

Annual Report 2018



Cover photo: Students get ready to search for the hidden treasure as part of the "United in Krusevo" seminar, a multi-ethnic initiative for high-school students to improve their media literacy, youth engagement and human rights skills. Krusevo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 19 September 2018. (OSCE/Mihajlo Lahtov)

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Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General, at a high-level event hosted by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on Climate, Peace and Security: The Time for Action, Brussels, 22 June 2018. (EEAS)

Message from the Secretary General

Over the course of 2018, it became increasingly clear to me that the OSCE is needed now more than ever. At a time when our security environment is more polarized, more unpredictable and more unstable than it has been in decades, the OSCE has great potential to help reduce tensions, rebuild trust and encourage co-operation on shared security concerns.

The past year saw plenty of worrying challenges to security in our region, including continued conflicts, deteriorating internal situations in some states, and transnational threats like terrorism, violent extremism, climate change, and trafficking in drugs, arms and people.

Unfortunately we also saw backsliding on commitments to human rights and fundamental freedoms in some OSCE participating States. This reminds us that we must always remain vigilant in defending our fundamental principles and commitments, which the Organization will continue to support participating States in their implementation.

But there were also some bright spots in 2018, including positive developments in Armenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Transdniestrian settlement process, and growing regional co-operation in Central Asia. Such developments also present opportunities for OSCE bilateral engagement and new openings for supporting regional approaches.

These also highlight that even after many years without progress, co-operation is still possible, and that it can produce practical outcomes that reinforce security and stability. In particular, I hope that progress on the Transdniestrian settlement process will encourage the sides in other conflicts to take steps to improve conditions for ordinary people, which can help lay the ground for a peaceful settlement. Security and humanitarian challenges are at the core of the Geneva International Discussions, where the OSCE remains strongly committed to our role as a Co-Chair. We hope to see progress also in the Minsk Process working towards finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Achieving a peaceful and sustainable resolution to the crisis in and around Ukraine remains the OSCE's top priority. In 2018, the Organization continued to focus on de-escalating tensions on the ground and facilitating the political process working toward a peaceful settlement.

After almost five years of conflict, the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine has continued to deteriorate. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine – the SMM –facilitated more than 1,200 localized ceasefires in 2018 to enable repairs to critical infrastructure serving people on both sides of the line of contact. These and other SMM efforts to reduce the human cost of the conflict make a tremendous difference for people in the conflict zone, but they also reflect the failure of the sides to protect civilians. While the OSCE can help improve conditions for people living in the conflict zone and facilitate the political process, it is the responsibility of the sides to achieve sustainable peace.

Throughout 2018, I have strived to ensure that the OSCE is fully prepared to deal with today's critical security challenges. This includes working closely with the Chairmanship and Troika to develop more coherent and co-ordinated approaches, and exploring ways to preserve and strengthen the Organization's flexibility and responsiveness in a constrained budgetary context.

The Secretariat has continued to improve its ability to provide strategic support to the Chairmanship, Troika and participating States. We have also been looking at how we can enhance the OSCE's impact in the field, and more effectively integrate women and youth across the three dimensions of our work. In addition, we have been studying how to reform the Organization's cumbersome budget process; attract and retain high-quality staff; make better use of technology; and more effectively promote the OSCE and the impact of our work.

Leveraging partnerships also helps the Organization maximize its impact. In 2018, taking political directions from the participating States, the Secretariat continued to enhance co-operation with other international and regional organizations, and to further operationalize our relationship with the United Nations. Recognizing that security in the OSCE region is tightly intertwined with security in neighboring regions, we have continued to strengthen our engagement with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation.

I am grateful for the excellent co-operation we have had with the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship and with Troika members Austria and Slovakia. I would also like to thank all the women and men who work in the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations – they are the engine that powers the OSCE and its efforts to strengthen security and stability throughout our region.

Thomas Greminger
OSCE Secretary General
Vienna, 2018



CHAIRMANSHIP

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

Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility

Chairperson-in-Office:

Angelino Alfano (from 1 January until 31 May), Enzo Moavero Milanesi (from 1 June until 31 December)

www.osce.org/chairmanship

Italy assumed the Chairmanship of the OSCE at a critical time for European security, marked by growing distrust and antagonism among OSCE participating States. Conflicts in the OSCE area, as well as evolving international crises unfolding within and beyond its boundaries undermine the rules-based order in Europe and jeopardize attempts to foster international co-operation, ever more needed to address new multifaceted and transnational challenges to security. Along the lines of the motto “Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility”, and paying special attention to the link between European and Euro-Mediterranean security, the Italian Chairmanship focused on strengthening the multilateral approach embodied by the OSCE, consistently seeking opportunities for dialogue in order to jointly address these challenges.



(MFA Italy)

“In this historic phase, the OSCE remains a key bulwark of multilateralism and an indispensable tool for constructing peace and security in Europe. To fully harness its potential and address the challenges that we are all facing together, we need to be open to dialogue, show ownership and be ready to take on our responsibilities.”

Enzo Moavero Milanesi

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

FOSTERING COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY

Conflicts in the OSCE area remained at the top of the Organization's agenda in 2018. The Chairmanship put the crisis in and around Ukraine at the centre of its work, with two high-level visits to Kyiv and eastern Ukraine by then-Chairperson-in-Office Angelino Alfano (30–31 January) and by Deputy Foreign Minister Guglielmo Picchi (26–28 July), both focused on the impact of the crisis on the civilian population and its destabilizing effects on the overall security situation in the OSCE region. These visits were followed by meetings with Russian Foreign Minister S. Lavrov in Moscow by then-Chairperson-in-Office A. Alfano (1 February) and Chairperson-in-Office Moavero Milanese (8 October). Chairperson-in-Office Moavero Milanese also met with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister P. Klimkin in New York and Milan on 26 September and 6 December. The Italian Chairmanship gathered consensus in a timely manner on the renewal of the mandates and adoption of the 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 guidance and resources to fulfil their respective mandates. The Chairmanship facilitated an agreement to extend the duration of the mandate of the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints from three to four months, contributing to strengthening its effectiveness. Reacting to ongoing developments on the ground, the Chairmanship also convened two special Permanent Council meetings to address the implications of security developments in and around Ukraine, particularly the 11 November so-called "elections" held in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions running counter to the letter and spirit of the Minsk agreements



Representatives of the Sides, Mediators and Observers during the meeting of the 5+2 talks on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, Rome, 30 May 2018. (MFA Italy)

and the 25 November incidents at sea involving detention of Ukrainian vessels and sailors.

Over the course of the year, significant progress was achieved in the Transdniestrian settlement process, and a round of negotiations took place in the 5+2 format in Rome in May, which ended with the signing of the Rome Protocol. This important agreement outlines clear timelines and mechanisms to ensure the rapid finalization of the outstanding issues from the "package of eight" priorities identified by the Sides in 2017. Among other things, the Italian Chairmanship made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Joint Vehicle Registration offices in Tiraspol and Bender, as one important initiative to positively affect the lives of civilians. The Chairmanship continued to support the Geneva International Discussions (GID) dealing with the consequences of the August 2008 war in Georgia. This included co-chairing the GID and co-facilitating the Incident Prevention and Resonse Mechanism in Ergneti, which resumed meetings in December 2018



Chairperson-in-Office Enzo Moavero Milanese (c) with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov (l), and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan (r), in the margins of the 25th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Milan, 6 December 2018. (MFA Italy)

after a temporary suspension. An expert meeting on environmental threats was organized in Rome, and a water infrastructure project was launched to support people living close to the administrative boundary lines. Furthermore, the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs towards a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the engagement of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference and the High-Level Planning Group, were supported by the Chairmanship. On the occasion of Italian President Sergio Mattarella's first visit to the region, the Italian Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Moavero Milanese held fruitful meetings with his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts, during which he highlighted the opportunity to make progress in relaunching dialogue to favour a peaceful and consensual solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. With the region high on the OSCE agenda, the Permanent Representatives of the OSCE participating States visited the South Caucasus to get acquainted with the situation on the ground and to focus on OSCE relations with national authorities. This was also reflected by new OSCE project initiatives in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia facilitated by the Chairmanship.

The Chairmanship advocated full adherence to OSCE principles and commitments in politico-military affairs by all participating States as a way to restore the European security architecture and rules-based order. The Chairmanship also promoted meaningful dialogue and exchanges within existing formats. Special attention was devoted to the process known as "Structured Dialogue on current and future challenges to European security", in strict adherence with the Hamburg mandate, with the aim of working to create an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and confidence- and security building measures (CSBMs) in Europe. The Structured Dialogue promoted, among other things, opportunities for military-to-military contacts and factual exchanges and analyses of military postures, military incidents and mechanisms for risk reduction.

Various forms of transnational threats and particularly illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, cultural heritage, illicit drugs and hazardous waste are among the most pervasive threats to security and stability in the OSCE region. Fighting terrorism and tackling the threat of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters received particular attention, especially at the 2018 OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference held in Rome on 10–11 May and at the 2018 Ministerial Council in Milan. The Chairmanship devoted significant attention to combating illicit trafficking in cultural property and to breaking its links with the financing of terrorism and organized crime, also by organizing an



Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption Paola Severino during her visit to Tirana, 15 October 2018. (Ina Omuri)

awareness-raising exhibition called “Tesori Recuperati” (“Recovered Treasures”). The Chairmanship also focused on the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technology (ICT) and involved academia and the private sector in broad multi-stakeholder discussions on cyber/ICT security, issues that were also addressed at the 2018 OSCE-wide Conference on cyber/ICT security held in Rome on 27–28 September.

ENHANCING DIALOGUE AND TRUST

The Chairmanship broadened the scope of work in the economic and environmental dimension, introducing new OSCE commitments related to issues where the concern of all participating States is converging, such as those stemming from increasingly digital economies. To this end, the Chairmanship devoted a broad range of events to these topics, including the three meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum, as well as three ad hoc meetings, bringing together public officials, academia and the private sector, also as a way to harness co-operation in this area to strengthen the implementation of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security.

FOCUSING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

Building on the success of the Palermo Conference, organized by Italy in 2017 as Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, the Chairmanship focused in 2018 on strengthening co-operation with OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister Moavero Milanesi, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in August, calling for stronger OSCE engagement and co-operation in the Mediterranean, reiterating the inextricable link between security in the OSCE area and in the Euro-Mediterranean region enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. This call translated into the adoption by the Milan Ministerial Council of a declaration on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, which calls on the OSCE to adopt a more strategic approach in dealing with Mediterranean-related issues, including by mainstreaming a Mediterranean perspective throughout the work of the Organization. In line with this ambition, the Chairmanship partnered with the Carabinieri Corps of the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units and the Office

“Euro-Mediterranean security is indivisible from, and complementary to, Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security. This is the vision that inspired the founders of our Organization, the signatories of the Helsinki Final Act. This is the vision that we brought forward during our Chairmanship.”

Enzo Moavero Milanesi
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to launch a new round of the flagship OSCE simulation-based training on combating human trafficking along migration routes, which further involved representatives from OSCE Mediterranean Partners. The Chairmanship also financed the Green Entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean project, which will continue in 2019, as a way to strengthen the link between the OSCE and young entrepreneurs from the Mediterranean whose innovative business ideas are contributing to improving the environment and making a social impact in their communities. In addition, the Chairmanship financed ODIHR’s Young Policy Advisers Course directed at 30 young policy professionals from Mediterranean Partners working as political or policy advisers in ministries, presidential administrations, parliaments or other state institutions.

IMPLEMENTING OUR COMMON COMMITMENTS

Participating States have developed a comprehensive, consensual and valuable set of commitments. The Chairmanship focused on their implementation and on the exchange of best practices, as well as continuous dialogue with all relevant stakeholders as keys to strengthening security in the whole OSCE area. In this regard, the Chairmanship leveraged OSCE institutions and executive structures to promote informed discussion on the implementation of OSCE commitments in all three dimensions. The Annual Security Review Conference, as well as the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, together with the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), provided the basis for in-depth assessments of the current state of play. In addition, the Chairmanship convened a broad range of meetings, including three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings on, respectively, the topics of child trafficking, violence against women, and human rights and education; two meetings on, respectively, the role of women in the security sector and on their participation in the digital economy; and, in co-operation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, one meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations. The Italian Chairmanship also worked to strengthen the role and positioning of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) vis-à-vis the Vienna-based governmental segment of the Organization. Mindful of the important role played by parliamentary diplomacy as a trust-building tool to foster rapprochement and synergies among participating States, the Italian Chairmanship invested in promoting the initiatives, activities and outputs of the PA, including its election monitoring conducted jointly with ODIHR. The Italian Chairmanship devoted a great deal of attention to strengthening the OSCE’s role in combating racism,



Meeting of the OSCE Political Directors, Rome, 8 October 2018. (MFA Italy)



OSCE foreign ministers and heads of delegations pose for a family photo at the 25th Ministerial Council in Milan, 6 December 2018. (MFA Italy)

xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination, including on religious grounds. In this regard, the Chairmanship convened in Rome an international conference on the responsibility of states, institutions and individuals in the fight against anti-Semitism in the OSCE area, as well as a conference on combating intolerance and discrimination, with a focus on discrimination based on religion or belief. Under the auspices of the Italian Chairmanship, a workshop on the protection of human rights defenders was organized in Rome, focused on the implementation of the relevant OSCE guidelines.

25TH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL 6-7 DECEMBER 2018, MILAN, ITALY

The Ministerial Council, consisting of the ministers for foreign affairs of the participating States, is the OSCE's central governing body and an important forum for political consultations. It is traditionally held in the country holding the OSCE Chairmanship.

The Chairmanship's efforts to reinvigorate the commitment of participating States to work together to ensure security in the OSCE region culminated at the Milan Ministerial Council, which took place against the backdrop of growing international tensions following the incidents at sea near the Kerch Strait. The Ministerial Council capitalized on discussions initiated in October in Rome among the political directors of the 57 participating States. Over the course of two days, discussions among the foreign ministers were held in a variety of formats, both formal and informal, and at varying levels. Most notably, during the Ministerial Council, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries (France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America) and the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, and the Acting Foreign Minister of Armenia, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, issued a joint statement in which the sides agreed to continue working towards a just and lasting

peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and to further reduce tensions.

A series of eight side events allowed ministers and officials to discuss in a more informal setting a wide range of issues, including violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, economic connectivity and freedom of religion or belief.

In Milan, OSCE participating States adopted 11 decisions and declarations in, for the first time since 2014, all three dimensions of security. They agreed to continue their efforts in the field of norms and best practices on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. By adopting a declaration on youth and security, the Ministerial Council recognized the role young people can play in contributing to a culture of peace, dialogue, justice and peaceful coexistence, trust and reconciliation. Decisions were also adopted to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking and to prevent and combat violence against women. The Ministerial Council also approved a decision on human capital development in the digital era and a declaration on the digital economy, adding new and increasingly important topics to the portfolio of the economic and environmental dimension. Adopting a decision on the safety of journalists, the Ministerial Council strengthened, for the first time since 2014, the human dimension acquis, introducing the first commitments to protect the safety of journalists since 1994. Adopting a declaration on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, the participating States encouraged the OSCE to mainstream a Mediterranean perspective throughout the work of the Organization.

Referring to the positive developments in the Transdniestrian settlement process, the participating States adopted a statement welcoming the confidence building measures (CBMs) agreed by the Sides and called on them to seek further tangible progress. Finally, the 2018 OSCE Chairmanship Troika (Austria, Italy, Slovakia), together with Albania as the incoming Troika member, issued two so-called Quadriga declarations highlighting their concern about deepened mistrust, increased tensions and conflict and instability within and between OSCE participating States and reflecting their concern regarding the crisis in and around Ukraine.



Participants during the opening session of the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan, 6 December 2018. (ANSA/Flavio Lo Scalzo)

DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2018 OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

1. Decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2020
2. Decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
3. Decision on the safety of journalists
4. Decision on preventing and combating violence against women
5. Decision on human capital development in the digital era
6. Decision on strengthening efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking, including of unaccompanied minors
7. Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the 5+2 format
8. Declaration on the digital economy as a driver for promoting co-operation, security and growth
9. Declaration on the role of youth in contributing to peace and security efforts
10. Declaration on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean
11. Declaration on OSCE efforts in the field of norms and best practices on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition

OTHER DECLARATIONS:

1. Milan Quadriga declaration on dialogue, ownership and responsibility for a safer Europe by the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Albania
2. Quadriga statement on the crisis in and around Ukraine by the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Albania



Chairperson-in-Office Enzo Moavero Milanesi (c) with Slovakia's Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák, Secretary General Thomas Greminger (l) and Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni (r) at the Ministerial Council meeting, Milan, 7 December 2018 (MFA Italy)

TRILATERAL CONTACT GROUP

AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group

The Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) includes representatives from the OSCE, Ukraine and Russia, as well as agreed participants from certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The TCG is the only forum where the conflict sides meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of essential importance for the civilian population. The TCG agenda covers a wide range of topics in the political, security, economic and humanitarian spheres, ranging from measures to strengthen the ceasefire, exchange of detainees, environmental issues or ways to make it easier and safer for the population to cross the contact line, to discussions on the implementation of the political aspects of the Minsk agreements.

In 2018, the main focus of the work was the protection of civilians. Regular re-commitments to the ceasefire (“Easter ceasefire” in March, “harvest ceasefire” in June and “back-to-school ceasefire” in August), brokered at the TCG, helped contain the fighting along the contact line and significantly decreased the number of civilian casualties. The

latter fell roughly by half in 2018 compared with 2017. As a result, 2018 was the year with the lowest number of civilian dead and wounded since the conflict began in 2014.

With regard to improving the overall living conditions for the population in the conflict area, the TCG, in close co-operation with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, devoted consistent attention to enabling the continued supply of water, electricity and gas, among other things, by facilitating windows of silence for repair works on civilian infrastructure or for allowing workers to access critically important civilian facilities on the contact line. Moreover, solutions were found to re-establish and improve the functioning of the mobile network across the contact line. This is of essential humanitarian importance, as it allows people living in the non-government-controlled areas to receive information on their pension payments and to reach their relatives and friends on the other side of the contact line.



Ambassador Martin Sajdik at the Permanent Council, Vienna, 19 July 2018. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

11 / VIENNA

Opening address by Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, Chairperson-in-Office (January–June 2018)

22–23 / VIENNA

1st Preparatory Meeting of the 26th Economic and Environmental Forum explores role of digital economy as driver for innovation, competitiveness and growth

29 / ROME

Chairperson-in-Office opens International Conference on the Responsibility of States, Institutions and Individuals in the Fight against Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Area

31 /

Chairperson-in-Office visits Ukraine and Russia

22–23 / VIENNA

Italy's Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Vincenzo Amendola, opens Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

27 /

Chairperson-in-Office visits Serbia

27–28 / VIENNA

Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting

JANUARY

FEBRUARY



(OSCE/Jonathan Perfect)

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

Throughout 2018, the Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, and his team conducted monitoring exercises, provided a continuous review of the situation on the ground, supported the Chairperson-in-Office and the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, and continued to look for opportunities to promote further confidence building measures with the consent of the sides. The Office is the only OSCE field presence in the South Caucasus and the only international presence with access to the front lines.

The situation on the front lines has been relatively stable since the beginning of 2018, and the sides have reported fewer ceasefire violations and casualties, as well as hardly any use of more lethal weapons such as mortars and grenade launchers in ceasefire violations.

The Office conducted monitoring exercises 17 times on the Line of Contact and seven times on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The monitoring activities and logistical support also enabled representatives of the High-Level Planning Group to visit the region in May, July and November, and facilitated the Co-Chairs' visits to the region in February, June and October. At the request of the sides, the Office was also involved in a humanitarian operation in August, supporting a search and retrieval operation to recover the remains of a civilian from a minefield located between front-line positions.

The Office provided reports and briefings for the Chairmanship and the Co-Chairs on an ongoing basis, covering all aspects of the situation on the ground, the Office's activities, as well as key events that have an impact on the negotiations. A group of OSCE Permanent Representatives who travelled to the South Caucasus in July visited the office of the Personal Representative in Tbilisi where they received a briefing.

Ambassador Kasprzyk also assisted the Co-Chairs in organizing meetings at the level of foreign ministers in May, July, September and December and personally hosted a two-day meeting of the foreign ministers in Krakow, Poland, in January.

THE HIGH-LEVEL PLANNING GROUP

<https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/high-level-planning-group>

In accordance with the decision of the 1994 Budapest Summit on Intensification of CSCE action in relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) was established. The HLPG is mandated to make recommendations to the Chairperson-in-Office regarding a possible multinational OSCE peacekeeping force. In accordance with this mandate, the HLPG consistently engaged throughout 2018 with a range of organizations and actors in order to review and enhance its planning options for a possible peacekeeping mission. It continued to closely liaise with OSCE executive structures and provided focused briefings to OSCE delegations. Drawing on the experiences and valuable lessons gained by other relevant organizations and institutions to improve its planning process, the HLPG visited the Multinational Civil-Military Co-operation Group in Motta di Livenza and the UN Global Services Centre in Brindisi, both located in Italy. It also successfully re-established co-operation with the South-Eastern Europe Brigade in Tyrnavos, Greece.



(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

"Awareness of the dimension of civil-military co-operation in operational planning is a real requirement and must be factored in to support the necessary co-ordination and co-operation with the range of civil actors in theatre. Intercultural awareness and gender mainstreaming are also key."

Colonel Vladimír Minárik
Head of the OSCE High-Level Planning Group

8 / NEW YORK

Chairperson-in-Office addresses the UN Security Council

8 / VIENNA

Permanent Council meeting devoted to International Women's Day

26 /

Chairperson-in-Office Special Representative for the Transnistrian Settlement Process Franco Frattini holds talks in Moldova

MARCH

12–13 / VIENNA

12th Annual Meeting of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Points Network discusses modern approaches to border management

16–17 / VIENNA

Conference on Promoting the Political Participation of Women with Disabilities

24 / VIENNA

Italy's Undersecretary of State, Vincenzo Amendola, opens 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Human Beings conference

APRIL

SOUTH CAUCASUS



**AMBASSADOR
RUDOLF MICHALKA**
Special Representative
of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office
for the South Caucasus

The situation related to the aftermath of the August 2008 war in Georgia remained relatively calm and stable against the background of increased military activity, as well as humanitarian challenges on the ground.

Ambassador Rudolf Michalka assumed the position of Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus in September 2018, taking over from Ambassador Günther Bächler. Together with his fellow Co-Chairs from the European Union and the United Nations, Ambassador Michalka co-chaired two rounds of the Geneva International Discussions (GID); his predecessor, Ambassador Bächler, co-chaired the previous two rounds in the first half of 2018.

Discussions concerning a joint declaration on the non-use of force continued. The GID and its associated Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM) remain the only platforms for defusing tensions and address concrete issues. Participants consider the IPRM meetings – held in Ergneti and Gali – an important tool for dialogue to resolve specific issues for the local population on the ground. They took place regularly during the year until a temporary suspension in the second half of 2018, although the Ergneti IPRM resumed in December.

The Chairmanship also supported further confidence-building measures in the field of environmental threats and concerning youth in the region.

TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT



FRANCO FRATTINI
Special Representative
of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office
for the Transdniestrian
settlement process

The Italian OSCE Chairmanship together with the OSCE Mission to Moldova facilitated the further implementation of the “package of eight”, thus ensuring continued progress in the results-oriented process. During his visits to the Republic of Moldova, Special Representative Frattini underscored that the Sides need to exercise leadership (bottom-up approach) and encouraged the chief negotiators in Chisinau and Tiraspol to make the best use of the working groups and 1+1 meetings. In 2018, 69 meetings were organized for the working groups and 26 more for the chief negotiators.

On 29-30 May, a conference in the 5+2 format took place in Rome. The corresponding Rome Protocol outlines clear timelines and mechanisms to ensure the rapid finalization of the outstanding issues from the priorities identified by the Sides. One particular success has been the implementation of the agreement on permission to operate Transdniestrian vehicles on international roads, following the establishment of two Joint Vehicle Registration offices in Bender and Tiraspol, with the assistance of the Mission to Moldova and financial support of the Italian OSCE Chairmanship. During the Ministerial Council in Milan on 6-7 December, a Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the 5+2 format was adopted and once again highlighted the achievements reached and the continuing progress in this context.

10–11 / ROME

OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference focuses on challenges arising from the reverse flow of foreign terrorist fighters in the OSCE area and beyond

14–18 / TASHKENT AND SAMARKAND

Regional workshop identifies tools and best practices to combat illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property in Central Asia

24–25 / VENICE

2nd Preparatory Meeting of the 26th Economic and Environmental Forum discusses economic progress and security through innovation, human capital and good governance

28–29 / VIENNA

1st Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting focuses on preventing child trafficking and protecting child victims of trafficking

30 / VIENNA

Chairmanship opens the “Tesori Recuperati” exhibition, showcasing Italy’s efforts in the fight against trafficking in cultural property

30 / ROME

Sides in the 5+2 talks on the Transdniestrian settlement process agree on the Rome Protocol

31 / OSLO

High-level event on language policy and conflict prevention marks 20th anniversary of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities’ Oslo Recommendations.

MAY

COMBATING CORRUPTION



PROFESSOR PAOLA SEVERINO
Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office on Combating Corruption

The Italian OSCE Chairmanship included the fight against corruption among its top priorities and decided to appoint Professor Paola Severino as the first-ever OSCE Special Representative in this area. Throughout the year, Special Representative Severino significantly enhanced the visibility of the OSCE among international agencies involved in the fight against corruption by actively promoting OSCE principles and commitments and by encouraging governments and international organizations to combine and intensify their anti-corruption efforts. She visited several OSCE countries, including Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine, where she met with both senior government officials and representatives of civil society in order to help create conditions conducive to inclusive and co-operative responses to corruption. As a follow-up to these visits, and upon request by the government of Armenia, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) developed a project to support national anti-corruption efforts. Similarly, the OCEEA designed a project to promote integrity in several municipal governments following the request of selected municipalities in Ukraine. On 12-13 November, Professor Severino organized and chaired the high-level conference Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies for the Digital Age – Recent Trends and Best Practices in the OSCE Area, a milestone activity in good governance in 2018. Attended by high-ranking state dignitaries and senior experts from numerous OSCE participating States, the conference resulted in a series of policy recommendations for strengthening anti-corruption measures. The Chairmanship also supported further confidence building measures in the field of environmental threats and concerning youth in the region.

5 / VIENNA

First-ever OSCE Academy Alumni Meeting in Europe reunites former students from the Organization's postgraduate institute in Bishkek

26 / VIENNA

Italy's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Guglielmo Picchi, opens 2018 Annual Security Review Conference

29 / VIENNA

Launch of the OSCE Police Academies Network to promote and support international police training and co-operation

JUNE

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



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

Ambassador Melanne Verveer joined the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Azzoni, and Secretary General Greminger on International Women's Day to address the Permanent Council. She focused on the need for the seamless integration of women's perspectives and participation in every aspect of the OSCE's work in order to more effectively fulfil the Organization's mission. At an OSCE co-sponsored conference on women in peace-building focused on unresolved conflicts in the region, Ambassador Verveer noted that women's participation can no longer be viewed as an option, but that it is rather a necessity for conflict resolution and sustainable peace. The Special Representative also spoke at the Chairmanship's conference Women in the Security Sector organized in co-operation with the OSCE Gender Section and ODIHR. On that occasion, she noted the correlation between inclusion and operational effectiveness in policing, armed services, border patrols, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and related operations. She also addressed the event Digital Transformation – Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area jointly organized by the Italian Chairmanship and the OSCE Gender Section. In particular, she underlined the need to overcome persistent barriers to women's participation in the digital economy.

Ambassador Verveer made a country visit to Uzbekistan, which, under its new leadership, has embarked on a series of important reforms, including a commitment to women's equality. In addition to meetings with officials and others, she addressed the regional Conference on the Role of Women in Democratic Renewal and Modernization of the Country. Throughout the Italian Chairmanship, she was also engaged in a number of other activities, including addressing a working session of the 2018 HDIM devoted to gender equality, the United Nations on the OSCE survey on the safety of women in the region, and young women leaders from Belgrade and Pristina participating in the OSCE Dialogue Academy.

2–3 / VIENNA

2nd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting focuses on countering violence against women

15–16 / UDINE, ITALY

Conference marking the 10th Anniversary of the Bolzano / Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations

16–17 / VIENNA

OSCE-wide anti-drug conference explores effectiveness of drug control policies and innovative approaches to reducing supply of, and demand for, illicit drugs

19 JULY / VIENNA

State Secretary Lukáš Parížek of Slovakia presents priorities of incoming Chairmanship to the Permanent Council

JULY

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



(Flickr/USEmbassyKyiv)



(German OSCE Mission/Fries)



(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

RABBI ANDREW BAKER

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism

PROFESSOR BÜLENT ŞENAY

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

PROFESSOR SALVATORE MARTINEZ

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

In accordance with the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8, the Italian Chairmanship appointed three personal representatives as part of the OSCE's efforts to combat discrimination and promote tolerance.

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, Rabbi Andrew Baker, worked closely with the Italian Chairmanship in developing and organizing the Conference on the Responsibility of States, Institutions and Individuals in the Fight against Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Area held in Rome on 29 January 2018. In June, he conducted a follow-up visit to Moldova to review the progress made since his country visit in 2017. Through his visits and in presentations to OSCE meetings and the Permanent Council, Rabbi Baker highlighted the value of ODIHR's Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism guidelines to ensure the security of Jewish communities and to combat anti-Semitism through education, as well as the need for participating States to implement the recommendations contained in the document. He also referenced the pragmatic value for state institutions of employing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism in their day-to-day work.

30 / VIENNA

Italian Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (July–December 2018), addresses the Permanent Council

AUGUST

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Professor Bülent Şenay, worked with the Italian Chairmanship in an attempt to promote the implementation of a set of recommendations for the participating States to counter intolerance against Muslims, while also paying attention to all other forms of intolerance and discrimination. In this regard, Professor Şenay continued to underline the crucial role of education in countering xenophobic stereotypes and prejudices, and the importance of enacting legislation that is designed to combat hate crime against Muslims.

Professor Salvatore Martinez, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, represented the Chairmanship at a number of events devoted to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. In his interventions, Professor Martinez stressed that the protection of freedom of religion is today a crucial foreign-policy priority. He further reiterated that combating discrimination must not be dissociated from the protection of fundamental freedoms and underlined the indivisibility of the fundamental freedoms of thought, conscience and religion. Given the forms of intolerance and xenophobia that exist throughout the OSCE area, Professor Martinez also made the case for allocating appropriate resources and expertise to protect people from discrimination.

The Personal Representatives jointly attended the Rome Conference against anti-Semitism, the OSCE's annual HDIM and the Conference on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination, with a Focus on Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief: Towards a Comprehensive Response in the OSCE Region, held in Rome on 23 October 2018. In addition, Rabbi Baker and Professor Martinez undertook a joint visit to Canada in October 2018.

5 / PRAGUE

Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Guglielmo Picchi opens the 26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum focusing on economic progress and security in the OSCE area

10 / TIRASPOL

Special Representative Franco Frattini inaugurates Vehicle Registration Office in Tiraspol

10–21 / WARSAW

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

27–28 / ROME

Innovative measures to lower risks of conflict between states in cyberspace are the focus of the 2018 OSCE-wide Conference on Cyber / ICT Security

SEPTEMBER

ASSISTANCE WITH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS



DR. VOLKER FROBARTH
OSCE Representative to the Russian-Latvian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

The Representative continued to assist in the implementation of the 1994 bilateral agreement between the governments of Latvia and the Russian Federation on social guarantees for military pensioners from the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia. Some 7,061 people currently fall under the special provisions of the agreement. Until 2008, the work of the Representative focused on individual complaints of military pensioners relating to registration and housing issues. The Commission was able to settle almost all of these cases, and no further individual complaints have been made since 2008. Furthermore, there were no new fundamental issues concerning the work of the Commission in 2018. As it is impossible to rule out such complaints in the future, the 2018 report to the Permanent Council concluded that the function of the Representative should continue to exist as a standby arrangement.

YOUTH AND SECURITY



MATTEO PUGLIESE, ANNA-KATHARINA DEININGER, RICCARDO POZZI, SAMUEL GODA

Special Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security

The youth and security agenda experienced remarkable developments in 2018, most recently through the adoption of the OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts. The Special Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security devoted their 2018 efforts to strengthening the voice of young women and men within the OSCE, promoting youth mainstreaming and meaningful youth participation, promoting the implementation of UNSCR 2250 (2015) and UNSCR 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace and Security within the OSCE region, as well as integrating youth perspectives in all three dimensions of the OSCE's approach to comprehensive security.

On over 50 occasions, they advised the OSCE Chairmanship on youth-related issues and highlighted the views of young people on areas such as human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, mediation and conflict prevention, preventing

and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT), youth economic participation and entrepreneurship, cyber/ICT security and digitalization. The Special Representatives organized side events on the occasion of the HDIM and the Ministerial Council, supported youth-related initiatives throughout the OSCE area and co-operated closely with the network of Youth Focal Points across OSCE executive structures.

1 / VIENNA

Chairmanship Conference on Women in the Security Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for the OSCE Area and Beyond

1–5 / PODGORICA

Regional workshop identifies tools and best practices to combat illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property in South-Eastern Europe

3 / NEW YORK

Regional organizations discuss co-operation on conflict prevention at event hosted by OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

8 / ROME

Political Directors of the OSCE's 57 Participating States meet in Rome

8–9 / VIENNA

3rd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting focuses on human rights and education

15–16 / VIENNA

Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

17–19 / PRISTINA

Chairmanship, OSCE Mission in Kosovo and Italian Embassy in Pristina train law enforcement agencies on combating corruption

22–23 / ROME

Participants discuss good practices for combating intolerance and discrimination, especially regarding religion or belief at a conference organized by the Chairmanship and ODIHR

22–23 / VIENNA

OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting discusses strategies for future policing

26 / MÁLAGA, SPAIN

Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Guglielmo Picchi addresses the 2018 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

30 / VIENNA

Chairmanship holds conference on Digital Transformation – Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area

OCTOBER

5–6 / CANBERRA

OSCE Asian Conference discusses common challenges and opportunities for Asia-Pacific and OSCE regions

12–13 / ROME

Special Representative Severino convenes conference on developing anti-corruption strategies for the digital age

6–7 / MILAN

25th OSCE Ministerial Council takes place in Milan

18 / VIENNA

Special event to mark International Migrants Day

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The OSCE maintains special relations with five Asian and six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to better address shared security challenges. In 2018, the Italian Chairmanship promoted the active involvement of the Partners in OSCE events and activities. Supported by the outgoing and incoming OSCE Chairmanship, it also ensured continued dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners in the framework of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Group.

ASIAN CONTACT GROUP

Asian Partners for Co-operation: Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand
Chairmanship: Austria



Participants at the 2018 OSCE Asian Conference, Canberra, 5 November 2018. (DFAT/Nathan Fulton)

The 2018 Austrian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group worked closely with the five OSCE Asian Partners and the Italian OSCE Chairmanship to introduce new and innovative topics to the OSCE agenda with the Partners. The rolling schedule of Asian Contact Group meetings reflected the inclusive security approach that the OSCE stands for and took into consideration new opportunities arising in the Asian region as well as common global challenges in the respective regions of both the OSCE and the Asian Partners.

As links between Asia and the OSCE are becoming stronger, Austria put a particular emphasis on ensuring extensive and thematically focused dialogue with the Asian Partners. The Contact Group continued to be a vital forum for sharing views and exchanging experiences, enabling OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners to jointly look for co-operative solutions to global and regional security challenges.

The Contact Group met five times in 2018 and discussed the following topics:

- Cyber/ICT security and cyber-diplomacy;
- Economic connectivity with a particular focus on financial technology innovations: challenges to cyber/ICT security, as well as opportunities for securing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);
- Regional co-operation and women's economic empowerment;
- Trade facilitation; and
- The security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

A number of high-profile representatives from Partner countries and OSCE participating States, representatives of international organizations, the private sector, civil society, as well as distinguished academics and experts from the OSCE Secretariat provided insightful and engaging presentations, which enriched the discussions at Asian Contact Group meetings.

As Chairmanship of the Contact Group, Austria also continued the established practice of actively promoting practical co-operation and contributed to the OSCE Partnership Fund, which enabled adequate participation of Asian Partners in OSCE activities and events.

2018 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

The 2018 OSCE Asian Conference was held in Canberra on 5 November and covered all three security dimensions, focusing on the impact of multilateral architecture on global security; on economic connectivity and sustainability, including liberalizing global trade; and on the promotion of human rights, including issues related to women and the safety of journalists. The topics discussed during the Conference working sessions complemented the 2018 thematic priorities of the Asian Contact Group and helped ensure continuity in the OSCE's interaction with its Asian Partners on common challenges and common opportunities in today's interconnected world.

MEDITERRANEAN CONTACT GROUP

Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia
Chairmanship: Slovakia



(l-r) Spain's Secretary of State for Energy, José Domínguez Abascal; OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger; Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák; Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Co-operation Josep Borrell Fontelles of Spain; Italy's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Guglielmo Picchi; and Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean Nasser Kamel at the 2018 OSCE Mediterranean Conference. (Nacho Gómez Audiovisuales)

The 2018 Slovak Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group (MCG) built on the successful work of previous Chairmanships and advanced a positive, constructive and forward-looking agenda. Topics that highlighted common opportunities and shared concerns were jointly chosen with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Overall, five MCG meetings and the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Málaga were held in 2018.

The meetings were devoted to topics such as:

- energy security, the protection of critical energy infrastructure, the development and integration of renewable energy and the best use of digitalization for energy security;
- perspectives on water management from both sides of the Mediterranean with a focus on the connections between economic, social and environmental challenges;
- cyber/ICT security and possibilities for co-operation between the OSCE and Mediterranean Partners in implementing existing confidence building measures in the area of information technology security;
- education as a means to combat radicalization and to make it a real tool for the prevention of violent extremism;
- security sector governance and reform focused on lessons learned from the Mediterranean Partners and their relevance for OSCE participating States.

The five MCG meetings held in 2018 provided a platform for informing OSCE participating States about developments, co-operation and challenges in the Mediterranean region.

2018 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

The annual Mediterranean Conference took place in Málaga, Spain, on 25 and 26 October. The event, and in particular its high-level political segment, focused on how to leverage energy to promote economic growth and co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

Key energy experts from the public and private sector from both sides of the Mediterranean were brought together to discuss policies, develop strategies and identify business

opportunities in this context. Participants engaged in an open debate on the role of energy in promoting Euro-Mediterranean security and exchanged views on how to take existing co-operation to the next level for the sake of enhancing security in the Mediterranean, and in line with OSCE principles and commitments. Participants recognized the crucial role of energy not only in terms of economic growth, but in many other aspects as well, from peoples' daily lives to reshaping geopolitics. The importance of connectivity, sustainability and responsibility were highlighted in the discussions, as was the need for a new energy narrative - a new strategic approach among the participating States and Partners. Discussions also touched on opportunities deriving from the expansion of renewable energy sources in OSCE and Mediterranean Partner countries. The role of renewable energy sources in environmental protection and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions were also discussed.

The Conference allowed for an exchange of views on how the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation can make their partnership even more relevant, substantial and action-oriented in the years to come.



Foreign Minister Lajčák at the 2018 OSCE Mediterranean Conference. (Nacho Gómez Audiovisuales)

"The challenges that we are facing are global. They are greater than Europe. Greater than the Mediterranean. Greater than Africa. We must realize that the Mediterranean does not divide us. The Mediterranean unites us. It binds us."

Miroslav Lajčák
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic



PERMANENT COUNCIL

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

During a session of the Permanent Council, Vienna, 15 March 2018. (OSCE/Salko Agovic)

Permanent Council

www.osce.org/permanent-council

During the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship, the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council were chaired by Italy's Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni.

Throughout the year, Ambassador Azzoni welcomed distinguished guest speakers to the Permanent Council, including ministers and deputy ministers from the participating States 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, trafficking in human beings, cyber/ICT security and security in the Mediterranean.

Besides the work of the OSCE institutions and field operations, in view of unresolved conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area, various conflict settlement efforts played an important part in many of the 34 sessions of the Permanent Council in 2018. On the crisis in and around Ukraine alone, the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, and the Chief Monitor of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, briefed the Permanent Council five times. The Chairmanship also organized ad hoc briefings with the four chairpersons of the working groups under the Trilateral Contact Group.

The meetings of the Permanent Council provided an opportunity to foster close, mutually beneficial co-operation with other international organizations active in the OSCE area through the participation of high-level representatives of the Council of Europe (CoE), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), as well as representatives from the private sector (Microsoft).

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE THREE COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

- **Ambassador María Victoria González Román**, Spain – Chairperson of the Security Committee
- **Ambassador Kairat Sarybay**, Kazakhstan – Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee
- **Ambassador Sian MacLeod**, United Kingdom – Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee



(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

“Much has changed since its establishment in the early 90s. Yet, in today’s increasingly fragmented geopolitical environment, the OSCE Permanent Council remains as indispensable as ever to de-escalate crises and defuse tensions. It allows participating States to keep communication channels open, even when all other channels have been exhausted. This is the role of the Chair.”

Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni
Head of the Permanent Delegation of Italy to the OSCE and
2018 Chairperson of the Permanent Council

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

- **Ambassador Károly Dán**, Hungary – Chairperson of the Informal Working Group established by PC Decision No. 1039 on Development of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies
- **Ambassador Paul Huynen**, Belgium – Chairperson of the open-ended Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area pursuant to Ministerial Council Declaration No. 4 of 2016
- **Ambassador Helmut Tichy**, Austria – Chairperson of the Open-Ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE
- **Ambassador Roksanda Ninčić**, Serbia – Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on civil society participation in OSCE activities and particularly human dimension events



11 January

ANGELINO ALFANO

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy



25 January and 11 October

GEORGE TSERETELI

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



1 February

MICHELE GALIZIA

Head of the Federal Service to Combat Racism, Federal Department of Home Affairs, Switzerland (on behalf of the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance)



12 April

DAVID DONDUA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia



3 May

VOLKER TÜRK

UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection



3 May

MANFRED PROFAZI

IOM Senior Regional Adviser for Europe and Central Asia

14 June

MARIJA PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ

Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia



12 July

JOHN FRANK

Vice President of Microsoft Corporation



19 July

LUKÁŠ PARÍZEK

State Secretary and Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic for the 2019 OSCE Chairmanship



30 August

ENZO MOAVERO MILANESI

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy



3 October

VLADIMIR VORONKOV

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism



20 December

DUNJA MIJATOVIĆ

Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe





FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) is the OSCE's key decision-making body on politico-military aspects of security. Its participants meet weekly in Vienna to discuss issues such as arms control, and confidence- and security building measures. The Forum Chairmanship rotates among the OSCE participating States, with each state chairing the FSC for four months. In 2018, the FSC was chaired by Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.

A display of firearms being deactivated in Podgorica. (OSCE/Marina Živaljević)

Forum for Security Co-operation

FSC Chairmanships – Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden



www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation

Discussions on the crisis in and around Ukraine continued to be the dominant topic at the weekly sessions of the Forum for Security Co-operation. Throughout the year, the Forum addressed key issues and developments related to confidence- and security building measures, military transparency, security sector governance and reform (SSG/R), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), military doctrine, UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000) and subregional military and defence co-operation. The Forum adopted eight decisions designed to support the implementation of existing commitments, including the adoption of the decision on the Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW. Its work also led to the adoption of the declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA by the 25th Ministerial Council.

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE

The FSC continued to provide valuable opportunities for dialogue and discussion on the most pressing security issues in the OSCE region, including political and military commitments. The three successive 2018 FSC Chairmanships – Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden – invested considerable effort in strengthening the OSCE's focus on the politico-military dimension of security by maximizing the use of the FSC as a forum for negotiations and consultations on military security and stability in the OSCE area. A total of 24 so-called Security Dialogues were devoted to matters related to topical European security issues, including CSBMs, the Code of Conduct, SALW and SCA, military doctrine, UNSCRs 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000) and subregional military and defence co-operation, geographically spanning the Višegrad Group, South-Eastern Europe, as well as the Nordic and Baltic Sea region.

Topics that were discussed included military transparency, the role of mine action throughout the conflict cycle and the rights and obligations of military personnel. Two FSC special sessions were held: one commemorating the centenary of the end of World War I and another commemorating the 18th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which was followed by the release of an OSCE handbook on gender in military operations and a panel discussion on the role of military commanders in preventing sexual and gender-based violence. Throughout the year, significant efforts were made to elevate the women, peace and security agenda in the FSC.

All three FSC Chairmanships co-operated closely with the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the Permanent Council on cross-dimensional issues of relevance to both bodies in line with the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible



(l-r) Major General Elena Knyazeva (Russian Federation), FSC Chairperson Ambassador Ulrika Funered (Sweden), Lieutenant General Chris Whitecross (Canada) and Major General Klas Eksell (Sweden) during an FSC session dedicated to the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, Vienna, 24 October 2018. (OSCE/Ghada Hazim)

security. To this end, four joint meetings were held: one on SSG/R, two on the Structured Dialogue and one on the Mediterranean and the security of the OSCE's southern region.

The 28th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in February provided an opportunity to discuss the current and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. In accordance with its mandate, the FSC contributed to the Annual Security Review Conference held in June. The Seventh Annual Discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was also held in June. Two further conferences on the Code of Conduct, in Bucharest and Berlin, provided unique opportunities to discuss the implementation and promote awareness of the Code. The heads of verification centres met in December to exchange views on technical aspects of the Vienna Document 2011.

Significant work was accomplished on SALW and SCA, including the adoption of a decision on the Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW in February. Furthermore, four security dialogues on SALW and SCA were organized, including one to launch preparations for the OSCE's contribution to the UN's Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action (RevCon3). In October, the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA was held in Vienna, which comprised discussions on the implications of RevCon3 outcomes on the OSCE's work, the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, OSCE handbooks on best practices and the OSCE assistance mechanism. The efficient work on this topic stimulated the participating States to adopt the Declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA at the Ministerial Council in Milan in December.

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SECURITY DIALOGUES IN 2018: A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

In the course of 2018, a number of representatives from international organizations and institutions took part in the Forum's discussions. For example, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) contributed to security dialogues on non-proliferation and UNSCR 1540. Other organizations, such as the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the Small Arms Survey contributed to discussions on SALW, which were held in the format of both security dialogues and the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. NATO shared its work on women, peace and security during a security dialogue on 9 May 2018, and later presented how NATO military personnel are trained in the Alliance's Code of Conduct at the NATO Defence College in Rome.



Observers from OSCE participating States Austria, Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Serbia, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Ukraine and the United States of America at NATO's Trident Juncture Exercise, held in Norway from 25 October to 7 November 2018. (Norwegian Armed Forces)



OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region. It provides a forum for OSCE parliamentarians to engage in dialogue, observe elections and strengthen international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

Voting in the First Committee of the OSCE PA Annual Session, Berlin, 9 July 2018.
(Deutscher Bundestag/photothek/Xander Heini)

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Secretary General: **Roberto Montella**
Budget: €3,456,500
Staff: 19 full-time employees, 9 research fellows
www.oscepa.org

Throughout 2018, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) focused its attention on migration, cybersecurity, terrorism, arms control, fake news and climate change. The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism and Ad Hoc Committee on Migration continued their active engagement through field visits, and the Assembly observed elections in eight countries, including a first-ever mission to Italy. The PA expanded relations with partner organizations, including the United Nations, the European Union, the International Organization for Migration, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Georgian parliamentarian George Tsereteli was elected President of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Berlin.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The PA conducted high-level diplomacy throughout the OSCE area, with President Tsereteli visiting OSCE participating States including Ukraine, the United States of America, Azerbaijan, Germany, Poland, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Spain, Albania, Moldova, Italy, Armenia, Turkey, Slovakia, Austria, the Holy See, San Marino, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Switzerland.

In two visits to Ukraine, President Tsereteli reiterated support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and renewed calls to reach a sustained ceasefire. Leading an OSCE PA delegation to areas on the contact line in eastern Ukraine in May, Tsereteli stressed that urgent steps must be taken to alleviate the humanitarian situation of people impacted by the conflict.

In a visit to Moldova, Tsereteli lauded achievements in the Transnistrian settlement process and encouraged Chisinau and Tiraspol to sustain the momentum to create conditions for a comprehensive resolution of the conflict.

The Assembly increased its engagement on regional and thematic issues through the work of its Special Representatives on Mediation; Human Trafficking Issues;

Mediterranean Affairs; Gender Issues; Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance; South East Europe; and Central Asia. Special Representatives were active throughout the year, conducting diplomatic visits, delivering addresses at various forums and issuing reports and statements. Two new Special Representatives were appointed in 2018: Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom) as Special Representative on South East Europe and Roman Haider (Austria) as Special Representative on Central Asia.

PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AND BEST PRACTICES ON MIGRATION

The Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Belgian parliamentarian Nahima Lanjri, conducted working visits to Belgium, Denmark, Serbia and Sweden. Ad Hoc Committee members met with migration authorities, local officials, border police, school administrators, the international community, civil society and migrants and refugees to assess current developments and identify best practices.

Topics covered in these field visits included the policy dilemmas faced by transit and destination countries, including addressing the needs of unaccompanied and separated children and ensuring that international humanitarian obligations are fully upheld for asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers alike.

In July, the Assembly adopted the resolution "Minors on the Move: The Role of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Building an Effective Protection Framework", which aims to improve policies and procedures that consider the specific needs of unaccompanied minors.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM

The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism was active throughout 2018 with working visits to Belgium and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as participation in counter-terrorism conferences in Albania, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. Makis Voridis, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, addressed the OSCE Security Committee twice and held extensive bilateral meetings with counterparts from the OSCE's executive structures in



Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on Migration on a tour of the Sandholm reception centre for asylum seekers in Denmark, 23 October 2018. (OSCE/Nat Parry)



The Plenary Hall at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 27th Annual Session at the Bundestag in Berlin, 11 July 2018. (Janine Schmitz/photothek/Deutscher Bundestag)

Vienna, stressing the need to work together to effectively counter violent extremism, radicalization and terrorism. He visited the United States of America in December, visiting UN headquarters and meeting with the UN's Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee.

A comprehensive resolution on counter-terrorism was adopted at the Annual Session in Berlin that endorsed a whole-society approach and emphasized the need for joint and co-ordinated efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. Following up on this resolution, the Ad Hoc Committee launched a parliamentary initiative in September to promote the implementation of international obligations on border security and information sharing through engagement of national parliaments and building on their oversight powers.

ANNUAL SESSION: BERLIN, 7-11 JULY
AUTUMN MEETING: BISHKEK, 3-6 OCTOBER
WINTER MEETING: VIENNA, 22-23 FEBRUARY
THEMATIC CONFERENCES: BERLIN, LISBON, MADRID

Hosted by the German Parliament, the Bundestag, the 27th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly brought together some 300 parliamentarians in the German capital under the theme Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments. The Session culminated in the adoption of the 2018 Berlin Declaration, which highlights priority topics by parliamentarians as input for the OSCE's Ministerial Council.

Hosted by the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan, the Jogorku Kenesh, the Assembly's 17th Autumn Meeting included a Parliamentary Conference called Promoting Security Dialogue in Central Asia and Beyond and a



"We should all work to strengthen the OSCE, including by implementing its principles and communicating its messages to our governments and the people of our home countries. We must let people know the value of this organization and why it matters."

George Tsereteli
 President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mediterranean Forum called Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Mediterranean: Addressing Migration, Trade and Environmental Challenges.

The OSCE PA gathered for its 17th Winter Meeting on 22-23 February at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna. Some 240 parliamentarians from 53 countries participated in the event, which consisted of meetings of the Assembly's Standing Committee and General Committees, as well as two joint sessions of the General Committees.

Hosted by the Portuguese, German and Spanish parliaments, the OSCE PA held thematic conferences throughout the year on issues such as cybersecurity, the prevention of ethnic conflicts and victims of terrorism.

CONTRIBUTING POLITICAL EXPERIENCE TO OSCE ELECTION OBSERVATION



OSCE PA President George Tsereteli and Vice-President Isabel Santos speak to an election official in Washington DC, 6 November 2018. (OSCEPA/Nat Parry)

OSCE PA election observers contributed their political experience, judgement and visibility to this essential OSCE endeavour, working closely with experts from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and other international partners. The OSCE PA deployed 485 observers to eight countries in 2018: Italy, the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the United States of America and Armenia.





SECRETARIAT

Led by the Secretary General and based in Vienna, the OSCE Secretariat assists the OSCE Chairmanship, supports OSCE field activities, maintains relations with international and non-governmental organizations, and provides conference, language, administrative, financial, personnel and information technology services.

Secretariat

Secretary General: **Thomas Greminger**

Budget: €41,164,000 (Unified budget), €9,169,357 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 406 (including 20 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/secretariat

In 2018, the Secretariat continued its work to ensure implementation of the Organization's political decisions and support the process of political dialogue and negotiation among the participating States and with the Partners for Co-operation. The staff of the Secretariat assisted the Italian OSCE Chairmanship in fulfilling the Organization's goals, monitored trends, provided expert analysis and carried out projects. It further provided operational support to the participating States on a wide range of mandated activities across the three dimensions.

THE SECRETARIAT CONSISTS OF:

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

Conflict prevention

Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre: **Ambassador Marcel Peško**
Budget: €5,213,500 (Unified budget), €2,270,475 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)
Staff: 57 (including four under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/secretariat/conflict-prevention

The OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) is the main point of contact on all matters concerning OSCE field operations. It addresses all phases of the conflict cycle through policy and operational guidance and advice, including through early warning and support of the OSCE's response in crisis situations, and through efforts to find lasting political settlements for existing conflicts. The CPC is also a core structure of the OSCE's work in the politico-military dimension and provides organization-wide support for project management.

THE ARMENIA CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME (ACP)

At the request of the Armenian authorities, the CPC set up a programme to sustain co-ordinated programmatic activities in the absence of a field operation in the country. The ACP involves project-based collaboration with the Republic of Armenia across the OSCE agenda.

In response to Armenia's expressed wishes, the ACP involves a number of initiatives that build on the work of the former OSCE Office in Yerevan.

The initial objectives of the ACP are to:

- Ensure continuity of reforms in the security sector;
- Maintain continuity and sustainability of the development of community policing;
- Enhance the capacities of the Aarhus Centres network;
- Improve the economic security of women; and
- Reduce the risk of wildfires through enhanced management and improved capacities for reducing the risk of wildfire disasters.

Five projects have been developed under the ACP to date, including one short-term project funding a needs assessment for security sector governance and reform and one for community policing. The remaining three projects provide 18 to 24 months of support to continue flagship environmental activities on wildfire management and the green economy, and also enable expansion of the work of Women's Resource Centres in the promotion of entrepreneurship. The overall budget of the ACP for 2018 was €550,000.

CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE CRISIS IN AND AROUND UKRAINE

The CPC continued to play a key role in co-ordinating the OSCE's response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. It promoted efforts to support stabilization on the ground and the implementation of the Minsk agreements. It also worked with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) to support implementation of its mandate throughout Ukraine; reinforce the Mission's capacities for facilitation efforts in the conflict area; further consolidate the Mission's reporting, internal procedures and policies; as well as strengthen its technical surveillance capabilities. The CPC provided close support for the work of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) in its conflict resolution and mediation efforts. It also assisted the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The CPC supported the Transdniestrian settlement process in Moldova, working closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process. It actively supported efforts by the Chairmanship and the Mission to Moldova to reach an agreement on outstanding points of the "package of eight", a list of measures agreed upon by the Sides at the start of 2017. The CPC supported a 5+2 meeting in Rome on 30 May 2018, which resulted in the Rome Protocol, with agreements aimed at improving the lives of residents on both sides of the Dniester/Nistru River to be implemented by the end of 2018. These included the opening of the Gura Bicului Bychok Bridge, initiating the apostillization of Transdniestrian university diplomas, ensuring the functioning of Latin-script schools on the left bank, restoring access to Dubasari farmlands and launching a mechanism for the participation of Transdniestrian vehicles in international road traffic.

The CPC supported the work of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus during four rounds of the Geneva International Discussions



Developing the next generation of peacebuilders: Participants at the OSCE Summer School for young people from the South Caucasus and other OSCE regions, Vienna, 11 July 2018. (OSCE/Diana Ananyan)

(GID) which are designed to address the consequences of the August 2008 war in Georgia, and at five meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti (before and after their temporary suspension). The CPC arranged briefings for the new Special Representative after he took up his role in September 2018. It also 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 a 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 war.

The CPC also supported the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

In addition to regular activities, the CPC facilitated an open alumni meeting of the OSCE Academy in Vienna in June, the first of its kind outside the region since the Academy's inception in 2003. The meeting, which was co-organized by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Academy, offered an opportunity for all participating States to meet and interact with selected Academy alumni.

The CPC also worked with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department to secure funding and support planning for the medium-term outlook of the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe.

In June, the CPC, together with the Programme Office in Astana, organized a side event to promote the work of the field operation to potential donor participating States and to seek extrabudgetary funds for two major projects on police and judicial reform in Kazakhstan. Representatives from the host country's Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Supreme Court and civil society presented project concepts for

the modernization of the police, including human capital, technologies and services, as well as for the reform of the judicial system, with a focus on the independence of the judiciary.

ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

In addition to regular activities, the CPC co-ordinated field operations' actions and responses to key developments with a view to facilitating dialogue and contributing to the reduction of tensions. The CPC continued to provide policy and strategic support to the Mission to Skopje on realigning its respective programmes in response to developments on the ground and needs of the host country. Together with the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the CPC supported efforts to promote a political compromise on the electoral law following the Constitutional Court's 2016 ruling in the *Ljubic* case. In particular, the CPC assisted the OSCE Secretary General during his visit to the country in February to highlight the urgency of addressing the legal gap and ending the political and legislative stalemate in the country.

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, AMMUNITION, DEMINING AND CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN UKRAINE

The CPC, jointly with the Transnational Threats Department, produced a needs assessment for combating illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives in and across Ukraine's borders. Consequently, a project aimed at enhancing border security and management capacities in this field was initiated. Furthermore, improving emergency response capacities for clearing explosive remnants of war was also supported.

Together with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the CPC manages chemical safety and security projects in Ukraine under the auspices of UNSCR 1540 (2004). The projects aim to strengthen oversight of controlled and toxic chemicals and improve Ukraine's regulatory system in chemical safety and security.



Explosive remnants of war detection training for staff of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. (Frank Masche)

DURABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

In South-Eastern Europe, the CPC, together with three OSCE field operations (to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) continued to work closely with the UNHCR in support of the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), a multi-year programme aimed at providing durable housing solutions for some 27,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families (74,000 people) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. The OSCE's strategic partnership with the UNHCR, in support of the RHP, helped enable a process that successfully addresses the legacy of the conflicts of the 1990s at the regional level. Following the commitment taken by these four participating States to close the displacement chapter in the region, the RHP has seen increasingly positive results and has helped foster regional co-operation and reconciliation. Some 4,000 housing units have been completed, with that number soon to reach almost 6,000.

EARLY WARNING

The CPC continued to promote a structured and systematic approach to early warning across the Organization, specifically through the Network of Early Warning Focal Points in OSCE field operations and other executive structures. It organized the Network's seventh annual meeting, gathering 30 representatives for information sharing and capacity building. Recognizing the essential role of conflict analysis in early-warning reporting, the CPC facilitated conflict analysis workshops as a key capacity-building tool, alongside regional meetings and other events focused on the OSCE's overall conflict cycle toolbox.

MEDIATION SUPPORT

The CPC's Mediation Support Team (MST) provided mediation and dialogue facilitation support, for example, by observing the negotiations within the Transdnestrian settlement process, the GID and the TCG, and providing methodological feedback to the mediators. Through debriefings, coaching and handover retreats, the MST supported continuity between the Chairperson-in-Office's special representatives and made that expertise available

throughout their assignments. The MST facilitated strategy workshops for special representatives and field operations on mediation process design, including engaging with insider mediators. Together with the OSCE Gender Section, the MST initiated OSCE-wide research to develop a toolkit on the inclusion of women and the effectiveness of peace processes.

IMPLEMENTING POLITICO-MILITARY COMMITMENTS

The CPC's FSC Support Section held several capacity-building, awareness-raising and outreach events on issues related to small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and other agreed CSBMs.

The Section also continued to provide technical and administrative support for the Informal Working Group on Structured Dialogue to foster a greater understanding of current and future challenges to security in the OSCE area.

It continued to process exchanged military information, prepare CSBM implementation reports and provide assistance in this regard to the OSCE participating States. The Section also took several steps to improve the way the CPC reports on military information.

Assistance for project activities on SALW and SCA continued in 2018 through ten extrabudgetary projects managed by the CPC. In Belarus, all 690 tonnes of rocket

MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS 24/7

The Situation/Communications Room monitors developments affecting security and stability in the OSCE area, serving as a vital link in the security chain between the Secretariat and the OSCE's field operations. In 2018, it issued:

- 514 daily morning and afternoon briefings composed on working days, as well as official holidays when required;
- 1,637 updates and special reports; and
- 11,461 alert messages.



The Director of the CPC, Ambassador Marcel Peško (c), speaking on the OSCE's role as a key partner in implementing a new roadmap for controlling small arms and light weapons in South-Eastern Europe at a side event held during the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council, Milan, 7 December 2018. (OSCE)

fuel components, also known as mélange, were safely removed from the country and sent for environmentally sound disposal. Additionally, the technical preparations for the removal of rocket fuel components in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan were carried out. In Serbia, the physical security and safety of conventional ammunition stockpiles were improved by upgrading the firefighting system. In Georgia, a total of 461 tonnes of cluster and aviation bombs and artillery shells were destroyed.

In the OSCE region, efforts to establish a baseline for the provision of technical advice and institutional support to the OSCE participating States on the SALW/SCA normative base and practical assistance projects were supported. Support for expert assessment visits under the OSCE Documents on SALW/SCA was also provided.

The CPC also ensured project supervision and advisory support, including resource mobilization, for the SALW and SCA projects directly implemented by the field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

The Section continued its support to the States Parties to the Dayton Peace Accords in their implementation of the Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement under Article IV, Annex 1-B, of the General Framework for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and assisted participating States in their implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

SHARING INFORMATION AMONG OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

The CPC facilitates the exchange of military information between and among participating States as stipulated in the Vienna Document 2011. This sharing of information is key 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 participating States with a reliable, timely and secure channel for exchanging information across all dimensions.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

2018, the CPC continued to facilitate a comprehensive

SUPPORT TO SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE/REFORM

The OSCE provides support and expertise to national security institutions and services on many important aspects of SSG/R, including police reform, border management and security and democratic oversight. In recent years, SSG/R has been recognized by an increasing number of OSCE participating States as playing an essential role in conflict prevention, sustaining peace and furthering development. With the aim of developing a more coherent and effective approach to SSG/R, the Secretariat published OSCE guidelines on SSG/R in April 2016, providing guidance to OSCE staff supporting nationally led SSG/R processes, with the objective of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of OSCE support. In 2018, the CPC continued to raise awareness and build capacities among OSCE staff and the participating States on SSG/R. A joint OSCE-UNODC regional workshop in Eastern Europe discussed the value of a well-governed security sector in addressing transnational threats and highlighted the complementarity of the two organizations in this regard. A dedicated Group of Friends of participating States supported these efforts. Throughout 2019 and beyond, the OSCE will continue to strengthen its approach to SSG/R.

overview of project management portfolios and helped all OSCE executive structures develop key performance indicators. It continued to provide programme and project management support to the Secretariat and field operations, and ensured quality control and the compliance of all extrabudgetary project proposals with the OSCE Common Regulatory Management System. Expert advice was provided on 96 project proposals worth €76.5 million, as well as with respect to SMM activities funded through voluntary contributions amounting to €16.1 million. Furthermore, the CPC facilitated one training session at the Secretariat and one at a field operation on project cycle management, programme and project planning, and self-evaluation, in which over 50 OSCE staff members took part.

Transnational threats

Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats: **Rasa Ostrauskaitė**
Budget: €3,016,600 (Unified budget), €2,114,772 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)
Staff: 48 (including 15 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/secretariat/cyber-ict-security
www.osce.org/secretariat/terrorism
www.osce.org/secretariat/policing
www.osce.org/secretariat/borders
polis.osce.org

Throughout 2018, the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) supported OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, upon request, in their efforts to counter transnational threats. The Department provided assistance in translating political commitments into effective and sustainable activities such as convening joint expert meetings, sharing information and best practices, and co-ordinating the implementation of projects and plans of action. TNTD consists of a Co-ordination Cell dealing with cyber/information and communication technologies security issues and three thematic units: the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Border Security and Management Unit and the Strategic Police Matters Unit.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

As states continue to develop their cyber-capabilities, international peace and security depends on mechanisms that can help reduce tensions that arise in the wake of major cyber-incidents. To reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs, TNTD continued to provide support to OSCE participating States in 2018 in clarifying procedures to raise concerns with other states, e.g., via the OSCE Communications Network.

TNTD continued supporting participating States, upon their request, in implementing the OSCE's cyber/ICT security confidence building measures. Relevant activities included an ongoing training series on the role of ICTs in the context of regional and international security and a scenario-based discussion during the Chairmanship event held in Rome. Both activities served to promote co-operation on ICT-related challenges between policymakers and technical experts, focusing on national preparedness, strategies and resilience. Moreover, this support included the enhancement of the quality and usability of key national cyber/ICT security information through the new POLIS website.

COMBATING TERRORISM

Building on the results of previous years, the 2018 OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference focused on challenges posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). The event gathered more than 350 high-level participants, practitioners, academics

and civil society representatives. In addition, TNTD was instrumental in organizing other high-level conferences related to combating terrorism and violent extremism in Dushanbe, Tashkent, Minsk and Seoul throughout 2018. TNTD developed a series of tools to build the capacity of policymakers and practitioners in P/CVERLT. In addition to training courses, TNTD also developed two regionally tailored guidebooks on the role of civil society in P/CVERLT and started work on publications related to pre-criminal interventions and referral mechanisms, as well as on gender awareness for security sector actors in P/CVERLT.

In support of national efforts to counter terrorist financing, a series of advanced training events and train-the-trainer courses focusing on the analysis, investigation and financial disruption of terrorist networks, as well as on UN sanctions listings, continued in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and started in Albania and Tajikistan, all in close co-operation with the Global Programme against Money Laundering of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Three additional national risk assessment and crisis management exercises on the protection of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks emanating from cyberspace were held in Ashgabat, Astana and Sarajevo.

In response to the exploitation of the Internet by violent extremists and terrorists, a national seminar in Ashgabat



The first-ever OSCE-wide scenario-based cyber-exercise for senior government officials, Rome, 27 September. (OSCE/Nikolas Ott)



Panellists at the 2nd OSCE-wide Seminar on Passenger Data Exchange discuss the border management obligations included in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396, Vienna, 1 November 2018. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

and a Central Asian regional workshop for judges, prosecutors and lawmakers in Almaty were organized to exchange best practices on preventing and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

Seminars on strengthening rule-of-law-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism were organized with Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro based on the good practices listed in the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Rabat Memorandum. TNTD continued to facilitate information exchange through the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network by issuing informative circulars as well as six editions of its newsletter.

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT

Addressing the threat posed by returning FTFs and countering illicit trafficking were in the focus in 2018. The work of the OSCE mobile training team to address the cross-border movement of FTFs expanded significantly in 2018, with six training courses conducted – in Lviv and Odesa (Ukraine), Skopje, Ashgabat, Dushanbe and Astana – as well as five courses on the detection of fraudulent documents and imposters, and a regional workshop to improve passport security. These combined efforts help states detect potential FTFs before they cross borders.

TNTD also provided direct capacity-building support to establish national passenger data systems through the drafting of roadmaps, legal advice and/or independent tendering support to local authorities in eight countries. These culminated in a thematic meeting of the OSCE's Border Security and Management National Focal Points, which was organized on 1 and 2 November in Vienna and brought together over 150 experts to examine ways to prevent the movement of FTFs by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2396.

TNTD supported the Chairmanship's priority of countering illicit trafficking in cultural property. An exhibition at Vienna's Kunsthistorische Museum of recovered antiquities was a highlight in this field, and it was supplemented by specialized regional workshops for Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, as well as a national event in Turkmenistan.

In addition to these priority areas, TNTD continued to promote good practices in demarcation and delimitation of borders, to expand co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and to expand joint activities on gender mainstreaming in border services and on trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN RESPONDING TO TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The OSCE promotes professional, democratic police



Participants in the South-Eastern Europe Workshop on Combating Illicit Cross-border Trafficking in Cultural Property visiting the Doclea archaeological site in Podgorica, Montenegro, 4 October 2018. (OSCE/Marina Živaljević)



(OSCE/Mick Krögel)

"Gender parity in the Department's workforce is an important part of our approach to gender mainstreaming our internal structures. I'm therefore proud to say that, in a sector that still faces an underrepresentation of women, the Transnational Threats Department has reached full gender parity among its professional staff."

Rasa Ostrauskaitė

OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats

services that are trusted by citizens and able to effectively address transnational threats, including those emanating from terrorism and organized crime. TNTD supported the Chairmanship in organizing the 2018 OSCE-wide anti-drug conference where the participants had a chance to explore the effectiveness of drug control policies and innovative approaches to reducing the supply of, and demand for, illicit drugs.

TNTD assisted OSCE participating States in South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus in increasing their capacities to address cybercrime by providing basic and highly specialized training courses on cybercrime issues such as the dark web, online drug trafficking, cryptocurrencies and money laundering. TNTD launched a pilot project to support Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in their fight against gender-based violence. By targeting all criminal justice practitioners (police, prosecutors and judges), as well as civil society, social workers and academia, the project ensures a comprehensive approach to gender-based violence.

The OSCE Police Academies Network (PAN) was launched in Vienna in June. The PAN started an online platform that offers an overview of police education and training, thus facilitating the exchange and mutual use of existing resources, including curricula, training materials and expertise within law enforcement training institutions in the OSCE area.



Participants in the Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism pilot training course for women, Warsaw, February 2018. (OSCE)

In 2018, three distinct training courses for youth, women and community leaders were piloted as part of the Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism Initiative (LIVE), and a first regional train-the-trainer seminar was organized to establish a cadre of training facilitators.

"The OSCE's LIVE training inspired me to organize Workshops for Heroes for children at an orphanage in Warsaw. These workshops promote respect for human rights, tolerance and diversity. These are the hero qualities that we must support in order to counter the hate that is sown by violent far-right extremist networks in Poland."

Eliza Rutynowska

participant in a LIVE course for women

Economic and environmental activities

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities: **Ambassador Vuk Žugić**
Budget: €2,308,100 (Unified budget), € 988,184 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)
Staff: 21
www.osce.org/secretariat/economic
www.osce.org/secretariat/environmental
www.osce.org/secretariat/eeforum

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) continued to implement all of its mandates in the economic and environmental dimension in 2018 and embraced new topics such as digitalization, which was one of the Italian Chairmanship's priorities. The Office supported participating States in meeting their objectives set by international frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, often in close co-operation with OSCE field operations, other departments of the OSCE Secretariat and other international organizations.

GOOD ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

The Office assisted Professor Paola Severino, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, during her high-level meetings in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine. In addition, in partnership with the Anti-Corruption Network of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the OCEEA organized a regional seminar to discuss new approaches and tools to prevent corruption at the local level. Representatives from about 30 participating States shared experiences on the prevention of corruption at the local level. The OCEEA also organized training courses for government officials, civil society organizations and business representatives on anti-corruption proofing of legislation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe.

The OCEEA continued its support for participating States on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism by strengthening their capacities in this area. In Mongolia, the OCEEA trained members of law enforcement agencies on best practices in countering money laundering through offshore zones. In Belarus, the Office held a workshop for the Department of Financial Investigations on combating the misuse of the darknet and cryptocurrencies for corruption and financial crimes. Austria and other countries shared experiences with their financial investigations of corruption-related crimes.

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Migration management impacts regional security, development and growth. In 2018, the OCEEA supported Central Asian participating States in reviewing their migration policies and enhancing their effectiveness as tools for economic stability, development and growth. A workshop organized in co-operation with the IOM, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) aimed to

facilitate labour mobility in the region, foster the exchange of practices and develop pilot initiatives. Furthermore, the OCEEA provided a platform to discuss migration as a driving force for social cohesion and development through seminars and an annual event to mark International Migrant Day, which focused on promoting a multi-stakeholder approach for the socio-economic integration of migrants.

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION – WOMEN AND YOUTH

The OCEEA pays special attention to the inclusion of women and young people in its activities. The successful implementation of the YDEAS project (Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups in the Western Balkans) offered an opportunity to reflect on how to improve youth employability, including through focusing on innovation and the digital economy. The long-term vision for the region is to counteract brain drain among youth, while fostering an environment for innovative start-ups.

In Central Asia, the OCEEA specifically supports women and young people working in water management, an area of critical importance for the region.

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

Transboundary water co-operation is a priority issue for the OCEEA with the increasing impacts of climate change on water resources. In 2018, in the framework of the Dniester/Nistru River project, the OCEEA, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and respective field operations, supported the establishment of the Moldova-Ukraine Dniester/Nistru River Basin Commission. The project was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The OCEEA also helped organize the project's first high-level meeting, which brought together 70 governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from Moldova, both right and left banks, and Ukraine, as well as international and bilateral actors. The OCEEA also organized a study tour to Portugal and Spain,

DIALOGUE ON DIGITALIZATION – THE OSCE’S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM AND THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through innovation, human capital development and good public and corporate governance was the focus of the 26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF). The EEF is the major annual OSCE event dealing with security questions in the economic and environmental dimension. More than 500 participants attended the two preparatory meetings held in Vienna and Venice, as well as the concluding meeting in Prague. The discussions focused on harnessing the opportunities of the digital transition while curbing its negative security implications through human capital development.

The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, which reviews the implementation of commitments in the OSCE economic and environmental dimension, focused on OSCE commitments in the field of energy, with one session being dedicated to the energy sector in the era of digitalization.

The discussions contributed to the successful adoption of the Declaration on the Digital Economy as a Driver for Promoting Co-operation, Security and Growth and the Decision on Human Capital Development in the Digital Era by the 25th Ministerial Council meeting in Milan.

The opportunities and challenges of digitalization were also integrated into the OCEEA’s work with participating States on trade and transport connectivity, e.g., with two activities on e-commerce organized in Moldova and two national workshops on digitalization of transit and trade documents held in Kazakhstan.



Participants at the concluding meeting of the 26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Prague, 5 September 2018. (OSCE/Lubos Kotek)

where representatives from Moldova and Ukraine learned about the institutions and processes involved in the bilateral Albufeira Convention, which is dealing with co-operation for the protection and sustainable use of Spanish-Portuguese transboundary waters.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

The Office continued to closely follow global and regional developments in the area of climate diplomacy. Building on the results of its earlier activities, the Office also developed a new project to address potential security risks stemming from climate change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

ENERGY SECURITY

The OCEEA continued to support participating States with regard to the protection of critical energy infrastructure and the promotion of renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures as elements of energy security strategies. In September 2018, the OCEEA organized a field study to Iceland on geothermal energy for energy decision makers from the public and private sectors of several participating States. Participants visited leading geothermal sites in the country and exchanged views with representatives from companies and national authorities on best practices to utilize geothermal energy for increased energy security and economic growth.



A geothermal power plant in Iceland visited during an OSCE-supported study tour for energy decision makers from several participating States. (OSCE/Daniel Kroos)



The Mayor of Tirana, Erion Veliq, promotes the young winners of the OSCE Scholarship Programme at the Turin-based European Innovation Academy to "Ambassadors of Innovation". (OSCE/Dzevad Sarac)



Representatives from Moldova and Ukraine learn about the institutions and processes involved in the Spanish-Portuguese Albufeira Convention during a study tour to Spain and Portugal. (OSCE/Dana Bogdan)

HAZARDOUS-WASTE MANAGEMENT

Abandoned uranium mining sites remain a significant risk for communities in Central Asia. The OSCE has long supported participating States in addressing these risks. In 2018, the OCEEA successfully completed a joint Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) project with the UNDP and UN Environment, which was aimed at engaging stakeholders in the remediation of uranium legacy sites in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project established four Public Environmental Information Centres to serve communities in the vicinity of high-priority uranium legacy sites – three in Kyrgyzstan and one in Uzbekistan. It provided over 50 training sessions for more than 1,000 local stakeholders, engaged over 1,300 schoolchildren in awareness-raising activities and prepared and distributed thousands of radiation safety brochures. A follow-up project is being prepared.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Disaster risk reduction remained high on the OCEEA's agenda in 2018. The Chernobyl Wildfires Management project was successfully concluded with a table-top exercise for emergency management authorities from Belarus and Ukraine preparing for an effective joint response to wildfires in the affected areas. The OCEEA extended its engagement to South-Eastern Europe through a regional workshop to discuss wildfire management

challenges and opportunities for co-operation among actors in the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD GOVERNANCE

The 2018 Aarhus Centres Annual Meeting was held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, and jointly organized by the OCEEA and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. Bringing together Aarhus Convention stakeholders from 15 OSCE participating States, the meeting focused on the Aarhus Centres' contributions to the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the SDGs.



Participants at the Annual Meeting of the Aarhus Centres' cleaning up beaches at Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. (OSCE/Chyngyz Zhanybekov)

Combating trafficking in human beings

Special Representative and Co-ordinator: **Ambaassador Madina Jarbusvnova** (until 2 July 2018)

Budget: €1,087,300 (Unified budget), €400,430 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 14

www.oscepa.org/secretariat/trafficking

From policy to practice, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) assists OSCE participating States in their efforts to better prevent human trafficking, prosecute those who commit this heinous crime and protect its victims. In 2018, the Office further developed core programmes around areas of greatest need and potential impact, including trafficking in migration flows, public procurement and supply chains, technology and trafficking, and trafficking of children.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MIGRATION FLOWS

Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in migration flows continue to face grave risks of human trafficking and exploitation. The OSR/CTHB works to help tackle these vulnerabilities through a combination of policy development and pioneering capacity-building activities. In 2018, the OSR/CTHB conducted three simulation training exercises, including one for Italian practitioners, the first-ever Russian-language exercise and an additional English-language exercise for experts from across the OSCE. This project develops powerful and practical networks across borders and disciplines, and it stands as an enduring example of collaboration between anti-trafficking professionals and participating States. Furthermore, the Office developed uniform guidelines to help improve the identification of victims of human trafficking in large movements of migrants and refugees for first responders at migration and reception centres across the OSCE region.



An OSR/CTHB team visiting the reception and accommodation centre for asylum seekers of the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Traiskirchen, Austria, 21 November 2018. (OSCE/Claudio Formisano)

ENDING LABOUR TRAFFICKING THROUGH CLEAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

In February 2018, the OSR/CTHB published its innovative *Model Guidelines on Government Measures to Prevent Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains*. Building on extensive research and collaboration with leading international practitioners in this field, the publication provides practical guidance to participating States to ensure that fair labour recruitment and transparency practices are implemented in public procurement. Following the publication, the Office launched a series of practical workshops to promote useful guidance for achieving ethical public procurement, beginning with an event for Central Asian participating States hosted by Uzbekistan.

TECHNOLOGY AND TRAFFICKING: TURNING A LIABILITY INTO AN ASSET

From victims recruited via social media to traffickers exploiting victims on websites to illicit flows of cryptocurrency, information and communication technology is now at the heart of the human trafficking business model. The OSR/CTHB has been at the forefront of turning technology from a liability into an asset by conducting

research into the connections between technology and trafficking, identifying over 200 promising digital forensics tools, facial recognition software, blockchain and mobile applications and other technology initiatives to combat human trafficking and building ground-breaking partnerships between the public and private sectors in the field of technology. Recognizing the importance of public-private partnerships, the OSR/CTHB has joined new initiatives, such as the Advisory Group of Tech Against Trafficking initiative, to fully leverage the potential of technology to fight human trafficking.

CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Children are especially vulnerable to human trafficking, be it for child labour, sexual exploitation, early (forced) marriage, organ removal, begging or forced criminality such as transporting illegal drugs. Taking stock of the 2017 Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on child trafficking, the OSR/CTHB continued its strong emphasis on combating trafficking of children in 2018 by:

- Conducting research into the sexual exploitation of children in the context of tourism;



The OSCE's acting Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Valiant Richey, speaking at the Trust Conference in London organized by the Thomson Reuters Foundation in November 2018. (Thomson Reuters Foundation)



The 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference focused on inclusive partnerships to enhance the coherence of anti-trafficking efforts and strengthen co-operation between different actors. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

- Publishing a research paper on protecting child victims of trafficking through national child protection mechanisms; and
- Ensuring a focus on child exploitation in its simulation-based training exercises.

COUNTRY VISITS

In 2018, the Office continued to conduct country visits to identify best practices, offer helpful insight and establish a constructive dialogue with governments, parliamentarians, members of the judiciary, international organizations and NGOs. It carried out country and follow-up visits to several OSCE participating States, including Austria, Cyprus and Uzbekistan. Country visit reports for Denmark, Mongolia and the Russian Federation were also published.

FOSTERING MULTILAYERED PARTNERSHIPS

Due to its complex and often transnational nature, no state can tackle human trafficking on its own. Developing partnerships both among practitioners and between states is thus a prerequisite for any viable anti-trafficking strategy. To this end, the 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference in April 2018 focused on promoting the use of innovative and inclusive collaboration between national agencies and civil society actors whose expertise can make a significant contribution in curbing the crime and assisting its victims, including financial investigators, private businesses and healthcare professionals.

SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING FOR COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES

In 2018, more than 190 law enforcement officials, lawyers, prosecutors, labour inspectors, financial and criminal investigators, journalists, public social service providers, cultural mediators and civil society representatives from 53 OSCE participating States and five Partners for Co-operation participated in three OSCE simulation-based trainings in Vicenza, Italy, and Astana. These training courses sought to improve cross-border co-operation, and the identification and protection of victims, as well as to increase the use of financial tools to investigate traffickers and compensate victims. It provided participants with a collaborative space that facilitates co-operation and exchange among practitioners. The simulations centred around cases of sexual and labour exploitation among migrants, including children, with a focus on investigation and prosecution, while maintaining a victim-centred approach.

“The project is truly unique, and the results are genuinely extraordinary. The border between reality and simulation becomes increasingly blurred for all candidates, and their learning is all the better for it.”

David Mancini
public prosecutor, Italy



Following a raid by criminal investigators, a simulated arrest of criminals involved in trafficking of migrant victims takes place during the second simulation-based training on combating human trafficking along migration routes, Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), Vicenza, Italy, 8 June 2017. (Italian Carabinieri)

Gender equality

Senior Adviser on Gender Issues: **Amarsanaa Darisuren**
Budget: €447,600 (Unified budget), €385,378 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)
Staff: 8
www.oscepa.org/secretariat/gender

Gender equality is an important cross-dimensional component of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. The Organization has continued to build internal capacities to better gender-mainstream its activities in all three dimensions of security and to support participating States in specific areas such as implementing the women, peace and security agenda, empowering women in the digital economy and combating violence against women.

THE GENDER FOCAL POINTS NETWORK

The OSCE Gender Section co-ordinates an Organization-wide network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs). Currently, there are 83 GFPs across the Organization. Their role is essential for the gender mainstreaming of OSCE programmes and activities: they provide in-house capacity to enhance knowledge and skills on gender equality and advise OSCE staff members on how to implement gender commitments in practice. The GFPs also support the Gender Section in measuring the progress made in implementing the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

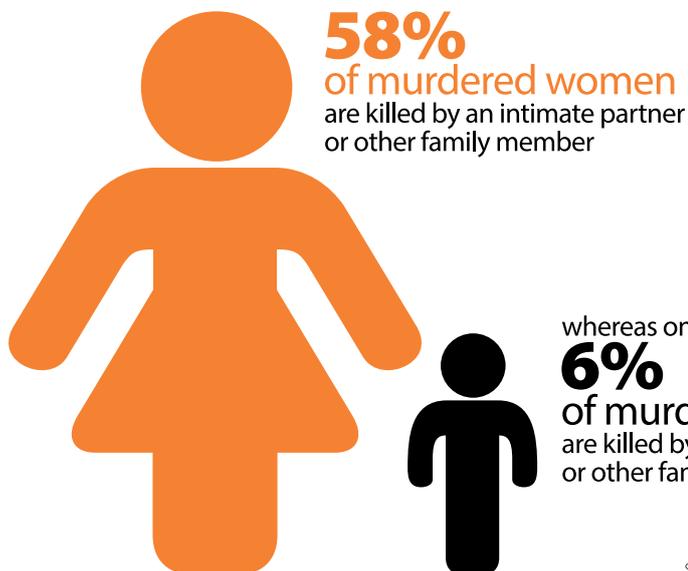


(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

"There is a need to empower women who aspire to enter the security sector. Training is a first step, but it is not enough. We must all work towards introducing measures that create enabling conditions, support diversity and challenge social and gender relations in security sector workplaces that may be discriminatory."

Amarsanaa Darisuren
OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

Gender-related killing of woman and girls



16 Days
of Activism
against
Gender-based
Violence

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Whether in public or private, at home, in the workplace or along migration routes, violence against women is a global pandemic that remains one of the most widespread human rights violations around the globe, including in the OSCE area. The OSCE participated in the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign from 25 November to 10 December 2018 to raise awareness of the importance of combating gender-based violence and supporting women. Through a comprehensive communications campaign on social media, information was shared about the OSCE's work to combat violence against women and girls at field operations, institutions and the Secretariat, as well as on initiatives such as the OSCE MenEngage Network.

Source: UNODC, Global Study on Homicide 2018



Participants from Turkmenistan during an OSCE workshop on women, peace and security, Vienna, 20 April 2018. (OSCE/Leena Avonius)

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Support for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in the participating States is a priority area and a long-term commitment for the OSCE. A multi-country workshop in Vienna and a tailored workshop in Armenia were organized in 2018. These workshops increased governmental and non-governmental actors' knowledge and technical capacities to prepare results-based action plans on UNSCR 1325 in their home countries.

Women's low participation in the security sector continues to be a challenge in the OSCE area. To address this, the Gender Section assisted the Italian OSCE Chairmanship in organizing a one-day conference called Women in the Security Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for the OSCE Area and Beyond. The conference offered an opportunity to share the good practices that participating States and international organizations have developed to address this challenge. A list of recommendations based on discussions at the conference was distributed to all participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

ENSURING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Digitalization has had wide-ranging effects on social, political and economic structures, and thus on security, in the whole OSCE region. Global awareness is emerging of the relationship between gender and digital technologies, as well as of opportunities that are arising for the achievement of the SDGs. However, various barriers remain for women to equally benefit from developments in this area. To address such imbalances, a high-level international conference called Digital Transformation – Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area analysed persisting and newly arising inequalities constraining women's meaningful participation in the economy. A list of recommendations was drafted to support participating States in developing tangible and adequate policy responses.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Work on the OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women initiated in 2015 continued through field research in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The results of the survey, which will increase the understanding of women's experience of violence in conflict and non-conflict situations, will be launched on 6 March 2019.

WOMEN MENTORING WOMEN: TAKING STOCK OF FIVE YEARS OF MENTORING NETWORKS

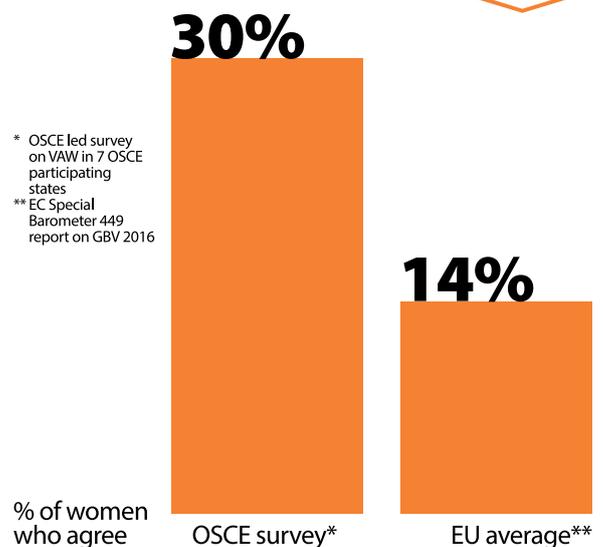
Mentoring and networking are powerful tools for women to increase their participation in political, economic and social life. Since 2013, the OSCE, working closely with the civil society organizations KVINFO from Denmark and the European Movement from Serbia, has supported the creation of mentoring networks that are based on the principle of women supporting women to advance their career and life goals. Over the past five years, the OSCE has supported the establishment of six networks, which have reached more than 200 women throughout the OSCE region, from Roma women and women living in rural areas, to female police officers and lawyers.



Organizers and members of OSCE-supported mentor networks review the results of their work in an interactive workshop, Vienna, 29 January 2018. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

Is domestic violence a **private matter** that should be handled within the family?

OSCE
16 Days
of Activism
against
Gender-based
Violence



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Infographic of the OSCE-led Survey on violence against women. The survey provides information on social norms and attitudes regarding violence against women, women's experiences of violence and its impact.



INSTITUTIONS

The OSCE includes three institutions dedicated to specialized areas of work: the Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights promotes democratic development and human rights; the High Commissioner on National Minorities based in The Hague uses quiet diplomacy and early action to seek resolution of ethnic tensions that might endanger peace and security; and the Vienna-based Representative on Freedom of the Media monitors media developments and provides early warning on violations of freedom of expression and media freedom.

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Director: Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

Budget: €16,279,300 (Unified budget), €5,488,220 (Extrabudgetary pledges)

Staff: 85 international, 80 local (including 28 working under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/odihr

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



(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

“We need to pay close attention to the setbacks and negative trends we are witnessing in the human dimension. These setbacks are a cause of great concern, and we must safeguard the main principles of democracy – rule of law, strong democratic institutions and practices, free and fair elections – which all go hand in hand and are equally important to ensure respect for human rights for all in line with OSCE commitments.”

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ELECTIONS

ODIHR continues to support democratic elections across the OSCE region. In 2018, ODIHR observed elections and referendums in 16 participating States. Over the year, the Office published some 60 election-related reports, comprehensively assessing electoral processes for consistency with OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards. Importantly, final reports provided recommendations to participating States on how their elections could be improved. In 2018, the Office supported 18 participating States in their efforts to address ODIHR's electoral recommendations by providing technical expertise during country visits or reviewing proposed amendments to electoral legislation. ODIHR additionally supported participating States through the training of election observers, convening the first-ever meeting of national focal points to discuss good practices related to the secondment and deployment of election observers, and hosting the annual Election Seminar, with a focus on election campaigning.

DEMOCRATIZATION

Throughout 2018, ODIHR continued to support judicial independence and accountability, as well as diversity within the judiciary. The Office's democratic governance work focused on promoting parliamentary ethics and oversight, improving frameworks regulating political parties and non-governmental organizations, strengthening the role of women in decision-making processes and promoting their political participation, as well as that of other under-represented groups, such as young people and persons with disabilities.

ODIHR assisted in ensuring the quality and effectiveness of laws related to the human dimension through expert review of 19 pieces of draft legislation from 15 different OSCE participating States, including Albania, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland and Uzbekistan, on issues spanning from freedom of association, political parties, the judiciary and freedom of religion or belief to hate crimes. ODIHR also worked



A voter casting her ballot at a polling station in Sarajevo during Bosnia and Herzegovina's general elections, 7 October 2018. (OSCE/Thomas Rymel)



A team of monitors from ODIHR observing a public assembly during the 2018 G7 summit, Quebec City, Canada, 8 June 2018. (OSCE/Maria Kuchma)

to assist states in further promoting the transparency, openness and inclusiveness of their lawmaking processes. This work was complemented by improvements to ODIHR's online legislative database (legislationline.org), which helps participating States bring their legislation in line with international human rights standards. Throughout the year, ODIHR responded to requests for support in the field of migration, providing capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, generating policy recommendations on emerging migration-related challenges and publishing an important new resource, *Good Practices in Migrant Integration: A Trainer's Manual*.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2018, ODIHR undertook assessments of the situation of human rights defenders in participating States and conducted country visits to examine states' institutional and policy frameworks to combat trafficking in human beings. ODIHR continued to monitor peaceful assemblies, bringing to 30 the total number of states that have been the sites of such missions to date. ODIHR provided assistance to state and non-state actors in the form of capacity-building and expert advice, addressing issues of human rights and counter-terrorism, human rights-compliant policing of assemblies, freedom of religion or belief, torture prevention, mainstreaming gender and human rights in the security sector, combating trafficking in human beings, human rights education and the protection of human rights defenders, including national human rights institutions. Examples of new tools developed for participating States included the *Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules*, a publication that lays out the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners; new *Guidelines for Addressing the Threats and Challenges of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters"*

within a Human Rights Framework; and a report on the situation of women in the armed forces in the OSCE region. Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings during the year focused on the topics of child trafficking, violence against women and human rights and education.

TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

ODIHR continued to work closely with participating States and civil society throughout the year to promote tolerance and non-discrimination. In November, ODIHR published data on hate crime and hate incidents on its dedicated website (hatecrime.osce.org). The Office also launched a new programme, the Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT), as part of its efforts to strengthen government collection and management of hate crime data. This was complemented by the publication of a toolkit to help participating States adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing hate crime.

The Office continued its efforts to counter racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance against Muslims and Christians, including by publishing a new factsheet on hate crimes against Christians. ODIHR and UNESCO published educational policy guidelines designed to help teachers address anti-Semitism in classrooms. ODIHR also began offering workshops to support strong and diverse civil society coalitions, accompanying the new publication *Coalition Building for Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: A Practical Guide*. Both of these publications were published as part of the Turning Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism project, funded by Germany.

ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

In December, ODIHR published its third *Status Report on*

Election observation in 2018

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

* denotes limited election observation mission 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

28 January**

Cyprus
Presidential

4 March**

Italy
Parliamentary

18 March

Russian Federation
Presidential

25 March**

Turkmenistan
Parliamentary

8 April*

Hungary
Parliamentary

11 April

Azerbaijan
Early presidential



Participants in the opening of the International Forum of Women Leaders, Minsk, 25 October 2018. (Belarusian State University Media Office/Vasily Kuzmichkin)

ODIHR SUPPORTS WOMEN LEADERS IN BELARUS

One hundred women leaders gathered to explore challenges and ways forward towards women's empowerment at the Second International Forum of Women Leaders in Minsk in October. The Forum was part of the Office's Promoting Democratization and Human Rights in Belarus project, funded by the European Union.

Women state officials, parliamentarians, entrepreneurs, academics, civil society activists and gender experts from 21 OSCE participating States, including all member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, took part in the event. Discussions focused on topics such as women's participation in politics and the economic sphere, combating violence against women, strengthening women's networks and coalition-building, and equal opportunities at universities.

the Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, with a special focus on steps that participating States are taking to enhance Roma and Sinti participation in public and political life. During the HDIM in September, the Office organized a side event on racism, intolerance and violence against Roma and Sinti in the OSCE region. In Vienna in October, the Office organized an event on access to quality education for Roma and Sinti children and youth. Together with the Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee, ODIHR's Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues also organized an event called Roma and Sinti: Girls Education in Vienna in April.

ODIHR delivered two four-day training courses for trainers in Poland and Slovakia on effective and human-rights-compliant policing in Roma and Sinti communities for law enforcement officers. A similar two-day course was offered in Pristina. ODIHR continued its work to enhance access to civil registration and identity documents for Roma and Sinti, and in June published a baseline study report titled *Access to Personal Documents for Roma in Ukraine: More Efforts Needed*. At the Second Practical OSCE-UNHCR Seminar on Sharing Good Practices on Statelessness among OSCE participating States, which was held in October, obstacles and solutions were discussed among experts at the technical level.

ODIHR IMPLEMENTS HATE CRIME JUSTICE PROJECT

www.osce.org/projects/criminal-justice-response-hate-crime

Throughout 2018, ODIHR continued running the two-year project Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime to strengthen states' legal approaches to bias-motivated violence. Working with four target countries – Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Poland – the Office published four new innovative handbooks: Joint Hate Crime Training for Police and Prosecutors, Mapping Unreported Hate Crimes Using Respondent-driven Sampling, Developing Interagency Co-operation Plans to Address Hate Crime, and Addressing Hate Crime at the Regional Level.



Ambassador Luca Frattini of the Italian Chairmanship presents the Roma Status Report during the launch event, Vienna, 11 December 2018. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

15 April
**Montenegro
Presidential**

3 June**
**Slovenia
Early parliamentary**

24 June
**Turkey
Early presidential
and parliamentary**

9 September**
**Sweden
Parliamentary**

30 September
**The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia
Referendum**

6 October**
**Latvia
Parliamentary**

7 October
**Bosnia and Herzegovina
General**

28 October, 28 November
**Georgia
Presidential**

6 November*
**United States of America
Mid-term congressional**

9 December
**Armenia
Early parliamentary**

High Commissioner on National Minorities

High Commissioner: **Ambassador Lamberto Zannier**

Budget: €3,466,300 (Unified budget), €712,059 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 20 international, 11 local (including five under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/hcnm

In response to the inter-ethnic hostilities that affected Eastern Europe in the early 1990s, the position of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) was established in 1992 as a security mechanism to prevent any future conflict involving national minorities. Today, the High Commissioner travels the length and breadth of the OSCE area to identify the first signs of acute crisis involving national minorities, as well as underlying causes that, if neglected, could potentially lead to violent conflict within or among the OSCE participating States. In 2018, High Commissioner Lamberto Zannier continued his long-term approach to conflict prevention using a combination of quiet diplomacy, high-profile initiatives and public debates.

PROMOTING INTEGRATION OVERCOMES DIVISIONS IN SOCIETY

Sound integration policies promote harmonious relations and social cohesion. Therefore, promoting integration at the policy level in areas such as education and language is paramount for the High Commissioner. In 2018, High Commissioner Zannier worked tirelessly with governments and parliaments to amend existing legislation and to draft new laws related to language and education. Throughout the year, the High Commissioner continued to be actively engaged with Ukraine, which he visited twice, including the Zakarpattia region in the west of the country. In the course of these visits, he engaged with the government, local institutions and representatives of minority groups on a number of areas key to successful integration of society. In May, a publication titled *Language Policy and Conflict Prevention* comprising 15 academic papers was launched at an event held in Oslo, marking the 20th anniversary of the HCNM's *Oslo Recommendations regarding the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities* (1998). During the presentation, the HCNM highlighted that a carefully formulated language policy is also a conflict prevention policy.

"Identity politics and socio-political polarization are growing, resulting in the marginalization of some minority groups, a dynamic that has the potential to lead to crisis and conflict. For this reason, it is important to scale up conflict prevention efforts."

Lamberto Zannier
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Learning the official language of a country is as vital as having access to education in one's own language: full participation in public and political life can depend on it. To promote full civic inclusion, the HCNM supported internships in the main political parties in Georgia for young people belonging to national minorities. Preparations also began for the 20th-anniversary celebration in Lund, Sweden, next year of *The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life* (1999). *The Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age* were also finalized, ready for their launch in Tallinn on 13 February 2019.

NATIONAL MINORITIES AND INTER-STATE RELATIONS

When inter-state disputes occur, national minorities on different sides of the border are often caught in the middle, with conflicting loyalties. In June, a panel discussion to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities and Inter-State Relations* (2008) presented an opportunity for academics, practitioners and stakeholders to come together in Udine, Italy, to review these recommendations. States that find themselves in this situation can learn from good practices: when travelling in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in April, High Commissioner Zannier noted the positive impact that improved bilateral relations and newly opened border-crossing points in the Ferghana Valley are having on regional relations.



"Xush Kelibsiz! Добро пожаловать! Welcome!" – representatives of cultural associations in the city of Ferghana and the Ferghana Region give a warm welcome to High Commissioner Zannier in Uzbekistan, April 2018. (OSCE/Michael Angermann)

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HCNM

In 2018, the office of the HCNM celebrated the 25th anniversary of the appointment of the first High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel, in combination with the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award ceremony. To mark this milestone, a public photo exhibition illustrating the HCNM's work was displayed at the Peace Palace and The Hague City Hall; a book of photos and a publication entitled *HCNM at 25: Personal Reflections of the High Commissioners* were also published.

"It is worth standing alone sometimes, it is worth fighting the invisible, and it is worth being patient."

Winner of the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award



High Commissioner Lamberto Zannier with the winners of the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award, a group of high school students from Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina, who oppose ethnic segregation in their school, The Hague, 9 November 2018. (Arnaud Roelofs fotografie)

EDUCATION CAN BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

The office of the HCNM has traditionally supported education programmes aimed at integration and diversity management. The Bujanovac Department of the Subotica Faculty of Economics at Novi Sad University is one such initiative. As the first multilingual, multi-ethnic higher education institution in southern Serbia, it offers bilingual study programmes. It is therefore a flagship for multilingual education (MLE) in the region. At the primary-school level, the illustrated *Serbian-Albanian and Albanian-Serbian*, as well as the *Macedonian-Albanian and Albanian-Macedonian Dictionaries* developed by the HCNM – another first – grew in popularity, with 81,448 website visits and over 2,088 mobile app downloads in 2018. In Serbia, the HCNM is now working with pupils to upgrade these dictionaries by including pupils' illustrations and additional audio recordings, thereby involving children, the end users, in improving the dictionaries.

Several milestones were reached under the HCNM's Central Asia Education Programme, including a roundtable on multilingual education in Uzbekistan (April) co-organized with the Ministries of Public and Higher Education, a roundtable and two seminars in Ulaanbaatar and Ulgij (October) as a result of extending the HCNM's co-operation on MLE to Mongolia and a five-day regional winter school in Almaty, Kazakhstan (December), which brought together MLE policymakers and practitioners from all over Central Asia and Mongolia.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

The HCNM continued to promote awareness of the institution's latest set of thematic advice, *The Graz Recommendations on Access to Justice and National Minorities*, and organized roundtables in Tbilisi (September) and Chisinau (October). Russian and Romanian translations of the Graz Recommendations were launched on both occasions, to increase their accessibility.



(OSCE/Maria Diego Gordón)

"My focus is on ensuring that the current HCNM guidelines and recommendations are better known and actively used by governments as guiding principles for a positive impact on minorities and the increasingly diverse societies in which we all live."

Lamberto Zannier
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Representative on Freedom of the Media

Representative: Harlem Désir

Budget: €1,519,800 (Unified budget), €510,401 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 13

www.osce.org/representative-on-freedom-of-media

2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 of which grants everyone the right to freedom of opinion and expression and is the basis for freedom of the media. The Representative's mandate is to observe media-freedom developments in OSCE participating States and to advocate and promote full compliance with the Organization's principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media.

MAJOR ISSUES

In 2018, the Representative continued previous years' efforts and continued to make the safety of journalists his number one priority by intervening in cases of threats and intimidation against journalists, attacks, arson and physical violence, including murder. In what has become a deteriorating safety environment for media workers, the Representative's work was dominated by the safety of journalists, including distinct risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work including through digital technologies. During the reporting period, the Representative made over 400 interventions by various means such as letters to authorities, country visits, press releases and through social media.

Through the Safety of Female Journalists Online (#SOFJO) campaign and the recent documentary film *A Dark Place*, general awareness of this issue was broadened. Furthermore, a large-scale research project was carried out in order to identify solutions and collect data on policies that better protect journalists.

The second-biggest issue on which the Representative

intervened concerned journalists' ability to report without fear of legal repercussions, the foremost of which is imprisonment for journalistic work, investigation or publication of critical views. As of the end of 2018, more than 150 journalists were still in prison, compared to 170 in 2017.

Another key area in which numerous interventions took place concerns media regulations in the name of national security and countering extremism, followed by disproportionate restrictions on media freedom and freedom of expression. From the blocking of websites to surveillance and forced disclosure of confidential sources, security is still too often used for sweeping restrictions on freedom of expression online. The issues of fake news, disinformation and the promotion of quality of information and media literacy were discussed at the regional conferences organized by the Representative in Struga, Tbilisi, Astana and at the conference organized in Kyiv. These thematic areas were also included in the recommendations presented after the conferences. In 2018, the Representative's Office provided 13 legal reviews for 10 countries on draft laws that impact freedom of the



A Dark Place, a #SOFJO documentary (OSCE)



The Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Désir, at the EU-Western Balkans Media Days 2018, Skopje, 17 September 2018. (OSCE)



The Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Désir, among panelists at the 20th Central Asia Media Conference titled The Future of Journalism, Astana, 7 November 2018. (OSCE)

media, online regulation, public service broadcasting and access to information. A Joint Declaration on Media Independence and Diversity in the Digital Age was issued by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE’s Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information. It included a series of recommendations for states, media outlets and online platforms.

STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM AND PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN JOURNALISTS

In 2018, the Representative continued to promote the dialogue between Russian and Ukrainian journalists initiated by the Office in 2014. Representatives of the two countries’ journalists’ unions met for a roundtable discussion at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna to discuss the current state of affairs regarding the safety of journalists in eastern Ukraine and Crimea, promoting quality journalism in their respective countries and a number of other common projects and activities.

A group of young journalists from Russia and Ukraine, together with senior representatives of the journalists’ unions, participated in a media production workshop in Vienna. The journalists worked together to complete the production of a joint documentary film that they began working on during a previous workshop in June 2017.

The Office continued a dialogue in an effort to assist in improving developments in ethical standards and self-regulation mechanisms in Cyprus. As part of the exchange programme with representatives of Greek Cypriot and

Turkish Cypriot journalists that started last year, the Office organized an exhibition of work produced by young journalists in Nicosia. In close co-operation with the unions of journalists on the island, the Representative launched a trilingual (English, Greek and Turkish) glossary of sensitive words used by the media, the production of which was supported by the Office with expertise from the Ethical Journalism Network.

CONFERENCES

The Office organized annual regional media conferences for OSCE participating States in South-Eastern Europe (in Struga), the South Caucasus (in Tbilisi) and Central Asia (in Astana), bringing together media practitioners to share experiences with colleagues, government authorities and international experts.

During a study tour to Berlin that the Office organized together with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, a dozen Ukrainian media experts on media self-regulation met with key media regulators in Germany to discuss how possible solutions to address specific challenges and practices could be applied in their home country.

The expert conference Strengthening Media Freedom and Pluralism in Ukraine during Times of Conflict in and around the Country, held in Kyiv in June, brought together more than 200 media professionals, government and civil society representatives, inter-governmental officers, renowned international experts and journalists. They discussed the challenges they face with regard to the media environment in the country and suggested ways to promote freedom of expression, access to quality information and freedom of the media in Ukraine, in particular in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

The Office took part in the OSCE’s HDIM in Warsaw with two side events: one called “Professional Journalism: Survival in the Age of Globalized Information” and a second on the #SOFJO project, where journalists and experts from international and civil society organizations had the chance to discuss and share experiences.

The Office organized its first Central Asia Judicial Dialogue, in Bishkek, bringing together judges representing higher and appellate courts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and international experts to discuss the balance between preserving freedom of expression and legislative measures countering violent extremism.

OBSERVING MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE COMMITMENTS

During the year, the Representative:

- intervened in 376 cases in 37 participating States;
- undertook 10 official country visits and visited 23 countries in total;
- provided 13 legal reviews for 10 participating States; and
- released a Joint Declaration on Media Independence and Diversity in the Digital Age.



FIELD OPERATIONS

In addition to its political bodies, Secretariat and institutions, the OSCE maintains a network of 15 field operations located in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Participants of a training course on ordnance disposal getting familiarized with safety precautions before entering a disposal site, Lyaur, Tajikistan, 21 April 2018. (OSCE/Nozim Kalandarov)

Field operations in 2018

The OSCE's field operations assist host countries in putting their OSCE commitments into practice and fostering local capacities through specific 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 manage crises and to play a critical post-conflict role, helping restore trust among affected communities. A number of field operations contribute to early warning and conflict prevention, and some also monitor and report on developments on the ground.

THE OSCE HAD THE FOLLOWING FIELD OPERATIONS IN 2018:

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

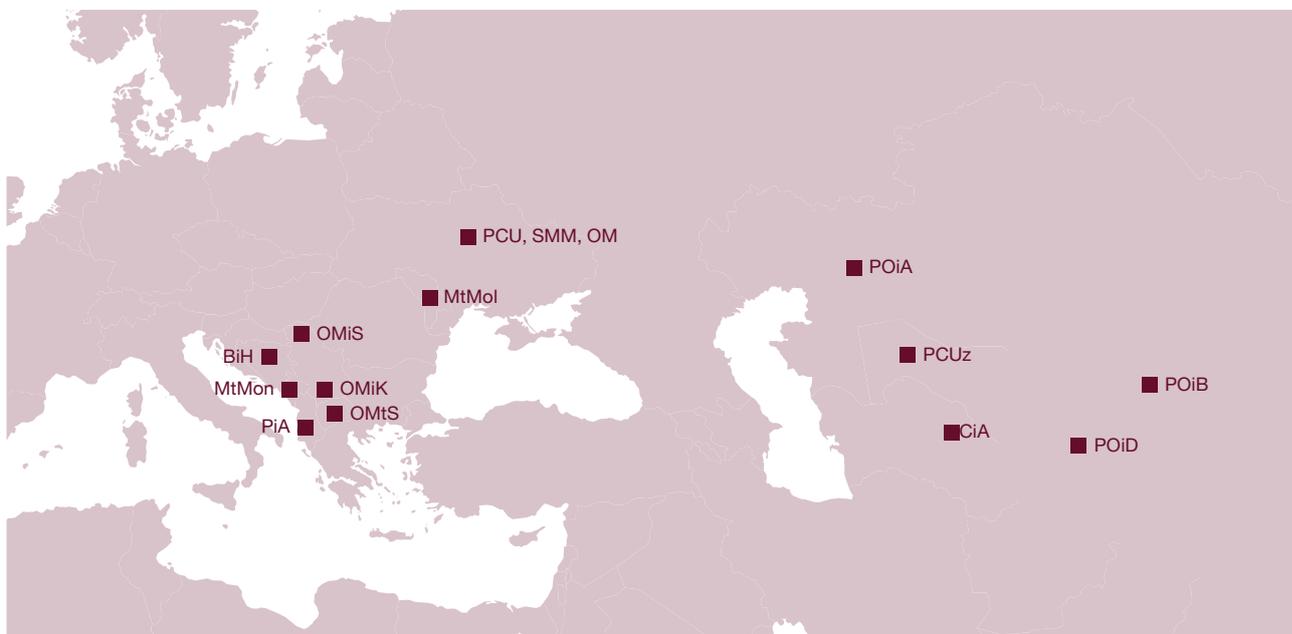
- Presence in Albania
- Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mission in Kosovo
- Mission to Montenegro
- Mission to Serbia
- Mission to Skopje

EASTERN EUROPE

- Mission to Moldova
- Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
- Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
- Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

CENTRAL ASIA

- Centre in Ashgabat
- Programme Office in Astana
- Programme Office in Bishkek
- Programme Office in Dushanbe
- Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan



Presence in Albania

Head of Presence: **Ambassador Bernd Borchardt**

Budget: €2,917,900 (Unified budget), €431,747 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 19 international, 67 local (including two under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/presence-in-albania

Among other activities, the OSCE Presence in Albania focused in 2018 on providing support to electoral and justice system reform, preventing violent extremism and fighting crime and corruption in Albania. The Presence continued contributing to the strengthening of state institutions, particularly the Parliament, while also supporting the active engagement of civil society and youth, as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective into all of its programmatic work.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

In 2018, the Presence continued its multidimensional assistance to the government in implementing Albania's National Strategy and Action Plan against Corruption. It provided technical expertise to the Albanian School of Public Administration to train 200 local-level public officials on good governance, anti-corruption and risk management. It also assisted the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest in enabling 240 private businesses to report corruption through whistleblower protection mechanisms.

JUSTICE REFORM

As part of the justice system reform process in Albania, the Presence provided technical expertise to the institutions carrying out the re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors, ensuring the application of good international fair-trial standards. Furthermore, the Presence assisted the re-

evaluation bodies in planning for the introduction of a sustainable and efficient electronic case management system.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE)

In its continued contribution to P/CVERLT, the Presence supported the work of the Albanian Co-ordination Centre for CVE and tackled the phenomenon in various forms. It trained 210 first-line prison and probation staff based on a training module developed by the Presence specifically for this purpose. In addition to reaching out to more than 140 young people from around Albania to enhance their understanding of violent extremism, the Presence helped build the University of Tirana's capacities by drafting a CVE curriculum at the level of a master's programme.

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Presence continued its support for the Albanian State Police (ASP) in building an integrated border management system. The Presence supported the ASP in particular in setting up an advanced passenger information (API) system and improving co-operation with neighbours for effective information exchange to tackle transnational threats. For the first time, the ASP received training on the use of the Internet and technology for the detection of trafficking in human beings, with support from the Presence.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING

Throughout 2018, the Presence supported the country's efforts to combat trafficking and exploitation of human beings, with a particular focus on children. It made a major contribution in developing a national action plan on the protection of children from economic exploitation, as well as in co-ordinating institutional efforts to identify and protect child victims or children at risk of exploitation.

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

The Presence strengthened collaboration among Albania's national human rights institutions, supporting the development of a Tripartite Co-operation Agreement and a Guideline for Co-operation among the People's Advocate, the Commissioner on the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination. The Presence also facilitated



Participants in a Presence-supported visit by the Parliamentary National Security Committee of Border Crossing Points receive first-hand information about the work and needs of the border police and customs officials, Hani i Hotit, 4 December 2018. (Besmira Hysenbelliu/Albanian Parliament)



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger (c) addresses a joint press conference with the Speaker of the Albanian parliament, Gramoz Ruçi (l), after signing a co-operation agreement between the Albanian Parliament, the OSCE and the Swiss Government on a new project Support to the Albanian Parliament and Civic Education, Tirana, 29 May 2018. (OSCE/Joana Karapataqi)



Participants at a training course supported by the Presence for the Albanian State Police on combating cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime, Tirana, 28 February 2018. (OSCE/Eiton Tahirlari)

co-ordination and dialogue between civil society and the government, which ultimately led to the approval of the first National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace and Security).

ASSEMBLY SUPPORT

The Presence worked with parliamentary committees to improve the Parliament's legislative and oversight functions, organizing outreach meetings between members of parliament and local administrations, civil society and field experts on institutional accountability. The Presence and ODIHR supported the drafting of the recently adopted Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians, which is expected to produce concrete results in advancing transparency and mitigating conflicts of interest in the Albanian parliament.

COURT EFFICIENCY

The Presence continued to work closely with the district courts throughout Albania in the framework of its "Justice Without Delays" initiative, promoting the application of active case management techniques and strengthening co-operation between courts and local institutions to reduce unnecessary delays. This work improved productivity and shortened the length of proceedings in many of the country's courts.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Focusing on addressing the ODIHR's recommendations on elections, the Presence assisted the ad hoc Committee on Electoral Reform in holding eight technical workshops with state institutions, civil society and top-level international experts. In addition, the Presence contributed to co-ordinating stakeholders' work on gender equality in political representation and women's participation in decision-making in Albania, resulting in a joint draft proposal on improving the gender quota that was presented to the Committee.

MEDIA FREEDOM

In view of the government-sponsored legislative proposals to regulate public, commercial and online media, with potential effects on media freedom, the Presence worked with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to monitor, inform and advise local and international partners, share good international practice and preserve media freedom.

SECURITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Presence continued engaging with Albanian institutions at the central and local level to encourage a closer collaboration between the citizens and the State through community engagement in addressing security concerns. The Presence contributed to the recently adopted Community Policing Document and assisted Local Safety Councils in designing security action plans that will guide their future work.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE

Throughout 2018, the Presence assisted the newly established anti-cannabis task forces of Vlora and Shkodra in organizing awareness-raising activities and presenting alternative development methods to affected communities, involving 449 participants in total.

YOUTH IN ACTION

In 2018, the Presence established a Youth Advisory Group (YAG), a youth mainstreaming instrument designed to incorporate youth perspectives into the Presence's policies, plans and activities. The YAG currently works to identify the needs, challenges and priorities of young people and to support initiatives taken by the Presence to tackle them.

The Presence continued its close co-operation with the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO) to promote youth exchange projects and regional youth co-operation.



Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Head of Mission: Ambassador Bruce G. Berton

Budget: €11,647,200 (Unified budget), €1,469,232 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 34 international, 289 local

<http://www.osce.org/bih>

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to play a vital role in enhancing Bosnia and Herzegovina's ability to foster a sustainable and stable security environment, to strengthen environmental governance and to encourage its consolidation as a democratic society governed by the rule of law. The Mission supported key reforms and worked to promote and protect the human rights of every citizen.

QUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATION

The Mission launched a report on the phenomenon of "two schools under one roof", containing a set of recommendations aimed at ending this most visible form of discrimination in education, while protecting the ethnic identities of the Bosniak and Croat peoples. Moreover, the Mission engaged students and parents to reflect on positive and negative practices in education. Their consolidated recommendations and messages are being communicated to newly appointed authorities.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

The Mission issued its first public report based on trial monitoring of 67 completed corruption cases during the period 2010-2017, providing a comprehensive assessment and key recommendations regarding issues negatively impacting corruption trials. The domestic institutions endorsed the recommendations, and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council included several in its newest action plan. The Mission also issued a short report entitled Observations on the National War Crimes Processing Strategy and its 2018 Draft Revisions, which analysed the backlog in the processing of war crimes cases, raised public awareness about successes and identified recommendations for further progress.



Copies of Two Schools under One Roof - The Most Visible Example of Discrimination in Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina published by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. (OSCE)

SUPPORTING ANTI-CORRUPTION AT ALL GOVERNMENT LEVELS

The Mission continued supporting all levels of government in fighting corruption through strengthening co-ordination between anti-corruption teams at cantonal and entity levels, and by building the capacity of approximately 500 civil servants. Also, the Mission supported the development and launch of a public registry of more than 3,000 civil servants appointed to approximately 300 commissions, steering or executive boards in the Sarajevo canton. The goal was to increase transparency and to detect and prevent possible conflicts of interest. Within one day, 20 appointment irregularities were reported and since July 2018, 16 conflict-of-interest cases have been detected, eight of which resulted in official resignations.

RESPONDING TO HATE CRIMES

With Mission support, the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) was amended in 2016 to include hate crimes provisions. In 2018, following continued Mission advocacy and technical support for the prosecution of hate crimes, the first ever final verdict for a hate crime in the FBiH was issued.

SECURITY CO-OPERATION

The Mission promoted a holistic approach to security sector governance and reform through capacity building and the creation of strategic frameworks on cyber/ICT security, countering violent extremism, disaster risk reduction and integrated border management, intended for both the broader security sector and civil society. The Mission also upgraded the physical security of weapons and ammunition storage sites managed by the Armed Forces of BiH and improved ammunition life-cycle management capacities through establishing a laboratory for the chemical testing of ammunition.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

The Mission supported women's political participation by working with the seven main political parties to improve internal structures and processes. It also focused on combating domestic violence through building the



Copies of Assessing Needs of Judicial Response to Corruption through Monitoring of Criminal Cases drafted by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. (OSCE)

capacities of police officers. In collaboration with the European Institute on Gender Equality, the Mission organized a regional conference to improve data collection on domestic violence. The Mission handed over its electronic tool for administrative data collection to the FBiH Gender Centre.

YOUTH MAINSTREAMING

The Youth Advisory Group continued to provide meaningful participation opportunities for young people from across BiH in the Mission's work and for the inclusion of their diverse and age-unique perspectives in the planning and implementation of our programmes.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The Mission supported the submission of BiH's long-overdue Aarhus Convention National Implementation Report for 2014-2017. It also supported a project of the Aarhus Centre Sarajevo, which trains secondary school students on methods of upcycling and the principles of a circular economy. The Mission organized public clean-ups and promoted dialogue between local authorities, the private sector, citizens and environmental groups on improving waste management and tackling dangerous levels of air pollution in the city of Tuzla.

MEDIA FREEDOM

The Mission promoted media literacy among students, especially those who were first-time voters in the 2018 general elections. Training courses were organized for students from all public universities in BiH to help better



#NoHate #NeMrznji #Supergradjani – a participant at one of more than 100 OSCE-supported events organized by the Coalitions against Hate in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (OSCE)

INSPIRING YOUTH ACTIVISM

“Segregation is a bad investment” is the motto of the group of students from Jajce who received the 2018 Max van der Stoep Award from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in recognition of their battle against further divisions in education. The students, who had been supported by the Mission in their lobbying and outreach efforts, were rewarded for their courage and tenacity. “It is an unprecedented victory which deserves to be widely promoted as a positive example of how non-formal groups with limited resources can achieve progress where formal channels fail”, said the award panel.

understand how media messages shape our culture and society and to recognize bias, spin, misinformation and propaganda.

ELECTIONS

The Mission provided assistance to the Central Election Commission to improve the integrity of the electoral process, including by donating 10,000 translucent ballot boxes, providing training for all members of Municipal Election Commissions and supporting the supervision of training for polling station committees.

#MTC: MEDIA AND TERRORISM CONFERENCE

The Mission organized the international #MTC: Media and Terrorism Conference, bringing together lecturers and over 100 media and counter-terrorism experts from across the region. The conference featured sessions on responsible reporting on terrorism in online and print media; ethics and dealing with sources; analysis of social media in the radicalization process; and terrorism and electronic media. Participants exchanged strategies and approaches for reporting on terrorist activity, keeping in mind that media coverage of terrorism can have far-reaching social consequences.



Panelists at the Media and Terrorism Conference, Mt. Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 September 2018. (OSCE/Sanin Muftić)

Mission in Kosovo

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Jan Braathu**

Budget: €17,414,300 (Unified budget), €263,896 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 117 international, 387 local (including one under an extrabudgetary project)

www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo

The Mission continued offering support and expertise to Kosovo¹ institutions to enhance compliance with good governance and international human rights standards. Through its extensive field monitoring, the Mission identified community rights issues and encouraged solutions in parallel to promoting confidence-building and dialogue.

COMMUNITY RIGHTS

The Ministry of Local Government Administration integrated the Module for Monitoring Community Participation Mechanism developed by the Mission in its Internal Management System, which monitors the functioning of community participation mechanisms at the local level.

In January, the Ministry for Communities and Return adopted the Regulation on Return of Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions, which introduces a clear institutional basis for the facilitation of the return process. In April, the Mission and the Ministry developed guidelines for its implementation, which were distributed to all 38 municipalities.

The Mission published two reports on language compliance: one on the implementation of legal provisions governing language rights, and one on language compliance by the Kosovo Police. In November, the Mission and the Office of the Prime Minister took the Mission's report on bilingual legislation in Kosovo as the framework for drafting a concept document on translation procedures within the government.

SUPPORTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE POLICE

The Mission concluded its training programme on operational command duties for 14 senior Kosovo policewomen with a practical training course with the South Wales Police in Cardiff, United Kingdom. The programme, developed in co-operation with the Kosovo Police and the Association of Women in Kosovo Police, was designed to empower policewomen by improving their skills and competencies for management and leadership positions. Following the Mission's and other stakeholders' efforts, six policewomen were promoted to the rank of captain.

ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To help respond to a growing number of cases of domestic violence, the Mission helped several municipalities establish Co-ordination Mechanisms against Domestic Violence, consisting of representatives of municipalities, the judiciary, the Free Legal Aid Agency and shelters for

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE INITIATIVES

Dialogue Academy – This initiative, established in 2015, brings together young women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade in Stadtschlaining, Austria. Every year, 24 women from both societies take part in a ten-day tailored programme on women's role in promoting dialogue, reconciliation and co-operation.

Junior Basketball Tournament – Established in 2016, this annual tournament gathers teenagers from communities all over Kosovo to help them get to know each other and socialize, overcome ethnic barriers and make them more aware of their respective issues. So far, over 200 young people have participated in the tournament.

Trade Fair for Women Entrepreneurs – Since 2017, the Mission has been bringing together entrepreneurs from communities in Kosovo to the Prishtinë/Priština Trade Fair to empower and help them establish networks for co-operation.

victims of domestic violence. The Mission supported the establishment of this mechanism in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Lipjan/Lipljan, Obiliq/Obilić and Hani i Elezit/Elez Han, and helped revive the one in Prizren. The Mission also supported the Kosovo Police in implementing an awareness-raising campaign on domestic violence in all eight police regions.

COURT MONITORING

In 2018, the Mission monitored 1,175 court cases involving 2,157 court hearings throughout Kosovo. The court monitors observed human rights compliance within the justice system, mainly in priority cases involving war crimes, terrorism, intercommunity crimes and property disputes, hate crimes, corruption and gender-based violence. The monitoring feeds into recommendations to the justice sector.

COUNTERING VERLT

As a result of the Mission's activities in preventing and combating VERLT in 2018, Kosovo Police officers improved their skills in investigative interviewing techniques and the collection of criminal intelligence through Mission training programmes. Policewomen working in community policing

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.



To improve safety and security in schools, the Mission installed surveillance cameras in 15 schools attended by students from different communities all over Kosovo. Bardosh/Brnica, 5 December 2018. (OSCE/Besfort Oruçi)

and investigation units were provided with additional training focused on their specific role in countering VERLT. The Mission also facilitated specialized training courses in The Hague for senior Kosovo Police officers on counterterrorism and applied intelligence, on-the-job training on operational planning and management in cases of terror attacks delivered at the London Metropolitan Police and a research visit for senior officers to institutions in Paris.

COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Mission delivered a specialized train-the-trainers programme on countering trafficking for 25 policewomen and organized a workshop for institutional stakeholders on practical implementation of a set of indicators to identify victims of trafficking. The Mission provided relevant police officers with training on contemporary trends and best practices on cases of child pornography and online recruitment as well as with specialized training on covert measures for investigating human trafficking.

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

The Mission delivered various advanced training courses for law enforcement and the judiciary, namely on financial investigation, money laundering, intelligence management, restraint and seizure of assets and confiscation. These courses brought together various stakeholders to improve co-ordination among institutions and the efficiency of investigations, such as the Financial Intelligence Unit, Kosovo Police, judges, criminal investigators and the Special Prosecution Office.

PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

The Mission conducted a public-awareness campaign on the safety of journalists, based on a survey with 1,420 respondents from Kosovo on the state of the media and



An architecture student from the University of Prishtinë/Prishtina carrying out restoration works at the Old Mill in the ethnically mixed village of Letnicë/Letnica in the context of a youth camp on restoration and preservation of cultural heritage organized by the Mission, Letnicë/Letnica, 19 October 2018. (CHWB Kosovo)



Colonel Taibe Canolli, former head of the Association of Women in Kosovo Police (now Police Human Resources Director) and a long-term Mission partner in empowering policewomen, receives the 2018 International Leadership Award from the International Association of Women Police, 19 September 2018. (OSCE/Yilka Fetahaj)

the safety of journalists. The campaign highlighted the challenges journalists face and included billboards featuring prominent Kosovo journalists who had been subject to threats and attacks. The Mission also facilitated the process of shedding light on the fate of journalists who were murdered or went missing during or since the conflict. There are 15 such cases, 14 of which remain unresolved.

OFF THE SHELVES: MUNICIPAL PROFILES

The Mission published its Municipal Profiles, a flagship product with detailed information for every municipality in Kosovo.



Billboards of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo campaign to raise awareness on safety of journalists. (OSCE/ASHA Graphics)

Mission to Montenegro

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Maryse Daviet**

Budget: €2,146,200 (Unified budget), €309,530 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 9 international, 26 local

www.osce.org/mission-to-montenegro

In 2018, the Mission, in co-operation with national partners, continued to assist the host country in achieving its strategic national priorities. It supported the drafting of strategic documents, provided technical assistance to the State Election Commission, supported the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO) and strengthened the institutional capacities of the Parliament. The Mission also provided legal opinions to the Ministry of Culture on the draft laws on Media and on the National Service Broadcaster Radio Televizija Crne Gore.

ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

The Mission continued supporting the State Election Commission by providing technical assistance in building its institutional capacity and with support from some participating States, the Mission commissioned software for the transmission and projection of election day results and the upgrading of websites.

SUPPORT FOR THE PARLIAMENT

The Mission continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Parliament by working with members of parliament and service staff to implement the Action Plan for a More Gender-Sensitive Parliament. Complementary to this work were study visits for parliamentarians to Austrian state institutions and the Italian Senate. The Mission also worked with legislative committees, the political system, the judiciary and administration and with the Human Resources Unit.

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL YOUTH CO-OPERATION OFFICE

In promoting regional co-operation among young people, the Mission has been instrumental in supporting capacity-building initiatives. It facilitated the organization of regional

"I learned a lot about gender equality and improved my training skills. The interactive format allowed me to establish contacts with gender equality focal points from other municipalities, which I will maintain to ensure that gender equality remains a priority."

Participant in a training-of-trainers course on gender equality for municipal gender focal points

and national conferences in close co-operation with the local RYCO branch and the Ministry of Sports and Youth to examine regional youth co-operation, share comparative practices and obstacles to youth mobility in the Western Balkans.

SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL GENDER FOCAL POINTS

Working in partnership with the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Mission supported municipal gender focal points to develop and implement local action plans on gender equality and supported the Ministry in implementing key objectives of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality, including training journalists on challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality in the media.



Participants of a RYCO pilot capacity-building training course for the first beneficiaries of the organization's open call for project proposals, Podgorica, 11 May 2018. (RYCO)



Ambassador Maryse Daviet, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, on a site visit at the Podgorica Airport to examine the operation of the National Border Community Security Programme, 21 December 2017. (OSCE/Dragica Vučinić)



A SALW deactivation is performed for the participants of a regional workshop on SALW deactivation co-organized by the Ministries of Interior and Defence, the Mission to Montenegro and the CPC, Podgorica, 29 October 2018. (OSCE/Marina Živaljević)

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND P/CVERLT

The Mission supported the drafting of a National Strategy and Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. Together with the Transnational Threats Department, national partners and civil society, it supported the development of a National Platform for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism that facilitated a shared approach between the civil society and the government to jointly develop strategies to counter and prevent violent extremism that leads to terrorism.

POLICING

The Mission, together with the Ministry of the Interior and the Norwegian Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector, supported the drafting of a Human Resources Management Strategy. The Mission donated workstations for digital evidence analysis and polygraphs.

It also championed the newly founded Association of Women Police Officers, mandated to encourage women leadership, challenge stereotypes and remove cultural barriers that inhibit women from joining the security sector.

SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT AN API SYSTEM

In close collaboration with the Transnational Threats Department, the Mission organized national training workshops on implementing the country's API system and enhancing the legislative framework to authorize law enforcement to process passenger data at airports while fully respecting citizens' right to privacy. They also worked with government agencies to draft a National Border Community Security Programme in order to tackle organized crime and terrorist threats with a focus on foreign terrorist fighters and to provide capacity-building training for airport law enforcement personnel. This programme activity was the first of its kind in the Western Balkans. In addition, the Transnational Threats Department and the Mission trained border and customs officers on how to detect forged documents and imposters.

SUPPORT FOR THE MEDIA

The Mission supported media self-regulatory bodies in developing the first guidelines to moderate users' comments on online portals in the Western Balkans. They establish rules and ethical standards to combat hate speech and intolerance on the Internet.

The Mission, together with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, provided legal opinions on the draft

laws on Media and the National Service Broadcaster Radio Televizija Crne Gore to the Ministry of Culture.

The Mission trained journalists on use of cameras and mobile phones for recording and editing footage for immediate release while maintaining high professional and technical quality.

The Mission, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the South East Europe Media Association, organized a regional conference to discuss media business models, best practices and success stories and created a platform for ongoing discussion to help media outlets achieve sustainability.

COMBATING ILLICIT CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING IN CULTURAL PROPERTY IN MONTENEGRO

The Mission, with the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and in co-ordination with the Transnational Threats Department and the Ministry of Culture, held a workshop on combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property to highlight the international legal framework and best practices in criminal justice responses. International co-operation and information exchange, as well as monitoring and protecting archaeological sites and control procedures in museums were identified as crucial prevention strategies.



Participants in an OSCE workshop on combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property visiting the Maritime Museum in Kotor, Montenegro, 4 October 2018. (OSCE/Marina Živaljević)

Mission to Serbia

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Andrea Orizio**

Budget: €6,238,000 (Unified budget), €1,244,656 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 21 international, 117 local (including 14 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/mission-to-serbia

In 2018, the Mission worked in partnership with Serbia's institutions, media and civil society to foster local ownership of a rules-based democratic system accountable to its citizens. To assist Serbia on its ambitious reform path, the Mission helped strengthen the rule of law, consolidate security sector reform, increase media freedom and professionalism, fight organized crime and corruption, and promote the integration of national minorities. The Mission delivered its programmes in a cross-dimensional way, while focusing on youth and regional connectivity.

STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

As Serbia strives to enhance the separation of powers through constitutional reform, the Mission has been promoting a transparent and inclusive national debate on amendments to the Constitution pertaining to the judiciary. Bringing together government representatives, judicial and prosecutorial associations, legal practitioners, academics and civil society, the Mission facilitated a series of public debates on the composition and jurisdiction of the judicial and prosecutorial councils, disciplinary and dismissal proceedings against judges, entry into a judicial career, and autonomy in the selection of prosecutors.

INVESTING IN YOUTH EDUCATION

The Mission fosters civic education and inclusion of young people in the regional peace and security agenda. It promotes intercultural dialogue and a rule-of-law culture among young people, including those from Serbia's national minorities.

PROMOTING REGIONAL CO-OPERATION OF WOMEN

With Mission support, a local civil society organization Impuls gathered women activists from the region to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security at the local level. Impuls organized

"Education is the beginning of young people's lifelong commitment to democracy and their joint responsibility for their country's future."

Ambassador Andrea Orizio
Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia

20 lectures on human security, workshops with migrant women, and inter-sector meetings on domestic violence, also reaching out to women in rural areas.

FOSTERING MEDIA FREEDOM, PROFESSIONALISM AND JOURNALISTIC ETHICS

Upon the government's invitation, the Mission facilitated the development of a new Media Strategy in an inclusive and transparent process involving journalists' and media organizations, state institutions, civil society and academia. The Mission organized training on the protection of journalists for media professionals, prosecutors and the police, and provided expert support to the Working Group for the Safety of Journalists. Jointly with the Press Council, the Mission delivered custom-made training for local media outlets to strengthen their accountability, professionalism and ethics. The Mission also invested in media literacy, providing accredited seminars to 300 teachers across Serbia and working on integrating media literacy in school curricula.



The Head of Mission launches the second phase of a risky behaviour prevention project "To success together!", Novi Sad, Serbia, 25 October 2018. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



Participants at the "Safe and Free" event, Tutin, Serbia, 3 August 2018. (OSCE/Asmir Hot)



The Head of Mission and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media discuss the media environment with Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić, 11 April 2018. (OSCE/Milan Obradović)

COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME, CORRUPTION AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Mission enhanced the capacities of the police, prosecutors and the judiciary to combat transnational, organized and serious crime, including cybercrime, online money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as trafficking in human beings, weapons and drugs. To increase the efficiency of transnational investigations, the Mission organized specialized training and facilitated data exchange within the network of 11 organized-crime prosecutors from the region and Europe. The Mission also enhanced the capacities of the newly established intersectoral Anti-Fraud Co-ordination Service of the Ministry of Finance and the new Anti-Corruption Unit within the Ministry of Interior, as well as the latter's Asset Recovery Office.

INNOVATIVE PRISONER REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

The Mission worked with the Serbian Prison Service on an innovative rehabilitation programme that reduces the risk of reoffending and violence and increases the offenders' future employability. The programme started at the Sremska Mitrovica Correctional Institution, where inmates are now rehabilitated by running a stray-dog shelter and preparing dogs for adoption. It will be further cascaded to other correctional facilities.

MILESTONES IN MISSION SUPPORT TO NATIONAL MINORITIES

In November 2018, 22 national minorities in Serbia elected their National Minority Councils for a four-year mandate. In the run-up to the elections, the Mission assisted Serbia's institutions in training 400 municipal officials across the country in administering the special voters' registry. Jointly with civil society, the Mission reached out to communities to inform them about the voting process.

The multi-year cycle of Mission support to enhance the legal framework on national minorities was concluded in June 2018 when amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities and the Law on National Minority Councils were adopted following the Mission-supported revision and public consultations with national minorities country-wide.

As of the 2018/2019 school year, the new curriculum for the school subject Serbian as non-mother tongue, developed with Mission support, was adopted and introduced in schools attended by pupils from national minorities, to support their integration and equal opportunities.



Serbian police officers during training on threats to information security in operational systems, held at the Voronezh Institute of High Technologies in the Russian Federation, 12 November 2018. (OSCE/Veacheslav Balan)

"The OSCE's support enabled us to earn credibility in the local community and to initiate and keep in focus the discussion on domestic violence and gender equality. It also helped us empower migrant women to become visible, active and regain their dignity."

Dženeta Agović
Director of CSO Impuls from Tutin,
OSCE Mission to Serbia's Person of the Year 2017



Journalists Zoran Panović from Serbia and Mustafa Nano from Albania expand their journalistic exchange, facilitated by the Mission, to foster positive narratives and mutual understanding between their two societies, Belgrade, December 2017. (OSCE/Milan Obradović)



As part of the Mission-supported innovative rehabilitation programme, inmates of the Sremska Mitrovica Correctional Institution undergo certified training on basic dog healthcare. The programme was featured in a documentary "Command: Love" directed by Marina Kovačević, 14 December 2018. (Marina Kovačević)

Mission to Skopje

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Clemens Koja**

Budget: €6,483,400 (Unified budget), €414,379 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 40 international, 114 local (including six under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/skopje

In 2018, the OSCE Mission to Skopje focused on supporting the government's ambitious reform agenda, implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, advancing inter-ethnic relations, and providing early warning on security-related developments.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

The Mission assisted the Ministry of Justice in implementing its National Judicial Reform Strategy, participating in the preparation of amendments to the Laws on Courts and on the State Judicial Council. The Mission supported transparency of the justice system by helping equip the Skopje criminal court's media center and develop a communications strategy. The Mission also trained over 100 judges and prosecutors on criminal procedure.

FOSTERING MEDIA FREEDOM AND STRENGTHENING THE PARLIAMENT

Responding to changes in the country, the Mission re-engaged in media activities after a break of almost a decade and started work to strengthen the parliament, including its ability to provide meaningful oversight over the executive. To help improve media sustainability and the safety of journalists, the Mission worked with journalist associations and media outlets to exchange best practices on innovative business models and produced a guidebook on journalists' safety together with the Association of Journalists and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

EARLY WARNING

Early warning is an integral component of the Mission's mandate. Mission staff from Tetovo and Skopje engaged

"The Mission helped us establish the Anti-Discrimination Co-ordinative Body, the first formal body comprising both state institutions and civil society."

Mila Carovska

Minister of Labour and Social Policy



Municipal councillors learn about engagement with constituents and building trust in ethnically mixed municipalities, Veles, 17 October 2018. (OSCE/Sasa Gavric)



The Mission presents international best practices in the management of large movements of migrants and refugees to military attachés at the Vinojug Transit Centre, Gevgelija, 17 April 2018. (OSCE/Idriz Ibrahimij)



Engineers and representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs check the possibility of installing microwave dishes for data transmission on a mast in the village of Polchishte in the municipality of Prilep, 18 July 2018. (OSCE/Gabor Kemeny)



Police officers from Skopje learn about policing in multi-ethnic societies and how best to deal with multicultural issues. These workshops, held in Struga throughout 2018, targeted police from across the country. (OSCE/Sergey Sidorov)

with interlocutors at all levels of society to monitor potential sources of tension, particularly in inter-ethnic relations. The Mission also monitored protests and rallies across the country.

TRIAL MONITORING

The Mission monitored 14 high-profile trials with the potential to affect the security situation, attending almost 300 court hearings, including inter-ethnic cases and 20 cases of corruption and abuse of office brought by the Special Prosecutor's Office (SPO). To strengthen the institution's effectiveness, the Mission published an interim report on SPO cases, providing recommendations to the SPO, the judiciary, the parliament and the government.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE POLICE

The Mission facilitated the establishment of four joint working groups with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to professionalize the police and other law enforcement agencies. In the area of democratic policing, the Mission trained more than 100 police officers across the country on police-public partnership, victim care, gender

equality, transparency and accountability in a multi-ethnic environment. The Mission trained 140 officers to better respond to cases of gender-based and domestic violence.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM

In 2018, the Mission supported the government in drafting and implementing national strategies and action plans for countering violent extremism and terrorism. The Mission worked with secondary-school staff, students, and youth to increase awareness and promote early detection of violent extremism and radicalization, and with religious leaders and the police to increase co-operation on preventing violent extremism.

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION

The Mission sought to promote inclusive education that fosters interaction and mutual understanding in the spirit of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. At the grass-roots level, the Mission supported inter-ethnic activities in schools through the Building Bridges Project. The Mission also continued to support the Regional Youth Co-operation Office and its initiatives, local youth councils, and the Agency for Youth and Sport.

EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

To increase the political participation of persons with disabilities, the Mission:

- analysed the political participation of persons with disabilities in the country;
- organized two debates on the political participation of persons with disabilities for more than 120 representatives of disabled-people's organizations, institutions and members of parliament;
- organized two training courses on discrimination on the grounds of disability in the area of political participation for 30 representatives;
- supported regional exchanges on the subject for representatives from disabled-people's organizations in the OSCE area, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament; and
- supported the Commission for Protection from Discrimination in preparing a sign-language and easy-to-read video on its powers and competencies.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission worked closely with national and local authorities and agencies, political parties, civil society organizations, religious communities, media associations, diplomatic missions and international organizations. The Mission also co-operated closely with OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe, ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities in organizing joint conferences and thematic events. Furthermore, the Mission signed memoranda of understanding (MoU) outlining planned joint activities with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and Ministry of Information Society and Administration, as well as the Association of Journalists, the Agency for Community Rights Realization, the Agency for Youth and Sports and the State Election Commission, and it prepared an MoU with the parliament.

Mission to Moldova

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Michael Scanlan** (until August 2018) and **Claus Neukirch** (from September 2018)
Budget: €2,263,900 (Unified budget), €168,745 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)
Staff: 13 international, 39 local
www.osce.org/mission-to-moldova

In 2018, the Transdniestrian settlement process facilitated by the OSCE Mission to Moldova saw remarkable progress. The local ownership, leadership and political will demonstrated by Chisinau and Tiraspol made it possible to find practical solutions to a number of issues that had not been addressed in decades. These solutions have improved the day-to-day life of students, teachers, farmers and entrepreneurs on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River. The structure of the six agreements in the "package of eight" that have been signed and implemented since November 2017 contains a formula for a final settlement in line with the parameters endorsed by all 57 OSCE participating States: the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for Transdniestria within Moldova. The progress achieved in 2018 was also a result of close co-operation between the Mission, consecutive OSCE Chairmanships and the co-mediators and observers in the 5+2 negotiation process.

SETTLEMENT PROGRESS ADVANCES AT ALL LEVELS

In addition to the opening of the Gura Bicului-Bychok Bridge, the Sides implemented agreements in the fields of transportation, education and access to private property. The constructive approach and dedication of the two chief negotiators and experts that make up the 13 working groups, as well as the personal engagement of the Moldovan and Transdniestrian leadership, ensured continued progress and ownership of the process.

As of 1 September 2018, vehicles from Transdniestria are being issued internationally recognized Moldovan neutral-design licence plates by two new offices in Transdniestria, staffed jointly by officials from Moldova and Transdniestria. With these licence plates and an "MD" sticker on the back, vehicles from Transdniestria can drive on international roads. By the end of the year, 1,759 neutral-design licence plates had been issued, and online registration for appointments at the Joint Vehicle Registration Offices is fully booked until September 2019.

Eight Latin-script schools in Transdniestria, with over 1,500 pupils, now operate with symbolic rent and utilities costs, guaranteed freedom of movement for students and teachers to and from the schools and unhindered delivery of goods. Since April 2018, the new mechanism for the apostilization of Transdniestrian university diplomas by Moldova has enabled over 200 students from Transdniestria to study abroad. As a result of the agreement between the Sides to reinstate a mechanism that was in place between 2006 and 2014, Moldovan farmers regained unconditional access to their lands in the Transdniestrian Dubasari district.

These developments were welcomed in the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council statement adopted on 7 December 2018. The 57 OSCE participating States commended the Sides for the major achievements on the four agreements

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS

In 2018, the Sides implemented agreements related to:

- the use of vehicles from Transdniestria on international roads;
 - the functioning of Latin-script schools in Transdniestria;
 - the apostilization of Transdniestrian university diplomas;
 - access on the part of Moldovan farmers to their farmlands on Transdniestrian-controlled territory;
 - and the establishment of a legal framework for the implementation of a telecommunications agreement.
- The Sides also launched two working sub-groups on banking and human rights.



Franco Frattini, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, hands over the first Moldovan neutral-design licence plates at a Vehicle Registration Office in Tiraspol on 10 September 2018. (OSCE/Igor Schimbator)



Lucian Blaga Lyceum in Tiraspol is one of eight Latin-script schools in Transnistria that benefited from agreements implemented by Chisinau and Tiraspol in 2018 in the framework of the settlement process. (OSCE/Liubomir Turcanu)

reached since 2017 and for the substantial progress made in the implementation of a telecommunications agreement.

In addition to these successes, discussions in the framework of the expert working groups moved beyond the “package of eight” in 2018 to include areas such as banking, phytosanitary certification, human rights and civil-status documents. The Sides have also drafted agreements on the return of children without parental care into the extended family in difficult life situations and co-operation in emergency situations. The Mission’s Human Rights Programme provides key expertise to the Sides on the issues discussed within the working groups.



Between 2016 and 2018, the chief negotiators from Chisinau and Tiraspol signed agreements from the “package of eight” on issues identified as priorities by the Sides and led the process of implementing them. (OSCE/Iurie Foca)

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

The Mission continued supporting Moldova’s efforts to fulfil its commitments to uphold human rights and promote tolerance and inclusivity, which are important confidence building measures for the settlement process.

The Mission’s Human Rights Program promoted national minority issues, including measures to ensure the affirmation of the autonomy of Gagauzia as a way of promoting good governance throughout Moldova. In 2018, the Mission facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding among the state actors involved in the implementation of the National Strategy for Consolidation of Interethnic Relations for 2017–2027, which was developed with the joint support of the Mission and the OSCE HCNM. Program activities supported the development of an optional school course on the Holocaust in a local context and efforts aimed at establishing the Jewish History Museum in Chisinau. Both actions are foreseen in the Moldovan Holocaust Action Plan.

To bring the Sides closer in efforts to resolve shared priority issues, the Program organized no fewer than 75 capacity-building initiatives on human rights, including on gender equality and human trafficking on both banks of the Dniestr/ Nistru River.

SECURITY ZONE

In 2018, the Mission, in keeping with its mandate and the 2004 Agreement on the Principles of Co-operation between the Mission and the Joint Control Commission (JCC), continued to gather information on the situation in the Security Zone. The Mission’s observations were shared with all the delegations to the JCC and all OSCE participating States, including the host country.

Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Chief Monitor: **Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan**

Budget: €100,945,000 for the mandate period of 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 (€84,793,800 from assessed contributions and €16,151,200 from extrabudgetary contributions). Extrabudgetary expenditure as of 31 December 2018: €6,112,164

Staff: 1,311 (892 international, 419 local), including 777 monitors as of 31 December 2018

www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine was deployed in March 2014 and is currently the OSCE's largest field operations. The Mission establishes facts and gathers information and reports on the security situation across Ukraine, monitors and supports respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and facilitates dialogue. With over 1,300 staff members throughout the country, the SMM aims to contribute to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability and security throughout Ukraine.

MONITORING, VERIFICATION AND FACILITATION

In eastern Ukraine, the Mission monitored the adherence to the ceasefire. In 2018, the SMM observed a 22 per cent decrease in ceasefire violations in comparison with the previous year. However a sustained and comprehensive ceasefire has not been reached

The Mission continued to support and facilitate the implementation of the Minsk agreements. To that end,

monitoring and reporting of compliance with the aspects of the ceasefire, including the withdrawal of weapons, the disengagement of forces and hardware, as well as relevant mine action activities, continued to form an important part of the SMM's activities.

The SMM continued to monitor the disengagement areas and monitor and verify the withdrawal of heavy weapons. In the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, the Mission observed an increase in the



An SMM monitor talks to a civilian in Donetsk region. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

“Sometime in early June, they told us the town would be out of water over the weekend because the Donetsk filtration station had been shut down. No running water in June, when it is +30 degrees outside, seemed like a nightmare about to happen. Then, Monday came, and the water was still running. It actually kept running throughout the entire summer. Only a few weeks ago, I learned that back in June it was the OSCE that pushed everybody to reach an agreement allowing the water station to get back up and running before Yasynuvata exhausted its water reserves.”

Rita, 24
Yasynuvata



Civilians crossing the contact line at the Stanytsia Luhanska entry-exit checkpoint, Luhansk region. (OSCE/Viktor Konopkin)



An SMM gender officer conducting an outreach event in support of the global "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign. (OSCE/Viktor Konopkin)

number of ceasefire violations, in addition to closer positions in Zolote. Compared with the previous year, the SMM also observed an increase in weapons in violation of withdrawal lines, some of which were observed in or near populated areas and critical civilian infrastructure sites.

The Mission's efforts to monitor continued to be hindered as it faced repeated restrictions to its freedom of movement and other impediments to the implementation of its mandate, predominantly in non-government-controlled areas, including areas of southern Donetsk region and near the border with the Russian Federation. The use of remote observation means, such as cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), including long-range UAVs, as a supplement to the physical presence of SMM patrols, has allowed the Mission to partially mitigate this and other impediments to monitoring. An SMM long-range UAV crashed in late October, most likely due to an impact, as it was observing a convoy of trucks near the border with the Russian Federation.

The SMM continued monitoring on land any possible effects on the socio-economic situation and potential security implications in relation to reported developments at the Sea of Azov. Following the November incidents at sea involving detention of vessels and sailors, the Chief Monitor called for restraint by the parties involved.

Non-compliance with commitments to fully cease fire, withdraw weapons and complete demining activities has resulted in civilians losing their lives and being injured, and facing hardship. While the number of civilian casualties decreased compared with last year, the Mission nonetheless corroborated 236 casualties in 2018 (43 fatalities and 193 injured). Eighty-six civilian casualties were a result of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other explosive devices in 2018 (23 fatalities and 63 injuries).

During the past year, the Mission deployed over 3,200 patrols on more than 1,200 occasions to monitor SMM-facilitated localized adherence to the ceasefire (so-called windows of silence) which enabled about 100 infrastructure repair projects to be carried out and the provision of electricity, water, gas and mobile communications to thousands of civilians on both sides of the contact line. One of those repair works, on the South Donbas water pipeline, ensured access to clean drinking water for 1.2 million people. In December, the Mission issued a thematic report

on SMM facilitation and monitoring of infrastructure repair in eastern Ukraine for the period from January 2017 to August 2018.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES ELSEWHERE IN UKRAINE

In line with its mandate, the Mission continued to monitor throughout Ukraine, including developments concerning the Roma community and monitored public gatherings in Kyiv, Lviv, Odessa and other cities. Following reports of an incident at the Hungarian Cultural Centre in Uzhhorod, in February 2018, the SMM intensified its patrolling in the area through overlapping patrols by the Ivano-Frankivsk monitoring team.

Relevant facts established by the monitoring officers throughout Ukraine were included in 381 public reports produced by the SMM in 2018.

SUPPORT FOR ONGOING MEDIATION EFFORTS

At meetings of the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk, the Chief Monitor, in his capacity as co-ordinator of the working group on security issues, called for the protection of civilians and the reduction of tension. Specific measures

LONG-RANGE UNMANNED VEHICLES

To augment and complement its monitoring activities and to overcome impediments and restrictions to monitoring in eastern Ukraine, the Mission reintroduced the use of long-range UAVs on 28 March 2018.



Launch of an SMM long-range UAV near Kostiantynivka in Donetsk region. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

“As a parent, you always worry about your children, no matter where you live, no matter how old they are. Now imagine raising two boys, aged 7 and 11, in a conflict area ... There are so many dangers out there. I’m aware of them but don’t really know how to explain them to my children. Things like mines and UXO are not uncommon around here, but you need an expert to find the right words to explain to children why a piece of metal they find in a forest can kill them. Last week, the OSCE sent such experts to my sons’ school, and this might have been the most important and necessary lesson they had this year.”

Ihor, 43
Popasna

to strengthen the ceasefire and initiatives related to mine action, disengagement of forces and hardware, and the withdrawal of heavy weapons from areas specified in the Minsk agreements were discussed on a regular basis.

The Chief Monitor made repeated public statements calling for full adherence to the ceasefire. In his address to the United Nations Security Council in May, the Chief Monitor highlighted the concerns of, and humanitarian challenges facing, civilians living near the contact line.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

In 2018, the Mission’s public outreach focused primarily on generating awareness of the Mission’s activities and encouraging and facilitating public engagement in, and support for, inclusive conflict resolution. This included over 100 outreach events, including mine awareness, press statements, opinion pieces, videos, slide shows, articles and an active social media presence. As public awareness of the Mission’s activities increases, misconceptions about the nature of the Mission are dispelled, trust is enhanced,

and OSCE core values are promoted. The Mission, through its support for public campaigns such as “Letters of Peace”, “Facts Matter” and “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”, also supported dialogue between civilians on both sides of the contact line and encouraged civic engagement in contributing to conflict resolution.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Consistent with the Mission’s commitment to gender equality, the SMM adopted a gender-equality action plan in 2018 that promotes a positive working environment. A significant increase in the hiring of female monitoring officers and senior managers already materialized during this time frame. With greater internal diversity, the Mission is better equipped to monitor and report on the diverse communities in which it operates. This has improved the SMM’s ability to highlight under-reported voices and build bridges between communities across the contact line. The Mission’s thematic report on gender dimensions of monitoring highlighted achievements and the potential for further activities in this regard.

“LETTERS OF PEACE”

In the framework of “Letters of Peace” – the Mission’s new outreach initiative – SMM monitoring officers delivered hundreds of letters from and to civilians across the contact line to foster dialogue and understanding. People throughout Ukraine warmly received the letters, conveying season’s greetings and words of support, from complete strangers who live on the other side of the contact line.



An OSCE SMM staff member (r) delivers a “letter of peace” to a resident of Mineralne, Donetsk region. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

2018 OSCE SMM activities in figures



Number of patrols conducted



28,078



Number of UAV flight-hours
(including long-range UAV flights)



2,723



Number of reports published



381



Number of infrastructure sites the SMM facilitated repairs maintenance to



94

Number of beneficiaries of SMM-facilitated infrastructure repairs/maintenance:



Water:
around

4,5mil



Electricity:
around

1,9mil



Mobile communication:
around

2,2mil



Number of people reached through public outreach



12,000

beneficiaries in
Donetsk and
Luhansk regions

Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Vaidotas Verba** (until 30 September 2018) and **Ambassador Henrik Villadsen** (from November 2018)
Budget: €3,598,800 (Unified budget), €2,193,495 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)
Staff: 3 international, 84 local (including 37 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/project-coordinator-in-ukraine

To better implement its mandate in helping Ukraine meet its OSCE commitments, the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) developed a three-year strategic plan with specific targets set across the three OSCE dimensions. The goals are matched by planned and pursued efforts to help the country address crisis-related challenges and implement reforms by facilitating dialogue among key stakeholders.

SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO EXPLOSIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

Ukraine's Mine Action Law was adopted by the Parliament in December, establishing a framework for humanitarian demining and distributing responsibilities among state institutions, including the establishment of a mine-action centre. In addition, National Mine Action Standards were finalized in 2018 and are expected to be issued in 2019. Ukraine's standards are based on International Mine Action Standards and adapted for conditions in the country. They establish requirements for all aspects of mine action, including information management, equipment, personnel, survey and clearance, quality control and risk education. The Project Co-ordinator provided international expertise and facilitated dialogues among agencies and with mine-affected communities that ensured all voices were heard.

Following an assessment of conflict-related environmental risks in eastern Ukraine conducted in 2017 and presented in 2018, the Co-ordinator focused his efforts on establishing a system of monitoring that would enable the government and citizens to better understand risks. To help track the quality of surface and ground water in the Siverskyi Donets basin, a

major source of drinking water for several million people, the Co-ordinator conducted a comprehensive chemical analysis of samples drawn from throughout the basin. The analysis, the most comprehensive in the country's history, will serve as a baseline for continuous water quality monitoring. The Co-ordinator also provided laboratory equipment to the Siverskyi Donets Basin Administration of Water Resources, developed software for information exchange with the Ministry of Economy and Natural Resources and trained personnel to use the monitoring system.

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

With new legislation passed in early 2018 and all types of domestic violence criminalized as of January 2019, the Co-ordinator assisted authorities in preparing an enhanced law enforcement response in this sphere. Three internal instructions were prepared and adopted by the authorities to protect survivors, including an emergency restrictive order used by the police to limit suspects' communication with victims. The Co-ordinator trained 300 operators and police dispatchers from the 102 emergency hotline to better handle domestic-violence calls. To support the Ministry of Interior's introduction of multidisciplinary response teams, called POLINA, the Co-ordinator trained the first 150 members of such units in eight regions and will continue to support this initiative in 2019. An interactive training room was equipped for the Patrol Police Academy in Kyiv, and a domestic-violence course was handed over to be a part of the Academy's curriculum for teaching new recruits. Separately, 180 social workers and psychologists in seven regions received training on the implementation of corrective programmes for perpetrators of violence.

As crisis situations exacerbate the risk of gender-based violence, the Co-ordinator worked to improve awareness among key stakeholders. It produced two manuals titled *Women. Peace. Security* for use in the professional retraining of social-service providers and security sector professionals. The Co-ordinator also conducted seminars for 125 psychologists on psychological assistance to conflict-affected people.

The Co-ordinator supported the implementation of the Ministry of Interior's equality policies by training its gender focal points and organizing an experience exchange forum



Participants at a PCU-supported dialogue on mine-action priorities between security agencies and the local population in Mariupol in eastern Ukraine. (OSCE/Yevhen Maloletka)



OSCE-commissioned experts take water samples in conflict-affected areas to assess pollution levels resulting from armed hostilities. (OSCE/Maksym Levin)

for women in law enforcement. The Co-ordinator and the Ministry of Defence agreed that, together with the rights of military personnel and interaction with civil society, gender equality would be one of three components of a roadmap for the Ministry to strengthen democratic control of the armed forces. In addition, 150 senior and mid-ranking officers were introduced to principles of gender equality at six workshops and roundtables. Also, in co-operation with the Supreme Court of Ukraine, the Co-ordinator helped launch gender focal points in courts, where they are expected to act as change agents for fostering gender-sensitive practices in the judiciary. Eighteen judges were trained to fulfil that role.

PROMOTING E-SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE

Ukraine has been demonstrating a high rate of e-governance implementation, as demonstrated by the United Nations E-Government Survey. As the institutional capacity to continue with digitalization policies is in place, the Co-ordinator has started phasing out its multi-year efforts in assisting the country in digitalizing administrative services for the prevention of corruption and for providing better service to the people. In 2018, the Co-ordinator identified key macroeconomic factors that will impact the further development of the digital economy, and relevant recommendations were handed over to the government. E-solutions introduced with the Co-ordinator's support at the national level in the spheres of construction, land management and industrial-waste permits are continuously being modernized by the government and are increasingly being used by Ukrainians.

E-SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE

Services introduced with OSCE support as of November 1, 2018

Construction

- More than 6,500 online declarations on the start of construction submitted.
- More than 1,000 digital declarations on completion of construction submitted.

Land management

- More than 450,000 digital certificates of land plot registration issued.
- More than 10,000,000 online requests on beneficial ownership submitted.
- More than 170,000 digital notes on valuation of land plots issued.

Environmental protection

- More than 15,000 online declarations on waste generation submitted.



Ukrainian police officers at a domestic-violence simulation exercise organized by the PCU. (OSCE/Yevhen Maloletka)

Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

Chief Observer: **Ambassador György Varga**

Budget: €1,404,400 (for the period 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019)

Staff: 21 observers, two Vienna-based staff (Chief of Fund Administration and Administrative/Finance Assistant)

www.osce.org/observer-mission-at-russian-checkpoints-gukovo-and-donetsk

In 2018, the Observer Mission continued to ensure an uninterrupted presence at the two Russian checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency. Through its regular reports, the Mission continued to contribute to the OSCE's efforts in dealing with the crisis in and around Ukraine, providing the Chairmanship and the participating States with unique and reliable information on the situation at these two checkpoints, as well as on movement across the border at two checkpoints. These reports are available online in English and Russian. The Mission also issued 12 spot reports concerning Russian convoys bound for Ukraine. The OSCE Permanent Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission until 31 May 2019. As of 2018, following a decision of the Permanent Council, the usual duration of the mandate of the Mission was extended to four months instead of three.

CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE MEDIA

The Observer Mission continued to strengthen its working relationship with the authorities present at both border checkpoints, as well as with the Rostov Regional Administration and the Rostov representative office of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation, and with local authorities in Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy, including the mayor and representatives of the security and safety services.

On 16 May, a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, accompanied by representatives of the regional authorities, visited the OSCE observers at both checkpoints and the main office in Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy. The Chief Observer visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation three times during the reporting period to discuss mission-related issues at governmental level.



A group of observers in Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy, September 2018. (OSCE/Dragoslav Milenković)



A border observer preparing to leave for a daily 24-hour shift at the border crossing points Gukovo and Donetsk, Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, 2 February 2018. (OSCE/Suzana Asenova)

BORDER CROSSING OBSERVATIONS IN 2018

- More than 3,653,300 people (data received from the host country's authorities)
- 2317 people in military-style outfits
- 18 funeral vans, included 1 van with "Cargo 200" inscription
- 73 ambulances and 39,088 trucks
- 12 Russian convoys

The Observer Mission also continued to co-operate with representatives from local and regional newspapers in order to help the local population better understand the Mission's mandate and the role of the OSCE in addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine.

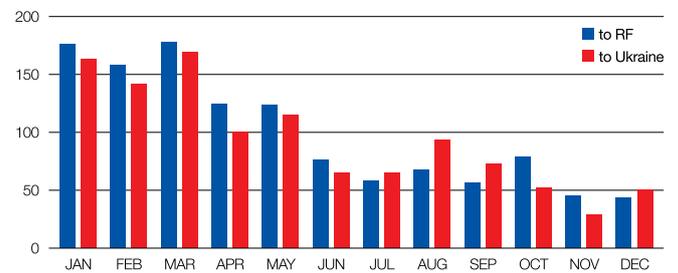
OBSERVATION TRENDS

In 2018, the Mission's observers noted a 43 per cent decrease in the number of people in military-style outfits crossing at the two checkpoints compared to 2017. The number of passenger cars and other vehicles crossing the border remained steady throughout the year. The average amount of cross-border movement by people increased slightly during the summer.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Observer Mission and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine regularly exchange information, primarily

Persons in military-style outfits



about the movement of trains in the vicinity of Gukovo and of Russian convoys crossing at the Donetsk border-crossing point.



A Russian Convoy crossing at the Donetsk BCP, 28 November 2018. (OSCE/Dmitriy Posledov)

Centre in Ashgabat

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Natalya Drozd**

Budget: €1,655,400 (Unified budget), €835,635 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 6 international, 19 local

www.osce.org/centre-in-ashgabat

In 2018, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat enhanced co-operation with the host government and civil society across the OSCE's three dimensions of security, focusing on border management, transnational threats, CSBMs, good governance, economic connectivity and environmental issues, as well as gender equality, human rights and media freedom.

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

Jointly with the Transnational Threats Department, the Centre initiated seminars on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and on CVERLT for representatives of law enforcement bodies, the Office of the Ombudsperson, civil society and the media. They also organized a national exercise on protecting critical energy infrastructure from cyber-related terrorist attacks for representatives from the energy sector and government institutions.

To prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, the Centre partnered with IOM and organized a workshop on how to set up an API system for representatives from all agencies involved in passenger processing in Turkmenistan. The OSCE Mobile Training Team delivered an interactive course on identifying foreign terrorist fighters for officers from Turkmenistan's border and migration services.

The Centre also trained law enforcement officials in seaport security management procedures and professional integrity and ethical standards.

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY BUILDING MEASURES

Throughout the year, the Centre actively supported the host government in implementing OSCE politico-military commitments. A study visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina

STRENGTHENING BORDER SERVICE CAPACITIES

Thanks to generous contributions from the Governments of Germany, Italy and Japan, the Centre tripled, compared with 2017, its number of activities under an extrabudgetary project called Strengthening Border Service Capacities in Turkmenistan. The Centre implemented 30 activities, including advanced border patrols, alpine and maritime training, and medical and canine training. Special equipment was donated to project beneficiaries upon completion of the training. Four joint Turkmen-Afghan workshops were held to address combating trafficking in cultural property, drugs and psychoactive substances, and enhance non-verbal communication and interagency co-operation on border security. A total of 423 border officials were trained, including 345 Turkmen, 51 Afghan and 23 Tajik officials, as well as two border officials each from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

exposed military officials to best practices in enhancing the security of ammunition stockpiles. The Centre provided assistance for the connection of the Ministry of Defence to the OSCE Communications Network and facilitated participation of arms control officials in OSCE events related to the Vienna Document 2011.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Centre supported a regional seminar on combating financing of terrorism (CFT) for experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Centre also provided expert support to the Ministry of Finance and Economy in drafting the first National Risk Assessment on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and CFT and in amending the country's AML/CFT by-laws in line with international standards.

ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY

The Centre organized an OSCE high-level international conference on good governance and economic connectivity, which was attended by 120 participants, including high-level officials and decision makers from 26 OSCE participating States and Afghanistan. The conference addressed enhancing regional co-



At a tree-planting event in the city of Dashoguz, located in the north-east of Turkmenistan, organized by the Aarhus Centre, November 2018. (OSCE)

Number of training participants

Countering transnational threats	183
Confidence- and security-building measures	130
Border management	423
Environmental protection	285
Economic activities	220
Human dimension	356
Media development	143
TOTAL	1740

operation, improving regional transit management and the modernization of economies. The outcomes of the conference included recommendations, developed by international experts, for improving economic good governance, facilitating trade and transport, modernizing economies and strengthening public-private partnerships in energy infrastructure and sustainable transportation projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The Centre organized a seminar on the development of national environmental legislation for relevant ministries, parliament and public organizations. The Aarhus Centre drafted the Law on Environmental Awareness Raising and provided recommendations for the draft Law on Environmental Auditing.

ENERGY SECURITY AND RENEWABLES

The Centre supported the Mary State Energy Institute in developing a road map on solar energy by providing expert advice and facilitating field visits to OSCE participating States to share international standards and technologies in alternative energy projects. The Centre further organized risk management training courses to increase the capacity of Turkmenistan to protect energy infrastructure from natural hazards and to promote energy security.

SUPPORT FOR THE OMBUDSPERSON

The Centre continued supporting the Office of Turkmenistan's Ombudsperson and organized a study visit for her to Armenia, where she shared experiences with the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

The Centre facilitated a visit by the OSCE HCNM, who met with Turkmenistan's President and other high-level officials, moderated a roundtable discussion on the Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies and delivered a lecture for students on the institution's activities, and also visited the country's north-eastern region of Dashoguz,

WOMEN IN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENTS

The role of women in security and development processes was the focus of a lecture series delivered by Swanee Hunt, the Eleanor Roosevelt Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the United States, for international relations students and seminars for representatives of state institutions, civil society and the media.



Swanee Hunt from the Harvard Kennedy School with students during an OSCE-organized lecture, Ashgabat, 4 December 2018. (OSCE)

which borders Uzbekistan. The HCNM and the Centre also supported the implementation of Turkmenistan's 2016-2020 National Human Rights Action Plan with an event on mechanisms for consultation with national minorities.

Lectures on international human rights standards during criminal proceedings and domestic violence were held for students from the Institute of the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry's Institute of International Relations.

The Centre continued co-operation with the Keik Okara public organization, an assistance centre for victims of domestic violence, and facilitated awareness-raising seminars for high school students. Jointly with Kek Okara and Yenme, the Centre hosted an awareness-raising event in Ashgabat to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Following the adoption of the Law of Turkmenistan on Television and Radio Broadcasting, the Centre continued to support the country's transition to new broadcasting models with a seminar in Ashgabat and a study visit to Germany for representatives of Turkmenistan's State Committee for Television, Radio and Cinematography, and other relevant institutions.

To continue support for the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2016-2020, the Centre organized a train-the-trainers course on journalists' rights and duties for judges, lawyers and media representatives, as well as a seminar on freedom of expression for journalism instructors, journalists and officials from relevant institutions.

Thirty journalists and journalism instructors attended a summer school for young reporters, and 30 journalism students at the Foreign Ministry's Institute of International Relations participated in a course on diplomatic work with the media.

Programme Office in Astana

Head of Office: **Ambassador György Szabó**
Budget: €2,225,500 (Unified budget)
Staff: 6 international, 22 local
www.osce.org/astana

In 2018, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana marked the 20th year of its presence in Astana. It continued its productive co-operation with institutions from government, civil society, academia, the private sector and the international community to promote security in Kazakhstan and the Central Asia region. It forged dynamic new relationships with key partners in P/CVERLT. The Office worked to promote sustainable economic growth and the green economy, as well as to help Kazakhstan attract foreign investment. It supported Kazakhstan's efforts in helping victims of human trafficking, promoting judicial and penitentiary reform and working to prevent torture. The Office actively engaged young people and scholars in regional security dialogue. In total, the Office implemented 153 events in all three security dimensions with over 7,200 participants nationwide.

TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

In supporting the country's efforts to combat VERLT, the Office worked with civil society, young women and men, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies in developing a comprehensive strategy that incorporates best practices shared by other participating States. In total, the Office supported 14 events involving 400 high-level government officials, judges, law enforcement officers, border guards and prosecutors with a focus on combating transnational threats. Law enforcement officers from across the country were trained in human-rights complaint strategies to combat transnational organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime and trafficking in drugs and to enhance border security. Digital security and media literacy were the focus of the ninth Central Asian Internet Forum, which brought some 120 practitioners and experts from the region and beyond to Almaty. In 2018, the Office supported regional seminars on confidence- and security building measures under the Vienna Document 2011 and on the management of explosive ordnance, including improvised explosive devices, together with the OSCE Program Office in Dushanbe.

GREEN ECONOMY

Some 800 government, business and civil society representatives participated in events supporting the green economy and projects focused on sustainable water practices, organic agriculture and the Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Espoo Convention Protocol. The Office promoted the Aarhus Convention by supporting training for judges, a seminar on environmental monitoring and a countrywide meeting of Aarhus Centre.

COMBATING CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING

The Office promoted Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism training and special courses on asset recovery by working with over 950 public servants, members of law enforcement and the private sector. It organized training seminars on asset recovery, risk-based analysis and a training-of-trainers course. The Office held the Second Congress of Civil Initiatives against Corruption with over 200 participants and actively promoted the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multilateral initiative through which civil society



More than 150 high-level officials and representatives of civil society gathered for the Conference on the 20th Anniversary of the OSCE Presence in Kazakhstan, Astana, 11 October 2018. (OSCE/Colin McCullough)



Police Academy instructors take part in a group exercise during a training-of-trainers event, Karaganda, 12 December 2018. (OSCE/Mikhail Assafov)



Military and civilian officials conduct a simulated inspection visit of the 36th Air Assault Brigade during the 2011 Vienna Document seminar, Astana, 1 June 2018. (OSCE/Colin McCullough)

organizations and national governments develop a dialogue platform to advance transparency, accountability and civic engagement. Events were organized across the country, including a series of seminars and public discussions on how the OGP could promote efficiency and combat corruption.

JUSTICE REFORM

In support of the host country's initiative to support justice reform, the Office organized activities to promote best practices in criminal and administrative law by facilitating public and expert discussions for judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers on how to apply newly adopted codes and relevant laws. Some 780 judicial officials and civil society experts discussed issues such as the role of mediation and reconciliation as well as modernization of criminal procedure and the independence of the judiciary.

The Office hosted numerous events on combating trafficking in human beings, including the first week-long simulation exercise in Russian on how to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking, organized by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings with support from the Office in Astana. The Office supported seminars on mechanisms for

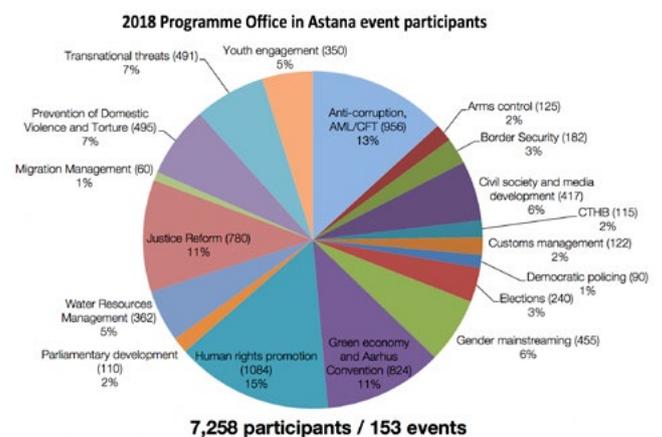
human rights protection, including the national preventive mechanism against torture for some 65 members of the national preventive mechanism. It continued its training seminars for over 100 police officers on handling trafficking in human beings and domestic violence cases. The Office worked with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan to develop an extrabudgetary proposal in line with the host country's plans for police and justice reform.

ENGAGING YOUTH

In line with the Italian Chairmanship's priority on fostering youth exchange and political participation of young people, the Office organized cross-dimensional activities that engaged over 300 young leaders throughout the region. The annual Central Asian Youth Network seminar for university students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia marked its 12th anniversary in Almaty with a conference called Innovating Central Asia; the Zhas (Youth) Camp, which was held in three cities, engaged over 200 participants; and the Central Asia Leadership Program supported young environmental experts from across Kazakhstan. All events were organized with support of the Office in Astana.



Staff from the OSCE Program Office participate in World Cleanup Day, Astana, 15 September 2018. (OSCE/Colin McCullough)



Programme Office in Bishkek

Head of Office: [Ambassador Pierre von Arx](#)

Budget: €6,797,400 (Unified budget) €304,773 (Extrabudgetary expenditure, including the OSCE Academy in Bishkek)

Staff: 13 international, 107 local

www.osce.org/programme-office-in-bishkek

During 2018, the Programme Office in Bishkek continued the implementation of programmatic activities in accordance with its mandate, reform priorities set out by the host country and in co-operation with partners from state institutions, international organizations and civil society. The Office focused on reform of the justice sector, implementation of election reform, continuing to build open and resilient societies, developing the country's regions, trade facilitation, strengthening efforts to combat corruption on all levels and countering terrorism and transnational threats such as human trafficking. New initiatives on promoting youth engagement and gender equality in the host country were also supported.

SUPPORTING INCREASED GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In 2017, Kyrgyzstan joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which provides for countries to advance inclusive and open reform processes. In 2018, the Office supported the government in establishing a national OGP Secretariat and developing a two-year National Action Plan within the OGP framework. The Action Plan was developed through a consultative multi-stakeholder process that involved active engagement of civil society. With the assistance of the Office and in line with OSCE commitments, the country elaborated a total of 18 goals related to reform processes covering health, education, public participation in lawmaking, procurement, elections and combating corruption.

ENSURING A GENDER-SENSITIVE APPROACH TO SECURITY

The Office assisted the host country to improve the interaction between law enforcement structures and local authorities in ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to security. Focusing on juvenile delinquency, the Office supported a workshop where members of the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector, as well as representatives of the Prosecutor-General's Office, the Ministry of Interior, the State Border Service and the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations discussed legislative amendments, shared their experience and prepared recommendations to be used by staff of the above-mentioned structures in their daily activities.

ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Enhancing environmental security remained one of the Office's main priorities. The Office, together with the OCEEA, organized the first Annual Aarhus Centres Meeting ever held outside Europe. The main focus of the Annual Meeting was the contribution of Aarhus Centres in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It enabled an exchange of experiences among Aarhus Centres, facilitated a discussion on capacity-building for resource mobilization and included a study visit to a clean-up campaign site supported by the local Aarhus Centre and the Finnish Water Institute.

PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VERLT

Throughout 2018, the Office supported a number of training activities for law enforcement personnel from multiple state structures and civil society representatives aimed at enhancing capacity and identifying new ways to address various aspects of radicalization.



Public officials, members of parliament, experts and civil society take part in a presentation of the OGP National Action Plan by Kyrgyz Prime Minister Muhammedkaly Abylgaziev, Bishkek, 23 October 2018. (OSCE/Chyngyz Zhanybek)



Members of the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector during a workshop focusing on juvenile delinquency, Issyk-Kul province, 16 October 2018. (OSCE/Guljamal Tokombaeva)

“Skills should be updated regularly to remain in step with new technologies” – member of the State Registration Service at the opening of the OSCE-supported capacity-building center for elections.



Participants in the Annual Aarhus Centres Meeting at Lake Issyk-Kul, where the meeting was held, during a study visit, Issyk-Kul province, 20 September 2018. (OSCE/Chyngyz Zhanybekov)



Members of various faiths planting trees in Molodezhny Park as part of an environmental awareness-raising campaign, Bishkek, 21 April 2018. (OSCE/Kunduz Rysbek Kyzy)

PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH DIGITALIZATION

In co-operation with the Ministry of Economy, the Office organized an international conference on promoting economic growth and sustainability through e-business and e-commerce with over 130 participants from the OSCE area. State officials, representatives of the private sector, international organizations, academia and civil society discussed harmonizing legal frameworks to facilitate cross-border trade and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

INTER-CONFESSIONAL DIALOGUE

As a secular state, Kyrgyzstan advances democratic principles in the sphere of religion or belief. The Office continued promoting international and national inter-confessional dialogue by assisting the State Commission on Religious Affairs in hosting platforms that bring together religious leaders from every province in the country, as well as supporting the organization of two high-level international conferences on the topic of Islam in a Modern Secular State with the aim of maintaining the established dialogue and enhancing values of tolerance, peaceful co-existence and freedom of religion or belief.

OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek is a well-known education and research institution that provides high-quality graduate education to young people from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. For the 2017/2018 academic year, the Academy received over 2,000 applications for two graduate programmes. Following a highly competitive selection process, 50 students were accepted. The Academy also hosted a number of events, including a summer school, specialized seminars and visits by guest lecturers.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Office further strengthened its co-operative network through collaboration with various UN agencies, other international organizations, state partners and OSCE field operations. These partnerships focused on border control, electoral reforms, gender issues, migration, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, environmental protection and regional co-operation.



The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic was published in Braille as part of an OSCE project supporting electoral rights of persons with disabilities, Bishkek, 20 May 2018. (OSCE/Kunduz Rysbek Kyzy)

Programme Office in Dushanbe

Head of Office: **Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä** (until September 2018)

Budget: €7,285,900 (Unified budget), €1,697,057 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 24 international, 154 local (including 31 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/programme-office-in-dushanbe

Throughout 2018, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe strengthened its engagement with the host country to support the implementation of OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of security. Border security, expanding economic opportunities, youth and women's political participation were at the core of the Office's work, through interventions such as the Network by Consensus youth initiative, the Model OSCE, a network of young Tajik gender champions and entrepreneurial Start-up Weekends. In the area of border security, the BMSC entered a new phase characterized by a more strategic focus on core offerings and continued attention paid to partnerships in Central Asia, Afghanistan and beyond.

BORDER MANAGEMENT STAFF COLLEGE

A new era for the BMSC was launched in 2018 with its four-year plan of activities. The College reinforced its training output by offering high-quality courses targeting border management and security officials from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, with particular attention paid to involving officials from Afghanistan. In January, its "Border Security and Management for Senior Leaders" course was granted postgraduate diploma accreditation by Estonia's Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education, underlining the BMSC's intention to become a recognized specialist in border security and management training in the OSCE area. In October, the College conducted its first staff course outside Tajikistan, in Italy, with the support of the Guardia di Finanza and the OSCE Secretariat's Border Security and Management Unit. 2018 also marked a milestone in the BMSC's efforts to promote female leadership in border management and security, with a record high of 58 per cent of female staff course participants.

MEN ENGAGE NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Men's roles in championing gender equality were at the forefront of the Office's efforts to empower women in social and political life in 2018. Prominent male politicians, police officers, rural youth and civil society representatives actively shaped a series of high-profile events aimed at preventing domestic violence and challenging gender stereotypes. Making use of the political momentum to support women's empowerment, male politicians, including members of parliament, set out to promote women in the political sphere within their parties and in society by implementing political parties' gender action plans, appointing gender focal points, lobbying for women's quotas in parliament and mentoring young Tajik men to become gender champions. At the grass-roots level, the Office nurtured a network of 45 young gender champions (30 women, 15 men) that was established in 2017. The gender champions, many from remote areas, were empowered by new skills they learned in two summer camps aimed at tackling

"Young people are the future of every country, and gender-sensitive young people offer a guarantee for equal opportunities."

Member of the Youth Network
of Gender Champions



A course participant from Tajikistan (c) receiving a certificate of completion of the 22nd Border Management Staff Course presented by BMSC Director Jonathan Holland (l) and the Commander of the Legione Allievi training school in Bari, Brigadier General Vito Straziota (r), 26 October 2018. (Guardia di Finanza/Pasquale Laudando)

gender stereotypes through debates, role-play, poems and drawings. Many went on to enact changes in societal behaviour by organizing debate clubs, training and raising awareness in their own families, communities, and in their workplaces, often through a peer-to-peer approach.

PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Start-up Weekends were introduced in Tajikistan in 2015 as a way to develop entrepreneurship in a country heavily reliant on remittances. These unique public-private initiatives help business owners build skills to present ideas, create business plans and pitch their products and services. In 2018, the Office sponsored two Start-up Weekends in



Vesna Ivanovikj-Castarede (standing), the Gender and Anti-Trafficking Officer at the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, and participants of a five-day summer camp called "Men for Gender Equality" during a group exercise, Dushanbe, 5 August 2018. (OSCE/Nushofarin Nozir)

Dushanbe, including one focused on female entrepreneurs. In provincial areas, OSCE-supported Business Resource Centres helped open or expand 15 businesses and aided more than 1,000 existing and potential business owners with advice on taxation, licences, regulations and access to finance. Mobile consultations in major district towns enabled the Centres to conduct more outreach than ever before. The investment climate for larger companies was also a key priority. The Office has been a strong supporter of the country's four free economic zones and promoted their development by evaluating their operations, exposing their management to best practices in other OSCE participating States and making the marketing of their services more effective.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Network by Consensus is an initiative uniting over 400 alumni of the Office's youth events from all over Tajikistan. It creates a platform for young people to share, inspire and motivate their peers. In 2018, the Office assisted young people through the Network to play an active and constructive role in civic life. An enhanced regional lens was applied to youth activities, with a special focus on engaging active young people from Afghanistan, thus promoting confidence building and collaboration between the youth

15 YEARS OF MINE ACTION

Since 2003, the OSCE's mine-action programme has supported the government's demining efforts. In the past 15 years, the OSCE has contributed to the clearance of almost 4 million square meters of mine-contaminated land and the destruction of some 19,000 landmines and unexploded ordnance.



University students working in small groups during a four-day Model OSCE in Khoja Obigarm, Tajikistan, 24 March 2018. (OSCE/Nigina Abdullaeva)

of Tajikistan and Central Asian states. Workshops on public speaking, debating, negotiating and networking skills were designed to empower them to reach their aspirations in public life, business and civil society. Feeding into this expanding pool of engaged young people, the Office organized Model OSCE events for university students from across the country. In addition to raising awareness about the OSCE, the Model OSCE imbued the skills needed for active social and civic participation through lectures, workshops, interactive exercises and Permanent Council simulation sessions. Members of the Network met with the OSCE Secretary General during his visit to Tajikistan in May to discuss the challenges facing youth and ways the OSCE can support youth empowerment.



Young and enthusiastic participants of a three-day Start-up Weekend, Women's Edition, bringing up their pitch ideas during one of the group sessions, Dushanbe, 15 September 2018. (Photo/Illhom Yunusov)

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador John MacGregor**

Budget: €2,293,400 (Unified budget), €142,146 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)

Staff: 3 international, 27 local

www.osce.org/project-coordinator-in-uzbekistan

In 2018, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) continued to support the host country's efforts to address transnational threats, promote transparency in governance and fight corruption, while also combating money laundering and trafficking in human beings and drugs.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The PCUz continued supporting activities to fight terrorism, to prevent and counter VERLT and to address the question of returning foreign terrorist fighters, with a focus on youth.

On 11-12 June, the PCUz and the Senate of Uzbekistan organized an international conference on the role of youth in P/CVERLT in Tashkent and Samarkand, which was attended by OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger. At the event, high-level government officials and representatives from civil society and international organizations held discussions and shared best practices on the subject.

Jointly with the National Centre on Drug Control, the PCUz supported the implementation of a national anti-drug programme focused on country-wide preventive measures to fight illicit trafficking of drugs and chemical precursors.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

The PCUz facilitated the implementation of the OSCE's confidence building measures to reduce the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communications technologies by raising awareness among key national stakeholders and government agencies. Uzbekistan established a contact point to manage ICT-related threats and developed a road map to further improve cyber/ICT security.

COMBATING CORRUPTION

The PCUz supported capacity-building for government and business representatives on combating and preventing corruption. In addition, a country-wide public awareness campaign promoting a zero-tolerance policy to corruption was organized in co-operation with national and international partners.

SUPPORTING OPEN GOVERNANCE

An open data project, implemented in co-operation with the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, provided expertise for the development of a national open data strategy and strengthened the capacities of national stakeholders through the exchange of best practices. Over 500 young people participated in a collaborative open data challenge aimed at engaging young people in the development of ICT solutions.



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger awarding the winner of the "Youth of Central Asia against VERLT" contest, Nursultan Rakhmanov of Kazakhstan, Tashkent, 11 June 2018. (OSCE)

IMPROVING LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES

Jointly with state agencies and NGOs, the PCUz supported a country-wide gender-disaggregated survey on the situation of labour migration and emerging trends. The survey will provide a basis for recommendations for state measures to address the challenges facing migrants and their families. The PCUz also supported the establishment of a consultancy centre for labour migrants in Tashkent.



Screenshot of an animated film on anti-corruption that is part of a public awareness campaign supported by the PCUz and the Inter-agency Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (OSCE)

PROMOTING GREEN ECONOMY POLICIES

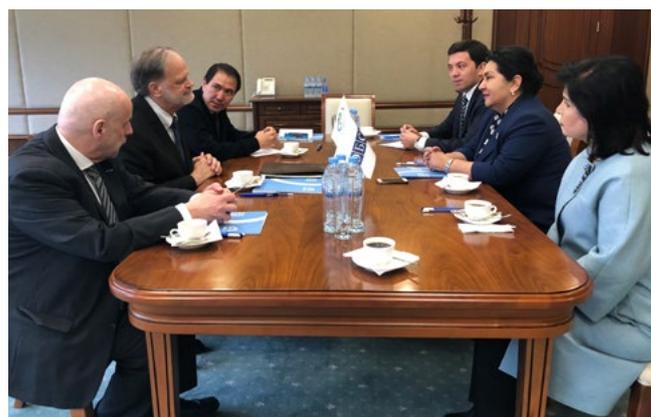
The PCUz supported the promotion of green economy policies through the exchange of best practices and capacity-building on waste management, renewable energy and sustainable mobility. In particular, the PCUz contributed to the establishment of a pilot site providing solar street lighting in an urban area of Tashkent. In partnership with Uzbekistan's State Committee for Environmental Protection, the PCUz also co-organized the Central Asian Green Technologies Business Forum and the Green Ecology Technologies Central Asia/GETCA-2018 specialized exhibition.



A high-level panel opens the Central Asian Green Technology Business Forum and Exhibition, Tashkent, 5 June 2018. (OSCE/Murod Khusanov)



Anti-corruption partnership: Representatives of the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office, the OSCE and UNODC during a TV talk on business integrity and combating corruption, Tashkent, 20 November 2018. (OSCE/Murod Khusanov)



Ambassador John MacGregor and Vice-Prime Minister Tanzila Narbayeva discuss further co-operation in the area of empowering women in decision making processes in the context of green economy policies, Tashkent, 28 October 2018. (OSCE/Murod Khusanov)

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL RESPONSE TO COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In 2018, the PCUz launched a new series of anti-trafficking training courses for 50 police officers from seven regions of Uzbekistan. The courses were aimed at developing police attitudes and skills to help them identify victims of human trafficking and to refer them to the appropriate services for assistance. Particular attention was paid to new forms and methods of recruitment of potential victims through digital technologies. In addition, the training explored the nexus between human trafficking and terrorism.

ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF INVESTIGATIVE DIVISIONS OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY

In 2018, the PCUz conducted training on investigative interviewing for 50 law enforcement officials. Emphasis was placed on human-rights-compliant policing, including the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of torture and treating witnesses and suspects with dignity and respect at all stages of the investigative process.

SUPPORTING UZBEKISTAN IN ITS APPROACH TO COMBATING TORTURE

Throughout 2018, the PCUz, in co-operation with ODIHR, the National Human Rights Centre, Uzbekistan's human rights Ombudsman, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol, prepared and conducted a series of capacity-building workshops to inform the ongoing national debate on ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the potential establishment of a national preventive mechanism in Uzbekistan.

PROMOTING JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORMS

In support of the 2017-2021 Action Strategy for the Further Development of Uzbekistan, the PCUz was engaged in promoting judicial and legal reforms by organizing conferences and round-table discussions on the review of institutional, criminal and criminal procedural legislation, law enforcement practices and implementation of related international standards. The PCUz facilitated ODIHR's drafting of a legal opinion on the Law on the Higher Judicial Council with recommendations for its possible improvement.



LEVERAGING 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

Throughout the year, the OSCE continued to engage in political dialogue and to share experience with its five Asian and six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION



The OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners continued to investigate ways to further strengthen their co-operation by cultivating an open and interactive dialogue both within the established meeting formats and beyond. The rolling schedule of the Asian Contact Group featured several innovative topics, such as cyber-diplomacy and economic connectivity, with a particular focus on financial technology innovations, exposure to cyber/ICT security risks and opportunities to support the UN's SDGs. With events on the Korean Peninsula developing rapidly, special attention was paid to the potential of using confidence building mechanisms to strengthen Inter-Korean relations as a basis for a future permanent peace. The Asian Partners continued to contribute to the OSCE's dialogue and to provide significant financial and human resources in support of OSCE activities.

Throughout the year, the Secretary General and his team participated in high-level events organized by Asian Partners and held numerous high-level meetings with senior government representatives from all five Asian Partners, as well as various informal consultations aimed at exchanging best practices in the area of promoting comprehensive

security across all three dimensions. A highlight of the year was the Secretary General's meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, who reiterated his country's strong interest in, and support for, the OSCE. At the high-level conference Effective Multilateralism in a Globalized World – The Case of Europe and Asia Pacific, organized by the 2018 Austrian Chair of the Asian Contact Group, the Secretary General said that he saw potential for further enhancing opportunities for engaging the Asian Partners in OSCE internal discussions and activities and for creating additional space within the OSCE for including Asian security concerns in the Organization's overall agenda for security dialogue.

The OSCE Asian Conference in Canberra focused on common challenges and opportunities in the regions of the Asian Partners and the OSCE. The Director of the Office of the Secretary General emphasized the need to strengthen comprehensive security through dialogue. The OSCE Secretariat further supported South Korea in organizing another Inter-regional Conference, which in 2018 focused on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.



OSCE partnership in action: Two female officers from Partner countries Tunisia and Thailand taking part in the BMSC's 21st Border Management Staff Course for Women Leaders. The course is sponsored by Japan, an Asian Partner for Co-operation. (OSCE/Shamsi Myadyeva)



2018 was an important year for the OSCE's Mediterranean partnership, which saw a strong push by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the Slovakian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group for a more substantive and action-oriented partnership.

The Secretary General supported these efforts by calling for a more strategic approach to the partnership through better-defined priorities for dialogue, enhanced practical co-operation with the Partners, a long-term view of the partnership's desired outcomes and revamped partnership tools, starting with renewed investment in the extrabudgetary Partnership Fund established in 2007.

An ambassadorial retreat in Trieste, Italy, on 7-9 June registered widespread interest among all stakeholders for a revival of the partnership. On that occasion, the Italian Chairmanship endorsed a more strategic approach and proposed some practical next steps. Meanwhile, the Slovak Chairmanship of the Contact Group completed a

successful programme in 2018, with an emphasis on a positive agenda for Mediterranean co-operation.

Topics dealt with by the Contact Group ranged from issues such as water management and energy security to education, cyber/ICT security and security sector reform. The Mediterranean Conference in Málaga, Spain, on 25-26 October, co-organized by Slovakia and Spain, focused on the topic of energy co-operation. For the fourth year in a row, the Mediterranean Conference attracted ministerial-level participation, confirming that the Mediterranean partnership has reached a higher political profile.

On the project side, numerous initiatives were carried out with the active participation of the Mediterranean Partners, including in the areas of countering trafficking in cultural property, promoting co-operative and effective border management, combating trafficking in human beings along migration routes and empowering youth.

PROMOTING YOUNG SOCIAL AND GREEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Italian OSCE Chairmanship launched the OSCE GEMS award, which rewards social and green entrepreneurs under 35 years of age from Mediterranean countries. The six winners of the first-ever GEMS award, young entrepreneurs from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, invented new products and processes that help improve the environment while at the same time making a social impact. Their projects range from turning discarded dates into high-quality food and upcycling plastic waste, to greening roofs and using sunlight to supply electricity and warm water to neighbourhoods.

The GEMS award is implemented in partnership with the Switchers Fund, a grant-making entity that supports innovative green businesses in the Mediterranean, and its promoters. The first edition of the award was funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.



Up-fuse, a brand created by one of the GEMS award winners, produces bags from discarded plastic waste. (Up-fuse/The Switchers)

Co-operation with international and regional organizations

Dialogue and practical co-operation with other international and regional organizations and institutions remained an important aspect of the OSCE's work in 2018. At the Secretariat level, the Organization held regular bilateral and multilateral consultations with partner organizations. At the operational level, the OSCE joined forces with international partners in order to draw on the strengths and comparative advantages of each organization.

Political dialogue



UNITED NATIONS (UN)

In 2018, the enduring partnership between the UN and the OSCE advanced in a number of strategic areas that are critically important for peace and security in the OSCE region.

OSCE Secretary General Greminger represented the OSCE at several high-level UN events, including a meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the UN Secretary-General's interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations, and the 73rd general debate of the General Assembly (UNGA). On each occasion, the Secretary General brought the OSCE's perspective into UN discussions on peace and security and emphasized the support of the OSCE for the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's sustaining peace agenda.

2018 also saw the conclusion of MoUs between the OSCE, as represented by the Secretary General, and the UNDP, UN Women and the UNOTC, respectively. These agreements will strengthen the ability of the OSCE Secretariat to implement its mandate to support the participating States in co-operation with partners from the UN family of organizations.



(l-r) UN Women Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger signing the first memorandum of understanding between the OSCE and UN Women, 27 September 2018. (UN Women)



COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)

Co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE continued to develop in the four agreed areas of co-operation: the fight against terrorism, combating human trafficking, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. The two annual meetings of the CoE-OSCE Co-ordination Group held in 2018 proved to be an effective format for sharing views on issues of mutual interest.

Regular communication between experts and co-ordination of activities, including in the field, continued to be the foundation underpinning OSCE-CoE interaction. Political contacts also intensified thanks to the well-established practice of briefings by respective Chairmanships and the meeting between the Secretaries General on the margins of the UNGA in New York.



EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

The OSCE-EU relationship took a major step forward in 2018 with an exchange of letters, which established a framework for co-operation between the two organizations, providing, inter alia, for an annual high-level meeting between OSCE executive structures and EU institutions. At the first meeting, held on 12 December 2018, representatives of both organizations discussed how



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, exchange letters to further strengthen EU-OSCE co-operation, Brussels, 22 June 2018. (EEAS)

to strengthen ongoing co-operation on conflict prevention and mediation, preventing and countering violent extremism that leads to terrorism, countering trafficking in small arms and light weapons, cyber/ICT threats, rule of law and democratic institutions, election support, the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and co-operation on uranium legacy sites.

Other consultations reinforced the growing momentum in EU-OSCE co-operation. On 5 March, the OSCE Secretary General met with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, as well as with senior representatives of the European Commission. Working level contacts pursued in Brussels and in the field included joint meetings of EU heads of mission and heads of OSCE field operations in Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

Additional political contacts included visits to the OSCE Secretariat by the EU Politico-Military Group on 24 July, the EU Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management on 1 October and the ambassadors of the Political and Security Committee on 10 September.



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

As part of a long-established tradition, a representative of the OSCE Chairmanship, on this occasion Chairmanship Co-ordinator Vinicio Mati, addressed the North Atlantic Council in early 2018. Furthermore, NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller participated in several OSCE events during the year, including the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan.

The annual OSCE-NATO staff talks took place in Vienna on 18 December and provided a forum for in-depth discussions on thematic areas such as the future of arms control and CSBMs in Europe, cyber/ICT security, counterterrorism and regional issues. 2018 also saw the establishment of a permanent NATO Liaison Office to the OSCE and other international organizations in Vienna.



COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

The Secretariat of the CIS participated in several OSCE events, and OSCE



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and CIS Secretary General Sergey Lebedev meet on the margins of the Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna, 27 June 2018. (OSCE/Ghada Hazim)

Secretary General Greminger paid his first visit to the CIS headquarters in Minsk on 9 October. The meetings provided opportunities for increased exchanges, particularly on addressing transnational threats. Working-level co-operation between the OSCE and the CIS also progressed, with representatives of the CIS Commanders Council of Border Troops offering lectures at the OSCE Border Management Staff College.



COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION (CSTO)

The OSCE and CSTO Secretaries General used their 2018 meeting to discuss increased co-operation and mutual understanding between the two organizations' priorities and structures. Additionally, the CSTO Secretariat addressed a working session of the 2018 Annual Security Review Conference, sharing the CSTO's experience in the area of countering illegal migration. At the working level, meetings were held between CSTO and OSCE staff for an exchange of views and experiences. The Deputy Secondary General of the CSTO participated in the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The OSCE Secretary General met bilaterally with the heads of several partner organizations, among them the ASEAN Secretary General, the League of Arab States and the Union for the Mediterranean, to leverage synergies and joint approaches on common interests and concerns. In this context, the OSCE Secretariat signed a technical MoU with the Union for the Mediterranean. With the League of Arab States, the OSCE Secretariat held the second exchange of experiences workshop, as well as an event to launch the Arabic version of the *OSCE Guidebook on Intelligence-Led Policing*. Co-operation with the Central European Initiative (CEI) advanced thanks to the implementation of joint projects financed through the CEI Donor Fund to the OSCE. Working-level interaction also took place with the Organization of American States and the ASEAN Regional Forum on cyber/ICT CBMs.



Participants at a joint event with the League of Arab States to launch the Arabic version of the OSCE Guidebook on Intelligence-Led Policing, Cairo, 14 November. (League of Arab States)

Operational Co-operation

OSCE executive structures co-operate with a broad array of specialized organizations to ensure that their complementary mandates and expertise provide coherent and integrated responses to security challenges in the OSCE area. The following section presents a few examples of the numerous practical activities jointly undertaken by the OSCE and its peers.

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) continued its long-standing close working relations with the EU and UN in the context of the Geneva International Discussions addressing the consequences of the August 2008 war in Georgia, co-chaired by the three organizations.

The CPC also further developed operational partnerships with relevant departments at UN headquarters to explore synergies that enable cost-effective and rapid access to resources for crisis prevention and response. In the area of mediation, staff from the UN Mediation Support Unit visited the CPC's Mediation Support Team to exchange experiences and review successful practices.

The CPC continued its close co-operation with UNHCR on the Joint Protection Checklist addressing Displacement and Protection of Displaced Populations and Affected Communities along the Conflict Cycle. Three workshops on how to address displacement in a collaborative approach were held for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, the OSCE Programme Office in Tajikistan and the OSCE Mission to Skopje respectively.

To better highlight the crucial role that regional organizations play in preventive diplomacy, the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Italian Permanent Representation to the United Nations convened a meeting of regional organizations in New York. The meeting included representatives from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the League of Arab States, the EU, the Organization of American States and the UN.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

More than 90 per cent of activities carried out by the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department are implemented in partnership with other organizations, including the UNODC, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), Europol, INTERPOL, the European Union Agency for Law

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AGAINST TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The OSCE, the UN and the EU jointly supported a high-level conference on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The strategic importance of the conference, which was held in Dushanbe on 3 and 4 May, was driven by the need to establish a common understanding of current challenges and obstacles and to strengthen regional and inter-regional partnerships.

MONDEM – A JOINT DEMILITARIZATION SUCCESS STORY

The Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM), a partnership initiative of the Government of Montenegro, the OSCE and the UNDP, was successfully concluded in 2018. From 2007 through to 2018, this programme saw the destruction of 60 battle tanks and 965 heavy artillery pieces to be sold as scrap metal, provided for the safe disposal of 128 tons of melange oxidizer and rocket fuel and infrastructure upgrades for two ammunition depots, as well as the safe destruction of 1,806 tons of surplus ammunition.

Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the CSTO and the CoE. In 2018, the Department concluded technical MoUs with the WCO, the UNOCT and the Italian Finance Police. In addition, the Department is actively involved in the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), the leading international platform for the exchange of best practices and expertise on cyber-related capacity-building.

The OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek co-operated with the UNODC and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG) in conducting train-the-trainers courses for Kyrgyz government officials on countering the financing of terrorism. Similarly, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan joined forces with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the UNODC and the UNDP to address VERLT, illicit drug trafficking and other transnational threats. In Ashgabat, the OSCE Centre partnered with IOM in the area of preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. The Centre and IOM also co-organized a workshop to explore how to set up an API system for representatives from all agencies involved in passenger processing in Turkmenistan.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In 2018, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) became a full-fledged member of the UN Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons. Co-operation between the OSR/CTHB and the CoE remained strong, as the two organizations co-hosted a meeting of national anti-trafficking co-ordinators and rapporteurs, continued to exchange work plans and co-ordinated their respective country visits. The OSR/CTHB hosted the 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2018, which remains a key platform for states and international organizations to organize joint activities and share information on trends and challenges in the area of counter-trafficking.

THE OSCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

The OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security is a joint initiative of the OSCE and the UNODA in Vienna, in partnership with a number of organizations whose work contributes to disarmament, non-proliferation and the resolution of development-related issues. The OSCE granted 70 scholarships for young professionals interested in the Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation in the OSCE Area training programme carried out from January to April 2018 with a course in Vienna from 12 to 16 February. The scholarships were focused towards women candidates, so as to ensure greater gender parity within the security sector.



Participants of the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security at the training course on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, Vienna, 12 February 2018. (UNODA)

Field operations continued to work together with other international organizations to enhance the impact of their activities. For instance, the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has a multi-year partnership agreement with the IOM focused on increasing the number of national referral mechanisms in Ukraine. Furthermore, on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the Programme Office in Bishkek, the IOM and the International Labour Organization (ILO) co-organized art exhibitions and information events for migrants and young people on the risks of trafficking in the context of labour migration. In Albania, the OSCE Presence co-ordinated its anti-trafficking efforts with UNHCR, IOM and other UN agencies focusing on countering child labour exploitation in particular.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The OSCE works closely with partner organizations to tackle a range of economic challenges to security. For example, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the UNODC jointly train staff from Ukraine's finance intelligence unit with a view to increasing the country's anti-money-laundering standards.

In Uzbekistan, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator partnered with the Eurasian Group to carry out joint activities in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Co-ordinator also has anti-corruption partnerships with the UNODC, the UNDP and the OECD, and implements joint projects on open governance with the Open Data Charter, the UNDP and the World Bank.

Furthering economic opportunities and facilitating Tajikistan's economic connectivity is the objective of co-operation between the OSCE Programme Office in

Dushanbe and the respective offices of the International Trade Centre and the UNDP. The project supports the development and expansion of Tajikistan's trade information portal based on the UNCTAD global business facilitation platform. At a meeting held in Moscow on 2 November, the OSCE Secretary General and the Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission Board, Tigran Sargsyan, discussed ways to intensify co-operation between the respective Secretariats.

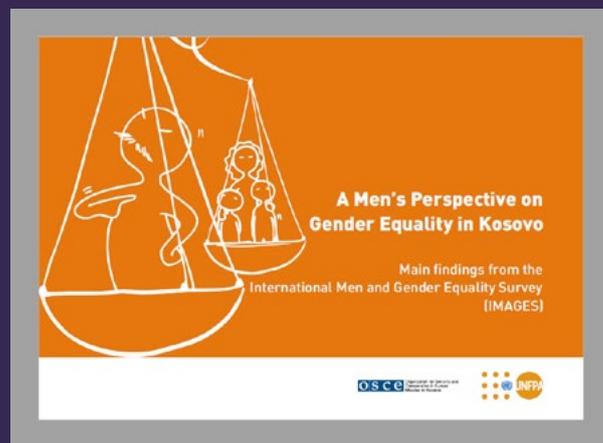
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The OSCE partners with the UN and other organizations to forge effective responses to traditional and emerging challenges in the environmental field. The ENVSEC initiative for example, brings together the OSCE, the UNECE, the UNDP, the UNEP and the Regional Environmental Center

THE JOINT OSCE-EU-UNDP PROJECT ON STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR URANIUM LEGACY REMEDIATION IN CENTRAL ASIA IN FIGURES:

- 2,600 brochures on radiation safety in Kyrgyz, Russian, Tajik and Uzbek distributed to the local population in the target areas in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- 1,000 people in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan trained at 50 training seminars for local target groups
- 1,345 schoolchildren in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan reached through environmental awareness-raising activities.

Gaining a better understanding of the current perceptions and attitudes of gender roles in Kosovo was the aim of the first-ever International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) conducted by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The survey report provides important insights into men's perspectives on gender equality and provides a better evidence base for the development of new gender-related policies.



for Central and Eastern Europe to jointly contribute to the reduction of interconnected environmental and security risks. In 2018, they reviewed their partnership agreement to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2018, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and the UK Chemical Business Association (CBA) to introduce new chemical security technical regulations. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan partnered with the UNECE on a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

ACTIVITIES IN THE HUMAN DIMENSION

In 2018, ODIHR continued its close co-operation with the CoE and the Venice Commission in the fields of legislative assistance, democratic governance and the rule of law. In election observation activities, ODIHR regularly collaborated with delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE and the European Parliament. The Office partnered with the UNHCR in its work on Roma and Sinti issues and, jointly with the HCNM, on the protection of stateless persons and prevention of statelessness. ODIHR also regularly works with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR). ODIHR strengthened its co-operation with the EU in 2018, with projects focusing on supporting elections in South-Eastern Europe, promoting human rights and democratization in Belarus and building a comprehensive criminal justice response to hate crime.

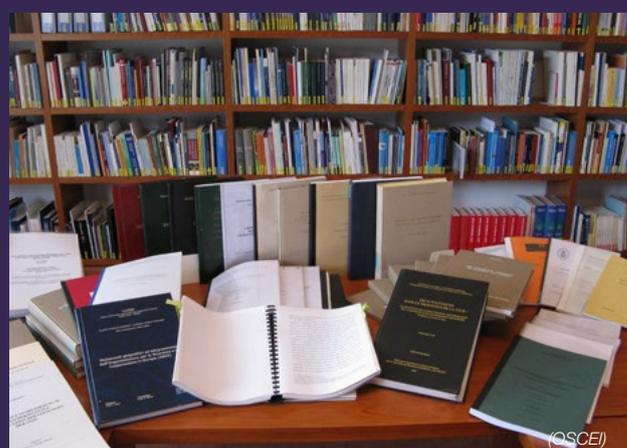
In Bishkek, the OSCE Programme Office and the UNDP opened a Capacity Development Centre that will prepare staff from the Central Elections Commission and the State Registration Service for the upcoming 2020 parliamentary elections.

In Serbia, the OSCE Mission worked with the EU delegation in fostering media freedom and the professionalization of journalism through the development of a new media strategy. Other areas of co-operation with the EU included projects in support of victims and witnesses of crime and the monitoring of national war crimes trials.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission worked with the CoE office in Sarajevo to strengthen the capacities of the country's Ombudsman for human rights and support the revision of two local Roma action plans. As the leading international organization in the area of education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission fostered a co-ordinated international approach in support of the country's first-ever participation in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018.

ARCHIVES AND OUTREACH: THE OSCE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE IN PRAGUE

The OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague (DCiP) is the organization's documentation repository and hosts a researcher-in-residence programme. In 2018, the DCiP hosted and assisted 11 researchers from Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Centre also delivered 15 presentations about the OSCE to visiting student groups. The DCiP processed and published more than 2,000 documents. Additionally, more than 8,700 documents were added to the OSCE digital archive in Prague to better serve researchers and to maintain institutional memory.



List of abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
API	Advance Passenger Information
BMSC	Border Management Staff College
CBMs	Confidence-building measures
CEI	Central European Initiative
CEPOL	EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CoE	Council of Europe
COESPU	Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre
CSCE	Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe
CSBMs	Confidence- and security-building measures
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
CTHB	Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
DCIP	OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague
EEAS	European External Action Service
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EU	European Union
Europol	European Police Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation
FTFs	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GID	Geneva International Discussions
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFP	Gender Focal Point
HCNM	High Commissioner on National Minorities
HDIM	Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
HLPG	High-Level Planning Group
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICT	Information and communication technology
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPRM	Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism
KVINFO	Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Ethnicity
MCG	Mediterranean Contact Group
MLE	Multilingual Education
MoU	Memorandum of understanding

MST	Mediation Support Team
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
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PAN	Police Academies Network
P/CVERLT	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism
PA	Parliamentary Assembly
RHP	Regional Housing Programme
RYCO	Regional Youth Co-operation Office
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SCA	Stockpiles of conventional ammunition
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SMM	Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
SSG/R	Security sector governance and reform
TCG	Trilateral Contact Group
TNTD	Transnational Threats Department
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UN	United Nations
UNCTC	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
YDEAS	Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups in the Western Balkans

Unified budget

THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS

	2018 UNIFIED BUDGET	2018 EXPENDITURE	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
The Secretariat	41.164.000	40.934.932	30%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	16.279.300	16.160.736	12%
High Commissioner on National Minorities	3.466.300	3.401.189	3%
Representative on Freedom of the Media	1.519.800	1.492.296	1%
TOTAL FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	62.429.400	61.989.153	45%

OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS

South-Eastern Europe

Mission in Kosovo	17.414.300	17.071.815	13%
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	11.647.200	11.624.573	8%
Mission to Serbia	6.238.000	6.228.043	5%
Presence in Albania	2.917.900	2.887.879	2%
Mission to Skopje	6.483.400	6.465.743	5%
Mission to Montenegro	2.146.200	1.597.780	2%
Total for South-Eastern Europe	46.847.000	45.875.831	34%

Eastern Europe

Mission to Moldova	2.263.900	2.057.281	2%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	3.598.800	3.386.341	3%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners	5.500	5.078	0%
Total for Eastern Europe	5.868.200	5.448.700	4%

Caucasus

High-Level Planning Group	246.500	190.130	0%
The Minsk Process	911.200	366.553	1%
Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference	1.241.300	1.070.774	1%
Total for Caucasus	2.399.000	1.627.456	2%

Central Asia

Programme Office in Astana	2.225.500	2.173.699	2%
Centre in Ashgabat	1.655.400	1.648.514	1%
Programme Office in Bishkek	6.797.400	6.697.391	5%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	2.293.400	2.241.554	2%
Programme Office in Dushanbe	7.285.900	6.876.740	5%
Total for Central Asia	20.257.600	19.637.898	15%

TOTAL FOR OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS

	75.371.800	72.589.885	55%
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GRAND TOTAL

	137.801.200	134.579.038	100%
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* The Unified budget excludes the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

* The 2018 OSCE Unified budget was approved by the Permanent Council Decision 1288.

Contributions by participating States

PARTICIPATING STATE	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS 2018 UNIFIED BUDGET (€)	% OF TOTAL
Albania	88.722	0,1%
Andorra	88.722	0,1%
Armenia	45.035	0,0%
Austria	3.180.380	2,3%
Azerbaijan	45.035	0,0%
Belarus	194.920	0,1%
Belgium	4.607.952	3,3%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	88.722	0,1%
Bulgaria	360.149	0,3%
Canada	7.469.258	5,4%
Croatia	198.181	0,1%
Cyprus	198.181	0,1%
Czech Republic	666.139	0,5%
Denmark	2.854.049	2,1%
Estonia	126.585	0,1%
Finland	2.652.739	1,9%
France	14.268.610	10,4%
Georgia	45.035	0,0%
Germany	15.040.261	10,9%
Greece	1.151.573	0,8%
Holy See	88.722	0,1%
Hungary	651.794	0,5%
Iceland	182.271	0,1%
Ireland	1.065.330	0,8%
Italy	14.268.610	10,4%
Kazakhstan	257.430	0,2%
Kyrgyzstan	45.035	0,0%
Latvia	130.562	0,1%
Liechtenstein	88.722	0,1%
Lithuania	130.562	0,1%
Luxembourg	472.652	0,3%
Malta	92.700	0,1%
Moldova	45.035	0,0%
Monaco	88.722	0,1%
Mongolia	45.035	0,0%
Montenegro	45.035	0,0%
Netherlands	5.379.675	3,9%
Norway	2.840.835	2,1%
Poland	1.621.661	1,2%
Portugal	1.016.335	0,7%
Romania	444.960	0,3%
Russian Federation	5.483.766	4,0%
San Marino	88.722	0,1%
Serbia	97.460	0,1%
Slovak Republic	282.426	0,2%
Slovenia	267.364	0,2%
Spain	6.645.412	4,8%
Sweden	4.599.997	3,3%
Switzerland	3.800.617	2,8%
Tajikistan	45.035	0,0%
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	88.722	0,1%
Turkey	1.184.958	0,9%
Turkmenistan	45.035	0,0%
Ukraine	507.470	0,4%
United Kingdom	14.268.610	10,4%
United States of America	17.835.928	12,9%
Uzbekistan	243.649	0,2%
Gap in scales	-55.903	0,0%
Total	137.801.200	100,0%

Extrabudgetary pledges and expenditures

DONOR	APPROVED PLEDGE AMOUNT (€)
ANDORRA	10.000,00
AUSTRIA	486.970,00
BELARUS	5.000,00
BELGIUM	25.000,00
CZECH REPUBLIC	109.780,00
DENMARK	604.064,00
ESTONIA	2.000,00
EUROPEAN UNION	650.000,00
FINLAND	543.000,00
GERMANY	5.013.674,37
HUNGARY	50.000,00
ICELAND	23.000,00
IRELAND	96.400,00
ITALY	5.503.008,00
JAPAN	907.130,00
KAZAKHSTAN	60.000,00
LATVIA	30.000,00
LIECHTENSTEIN	145.225,00
LITHUANIA	35.000,00
LUXEMBOURG	150.000,00
MONACO	15.000,00
NETHERLANDS	1.216.598,00
NORWAY	8.082.448,00
POLAND	123.273,13
SLOVAKIA	348.002,00
SLOVENIA	5.000,00
SOUTH KOREA	89.760,72
SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE (SECI)	25.000,00
SPAIN	10.000,00
SWEDEN	350.895,00
SWITZERLAND	2.941.934,00
THAILAND	800,00
TURKEY	50.000,00
UNICEF	26.400,00
UNITED KINGDOM	1.000.374,23
UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN	35.221,00
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS	1.288.169,00
UNITED STATES	10.800.377,55
TOTAL	40.858.504,00

* Extrabudgetary pledges to and expenditure for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine are included.

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE**APPROVED PLEDGE AMOUNT (€)**

Secretariat	11.814.726,64
Secretariat Unallocated Funds*	3.602.084,00
ODIHR	4.869.793,13
HCNM	1.507.751,00
Representative on Freedom of the Media	958.466,00
Mission in Kosovo	330.530,00
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.106.257,00
Mission to Serbia	587.644,00
Presence in Albania	3.296.240,23
Mission to Skopje	50.000,00
Mission to Moldova	763.759,00
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	1.807.972,00
Programme Office in Astana	200.000,00
Centre in Ashgabat	211.309,00
Programme Office in Bishkek	210.196,00
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	445.000,00
Programme Office in Dushanbe	3.124.189,00
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine	5.972.587,00
TOTAL	40.858.504,00

*Unallocated extra-budgetary contributions are funds provided by donors to the OSCE without allocating contributions to a specific extra-budgetary project at the time of acceptance.

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE**ACTUAL EXPENDITURE**

Secretariat	9.169.357,99
ODIHR	5.488.220,22
HCNM	712.059,43
Representative on Freedom of the Media	510.401,71
Mission in Kosovo	263.896,54
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.469.232,60
Mission to Serbia	1.244.656,26
Presence in Albania	431.747,73
Mission to Skopje	414.379,85
Mission to Montenegro	309.530,26
Mission to Moldova	168.745,43
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2.193.495,74
Centre in Ashgabat	835.635,99
Programme Office in Bishkek	304.773,24
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	142.146,02
Programme Office in Dushanbe	1.697.057,97
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine	7.654.698,26
TOTAL	33.010.035,24

Staff

Statistics of OSCE seconded and contracted fixed-term staff as at 31 December 2018*
(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		PR C/O Minsk Conference		Mission to Moldova		Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine		Programme Office in Astana		Centre in Ashgabat	
	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded
Albania		3																				
Armenia									1		1				1							
Austria	1				2		1					1			1							
Azerbaijan			1																			
Belarus																						1
Belgium																						
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10				3							1		1		1						
Bulgaria	2				1							1								1		
Canada	2		2		1		1		1		1											
Croatia			1														1					
Czech Republic	1		1		1																	
Denmark																		1				
Estonia															1							
Finland																						
France					1					1												
Georgia	2											1									1	
Germany	7		1				1					3	1		1						1	
Greece	1																					
Hungary			1		1	2										1						1
Iceland																						
Ireland	3	1			1				1							1						
Italy	11		6		5		6		1		2											
Kazakhstan																		1				
Kyrgyzstan	2						1										2					
Latvia																						
Lithuania																						
Malta																						
Moldova	2		1		1		2				1			2							1	
Mongolia																						
Montenegro																						1
Netherlands	1		1																			
Norway		1								1												
Poland	2				3		2							1								
Portugal	1																					
Romania												2										
Russian Federation	2		2		1																	1
Serbia					1				1			1										1
Slovakia						1		1					1									
Slovenia																						
Spain	1	1	2		1																	
Sweden		3																				
Switzerland																						
Tajikistan		1																				
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	12	1	1									2									
Turkey		1				2																
Turkmenistan																						
Ukraine		1																				
United Kingdom	5		3	1	3		2					1		1								
United States of America	5	1	5		4		4								1		1		1			
Uzbekistan																						1
Total	2	82	6	27	3	32	1	20	1	6	1	18	1	5	0	10	2	2	1	5	1	4
Internationally recruited staff	84	33	35	21	7	19	6	10	4	6	5	10	4	6	5	1	6	1	5	1	5	5
Locally recruited staff	373	294	114	116	24	63	11	40	83	21	24	11	40	83	21	24	21	24	24	24	24	24
Total number of staff	457	327	149	137	31	82	17	50	87	27	29	17	50	87	27	29	27	29	29	29	29	29

*Includes staff in posts as at 31 December 2018 financed from the Unified budget and extrabudgetary contributions.

Programme Office in Bishkek		Programme Office in Dushanbe		Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan		Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine		Observer Mission at the two Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk		Totals for field operations	Secretariat		FROM		HCNM		ODIHR		Totals for Secretariat & institutions	GRAND TOTALS	
Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded		Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded	Contracted	Seconded			Contracted
		1				1	8			13		2	1							3	16
	1		1			1	1			7		1						1		2	9
	2		2		1	1	13			25		6		1				1		8	33
			1				1			3		1	1					1		3	6
							9			10		2						2		4	14
							1			1		1								1	2
						2	51			69		3						3		6	75
						1	43		3	52										0	52
				1			34			43		4						3		7	50
	1						12			15		1	1			1				3	18
							15			18		1	1					1	1	4	22
							8			9						1		1		2	11
							3			4										0	4
							22		1	23		1	3					2	1	7	30
							18		1	21		8	2	1	2	1		3		17	38
	1					2	23		2	32			1					1		2	34
			2		1	1	34			53		8	12		1		2	2		25	78
							23		1	25		3						2		5	30
							24		3	33		3						1		4	37
							0			0		1						1	2	4	4
							12			19		5	2					1		8	27
	1		1				26		2	61		7	8			4	1	2	2	24	85
							5			6			3	1				1		5	11
		1				2	24			32		1						1		2	34
							8			8		1						1		2	10
							2			2		1								1	3
							0			0		1								1	1
	1	1		1		3	42		2	60		7						1		8	68
							3			4		1								1	1
							1			9		5	1		1	2		1	1	11	20
							14			16			5					2		7	23
						1	39		1	49		4				1		9		14	63
							2		1	4										0	4
						4	34			40		3						4		7	47
	1	1	3				37			48		5	4	1		1		4		15	63
						1	13		2	20		3	1					3		7	27
							12			15		2	3							5	20
							1			1		2						1		3	4
						1	16			22		3	2							5	27
						1	1			33		2	6						1	9	42
	1						8			9		3	5	1					1	10	19
	1					2	15			19										0	19
							32			50		4				1		4		9	59
							12		1	16			1							1	17
							1			1		1								1	2
							67			83		6	1					2		9	10
						2	69			93		7		1		1		3		12	95
							1			2		9	6		1	1		7	4	28	121
							2			2		2								2	4
	1	9	5	17	0	3	23	870	0	21		131	70	6	5	14	3	70	15		
	10		22		3		893		21	1.179			201		11		17		85	314	1.493
	75	134		25			416		0	1.813			205		4		13		77	299	2.112
	85	156		28			1.309		21	2.992			406		15		30		162	613	3.605

