating States in implementing their OSCE commitments, and the Organization always engages with host-country governments to ensure that they are providing added value. In several cases, participating States voiced strong interest in reviewing the mandates of certain field operations to make sure that they continue to reflect the priority needs of their host countries. While we need not be shy about revisiting the activities of our field operations at regular intervals, with a view to providing continuing support to host countries, we should never lose sight of the OSCE's core mandate to promote security and stability. Such a review, under the leadership of the Chairmanship, should be inclusive and transparent.

In 2016, terrorist attacks in the OSCE area and adjacent regions occurred with worrying frequency, marking a deadly trend that has intensified in recent years. Terrorism and violent extremism are among the most serious transnational and global challenges we face today, along with organized crime and trafficking, mass movements of people and climate change. Addressing these challenges effectively requires joint action at the local, regional and global levels. We continue to strengthen our relationship with the United Nations (UN) and other international and regional organizations. At the same time, the Sustainable Development Goals serve as a lodestar for our activities in support of global peace and security.

In 2016, we took steps to better define the OSCE's role in the governance of large movements of people. An OSCE Security Days event that I convened in Rome marked the beginning of an informal but comprehensive discussion among participating States that paved the way for a declaration on migration at the Hamburg Ministerial Council. This timely effort is in step with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2016 and ties the OSCE into global efforts to address the impact of mass migration.

Security in the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent regions, and today's complex global security environment has brought us even closer to our Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Strengthened OSCE engagement with our Partners provides a valuable platform for dialogue on security issues of common concern.

We also continue to strengthen OSCE engagement with civil society, academia, media and business. The OSCE Network of think tanks and academic institutions and the New-Med Network continue to provide valuable analysis and recommendations. These connections are all the more important in times of growing divisions both between countries and within societies.

We continued to mainstream gender into OSCE policies, programmes and activities, and we stepped up our efforts to engage young people in our debates and activities, recognizing that youth can play an important role in preventing and resolving conflicts and countering global and transnational challenges.

The German OSCE Chairmanship spared no effort to renew dialogue, rebuild trust and restore security. The OSCE's core function is to prevent conflict, so steps taken by the Chairmanship and participating States to revitalize dialogue and strengthen the Organization's role in all phases of the conflict cycle were very welcome. However, both the Hamburg Ministerial Council and the Informal Ministerial Council in Potsdam, which provided an additional platform for open debate among ministers, once again showed how difficult it has become to engage in constructive, forward-looking dialogue while fundamental differences over the violation of key principles and the implementation of commitments persist. The Chairmanship also initiated a renewal of discussions on conventional arms control. This was a welcome attempt to renew momentum in a fundamental area of OSCE engagement. With respect to both discussions, I sought to stimulate informal debate by holding OSCE Security Days events in Berlin and Vienna. The

Austrian OSCE Chairmanship has vowed to pursue these efforts in 2017, and I am certain that it will invest considerable energy in fostering dialogue and rebuilding confidence.

In closing, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all OSCE staff in the Secretariat, Institutions and field operations who through their commitment and professionalism have tirelessly helped to fulfil heightened expectations for our Organization in these challenging times. I am confident that the OSCE will continue to play a major role in Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security in the years to come. As an inclusive platform for dialogue and joint action, the OSCE provides a unique space to manage and overcome differences, demonstrating time and again its capacity to provide effective responses to security challenges in our region.

Lamberto Zannier
OSCE Secretary General
Vienna, 2016

Over 1,400 people visited the OSCE exhibition ►
at Austria's Ministry for Europe, Integration
and Foreign Affairs on the occasion of
the Austrian Day of Neutrality and "Open
Doors" event, Vienna, 26 October 2016.
(OSCE/Jonathan Perfect)



CHAIRMANSHIP

The Chairmanship is selected by the Ministerial Council, and the post of the Chairperson-in-Office is held by the foreign minister of the selected participating State for a one-year term.



Germany: Renewing Dialogue, Rebuilding Trust, Restoring Security

www.osce.org/cio

Germany assumed a special responsibility for the OSCE at a time of ongoing threats to security and co-operation in Europe and beyond. Conflicts in the OSCE area, terrorist attacks and radicalization, the movements of refugees and migrants and their effects on our societies or the shrinking space for civil societies and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms are just some examples of the major challenges the OSCE participating States are facing today.

Following the leitmotiv “Renewing dialogue, rebuilding trust, restoring security,” the German OSCE Chairmanship addressed these challenges through efforts to promote sustainable conflict management by providing impulses for renewed political dialogue and by identifying ways to enable the OSCE to make best use of its potential and experience.



“I firmly believe that the OSCE principles, commitments and values set out jointly by East and West in the past still provide the basis and guidance for finding peaceful solutions to the ever-growing number of serious security threats we are facing today.”

Frank-Walter Steinmeier,
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
German Foreign Minister

(OSCE/Micky Kroell)



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Steinmeier, together with French Foreign Minister Ayrault, visited the collapsed Sloviansk Bridge during a joint trip to eastern Ukraine, 15 September 2016. (photothek)

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Conflicts in the OSCE area continued to dominate the Organization's agenda in 2016. In particular, the crisis in and around Ukraine remained a key concern throughout the year. In addition, the renewed escalation of violence in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in spring 2016 necessitated intensified crisis management. The German Chairmanship invested considerable efforts in addressing these and other conflicts with the aim of strengthening OSCE formats for conflict resolution and improving the living conditions of people affected by these conflicts.

The Chairmanship was able to secure the timely adoption of the mandates and budgets of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, and provided both field operations with political and operational guidance, resources and capabilities. The Chairmanship urged all parties to ensure the safety and security of the monitors, as well as their freedom of movement, and to implement the provisions of the Minsk agreements as the sole framework for a political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine. As a member of the Normandy format and through its Special Representative in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), Ambassador Martin Sajdik, the Chairmanship contributed to regular output-oriented discussions on the implementation of all aspects of the Minsk agreements and to the achievement of concrete agreements such as on disengagement of forces and hardware.

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier underpinned his commitment to a peaceful political solution to the conflict and to the OSCE's indispensable role in monitoring and mediation during two visits to Ukraine, including one to the city

of Kramatorsk in eastern Ukraine together with French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

With regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Chairmanship reacted swiftly after the escalation of hostilities at the line of contact in April 2016, initiating a special meeting of the Permanent Council (PC) and advocating the implementation of agreements reached at the presidential level in Vienna and St. Petersburg concerning the expansion of the Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, and the establishment of an investigative mechanism. The Chairmanship called for the resumption of a political negotiation process to settle the conflict.

Germany also intensified efforts to create conditions allowing further steps to be taken in the resolution of other conflicts in the OSCE area. The Chairperson-in-Office appointed experienced diplomats Ambassador Günther Bächler and Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt as Special Representatives for the South Caucasus and the Transdniestrian settlement process, respectively. In both areas of activity, positive developments were achieved, as illustrated by the resumption of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) within the framework of the Geneva International Discussions (GID) and the resumption of the talks in the 5+2 format and the agreement on an output-oriented roadmap in the Transdniestrian settlement process. During his visits to both regions, Chairperson-in-Office Steinmeier underlined his personal commitment to the OSCE's efforts to resolve these conflicts and explored possibilities for further steps towards confidence building and dialogue.



Chairperson-in-Office Steinmeier visited the offices of the OSCE Mission in Moldova on both sides of the Dniester/Nistru River, 26 July 2016. (photothek)

The German Chairmanship placed particular emphasis on further strengthening the OSCE's capabilities in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. To this end, the Chairmanship conducted structured discussions with participating States throughout the year. Four roundtable discussions organized jointly with the OSCE Secretariat, an internal workshop at the expert level, a focused ambassadorial retreat and a side event at the ministerial level on the margins of the 71st UN General Assembly laid the groundwork for concrete recommendations to further enhance the OSCE's capabilities in this area and were summarized in a Chairmanship report.

STRENGTHENING OSCE RESPONSES TO SECURITY CHALLENGES

The Chairmanship invested considerable efforts into rebuilding trust by means of renewed dialogue at all levels and co-operation in addressing major challenges to security and stability. To improve exchanges of political approaches and best practices and to foster future co-operation, the Chairmanship organized, funded or supported more than 300 events throughout the OSCE area reflecting the broad range of topics on the Organization's comprehensive agenda. The Chairmanship placed special emphasis on introducing new elements for inclusive, informal and output-oriented dialogue within, and in addition to, existing formats and on stimulating discussions about new challenges. In all formats, the Chairmanship aimed to increase the participation of civil society, youth and academia, people engaged in the cultural and creative sectors and other relevant actors and stakeholders in order to tap into the full range of expertise and experience available.

Illustrating this approach, the Chairmanship conference on "Connectivity for Commerce and Investment" in Berlin in May 2016 brought together over 800 representatives of participating States, academia, civil society, and the business community to develop new ideas about how to strengthen economic connectivity and good governance in the OSCE. In the human dimension, over

TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP

The Trilateral Contact Group and its working groups continued their activities throughout the year with regular meetings in Minsk co-ordinated by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Martin Sajdik.

As in previous years, a major focus of these talks were efforts to improve the security situation and to agree concrete steps to facilitate the implementation of the respective provisions of the Minsk agreements. In this context, the TCG adopted decisions on mine action and on the prohibition of live-fire exercises, both signed on 3 March 2016, and the framework decision on disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September. These decisions were prepared by the Working Group on Security Issues co-ordinated by Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan.

Regarding political matters, the TCG and the Working Group on Political Issues, co-ordinated by Ambassador Pierre Morel, conducted thorough discussions on modalities for local elections in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, on amnesty, on the enactment of the law on special order of self-governance in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and on the so-called Steinmeier formula, laying a solid groundwork for discussions and future decisions in the TCG, the Normandy format and the Ukrainian parliament. In the humanitarian and economic fields, co-ordinated by Ambassador Toni Frisch and Mr. Per Fischer, work continued on issues such as access to, and the release of, detainees; social payments; rehabilitation of vital infrastructure, including the delivery of energy and water; as well as support for the work of the international humanitarian organizations in the conflict zone.



(l-r) Ambassador Martin Sajdik and Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan at a meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna, 4 October 2016 (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

300 participants gathered at a high-profile Chairmanship conference on "Tolerance and Diversity" in Berlin to discuss recommendations on fighting hatred and intolerance in societies in the OSCE area.

To promote a substantial dialogue at the political level, the Chairperson-in-Office invited the foreign ministers



In Potsdam, foreign ministers from the OSCE participating States crossed Glienicke bridge, a symbol for the East-West divide during the Cold War, 1 September 2016. (photothek)

of the OSCE participating States to an informal meeting in Potsdam, Germany, on 1 September 2016. Discussions there focused on challenges to the European security order and possible ways for a more effective response on the part of the OSCE. Intense and, in part, controversial debates at the ministerial level continued at the Ministerial Council in Hamburg. These discussions and the decisions and declarations that were adopted by the Ministerial Council underlined the OSCE's continuing ability to act and to serve as a unique platform for dialogue.

AN AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

The German Chairmanship, together with the Chairmanships for 2017 and 2018, Austria and Italy, respectively, expressed the conviction that further steps to strengthen the OSCE as a central pillar of European security are imperative and outlined a set of fields and concrete measures for continued and future action in this direction (in the "Hamburg Declaration of the Incoming OSCE Troika: A Strong OSCE for a Secure Europe", see below).

The Troika agreed to continue working towards restoring the OSCE's place at the core of multilateral diplomacy in Europe and to keep political channels of communication open, especially in challenging times. They committed to helping the OSCE adapt to new challenges deriving from multidimensional conflict situations and to developing the OSCE's instruments with respect to the entire conflict cycle. The German Chairmanship paved the way for further activities, building on its activities pertaining to modernization of the Vienna Document and the mandate given by the Hamburg Ministerial Council to launch a structured dialogue on current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area.

"The German Chairmanship, with the strong support of the Troika partners, encouraged all participating States to live up to their responsibility towards our common organization and to work together for the shared ownership of the OSCE. Germany will remain committed to these objectives and to its support for the OSCE. Drawing on the experience of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016, we are firm in our conviction that dialogue, co-operation and a revived multilateralism are the only sustainable answers to the challenges we are facing today."

Frank-Walter Steinmeier,
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister



23rd MINISTERIAL COUNCIL 8–9 DECEMBER, HAMBURG, GERMANY

The 2016 Ministerial Council in Hamburg was the culmination of the German OSCE Chairmanship's efforts to strengthen the OSCE in the face of growing security threats. It was able to draw on the discussions of OSCE foreign ministers at the informal meeting in Potsdam on 1 September 2016.

During the two-day event, discussions were led in both the official plenary and in more informal settings, such as a ministers-only working lunch and a dinner at the Hamburg town hall, as well as during various topical side events and Troika meetings with the Partners for Co-operation. Issues of particular interest were efforts to settle existing conflicts in the OSCE area, especially the crisis in and around Ukraine, strengthening the OSCE's capacities in civilian crisis management, reviving conventional arms control and empowering the OSCE to effectively address new global challenges, including in the human dimension of security.

Foreign ministers adopted ten decisions and declarations in Hamburg. In the area of migration, participating States agreed to use the Organization as a platform for exchange and to continue addressing migration-related issues where the OSCE has expertise. The Ministerial Council took a wide-ranging decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity in the economic and environmental sphere. Participating States declared that they were committed to exploring how negative developments with regard to conventional arms control can be reversed and, recognizing the interrelation between conventional arms control, confidence- and security-building measures and

The comprehensive agenda of the Hamburg Ministerial Council required intensive preparations, 7 December 2016. (photothek)

“We are faced with the fundamental question of whether or not we want to continue pursuing the vision of co-operative and comprehensive security. What was envisaged in Helsinki, Paris and Astana is at risk, because of both the current frequency of international crises and the violation of rules and principles by participating States. But in Hamburg we took an important stand against this trend. Despite all our differences of opinion, we met and negotiated constructively. We reached agreement on a number of joint texts that reflect the OSCE's wide spectrum of action. However, we cannot be content with this. We now need to make use of this impetus and to ensure that the OSCE becomes even more effective and more capable of taking action in the future.”

**Frank-Walter Steinmeier,
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister**



OSCE foreign ministers and heads of delegations pose for a family photo at the 23rd Ministerial Council in Hamburg, 8 December 2016. (photothek)

the wider politico-military context, welcomed the launching of a structured dialogue on these matters.

In addition to the texts adopted by consensus, the 2016 Chairperson-in-Office summarized his perception of the meeting's proceedings in a statement of his conclusions. Also, a summarizing report issued by the Chairmanship took stock of the comprehensive work done throughout 2016 in preparing the Ministerial Council. Moreover, the 2017 OSCE Chairmanship Troika (Germany, Austria, Italy) spelled out five lines of action in the Hamburg Declaration comprising an agenda for future work on the part of the OSCE aimed at promoting "a strong OSCE for a secure Europe".

The Hamburg Ministerial Council saw the establishment of an innovative area for debates and exhibitions in the margins of the official meeting, named the "#mxdzone – Hamburg Forum for Dialogue". The first space of its kind at an OSCE Ministerial Council served to foster exchange among delegations, civil society representatives, media and youth. Ahead of the Ministerial Council, the Chairperson-in-Office received recommendations from civil society that were the outcome of an event organized in Hamburg by the OSCE-wide NGO coalition Civic Solidarity Platform.

HAMBURG DECLARATION OF THE INCOMING OSCE TROIKA: A STRONG OSCE FOR A SECURE EUROPE

Five lines of future action:

1. A solid platform for dialogue: expanding channels of communication;
2. Progress for peace: investing in sustainable conflict resolution;
3. Greater security for all: reviving confidence- and security-building measures and conventional arms control in Europe;
4. New challenges, renewed co-operation: setting our common agenda;
5. Our organization, our responsibility: enabling the OSCE to deliver.

DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2016 OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECISIONS

1. Decision on the OSCE's role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees
2. Decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity
3. Decision on OSCE efforts related to reducing the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies
4. Decision on enhancing the use of advance passenger information
5. Decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (Vienna, 7-8 December 2017)
6. Decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2019 (Slovakia)
7. Decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (adopted by silence procedure on 23 March 2016)
8. Decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018 (Italy) (adopted by silence procedure on 27 July 2016)

DECLARATIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

1. From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the twentieth anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control
2. Declaration on strengthening OSCE efforts to prevent and counter terrorism
3. Declaration on OSCE assistance projects in the field of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition
4. Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the 5+2 format



Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, speaking at a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council following violent clashes in April, Vienna, 5 April 2016 (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

AMBASSADOR ANDRZEJ KASPRZYK
Personal Representative of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt
with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

www.osce.org/prcio

2016 was a difficult year, with instability and the highest number of casualties on the front lines since the ceasefire came into force.

Following violent clashes in April, and at the request of the sides, the Office of the Personal Representative conducted eight full-day visits in support of humanitarian operations for the search and retrieval of fallen servicemen located between the front-line positions. The procedures used for monitoring exercises were applied to secure the safety of the sides' search teams and of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), present under their own mandate. During this period, the Office kept the Chairmanship, the co-chairs of the Minsk Group (MG) and the MG itself informed about developments on an ongoing basis.

Throughout 2016, the Personal Representative and his team met regularly with representatives of the sides,

including at the highest military and political levels, and kept the Chairmanship and MG co-chairs informed through regular reports.

Working in support of the Chairperson-in-Office and co-chairs in negotiating a peaceful settlement, the Office of the Personal Representative supported the Chairperson-in-Office's visit to the South Caucasus in June and two visits by the MG co-chairs to the region in April and October. The Personal Representative also supported the co-chairs in a series of separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in February, May, June and September, as well as joint meetings in July and December, and helped them prepare for the meetings of the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in May and June. Together with the co-chairs, he participated in briefings with ministers of foreign affairs and senior diplomats in Washington, Berlin, Moscow and Vienna, as well as regular briefings for the MG and the Chairperson-in-Office.

The Personal Representative also continued to co-operate throughout the year with representatives of international organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the ICRC.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

With the support of the sides, the Personal Representative and his team conducted 22 monitoring exercises, five on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and 17 on the line of contact. Representatives of the High-Level Planning Group were also able to take part in four monitoring exercises in February, May, July and October. In addition, representatives of the Chairmanship took part in monitoring exercises in May and October.

A 'WHOLE-OF-OSCE APPROACH'
FOR PEACEKEEPING

The High-Level Planning Group

www.osce.org/hlpg

The High-Level Planning Group, located in Vienna, focused on promoting a "whole-of-OSCE approach" by increasing its co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat, including the Conflict Prevention Centre, Gender Section and Legal Services, to raise awareness of the challenges and enhance the effectiveness of the planning of a possible peacekeeping operation for the area of conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.



"We should be aware that planning for a peacekeeping operation will involve a "whole-of-OSCE approach". It is therefore better to adopt this approach sooner rather than later."

Colonel Hans Lampalzer,
Head of the High-Level Planning Group,
reporting to the PC on 10 November 2016

SOUTH CAUCASUS



**AMBASSADOR
GÜNTHER BÄCHLER**
Special
Representative
of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-
Office for the South
Caucasus

The situation in Georgia remained relatively calm and stable, also thanks to the well-functioning IPRM in Ergneti and the resumption of the IPRM in Gali. Together with the Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Bächler, co-facilitated 11 meetings of the IPRM in Ergneti. With Ambassador Bächler co-chairing the four rounds of the GID, substantial discussions took place, despite the remaining deep divergences over the situation in the region.

During his visits to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the Chairperson-in-Office met with representatives of the governments and civil society organizations. He highlighted OSCE commitments and obligations and expressed support for peacebuilding efforts in the region.

TRANSNIESTRIAN CONFLICT



**AMBASSADOR CORD
MEIER-KLODT**
Special
Representative
of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-
Office for the
Transnistrian
Settlement Process

In the Transnistrian settlement process, the concrete-step approach chosen by Special Representative Meier-Klodt and the OSCE Mission to Moldova was unanimously supported by mediators and observers of the 5+2 format. A joint visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol reinvigorated the political process, followed by a first round of official talks in the 5+2 format, following a two-year standstill, in Berlin on 2 and 3 June, with a substantial agenda and a roadmap known as the Berlin Protocol.

The visit of the Chairperson-in-Office and the traditional Bavaria Conference in July 2016 further strengthened the process and led to a commitment by the Moldovan Government to work out a vision for a special status for Transnistria, to enhance internal co-ordination and to increase the resources for the Bureau of Reintegration. The achievements of 2016 were reflected in a consensus Ministerial Council statement in Hamburg, preparing the ground for the incoming Austrian Chairmanship.



Visiting Georgia on 1 July 2016, Chairperson-in-Office Steinmeier seized the opportunity to address the 25th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Tbilisi. (photothek)

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Opening Address by Minister
Steinmeier, OSCE Chairperson-in-
Office

25
1st Preparatory Meeting of the
Economic and Environmental
Forum discusses good
environmental governance and
sustainable development

16 / VIENNA
High-Level Military Doctrine
Seminar
29 / NEW YORK
Chairperson-in-Office addresses
UN Security Council

30 MARCH – 1 APRIL
Chairperson-in-Office travels
to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan,
Kyrgyzstan, visits OSCE field
operations in the region,
signs agreement on extending
operations of OSCE Academy in
Bishkek

12 / BERLIN
Ministerial Troika Meeting
13–14 / VIENNA
1st Supplementary Human
Dimension Meeting dedicated to
further promoting tolerance and
non-discrimination
19 / WARSAW
Chairperson-in-Office commends
ODIHR's work at 25th anniversary
meeting

JANUARY / VIENNA

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



**AMBASSADOR
MELANNE VERVEER**
Special
Representative of
the Chairperson-in-
Office on Gender
Issues

In her role as the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, Ambassador Melanne Verveer undertook many engagements to advance gender mainstreaming in the OSCE. During her periodic visits to Vienna, she discussed topics such as women, peace and security; combating violence against women; and strategies to advance a planned update to the 2004 Gender Action Plan.

As agreed with the Chairmanship, Ambassador Verveer visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in July and Georgia in November. During these visits, she met with representatives from government, parliament, civil society, the international community and the private sector.

Additionally, Ambassador Verveer attended a Human Dimension Committee meeting on gender and made a keynote speech on women, peace and security at a side event at the Annual Security Review Conference in Vienna in July. She also contributed a video message to the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw and to the Conference on Combating Violence against Women, organized by the OSCE Secretariat's Gender Section. Furthermore, Ambassador Verveer participated in a number of high-level Chairmanship conferences in Berlin, such as a conference on counter-terrorism on 31 May and a conference on UNSCR 1325 on 18 November. For the latter, Ambassador Verveer worked closely with the Chairmanship to bring together experts on relevant topics and to ensure a successful conference.

18
Chairperson-in-Office opens Chairmanship high-level business conference on economic connectivity

19
Good governance is main theme of 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum

31
Chairperson-in-Office and German Interior Minister open high-level OSCE counter-terrorism conference

MAY / BERLIN



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier delivering his opening speech at the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Tolerance and Diversity, Berlin, 20 October 2016 (OSCE/Thomas Trutschel)

THREE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ON TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The German Chairmanship continued the practice of appointing Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-discrimination to strengthen the OSCE's activities in this area (CiO.GAL 1/2016/Rev. 1).

The Personal Representatives jointly or individually attended a number of meetings in their official capacity, including the 1st Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Policies and Strategies to further promote tolerance and non-discrimination", an event called "A holistic approach to addressing intolerance and discrimination against Muslims in the OSCE region", an expert meeting on combating anti-Semitism, the Chairmanship conference on tolerance and diversity, and the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Rabbi Andrew Baker and Professor Bulent Şenay undertook joint visits to the United Kingdom in July and to Sweden in September. In addition, Rabbi Baker visited Poland in May and Norway in September, and he also joined the Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Michael Link, on a visit to Hungary as part of the German-funded ODIHR project on combating anti-Semitism called "Turning Words into Action".

During their visits, the Personal Representatives met with government representatives, local authorities and civil society to discuss tolerance and non-discrimination issues, concerns of different religious communities and possible measures to be adopted for the improvement of the situation or the status of religious communities.

2 / BERLIN

OSCE Code of Conduct conference underlines role of parliamentary control and oversight over the security sector

3 / BERLIN

Resumption of talks in the 5+2 format on Transnistrian settlement

6 / BANGKOK

OSCE Asian Conference on Strengthening Comprehensive Security

20 / BERLIN

OSCE Expert meeting on combating anti-Semitism

28-30

Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)

29 JUN-1 JULY

Chairperson-in-Office visits Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

JUNE



(L-r) 2016 OSCE Chairperson of the Permanent Council Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and Special Representative of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 Gernot Erler, during a Permanent Council meeting, Vienna, 14 January 2016 (OSCE)

ASSISTANCE WITH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS



HELMUT NAPIONTEK
Representative to
the Latvian-Russian
Joint Commission on
Military Pensioners

The Representative continued to assist in the implementation of the 1994 bilateral agreement between the Latvian and Russian Governments on social guarantees for military pensioners from the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia. The latest available overview comprises 8,282 people falling under the special provisions of the bilateral agreement.

As a stable trend since 2008, no individual complaints were brought to the attention of the Commission by military pensioners in 2016. There were no new fundamental issues concerning the work of the Commission throughout the past year. The 2016 report to the Permanent Council concluded that a stand-by arrangement could be appropriate for the future role of the Representative.

1 / TBILISI

Chairperson-in-Office addresses opening of OSCE PA Annual Session

6 / BERLIN

Chairmanship Conference on OSCE as a mediator

20 / VIENNA

Special PC meeting explores roles of the OSCE in the context of the migration and refugee movements

22 / VIENNA

OSCE high-level event on combating violence against women

26

Chairperson-in-Office visits Moldova, holds talks in Chisinau and Tiraspol

JULY

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal status of the OSCE and its impact on operations continued to be a focus in 2016. The German Chairmanship and its Special Advisor, Ambassador John Bernhard, intensified the search for solutions, in particular during the three meetings of the informal working group on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE. Short of elaborating a solution that would grant international legal personality in accordance with the four options discussed in the informal working group, participating States explored ways to enhance the legal status of the OSCE through domestic legislation and/or through bilateral agreements with the OSCE. The Chairmanship further supported a conference organized by the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and Public International Law in Berlin-Dahlem on 13 July 2016, entitled "Between Aspirations and Realities: Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE", to discuss issues related to the international legal status of the OSCE from an academic point of view.

1 / POTSDAM

Informal Ministerial Meeting

6 / BERLIN

Chairmanship event on confronting anti-Gypsyism

7-8 / BERLIN

OSCE Conference addresses trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation

14-16 / PRAGUE

Economic and Environmental Forum

14-15

Chairperson-in-Office travels to Ukraine, including a visit to the SMM in Kramatorsk, eastern Ukraine.

19-30 / WARSAW

Chairperson-in-Office opens OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, stressing his commitment to the OSCE human dimension

23 / NEW YORK

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Secretary General and others discuss OSCE capacities in civilian crisis management at high-level side event to UN General Assembly

SEPTEMBER

YOUTH AND SECURITY



MILENA STOŠIĆ, PAUL STEINER AND ANNA-KATHARINA DEININGER
Special Representatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security

Building upon the initiatives of the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships, the German Chairmanship placed a special focus on younger generations.

In order to strengthen the voice of young people and to increase youth participation within the OSCE, Milena Stošić, Paul Steiner and Anna-Katharina Deininger, three young people from the Troika countries – Serbia, Germany and Austria – were appointed as Special Representatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security. They advised the Chairmanship on youth issues; voiced the views of young people on issues such as countering radicalization and terrorism, migration and human rights at OSCE events; and actively championed the concerns of young people in the OSCE region.

With the aim of strengthening youth participation, facilitating youth mainstreaming and fostering closer co-operation in the implementation of commitments on youth and security, the Special Representatives organized side events at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and at the Ministerial Council, as well as the first-ever OSCE-wide meeting of OSCE Youth Focal Points, in close co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. Furthermore, the Representatives supported the incoming Austrian Chairmanship with preparations of a series of regional youth workshops on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier poses for a selfie with participants of a two-day youth conference, Berlin, 10-11 November 2016. (German Federal Foreign Office)

5–6 / VIENNA

OSCE Mediterranean Conference

14 / STRASBOURG

Chairperson-in-Office visits Council of Europe, addresses the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

20 / BERLIN

Chairperson-in-Office opens Chairmanship Conference on Tolerance and Diversity

27–28 / VIENNA

2nd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting highlights freedom of expression and of the media, with special focus on conflict situations

10–11

3rd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting explores bridge-building role of national minorities

8–9

OSCE Ministerial Council

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER / VIENNA

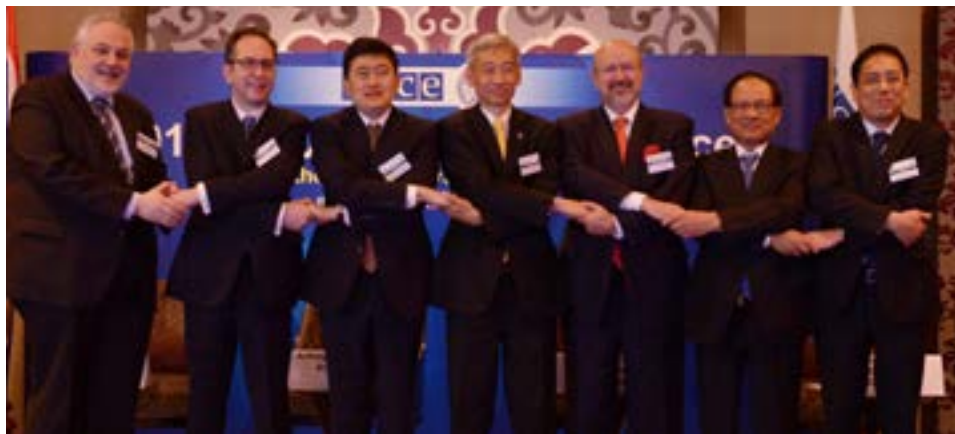
DECEMBER / HAMBURG

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The German Chairmanship promoted the involvement of the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in OSCE events and activities, ensuring continued dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners.

ASIAN CONTACT GROUP 2016

Asian Partners for Co-operation: Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand
Chair: Serbia



(L-r) Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Chairperson of the OSCE Asian Contact Group; Ambassador Norbert Riedel, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific in the German Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Arthayudh Srisamoot, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the International Organizations in Vienna; Mr. Panyarak Poolthup, Deputy Permanent Secretary at Thailand's Foreign Ministry; Mr. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General; Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN; and Mr. Songphol Sukchan, Director-General of the European Affairs Department at Thailand's Foreign Ministry, at the OSCE Asian Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, 6 June 2016 (*Foreign Ministry of Thailand*)

The 2016 Serbian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group actively promoted inclusive and constructive dialogue between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation.

Throughout the year, the Contact Group's chair continued to work with the Asian Partners as suggested in the joint work plan created by Switzerland and Serbia, who held the 2014 and 2015 OSCE Chairmanships, respectively. Supporting a demand-driven approach and responding to the interests of the Asian Partners, Serbia consistently followed up on the recommendations made in the 2014 Basel Ministerial Declaration on Co-operation with the Asian Partners. The focus of last year's work was to deepen and operationalize dialogue and co-operation with the Partners and to exchange experiences and lessons learned on issues of mutual concern.

The Contact Group met five times in 2016 and discussed the following topics, among others:

- The security situation on the Korean Peninsula: recent developments and their implications for the OSCE;
- Japan's enhanced contribution to peace, security and stability in Asia;
- ASEAN-OSCE: enhancing co-operation between the two regions;
- Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security: Australian perspectives;
- Security, stability and development in Afghanistan: transforming threats into opportunities for younger generations;
- Cybersecurity and the activities of the Informal Working Group on cybersecurity, with a focus on cybersecurity-related confidence-building measures;
- The OSCE network of think tanks and academic institutions, its projects and activities;
- The role of the OSCE in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Representatives of the respective Partner countries briefed participants in these meetings on the situation in their countries and made suggestions for further activities and co-operation.



Adela Raz, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs of Afghanistan, speaking at the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, 10 November 2016 (*OSCE/Jonathan Perfect*)

2016 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

The 2016 OSCE Asian Conference took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 and 7 June, focusing on strengthening comprehensive security with an emphasis on cybersecurity, sustainable development, trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The event provided a timely opportunity for OSCE participating States and Asian Partners for Co-operation to share views and experiences with a view to identifying avenues for specific forms of co-operation.

The three thematic sessions reflected the OSCE's three dimensions while incorporating discussions on current topics of particular interest, including the potential for co-operation in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism; in combating terrorism; in promoting measures to lift people out of poverty and improve their living conditions; in enhancing the role of women in social life and economic development; and in addressing the root causes of trafficking in human beings and irregular migration.

MEDITERRANEAN CONTACT GROUP

Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia
Chair: Austria



Youth from Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Libya discuss the importance of preventing and countering violent extremism, Tunisia, 3 May 2016. (OSCE/Mehdi Knani)

The major themes of the 2016 Austrian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group were dialogue and inclusivity, with the first meeting attended by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet. Youth representatives, civil society actors and religious representatives were key participants in meetings and other initiatives throughout the year. These events included the first-ever retreat of the Contact Group outside Vienna, organized together with Spain, and a workshop on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, jointly organized with Switzerland and Germany, in Amman, Jordan. The highlight of the Chairmanship, the 2016 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, discussed challenges for comprehensive security and youth north and south of the Mediterranean. The OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation participated actively in various OSCE events and numerous projects.

In 2016, the Contact Group held five meetings on the following topics:

- Strengthening dialogue and the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE;
- Lessons learned in dealing with the challenge of the current migration and refugee crisis on both sides of the Mediterranean;
- The role of dialogue and religion in preventing violent extremism;
- Preventing and responding to the terrorist radicalization of youth north and south of the Mediterranean;
- Job opportunities and business creation for youth north and south of the Mediterranean.

Political dialogue was complemented and reinforced by a growing variety of practical co-operation projects that covered all three OSCE dimensions and key areas of the current OSCE and Mediterranean agendas. Most notably, in collaboration with Spain, Austria organized the first-ever retreat of the Contact Group outside Vienna to discuss ways to further strengthen the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership. The retreat was preceded by an expert workshop on the topic of civil society dialogue for social cohesion. The Austrian Chair also organized a regional roundtable event in Tunisia for North African

youth on preventing and countering violent extremism. To present the outcomes of that workshop to delegations, it organized a side event during the OSCE Chairmanship's counter-terrorism conference in Berlin, which dealt with OSCE-wide issues.

2016 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

The annual Mediterranean Conference entitled "Youth north and south of the Mediterranean: facing security challenges and enhancing opportunities" took place on 5 and 6 October at the Hofburg in Vienna. The Conference was attended by no fewer than ten ministers and deputy ministers, including Libyan Foreign Minister Mohammed Taher Siala, who reaffirmed Libya's interest in becoming an OSCE Partner for Co-operation. All participants expressed the belief that the active participation of youth representatives in all sessions of the Conference ensured that their voices were included in discussions.

"We have to learn from one another to prevent a lack of meaningful perspectives and extremism both north and south of the Mediterranean. The OSCE has the expertise and tools to contribute with our comprehensive security concept, and together with other international organizations."

Sebastian Kurz,
Austrian Federal Minister for Europe,
Integration and Foreign Affairs

Libya was given a prominent place also due to the participation of Martin Kobler, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, who delivered opening remarks during the high-level segment of the Conference. Keynote speeches were also made by Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs; and Vincenzo Amendola, Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

PERMANENT COUNCIL

The Permanent Council is the OSCE's regular body for political dialogue and decision-making among representatives of OSCE participating States, meeting weekly in Vienna.



Permanent Council

www.osce.org/pc

During the 2016 German OSCE Chairmanship, the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council in Vienna were chaired by Germany's Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Ambassador Eberhard Pohl.

Throughout the year, Ambassador Pohl welcomed distinguished guest speakers to the Permanent Council, including ministers and deputy ministers from participating States and OSCE Partners and high-level representatives from international organizations. Guest speakers highlighted issues of special relevance to the Chairmanship, such as the humanitarian situation in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine, migration-related issues, Holocaust remembrance and gender equality.

Besides the work of the OSCE institutions and field operations, various conflict settlement efforts in the OSCE area played an important role in many of the 41 sessions of the Permanent Council in 2016. On the crisis in and around Ukraine alone, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office to the Trilateral Contact Group, Martin Sajdik, and SMM Chief Monitor Ertugrul Apakan briefed the Permanent Council five times. The Chairperson also called a special meeting following the escalation of violence in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

The German Chairmanship strived to strengthen the role of the OSCE Secretary General in the Permanent Council and invited Lamberto Zannier to address the participating States on the OSCE's co-operation with regional and international organizations, on migration-related activities and important regional developments.

Twice in 2016, the Permanent Council convened in joint sessions with the Forum for Security Co-operation, dedicated to the themes of dialogue for enhanced European security and the OSCE's work in the field of arms control.



“The Permanent Council served as the central platform for in-depth exchanges, often reflecting the deep divisions that must be overcome in the OSCE area to restore lasting security in Europe. The German Chairmanship pursued the objective of renewing dialogue and rebuilding trust among OSCE participating States. The Permanent Council was a valuable instrument to put these priorities into practice week after week.”

Ambassador Eberhard Pohl,
Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE and
2016 Chairperson of the Permanent Council

Chairs of the three general committees as appointed by the Chairperson of the Permanent Council:

- **Ambassador Cristian Istrate**, Romania – **Security Committee**
- **Ambassador Andreas Papadakis**, Greece (from January to July) and **Ambassador Vuk Žugić**, Serbia (from August to December) – **Economic and Environmental Committee**
- **Ambassador Katja Pehrman**, Finland – **Human Dimension Committee**

The Chairperson of the Permanent Council appointed Chairs for informal working groups (IWG) that reported the results of their work to the Permanent Council:

- **Ambassador Claude Wild**, Switzerland – **IWG on Migration** (Permanent Council on 20 July)
- **Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl**, Austria – **IWG on the revision of OSCE Scales of Contribution** (Permanent Council on 8 June)

HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS AT THE PERMANENT COUNCIL IN 2016

14 January 2016



FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER
*2016 OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
Foreign Minister of Germany*

21 January 2016



SZABOLCS TAKÁCS
*Chair of the International Holocaust
Remembrance Alliance*

21 January 2016



FELIX KLEIN
*Special Representative of the
Federal Foreign Office for Relations
with Jewish Organizations, Issues
Relating to Anti-Semitism, Holocaust
Remembrance and International
Aspects of Sinti and Roma Issues,
Germany*

11 February 2016



ARAZ AZIMOV
*Deputy Foreign Minister of the
Republic of Azerbaijan*

10 March 2016



RALF KLEINDIEK
*State Secretary of the Ministry
for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth, Germany*

26 May 2016



MARINA KALJURAND
*Foreign Minister of Estonia and Chair
of the Committee of Ministers of the
Council of Europe*

2 June 2016



MIKHEIL JANELIDZE
Foreign Minister of Georgia

9 June 2016



THORBJØRN JAGLAND
Secretary General of the Council of Europe

7 July 2016



IVAN ŠIMONOVIĆ
UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

14 July 2016



SEBASTIAN KURZ
Incoming 2017 OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Austria

21 July 2016



JOYCE ANELAY, BARONESS ANELAY OF ST JOHNS DBE
Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom and the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

27 October 2016



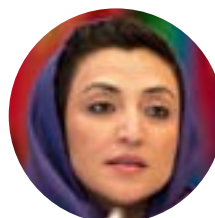
PETER MAURER
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

3 November 2016



DITMIR BUSHATI
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania

10 November 2016



ADELA RAZ
Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Cooperation of Afghanistan

FORUM FOR SECURITY CO- OPERATION

The Forum is the OSCE's key decision-making body on politico-military aspects of security. Its participants meet weekly in Vienna to discuss such issues as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).



Forum for Security Co-operation

www.osce.org/fsc

The situation in and around Ukraine remained the dominant topic of discussions at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). An active dialogue took place on other topical European security issues, including arms control and CSBMs, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, and subregional military and defence co-operation. The FSC adopted five decisions supporting the implementation of existing commitments and their further development. In particular, the FSC adopted a decision to extend the assistance on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation. Furthermore, the participating States decided to allow the publication on the OSCE website of certain information they exchange on anti-personnel landmines, conventional arms transfers and SALW.

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE

The strategic discussions during Security Dialogues emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform for addressing and discussing security issues.

All three FSC Chairmanships in 2016 – the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal – actively stimulated discussions by organizing a total of 19 Security Dialogues, which allowed participating States to discuss issues related to European security within the FSC mandate.



A staff member from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) testing a multi-channel unexploded ordnance (UXO) detection system provided within an OSCE FSC Project, 12 December 2016, SESU Training Centre, Kharkiv region, Ukraine (SESU)

◀ (OSCE/Ben Erasin)

The FSC further demonstrated its relevance as a platform for dialogue and an assistance provider in the areas of non-proliferation and strategic trade controls. The Forum continued to complement global efforts in these areas by facilitating the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. Discussions focused on further steps and best practices in the implementation of these resolutions.

ARMS CONTROL AND CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

The issue of arms control and CSBMs was accorded particular importance through a number of activities.

Many delegations regularly seized the opportunity of the weekly Forum meetings to put forward their perspectives on the crisis in and around Ukraine. The CSBMs outlined in the Vienna Document 2011 were used to raise and address security concerns, as well as to conduct inspections and evaluation visits.

Under the Chairmanship of the Netherlands, the FSC organized a High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar on 16 and 17 February, following the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011. This event provided a much-needed opportunity to facilitate military-to-military contacts and to examine recent developments in participating States' military doctrines. The Dutch FSC Chairmanship also co-chaired a joint meeting of the FSC and the

Permanent Council on European security. The 26th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting evaluated the state of implementation of agreed CSBMs.

Under the Chairmanship of Poland, the FSC contributed to the Annual Security Review Conference from 28 to 30 June. The discussions during Working Session II on problems and prospects of conventional arms control and CSBMs demonstrated that the FSC can play a key role in promoting co-operative responses to current and future challenges.

Under the Chairmanship of Portugal, the FSC devoted a Security Dialogue to the changes in the role of military forces, focusing on practical and military doctrinal implications. Moreover, a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council was dedicated to revisiting the 1996 OSCE Framework for Arms Control. The meeting showed that arms control, together with disarmament and confidence- and security-building, remains integral to the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security.

Following the discussions initiated at the FSC, a Ministerial Declaration entitled "From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control" was adopted in December 2016. The document highlights the continued importance of conventional arms control and CSBMs for advancing comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security in the OSCE area, and welcomes the launch of a structured dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area.

Beyond the regular discussions on arms control and on modernizing and updating the Vienna Document, several participating States published a number of food-for-thought papers and proposals for Vienna Document Plus decisions as provided for in the Vienna Document 2011. The FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document organized several informal meetings to discuss certain aspects of updating the Vienna Document and its reissuance. A special meeting of the FSC was held; however, it did not result in reissuance due to a lack of consensus.

The Forum continued to work towards enhanced implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The fifth Annual Implementation Discussion in July emphasized the undiminished value of complying with all principles and norms set out in the Code and examined its application in the context of the current security situation in the OSCE region.

DEALING WITH ARMS AND AMMUNITION SURPLUSES

The Forum and the Informal Group of Friends on SALW continued to work both on fostering implementation of existing commitments and on looking into ways to make measures more effective and efficient. A number of capacity-building initiatives on SALW and

FSC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN 2016

On Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), European Union, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

On Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Wassenaar Arrangement, Small Arms Survey, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation

On the Code of Conduct

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)

On Non-proliferation and UNSCR 1540

UNSCR 1540 Committee, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

conventional ammunition were undertaken. Also, OSCE practical assistance projects on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition continued to be implemented, including in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Tajikistan.



Marking of inert unexploded ordnance (82 mm mortar) in the aftermath of an ammunition depot explosion as part of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal training scenario, Lyaur, Tajikistan, 26 May 2016 (OSCE/Nozim Kalandarov)

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

25th anniversary year of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Following a call made in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe for greater parliamentary involvement in the then-CSCE, parliamentarians met on the initiative of the Spanish Parliament in Madrid on 2 and 3 April 1991 to establish a Parliamentary Assembly (PA). On the occasion of the OSCE PA's 25th anniversary in April 2016, the Assembly's then-President, Finnish parliamentarian Ilkka Kanerva, thanked the thousands of parliamentarians involved since 1991 for their contributions to facilitating dialogue and promoting European co-operation and security.



OSCE PA delegates vote in the plenary at the 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi, 4 July 2016. (Georgian Parliament)

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Secretary General: **Roberto Montella**

Budget: €3,161,000

Staff: 19 full-time employees

8 research fellows

www.oscepa.org

Throughout the Parliamentary Assembly's 25th anniversary year, members of the Assembly demonstrated political leadership on such critical issues as the attempted coup and its aftermath in Turkey, the refugee and migrant crisis, and conflict mediation. It was also a particularly active year for OSCE PA election observation activities, with 334 parliamentarians participating in eight missions across the OSCE area.



An OSCE PA delegation, led by President Muttonen, inspects damage to the Turkish parliament building following the 15 July attempted coup, Ankara, 16 August 2016. (OSCE PA/Loïc Poulain)

ATTEMPTED COUP IN TURKEY AND ITS AFTERMATH

The PA responded rapidly to the attempted seizure of power by factions of the military in Turkey on 15 July, with President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) immediately condemning the violent attack and stressing the importance of respecting Turkey's constitutional order. President Muttonen led a high-level delegation to Turkey the next month, meeting on 16 and 17 August with the Turkish President, Speaker of Parliament, Prime

Minister, Foreign Minister, opposition party leaders and other officials.

In the following months, the PA continued to engage with the country. While expressing solidarity with the Turkish people following the coup attempt, PA officials raised concerns in response to subsequent developments over challenges to the rule of law and reiterated that human rights must be upheld when addressing security threats.



(L-r) OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Madina Jarbussynova and OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Vice-Chair Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal) are briefed on board the Garibaldi aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean Sea, 21 June 2016. (OSCE/Alberto Andreani)

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP ON THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CRISIS

The Assembly was engaged on the issue of migration throughout the year, with working visits to the Czech Republic, France, Italy and Serbia. Members debated the crisis at the Assembly's Winter Meeting in Vienna, where a special report was distributed containing concrete proposals for action by the OSCE and its participating States. Also at the Winter Meeting, the PA's Standing Committee formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Migration to spearhead the Assembly's efforts in the field. The PA continued to address the issue at its Annual Session in Tbilisi and its Autumn Meeting in Skopje.

Members exchanged views on migration-related work with government representatives of the OSCE participating States on several occasions, providing political input to their efforts. The PA's Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Filippo Lombardi (MP, Switzerland), briefed the OSCE Permanent Council in July on the Assembly's plan of action, which includes monitoring the situation on the ground and developing policy recommendations.

PROMOTING DIALOGUE ON UKRAINE

The crisis in and around Ukraine remained high on the Parliamentary Assembly's agenda. It was one of several conflicts within the OSCE area that featured at a seminar on conflict resolution hosted by the German delegation in April. In June, then-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) paid a four-day visit to Kyiv, meeting with the Ukrainian President, the Foreign Minister and the pilot and MP Nadiya Savchenko, who had recently been released from a Russian prison. In his meetings, Kanerva stressed the PA's support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and called for the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements.

These points were reiterated by President Muttonen during a visit to Moscow in November. "Our parliamentarians have consistently expressed grave concern about the situation stemming from the violation of the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act," Muttonen said. "We support the Minsk Agreements, and have regularly called for their full implementation."



"The Parliamentary Assembly stands ready to do its part in working for a more effective OSCE. Our parliamentarians are a powerful tool of people-to-people diplomacy. All our work is guided by the key principle of enhancing dialogue."

Christine Muttonen,
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

25TH ANNUAL SESSION, TBILISI, 1-5 JULY 2016

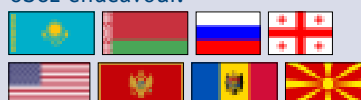
The 25th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly brought together nearly 300 parliamentarians in the Georgian capital under the theme "25 Years of Parliamentary Co-operation: Building Trust through Dialogue". The Session culminated in the adoption of the 2016 Tbilisi Declaration and the election of Christine Muttonen as Assembly President, as well as the election of several vice-presidents and committee officers.

AUTUMN MEETING, SKOPJE, 30 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER WINTER MEETING, VIENNA, 18-20 FEBRUARY

The 2016 Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held in Skopje under the theme "Strengthening Confidence-Building Measures and Good Governance in the OSCE Region". Some 170 parliamentarians from across the OSCE area attended the meeting. Nearly 250 parliamentarians from OSCE participating States gathered on 25 and 26 February at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna for the Assembly's 15th Winter Meeting, which included a special debate on the refugee and migrant crisis.

ELECTION OBSERVATION

The Parliamentary Assembly continued to provide political leadership to OSCE election observation activities throughout 2016, with PA members serving as Special Co-ordinators of OSCE short-term observer missions in Kazakhstan, Belarus, the Russian Federation, Georgia, the United States of America, Montenegro, Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. OSCE PA observers worked closely with colleagues from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and other international organizations, contributing their political experience and judgement to this essential OSCE endeavour.





Secretariat

Secretary General: **Lamberto Zannier**
Budget: €40,858,800 (Unified Budget),
€9,805,858 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 385
www.osce.org/secretariat

Led by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, the OSCE Secretariat is based in Vienna and supports the Chairmanship. The staff of the Secretariat monitor trends, provide expert analysis and implement projects in the field. The Secretariat also maintains contacts with international and non-governmental organizations, and provides conference, language, administrative, financial, personnel and information technology services.

THE SECRETARIAT CONSISTS OF:

- Office of the Secretary General
- Conflict Prevention Centre
- Department of Human Resources
- Department of Management and Finance
- Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Office of Internal Oversight
- Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Transnational Threats Department

Conflict Prevention

Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre:
Ambassador Marcel Peško
Staff: 58
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/conflict-prevention>

The OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) is the Secretariat's direct link to field operations, helping to address all phases of the conflict cycle through proactive guidance and advice on the use of relevant tools and instruments, including through the provision of early warning and support for the OSCE's response in mitigating crisis situations and efforts to find lasting political settlements for existing conflicts. The CPC is a cornerstone of the OSCE's politico-military dimension.



Monitoring Officer Lorenzo Striuli (left) explains some of the weapons used in the conflict in and around Ukraine during a site visit by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and OSCE SMM Chief Monitor Ertugrul Apakan to Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, on 8 September 2016. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE CRISIS IN AND AROUND UKRAINE

The CPC continued to play a key role in co-ordinating the OSCE's efforts as the crisis in and around Ukraine evolved. The CPC has been supporting all efforts to implement a lasting ceasefire in line with the Minsk Agreements, including the implementation of the 3 March Decisions of the TCG on Mine Action and the 21 September Framework Decision on Disengagement. For example, the CPC was

instrumental in helping the SMM to further enhance its technical surveillance capabilities. The CPC assisted the work of the TCG's Political Working Group to further conflict resolution efforts. The CPC continued to support the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

DEMINING EFFORTS IN UKRAINE

- The CPC is implementing an extrabudgetary project to enhance the capacity of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine to clear territories contaminated by explosive remnants of war by increasing the efficiency and safety of explosive ordnance disposal teams. Support was provided for the development of two extrabudgetary projects on humanitarian demining implemented by the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.
- Chemical safety and security projects in Ukraine, under the auspices of UNSCR 1540 (2004), strengthen oversight over controlled and toxic chemicals, and improve Ukraine's regulatory system in chemical safety and security.

ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The CPC continued to support the conflict resolution process in Moldova, working closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt, to further efforts towards a negotiated solution to the Transnistrian conflict. The CPC participated in the 5+2 meeting in June in Berlin, marking the first time the group had met following a lengthy break. Additionally, the CPC supported the organization of a confidence-building conference in Bavaria with participants from Chisinau and Tiraspol in June.

The CPC supported the work of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Günther Bächler, during the four rounds of the GID, which address the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia, and the 11 meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism held in Ergneti in 2016. The CPC actively participated in numerous consultations in Tbilisi, Sukhumi, Tskhinvali and Moscow, and co-moderated the GID working group dealing with humanitarian issues. In support of the GID, the CPC organized an OSCE Summer School in Vienna to familiarize youth from the region and beyond with OSCE values and commitments and to build ties among populations divided by the conflict. Other CPC projects focused on humanitarian issues, such as missing persons from the 2008 conflict.

ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The CPC took an active part in the tenth annual Task Force meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 8 June. Over 200 participants discussed OSCE-Tajikistan co-operation in all three dimensions and jointly agreed on future priorities and plans. The Task Force meeting took place back to back with the Regional Meeting of Heads of OSCE Field Operations in Central Asia, which was dedicated to



Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre Marcel Peško addresses participants taking part in a one-year Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership Course in Dushanbe, 8 June 2016. (OSCE/Ilona Kazaryan)

the topic of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in the region, with the participation of international and regional organizations, including the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the UN and the EU.

A memorandum of understanding between the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Kyrgyzstan was signed for another ten years on 31 March. The CPC also supported the process leading to renewal of accreditation of both master's programmes and the extension of the lease agreement of the Academy building as an in-kind contribution by the Kyrgyz Government.

ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The CPC continued to support the States Parties to Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords. The Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) received the support of the CPC in organizing the second peer review conference for the States Parties of South-Eastern Europe to jointly discuss and review their annual information exchange under the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The CPC, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, organized a regional workshop on security sector governance and reform (SSG/R). In this region, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia were assisted in disposing of surplus ammunition and in improving the safety and security of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons. After assistance had been offered to Bosnia and Herzegovina to review its new draft export control legislation for military goods, an outreach event was organized by the CPC for the defence industry

MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS 24/7

The Situation/Communications Room continued to monitor developments affecting security and stability in the OSCE area, serving as a vital link in the security chain between the Secretariat and the field operations:

- 515 daily briefings composed;
- 1,646 updates and special reports issued;
- 10,087 alert messages circulated;
- 452 field operation reports distributed to delegations outside regular working hours.

ADDRESSING HUMAN DISPLACEMENT IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The OSCE-supported Regional Housing Programme addresses outstanding human displacement from the 1991–1995 conflict and remains a positive example of regional co-operation. The OSCE continues to provide support and expert advice to this Programme, which will ultimately assist approximately 27,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families (74,000 people) with their housing and reintegration needs.

- 126 individual housing units were completed in 2016, with 70 per cent of beneficiaries moving in, and agreements were signed with 18 municipalities to provide 438 social housing solutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Construction of an apartment building in Belgrade (235 apartments) began in September;
- In Montenegro, 62 constructed housing units in Niksic were allocated to displaced families, with keys delivered in June, and the construction of a home for senior citizens in Pljevlja began that same month.

on the amended export control legislation, in close co-operation with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Security.

EARLY WARNING

The CPC continued to promote a structured and systematic approach to early warning activities across the Organization, specifically through the network of early warning focal points in OSCE executive structures. In 2016, the CPC organized the fifth annual meeting of the OSCE early warning focal point network in Vienna, with 30 representatives of field operations and other executive structures, for information sharing and capacity building. In recognition of the essential role of conflict analysis for early warning reporting, CPC-facilitated conflict analysis workshops remain a key capacity-building tool for interested field operations. In addition, the CPC facilitated a number of regional meetings and capacity-building events focused on the use of the OSCE's overall conflict cycle toolbox.

MEDIATION

In 2016, the CPC organized several mediation and dialogue facilitation capacity-building events, including coaching for Special Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office. It also designed an assessment process to support the exploration by the incoming Chairmanship of possible dialogue initiatives in Ukraine. In the field of



A Vienna Document contact visit to an airbase and military facility in the Russian Federation, September 2016 (OSCE/Christian Wägli)

operational guidance, it commissioned the drafting of a study on insider mediation.

IMPLEMENTING POLITICO-MILITARY COMMITMENTS

The CPC's Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Support Section held a dozen capacity-building events on issues related to the Vienna Document 2011, SALW, the Code of Conduct and other agreed CSBMs. Particularly in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Tajikistan, it contributed to progress in SALW and conventional ammunition stockpile security and capacity building, as well as in destroying surplus weapons and ammunition. In addition, the FSC Support Section compiled all exchanged military information and provided regular reports to participating States. It organized several country-specific dialogues and helped develop and implement national action plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also assisted with the development of a more coherent approach to SSG/R, particularly through the development and launch of a set of internal OSCE guidelines.

SHARING MILITARY INFORMATION

The CPC facilitates the exchange of military information between participating States as stipulated in the Vienna Document 2011. This sharing of information is a key element to building confidence and trust within the OSCE area. The OSCE Communications Network, established by the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, provides all participating States with a reliable, timely and secure channel for transmitting military information.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The CPC continued to provide programme and project management support to the Secretariat and field operations, and ensured the quality control and compliance of all extrabudgetary project proposals with the OSCE Common Regulatory Management System. Expert advice was provided on 95 project proposals worth €31.4 million, as well as on voluntary contributions to the SMM amounting to €19.8 million. Furthermore, the CPC facilitated training sessions on project cycle management, programme and project planning and self-evaluation for some 173 OSCE staff members.



The OSCE SMM observation camera
provides 360° view 24/7.
(OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Transnational Threats

Director of the Transnational Threats
Department: **Alexey Lyzhenkov** (until
June 2016) and **Rasa Ostrauskaite** (from
December 2016)

Staff: 30

www.osce.org/secretariat/policing

www.osce.org/secretariat/terrorism

www.osce.org/secretariat/cyber-ict-security

www.osce.org/secretariat/borders

www.polis.osce.org

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) continued to support participating States and Partners for Co-operation by providing assistance for their efforts to counter transnational threats. The Department, created in 2012, aims to better translate political commitments into effective and sustainable programmatic actions by, among others,

convening joint expert meetings, sharing information and best practices, and co-ordinating the implementation of projects and plans of action. The Department includes a Co-ordination Cell dealing, inter alia, with cyber/information and communication (ICT) security issues and three thematic units: the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Border Security and Management Unit and the Strategic Police Matters Unit.



Finalists in the regional OSCE #UnitedCVE competition under the "Peer-2-Peer: Challenging Extremism" initiative, Hamburg, Germany, 7 December 2016 (OSCE/Fanni Uusitalo)

The first Declaration reconfirmed the OSCE's resolve to fight terrorism in all aspects while it took positive note of the continued implementation of the OSCE #UnitedCVE campaign. The OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#UnitedCVE) campaign reached some 16 million people through social media in 2016, to raise awareness and mobilize the public in support of efforts to prevent and counter VERT. Several outreach activities were organized under the campaign, including a #LetsDoodle drawing contest to challenge violent extremism, and a regional student competition in the margins of the Ministerial Council in Hamburg as part of the "Peer-2-Peer: Challenging Extremism" initiative supported by Facebook. API shows how the OSCE actively promotes and extends the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. Increasing the use of API will hamper the ability of known terrorist suspects to move across borders, including those returning from conflict zones.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Counter-terrorism remained a high priority on the OSCE's agenda. Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERT), how to deal with the return of foreign terrorist fighters, activities concerning the fight against terrorism, with a focus on youth and women, were among the subjects discussed at the OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference held in Berlin. This conference's outcomes helped to later focus the work of the participating States as the year concluded with an OSCE Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and a second Ministerial Decision on Enhancing the Use of Advance Passenger Information (API).

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

Many states now consider cyber capabilities a legitimate and necessary part of their strategic toolbox alongside diplomacy, economic influence and military might. A key challenge is that the intangible nature of cyberspace can foster ambiguity, speculation and misunderstanding that can lead to tensions or conflicts between states.

In 2016, participating States expanded the list of OSCE confidence-building measures (CBMs) to reduce the risks of conflicts stemming from the use of ICTs, including on the protection of critical infrastructure, a key national security concern. At the Hamburg MC, foreign ministers



Participants in an OSCE-organized workshop on combating the illicit trade in cultural property and the smuggling of historical artefacts visit the Gissar Fortress Archeological site, 40 km west from Dushanbe, 15 July 2016. (OSCE/Veronika Livsica)

further pledged to implement existing CBMs, to work towards additional ones and to strengthen the OSCE to work in this field.

TNTD continued supporting participating States in implementing relevant OSCE ICT confidence-building measures, and in 2016, the rate of implementation of the CBMs rose to almost 90 per cent, up from 70 per cent in 2015. In addition, a first communication check (ping test) confirmed the readiness of nearly all participating States to engage in crisis communication over a potential cyber/ICT security incident between states.

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT

Foreign terrorist fighters remain a serious challenge for border security agencies. The OSCE has been proactive in helping border agencies deal with this threat. The first OSCE mobile training team is prepared to assist first-line border officials to address this phenomenon.

The OSCE is working to improve the operational capacities of Police Co-operation Centres and Police and Customs Co-operation Centres in South-Eastern Europe to ensure better information exchange and co-operation mechanisms among the border security and management services in the region.

A November 2016 workshop in Malta showed the importance of improving co-operation mechanisms in the Mediterranean region. The event led to the development of an initiative to establish sustainable co-operation and exchange networks between border agencies in the Mediterranean region.

A workshop in Dushanbe to improve co-operation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in combating the increase in illicit trafficking of cultural property across borders led to the development of similar workshops for other regions planned for 2017.

TNTD established the OSCE Gender Equality Platform for Border Security and Management to promote women's leadership and mainstream gender equality on all levels in border services.

POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN ADDRESSING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

TNTD focused on enhancing law enforcement co-operation when addressing priorities in migration-related crime, illicit drugs, counter-terrorism investigations and cybercrime.

Through training courses and workshops, TNTD, in co-ordination with the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, assisted in strengthening law enforcement capacities to investigate cases and identify victims of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

In combating illicit drugs, TNTD focused on the training of Afghan law enforcement officers, as well as capacity building for Eastern European countries in tackling new psychoactive substances.

TNTD and ODIHR jointly developed a training module for law enforcement on "Counter-Terrorist Investigations and Human Rights". Two joint pilot training events were held in Albania and Spain.

Intelligence-led policing (ILP) was the topic of the 2016 OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting. The meeting requested that TNTD draft an OSCE guidebook on ILP, due to be published by mid-2017.

The venue of traditional crime is increasingly moving into cyberspace. To address this new challenge, TNTD delivered basic and advanced training courses for cybercrime investigators in South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

In co-operation with the German OSCE Chairmanship, TNTD organized the OSCE-wide conference "UNGASS 2016: Roadmap for Tackling the World Drug Problem" to discuss proposals on how to assist the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in implementation of the UNGASS outcome document.



TNTD contributed to the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem and initiated discussions within the OSCE to implement its outcome document. Guy Vinet, Head of the SPMU addressing the Special Session, New York, 20 April 2016 (UN General Assembly Service)

Economic and Environmental Activities

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities: **Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**
Staff: 20

www.osce.org/economic-activities

www.osce.org/environmental-activities

www.osce.org/secretariat/eeforum

Following the priorities of the German OSCE Chairmanship for the second dimension in 2016, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) increased its engagement in the area of promoting good economic and environmental governance and connectivity among OSCE participating States, including in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Forum.



OSCE Secretary General
Lamberto Zannier
presenting the OSCE
*Handbook on Combating
Corruption* at the Hofburg,
Vienna, 3 June 2016
(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

COMBATING CORRUPTION

As part of its efforts to support participating States in combating corruption, the OCEEA conducted a national anti-corruption needs assessment mission in Mongolia and organized an expert seminar in Kyrgyzstan on education and extractive industries. In support of effective management of public resources and the fight against corruption in the Western Balkans, the project "Money in Politics in South-Eastern Europe" was developed and implemented by the OCEEA and ODIHR in close partnership with OSCE field operations. The initiative was aimed at identifying trends and sharing best practices in combating corruption in the areas of

political party financing, public officials' assets and income disclosure and public procurement.

THE OSCE HANDBOOK ON COMBATING CORRUPTION

In spring 2016, the OSCE *Handbook on Combating Corruption* was published. The Handbook raises awareness of the range of international instruments available to national policymakers and anti-corruption practitioners, and assists in developing and implementing effective anti-corruption policies and measures.



Residents ask questions about radiation risks at a meeting organized by the Khujand Aarhus Centre near the Istiqlol (Taboshar) uranium legacy site in Tajikistan. (OSCE/Ikrom Mamadov)



Aarhus Centres' representatives, local authorities, state agencies for emergency situations, NGOs and international and regional organizations discuss community-based disaster risk reduction, 8 April 2016, Vienna. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

The Office continued to strengthen the participating States' ability to prevent and suppress money laundering and to strike at the financial core of criminal activity, including through several specialized training courses on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism conducted in Austria, Moldova and Ukraine. In Tajikistan, a scoping mission and a workshop were conducted, together with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, which identified the technical assistance needs of national authorities and provided training on skills to detect money laundering using modern corporate vehicles and financial instruments. In June, a regional meeting of financial intelligence units on countering terrorism financing was conducted in Belgrade to discuss trends and best practices in combating terrorism financing in the region. In October, the Office supported the development of a money laundering national risk assessment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

LABOUR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Capacity-building initiatives to improve labour migration policies were identified as a result of several scoping missions. An expert meeting organized in June allowed the identification of priority actions in the framework of the informal working group on migration established under the guiding role of the Ambassador of Switzerland to the OSCE. On 14 December, the OCEEA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a panel discussion in Vienna dedicated to the future development of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The panelists explored future steps and challenges for upcoming negotiations aimed at the adoption of the Compact in 2018 and how the two organizations can jointly facilitate a broad-based consensus in the OSCE region to this end.

FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE

The OSCE provided targeted assistance on accession to, and implementation of, the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement in Central Asia by

establishing national trade facilitation committees and developing a roadmap for implementing comprehensive trade facilitation reforms, including a regional workshop on trade facilitation in Astana. The OCEEA supported the participating States' efforts to create and strengthen a regulatory framework that is conducive to a more attractive business and investment climate. The OCEEA hosted the 14th session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links in Yerevan. Recent developments in facilitating initiatives along Euro-Asian routes to further boost regional economic growth through improving existing legal agreements were discussed.

GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE – TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY

The OCEEA's environmental activities continued to support OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments related to the environment and security, including those within the framework of the post-2015 global agenda, namely the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The annual gathering of the Aarhus Centres in Vienna in November revealed the growing engagement of the 60 members of the Aarhus Centres Network in addressing environment and security challenges in 14 participating States. It also demonstrated the potential for the Aarhus Centres to be players in the transition to a green economy and resource efficiency, which will be priorities for the OCEEA in 2017. The meeting marked the launch of a new website, aarhus.osce.org.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Wildfire management continued to be at the core of OCEEA activities in the field of disaster risk reduction. In the South Caucasus region, the OCEEA together with the Global Fire Monitoring Center and the Canadian Forestry Service developed a fire danger rating system as an early-warning tool for decision makers. The experience gained in the South Caucasus region paved the way for launching a new initiative to strengthen wildfire management



“As the 2016 Chair of the ENVSEC Initiative, my objectives included strengthening the security benefits of the ENVSEC work programme and increasing the Initiative’s visibility among stakeholders. The ENVSEC side event at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, provided a platform for several ministers, other high-level representatives and civil society to share experiences on how ENVSEC addresses emerging risks for the environment and security.”

Yurdakul Yigitgüden,
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

capacities in Chernobyl-affected areas. The OCEEA also strengthened local capacities and promoted cross-border co-operation for community-based disaster risk reduction through various projects.

WATER MANAGEMENT: CONNECTING INTERESTS AND BENEFITS

Protecting the Dniester River basin shared by Moldova and Ukraine remained high on the OCEEA’s agenda. Building on its support for water management, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the basin since 2004, the OCEEA contributed to the development of a portfolio of activities by the international community that are aimed at advancing transboundary co-operation within the framework of new initiatives to be launched for the Dniester River basin in 2017.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT: EMPOWERING CITIZENS

Together with its Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) partners and funded by the European Commission, the OCEEA is fostering stakeholder engagement in uranium legacy remediation in Central Asia. Besides the Aarhus Centres in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, and Khujand, Tajikistan, which are the main local partners in this project, three new public environmental information centres in the concerned areas were established to raise awareness and active involvement of citizens in the area of radiation safety.

CLIMATE CHANGE: ASSESSMENT OF ITS IMPACTS ON SECURITY

National authorities, NGOs and academics from Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia gathered in their respective regions to discuss the impacts of climate change on security and to identify priority geographical

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

The 24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum focused on strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance, which contributed to the Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity. Over 670 participants took part in two preparatory meetings in Vienna and Berlin, as well as the concluding meeting in Prague. Keynote speakers included Peter Eigen, founder of Transparency International, who emphasized the need for a new form of co-operation between government, the private sector and civil society in fighting corruption. “A triangular co-operation of state, business and civil society can contribute to better governance and a secure world,” he said. Furthermore, the Economic and Environmental Committee also offered a constructive discussion platform on thematic topics in the economic and environmental field.



Panelists during an OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Preparatory Meeting that highlighted the importance of good governance for stable economic development and security, Berlin, 19 May 2016. (photothek/Florian Gaertner)

areas where these impacts will be felt the most. Organized within the framework of an OSCE-led ENVSEC project, these three regional consultations also provided guidance for subsequent steps towards co-operation on transboundary climate change adaptation also in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

HANDBOOK ON PROTECTING ELECTRICITY NETWORKS FROM NATURAL HAZARDS

Electricity blackouts pose an increasing threat to energy security throughout the OSCE region. As a response, the OCEEA published a handbook on effective risk assessment and management of electricity networks to improve resilience to natural hazards and to decrease blackout risks. The handbook includes contributions from leading specialists from academia, government, civil society and the private sector.

Participants in the 1st OSCE field study on sustainable energy ► for the OSCE Mediterranean Partners inspect the production process of a solar collector at GREENoneTec GmbH, located in St. Veit/Glan, Austria, 12 July 2016. (OSCE/Daniel Kroos)



Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Special Representative and Co-ordinator:
Ambassador **Madina Jarbussynova**
Staff: 13
www.osce.org/combating-human-trafficking

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings helps participating States to better prevent human trafficking, to prosecute those who commit these crimes and to protect victims of trafficking. Against the backdrop of current crisis situations in and around the OSCE region, the Office of the Special Representative continued to lead the OSCE's efforts in enhancing criminal justice responses, providing assistance to trafficked persons and raising awareness among vulnerable groups.



Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova and Isabel Santos, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, visit a migration centre in Lampedusa, Italy, 21 June 2016. (OSCE/Alberto Andreani)

MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is largely still overlooked in situations of crisis-driven migration. To witness first-hand the progress made by relevant authorities in identifying potential victims of trafficking in human beings among mixed flows of migrants and refugees, the Special Representative carried out several official visits to temporary protection and reception centres, including in Lampedusa, Italy, and Gaziantep, Turkey. These fact-finding visits were critical to improving understanding of the impact of the current crisis at grass-roots level and facilitating the development of informed, tailor-made policy recommendations, capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives. In Ukraine, the Special Representative continued to work with the authorities and the SMM to raise their awareness, as well as that of displaced persons themselves, of the risks the crisis poses.



Judges and prosecutors from the OSCE region and its Partners for Co-operation attend a training course on the crucial role the judiciary plays in ensuring that the rights of trafficking victims are respected and restored. (OSCE/Georgina Vaz-Cabral)

FORCED CRIMINALITY

The topic of the 16th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons High-Level Conference in April 2016 focused on the rampant yet inadequately addressed phenomenon of human beings trafficked for the purpose of forced criminality across the OSCE region. The conference aimed to further enhance the ability of criminal justice systems in our region to clearly detect forced criminality, and, on the one hand, prosecute those really responsible and dismantle their criminal networks, while, on the other, applying the non-punishment principle and providing victims with proper assistance.



(L-r) Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General; Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova; and Eberhard Pohl, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council, at the 16th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, Vienna, 11 April 2016 (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

COUNTRY VISITS

Country visits remain integral to the OSCE's efforts to combat human trafficking by providing a platform for the Office to liaise on a national level with governments, parliamentarians, members of the judiciary, international organizations and NGOs. These official visits are an essential tool in accordance with the mandate of the Special Representative for enabling and encouraging governments to place combating all forms of human trafficking high on their political agenda. During 2016, the Office of the Special Representative carried out country and follow-up visits to several OSCE participating States, including Armenia, the Czech Republic, Romania, Turkey and the United States of America. The office also published country reports on the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES

More than 55 law enforcement officials, prosecutors, labour inspectors, financial investigators and civil society representatives from countries of origin, destination and transit along migration routes participated in the OSCE's first live simulation exercise. Focusing on trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, the exercise also included a simulation of financial investigation cases, a key element in the dismantling of complex criminal organizations. "By enhancing criminal justice responses to human traffickers operating along migration routes, we aim to better equip front-line operators to identify and protect potential victims while ensuring the development of adequate and effective referral mechanisms," said Ambassador Jarbussynova.



An ambitious multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral project at the Carabinieri-run Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units in Vicenza, Italy, 14–18 November 2016 (OSCE/Claudio Formisano)

PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN SUPPLY CHAINS

Seeking to prevent trafficking for all forms of exploitation, the Office of the Special Representative held, in Berlin in September, the first in a series of five workshops on preventing trafficking in human beings in supply chains through measures that include the leveraging of government procurement. More than 170 experts representing governments, civil society, international organizations, the private sector, trade unions and academia gathered to discuss promising practices in the field of preventing human trafficking through ethical sourcing from a variety of perspectives. A second two-day workshop on this topic took place at the UK Home Office in London in November, bringing together over 40 experts and policymakers from different OSCE participating States.



Speakers at a workshop on prevention of trafficking in human beings in supply chains, Berlin, Germany, 7–8 September 2016 (OSCE/Radu Cucos)

Gender Equality

Senior Adviser on Gender Issues:
Ambassador **Miroslava Beham**
Staff: 7
www.osce.org/gender

The OSCE has a broad policy framework for gender equality, as it recognizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to security that is accessible to all.



Participants in the OSCE 1325 NAP Academy
(OSCE/Bradley Murray)

WOMEN AND CONFLICT

To highlight the link between gender equality and comprehensive security, the Gender Section co-operated with two expert institutions on strengthening the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The Section partnered with the Institute for Inclusive Security to organize the OSCE-supported 1325 National Action Plan Academy, which gathered government and civil society practitioners from across the OSCE region. During interactive small-group discussions, they reflected on global trends in national action plan implementation, considered the benefits and shortcomings of different operational strategies and shared challenges and best practices for advancing women's inclusion. Participants used Inclusive Security tools to evaluate their current or envisioned plan architecture, identify gaps and design potential outcomes.

To bridge the gap between policymakers and academics working on UNSCR 1325, the Gender Section hosted the Swedish think tank Folke Bernadotte Academy's annual gathering of academics assessing the implementation of this resolution. This enabled OSCE policymakers to join in the discussions and find synergies and entry points for co-operation with academia to strengthen the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution.

MENTORING

The Gender Section initiated the next phase for the establishment of mentor networks in the OSCE region. Mentoring schemes have a great potential to empower women and enhance their participation in all spheres of life. The Section brought trainers from Serbia to Kyiv to provide Roma women's organizations with skills and tools to implement the OSCE's practical roadmap for creating mentor networks. The methodology will be expanded

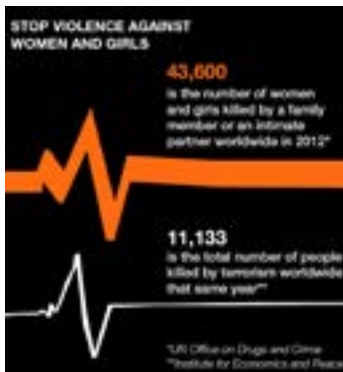


Group work during training on establishing mentor-mentee networks in Kyiv, Ukraine (European Movement Serbia/ Svetlana Stefanović)

to at least five countries in the OSCE region over the next year, with a focus on women belonging to minority groups, migrant women and women who have experienced gender-based violence.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Violence against women has a lasting impact not only on the victim, but also on the people around her, her community, and the wider society in which she lives; combating it is therefore a priority for the OSCE.



An infographic developed for the OSCE online campaign during the 16 Days of Activism to combat gender-based violence

The Gender Section initiated a survey on violence against women to be implemented in up to ten OSCE participating States covering the regions of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. It focused particularly on the experiences of women in conflict and post-conflict settings. The comparative evidence on different forms of violence against women will be used to improve policymaking and support programmes by national actors and international stakeholders working to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. By providing missing data, the survey is a step towards fulfilling OSCE and other international commitments on combating violence against women.

Supported by the German Chairmanship, the Section organized an international conference on combating violence against women, which brought together policymakers, researchers, law enforcement officials and activists to share good practices and identify areas where increased action is needed. The reader “Combating



“Violence not only impacts women’s personal safety and security, but it also prevents them from participating in society and contributing their skills, knowledge and competencies.”

Lamberto Zannier,
OSCE Secretary General

violence against women in the OSCE region” gives an overview of the conference themes, highlights good practices and work done in the field by OSCE executive structures. It also provides a set of recommendations and areas for action in the OSCE region.

Femicide is one of the gravest violations of human rights and the most serious form of gender-based violence. On the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women, the Gender Section organized a symposium in partnership with the UNODC, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, the Academic Council on the UN System and Women Against Violence Europe to raise awareness about this issue. Participants identified areas where data collection and analysis on femicide could be improved and systematized, with a view to improving prevention and response.

WHITE RIBBON FOR PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier awarded white ribbons to four male senior officials, honouring their work to promote gender equality both in the OSCE’s activities and across the region.



(L-r): Colonel Hans Lampalzer, Head of the OSCE High-Level Planning Group; Ambassador Andrej Benedejčič, Head of Slovenia’s Representation to the OSCE and Chair of the OSCE MenEngage Network; Ambassador Clemens Koja, Head of Austria’s Mission to the OSCE; Miroslava Beham, the OSCE’s Senior Adviser on Gender Issues; Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine; OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Director: **Michael Georg Link**

Budget: : €17,225,500 (Unified Budget),

€3,750,164 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 84 international

73 local

www.osce.org/odihr

As the primary institution within the OSCE focusing on the human dimension, the Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provides support, assistance and expertise to participating States and civil society to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as Roma and Sinti issues.

During 2016, ODIHR celebrated 25 years working to strengthen democratic institutions, counter threats to human rights and support tolerance throughout the OSCE region. The Office continued its work fostering dialogue in Ukraine and responded to numerous requests for assistance in dealing with migration.



ELECTION OBSERVATION IN 2016

Comprised of a core team of experts and long- and short-term observers

* Denotes limited election observation missions, comprising a core team of experts and long-term observers

** denotes either an election assessment mission or an election expert team comprising only a core team of experts

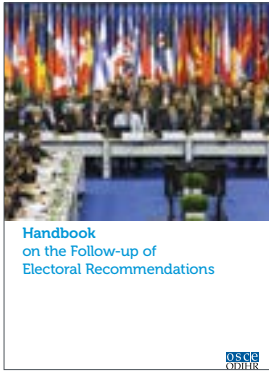
5 March**

Slovakia
Parliamentary

20 March

Kazakhstan
Early Parliamentary





ELECTIONS

During the reporting period, ODIHR observed 15 elections across the OSCE region. On the basis of its methodology, these missions were guided by two principal objectives: first, to assess whether OSCE participating States are meeting OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards for democratic elections; and

second, to offer concrete and concise recommendations to support participating States in the improvement of their electoral processes. The Office also assisted numerous participating States in their efforts to follow up on recommendations by ODIHR election observation missions, by reviewing election-related legislation and providing technical expertise. These activities were supported by the newly published *ODIHR Handbook on the Follow-up of Electoral Recommendations*.



Michael Georg Link, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

“In 2016, ODIHR marked 25 years as the OSCE’s principal human dimension institution and hosted the 20th Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. While progress has been made in many areas, 2016 reminded us that challenges to the human aspects of security remain and ODIHR continues to be uniquely placed to work with and for participating States on the implementation of their human dimension commitments.”

Michael Georg Link
 Director of the OSCE Office for
 Democratic Institutions and Human Rights



24 April 2016*

Serbia
 Early Parliamentary

29 June 2016

Mongolia
 Parliamentary

11 September

Belarus
 Parliamentary

18 September

Russian Federation
 Parliamentary

OUR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE – PROMOTING THE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE

In October, ODIHR organized a high-level expert seminar in Helsinki to discuss challenges and good practices for creating more inclusive societies. Around 140 participants, including disabled persons' organizations, parliamentarians, representatives of ombuds institutions, OSCE field operations, as well as members of other international organizations, shared ideas related to equal opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in public life and political affairs.



Judith Heumann, Special Advisor for International Disability Rights for the U.S. Department of State, in Helsinki, 31 October 2016 (*Parliament of Finland*)

and gender equality were promoted in parliaments, political parties and during elections, with a focus on political ethics and fighting corruption, strengthening women's role in decision-making processes and promoting the political participation of underrepresented groups. Responding to increasing needs, ODIHR assisted 15 participating States in developing rights-based migrant integration and labour migration policies, trained over 500 professionals in these topics and on migrant rights and advised on secure frameworks for the issuance of travel documents. ODIHR's legislative support to participating States, appraising law-making procedures and reviewing legislation focused in particular on constitutional reform.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2016, ODIHR completed its third cycle of assembly monitoring and presented a report with findings and recommendations from observations in seven participating States. ODIHR continued to monitor the situation of human rights defenders across the OSCE area.

ODIHR offered capacity-building and expert advice to state and non-state actors on human rights issues through the organization of events and training activities. Freedom of religion or belief, the protection of human rights defenders, the strengthening of national human rights institutions and human rights education were the focus of a number of activities. Other projects covered human rights and counter-terrorism, the policing of public events and freedom of peaceful assembly, mainstreaming gender and human rights in the security sector and the prevention of torture. In co-ordination with the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, ODIHR reactivated its anti-trafficking portfolio at the end of 2016.

Throughout many election observation activities, ODIHR observers joined forces with parliamentarians from the OSCE, the Council of Europe, NATO and the European Parliament.

DEMOCRATIZATION

In 2016, ODIHR supported independent and diverse judiciaries, fair trial rights during times of emergency and transition, criminal justice reform and civil society capacity-building and advocacy. Democratic principles

TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

ODIHR pursued its effort to counter hate crimes and intolerance in 2016. This was achieved through reporting and capacity-building efforts, publishing data on hate crimes in the OSCE region and delivering training programmes for law enforcement officials, prosecutors and civil society groups. These activities were strengthened by the launch of a three-year project on countering anti-Semitism, the annual meeting of the national points of contact on hate crime in November and conferences dedicated to countering intolerance and hate

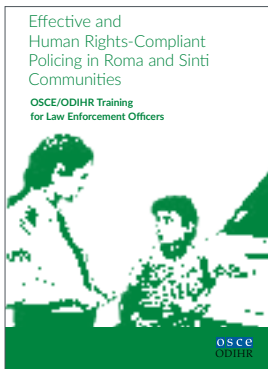




Dijana Pavlovic sharing her experiences in running as a political candidate at ODIHR's consultation meeting "Political Participation of Roma and Sinti: The Right to Vote and Electoral Processes", Warsaw, 27–28 October 2016 (Cristian Ioan)

TURNING WORDS INTO ACTION TO COUNTER ANTI-SEMITISM

ODIHR began a multi-year project on countering anti-Semitism in 2016. The project focuses on three areas: addressing the security needs of Jewish communities, through guidelines drafted in consultation with government and community experts; addressing anti-Semitism through education and developing education policy guidelines; and fostering coalition building among communities to help mobilize positive change.



crimes against Muslims and Christians held in February and in December, respectively.

ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

The OSCE has committed to enhancing the safety and security of Roma and Sinti communities and to promoting public and political

participation of Roma and Sinti people, particularly women and youth.

ODIHR developed an interactive two-day training course on effective and human rights compliant policing in Roma and Sinti communities for law enforcement officers. The course strengthens the capacity of police officers

working in Roma and Sinti as well as mixed communities. It provides effective policing strategies in Roma communities that are fair and responsive to the needs of the people they serve, while engaging in practices that comply with human rights standards and are gender-sensitive. ODIHR piloted the training in Bucharest for 20 front-line officers working in Roma communities and in Warsaw for 16 senior officers. The training was also delivered to front-line officers at the police school in Slatina and Campina, both in Romania, and in Odesa, Ukraine.

In 2016, ODIHR promoted dialogue about challenges that Roma and Sinti people face in realizing their electoral rights during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and in consultations with Roma and Sinti politicians and civil society representatives, including women and youth.

30 Oct., 13 Nov.

Moldova
Presidential

4 December

Uzbekistan
Early Presidential

4 December**

Austria
Presidential
repeat second round

11 December

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Early Parliamentary

High Commissioner on National Minorities

High Commissioner: **Astrid Thors** (until 19 August 2016)

Budget: €3,407,600 (Unified Budget)
€616,652 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 21 international
9 local

www.osce.org/hcnm

The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) was established in 1992 to identify and seek early resolution of ethnic tensions that might endanger peace, stability or friendly relations within or among OSCE participating States. In 2016, the HCNM continued to implement her mandate in the OSCE area to address a range of challenges to the integration of societies and promote good governance, respect for human rights, including minority rights and effective equality as fundamental to preserving stability in societies.

INTEGRATION OF DIVERSE SOCIETIES

While visits in the OSCE region enable the High Commissioner to obtain first-hand information and remain at the heart of the HCNM mandate, exchanging information and recommendations, legislative advice and project assistance remain important tools in the HCNM's work.

In 2016, the HCNM conducted nine visits to support the integration of society and held events in Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on education, policing and political participation in multi-ethnic societies.

In December, the Moldovan Government adopted an integration strategy that strengthens social cohesion while protecting and promoting national minority rights. The HCNM assisted in the development of the strategy.



Winners of the First Prize in the "Our school, our diversity" contest: (L-r) Beknazar Alybekov, Nursultan Abakirov, Victoriya Nikiforova and Sabina Rysbekova, 20 April 2016 (OSCE)

EDUCATION

A two-day conference was organized on 20 and 21 April 2016 in The Hague to mark the 20th anniversary of the launch of *The Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities*. The aim of the conference was to evaluate and emphasize the role of

education in conflict prevention. It brought together 180 government representatives, experts, teachers, education professionals and non-governmental actors active in the field of education, conflict prevention and peacemaking to discuss challenges in adapting education systems to ethnically diverse societies.

The High Commissioner's mandate includes regular visits to the OSCE area to discuss minority issues with government officials, minority representatives and members of civil society. In 2016, the HCNM made nine visits.

March

Ukraine
Bosnia and Herzegovina



To mark the anniversary and underscore that education can help prevent conflicts, the HCNM organized a video contest called “Our school, our diversity”, inviting schoolchildren between the ages of 12 and 18 from across the OSCE region to make a 60-second video on why diversity matters in the classroom. The contest was a success, attracting 101 contributions from school students across 15 OSCE participating States.

In November, the Office of the HCNM supported a two-day conference in Skopje on education rights in diverse societies. The conference also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the publication of *The Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities* and brought together some 100 representatives of state institutions, civil society, academia, the international community and communities across the country.

MAX VAN DER STOEL AWARD

The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), a Cyprus-based non-governmental organization, was the winner of the 2016 Max van der Stoel Award for its work on teaching history as a tool for reconciliation. Since its foundation in 2003, the aim of the AHDR has been to contribute to the advancement of historical understanding in Cyprus between the public and educators, regardless of ethnic, religious, cultural or social background by providing access to learning opportunities based on respect for diversity and multiple perspectives.



Winners of the Max van der Stoel Award 2016, Kyriakos Pachoulides and Alev Tuğberk, Co-Presidents of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), The Hague, 24 October 2016 (OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

In November, the HCNM, in co-operation with the German OSCE Chairmanship and ODIHR, organized a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on national minorities, bridge-building and integration, bringing together 190 representatives of governments, academia and civil society from throughout the OSCE region.

The aim of the meeting was to encourage a discussion of the bridge-building role and potential of national minority issues across the OSCE area and to explore the opportunities that lie in the variety of connections that can be established in diverse societies to promote peace, security and economic development both within and across states.



AHDR staff at the Home for Cooperation in Cyprus, September 2016 (OSCE/Stefan Heger)

April
Georgia

May
Croatia
Hungary
Slovakia
Moldova

June
Serbia
Kosovo¹

^{1/} All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this Report should be understood in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

Representative on Freedom of the Media

Representative: **Dunja Mijatović**
Budget: €1,481,600 (Unified Budget),
€397,467 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 15
www.osce.org/fom

In 2016, the safety of journalists remained the top priority of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, an OSCE institution mandated to assist participating States in fulfilling commitments on free media and free expression.

Murders, assaults and intimidation of media across the OSCE region continued in 2016, with little progress recorded on preventing violence or, just as importantly, taking effective steps to apprehend and prosecute those responsible. To quantify the extent of the issue, Representative Dunja Mijatović produced a comprehensive table of media professionals killed in participating States since 1992, along with data on investigations into the

crimes and asked States to assist the Office by providing information that would reveal the scope of the problem. That information is to be published in early 2017.

Safety and impunity for crimes committed against journalists were two of a plethora of issues addressed by the Representative in her effort to help participating States create an environment conducive to free media and free expression.



The logo for an expert meeting hosted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the German Chairmanship of the OSCE on propaganda for war and hatred and freedom of the media



Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (OSCE/Colin Peters)



The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and her staff with young journalists from Russia and Ukraine, Vienna, 5 February 2016 (OSCE/Yaroslavna Chernova)

MAJOR ISSUES

The Representative placed combating violent extremism high on the list of priorities in 2016 and highlighted this matter and possible solutions by issuing a communiqué setting forth ways to protect free expression while fighting terrorism. Shortly thereafter, she co-organized an expert meeting in Sarajevo with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The participants shared best practices in the implementation of online strategies to counter violent extremism on the Internet.

The scourge of propaganda persisted unabated during the year, as the Representative continued the battle for professional journalism free from control and influence. The Representative joined the Chairmanship-in-Office in organizing an expert meeting, “Propaganda for War and Hatred and Freedom of the Media”, at which more than 100 journalists, media experts, diplomats and policymakers addressed the human rights and legal implications of propaganda.

She continued working with young journalists from Russia and Ukraine on projects in the region designed to build confidence among the two groups and to improve standards of journalism ethics.

In addition, her Office arranged meetings between representatives from the Russian and Ukrainian journalists associations to foster dialogue and improve professionalism. As a result of these meetings, the Office published a book called *Two Countries – One Profession*, which captures the dialogue between the groups.

Recognizing that the availability of government-held information is essential to a fully functioning democracy, the Representative also addressed the right of access to information by hosting a high-level conference on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the passage of the world’s first freedom-of-information act in Sweden. The conference served as a forum for identifying important milestones in access-to-information policy, as well as for highlighting crucial gaps that remain in the practical implementation of access-to-information commitments.

Finally, as the effect of technological change on the practice of journalism continues to raise a variety

of legal, regulatory and ethical questions, the Representative continued to address the issue by focusing on the role of Internet intermediaries in the newsgathering and distribution process.

OBSERVING MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE COMMITMENTS

The Representative’s activities can be divided into two distinct areas: observing media developments to provide early warning about potential challenges to media freedom and free expression and helping participating States to honour their commitments in those areas. In 2016, the Representative engaged the governments of 41 participating States more than 170 times on a broad array of issues, among them violence and threats against journalists, criminal libel charges, verdicts and prison sentences precipitated by unfavourable media coverage and the enactment of statutes that are damaging to media freedom and pluralism.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The Representative devoted considerable time and resources to the training and professional development of media members, including:

- workshops for young Russian and Ukrainian journalists;
- seminars on free-expression issues for Turkish judges and prosecutors; and
- roundtable discussions between Russian and Ukrainian media trade unions.

REGIONAL MEDIA CONFERENCES

The Representative organized annual regional media conferences for participating States in Central Asia and the South Caucasus, bringing together media practitioners from those areas to share experiences with colleagues, government authorities and international experts. In 2016, the topic of these conferences was the multifaceted challenges to free media and free expression. Together with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the Representative also held a media conference for participating States in South-Eastern Europe called “Gaining a Digital Edge: Freedom of Expression”.

FIELD OPERATIONS

In addition to its political bodies, the OSCE maintains a network of 16 field operations, located in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.



Field operations in 2016

The OSCE's field operations assist host countries in putting their OSCE commitments into practice and fostering local capacities through concrete projects that respond to their needs. Activities vary with the context of the individual field operation and host country, and are governed by the mandate of each field operation. The field operations enable the OSCE to tackle crises as they arise, and they play a critical post-conflict role in many places, helping to restore trust among affected communities.

THE OSCE HAD 16 FIELD OPERATIONS IN 2016

South-Eastern Europe

- Presence in Albania (PiA)
- Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
- Mission in Kosovo (OMiK)
- Mission to Montenegro (MtMon)
- Mission to Serbia (OMiS)
- Mission to Skopje (OMtS)

Eastern Europe

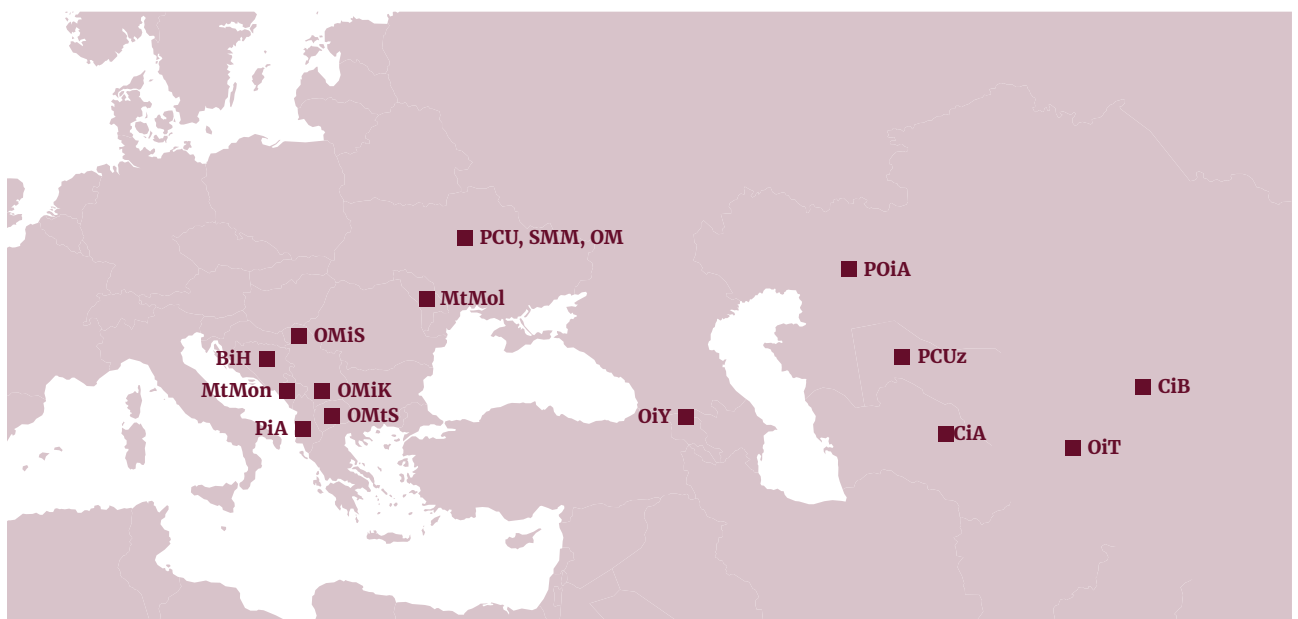
- Mission to Moldova (MtMol)
- Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU)
- Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM)
- Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk (OM)

South Caucasus

- Office in Yerevan (OiY)

Central Asia

- Centre in Ashgabat (CiA)
- Programme Office in Astana (POiA)
- Centre in Bishkek (CiB)
- Office in Tajikistan (OiT)
- Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz)



Regional solutions to regional challenges

South-Eastern Europe

Field operations in South-Eastern Europe have consistently strived to incorporate a regional dimension into their activities in an effort to cement regional co-operation, promote reconciliation and improve inter-community relations. Regional activities such as the “Follow Us” project, which supports dialogue among prominent women from Belgrade and Prishtinë/Priština, and the “Skopje Process,” which is working towards sustainable conditions for return and integration, contribute significantly to promoting regional dialogue among people in the region. The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) is another positive example of regional co-operation that addresses human displacement from the 1991–1995 conflict and assists the most vulnerable refugee families with their housing and reintegration needs.



Construction works in Ovca, Serbia, which is the biggest RHP construction site in the region, 9 September 2016 (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



Youth civil society representatives from Serbia and Albania gather in Belgrade with the National Youth Council of Serbia, to attend a five-day training course on project cycle management, as part of an OSCE-supported wider project on enhancing regional connectivity among youth actors, 21 November 2016. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

Recognizing the prominent role played by young people in reconciliation processes and in addressing emerging challenges, such as violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, the OSCE’s field operations in South-Eastern Europe are stepping up their efforts to promote regional youth exchanges and people-to-people contacts. Exchange visits and summer schools for Albanian and Serbian youth, organized jointly by the Presence in Albania and Mission to Serbia, are a good example. The establishment of the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO) in Tirana – a direct outcome of the Paris Western Balkans Summit – is an important step towards strengthening regional co-operation. The OSCE, through its field operations in the region, has already begun identifying ways to engage with the RYCO to support youth exchanges and raise the profile of the youth and security nexus.

Acknowledging that regional co-operation is indispensable to fighting transnational threats, the Presence in Albania and the Mission in Kosovo are supporting a project to enhance criminal intelligence and proactive capabilities in the region.

Addressing regional challenges will remain a focus for the South-Eastern Europe field operations in the coming years, taking into account the Organization’s distinctive ability to build bridges, bring people together and deliver regional solutions.

Blerta Deliu-Kodra, a member of the Assembly of Kosovo, ► speaking at the OSCE-organized conference “Women Promoting Dialogue and Reconciliation” as part of the “Follow Us” Initiative, Prishtinë/Priština, 8 December 2016 (OSCE/Besfort Oruçi)



Presence in Albania

Head of Presence: **Ambassador Florian Raunig** (until July 2016) and **Ambassador Bernd Borchardt** (from October 2016)
Budget: €2,907,900 (Unified Budget), €507,100 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 20 international
62.5 local
www.osce.org/albania

2016 was dominated by discussions about justice reform in Albania. The Presence continued to assist Albanian authorities in achieving sustained progress, improving trust in institutions and addressing emerging regional challenges.



The Head of the Presence in Albania, Ambassador Bernd Borchardt, gives an interview to an Albanian television station, November 2016 (OSCE/Joana Karapataqi)



Voter education for all: training women to participate in the Dibra mayoral by-election, Peshkopi, Albania, September 2016 (OSCE)

SUPPORTING CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Voter information campaigns, especially for women, young people and Roma, were conducted ahead of the 2016 by-elections and the planned 2017 general elections. Participants were encouraged to cast their vote and take a stand against family voting.

To help Albanian citizens orient themselves better in the legislative field, the Presence launched an online platform called "I know the law" (www.njohligjin.al). Providing simplified legal summaries about everyday matters, the platform has been accessed by thousands of people so far.

The public debate on Albania's totalitarian past significantly increased in 2016 after the Presence conducted a survey about citizens' knowledge, perceptions and expectations. Through documentaries and a travelling theatre play, the Presence encouraged citizens to learn more about their country's past. With OSCE encouragement and support, the public broadcaster dedicated a series of discussions to this subject.

The Presence helped Albanian authorities develop local action plans to protect children from trafficking and exploitation. The plans were based on the findings from an in-depth analysis and consultations with 150 child protection professionals.

Community structures prescribed by the new law on local government units were established with the Presence's support in four pilot municipalities. Their aim is to improve municipal services and increase citizens' participation in decision-making.

ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF INSTITUTIONS

The Presence assisted Albania's parliament in increasing transparency and reaching out to citizens. Parliamentary staff – trained in the past by the OSCE – provided information sessions on democracy and civil participation in the legislative process to around 500 high school and university students in Presence-facilitated events. With the Presence's support, a cross-party constituency office was opened in Shkodra. Members of parliament used this



The Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania talks with representatives of religious communities in the margins of a conference called "United in Countering Violent Extremism", Elbasan, Albania, 12 October 2016 (OSCE/Joana Karapataqi)

office and another one established in Korça in 2015 to exchange views with citizens.

The town of Elbasan established a local public safety council – the first structure of this kind in Albania – with the Presence’s assistance. The primary goal of the council is to mobilize all local stakeholders to jointly address issues linked to criminality, domestic violence and violent extremism.

In 2016, the Presence assisted the Albanian government in organizing a high-level event on the topic of foreign terrorist fighters and irregular migration routes. It also supports the work of the authorities on a comprehensive action plan against cannabis cultivation and trafficking.

The Presence continued to support the improvement of the administrative justice system in 2016 by building the capacity of relevant stakeholders and presenting recommendations that were developed after monitoring administrative trials. The Justice without Delays project was expanded to six more districts in 2016. The number of unproductive trial sessions has been reduced in all courts that have embraced the initiative.

The Presence also supported the relevant authorities in improving standards for the treatment of people in detention, with a particular focus on the needs of women offenders. The Presence raised awareness among judges and prosecutors about the Probation Service, and increased the capacity of probation officers with respect to the psychological assessment of offenders on probation. As a result, the use of electronic monitoring increased from fewer than 40 cases in 2015 to over 150 in 2016.

The Presence assisted the Albanian authorities in their demilitarization efforts. In 2016, some 160 tonnes of two napalm components – aluminium oxide and xylenol – were safely repacked and then shipped to France for final disposal.

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

The Presence supported Albanian authorities at the central and local level in their efforts to fight corruption and promote good government at all levels. Capacity-building events were organized to combat bribery and promote proper conduct in business, to raise awareness among young people of corruption-related issues and to encourage greater engagement of civil society in consultative processes on policy.



“The OSCE Presence has significantly contributed to the improvement of Albanian parliamentary activities by supporting an increase in transparency standards and bringing parliamentary activities closer to citizens.”

Ilir Meta,
Speaker of the Assembly of Albania



PARTNERSHIPS

In 2016, the Presence co-ordinated its activities with a range of Albanian Government agencies and institutions and the Parliament, as well as with the Council of Europe, the European Broadcasting Union, USAID, the EU, several UN agencies, the European Assistance Mission to the Albanian Justice System (EURALIUS) and the U.S. International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Program.

Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Head of Mission: **Ambassador**

Jonathan M. Moore

Budget: €11,493,300

(Unified Budget), €937,297

(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 39 international

282.5 local

www.osce.org/bih

Despite increasing political tensions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly surrounding local elections, the country saw some progress in 2016, including with the acceptance of the country's EU membership application in September. Although there are heartening signs of strong community values at the local level, fragility in some locations was met with rapid engagement by the Mission, once again reflecting the crucial importance of an extensive field presence and comprehensive response capabilities.



Law students from the Universities of Sarajevo and Banja Luka at the OSCE's first Extracurricular Workshop on International Criminal Law and Transitional Justice, Sarajevo, 12 November 2016 (OSCE/Vedran Pribilović)

QUALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATION

The Mission increased its engagement against the “two schools under one roof” system, focusing on administrative unification as a vital step towards eliminating school segregation. In July 2016, following the decision to establish a new school in Jajce, the Mission engaged with state and cantonal authorities and rallied the international community to block segregation and support students who opposed the move. The decision was not implemented for the 2016/2017 school year, but remains a matter of concern.

The Mission continued its efforts to resolve the issue concerning the Bosnian language in Republika Srpska, where authorities created a discriminatory practice by replacing the wording “Bosnian language” with “language of the Bosniak people” in schools. Engagement with interlocutors at the political and grass-roots level prevented further escalation of tensions and school boycotts, thereby ensuring children's attendance in schools and their continued education. This issue remains to be resolved at the political level.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

Working with domestic institutions and international partners, the Mission completed a detailed analysis of war crimes processing at the state level and proposed improvements in that area. Furthermore, the Mission organized over 50 training sessions for the judiciary and police on selected topics identified through its trial monitoring programme. It also continued to provide technical assistance to its counterparts in an effort to find effective solutions to problems affecting the judicial response to war crimes, hate crimes and trafficking in human beings.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HATE AND EXTREMISM

The 22 Coalitions against Hate sponsored by the Mission organized 60 events in 24 locations across the country during the Week of Tolerance campaign. The campaign was aimed at encouraging all citizens to take part in activities that promote tolerance and positive stories related to diversity, inter-ethnic co-operation and inter-religious dialogue. To counter potential prospects for violent extremism, the Mission expanded its support for inter-religious dialogue initiatives on the local level.

SUPPORTING REFORM PROCESSES

The Mission supported Parliamentary Assembly Committees in organizing public discussions on issues relevant to the country's reform processes by inviting the public, as well as representatives of lower-level legislatures, government and NGOs. Political party leaders in 18 municipalities joined the Mission-supported initiative to create a code of ethics for the behaviour of political parties and their candidates during pre-election periods in the interest of fair and professional election campaigns.



Senior school students from Bužim and Cazin learn about violent extremism and how to counter it at a Youth Summit hosted by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bihać, 6 December 2016. (OSCE/Edib Jahić)

INTEGRATING THE MARGINALIZED

Significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme. To date, 1,118 beneficiaries have been selected, and 126 families have moved to new homes. The Mission, together with the UNHCR, supports the country's efforts to develop tools to monitor the sustainability of return and design actions to ensure equal access to rights and services for returnees. The Mission supported the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees in developing amendments to the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination.

SECURITY CO-OPERATION

Bosnia and Herzegovina suffered two terrorist attacks in 2015. Through its pioneering activities with civil society, religious communities, youth, educators and individual citizens, the Mission extended its assistance to local-level actors in preventing violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, building on the Action Plan accompanying the Counter-terrorism Strategy for 2015-2020. The Mission led international efforts to guarantee safe storage of weapons and ammunition and supported the host country in complying with its international security commitments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The Mission worked with the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities on a regional project to enhance disaster risk reduction that strengthens capacities and reinforces transboundary co-operation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

Marking Earth Day, the Mission gathered decision makers from the Herzegovina-Neretva Assembly and the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection, local communities and Aarhus Centre leaders to discuss environmental governance and the role of civil society in creating relevant legislation, agendas and policies.

ELECTION LEGISLATION

In 2016, the Mission provided considerable support to an inter-agency working group tasked with amending the Law on Elections and the Law on Political Party Financing. In co-operation with the Central Election Commission, international partners and NGOs, multiple recommendations from ODIHR and the Group of States against Corruption were implemented.



A regular inspection at the Military Storage Site in Krupa, Municipality of Hadzici, 7 December 2016 (OSCE/Vedran Pribilović)

YOUTH AND GENDER

The innovative Youth Advisory Group platform, consisting of a diverse group of young volunteers, has been fully integrated into the Mission's programme development and implementation. The Mission's Gender Unit implemented a Gender Action Plan, and advanced programmatic activities, including combating domestic violence through police training and the establishment of protocols and centralized data collection.



The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina plans and carries out youth-related activities through its Youth Advisory Group, an effective and representative tool to formulate and integrate youth-specific priorities and vulnerabilities. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilović)



PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with the German Embassy, the Mission organized a ground-breaking conference on promoting economic development possibilities at the local level. Hate crimes in South-Eastern Europe were the focus of a regional event organized by the Mission in co-operation with the University of Sarajevo and in partnership with OSCE field operations in the region. The Mission also worked with the international commissions for the Danube and Sava River basins, the OCEEA, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Aarhus Centre Banja Luka to organize a regional conference on water quality control.

Mission in Kosovo

Head of Mission: **Ambassador**

Jan Braathu

Budget: €17,942,400

(Unified Budget), €284,263

(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 134 international

398.5 local

www.osce.org/kosovo

The Mission continued its comprehensive work with institutions and communities in Kosovo, focusing on enhancing the response of local and central government to the needs of non-majority communities, on the one hand, and on strengthening their effectiveness and accountability, on the other.

Throughout 2016, the Mission oriented its activities towards promoting democracy and human rights. It did so through various programmes such as the “Follow Us” initiative, the Dialogue Academy, interfaith forums and an apprenticeship programme, with women and youth as special targets. In addition, in two of Kosovo’s five regions, the Mission brought together mayors and ensured their commitment to hold joint inter-ethnic initiatives and dialogue.

In the area of human rights, the Mission worked with institutions to create sustainable conditions for return and integration – under the Skopje Process – as well as with the Serbian Orthodox Church and with Kosovo institutions to advocate for the protection of cultural and religious sites. By conducting a collection-of-votes operation on 24 April 2016, the Mission enabled eligible voters in Kosovo to participate in the Serbian parliamentary elections and contributed to alleviating possible tensions.



The Mission ran an online campaign against gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Activism period. The campaign promoted a free helpline and reached nearly 200,000 people through social media. (OSCE/Yllka Fetahaj)

COMMUNITY RIGHTS

To ensure language compliance on the part of municipalities, the Mission developed a comprehensive monitoring system for the Office of the Language Commissioner. This tracking tool will enable the Commissioner to acquire an overview of language rights implementation and improve the performance of institutions.



Participants at the second OSCE Dialogue Academy for young women from Prishtinë/Prishtina and Belgrade – organized under the auspices of the “Follow Us” Initiative – work in groups to define perceptions and challenges facing women in politics, Stadtschlaining, Austria, 6 October 2016. (OSCE/Sara Bagnato)

Together with its international partners, the Mission ensured that the mandatory 12 per cent quota for enrolment in higher education is respected for all communities and intervened to enable the continuation of programmes in Bosnian and Turkish languages at Prizren University. As a result of joint efforts, nearly 400 students from non-Albanian communities enrolled in the 2016/2017 school year in higher education programmes in Albanian, Bosnian and Turkish languages.

NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS

To assist with the implementation of the EU-facilitated Dialogue Agreements between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade, the Mission organized a number of induction training courses for 378 members of the former civilian protection corps, 32 former administration personnel of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and bar exam preparation courses for 33 graduate lawyers from northern Kosovo.



OSCE training on human rights compliant arrests and defensive techniques, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, 18 August 2016 (OSCE/Besfort Oruci)

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Mission worked closely with central and local institutions to improve their performance and ensure that good governance principles such as accountability, inclusiveness and transparency were respected. For example: it worked with the Local Government Administration Ministry to reach out to municipalities and mobilize support for the implementation of the 2016–2020 local self-government strategy; developed digital public participation platforms for the municipalities of Prishtinë/Priština and Gjakovë/Đakovica; and drafted communication strategies for 16 municipalities, eight of which were approved.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Together with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo), the Mission established the Justice Transparency Forum, a formal space for dialogue between the media and justice institutions. Its aim is to enhance the transparency of the justice system by having judges and prosecutors explain court procedures to journalists in order to ensure respect for the right to access information, the right to privacy and the presumption of innocence in judicial processes.

To strengthen media outlets and media pluralism in northern Kosovo, the Mission organized a journalism school for 20 young people. The best five candidates were provided with an opportunity to undertake an apprenticeship with Serbian language media, four of whom were ultimately offered full-time employment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

At the request of the government, the Mission was closely involved in drafting strategies and action plans on the prevention and protection from violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, as well as cyber and nuclear threats. To translate these documents into action and enrich the repertoire of methods used to address these threats, the Mission organized various expert events and regularly provided advice, support and expertise to the responsible agencies and institutions. One such event was a conference on countering violent extremism that gathered over 200 participants and representatives from acclaimed international and regional institutions and organizations.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In April 2016, the Mission facilitated an agreement between the Kosovo Police, Judicial Council, Prosecutorial Council and Bar Association to establish a co-ordination mechanism for the provision of free legal representation for individuals charged with criminal offences who cannot afford to engage private lawyers. The agreement is being implemented by the parties and ensures consistency and oversight over the performance of the appointed defence counsel.

PUBLIC SAFETY IN FIGURES (ACTIVITIES WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS)

- 13 training courses for some 300 participants;
- 25 workshops for some 500 participants;
- 9 conferences with some 800 participants;
- 42 seminars and roundtable discussions for some 900 participants.



The OSCE Mission supports the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety in increasing the quality of training and education programmes in line with international best practices, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, 25 March 2016. (OSCE/Bylent Ribari)



PARTNERSHIPS

Together with UNICEF, the Mission implemented a media literacy project called PONDER for 80 young people. The aim was to help youth identify and protect themselves against violent extremism by instilling in them a critical approach to information and radical messages.

Mission to Montenegro

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Janina Hrebickova (until 30 November 2016)

Budget: €2,146,200
(Unified Budget), €204,779
(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 8.5 International
31.5 local

www.osce.org/montenegro

Throughout 2016, the Mission to Montenegro continued to assist the country's ongoing reform process. In particular, providing support to the Montenegrin State Election Commission in preparing for parliamentary elections was a major focus of the Mission's activities. The Mission co-operated closely with national partners to further promote gender equality, freedom of the media, good governance and human rights.



Mock election exercise – voting and testing the new electronic identification system (OSCE/Srdan Četković)



Montenegro joins the global campaign against gender-based violence 2016

ASSISTANCE IN PREPARATION FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

The Mission provided technical assistance to the State Election Commission (SEC) ahead of the October parliamentary elections, which were held under a revised legal framework. The Mission's support included: a training programme for election commissioners; helping to develop public outreach activities, such as the re-design of the SEC's website; and the production of TV spots on voter education. In addition, the Mission provided international expert advice to the news team from the public service broadcaster prior to election day on professional standards for the media in relation to elections.

PROMOTING PRINCIPLES OF GENDER EQUALITY

In partnership with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, the Mission developed a video clip called "Count Me In" that was aired on 11 TV stations during the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The Mission also supported the development of a commentary on the Gender Equality Law and, in co-operation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), conducted training courses for facilitators on the promotion of gender equality at the Interior Ministry and Police Directorate. The Mission continued to build the capacity of municipal gender focal points, and started working on an analysis of gender mainstreaming at the local level. The analysis is based on the commitments contained in 23 memoranda of understanding on the promotion of gender equality that were signed by all municipalities, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and the Mission.



A still image captured from a documentary about freedom of expression produced by the Mission to Montenegro in 2016



Municipal project co-ordinators discussing concept notes for prospective joint projects, Herceg Novi, 9–11 November 2016 (OSCE/Svetlana Laušević)

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

As the co-ordinator of a joint activity involving six OSCE field operations in the region, the Mission commissioned the production and airing of a 45-minute TV documentary film on freedom of expression and freedom of the media. The film addresses common challenges, such as political and financial pressure on independent media and journalists, lack of implementation of media legislation and unsustainable financing of public service media. The film places a special emphasis on the importance of preserving the editorial independence of public service broadcasters. The documentary was broadcast by the six public service broadcasters in the region in December.

FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME

In partnership with the Office of the National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator, the Mission trained more than 450 border police officers on a victim-centred approach to investigating human trafficking, and promoted regional co-operation in that regard. It also supported regional border co-operation and enhancement of the work of Montenegrin-Albanian joint patrols, which resulted in joint operations with neighbouring police services on drugs seizures and suppressing illegal fishing.



(OSCE/Mihailo Marić)

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In co-operation with the Interior Ministry and the Union of Municipalities, the Mission supported the annual programme on best practices in local government, which provides an opportunity to all municipalities to showcase their good practices and present innovative solutions in the provision of local public services. The aim of the programme is to strengthen transparency, efficiency, accountability and to improve the working conditions in local communities.

SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON THE PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION

In co-operation with the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Mission organized six training seminars for employees of local social care centres to implement the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination by fully recognizing and adequately addressing cases of discrimination. The seminars dealt with the practical challenges faced in implementing the law and the main causes of discrimination.

ACTION PLAN FOR A MORE GENDER-SENSITIVE PARLIAMENT

Based on the roadmap towards a gender-sensitive parliament and in co-operation with the Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality, the Mission supported the development of an action plan for a more gender-sensitive parliament. The activity is supported by the experts from ODIHR.



PARTNERSHIPS

In 2016, the Mission worked closely with a range of government agencies and institutions and Parliament, as well as several UN agencies, the EU, the Council of Europe, the European Broadcasting Union and DCAF, as well as with diplomatic missions in Montenegro.

Mission to Serbia

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Peter Burkhard** (until October 2016) and **Ambassador Andrea Orizio** (from October 2016)

Budget: €6,365,000 (Unified Budget), €265,628 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 23 international
104 local

www.osce.org/serbia

In 2016, the Mission provided assistance and expertise aimed at helping Serbia achieve its goal of consolidating its democratic system governed by a well-harmonized set of regulations and enforced by a fair, independent and efficient judiciary. The pillars of this system include strong accountability mechanisms, a prominent oversight role for parliament and independent state institutions, dialogue with civil society organizations and free media.



(L-r) Serbia's Justice Minister, Nela Kuburović; Serbia's State Attorney, Olivera Stanimirović; and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Andrea Orizio, at the first regional meeting of State Attorney's offices, Belgrade, 25 November 2016 (OSCE/Milan Obradović)

TOWARDS FULL INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY AND A MODERN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Mission continued to support Serbia in strengthening judicial independence and a merit-based selection and career system, monitoring the legal framework and disciplinary proceedings and providing recommendations for improving the legal practice in this field. The Mission fostered participatory discussions among experts on the constitutional reform process regarding the judiciary. To combat corruption, the Mission supported the government, civil society and the private sector through training activities on corporate governance as well as on the investigation and prosecution of financial crimes, anti-money laundering techniques and counter-terrorism financing investigations. The Mission started supporting the State Attorney's Office to promote the rule of law in public administration. The Mission promoted a victim-centred criminal justice system by endorsing the Instructions on the Operation of Prosecutorial Victim Support Services. In the area of war crimes trial monitoring, the Mission attended 500 hearings before the Higher Court and Court of Appeals in Belgrade.

COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

The Mission continued to foster regional co-operation among prosecution and law enforcement bodies in combating organized crime. With Mission support, the State Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime adopted an advanced IT system to handle complex investigative data that was developed and donated by the Italian Anti-Mafia Directorate. The Mission helped organize a meeting of organized crime prosecutors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. This resulted in the signing of a declaration of intent and reinforced prosecutors' commitment to improving regional co-operation and to identifying modalities for the direct exchange of information. The Mission organized follow-up discussions on the implementation of the declaration, including plans to continue this process in 2017.



CONNECTING SERBIAN AND ALBANIAN YOUTH

To complement the efforts of the Governments of Serbia and Albania, OSCE field operations in the two countries supported youth connectivity, co-operation and dialogue. In 2014, the two countries signed an agreement to stimulate long-term youth co-operation. In 2016, 20 young men and women from both countries were trained in digital skills and project cycle management and learned about core OSCE commitments.



Participants taking part in the “Speak Up! Follow-Up” Conference, Belgrade, 17–18 November 2016 (OSCE/Milan Obradović)



Representatives of Serbia-based companies hold speed interviews with Roma job seekers at a Roma employment conference and fair, organized within the European Support to Roma Inclusion project “We Are Here Together”, Belgrade, 31 May 2016. (OSCE/Milan Obradović)

MEDIA FREEDOM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Media professionals, academia and civil society contributed to Serbia’s upcoming Media Strategy by providing recommendations at the “Speak Up! Follow-Up” conference, organized by the Mission, together with the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations project, the People2People Programme and the EU Delegation to Serbia. The working group for the development of a new Media Strategy submitted its recommendations to the Ministry of Culture and Information. Key recommendations cover the economic sustainability of information and media content of public importance, the use of new technologies in journalism and the creation of digital information space, existing legislation, self-regulation and media freedom and accountability of media professionals.

SUCCESS IN ROMA INCLUSION EFFORTS

Since 2013, the Mission has partnered with the EU Delegation to Serbia on the Technical Assistance to Roma Inclusion (TARI) project, assisting Serbian institutions in achieving strategic objectives in human rights, institutional co-ordination, healthcare, strengthening civil society, education, housing and employment. In 2016, the accomplishments of Serbia’s institutions within the TARI project included:

- 20 functioning municipal mobile teams for Roma Inclusion;
- a nationwide database for monitoring and reporting on local Roma inclusion efforts;
- 30 civil society organizations engaged in developing and monitoring Roma policies;
- 1,000 high school students received scholarships and mentorship support;
- 14 municipalities developed plans for infrastructural improvement;
- a newly established geographic information system to map substandard settlements; and
- 17 enterprises employed 60 Roma.

SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON UNSCR 1325

The Mission fostered the government’s participatory approach in developing the National Action Plan 2016–2020 for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security by organizing five public consultations and a final conference. The working group and the government received Mission support in establishing a network of 15 civil society organizations specialized in gender and security to monitor the implementation of the new Action Plan.



Pupils at the newly renovated daycare centre at the Ivo Lola Ribar primary school in Ruma, which was made possible under the Roma Assistance Programme implemented by the OSCE and supported by the Swedish International Development Agency, 2 February 2016 (OSCE/Milan Obradović)



The Fourth National Conference of the Serbian Women’s Parliament Network, Belgrade, 4 November 2016 (OSCE/Milan Obradović)



PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing outstanding human displacement from the 1991–1995

conflicts, the Regional Housing Programme remains a positive example of regional co-operation. As part of the Programme, the OSCE, through the Missions to Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, together with the UNHCR, continues to assist 74,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families with their housing and reintegration needs.

Mission to Skopje

Head of Mission: **Ambassador**

Nina Suomalainen

Budget: €6,346,000

(Unified Budget), €14,089

(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 43 international

107 local

www.osce.org/skopje

In 2016, the OSCE Mission to Skopje worked with state authorities and civil society organizations on projects to assist the implementation of reforms in democratic policing, local governance, elections and the judiciary. Support for the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement remained a priority, with special focus on advancing inter-ethnic relations. The Mission also focused on monitoring and providing early warning on security-related developments, including the challenges posed by mixed migration flows.

The Head and Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje visit the "Vinojug" transit centre in Gevgelija, 29 September 2016. (OSCE/Steven Davis)



RULE OF LAW AND TRIAL MONITORING

Being the only international organization with the experience and operational capacity to monitor trials in the country, the Mission continued its trial monitoring activities in 2016 by observing some 90 trial sessions in 18 high-profile court cases. Additionally, the Mission supported the monitoring of some 450 court sessions by the NGO Coalition All for Fair Trials, which in turn resulted in a comprehensive assessment report on the implementation of parties' procedural rights. The Mission also monitored all procedural developments with regard to cases handled by the Special Public Prosecutor's Office.

FIELD PRESENCE

One area where the Mission continues to add value is through its field presence, which monitors and provides early warning on security-related developments and also implements activities aimed at advancing constructive inter-ethnic relations. In an effort to promote co-existence and defuse potential tensions, the Mission undertakes confidence-building measures and facilitates dialogue among all relevant stakeholders.

RESPONSE TO MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Responding to challenges posed by mixed migration flows, the Mission used a victim-centred and human rights-based approach when implementing specific activities in the area of strengthening border management and combating trafficking in human beings. In 2016, the Mission worked to increase the capacity of front-line social workers to identify victims of trafficking and supported lawyers who provide legal aid for victims. In an effort to help address the security-related aspects of the migration issue, the Mission also deployed mobile teams to affected border zones.

INTEGRATED EDUCATION THROUGH THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROJECT

In addition to the Mission's ongoing efforts to support integration in schools, 2016 saw the continuation of the implementation of the Building Bridges project, which is aimed at enhancing interaction among children from different ethnic backgrounds and strengthening inter-ethnic relations. In 2016, the project supported 27 schools across the country, which have in turn completed more than 70 activities involving some 800 students.

DEMOCRATIC POLICING AND FIGHTING ORGANIZED CRIME

The Mission continued to work on strengthening the institutional capacity of the Interior Ministry by focusing on the principles of democratic policing in a multi-ethnic society. To improve public trust in democratic policing, the Mission organized roundtable discussions with 36 police officers and 45 local journalists. The role of women in creating safer communities was also discussed with citizens at workshops on gender-based discrimination. The Mission organized cross-border exercises and provided tailor-made training courses on data exchange with other countries, the application of special investigative

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIME

The Mission organized training courses on:

- identifying and processing hate crimes for 80 judges, public prosecutors and advisers;
- recognizing, understanding and investigating hate crimes for 240 police managers and 24 police trainers from different communities;
- combating hate speech for 25 youth activists who will replicate activities in their communities;
- joint activities in tackling hate speech with the participation of nine teams of high school students from Skopje; and
- tackling hate crime and hate speech for 45 students during the Summer School on Human Rights and Criminal Law.



Youth activists learn more about hate speech and ways to combat it, Berovo, 3 December 2016. (Centre for Intercultural Dialogue/Vaska Bojadji)

The Mission also developed a website for the National Campaign against Hate Speech, www.nohate.mk, as well as a smartphone application available at <http://nemrazi.mk/app/>, against hate speech and in an effort to promote tolerance produced five short videos on the importance of tackling discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes and of media self-regulation. The designated website to monitor hate crimes (www.zlostorstvaodmraza.mk) registered 67 incidents in 2016.



A snapshot from a heartbeat detector workshop organized in co-operation with FRONTEX at the Tabanovce Border Crossing Point, 19 May 2016. (OSCE/Gabor Kemeny)



Children from different communities take photos of performances during a Building Bridges event in Skopje, 2 October 2016. (OSCE/Tomislav Georgiev)

measures and investigations in the fight against transnational threats.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

In partnership with regional experts and key stakeholders, the Mission organized a focus group workshop on countering violent extremism that resulted in gathering information on the causes of, and possible responses to, this phenomenon. To strengthen the capacity of front-line police officers in identifying and preventing violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, the Mission also supported the publication of a training manual and a guidebook. Moreover, the Mission worked to develop the capacity of youth organizations to prevent radicalization.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

In the run-up to the December parliamentary elections, the Mission signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Election Commission designed to support a series of activities aimed at enhancing its capacities in election administration. It also assisted in establishing two pools of trainers, one for the implementation of human resources management standards in municipalities and one on functional review analysis in order to increase the efficiency of public institutions.



PARTNERSHIPS

In the light of mixed migration flows, the Mission to Skopje increased its co-operation with the UNHCR and the IOM, as well as with relevant state agencies and civil society organizations on combating trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. The Mission also worked with OSCE field operations in Albania and Montenegro, the Police Cooperation Convention for South-Eastern Europe and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex, in organizing training courses for border police. The Mission continued to play an important role within the Security Principals mechanism with the EU Delegation, the US Embassy and the NATO Liaison Office to Skopje.

Mission to Moldova

Head of Mission: **Ambassador**

Michael Scanlan

Budget: €2,292,000

(Unified Budget), €112,700

(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 13 international

39 local

www.osce.org/moldova

The core mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova is to assist in negotiating a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population. To this end, the Mission facilitates interaction between the two sides of the Dniester/Nistru River, ranging from technical working group meetings to tackle practical issues impacting the daily lives of people on both banks to high-level political negotiations in the 5+2 international format on shaping a final settlement.



A press conference following formal 5+2 talks in Berlin, 3 June 2016
(OSCE/Ljubomir Turcanu)

RE-ENERGIZING THE DIALOGUE IN THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS

A new dynamic of strong cohesion among the mediators and observers in the 5+2 talks was evident in the negotiation process in 2016. This was reflected in their joint visit in April to Chisinau and Tiraspol that led to the resumption of the 5+2 process after a two-year hiatus. The June 5+2 meeting in Berlin echoed the international partners' view that an output-based process is a requirement for progress. The meeting resulted in the signing of the Berlin Protocol, the first such protocol since 2012, in which the sides committed to undertake concrete steps to build mutual confidence, including in the fields of ecology, education, transportation and telecommunication. The targeted outcomes benefit the population on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River and reflect the internationally agreed parameters of the Transdniestrian conflict settlement that define the Mission's mandate. However, electoral campaigns after the summer break on both banks distracted the sides from the agreement's implementation despite several meetings at the working group level.

ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF AMMUNITION STORAGE SITES

In 2016, multiple storage facilities were renovated and security and surveillance systems were upgraded. The Mission also facilitated training courses by international instructors from Austria, Canada, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland on physical security and stockpile management for 71 Moldovan officers.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

- The resumption of the 5+2 negotiation process after a two-year hiatus with a new approach to dialogue;
- The signing of the Berlin Protocol, the first such agreement since 2012, which injected a new substantive output-based dynamic into the 5+2 process;
- The adoption of a national strategy for consolidation of inter-ethnic relations for 2017–2027 that is consistent with the OSCE Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

The Mission facilitated public lectures in local communities to raise awareness about free legal services for defending people's fundamental rights. It published a comprehensive guide on primary legal aid and equipped law students and paralegals with the skills and knowledge needed to represent vulnerable individuals. In a series of Human Rights Club meetings, the Mission brought together 190 active lawyers from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River to discuss and share everyday legal issues local people face.

In 2016, the Mission allocated almost 70 per cent of its anti-trafficking and gender budget to address challenges in communities outside the capital, where people are more vulnerable and affected to a greater degree by domestic violence and trafficking. The Mission also supported state agencies in training police officers for the purpose of implementing new amendments to the Law on Domestic Violence, which are in line with ODIHR recommendations.

STRENGTHENING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Some 200 high school students from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River had an opportunity to hone their debating skills at training events organized by the Mission. The goal was to empower young people, including representatives of national minorities, to engage in civic life and public discussions. The Mission also continued its efforts to strengthen professional journalism and independent media through media development projects, especially by building the capacity of journalism students.

FOSTERING A RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Together with the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the Mission supported the Moldovan Government in drafting a national strategy for consolidation of inter-ethnic relations for 2017-2027. The strategy was finalized at the end of 2016 and will serve to facilitate the integration of society while protecting the cultural and linguistic rights of minorities. In this context, the Mission, in co-operation with the HCNM, organized a series of events and meetings with decision

makers and representatives of national minorities. The Mission also continued to support the HCNM in working with the parliamentary working group, created in 2015, to ensure the full implementation of the Republic of Moldova's 1994 Law on the Special Status of Gagauzia, which created an autonomous territorial unit in southern Moldova.

ENGAGING YOUTH THROUGH THE MODEL OSCE

The Model OSCE project brought together 32 students from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River who took on the roles of OSCE participating States in a simulation of the Permanent Council to learn diplomacy, negotiation and decision-making skills. The four best performers were rewarded with a visit to Vienna to attend a meeting of the Permanent Council. The aim of the Model OSCE is to teach young people from both banks the skills needed to promote confidence and strengthen dialogue in order to resolve a conflict.



Participants taking part in the Model OSCE, Vadul-lui-Voda, 25 September 2016 (OSCE/Liubomir Turcanu)



Commemorating the Holocaust and fostering tolerance: the Mission supports activities to preserve historical memory on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River, as well as efforts to research and study the Holocaust in a local context. (Tony Bowden)



PARTNERSHIPS

In co-operation with ODIHR, the Mission organized a workshop on international good practices commemorating the Holocaust. The Mission's funding facilitated participation by a Moldovan delegation, with representatives of the Jewish and Roma communities, in the annual meeting of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in Iasi, Romania. Efforts by ODIHR and the Mission served to reinforce the commitment of the Moldovan Parliament to develop, by the end of 2016, an action plan on education and remembrance of the Holocaust as it pertains to the territory of Moldova.

Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Chief Monitor: **Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan**

Budget: €98,774,700 for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, with €79,019,800 from assessed contributions and €9,650,418 from extrabudgetary contributions

Staff: 1,114 (786 international, 328 local), including 688 monitors as of 31 December 2016

www.osce.org/smm

With over 1,100 members in 23 locations throughout Ukraine, the main effort and impact of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) is in the field. In addition, to reduce tensions and foster peace, stability and security, the Mission has also been actively engaged in the work of the Trilateral Contact Group, chairing the working group on security issues. Progress has often been slow and sometimes even stalled, but a notable breakthrough was reached on 21 September with the signing of the Framework Decision on Disengagement of Forces and Hardware. In the absence of the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements, especially regarding a ceasefire and the withdrawal of proscribed weapons beyond designated lines, the Framework Decision builds on these key elements.

The Mission also contributes to discussions held in the Normandy format, where its monitoring and reporting has informed decision-making. Moreover, the Mission contributed to an event with the United Nations General Assembly, in which the Chief Monitor gave an assessment of the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine.



SMM monitors visiting the destroyed bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska, September 2016 (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

DISENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, the security situation in eastern Ukraine remained volatile. In particular, the proximity of forces and hardware has long been identified as an exacerbating and potentially escalatory factor, with several instances where opposing sides moved closer to one another, resulting in major sustained flare-ups, most notably around Yasynuvata-Avdiivka.

Therefore, the decision of the signatories on 21 September to disengage forces and hardware from three pilot areas – Stanytsia Luhanska, Petrivske and Zolote – was welcomed. The Mission has had a monitoring presence in these areas since the signing of the agreement, supported by cameras in the three areas. Some disengagement has taken place in Petrivske and Zolote, although restrictions on freedom of movement



OSCE monitors preparing for patrol
(OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

made it impossible to confirm if disengagement is complete. However, forces and hardware are still present in the Stanytsia Luhanska disengagement area.

Violence has continued in and around Stanytsia Luhanska, but it has decreased considerably in Zolote and Petrivske since 21 September.

24/7 MONITORING

Given that many of the ceasefire violations occur at night, the SMM has increased its night-time monitoring capacity. Employing a range of technology, including unmanned aerial vehicles and other surveillance technology, the establishment of additional forward patrol bases along the contact line (where a constant presence allows for 24/7 monitoring) and the installation of cameras in key hotspots and disengagement areas has meant that the SMM has been able to overcome significant risks and limitations associated with deploying night-time mobile ground patrols. Risks, which include the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance, are exacerbated by the lack of visibility. Since the increase in monitoring capacity and following the installation of cameras, the SMM has noted decreased levels of violence.

RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

The OSCE Permanent Council decided that SMM monitors should have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. The signatories of Trilateral Contact Group decisions have repeatedly specified that any restriction of this is a violation. Freedom of movement on the part of SMM monitors has, however, continued to be restricted, including through denial of access; the jamming and sometimes consequent downing of SMM unmanned aerial



OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and OSCE SMM Chief Monitor Ertugrul Apakan visit the Kramatorsk Hub on 8 September 2016. (OSCE/Michael Forster Rothbart)



“Throughout the year, the security situation in eastern Ukraine has remained volatile. In particular, the proximity of forces and hardware has long been identified as an exacerbating and potentially escalatory factor.”

**Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan,
OSCE SMM Chief Monitor**



Two SMM monitors assessing the situation in the Donetsk region, 30 August 2016 (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

vehicles; interference with, and destruction of, other SMM technology; the lack of security guarantees from the sides; direct threats to monitors’ security by positioning and firing weapons close to them; direct pointing of weapons at SMM monitors; and refusal to remove or fence off mines and unexploded ordnance.

Agreed provisions for a rapid response to such restrictions are rarely implemented, creating a sense of impunity.

CIVILIAN LIVES ON THE LINE

With the conflict now entering its third year, the plight of civilians has become particularly acute. Their freedom of movement remains curtailed, with just five approved entry-exit checkpoints in operation along a contact line almost 500 kilometres long. One of them – at the destroyed Stanytsia Luhanska bridge – serves the entire Luhansk region.

With almost 25,000 people crossing every day, often stuck for hours and even days at what are essentially fortified choke points, the risk of civilians getting caught up in violence is high. Four people were killed at the Olenivka checkpoint on 27 April when artillery shells struck.

Many Ukrainian citizens cross to government-controlled areas to collect pensions or buy food and medicine, which reflects the dire socio-economic and humanitarian conditions in areas not controlled by the government.

With state benefits unavailable and industry largely at a standstill in areas not controlled by the government, residents are forced to travel across the dangerous contact line and/or rely on limited humanitarian assistance and some financial aid from those in effective control.

The plight of civilians is worsened by major disruptions to utility supplies when shelling damages water, electricity and gas infrastructure. The SMM regularly engages in facilitating and monitoring repair work, but the lack of security guarantees from the sides sometimes restricts access to the sites for repair crews and the SMM.



OSCE SMM Chief Monitor Ertugrul Apakan visiting a centre for internally displaced people in Sloviansk, Ukraine, 1 June 2016 (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)



A demining expert at work in Zolote, Luhansk region, September 2016 (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

PARTNERSHIPS



The SMM regularly shares information with UN offices and agencies working in the country, as well as with other international actors, such as the ICRC. The Mission maintains contact with the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination, in particular for the purposes of providing details of humanitarian concerns regarding civilians and to facilitate dialogue.

2016 OSCE SMM activities in figures

340

Daily and spot reports published



Patrols conducted

26,956

320,130

Ceasefire violations recorded



Instances when weapons in violation of Minsk withdrawal lines were observed

3,099

1,950

Freedom of movement restrictions encountered



www.osce.org/ukraine-smm

Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Project Co-ordinator:

Ambassador Vaidotas Verba

Budget: €3,598,800 (Unified Budget), €2,065,599

(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 3 international

47 local

www.osce.org/ukraine

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator expanded its support to Ukraine's efforts to implement reforms during the crisis in and around the country. The Co-ordinator increased operations in critical areas, such as educating the reformed police force and mine action response units, and made substantial contributions towards the progress of more than 30 Ukrainian partner organizations in many other areas.

THE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR SUPPORTED:

- training of over 7,800 police officers from patrol and neighbourhood services, cyber and anti-human trafficking departments;
- participation of over 500 civic activists; in discussions on the draft law on public consultations and on the concept paper on the national fund to support civil society development;
- capacity-building activities for over 1,500 judges in the areas of corruption and human rights; and
- training of over 700 advocates in the area of human rights protection.



Education practitioners discuss ways to improve the teaching of human rights in universities at an OSCE-supported event in Kyiv, 13 July 2016. (OSCE/Olena Lungol)

ADDING IMPETUS TO JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM

With Ukraine making decisive moves in the reform of its judicial system to make the judiciary independent of political influences yet accountable to society, the Co-ordinator promoted inclusive dialogue in the process of developing key legislation to reflect these changes, also including the amendment of the country's Constitution. To ensure that these reforms are compliant with OSCE commitments, the Co-ordinator supported the elaboration of relevant laws by providing advice and legal opinions. To strengthen the role of the Constitutional Court, the Co-ordinator was instrumental in introducing a constitutional complaint mechanism, a tool enabling citizens to address the Court if they feel the actions of the government violate fundamental law. For the first time in the country's history, the Court referred to the Co-ordinator's expert opinion and to ODIHR's guidelines in its ruling to abolish discriminatory provisions limiting freedom of religious assembly.

These systemic changes were accompanied by efforts to improve the legal education system for judges and legal professionals, including the introduction of three online and four trainer-led courses for judges, as well as an entry exam at the level of a master's degree.



"People must be certain that their constitutional rights are protected, that the constitutional jurisdiction authority – the Constitutional Court of Ukraine – is open to addressing their concerns through an independent and fair process. Therefore, allowing the Constitutional Court to receive applications from ordinary citizens is of paramount importance for restoring trust in the judicial system."

Yuriy Baulin, Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine



Equipment is handed over for the removal of unexploded ordnances, Kyiv, 14 April 2016. (State Emergency Service of Ukraine)

TAKING CARE OF CRISIS-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

While providing an opportunity for conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine to bring issues to the attention of the central authorities at OSCE-facilitated dialogue events, the Co-ordinator also worked to enhance their security, notably by providing equipment to clearly designated mine areas. International organizations noted the appearance of markers and signs at the contact line as one of the improvements in the humanitarian situation in the conflict zone. Recommendations on the improvement of access to justice in eastern Ukraine were also supported.

To help mitigate the impact of the crisis, the Co-ordinator helped draft a state programme on the rehabilitation of former combatants and their families and developed a course on gender aspects of conflict for social workers, police and military. Helping to ensure that media coverage of the conflict is in line with journalistic ethics and standards, the Co-ordinator supported research into media content, provided training courses, facilitated discussions in the media community and developed a manual on practices related to conflict-sensitive journalism.

ENSURING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN GOVERNANCE

After the government of Ukraine adopted a revised civil society development strategy for 2016-2020, elaborated with OSCE support, the Co-ordinator contributed to its implementation by developing a draft law on public consultations and a concept paper for the state-financed national fund to support civic initiatives. The Co-ordinator also supported the National Reforms Council, an advisory body under the President of Ukraine, in the use of online tools to support dialogue within society on reconciliation and reform. For further practical use of dialogue in reforms, notably in the decentralization process, the Co-ordinator developed an online course for experts who are able to facilitate such dialogue.

Efforts to involve civil society in governance included support for the monitoring of detention facilities to prevent human rights violations and the development of a methodology for monitoring court trials and training. The Co-ordinator also began promoting a new role for civil society in the democratic control of security sector agencies.

RESPONDING TO THREATS FROM CYBERCRIME, TERRORISM AND MONEY LAUNDERING

The Co-ordinator helped Ukraine to develop methodology and, for the first time, to conduct a national assessment of risks related to money laundering and financing of terrorism. The assessment is fundamental to identifying weaknesses and vulnerabilities of the country's financial monitoring system; it is also a requirement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) responsible for the international response to those crimes. To help respond to another growing criminality trend, the Co-ordinator helped launch a newly reformed police cyber division by providing equipment for education, developing curricula and training 170 officers.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Co-ordinator co-operated with international partners, including the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining on the development of a humanitarian mine action policy, the Council of Europe on the country's first-ever money-laundering risk assessment and on recommendations to cope with displaced courts in Donbas, as well as with UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a training course for dialogue facilitators.



Cyber police graduates taking pictures in front of the Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 30 September 2016. (OSCE/Volodymyr Gontar)

Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

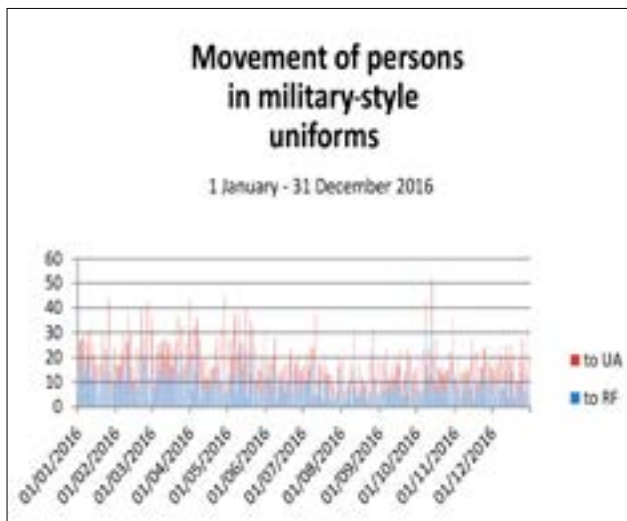
Chief Observer: **Simon Eugster** (until April 2016) and **Flavien Schaller** (from May 2016)
Budget: €1,435,667
Staff: 20 (as of 31 December 2016)
www.osce.org/om

In 2016, the Observer Mission maintained its permanent presence at the two Russian checkpoints in Gukovo and Donetsk, operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency.

The mission reported on a weekly basis to the Chairmanship and to the participating States on the situation and the movement across the border at these two border crossing points. The Mission also issued 11 spot reports on Russian convoys bound for Ukraine and special observations at the two border crossing points.



OSCE observers at the Donetsk border crossing point, Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy, Russian Federation, May 2016 (OSCE)



BORDER CROSSING OBSERVATIONS IN 2016

- 3,778,040 people
- 6,371 people in military-style uniforms
- 13 funeral vans
- 5 vans with a “Cargo 200” inscription (“Cargo 200” is a known military code used for “military personnel killed in action”)
- 10 Russian convoys observed

CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE MEDIA

The Observer Mission further improved its relations with authorities in the area of its operation. On 2 August, representatives of the Russian authorities visited the Mission’s offices in Donetsk, Gukovo and Kamensk. This visit helped to improve information exchange with the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry on convoy crossings and allowed the border observers to better communicate with people crossing at the two checkpoints.

The Observer Mission also developed its relations with the local media, which, as a result, began to issue a monthly article about the Mission’s activities and the work of its observers. This helped the local population better understand the mandate of the Observer Mission and the role of the OSCE in efforts to facilitate a settlement of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

OBSERVATIONS IN TRENDS

In 2016, observers noted a 60 per cent decrease in the number of people in military-style uniforms crossing the two border crossing points in comparison to 2015. The traffic of passenger and other vehicles remained regular during the year. The average number of people crossing the border slightly increased during the summer and has decreased since the start of the winter. According to the statistics from the Rostov Region Border Guard Service, 36 per cent of the people crossing the border between the Rostov Region and the Donbas did so through the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints.

CHIEF OBSERVER

Mr. Flavien Schaller has been the Chief Observer since May 2016. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Schaller held a number of positions as a career officer at the General Staff in the Swiss Army. He succeeded Mr. Simon Eugster, who led the Mission from October 2015 until the end of April 2016.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Observer Mission co-operated with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in exchanging information concerning trains crossing into Ukraine via the Gukovo border crossing point. The Mission also received weekly statistics from the Rostov Region Border Guard Service on cross-border movement of people between the Rostov Region and Donbas. In September, the Observer Mission started receiving information from the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry regarding Russian convoys crossing into Ukraine through the Donetsk border crossing point.



Flavien Schaller, Chief Observer (OSCE)

Office in Yerevan

Head of Office:

Ambassador Andrey Sorokin

(until February 2016) and

Ambassador Argo Avakov

(from March 2016)

Budget: €3,030,200

(Unified Budget), €66,490

(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 7 international

41 local

www.osce.org/yerevan

The Office in Yerevan continued to assist Armenia across all three OSCE dimensions, focusing in 2016 on supporting security sector governance and reform, economic integration, the rule of law and the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.



A stage play supported by the Office that promoted the right of women and girls to education and reflected on the issue of early marriage, Yerevan, 31 October 2016 (OSCE/Gayane Ter-Stepanyan)



The non-governmental organization Armenian Women for a Healthy Environment (AWHEE) was awarded a prize by the Office in Yerevan at the annual Best Women Entrepreneur for 2016 Award ceremony held under the auspices of the Armenian Prime Minister, 29 June 2016. (OSCE/Gayane Ter-Stepanyan)

MOBILIZING AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Office helped improve co-operation, co-ordination and referrals among government, police and civil society to combat domestic violence by organizing community workshops and opening so-called information corners at police stations.

SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND REFORM

In co-operation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sport, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Embassy of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office organized a security sector governance and reform workshop, which introduced government and civil society participants from Armenia and Georgia to international best practices and recent developments in the field.

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

The Office worked closely with the business sector, civil society organizations and local authorities to foster discussion about improvements to the regulatory framework, corporate governance and social responsibility, ethics and integrity, transparency principles and building reliable relations with partners while attracting investment.

EXPANDING THE CAPACITIES OF AARHUS CENTRES

Office-supported Aarhus Centre co-ordinators strengthened community-based efforts to reduce disaster risks and the security-related impact of natural hazards. Community resilience teams were established and training was provided on the utilization of early warning systems.



Ambassador Argo Avakov at environmental awareness-raising activities among youth held on the occasion of World Ozone Day at the Khosrov State Reserve in Armenia, 16 September 2016. (OSCE/Gayane Ter-Stepanyan)

DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Together with USAID and local civil society organizations, the Office supported an international learning conference on digital storytelling that focused on new trends and tools in the production of journalistic content, professionalism in crisis reporting and investigative journalism.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

As co-chair of the interagency, government and civil society Gender Theme Group, the Office contributed to the development of recommendations promoting women’s political participation at the national and local levels. Many of the recommendations were reflected in the new Electoral Code, raising minimum quotas for the less represented gender for the 2017 and 2022 parliamentary elections to 25 and 30 per cent of party lists, respectively.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Model OSCE simulations, university debate clubs, an anti-corruption camp and moot court competitions, all organized by the Office, helped young people develop critical thinking skills, learn how to frame arguments and practise negotiation and public speaking.

STRENGTHENING THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER’S OFFICE

The Office supported public discussion of a new draft law that stipulates the functions and structure of the national human rights institution. It also helped develop a new interactive website and arranged nationally broadcast TV programmes to raise awareness about the Human Rights Defender’s Office.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION

Working with the government, civil society and international partners, the Office raised awareness about the importance of interagency co-operation in juvenile crime prevention. This resulted in policy

SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

Working closely with ODIHR and local experts, the Office supported harmonizing the legal framework with the newly amended constitution and Armenia’s transition from a semi-presidential to parliamentary system of government. New laws, or amendments to laws, on political parties, referenda, elections and the Human Rights Defender were developed, as were new rules of procedure for the National Assembly.



(Photolure agency)

recommendations that informed the national strategy on juvenile crime prevention and were incorporated into the Ministry of Justice’s three-year action plan to enhance children’s access to justice.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION

Office-supported experts worked with police and the Ministry of Justice to assess corruption risks at the Police Passport and Visa Department and the Traffic Police Service and to draft recommendations and action plans to institutionalize the effective investigation of corruption-related offences.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Office worked closely with the UNDP, the EU Delegation, the Council of Europe, and the US and British Embassies to organize a universal rights awards ceremony acknowledging the efforts of civil society activists, media and government officials in promoting human rights, the rule of law and the implementation of reforms.

Centre in Ashgabat

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Ivo Petrov** (until 8 July 2016) and **Ambassador Natalya Drozd** (from 9 July 2016)

Budget: €1,602,200 (Unified Budget), €254,206 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 6 international
19 local

www.osce.org/ashgabat

In 2016, the Centre continued providing support to the host government in implementing commitments in all three security dimensions, focusing on border and infrastructure security, good governance and disaster risk reduction, media development and issues related to human rights.



Participants practise sketching as part of an OSCE-organized training course on basic patrolling skills in Turkmenistan, 20 June 2016. (OSCE)

BORDER SECURITY

The Centre organized a series of training courses on border patrol leadership and train-the-trainer courses for non-commissioned officers and officers of the State Border Service of Turkmenistan, including a course on motorized patrolling for border guards. Selected project activities also included a separate training course for border police representatives from Afghanistan.

ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Centre organized a seminar on critical energy infrastructure protection for 20 officials from law enforcement bodies and energy-related institutions.

As the country is actively preparing for the fifth Asian Games in 2017, the Centre organized courses for aviation security officials on the use of X-rays in baggage and passenger screening, as well as on aviation checkpoints and X-ray image interpretation for instructors.

The Centre also helped Turkmenistan strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and military officials to respond to terrorism threats to future large-scale public events.

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

In co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre, the Centre in Ashgabat organized a seminar on the implementation of commitments under the OSCE Vienna Document 2011 for 23 officials from the Defence Ministry.

PROMOTING TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Centre trained officials from the Traffic Control Inspectorate of Turkmenistan's Interior Ministry and representatives of a local public organization dealing with human security issues on best practices for promoting road safety awareness. In addition, 41 officers from the Traffic Control Police Service in the Mary and Dashoguz provinces enhanced their capacity to manage traffic and safeguard road security.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Centre trained 25 officials from the State Commission for Emergencies, law enforcement bodies and other related institutions in mechanisms to reduce and prevent the spread of disasters. A study visit to the United States familiarized Turkmenistan's officials with experiences in preparing for, and responding to, natural disasters and environmental emergencies.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

To assist Turkmenistan with the implementation of its commitments to combat corruption and money laundering, the Centre organized various training events for senior experts and civil servants. It supported a seminar on verifying customers' identity for preventing money laundering and terrorism financing for representatives of financial institutions and law enforcement bodies, as well as a roundtable event on strengthening the system to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and corruption. The Centre also organized a study visit for Turkmen officials to Romania, which facilitated the exchange of best practices in countering corruption and money laundering.



Students at Turkmenistan's International University of Oil and Gas during an OSCE-organized seminar on energy security (OSCE)

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ENERGY SECURITY

With the Centre's support, the Aarhus Centre of Turkmenistan held seminars in Ashgabat, Mary and Turkmenbashi to raise the awareness of the local authorities, commercial organizations, civil society, the media and the public about the Aarhus Convention. A lecture at the International University of Oil and Gas enhanced students' knowledge in the area of energy diplomacy and international practices in energy governance and security. The Centre also supported the publication of a textbook on solar energy for students of the Turkmen State Energy Institute in Mary.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

The Centre continued raising public awareness in the area of freedom of religion or belief with a seminar on international standards on religious freedom for 20 legislators, law enforcement officials and researchers.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

The Centre held a course on human rights standards at the stage of criminal proceedings and investigations for 50 students of the Interior Ministry's Institute and the Foreign Ministry's Institute of International Relations.

A training course for law enforcement and prison officials from across Turkmenistan upgraded their knowledge in the areas of international standards related to prisoners' rights and about professional standards regarding the treatment of inmates.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

The Centre continued to support the modernization of Turkmenistan's media legislation and media reform. It organized a master class for 25 representatives of

LEGAL SUPPORT IN INDIVIDUAL CASES

The OSCE supported legal counsel for:

- 159 individuals;
- 58 appeals in 20 cases.

SUPPORTING THE ISTANBUL PROCESS

The Centre supported the organization of the fourth meeting of the regional technical group on confidence-building measures in the framework of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan, which was established to provide a platform to discuss regional issues, particularly encouraging security, political and economic co-operation between Afghanistan and its neighbours. The Centre supported the event as part of an extrabudgetary project funded by the United States.

parliament, the media and relevant institutions to promote international standards on regulation and self-regulation of the media. A study visit to Riga exposed representatives of Turkmenistan's parliament and media to the Latvian experience in media reform.

To assist in enhancing the capacity of journalists and communications specialists, the Centre held courses on journalistic reporting skills for 30 journalists from across the country and on communication through the websites of state institutions for 25 content managers and IT specialists from Turkmenistan's key ministries and institutions.

The Centre also supported journalism education with courses on Internet journalism for 80 students from Turkmenistan's universities and a seminar on journalism teaching for 15 journalism instructors.



Delegation of Turkmenistan's media visit a studio in the Latvian Public Service Television during the OSCE-organized study visit to Riga, Latvia, 21 June 2016. (OSCE)



PARTNERSHIPS

The Centre partnered with the UNDP-implemented Border Management Northern Afghanistan project to organize a training course on patrolling for border police officers from northern Afghanistan. With financial support from the British Embassy in Turkmenistan, the Centre prepared a commentary on Turkmenistan's education legislation.

Programme Office in Astana

Head of Office: **Ambassador Natalia Zarudna** (until January 2016) and **Ambassador György Szabó** (from February 2016)

Budget: €2,148,700 (Unified Budget), €37,940 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 6 international
22 local

www.osce.org/astana

In 2016, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana continued its productive relationship with the host country's government officials, civil society and international actors in strengthening regional security, combating violent extremism and countering organized crime, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Office also supported Kazakhstan's efforts to promote trade, enhance water governance, advance gender mainstreaming and support green growth and sustainable development,

good governance, democratic policing and fundamental freedoms, as well as developing social services for victims of human trafficking, supporting justice and penitentiary reforms and engaging youth and academia in regional security dialogue. Due to its multi-year efforts and with the Office's input, key legislation on green economic growth and carbon emission reduction and readmission was passed. Draft laws on countering violent extremism and terrorism were discussed with input from ODIHR, and the Office provided input for the 2030 draft Family and Gender Policy Concept. In total, the Office implemented more than 150 events in over 50 projects in all three dimensions, with over 6,700 participants nationwide.



Dog trainers during the opening of a canine centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 27 May 2016. (OSCE/Colin McCullough)

ADDRESSING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

High on the Office's agenda were plans to engage civil society, youth, women, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters. Nine OSCE-supported events involved some 340 parliamentarians, high-level government officials, judges, civil society activists and international experts. Law enforcement officers from across the country were trained to combat transnational organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime, trafficking in drugs and counterfeit-goods smuggling, as well as to enhance border security, manage public assemblies, provide policing in multi-ethnic societies and use service dogs to detect explosives. Ways to counter Internet use for promoting hate speech were the focus of the Seventh Central Asian Internet Forum, which brought to Almaty 120 practitioners and experts from the region and beyond.



Participants and alumni from the Central Asian Youth Network during a dance break, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 5 July 2016 (OSCE/Colin McCullough)



Training seminar participants studying the basics of green technologies in practice during an event, Arnasai, Kazakhstan, 4 May 2016. (OSCE/Aigul Zharas)

PROMOTING DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL SECURITY

In line with the German Chairmanship's priority on fostering youth exchange and political participation of young people, the Office organized cross-dimensional activities that engaged over 145 young leaders in debates on regional security issues. The events were organized in the framework of the annual Central Asian Youth Network seminar for university students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia, which marked its 11th anniversary in Almaty, and the tenth Law Student Forum on the protection of freedom of expression on the Internet in Astana. The annual Summer School and the seventh Central Asian Leadership Programme helped young environmental leaders from the region and Afghanistan to learn about sustainable development and water governance in a security context.

In 2016, the Office supported annual regional seminars on confidence- and security-building measures under the Vienna Document 2011 and on the disposal of explosive ordnance together with the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Some 680 central and local government officials, law enforcement officers, judges, representatives of banking and non-financial sectors and civil society attended events on good governance with a focus on anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism, local self-governance, efficient labour migration and customs management. These events helped increase the capacity of the participants through a number of the Office's awareness-raising events. The activities helped develop a series of recommendations to improve the respective national frameworks.

GREEN ECONOMY PROMOTION

The Office continued to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, organic farming, effective water governance and dam safety, specifically in the context of the upcoming Expo 2017 on future energy. Assistance was also rendered to the parliament to support the ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement and to develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In total, the Office actively involved some 1,500 parliamentarians, officials, entrepreneurs, academics, NGO activists and representatives of Aarhus Centres and

Water Basin Councils to contribute to the implementation of ongoing green reforms in the country.

PROMOTING LEGISLATION ON FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

The Office consistently supported criminal, administrative and civil justice reform by facilitating public and expert discussions for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers on how to apply adopted codes and relevant laws.

The Office supported seminars on mechanisms for human rights protection for some 900 government, civil society and judiciary representatives and training seminars for 100 defence lawyers on criminal procedure. It continued assisting the national preventive mechanism (NPM) against torture and built the capacity of some 80 NPM members.

Multi-year efforts helped establish an effective framework for identifying and ensuring the protection of victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

In media development, a focus was placed on ten training events on the law on access to information that engaged some 880 parliamentarians, officials, journalists, national and international experts. The Office also organized a study tour to the Russian Federation for Supreme Court and city court judges, seminars for law enforcement press officers and court reporters aimed at enhancing interaction with the media, as well as for journalists on data journalism and on tools to counter hate speech on the Internet.



PARTNERSHIPS

The OSCE Programme Office in Astana worked closely with UN agencies; the EU; the Embassies of Canada, Germany and the United States; and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Friedrich Ebert Foundation in areas such as media development, public assembly management, border security, environmental protection and countering violent extremism.

Centre in Bishkek

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Sergey Kapinos** (until October 2016) and **Ambassador Pierre von Arx** (from October 2016)

Budget: €6,909,600 (Unified Budget), €781,002 (Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 26 international
100 local

www.osce.org/bishkek

In 2016, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek directed its programmatic efforts towards ensuring cross-dimensional synergies and capitalizing on the activities of all three OSCE pillars. These included mitigating the security threats posed by uranium tailings, enhancing environmental monitoring in Kyrgyzstan, assisting the host government in combating corruption and encouraging economic growth, countering terrorism and strengthening border control, as well as promoting youth initiatives and enhancing the capacity of the penitentiary system.



The Chairman of the State Border Service (SBS), Colonel Abdikarim Alimbaev, explains the work of the radio-communication equipment used by the SBS during the military Command-Staff Exercise Barrier 2016, Osh, 8 July 2016. (OSCE/Iлона Asyrankulova)

STRENGTHENING BORDER CONTROL

The Centre supported the host country's activities to strengthen its borders. The Barrier 2016 simulation exercise brought together personnel from the State Border Service and the Emergencies and Interior Ministries, developing their interoperability in addressing border-related challenges. Besides strengthening interagency co-operation in dealing with border crises, the exercises consolidated Kyrgyzstan's capacity to tackle terrorist threats and emergency situations.

MITIGATING SECURITY THREATS POSED BY URANIUM TAILINGS

The Centre supported the national authorities in addressing the hazards related to uranium tailings by opening three public environmental information centres in the former uranium-mining towns of Minkush, Shekhaftar and Mayлуу-Suu. The information centres, run by Aarhus Centre-trained experts, provide local residents with information and advice regarding the hazards associated with life in uranium-contaminated areas and on the status of their remediation work.



The OSCE Centre in Bishkek's ongoing programme on small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition supported the reconstruction of warehouses for the Kyrgyz Armed Forces and constructed a new warehouse at a military unit in the village of Koi-Tash, 20 km from Bishkek. (OSCE/Vasilina Brazhko)

COMBATING CORRUPTION AND STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Centre continued its assistance to the government in reforming the legal framework, reducing the regulatory burden on businesses and better regulating business activity. By December 2016, recommendations were developed on about half of some 3,414 legal documents. The recommendations were approved by the Regulatory Reform Council chaired by the Prime Minister, and more than 60 per cent of them were implemented by the relevant state bodies.



New members and alumni from the Central Asian Youth Network meeting with OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier during their two-day study visit to Vienna, 24 November 2016. (OSCE/Ben Erasin)

PROMOTING YOUTH CAPACITY AND INITIATIVES IN THE REGION

As part of its democratic governance efforts, the Centre supported various youth initiatives in Kyrgyzstan and the wider region. It conducted a Central Asian Youth Network workshop that brought together some 40 young participants representing the five Central Asian states, as well as Mongolia and Afghanistan. This contributed to advancing inter-regional co-operation and understanding of OSCE activities among young students. In the same vein, the Centre trained 20 young officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on strategic planning.

OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

As a regional educational and research institution, the OSCE Academy continued to promote dialogue, regional co-operation, conflict prevention and good governance in Central Asia. Even though the student body comes predominately from the five states of Central Asia, the Academy attracts interest among applicants from Afghanistan, Mongolia and other countries throughout the world. In 2016, the Academy experienced another record high number of applications, reaching around 1,200 for its two Master of Arts programmes on Politics and Security and on Economic Governance and Development.



Some 44 students, along Ambassador Pierre Von Arx, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (centre), and Indira Satarkulova, Acting Director of the OSCE Academy (centre right), during a graduation ceremony, Bishkek, 16 December 2016 (OSCE/Maksim Shubovich)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION IN KYRGYZSTAN

In 2016, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek continued its assistance to the Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan. They improved awareness among the public and governmental authorities by disseminating environmental information and carrying out educational and training activities. One of the achievements was the opening of the Training Centre in Osh that contributed to the improvement of environmental monitoring and offered training courses for judges on environmental legislation. Over 400 local residents participated in training courses and attended public hearings on the environment and its preservation, as well as on disaster risk mitigation.

SUPPORTING PENITENTIARY SYSTEM REFORM

- Since the establishment of the Training Centre for Prison Staff in 2011 by the Centre, more than 5,500 personnel from all over the country have enhanced their professional qualifications;
- In 2016, some 20 training activities were offered in areas such as computer skills, prevention, correction and work with prisoners serving life-term sentences;
- Over 690 prison and probation staff received professional training;
- Senior management training was provided to all 32 heads of closed facilities;
- The active engagement of the Centre and its strong co-operation with the State Service for the Execution of Punishment attest to its valuable contribution to penitentiary reform in Kyrgyzstan.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Centre joined efforts with the EU-funded Border Management Programme in Central Asia and other local and international actors in conducting a region-wide conference on border security. It also engaged in partnerships with the UNODC, the UNDP, the OHCHR, UNICEF, the German Development Agency (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH - GIZ), the International Republican Institute and the IOM in addressing issues of corruption, police reform, parliamentary co-operation, women's empowerment, environmental support and anti-trafficking.

Office in Tajikistan

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Markus Mueller** (until July 2016) and **Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä** (from October 2016)
Budget: €7,756,300 (Unified Budget), €3,167,330 (Extrabudgetary Income)
Staff: 28 international
193 local
www.osce.org/tajikistan

In 2016, the Office in Tajikistan carried out work across all three OSCE dimensions, with a focus on combating organized crime and countering violent extremism, strengthening border security and assisting in humanitarian demining. The Office contributed to water and energy security and supported women's participation in political life, promoted gender equality and assisted the host country in developing social services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Afghan counterparts were also part of training activities in 2016.



An Afghan border police officer crossing a river at Karatag during a patrol leadership course, Gissar, Tajikistan, 25 May 2016 (OSCE/Firdavs Kurbanov)



A Tajik trainee conducting sub-surface clearance procedures using an unexploded ordnance detector, Lyaur, 18 April 2016 (OSCE/Nozim Kalandarov)

VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM (VERLT)

The Office worked with civil society and law enforcement agencies to prevent and counter violent extremist ideas and organized crime. In 2016, the Office's VERLT-related efforts focused on rural communities as the most vulnerable social groups prone to extremist ideologies.

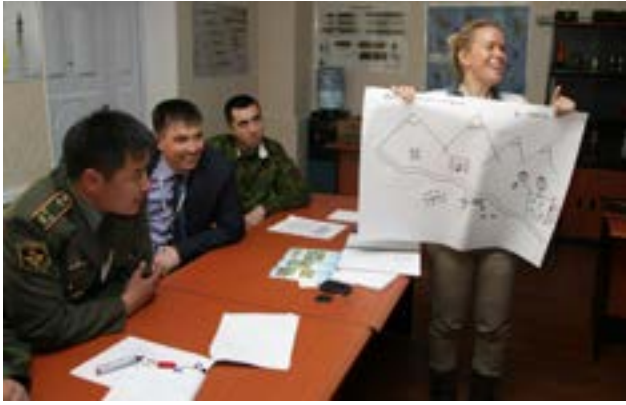
The Office provided discussion platforms for local religious leaders, civil society and law enforcement to generate effective counter-narratives against incitement and propagation of violent extremism and terrorism. Furthermore, the Office provided support for state officials and civil society representatives to participate in various regional and international capacity-building activities to prevent and combat VERLT through a multidimensional approach.

BORDER SECURITY

The Office continued its capacity-building activities for border officers from Tajikistan and neighbouring countries. In 2016, the Office trained 343 border officers on human surveillance in border areas, including 47 border police from Afghanistan and 18 border troops from Kyrgyzstan.

HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

In 2016, the Office, working with the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre, cleared 295,671 square metres of land. The demining teams found and destroyed 493 antipersonnel mines and 742 pieces of unexploded ordnance. Since 2009, over 2 million square metres of contaminated land have been cleared. Tajikistan aspires to meet the Ottawa Convention obligations for a mine-free country by 2020. In September, the Office and the Centre launched a mine risk awareness and education campaign in the affected areas near the borders with Afghanistan in the south and Uzbekistan in the west, alerting civilian communities to the dangers posed by explosive materials.



Maria Zapasnik, course instructor, in an intense debate on the role of community liaison in risk education, Dushanbe, 3 March 2016 (OSCE/Nozim Kalandarov)

WATER AND ENERGY SECURITY

In 2016, the Office, in co-operation with the Ministry of Water and Energy Resources, conducted activities on water resources management and renewable energy at the national and regional levels. Following the launch of a water sector reform programme by the host country, the Office organized training activities on integrated water resources management. It also worked on developing dam safety regulations and supported research on climate change and natural hazards in river basins.

The Office strongly advocated for completing the construction of two micro-hydropower plants in eastern Tajikistan and connecting remote settlements with the national electricity network.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

To secure the participation of women in every aspect of political and public life, the Office supports a working group of women politicians from all established political parties, which also includes young women activists, members of civil society, national gender experts and youth.

The Office also launched five regional Women Leaders Forums where politicians, authorities and communities discussed how to support women's participation in political life. Two study visits to Albania and Serbia provided an opportunity for an exchange of experiences related to legislation on gender quotas and implementation of national action plans on UNSCR 1325.

THE BORDER COLLEGE – A PLATFORM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES AND CO-OPERATION

The OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) delivers a wide range of educational initiatives to mid- and senior-ranking border security and management officials from participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

In 2016, the BMSC organized 22 educational events, including 18 thematic courses, two staff courses, a six-month train-the-trainer programme and a year-long blended learning course for senior leadership. In total, 450 participants, including 86 women, from 26 countries graduated from the College.

Additionally, the College broadened its educational programme by conducting roundtable events on Afghanistan, Central Asian perspectives on regional security and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRES

The Office supports a network of Women's Resource Centres (WRCs) in 18 locations throughout the country. They assist women in difficulty, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The WRCs offer community-based legal assistance, psychological counselling and vocational training. They help combat domestic violence and human trafficking through education programmes.

The Interior Ministry's Gender-Sensitive Police Units, also launched with the Office's support, co-operate closely with the WRCs. From 2011 to 2016, the WRCs provided individual assistance to over 40,000 women in crisis.



The OSCE-supported Women's Resource Center in Obikiik jamoat, Khuroson district, Khatlon region, 25 November 2016 (OSCE/Nozim Kalandarov)



PARTNERSHIPS

The Office, in co-operation with the UNDP and the IOM, conducted an evaluation of the National Border Management Strategy, developed with OSCE support, to identify progress and challenges for further implementation. The Office also worked with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and Mercy Corps Afghanistan to hold a training course on agricultural water management for an association of water users. The Office and the UNHCR deepened their co-operation on the issue of statelessness. The BMSC continued its co-operation with DCAF, the UNODC, the Border Management Northern Afghanistan project and the Export Control and Related Border Security Programme of the United States State Department.

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Project Co-ordinator:

Ambassador Gyorgy Szabo

(until February 2016) and

Ambassador John MacGregor

(from May 2016)

Budget: €2,112,300

(Unified Budget), €33,711

(Extrabudgetary Income)

Staff: 3 international

23 local

www.osce.org/uzbekistan

In 2016, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan continued to support the host country's efforts to address transnational threats, promote transparency in governance, fight corruption, combat money laundering and counteract trafficking in human beings and drugs.



A burning ceremony of confiscated illegal drugs, Tashkent, 25 June 2016
(OSCE/Oleg Zaichenko)



The OSCE-supported workshop on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, Tashkent, 25 October 2016 (OSCE/Otabek Rashidov)

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Project Co-ordinator continued its support to Uzbekistan in the fight against terrorism by organizing national workshops on the implementation of universal anti-terrorism instruments, countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and promoting a community-policing approach to preventing and countering VERLT. Over 130 government officials, civil society and international experts participated in the discussions and shared experiences. The events were aimed at stressing the importance of engaging the community by establishing police-public partnerships in order to develop proactive problem-solving practices in preventing and countering VERLT.

The Project Co-ordinator, jointly with the National Centre on Drug Control, supported the implementation of a national anti-drug programme focusing on countrywide preventive measures to fight illicit trafficking of drugs and chemical precursors.



A scene from an OSCE-supported social video on prevention of corruption



An Uzbek delegation visits a waste sorting plant in Graz, Austria, on 29 September 2016. (OSCE/Hans-Ullrich Ihm)

GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE

The Project Co-ordinator continued its assistance to the national authorities in combating corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing, as well as in increasing the transparency of economic courts.

In 2016, more attention was paid to increasing public awareness and improving communication channels between the government and the public. A nationwide campaign to promote zero tolerance for corruption triggered a significant public response.

The Project Co-ordinator also provided assistance in the form of capacity building, an exchange of best practices and the creation of a platform for discussions during the process of developing new anti-corruption legislation.

PROMOTION OF A GREEN ECONOMY

The Project Co-ordinator supported the promotion of green economy policies in the host country by facilitating an exchange of best practices between Austria and Uzbekistan and providing direct assistance to national stakeholders in the development of green economy policies. The Project Co-ordinator also established sites demonstrating sustainable transportation and the use of renewable energy in several parts of the country that will function as pilots for the further development of a green economy.

Another focus was on promoting environmental tourism in Uzbekistan. The Project Co-ordinator facilitated discussions on challenges and opportunities for developing ecotourism in Uzbekistan, including the required infrastructure needed for the fostering of tourism, as well as on necessary regulatory and institutional reforms in this area.

CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

In 2016, the Project Co-ordinator, jointly with the Independent Institute for the Monitoring of the Formation of Civil Society, began conducting a survey in the rural areas of the Bukhara, Khorezm, Surkhandarya,

Fergana and Zhizzakh regions and Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent, to identify challenges in interaction between state agencies and the population. The survey helped analyse people's political and legal awareness of their rights, propose measures to improve the quality of interaction mechanisms and develop practical tools for improved communication channels between citizens and state bodies.

PROMOTING E-LEARNING

The Project Co-ordinator provided support for in-service human rights education and the promotion of an e-learning methodology in educational institutions for law enforcement agencies and the justice sector. Experts from the USA and Sweden provided instructors for the higher training courses for the Prosecutor General's Office and the Justice Ministry's Lawyers Training Centre with tailor-made training and online consultations on the development of distance learning courses. Target institutions also received technical support for advanced introductions to e-learning for prosecutors, judges and defence lawyers.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Project Co-ordinator co-operated with international partners, including the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee and the UNODC in addressing VERLT, illicit drug trafficking and other transnational threats; the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the United States State Department on a national anti-corruption contest; Austria's Environmental Agency on the organization of an exchange of best practices on a green economy; and the UNDP on the implementation of international standards of judicial training and enhancement of the capacities of national human rights institutions.

ADVANCING SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Security in the OSCE area is inseparably linked to that of neighbouring regions and can be strengthened through dialogue and the sharing of norms, commitments and expertise. This is why the OSCE maintains privileged relations with 11 Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and continues to build on its extensive network of co-operative relationships with other international and regional organizations.



Asian and Mediterranean partners

ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION



In 2016, the OSCE-Asian Partnership continued to serve as a solid platform to exchange experiences and lessons learned on issues of mutual concern with a view to enhancing the involvement of the Asian Partners in the OSCE's political dialogue and activities (also see the section on the Asian Contact Group).

The Asian Partners for Co-operation actively contributed to OSCE dialogue and provided significant financial and human resources to the Organization's activities, including the OSCE Border Management Staff College, the OSCE's engagement with Ukraine, the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan and ODIHR's election observation missions.

The OSCE Secretary General actively promoted political dialogue with the Asian Partners for Co-operation throughout the year. In his engagement with senior government officials from Afghanistan, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, Secretary General Zannier highlighted the OSCE experience and reiterated the readiness of the Organization to share its experience and tools in promoting sustainable and comprehensive security. He also took part in the 2016 OSCE-Asian Conference on Strengthening Comprehensive Security held in Bangkok on 6 and 7 June 2016, which explored how regional organizations can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Secretary General also contributed to sustaining the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan. In the margins of an Asian Contact Group meeting called "Security, Stability and Development in Afghanistan: Transforming Threats into Opportunities for the Younger Generation", he met with the Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Co-operation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Adela Raz. The Secretary General expressed the Secretariat's readiness to work towards a more programmatic roadmap that includes projects focusing on education and economic co-operation, which could be of particular benefit to young people in Afghanistan.

The OSCE Secretariat contributed to discussions on border management, confidence-building measures focusing on cybersecurity, efforts to protect critical infrastructure



Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General (l), meeting with Apichart Chinwanno (r), Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of Thailand, in Bangkok, 7 June 2016 (Foreign Ministry of Thailand)

from terrorist attacks and non-traditional security issues at a number of meetings and events organized in Asian Partner countries.

THE PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Partnership Fund finances joint activities and sponsors the participation of representatives from Partner States in OSCE events.

€1,942,156 Pledges since its creation in 2007

€363,124 Pledges in 2016

93 Sponsored participants from Partner States in OSCE activities in 2016

45 PROJECTS DEVELOPED SINCE ITS CREATION **38** projects completed

7 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2016
4 new projects | **3** multi-year projects

◀ (iStock.com/wildpixel)

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION



(L-r) Mohammed Taher Siala, Libya's Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Accord; OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier; and George Vella, Malta's Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference, Vienna, 6 October 2016 (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership intensified in 2016, as participating States and Partners for Co-operation focused on common challenges and shared priorities, from countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism to managing movements of migrants and refugees across the Mediterranean. Mediterranean issues were discussed at a number of high-level events, including the Annual Security Review Conference and the Mediterranean Conference held in Vienna on 5 and 6 October, which saw the participation of several ministers.

The Austrian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group continued along the path of increased engagement. Meetings in various formats focused on youth, migration, preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, as well as employment and economic development. The Austrian Chairmanship also explored new formats. Together with Spain and with the support of the OSCE Secretariat, a special event was organized in Madrid to stimulate participating States and Partners for Co-operation to discuss the situation in Libya and the future of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership, including possible innovations in its format and modalities (also see the section on the Mediterranean Contact Group).

Throughout the year, representatives from the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation were involved in OSCE Secretariat-designed projects and workshops in the field of sustainable energy, democratic control of armed forces and border security. Representatives of Mediterranean Partners were also invited to participate in the first of three simulation-based learning exercises on combating human trafficking along migration routes, which took place at the Centre of Excellence of Stability Police Units in Vicenza, Italy, from 14 to 18 November.

The Secretary General continued to personally invest in dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, also by promoting participation in OSCE Security Days.

The Track II New-Med (New Mediterranean) network promoted out-of-the-box thinking about Mediterranean co-operation by supporting discussions on migration management, intercultural dialogue and the relevance of the CSCE/OSCE experience for the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. New-Med also launched a youth call aimed at forging counter-narratives against negative discourses on migration and integration.

Co-operation with International and Regional Organizations

THE SECRETARY GENERAL



UNITED NATIONS (UN)

The UN-OSCE partnership was further strengthened in 2016. Co-operation focused on priority areas such as peacekeeping and peace-building, disarmament and transnational threats, tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as women, peace and security. Upon the initiative of the OSCE Secretary General, the UN Secretariat established a Liaison Office on Peace and Security in Vienna, which is expected to enhance institutional dialogue between the two Secretariats.

The Secretary General continued to represent the OSCE and actively contributed to several UN events. These included the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit and the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Refugees and Migrants. In his statements, Secretary General Zannier highlighted the crucial role that regional organizations such as the OSCE play in preventing and addressing conflicts, as well as promoting good migration governance.

At the operational level, 2016 saw the successful renewal of the OSCE-UNODC Plan of Action for another two years, and the continued implementation of the existing co-operation agreements with the UN family, including the UNDP, the UNODA and the UNHCR.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE)

Co-operation with the CoE continued to develop steadily in the four agreed areas of tolerance and non-discrimination, protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against terrorism and combating trafficking in human beings. In this framework, the two annual meetings of the CoE-OSCE Co-ordination Group provided a good opportunity to jointly examine a broad range of issues of mutual interest. The Group called for strengthening synergies on initiatives taken by both organizations to address the issue of refugees and migrants in the medium and long term.

Close and regular expert-to-expert contacts were developed in many areas, including the promotion of human rights and democratization, legislative reform, election observation, freedom of the media, gender equality, anti-money laundering policies and other issues of common concern.



Secretary General Lamberto Zannier speaks at the side event "The Force of Civilian Crisis Management: Strengthening the Capacities of the OSCE as a Chapter VIII Organization" in New York, 22 September 2016. (photothek)

Political contacts intensified thanks to the continuation of the well-established practice of special briefings aimed at sharing the priorities of respective chairmanships.



EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

The crisis in and around Ukraine and political developments in South-East Europe, among other issues, were the subject matter of regular exchanges with EU institutions. As in previous years, the ambassadors of the EU Political and Security Committee had an exchange of views with the Secretariat on 25 April in Vienna, whereas the annual consultations with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations took place in September. On 30 August, the Secretary General together with Gernot Erler, Special Representative of the German OSCE Chairmanship, addressed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament. The annual staff talks between the Secretariat and the European External Action Service took place on 22 June in Brussels. In spring 2016, a new OSCE liaison to Brussels, a light structure hosted by the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Belgium, was set up to facilitate co-ordination and synergies with EU institutions.



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

The appointment of the NATO Secretary General's Personal Representative to the OSCE, in June 2016, signalled the Alliance's

interest in the OSCE and contributed to strengthening relations between the two Secretariats. The annual OSCE-NATO staff talks, held on 10-11 November in Vienna, allowed for an interactive exchange of views and practices on issues of common interest. NATO also participated at a high-level Security Days roundtable event on revitalizing military confidence-building, risk reduction and arms control in Europe convened in Vienna on 3 October 2016. During the year, the Secretary General had the opportunity to compare notes on key issues on the European security agenda with several NATO officials.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretary General conferred with the heads of many regional organizations to foster stronger ties and seek synergies to address common challenges. In this context, he met with officials from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to discuss security issues and ways to enhance co-operation between the two Organizations. CSTO representatives attended the Annual Security Review Conference in Vienna and the Ministerial Council in Hamburg.

The Secretariat stepped up practical co-operation with the Central European Initiative, resulting in the implementation of joint projects, and furthered its interaction with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, among others. Contacts with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation aimed at exploring ways to expand co-operation on radicalization and counter-terrorism.

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURES AND PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

SECRETARIAT

CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTRE

The CPC continued close co-operation with the UN and the EU in the co-chairmanship of the Geneva International Discussions and with the EU Monitoring Mission to Georgia on co-facilitation of the meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti.

In Central Asia, the CPC has established trilateral working-level interaction with the EU and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, including bilateral activity, such as EU-OSCE co-operation in the areas of preventing radicalization and support for conducting democratic elections.

In 2016, the CPC accepted an invitation from the CSTO to re-energize its working-level co-operation by focusing on concrete issues, such as exchange on crisis reaction. In September, Director of the CPC took part in first trilateral meeting (CSTO, CPC, UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia) in the CSTO Secretariat in Moscow. The sides exchanged views on crisis management, discussed the efforts of their respective

organizations on strengthening peace and stability in Eurasia.

The CPC also engages regularly with NATO, the UNHCR and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA) to exchange information regarding politico-military developments in the countries of the region. The joint work plan with the Mediation Support Unit of the UNDPA was updated in July 2016. The CPC contributed to a UN-EU Technical Expert Retreat on "Mediation Support within Intergovernmental Organizations" in November 2016.

TRANSNATIONAL THREATS DEPARTMENT

On countering terrorism, TNTD continued to co-operate closely with international and regional organizations, including the UN, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the EU, NATO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The 2016 OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism was attended by 18 international and regional organizations, more than 60 civil society organizations, academia and youth representatives.

TNTD co-operated with Frontex, INTERPOL, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, the UNHCR and the UNODC in delivering capacity building in the area of border security and management. This included interagency and cross-border co-operation, addressing foreign terrorist fighters' cross-border travel, countering illicit cross-border trafficking with a particular emphasis on irregular migration and the use of emerging technologies.

On police-related activities, TNTD worked closely with the UNODC through the organizations' Joint 2016-2017 Action Plan. Other key partners included CEPOL (the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training), the CSTO, the Council of Europe, Europol, INTERPOL and SELEC (Southeast European Law Enforcement Center). All TNTD activities related to human trafficking and migration-related crime were co-ordinated with the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and co-organized with the UNODC and the IOM.

OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR OF ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

In the economic field, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) partnered with the UNODC, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Anti-Corruption Network, the World Bank, the FATF, the Eurasian Group, and OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office) to promote good governance and combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The OCEEA also worked with the UNECE on transport issues, with the World Customs Organization on questions related to customs, and with the IOM and the ILO on labour migration.

The Economic and Environmental Forum process involved 25 different international organizations throughout 2016. As the 2016 Chair of the ENVSEC Initiative, the OCEEA was actively engaged with its partners from the UNDP, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the UNECE and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe to strengthen the security focus of the ENVSEC work programme and increase the visibility of the partnership.

In the area of energy security, the OCEEA worked closely with the Energy Community and the Vienna Energy Club networks and partnered with the UNECE and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings closely co-operated with several international partners in 2016. While not exhaustive, this included: the Italian Carabinieri and its Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units during the organization and execution of the first live exercise against human trafficking along migration routes; the Council of Europe, in the convening of a side event called “Identifying Victims of Trafficking in Places of Detention” during the 16th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference; and Frontex, the EU Border Agency, with which the Office jointly organized a training course for border and coast guards on fundamental rights. In tandem with the Austrian Inter-Ministerial Task Force for combating trafficking in human beings, a conference on vulnerabilities and emerging trends in human trafficking was also made possible. Finally, alongside the UNODC, the IOM, Israel’s MASHAV Centre, the Institute of Advanced Judicial Studies in Jerusalem and the Anti-trafficking Unit at Israel’s Justice Ministry, the Office supported a training course on the critical role of the judiciary in combating trafficking in human beings.

GENDER SECTION

The Gender Section continued co-operation with partner organizations and institutions, including the Institute for Inclusive Security in organizing the OSCE National Action Plan Academy; the Folke Bernadotte Academy in conducting a discussion among academics and OSCE policymakers on combining efforts to implement UNSCR 1325; and the UNODC, the Academic Council of the United Nations System and the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and Women Against Violence Europe in supporting a symposium on combating violence against women. The Gender Section also co-operated with KVINFO, the Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Ethnicity, on mentor networks in the OSCE region, and with the organization European Movement Serbia in organizing a training course on establishing mentor networks in Ukraine. UN Women, the UNDP, the UN Population Fund, the EU and the European Institute for Gender Equality acknowledged the importance of the OSCE’s survey on well-being and security in the OSCE region in the global framework.

HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) continued close co-operation with international organizations, including the UN, the EU and the Council of Europe. In 2016, the HCNM participated in, among other events, the Council of Europe’s high-level seminar on promotion and protection of human rights in culturally divided societies, the Federal Union of European Nationalities Congress 2016, the Fundamental Rights Forum of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, and she met with the UN Secretariat while in New York in April.

OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ODIHR continued its close co-operation with the Council of Europe in the field of legislative assistance, democratic governance and the rule of law, issuing joint opinions on human dimension legislation, with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission). In the observation of elections, ODIHR regularly partnered with parliamentary delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. The Office also co-operated with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the OHCHR, the UNHCR and the IOM.

REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

In May, the Representative issued a joint declaration on freedom of expression and countering violent extremism together with special rapporteurs on free expression from the United Nations, David Kaye; the Organization of American States, Edison Lanza; and the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, Pansy Tlakula.

The Representative’s Office participated in a global conference organized by UNESCO on standing up for the safety of media professionals, where member states met to examine ways to improve journalists’ safety as well as impunity issues. In addition, the Office participated in UNESCO World Press Freedom Day activities in Helsinki and in a number of country specific meetings on media freedom, including a meeting in Kazakhstan organized by the European Parliament.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly engaged extensively with counterparts in the OSCE, other international organizations, government officials and civil society partners in holding high-level discussions with representatives of the UN, the EU, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and NATO. OSCE parliamentarians also conducted diplomatic visits to the South Caucasus and Central Asian regions, as well as to the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

List of Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BMSC	Border Management Staff College
CBM	Confidence-building measures
CEPOL	EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre
CSBMs	Confidence- and security-building measures
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
CTHB	Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EU	European Union
EULEX Kosovo	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
Europol	European Police Office
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation
GID	Geneva International Discussions
HCNM	High Commissioner on National Minorities
ICT	Information and communication technology
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPRM	Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism
IT	Information technology
KVINFO	Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Ethnicity
MASHAV	Israel's Agency for International Development and Cooperation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PA	Parliamentary Assembly
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
RHP	Regional Housing Programme
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center
SMM	Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
TNTD	Transnational Threats Department
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VERLT	Violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
WRC	Women’s Resource Centre

Unified Budget

THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	2016 UNIFIED BUDGET	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
The Secretariat	40,858,800	29%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	17,225,500	12%
High Commissioner on National Minorities	3,407,600	2%
Representative on Freedom of the Media	1,481,600	1%
TOTAL FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	62,973,500	44%
OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS		
South-Eastern Europe		
Mission in Kosovo	17,942,400	13%
Tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina	11,493,300	8%
Mission to Serbia	6,365,000	4%
Presence in Albania	2,907,900	2%
Mission to Skopje	6,346,000	4%
Mission to Montenegro	2,146,200	2%
Total for South-Eastern Europe	47,200,800	33%
Eastern Europe		
Mission to Moldova	2,292,000	2%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	3,598,800	3%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners	5,000	0%
Total for Eastern Europe	5,895,800	4%
Caucasus		
Office in Yerevan	3,030,200	2%
High-Level Planning Group	257,700	0%
The Minsk Process	927,500	1%
Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference	1,239,200	1%
Total for Caucasus	5,454,600	4%
Central Asia		
Programme Office in Astana	2,148,700	2%
Centre in Ashgabat	1,602,200	1%
Centre in Bishkek	6,909,600	5%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	2,112,300	1%
Office in Tajikistan	7,756,300	5%
Total for Central Asia	20,529,100	14%
TOTAL FOR OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS	79,080,300	56%
GRAND TOTAL	142,053,800	100%

* The Unified Budget excludes the SMM

* The 2016 OSCE Unified Budget was approved by PC decisions 1197 and 1220

Contributions by participating States

PARTICIPATING STATE	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS 2016 UNIFIED BUDGET (€)	% OF TOTAL
Albania	88,376	0.1%
Andorra	88,376	0.1%
Armenia	45,408	0.0%
Austria	3,248,439	2.3%
Azerbaijan	45,408	0.0%
Belarus	193,939	0.1%
Belgium	4,722,758	3.3%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	88,376	0.1%
Bulgaria	357,003	0.3%
Canada	7,643,997	5.4%
Croatia	201,050	0.1%
Cyprus	201,050	0.1%
Czech Republic	678,587	0.5%
Denmark	2,921,351	2.1%
Estonia	125,614	0.1%
Finland	2,719,454	1.9%
France	14,651,989	10.4%
Georgia	45,408	0.0%
Germany	15,465,020	11.0%
Greece	1,173,310	0.8%
Holy See	88,376	0.1%
Hungary	662,247	0.5%
Iceland	184,287	0.1%
Ireland	1,091,834	0.8%
Italy	14,651,989	10.4%
Kazakhstan	256,534	0.2%
Kyrgyzstan	45,408	0.0%
Latvia	129,805	0.1%
Liechtenstein	88,376	0.1%
Lithuania	129,805	0.1%
Luxembourg	478,807	0.3%
Malta	92,567	0.1%
Moldova	45,408	0.0%
Monaco	88,376	0.1%
Mongolia	45,408	0.0%
Montenegro	45,408	0.0%
Netherlands	5,490,132	3.9%
Norway	2,909,469	2.1%
Poland	1,653,500	1.2%
Portugal	1,030,820	0.7%
Romania	444,321	0.3%
Russian Federation	5,532,837	3.9%
San Marino	88,376	0.1%
Serbia	96,969	0.1%
Slovak Republic	286,138	0.2%
Slovenia	272,719	0.2%
Spain	6,814,762	4.8%
Sweden	4,714,376	3.3%
Switzerland	3,889,688	2.8%
Tajikistan	45,408	0.0%
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	88,376	0.1%
Turkey	1,207,261	0.9%
Turkmenistan	45,408	0.0%
Ukraine	506,916	0.4%
United Kingdom	14,651,989	10.4%
United States of America	18,322,817	13.0%
Uzbekistan	242,424	0.2%
Gap in Scales	-56,655	0.0%
TOTAL	141,107,600	100.0%

Extrabudgetary pledges and expenditures

Extrabudgetary (ExB) pledges represent all pledges received and approved in 2016.

ExB expenditures represent funds spent in 2016 against all ExB projects related to current-year pledges, as well as pledges received in previous years

DONOR	APPROVED PLEDGES (€)	%
Andorra	20,000	0.04%
Austria	928,554	1.94%
Canada	641,792	1.34%
Central European Initiative (CEI)	64,920	0.14%
Czech Republic	144,900	0.30%
Denmark	5,347	0.01%
European Union	15,802,676	33.08%
Finland	653,000	1.37%
France	200,000	0.42%
Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)	105,916	0.22%
Germany	7,872,599	16.48%
Hungary	105,000	0.22%
Ireland	71,000	0.15%
Israel	9,000	0.02%
Italy	626,859	1.31%
Japan	790,678	1.66%
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS)	20,000	0.04%
Liechtenstein	170,553	0.36%
Lithuania	39,000	0.08%
Luxembourg	110,000	0.23%
Malta	25,000	0.05%
Monaco	112,500	0.24%
Netherlands	1,192,251	2.50%
Norway	3,188,375	6.67%
Poland	18,490	0.04%
Slovakia	20,000	0.04%
Slovenia	5,000	0.01%
South Korea	98,670	0.21%
Spain	25,000	0.05%
Sweden	115,512	0.24%
Switzerland	982,931	2.06%
Turkey	62,000	0.13%
United Kingdom	1,833,619	3.84%
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	52,837	0.11%
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)	83,710	0.18%
United States	11,575,227	24.23%
TOTAL	47,772,915	100%

Extrabudgetary pledges to, and expenditure for, the SMM are included.

DONOR	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (€)	%
Andorra	13,801	0.04%
Australia	31,427	0.09%
Austria	299,520	0.88%
Belgium	50,000	0.15%
Canada	1,675,551	4.94%
Center for Energy Systems (CES)	1,458	0.00%
Central European Initiative (CEI)	6,765	0.02%
Czech Republic	169,890	0.50%
Denmark	575,935	1.70%
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	32,854	0.10%
European Union	9,496,408	28.03%
Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)	1,996	0.01%
Finland	889,708	2.63%
France	35,036	0.10%
Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)	134,228	0.40%
Germany	5,027,696	14.84%
Hungary	27,475	0.08%
International Media Support (IMS)	14,738	0.04%
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	289,314	0.85%
Ireland	85,383	0.25%
Israel	19,000	0.06%
Italy	537,034	1.58%
Japan	471,543	1.39%
Latvia	52,610	0.16%
Liechtenstein	162,239	0.48%
Lithuania	34,051	0.10%
Luxembourg	152,597	0.45%
Malta	25,000	0.07%
Monaco	53,869	0.16%
Netherlands	1,282,135	3.78%
Norway	1,117,275	3.30%
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)	40,052	0.12%
Poland	9,170	0.03%
Serbia	22,804	0.07%
Slovakia	13,318	0.04%
Slovenia	5,000	0.01%
Spain	143,896	0.42%
Sweden	1,313,225	3.88%
Switzerland	1,637,699	4.83%
TF ENVSEC	61,784	0.18%
Turkey	7,712	0.02%
United Kingdom	522,841	1.54%
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	45,754	0.14%
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	39,266	0.12%
United States	7,256,176	21.41%
TOTAL	33,885,234	100%



More than 400 people with disabilities from different Kosovo communities, their family members and local and international institutions participated in the OSCE-supported Mini-Olympic Games 2016. (OSCE/Besfort Oruci)







Staff

STATISTICS OF OSCE SECONDED AND CONTRACTED FIXED-TERM STAFF – AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2016* (INCLUDING STAFF FINANCED FROM EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS)

Nationality	Mission in Kosovo	Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mission to Skopje	Mission to Serbia	Mission to Montenegro	Presence in Albania	Office in Yerevan	PR CIO Minsk Conf	Mission to Moldova	Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Programme Office in Astana	Centre in Ashgabat	Centre in Bishkek	Office in Tajikistan	Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	Totals for Field Operations	Secretariat				Totals for Secretariat & Institutions	GRAND TOTALS
																	FROM	HCNM	ODIHR			
Albania	3													1		4	2			2	6	
Andorra																						
Armenia													1				1			1	2	3
Austria	1		1	1		1	1						1	1			7	10	1	1	1	20
Azerbaijan													1				1	1	1	1	3	4
Belarus												1					1	2		3	5	6
Belgium																		2		2	4	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9		1		1	1								1			13	5	1	5	11	24
Bulgaria								1			1			1			3	1		1	2	5
Canada	6	1		1		1									1		10	5		3	8	18
Croatia	2																2	1	1		2	4
Cyprus																						
Czech Republic	2		1				1	1									5	2		1	3	8
Denmark									1								1		1		1	2
Estonia									1								1					1
Finland	1		1											2			4	5	1	2	8	12
France			1														1	13	1	2	3	20
Georgia	1										1		1	1			4	4		2	6	10
Germany	3	1	1	2		2	1		1			1	1	2	1		16	25	1	2	7	51
Greece	2		3											1			6	2		1	3	9
Holy See																						
Hungary	2		3			1			1		1						8	2	1	1	4	12
Iceland																		1			1	1
Ireland	3	3	3		1	1								1			12	6			6	18
Italy	14	7	3	9	1	3							1	1			39	13		3	6	61
Kazakhstan																		3	1		4	4
Kyrgyzstan	2			1					1								4			1	1	5
Latvia																				1	1	1
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18	2				2								1			23	3	1	2	6	29
Liechtenstein																						
Lithuania											1						1	1			1	2
Luxembourg																		1			1	1
Malta																		1			1	1
Moldova	1		1	1		1		1					4	3			12	4	1	1	6	18
Monaco																						
Mongolia																						
Montenegro	1					1											2					2
Netherlands	1	1															2	4	1	1	3	9
Norway	1													1			2	4		2	6	8
Poland	1		3											1			6	2		10	12	18
Portugal	1																1					1
Romania	1																1	2		2	4	5
Russian Federation	1	2	1		1	1							3	3			12	7	1	1	4	25
San Marino																						
Serbia					1	1						1	1				4	2		2	4	8
Slovakia	1	1	1									1					4	2			2	6
Slovenia														1			1	2		1	3	4
Spain	2	3	1			1								1			8	6			6	14
Sweden	3			1				1	3								8	4	1		5	13
Switzerland	1												1				2	7		2	9	11
Tajikistan	1												2				3					3
Turkey	2		1														3	4			4	7
Turkmenistan														1			1	1			1	2
Ukraine	1																1	5		3	8	9
United Kingdom	11	2	4	1	1	3		1	2					1			26	9	2	1	6	44
United States	4	4	4	3			2		2	1	1		1	3			25	9	2	2	6	44
Uzbekistan							1			1		1					3	2			2	5
Internationally recruited staff	103	27	34	20	6	19	7	6	12	3	4	5	18	28	2	294	188	13	19	86	306	600
Locally recruited staff	392	284	107	120	30	66	42	11	43	68	22	21	99	181	23	1509	197	3	14	73	287	1796
Total number of staff	495	311	141	140	36	85	49	17	55	71	26	26	117	209	25	1803	385	16	33	159	593	2396

*Includes staff in posts as of 31 December 2016 financed from the Unified Budget and extrabudgetary contributions, but not staff from the SMM or the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

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