

Annual Report 2019



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Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General, at the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, Vienna, 14 October 2019. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

Message from the Secretary General

In yet another challenging year for European security, the OSCE continued in 2019 to offer participating States a unique platform for inclusive security dialogue and joint action.

Last year, many complex and interrelated security challenges continued to beset our region: growing divisions within and between states; armed conflict; terrorism; violent extremism and trafficking of drugs, arms and people; as well as heightened risks related to climate change. To find sustainable solutions to these challenges, OSCE participating States need to work together and engage in genuine dialogue.

Despite unequivocal OSCE human rights commitments, civil society and independent media continued to experience severe restrictions in a number of participating States, and manifestations of intolerance, xenophobia, hate speech and hate crime continued to spread in the OSCE area. These

disturbing trends undermine our common security and stand in the way of our joint ambition to protect and improve the lives of our citizens. They need to be addressed with renewed rigour.

Dialogue is an integral part of the OSCE's DNA. In 2019, the Structured Dialogue initiative allowed for further constructive discussion on military transparency, risk reduction and incident prevention. Significantly, it has continued to foster military-to-military contacts, which have become so rare in other forums. If OSCE participating States manage to maintain the positive momentum of these discussions, incremental progress appears possible.

Increasing opportunities for dialogue can help us to find ways to move from confrontation to co-operation. Cyber/ICT security is a good example of a shared concern, where taking small but concrete steps towards joint goals has been possible. Implementation of the 16 OSCE cyber/

ICT confidence-building measures progressed further last year. This can help rebuild trust, which is a prerequisite for reducing tensions and preventing conflict.

The OSCE's rich institutional fabric offers distinct expertise in multiple areas of comprehensive security. The complementary efforts of our network of 16 field operations, our institutions, the Parliamentary Assembly and the specialized departments in the Secretariat help to prevent conflict, manage crises, strengthen resilience to challenges that undermine stability and promote the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Last year saw a number of encouraging developments in different parts of the OSCE region. The agreement between Skopje and Athens, ending a long-standing dispute, gives hope for diplomacy, contributes to regional stability and promotes reconciliation. In Central Asia, we saw the continuation of a welcome trend towards greater openness for regional co-operation. This affords the OSCE new opportunities to support the ambitious agendas of Central Asian governments on issues such as youth, economic connectivity, good governance, water management and countering violent extremism. Last year, we also stepped up co-operation with Armenia through the comprehensive and cross-dimensional Armenia Co-operation Programme, which offers a useful model for support in other participating States without an OSCE presence.

Meanwhile, new dynamics in and around Ukraine offer renewed hope for conflict resolution. Although the situation remains fragile, the opening of the rebuilt section of the bridge at Stanytsia Luhanska on 20 November carries great symbolic and humanitarian value. Throughout the year, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine kept the international community informed about developments on the ground and played an important role in easing the hardship of civilians on both sides of the contact line. The Mission stands ready to support further steps towards disengagement through dialogue facilitation, reporting and verification.

In the South Caucasus, we saw yet another demanding year for both the Geneva International Discussions and the Minsk Process. The OSCE stays strongly committed to its role in co-chairing the Geneva International Discussions and fully supports the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in their ongoing efforts. In the Republic of Moldova, a lot of hard work went into building on earlier tangible results in the Transnistrian Settlement Process. Further confidence-building efforts are essential.

Throughout the year, I continued to advocate for strengthening the OSCE's organizational effectiveness and responsiveness. This includes improving the Secretariat's ability to provide strategic support to the Chairmanship, Troika and participating States and enhancing the OSCE's impact in the field. Empowering young people has emerged as a key priority, and we are paying greater attention to engaging with youth and integrating their perspectives into our work.

Budget reform, human resources policies and the use of technology continue to be priorities for strengthening the OSCE's ability to deliver. Secretariat management reform has produced tangible efficiencies in our internal processes, and I will continue to seek further improvements.

Ensuring the effective running of the Organization also involves efforts to maintain a professional working environment for all OSCE staff. This notably requires equal representation between women and men across all levels of the Organization and I have made it a personal priority to improve the representation of women in decision-making positions. I am also committed to zero tolerance for any form of harassment, including sexual harassment, and to preventing serious violations of OSCE staff rules in the workplace.

Over the past year, we continued our efforts to put effective multilateralism into practice, including through intensified co-operation with other international and regional organizations. I am particularly happy about the long-overdue update and expansion of our co-operation with the United Nations as a key strategic partner on the conflict cycle and many other operational issues. Further developing our external relations, including with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, helps us to maximize our impact and work towards common goals.

In response to manifest interest on the part of many participating States and as a means to strengthen synergies with both state and non-state partners, we are increasingly highlighting the multiple linkages between the OSCE agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Following on from an OSCE Security Days event that I convened on the subject, we are conducting a systematic mapping exercise as a first step towards a more joined-up approach to tackling global issues that affect our common security.

The opportunities and risks associated with new technologies, digitalization and artificial intelligence was another prominent theme last year. The impact of rapid technological development, including in changing the nature of conflict, will be a critical part of our thinking on security as we move forward.

I thank the 2019 Slovak OSCE Chair and Troika members Italy and Albania for their co-operation and leadership last year. I am grateful to all the women and men who, through their daily work for the OSCE, help to prevent conflict, strengthen security and promote peace throughout our region.

Thomas Greminger
OSCE Secretary General
Vienna, 2019



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.

For People, Dialogue and Stability

Chairperson-in-Office: Miroslav Lajčák
www.osce.org/chairmanship

Slovakia took over the Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) at a time when the Organization was in more need of dialogue and multilateralism than ever. Indeed, the situation at the end of the second decade of the 21st century looked bleak: a dire global and regional security environment; participating States turning away from co-operation while seeing themselves confronted with new and emerging threats too big for one country alone; voices spreading hate speech, intolerance and nationalist rhetoric getting louder.

Believing that the OSCE, as the most inclusive and comprehensive regional security organization in the world, has stood the test of time and that it continues to provide a unique forum for open dialogue, preventing and settling conflicts, building mutual understanding and fostering co-operation to provide for a more secure, peaceful and prosperous future for all people, the Slovak OSCE Chair stood ready to respond to the challenges of a changing world. But at the same time, the Chairmanship could not ignore that the most vulnerable people continue to suffer and that the fundamental – and crucial – principles that underpin the OSCE's work are under increasing threat. Therefore, Slovakia focused on small, realistic but important steps to make life easier for people on the ground, and worked tirelessly to promote the OSCE's principles and commitments, which – if implemented – hold the key to lasting security and stability in Europe.



“The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe was created to help participating States overcome Cold War divisions and move towards a more secure, peaceful and prosperous future – for the benefit of all. Central to the OSCE’s foundation was something very simple: the idea that, when states come together to talk and to co-operate on the basis of agreed principles and commitments, conflict can be prevented, and life can get better for people. Yet today, we are in more need of dialogue and multilateralism than ever.”

Miroslav Lajčák
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Slovak Foreign
and European Affairs Minister



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajčák (r) listens to the concerns of a man living near the entry-exit checkpoint in Stanytsia Luhanska, 16 January 2019. (OSCE/Victor Konopkin)



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajčák (c) is briefed by a monitor of the EU Monitoring Mission during his trip to Georgia where he went to visit Odzisi near the administrative boundary line, 10 February 2019. (MFA Slovakia/Tomáš Bokor)

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST – IN RESOLVING AND PREVENTING CONFLICTS, PROVIDING FOR A SAFER FUTURE AND PROMOTING EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM

Dialogue, multilateralism and co-operation are key ingredients for resolving ongoing conflicts and preventing new ones; for providing solutions to phenomena such as terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism, cyber threats and climate change; and for bringing about real change in people's lives. Committed to using its year at the helm of the OSCE to advance all three of these ingredients, the Slovak Chair decided to focus its activities for people, dialogue and stability on three overarching priorities.

1. Supporting the resolution and prevention of conflict, and mitigating its impact on people

With a primary focus on people, the Slovak Chair found ways to take small steps forward in conflict settings.

The crisis in and around Ukraine was at the top of the Slovak agenda. On his very first trip in early January, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajčák visited Kyiv and eastern Ukraine. Early in the year, the OSCE Chair invested considerable efforts in proposing, discussing and actively advocating for nine tangible confidence-building measures dealing with issues like improving the situation with regard to checkpoints, facilitating the exchange of detainees, boosting humanitarian demining and, importantly, repairing the damaged section of the bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska.

Throughout 2019, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Lajčák demonstrated that the OSCE is engaged in crisis settings at the highest level. He underpinned his personal commitment to a peaceful political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine and to the OSCE's indispensable role in monitoring and mediation during four visits to Ukraine, including two to the now reconstructed bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska, and by welcoming developments that give hope for future progress from the endorsement of the text of the Steinmeier formula in the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), to a restart of demining activities or long-delayed exchange of detainees, and ultimately the Normandy Four meeting at the leadership level at the end of the year.

The Slovak Chair not only ensured a smooth transition between the outgoing Chief Monitor of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, and the incoming Chief Monitor, Ambassador Yaşar Halit Çevik, but also urged all parties to ensure the safety and security of the monitors, and to implement the provisions of the Minsk agreements as the framework

for a political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine. Through its Special Representative in Ukraine and in the TCG, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, the Chairmanship contributed to regular output-oriented discussions on the implementation of all aspects of the Minsk agreements and to the achievement of concrete agreements such as on the disengagement of forces and hardware and also on ceasefires. In December, Chairperson-in-Office Lajčák announced the appointment of Ambassador Heidi Grau to succeed Ambassador Sajdik.

Other conflicts and settlement processes were also placed high on the Chairmanship agenda in 2019. While the Slovak Chair aimed to strengthen OSCE formats for conflict resolution, to improve the living conditions of people affected by conflict and to encourage dialogue among OSCE mediators through retreat such as a 'Mediation Hub', he also intensified efforts to create conditions allowing further steps to be taken towards a resolution of other conflicts in the OSCE area.

Chairperson-in-Office Lajčák appointed the experienced diplomats Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, as his Personal Representative on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, and Ambassador Rudolf Michalka, as his Special Representative for the South Caucasus, as well as the politician and Judge Franco Frattini as his Special Representative for the Transnistrian settlement process. Throughout 2019, the Chairperson-in-Office remained in close contact with all his representatives and was briefed regularly. In all three areas, some positive developments were achieved, such as continued discussions on further measures to reduce tensions and maintain an atmosphere conducive to peace facilitated by the Minsk Group; Slovakia's engagement through the Geneva International Discussions and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms to promote stability and de-escalation; or the 5+2 meeting in Bratislava in October 2019, which took stock of the Berlin Plus confidence-building measures and outlined an implementation phase with prospects for further progress in the months to come.

During his visits to all conflict-affected regions in the first three months of 2019, Chairperson-in-Office Lajčák underlined his personal commitment to the OSCE's efforts to resolve these conflicts and explored possibilities for further steps towards building trust and encouraging dialogue.

2. Providing for a safer future

From day one, the Slovak Chair understood that rapid technological change, digitalization and innovation both hold immense opportunities and pose major security risks.



Participants of the OSCE-wide Youth Forum Bratislava – Perspectives 20–30: Engaging Youth for a Safer Future, 28 October 2019. (MFA Slovakia/Tomáš Bokor)

"I firmly believe that the OSCE has an irreplaceable role in bringing the dream of lasting peace in Europe to life. During the year as Chair, I visited 15 field missions in the first six months of our Chairmanship, and I saw the vast potential the OSCE holds. Visiting the missions, I witnessed field teams working side by side with local civil society, governments and young people, as partners and friends. The field missions are one of the greatest assets this Organization has."

Miroslav Lajčák

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister

To work towards a safer future for all, the Slovak Chair aimed to advance the security and prosperity of the people in the OSCE region across all dimensions. This included engaging with young people during all official visits and involving them in all events, as well as organizing an OSCE-wide Youth Forum in Bratislava in October to generate policy recommendations on how to better engage young women and men in the OSCE's work; strengthening tolerance and non-discrimination through dedicated events in Vienna and Bratislava; using the OSCE toolbox to prevent and counter terrorism, as well as violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (VERLT) as an important topic of the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Bratislava in March; promoting sustainable development, education and energy co-operation through Slovakia's work in the economic and environmental dimension; managing enhanced connectivity and cybersecurity, among other things, during the OSCE-wide conference on cyber/ICT security for a safer future in June; enhancing good governance and accountability by promoting nationally led security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) in the OSCE through dedicated events in Vienna, regional workshops and a high-level conference in Bratislava in September; and putting a spotlight on exchanging best practices and lessons learned on how to better involve women across the different areas of the OSCE's work, ranging from contributions in the field to mediation or climate action.

3. Ensuring effective multilateralism

Since its very beginning, the OSCE, as the largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has been an example of multilateralism in action. It is Slovakia's firm belief that no one country alone can overcome the challenges Europe or, indeed, the world is facing today – whether it be terrorism, cross-border conflict or climate change – without stronger multilateral co-operation. As diverse as the 57 participating States of the OSCE region are, all of them – from Vancouver to Vladivostok – are experiencing common problems. But multilateralism requires commitment and compromise to reach consensus from all 57. And at a time when the world and the region are in urgent need of co-operation, attempts to weaken multilateral systems are commonplace.

In 2019, the Slovak OSCE Chair supported strategic complementary partnerships within this multilateral landscape – from regional organizations, like the European Union, to the United Nations. This included involving multilateral speakers in events organized by the Slovak Chair, promoting the OSCE in other formats (UN, EU, Council of Europe) and achieving specific outcomes such as issuing a joint statement with the UN Secretary

General on the UN–OSCE framework of co-operation or the organization of a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting dedicated to effective multilateralism.

PROMOTING DIALOGUE

As an underlying component of all its efforts in 2019, the Slovak Chair sought new and innovative ways of spurring real and interactive dialogue on all levels to ultimately rebuild trust and promote co-operation in addressing existing, new and emerging security challenges.

To encourage inclusive political dialogue, the Slovak Chair organized an Informal Ministerial Gathering in the High Tatras, where 23 foreign ministers, 11 deputy foreign ministers, political representatives and ambassadors from the OSCE participating States discussed the role and relevance of the OSCE in the future of prevention and its place in the global multilateral landscape under the theme "From past action to future prevention: the OSCE's niche in fostering stability in Europe and beyond". To lay the groundwork for a productive and interactive discussion in the High Tatras, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office convened small-group Chair's Dialogues with Vienna-based permanent representatives. The approach bore fruit. Ministers came without prepared statements, and, as a main takeaway, participating States reconfirmed the relevance of the OSCE for European Security and voiced a common understanding that the OSCE has a well-stocked toolbox to prevent conflict and build confidence, which, for political reasons, is not always fully used.

Dialogue came first in 2019, not only at the highest political level but also in the OSCE's daily work. The Slovak Chair invited special guests to participate in the weekly Permanent Council in Vienna and thus to contribute to the priorities for 2019: the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, spoke about his organization's work for people affected by conflicts, while the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, stressed the importance of closer multilateral ties. Other events benefited from esteemed guest speakers as well, from Heinz Fischer, Co-Chair of the Ban Ki-Moon Centre and a former President of Austria, and Rt. Hon. Baroness Catherine Ashton, former European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, at the Annual Security Review Conference, to Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change and founder of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, at a discussion on the role of women in addressing environmental and security challenges.



OSCE Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations during the Informal Ministerial Gathering in High Tatras, Slovakia, 9 July 2019. (MFA Slovakia)

Complementing the Organization's agenda and its priorities, the Chair organized events on a wide range of topics spanning the OSCE's work, with the aim of improving exchanges of best practices and lessons learned and fostering future co-operation. These events ranged from high-level conferences on issues such as anti-Semitism, counterterrorism, cybersecurity and SSG/R to a Youth Forum and smaller events on the role of women and climate change or freedom of peaceful assembly.

In all its efforts, the Slovak Chairmanship aimed to increase the participation of civil society, women, youth, multilateral representatives, academia and other relevant actors and stakeholders in order to benefit from a vast spectrum of expertise and experience.

STRENGTHENING STABILITY IN THE REGION AND THE ORGANIZATION

With a comprehensive understanding of strengthening stability, the Slovak Chair focused just as much on supporting the resolution, mediation and prevention of conflict in the OSCE region as on the working methods and procedures employed in the Organization itself.

This meant that the Chairperson-in-Office showed that the OSCE is engaged in, and supportive of, the work done in the region at the highest level. By visiting all 15 field

operations in the first six months of 2019, the Slovak Chair made it an objective to strengthen the links between Vienna and the field and to put a spotlight on the important work done by OSCE staff on a daily basis – whether in conflict or settlement settings or by implementing projects across all three dimensions from supporting national reform efforts to strengthen good governance and democratic institutions, to providing training, empowering women or promoting regional co-operation in Central Asia, as well as Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

In its efforts to strengthen stability, the Chairmanship supported the OSCE Secretariat, as well as the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) in their work to assist the participating States in upholding their commitments.

At the same time, the Slovak Chair paid close attention to one of the OSCE's core areas of expertise, the monitoring of elections, and helped to secure additional means to respond to the high number of unexpected election monitoring requests in 2019.

Stability includes a solid basis for the work of the Organization. By appointing Slovak State Secretary and Special Representative for the Chairmanship Lukáš Parízek as Chair of the Informal Working Group on scales of contribution, the Slovak Chair managed to put firm financing and organizational building blocks in place.

Similarly, Slovakia not only fulfilled its commitment to organize almost all mandated events, such as the Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague and the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, but it also pushed back against negative institutional precedents and organized the latter with all necessary decisions in place and with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. More than 1,500 representatives from governments and civil society attended the two-week conference in September 2019 – a record level of participation.

26TH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL 5–6 DECEMBER 2019, BRATISLAVA

The 2019 Ministerial Council in Bratislava – the OSCE's biggest and most important annual gathering – brought together almost 50 decision makers and more than 1,500 delegates from across the OSCE region and beyond. It was the biggest international conference Bratislava has ever hosted and marked another peak in the Slovak Chair's efforts to strengthen the OSCE in a shifting global and regional security environment.

Reflecting on the current state of multilateral co-operation and urging OSCE foreign ministers to recommit to the values at the core of the Helsinki Final Act, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Lajčák issued his Bratislava Appeal, which was joined by more than 40 OSCE ministers.

During the two-day event, discussions were led in both the plenary hall and in more informal settings, such as a ministers-only dinner on the eve of the Ministerial Council, a working lunch and a dinner at Bratislava Castle, as well as



Participants at the opening session of the 26th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Bratislava, 5 December 2019. (MFA Slovakia)



OSCE foreign ministers and heads of delegation pose for a family photo at the 26th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Bratislava, 5 December 2019. (MFA Slovakia)

during various side events and meetings with the Partners for Co-operation. Topics discussed ranged from reviving and strengthening a culture of interactive dialogue in OSCE formats to promoting the OSCE's role in the multilateral landscape and better equipping the Organization to address emerging global challenges in all three security dimensions. Discussions also addressed efforts to settle existing conflicts in the OSCE region and mitigate the humanitarian impacts on the civilian population in conflict-affected areas (a special focus was placed on the crisis in and around Ukraine and the SMM's fifth anniversary), empowering young people, improving capacity-building in protecting critical energy infrastructure through a virtual training centre and strengthening the role of women in peace negotiations.

While foreign ministers adopted six decisions and declarations in Bratislava, the most important outcome was

confirming the OSCE's leadership in the years to come and thus ensuring important stability and strategic continuity in the Organization's work. The Slovak Chair expressed its gratitude to Sweden for taking over the Chairmanship in 2021 and Poland in 2022.

As an outcome of the Ministerial Council, participating States reaffirmed their commitments to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security through a commemorative declaration and also commemorated the anniversaries of regional and international commitments on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In regard to both the OSCE Asian and Mediterranean Partners, participating States agreed to change the name of both groups to "OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group" and "OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group" respectively.

"The OSCE is a platform for dialogue among diverse states; its consensus decisions are a result of extensive and inclusive consultations. Yet, it can only be effective if – while fully respecting our principles and commitments – it is based on a shared pursuit of compromise.

A failure to reach consensus is a failure of us all, who are accountable to our citizens and responsible to each other for the full implementation of the OSCE norms, principles and commitments. I therefore call for increased flexibility and willingness to compromise in order to broaden and strengthen our interactive dialogue; to put the hopes, expectations and well-being of our people before our own political objectives; to focus on finding what unites us rather than divides us; and to harness the OSCE as the unique forum for open dialogue and joint action it was created to be."

Miroslav Lajčák
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
Excerpt from the Bratislava Appeal

DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2019 OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

- Decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (Tirana, 3–4 December 2020)
- Decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in 2021 (Sweden) and 2022 (Poland)
- Decision on renaming the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation
- Ministerial statement on the negotiations on the Transdnisterian settlement process in the 5+2 format
- Commemorative declaration on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OSCE principles governing non-proliferation and 15th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540
- Commemorative declaration on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security



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, by agreement of its members, participants from certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The TCG, with its four working groups, is the only forum where its participants meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of essential importance to the civilian population, as well as the implementation of the Minsk agreements. The TCG's agenda covers a wide spectrum of topics in the political, security, economic and humanitarian spheres. Effective co-ordination with the SMM is ensured by the SMM Chief Monitor, who acts as the co-ordinator of the TCG Working Group on Security Issues.

In 2019, the TCG's efforts helped to contain violence on the contact line and to noticeably decrease the number of civilian casualties. Broad success was achieved on the disengagement of forces and hardware in three pilot zones near the villages of Stanytsia Luhanska

and Zolote in the Luhansk region and Petrivske in the Donetsk region. Together with the sides' approval of the sequencing of the local elections and of the application of the special status foreseen by the Minsk agreements, this paved the way for a summit of the Normandy format. Meeting in Paris on 9 December 2019, the Normandy leaders agreed on concrete deliverables, thus providing guidance to the TCG work for the months to come. In this vein, an exchange of detainees took place on 29 December 2019.

The TCG also facilitated talks to repair the pedestrian section of the bridge near Stanytsia Luhanska, where the only operating crossing point in the Luhansk region is located. This was a major improvement for the local population. With the same objective and thanks to the SMM's support on the ground, the TCG devoted constant attention to enabling the continued supply of water, electricity, gas and telecommunications across the contact line, in particular by making possible essential repairs and the operation of critical infrastructure in conflict-affected areas.

10/VIENNA

Opening address by Minister Lajčák, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

15–17

Chairperson-in-Office visits Kyiv and eastern Ukraine

18–19

Chairperson-in-Office visits Moldova

21/BRUSSELS

Chairperson-in-Office briefs the EU Foreign Affairs Council

28–29/VIENNA

First Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum

29/BRUSSELS

Chairperson-in-Office presents priorities at NATO headquarters

JANUARY

5–6/BRATISLAVA

OSCE Conference on combating anti-Semitism in the OSCE region

10–11

Chairperson-in-Office visits Georgia

19

Chairperson-in-Office visits Moscow

21/VIENNA

Chairperson-in-Office addresses winter session of the OSCE PA

27/STRASBOURG

Chairperson-in-Office presents priorities at the Council of Europe

FEBRUARY



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 2019, the sides reported comparatively low levels of ceasefire violations, leading to a period of relative stability and calm on the front lines. The Office is the only OSCE field presence in the South Caucasus and the only international presence with access to the front lines.

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 conducted monitoring exercises 18 times on the line of contact and five times on the Armenian–Azerbaijani border. These monitoring activities and the logistical support provided by the Office enabled representatives of the High-Level Planning Group to visit the region in April and June and facilitated the Co-Chairs' visits to the region in February, May and October. The Office also supported visits by the Chairperson-in-Office to the region in March. At the request of the sides, the Office was involved in supporting a humanitarian operation to recover the body of a serviceman from between front-line positions in September.

In addition, the Office provided reports and briefings to the Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE Chairmanship and the Co-Chairs on an ongoing basis. The Personal Representative also briefed and co-operated closely with key interlocutors like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Together with the Co-Chairs, he briefed and exchanged views with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the President of the ICRC in Geneva in September. He accompanied the Co-Chairs to consultations with senior officials from the foreign ministries of France, Sweden and the United States of America. He assisted the Co-Chairs in organizing meetings at the level of foreign ministers in January, April, June and September and was actively engaged in the preparations for the Summit meeting between the President of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of Armenia in Vienna in March.



"One of the values we need to incorporate in our planning is respect for both the environment and the people who live in it. Sound environmental planning will enable the HLPG to deliver on these values."

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

THE HIGH-LEVEL PLANNING GROUP

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

In accordance with the decisions 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 to make recommendations to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office regarding a possible multinational OSCE peacekeeping force. In keeping with this mandate, the HLPG engaged in ongoing discussions with a range of like-minded organizations, actors and other entities in 2019 in order to update its planning options for a possible peacekeeping mission. Arising from this engagement and in co-operation with a range of organizations and subject-matter experts, a programme to scope and integrate environmental protection and risk management into the HLPG planning was initiated, with a view to minimizing the forces' environmental footprint. Close liaison was maintained with OSCE executive structures, and focused briefings were provided to OSCE delegations. The HLPG continued to integrate a gender perspective into its planning process. As part of its engagement with other organizations and institutions, and with the aim of capturing valuable lessons, the HLPG engaged with the European Association of Peace Operations Training Centres and a range of training institutions in Slovakia. It also continued its close co-operation with the UN Global Services Centre Brindisi and other UN entities. Previous contact was maintained with the Multinational Peace Force Southeast Europe in Tyrnavos and EU military staff in Brussels.

5

Chairperson-in-Office visits Azerbaijan

7/NEW YORK

Chairperson-in-Office briefs the UN Security Council

13

Chairperson-in-Office visits Armenia

25–26/BRATISLAVA

Counter-Terrorism Conference in Bratislava

MARCH

SOUTH CAUCASUS



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

While the overall situation related to the aftermath of the August 2008 war in Georgia remained free of military hostilities, developments along the administrative boundary lines threatened stability. The OSCE Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Rudolf Michalka, and his fellow Co-Chairs from the European Union and the United Nations facilitated four rounds of the Geneva International Discussions (GID). Discussions of a potential joint declaration on the non-use of force and related measures continued, supported by an OSCE-sponsored info session on the topic prior to the 50th round in Geneva. The GID and its associated Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM) proved once again to be the only platforms for de-escalating tensions and addressing concrete issues on the ground. The Ergneti IPRM and related technical meetings in particular proved essential to temporarily defusing tensions after an increase in the presence of armed security forces in the Chorchana/Tsnelisi forest in late summer. However, a regular meeting of the IPRM in Ergneti has not taken place since 29 August 2019 and the Gali IPRM remains deadlocked. The Co-Chairs continued to call for an immediate resumption of both IPRMs in their regular formats without preconditions. The Chairmanship also supported further confidence-building measures related to missing persons; environmental threats; youth; and women, peace and security.

1-2/VIENNA

First Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on upholding the principles of tolerance and non-discrimination, including in the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief

3/WASHINGTON

Chairperson-in-Office hearing at the Helsinki Commission

5/BRATISLAVA

Meeting on reform of the scales of contributions

8

Chairperson-in-Office visits Kazakhstan

9

Chairperson-in-Office visits Kyrgyzstan

APRIL

8

Chairperson-in-Office visits Montenegro

20

Chairperson-in-Office visits Uzbekistan

21

Chairperson-in-Office visits Turkmenistan

22

Chairperson-in-Office visits Tajikistan

27-28/BRATISLAVA

Second Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum

MAY

TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT



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

In 2019, the Slovak Chairmanship worked in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Moldova to promote full implementation of the Berlin Plus “package of eight” and to facilitate discussions between the Sides. During meetings in Chisinau, Bratislava and Tiraspol, Special Representative Frattini stressed the importance for the Sides to apply an output-oriented approach. The chief negotiators met three times in the 1+1 format, while the working groups convened on 19 occasions throughout the year. On 9-10 October, a conference in the 5+2 format was organized in Bratislava.

One of the main achievements of 2019 was the Sides' decision to implement a pilot project eliminating the need for prior notification in case of official representatives' personal visits to either territory. The support of the Special Representative on the matter was decisive and made it possible to reach this decision.

During the Ministerial Council in Bratislava on 5-6 December, the accomplishments and the progress achieved during the year were presented in a Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transnistrian Settlement Process in the 5+2 format, which was adopted by the 57 participating States at the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council.

3

Chairperson-in-Office visits Albania

4

Chairperson-in-Office visits Serbia

3-4/ VIENNA

OSCE-wide Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors

13

Chairperson-in-Office visits Kyiv

17-18/BRATISLAVA

Conference on cyber/ICT security for a safer future

19

Chairperson-in-Office visits North Macedonia

20

Chairperson-in-Office visits Bosnia and Herzegovina

21

Chairperson-in-Office visits Kosovo¹

25-27/VIENNA

Annual Security Review Conference

JUNE

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.

COMBATING CORRUPTION



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

Professor Severino, in her capacity as OSCE Special Representative of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, continued her work to enhance the visibility of the OSCE in the international fight against corruption.

In her endeavours in 2019, Professor Severino actively promoted OSCE principles and commitments by calling on and encouraging governments and international organizations to intensify their anti-corruption efforts. In 2019, Special Representative Severino visited a number of OSCE countries, including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Slovakia, where she met with members of Government, senior officials and representatives of civil society.

In February, Professor Severino also had the opportunity to address the 18th Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Her commitment to creating conditions conducive to inclusive and co-operative responses to corruption has led to greater awareness within the OSCE region of crucial issues related to the ownership of anti-corruption governance; the awareness of, and support from, civil society; the engagement of, and association with, the private sector; prevention and incentives; and the role of digitalization.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



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

As the Special Representative on Gender of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Melanne Verveer conducted country visits to Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina complementing the Chairperson-in-Office's visit to every country with a field operation. During these country visits, she assessed progress towards gender equality and offered recommendations for the missions' future engagement. Ambassador Verveer also supported the ongoing fight against gender-based violence by participating in the launch of the OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women. She also advanced the discussion on women's participation in the economic and environmental dimension through an event on the role of women in security and environmental threats that featured former Irish President Mary Robinson. Throughout the year, Ambassador Verveer promoted the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in the OSCE region in line with the Slovak Chairmanship's focus on conflict prevention and resolution, and she engaged with participating States and the Secretariat in Vienna.

5/VIENNA

Discussion on promoting the role of women in addressing environment and security challenges

7/LUXEMBOURG

Chairperson-in-Office addresses 28th Annual Session of the OSCE PA

9

Informal Ministerial Gathering in the High Tatras

15–16/VIENNA

Second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on effective multilateralism in the human dimension

JULY

2–3/TOKYO

Chairperson-in-Office addresses OSCE Asian Conference

9–10/BRATISLAVA

High-level conference on security sector governance and reform

11–13/PRAGUE

27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

13–14

Chairperson-in-Office visits Kyiv

16–27/WARSAW

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

SEPTEMBER

21–22/VIENNA

Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly

29

Chairperson-in-Office visits eastern Ukraine

OCTOBER

4/BRATISLAVA

Annual OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference

5–6/BRATISLAVA

26th OSCE Ministerial Council

11/NEW YORK

Joint statement on UN–OSCE framework of co-operation

DECEMBER

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



RABBI ANDREW BAKER

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



AMBASSADOR MEHMET PAÇACI

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



PROFESSOR INGEBORG GABRIEL

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

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, Rabbi Andrew Baker, worked closely with the Slovak Chairmanship to organize a high-level conference on combating anti-Semitism that was held in Bratislava on 5–6 February 2019. The event was also attended by Special Representatives Paçaci and Gabriel. In June, Rabbi Baker conducted a country visit to Dublin and in November to Copenhagen. In October, he visited Sofia to review the work of Bulgaria's National Coordinator on Combating Anti-Semitism. Through his visits and in presentations to OSCE conferences, Rabbi Baker stressed the importance for participating States to address the critical security needs of Jewish communities and to develop targeted educational programmes that make it possible to counteract negative attitudes towards Jews. He also referenced the pragmatic value of state institutions employing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism in their day-to-day work and highlighted the growing number of governments and international organizations that have adopted it.

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Professor Mehmet Paçaci, held discussions with civil society members, local authorities, government representatives and diplomatic delegations from many countries throughout 2019. An undeniable increase in anti-Muslim intolerance and discrimination cases throughout the world, including the OSCE region, was a common concern in all these meetings. He also drew attention to the fact that, in a global world, groups that are intolerant and discriminate against Muslims are actively interacting through traditional and social media, nurturing their destructive ideology, and that they are increasingly resorting to violence. He also

called attention to legislative regulations that jeopardize the implementation of the fundamental human right to freedom of religion or belief as one of the constructive principles of the modern world. In his contacts, Personal Representative Paçaci persistently encouraged civil society and government representatives to recognize, define and report anti-Muslim hate crimes, as these steps constitute a crucial stage in combating discrimination and intolerance against all members of religions.

Professor Ingeborg Gabriel, 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, was a panellist and keynote speaker at a number of OSCE events. In her speeches, she stressed the need for networking and for co-ordinated activities in the field of religious education, dialogue and the inclusion of members of religious communities in activities related to tolerance and non-discrimination and peacemaking. Professor Gabriel also took part in an event to mark the 25th anniversary of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe held in Paris on 26–27 September 2019. She gave many individual talks on issues concerning her mandate, which showed the importance of an exchange of ideas in this sensitive area.

The Personal Representatives jointly took part in the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw on 25 September 2019. They also attended the Mediterranean Conference held in Tirana on 23–24 October 2019, which they combined with a country visit to Albania to hold talks with government officials, civil society representatives and religious communities.

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 6,520 people currently fall under the special provisions of the agreement. No individual complaints by military pensioners were submitted in 2019, continuing the trend of previous years. The nature of issues considered by the Commission has shifted from individual cases to matters concerning the framework for providing services according to the specifications of the bilateral agreement. The 2019 report to the Permanent Council concluded that the function of the Representative should continue as a standby arrangement.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

AMBASSADOR HELMUT TICHY

SPECIAL ADVISER to the Slovak Chairmanship on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE and Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE

Ambassador Helmut Tichy chaired three meetings in 2019 of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE. The discussions in the Informal Working Group again focused on finding a solution that would grant international legal personality to the OSCE, in accordance with one of four options that had emerged during the discussions in the previous years. The Secretariat also provided delegations with valuable updates on the operational consequences of the lack of a clear legal status for the OSCE, and the March and October meetings allowed for intensified discussions between delegations and experts who provided input on the legal issues at hand from an academic point of view. The participating States also continued to explore ways to enhance the OSCE's legal status through domestic legislation and/or through bilateral agreements with the OSCE, as well as by concluding an agreement on the legal status, privileges and immunities of the OSCE between interested participating States outside the OSCE framework.

YOUTH AND SECURITY



ALBA BROJKA AND SAMUEL GODA
Special Representatives of the
Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security

The Special Representatives on Youth and Security dedicated their efforts to advancing the targeted and meaningful implementation of youth and security-related commitments, in particular last year's Ministerial Council Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts and United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2419 and 2250. The Special Representatives strengthened the voices of young women and men within the OSCE region and beyond by highlighting the role of youth in peace and security efforts, integrating youth perspectives and promoting active and meaningful participation on the part of young people across the OSCE institutional setting and its three dimensions of security.

Their work was driven by a vision to incorporate the perspectives and expertise of young leaders more systematically. This resulted in the launching of the #perspectives2030 initiative in co-operation with the Office of the Secretary General and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's Regional Office for Peace and Cooperation in Europe. The initiative culminated in the OSCE-wide Youth Forum in Bratislava that took place on 28–29 October. The Special Representatives on Youth and Security took part in over 50 OSCE and external initiatives, field visits and consultation meetings across the OSCE area, and engaged with participating States, OSCE staff, international organizations, academia, civil society practitioners and, above all, youth. Throughout the year, they paid particular attention to co-ordination and co-operation among different youth stakeholders, especially work with youth in the field. In this spirit, they fully supported the Chairmanship's OSCE-wide Expert Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security in Sando, Sweden, co-organized by the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

The Special Representatives represented the voice of youth within the OSCE and also paved the way for other young experts to engage on topics such as human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, good governance, preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, youth economic participation and entrepreneurship, climate change, cyber/ICT security and digitalization.

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The OSCE maintains special relations with five Asian and six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to address shared security challenges. In 2019, the OSCE Slovak Chairmanship continued to promote ongoing dialogue and joint activities with the Partners for Co-operation with support from the outgoing Italian and in-coming Albanian OSCE Chairmanships.

ASIAN CONTACT GROUP

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



Participants of the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, Tokyo, 2 September 2019. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

During its Chairmanship of the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group in 2019, Italy focused on further promoting and strengthening an open and interactive dialogue between the participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation. In elaborating the agenda of the Asian Contact Group, Italy worked with the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and the Asian Partners to ensure that the agenda corresponded to the interests and concerns of the Asian Partner countries and supported the priorities of the OSCE Chairmanship.

In 2019, five meetings of the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group were held in Vienna, which allowed the OSCE participating States and Asian Partners to engage in timely and insightful discussions on key security issues of interest to all parties and to share best practices and experiences with each other based on the Ministerial Council decisions adopted in Milan in 2018. Each meeting featured speakers from one of the Asian Partner countries, as well as presentations on selected topics by experts from international organizations, diplomats, academia and civil society. They included discussions on the topics of the OSCE's commitment to women, peace and security; advancing partnership for sustainable security; countering trafficking in human beings and modern slavery; the current situation and ways forward on the Korean Peninsula; and democratic institutions and the safety of journalists in Afghanistan.

2019 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

The 2019 OSCE Asian Conference, "How to Achieve Comprehensive Security in the Digital Era: The Perspectives of the OSCE and Its Asian Partners", was held in Tokyo on 2–3 September. More than 130 political representatives, policy experts, and practitioners from international, regional and subregional organizations, academia, business and civil society from across the OSCE's participating States and Asian Partners for Co-operation gathered to explore ways to tackle common security challenges arising from the use of digital technology in the three dimensions of security. During the high-level opening session, many speakers reconfirmed that strengthening co-operation between OSCE participating States and its Asian Partners for Co-operation was key to achieving comprehensive security in the digital era. The opening was followed by three thematic sessions, which covered all three security dimensions and specific topical areas of comprehensive security in the digital age, namely tackling ICT security risks; the digital economy as a driver for promoting co-operation, security and growth; and risks to the safety of journalists. The conference also featured a side event called "Enhancing security, building partnerships: Co-operation between OSCE field operations in Central Asia and Afghanistan on border management", which showcased how, since 2009, the OSCE has supported the professionalization of border guards and mid- and senior-level border and custom officials in Afghanistan, mainly through extrabudgetary contributions.

MEDITERRANEAN CONTACT GROUP

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



Albania's Acting Foreign Minister Gent Cakaj addressing the 2019 Mediterranean Conference, Tirana, 25 October 2019. (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania)

During its Chairmanship of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group in 2019, Albania fostered an inclusive political dialogue that followed a demand-driven approach and responded to the interests and priorities of the Mediterranean Partners. The celebration in 2019 of the 25th anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group allowed for brainstorming throughout the year about the future of the Partnership and the available Partnership tools. In co-ordination with the 2019 Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and in line with the efforts of previous Chairmanships of the Mediterranean Contact Group, Albania strived to take the Partnership to the next level by building on the progress made in previous years.

Six meetings of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group were held in Vienna during the course of the year, which provided a valuable platform for information exchange, dialogue and sharing of best practices between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The subjects of the six meetings were jointly selected with the Mediterranean Partners in order to reflect the wide range of topics of interest to the individual Mediterranean Partner countries and to support the priorities of the 2019 Slovak OSCE Chairmanship.

Apart from the Contact Group meetings, a special ambassadorial retreat took place in Valletta on 7–8 June, with the aim of taking stock of the Partnership on its 25th anniversary. The retreat was followed by the OSCE Mediterranean Conference, which was held in Tirana on 24–25 October.

2019 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

The 2019 OSCE Mediterranean Conference organized by the Albanian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group was entitled “The 25th anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group: achievements, challenges and future opportunities for the Partnership”. It commemorated the anniversary of the Partnership and focused on the next 25 years by fostering a conversation among participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on what has been achieved, and what can be improved in the OSCE’s approach to Mediterranean co-operation.

The conference was attended by a plurality of foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers and more than 250 high-level representatives of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, OSCE participating States, OSCE executive structures, international organizations, civil society, academia and the media. It considered ways to deepen Mediterranean co-operation and further common security in the Mediterranean region. It consisted of a high-level political session focusing on what has been achieved and what was still missing in the relationship between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The political segment was followed by three working sessions covering all three security dimensions dedicated to countering terrorism, youth participation and engagement, and economic connectivity.

FROM CONTACT GROUPS TO PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION GROUPS

In order to better reflect the Partnership’s realities and tools, the 2019 OSCE Ministerial Council renamed the two Contact Groups with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation into the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group and the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group.

Established in 1994 and 2003, respectively, the Contact Groups provided regular venues for dialogue and a framework for co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation. By renaming the Contact Groups as Partners for Co-operation Groups, the participating States stressed their commitment to strengthening political dialogue and practical co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation.

“We reaffirm our commitment to the relationship and dialogue with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation to address common security challenges and threats. The security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of the Mediterranean. Building on our interdependence, we are ready to develop this process further.”

Bratislava Troika Declaration: For People, Dialogue and Stability



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.

The gavel used by the chairperson to adopt decisions by the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna. (OSCE/Stanislava Kazimirova)

Permanent Council

www.osce.org/permanent-council

During the 2019 Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council were chaired by Slovakia's Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Ambassador Radomír Boháč.

Throughout the year, Ambassador Boháč welcomed distinguished guest speakers to the Permanent Council, including foreign 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 conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, inclusive dialogue, effective multilateralism and a safer future.

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 43 sessions of the Permanent Council in 2019, as well as four joint sessions with the Forum for Security Co-operation: one dedicated to security sector governance and reform, one to lessons learned from conflict resolution and two to the Structured Dialogue. 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, succeeded in June 2019 by Ambassador Yaşar Halit Çevik, briefed the Permanent Council five times. Additionally, in two separate sessions, the Chairperson-in-Office, Slovak Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Miroslav Lajčák, attended the Permanent Council to bid farewell to both Ambassador Apakan and Ambassador Sajdik and to welcome their successors, Ambassador Halit Çevik and Ambassador Heidi Grau.

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 the Secretary General of the Council of Europe; the President of the ICRC; and the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, and the Departments for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations.

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

- **Chairperson of the Security Committee:** Ambassador María Victoria González Román, Spain (until April 2019); Ambassador Luis Manuel Cuesta Civil, Spain
- **Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee:** Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Kazakhstan
- **Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee:** Ambassador Ivo Šrámek, Czech Republic



"Slovakia, as the OSCE Chair for 2019, put a spotlight on people – in particular those affected by conflict. Through our activities – from our weekly Permanent Council sessions to other discussion formats – we focused on making sure that concerns, hopes and dreams for a safer future from across the OSCE region are heard in Vienna; on highlighting the OSCE's important work in the field; and on finding new ways to promote inclusive dialogue among the 57 [participating States]."

Ambassador Radomír Boháč
Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OSCE and 2019
Chairperson of the Permanent Council

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

- **Lukáš Parízek:** Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on Scales of Contribution
- **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 Jeroen Boender, Netherlands:** Chairperson of the 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:** Special Adviser to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE and Chairperson of the Open-Ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE
- **Ambassador Luca Fratini, Italy:** Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on civil society participation in OSCE activities and particularly human dimension events



11 January, 30 May, 12 December

MIROSLAV LAJČÁK

2019 OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia



17 January and 31 October

GEORGE TSERETELI

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



20 February

BERTIE AHERN

former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland



7 March

BARBORA BURAJOVÁ

Coordinating-Methodical Centre on Gender-Based and Domestic Violence, Slovakia



20 March

MIROSLAV JENČA

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, and the Departments for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations



11 July

GENT CAKAJ

acting Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

18 July

LASHA DARSALIA
Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia



14 November

PETER MAURER
President of the ICRC

TOIVO KLAAR
European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus

CIHAN SULTANOĞLU
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Representative to Geneva International Discussions



12 December

MARIJA PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ
Secretary General 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 2019, the FSC was chaired by Switzerland, Tajikistan and the Czech Republic.

During a session of the Forum for Security Co-operation, Vienna, 27 November 2019.
(OSCE/Micky Kroell)

Forum for Security Co-operation

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

The strategic discussions that took place during Security Dialogues in 2019 indicated the FSC's importance as a platform for dialogue by addressing security issues of common interest and concern. Even though the situation in and around Ukraine remained the dominant topic in the FSC, discussions also took place on matters related to subregional military and defence co-operation; normative and project-related aspects in the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA); implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540; the Vienna Document 2011 and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs); private military and security companies; and aspects of modern warfare. The three 2019 FSC Chairmanships stimulated discussions by organizing a total of 21 Security Dialogues. Several initiatives undertaken by participating States led to the adoption of five decisions, all designed to support the implementation of existing commitments. Two commemorative declarations related to FSC topics were adopted at the 26th Ministerial Council: a Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (a joint proposal of the Czech FSC Chairmanship and the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship) and a Commemorative Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1540.

With a view to promoting regional stability and comprehensive and co-operative security, the three 2019 FSC Chairmanships dedicated a total of five Security Dialogues to subregional military defence co-operation, which, in geographical terms, spanned the Višegrad Group, regional organizations in Central Asia and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). In particular, under the FSC Chairmanship of Switzerland, the Security Dialogues focused on regional co-operation aimed at promoting a

"transparency and confidence" approach. Tajikistan's FSC Chairmanship oversaw discussions on politico-military aspects of border management and the challenges and opportunities related to a regional approach in Central Asia, the role of CSBMs in Central Asia and synergies between regional organizations and the OSCE. A Security Dialogue on politico-military co-operation among the Višegrad Group countries was organized by the FSC Chairmanship of the Czech Republic.



Specialists from Central Asia and Afghanistan during a regional explosive ordnance disposal course, Lyaur, Tajikistan, 25 February 2019. (OSCE/Abdugani Vakhobov)

In accordance with the task stemming from OSCE documents and various FSC and Ministerial Council decisions on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, all three FSC Chairmanships conducted a range of related activities. Given the impressive implementation results of many project activities, the topic of SALW and SCA remained one of the most enduring and promising items on the FSC agenda, with five Security Dialogues and many informal meetings dedicated to the subject during the year. The OSCE's efforts focused in particular on reviewing and updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and on conventional ammunition, with a clear roadmap for this process being agreed before the end of 2019. Regrettably, the OSCE meeting to review the implementation of the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA – a firm commitment by all OSCE participating States, as decided at the 2017 Ministerial Council – was not implemented in 2019 on account of a lack of consensus on the agenda.

Two other topics highlighted during the year were the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and UNSCR 1540 – on its 15th anniversary – which one Security Dialogue was devoted to under the FSC Chairmanship of Tajikistan and another under the FSC Chairmanship of the Czech Republic.

All three FSC Chairmanships co-operated closely with the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office and the OSCE Permanent Council on cross-dimensional issues of relevance to both bodies in line with the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. To this end, four joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council were held: two on structured dialogue, one on SSG/R and one on lessons learned in the field of conflict resolution.

The 29th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) took place in March 2019 during Switzerland's

FSC Chairmanship. Led by Lithuania and Liechtenstein, the AIAM provided an opportunity to discuss various issues related to the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. The discussions resulted in a number of suggestions about how the current CSBMs could be implemented more effectively and improved in the future. Furthermore, in May 2019 the FSC Chair's Co-ordinator on the Vienna Document organized an Expert-Level Workshop on the Exchange of Major Weapon and Equipment Systems Data. Additionally, in an effort to ensure that the Vienna Document remains up to date with respect to the current politico-military realities and technological developments, a Vienna Document Plus proposal, building on suggestions made earlier, was put forward by a group of 32 participating States, indicating that many participating States recognize the need to update the Vienna Document and the importance of continuing efforts in Working Group A in this regard.

The eighth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was held in June 2019 under the Tajik FSC Chairmanship. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for participating States to review the enforcement of the Code and to exchange views on ways to further improve its implementation.

The FSC also contributed to the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference, providing inputs to relevant sessions and focusing on politico-military elements, including conventional arms control and CSBMs.

The year 2019 saw three Security Dialogues devoted to the following aspects of gender equality: integrating gender perspectives in the politico-military dimension; the role of the military in implementing UNSCR 1325; and enhancing the role of women in both conflictrelated and peacetime operations, paving the way to the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, which will be commemorated in 2020.



OSCE donor visit to an upgraded ammunition surveillance laboratory of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 11 April 2019. (OSCE/Edib Jahic)



OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 323 parliamentarians from across the OSCE region. It provides a platform for OSCE parliamentarians to engage in dialogue, conduct diplomacy, observe elections and promote governments' compliance with OSCE commitments.

Active across the OSCE area, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) continued to promote parliamentary engagement on issues high on the international agenda in 2019. The PA deepened its relations with other OSCE institutions and developed its partnerships with outside organizations. Georgian parliamentarian George Tsereteli was re-elected President of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Luxembourg in July. Secretary General Roberto Montella was re-elected by the Standing Committee in Luxembourg for a second five-year term starting 1 January 2021.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella visited more than 20 countries throughout the OSCE area, conducting timely bilateral diplomacy on matters of international concern. They met in Belgrade with the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Mustafa Şentop, following Turkey's military operation in north-eastern Syria in October. Tsereteli, Montella and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger also received Albanian President Ilir Meta on the sidelines of the spring Bureau meeting in Copenhagen, which Meta addressed, in preparation for the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship.

In May, Tsereteli, Montella and several members of the OSCE PA visited Norway to learn about challenges facing the Arctic region. In Svalbard, one of the world's northernmost inhabited areas, the OSCE parliamentarians explored environmental and security risks posed by climate change. Tsereteli, Montella and French parliamentarian Pascal Allizard, an OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, visited Egypt in November to strengthen Mediterranean co-operation. The PA held its 18th Autumn Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, the first time ever meeting in a Mediterranean Partner State.

Leaders of the OSCE PA's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions undertook two

fact-finding missions to Ukraine emphasizing the urgent need for renewed conflict resolution efforts, freedom of movement for civilians and concrete humanitarian measures.

The Assembly's Special Representatives focused on issues such as human trafficking, Mediterranean affairs, gender, anti-Semitism and racism, and South-Eastern Europe. President Tsereteli appointed Torill Eidsheim (Norway) to work on Arctic issues, Pia Kauma (Finland) to engage with civil society, Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) to fight corruption, Stefana Miladinovic (Serbia) to work on digital issues and Luca Santolini (San Marino) to work on disinformation and propaganda.

ENHANCING COUNTER-TERRORISM CO-OPERATION

Culminating a year-long effort that built on the oversight functions of more than 20 national parliaments in the OSCE region, the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) published a report in October that provided an overview of the main challenges faced at the national level to enhance border security and information exchange in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2396.

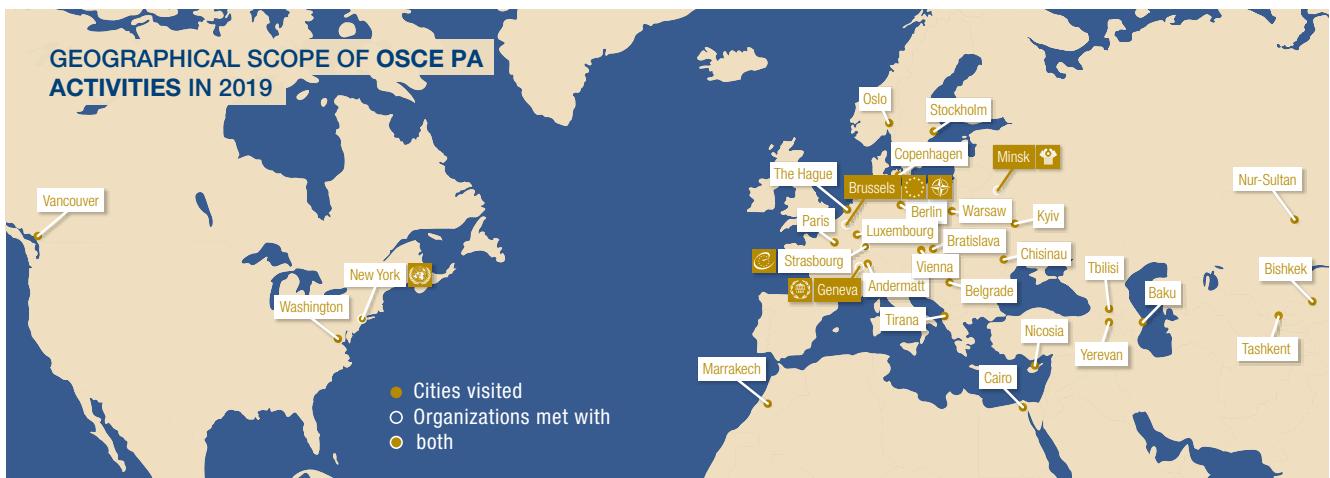
CCT members also conducted a fact-finding visit to Paris in February, meeting with government officials and experts for



Special Co-ordinator Sereine Mauborgne and the Head of OSCE PA Delegation, Reinhold Lopatka, addressing the press on election day in North Macedonia, 21 April 2019. (OSCE PA/Andreas Baker)



Secretary General Roberto Montella, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák and OSCE PA President George Tsereteli, 7 July 2019. (OSCE PA/Anna Di Domenico)



discussions on the policy implications of minors returning from conflict zones. Greek parliamentarian Makis Voridis, then-Chair of the CCT, actively contributed to the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Bratislava in March and to the St. Petersburg International Parliamentary Conference on Counter-Terrorism in April, which featured the participation of 15 OSCE parliamentarians. Leaders of the CCT also discussed OSCE PA counter-terrorism work with a UN Security Council Committee in New York in July 2019.

MIGRANT RETURN POLICIES IN FOCUS

The return policies of Belgium and other EU member states were in focus during a visit to Brussels in April by members of the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. Meeting with officials from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the office of the UNHCR and non-governmental organizations working with vulnerable children, the OSCE parliamentarians discussed how to ensure effective and at the same time humane and dignified return policies.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met on the margins of OSCE PA meetings in Vienna, Luxembourg and Marrakech, where they heard presentations from representatives from ODIHR, the IOM, the UNHCR and the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Meeting under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments", participants at the OSCE PA's 28th Annual

Session in Luxembourg explored ways to ensure that OSCE participating States meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

OSCE parliamentarians also promoted sustainable development at an international conference hosted by the Swiss OSCE PA delegation in Andermatt, Switzerland, in September. The conference's working sessions focused on issues such as infrastructure development, good governance and environmental sustainability.

Nilza de Sena (Portugal), Chair of the OSCE PA's economic and environmental committee, addressed the SDG-focused OSCE Security Days event in June, noting that parliamentarians are well positioned to both enact laws and communicate with constituents about the SDGs' importance.

**ANNUAL SESSION: LUXEMBOURG, 4–8 JULY
AUTUMN MEETING: MARRAKECH, 4–6 OCTOBER
WINTER MEETING: VIENNA, 21–22 FEBRUARY**



"Our success is measured in terms of how we manage to improve the everyday situation of the people in our countries."

George Tsereteli
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Near the contact line in Ukraine, 1 June 2019. (OSCE PA/Marc Carillet)

CONTRIBUTING POLITICAL EXPERIENCE TO OSCE ELECTION OBSERVATION CONTRIBUTING POLITICAL EXPERIENCE TO OSCE ELECTION OBSERVATION

OSCE PA election observers contributed their political experience, judgement and visibility to this essential OSCE endeavour, working closely with ODIHR and other international partners. The OSCE PA deployed 455 observers to six countries in 2019: Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.





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: €40,880,600 (Unified budget), €12,792,894² (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)³

Staff: 398 (including 24 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/secretariat

In 2019, 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 Slovak 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

2/ The amount covers the extrabudgetary expenditure of the entire Secretariat as listed above.
3/ Actual expenditure figures do not include obligations.

Conflict prevention

Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre: **Ambassador Marcel Peško**
Budget: €4,926,600 (Unified budget), €2,892,329 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)
Staff: 57 (including 10 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 by providing 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.

COMBATING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES AND AMMUNITION AND ENSURING CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN UKRAINE

The CPC, jointly with the Transnational Threats Department and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, continued to assist the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine in enhancing its capacity to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Moreover, two additional extrabudgetary projects were launched to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, with the National Police and the State Customs Service of Ukraine, in the same field.

Together with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the CPC managed chemical safety and security projects, and developed biological safety and security projects in Ukraine under the auspices of UNSCR 1540. The projects provide practical assistance to Ukraine in implementation of UNSCR 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their related materials.



Ukrainian customs officers and border guards study the approaches of their Slovak colleagues to monitoring the cross-border movement of chemical substances and the latest methods for personnel training, Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovak Republic, 30 May 2019. (OSCE)

CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE CRISIS IN AND AROUND UKRAINE

The CPC continued its important role in the co-ordination of the OSCE's response to the crisis in and around Ukraine, including by supporting efforts to stabilize the security situation and foster implementation of the Minsk agreements. It assisted the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) in reinforcing the Mission's dialogue facilitation efforts in conflict-affected areas; consolidating the Mission's procedures, policies and reporting; and strengthening its technical monitoring capabilities. The CPC continued to assist the TCG in its mediation and conflict resolution efforts. 2019 saw progress on the disengagement process in three pilot zones and the reconstruction of the broken span of the bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska. The CPC also supported 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 Transnistrian settlement process in Moldova by working closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process. It actively supported efforts by the Chairmanship and the Mission to Moldova to reach an agreement on outstanding points of the so-called "package of eight", a list of measures agreed upon by the Sides at the start of 2017. The CPC continued to support the Mission to Moldova's efforts to secure the implementation of the "package of eight", leading to an improvement in the quality of life for residents of both banks. Additionally, the CPC supported a 5+2 meeting in Bratislava in October 2019, where discussions were held on engaging in further confidence-building measures (CBMs) beyond the "package of eight".

The CPC supported the work of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Rudolf Michalka, during four rounds of the GID, which address the consequences of the August 2008 war in Georgia, and at regular (until 29 August 2019) and technical meetings of the IPRM in Ergneti. The CPC



Participants during the 95th meeting of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, Ergneti, 30 August 2019. (SOVA)

provided mediation support and other expertise, together with other Secretariat units to Special Representative Michalka, with a view to contributing to initiatives in support of the Chairmanship's engagement in the context of the GID and to improving the situation of conflict-affected populations. The CPC co-moderated the GID working group dealing with humanitarian issues and actively contributed to developing a strategy on women, peace and security for the GID Co-Chairs – representatives of the EU, OSCE and UN. In further support of the GID, and to provide opportunities for mutual understanding of conflict-affected youth, the CPC organized a session of the OSCE summer school in Vienna and Bratislava. The CPC continued to engage in initiatives on other humanitarian issues, including in relation to cases of missing persons.

The CPC supported the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, as well as the High-Level Planning Group.

ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The CPC facilitated liaison between Vienna and field operations in Central Asia, including a visit by OSCE Permanent Representatives to the region. The CPC supported the work of the two regional flagship projects, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe. In addition to its regular activities, the CPC supported the Programme Office in Dushanbe and the Chairmanship in presenting and promoting the work of Women's Resource Centres (WRCs) in Tajikistan to donors and other participating States. WRCs offer legal support, vocational courses and entrepreneurial training to women in various areas of the country. As in previous years, the CPC also hosted an OSCE Academy student in the framework of the Academy internship programme designed to provide students from Central Asia with an opportunity to gain further professional experience.

ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

In addition to regular activities, the CPC continued to support the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and field operations in South-Eastern Europe in constructively

responding to political developments as they unfolded in the region by providing tailored advice and by facilitating OSCE responses. In addition, the CPC invested efforts in enhancing synergy between OSCE structures, in particular with OSCE institutions, through co-ordinated actions and joint statements, hence amplifying their impact.

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 eighth annual meeting, gathering 30 representatives for information sharing and capacity building. Recognizing the essential role of conflict analysis in early-warning reporting, the CPC continued to facilitate 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 Transdnisterian settlement process 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.

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.

2019 MODEL OSCE CONFERENCE IN GEORGIA

The CPC, as part of OSCE efforts to promote youth participation in fostering peace and security, organized the first Model OSCE Conference in Georgia from 18 to 22 November. The event helped build confidence and links among young people from Georgia and other participating States. A total of 23 students and young professionals took part in a four-day simulation of the OSCE Permanent Council. The event followed up on the 2018 Ministerial Council Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts and other related documents by seeking to enhance relevant skills and experience of young people.

The participants actively and enthusiastically engaged in the exercise and provided positive feed-back. A participant named Tamar (24) said after the conference: "I really enjoyed all these days. [It was an] amazing experience; it was so educational for me. I learned a lot not only about the OSCE, but also about negotiation skills and culture and history of your countries."

The event was supported by the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and the delegations of Finland and Italy. The CPC may expand activities of this nature in 2020 depending on an assessment of the event's impact and lessons learned, as well as interest on the part of other participating States.



Participants during the Model OSCE Conference in Tbilisi, 20 November 2019. (OSCE)

The MST facilitated strategy retreats for special representatives for the Transnistrian settlement process and in the TCG, as well as workshops for field operations on mediation process design. The MST deployed an external expert to support negotiation formats, such as the GID and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti. Together with the OSCE Gender Section, the MST developed the OSCE Toolkit on Inclusion of Women and Effective Peace Processes.

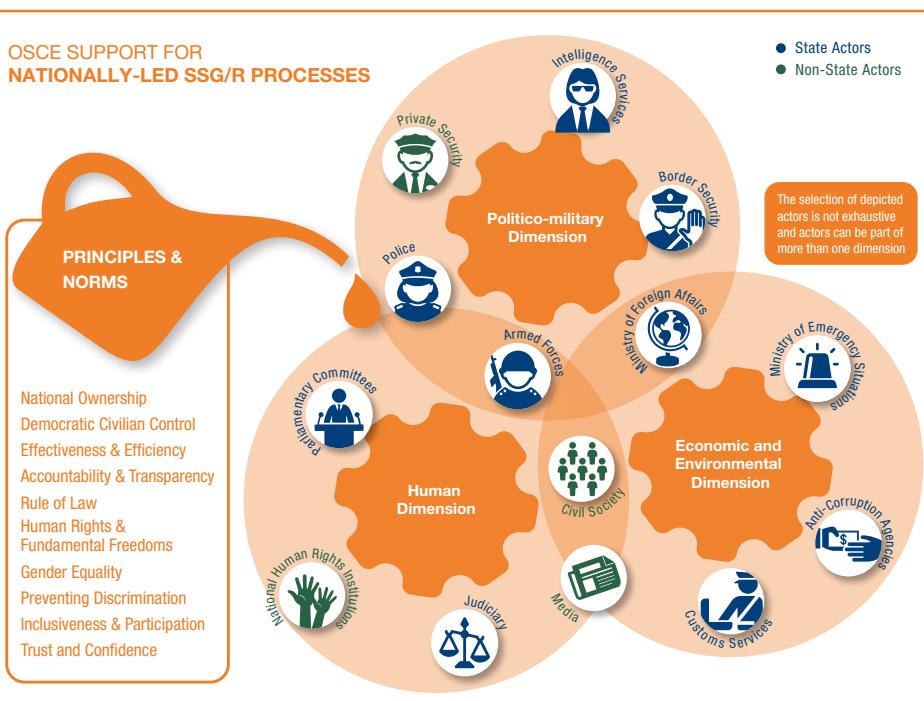
IMPLEMENTING POLITICO-MILITARY COMMITMENTS

The FSC Support Section continued to support the implementation of CSBMs, especially the Vienna Document, by supporting subsequent FSC Chairs in organizing weekly FSC meetings, preparing Security Dialogues, processing the exchange of military information, preparing CSBM implementation reports and providing assistance to the OSCE participating States in this regard. The Section also took several steps to improve the way the CPC processes data and reports on exchanged military information by developing a new Information Management and Reporting System (iMARS).

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

It supported work on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security by examining ways in which it can promote the implementation of norms for transparency and co-operation among the armed forces of participating States. The Annual Implementation Discussion on the Code of Conduct was organized, as was a regional outreach seminar in Larnaca, Cyprus, and a commemorative 25th-anniversary symposium in Budapest.

The CPC managed nine extrabudgetary projects providing assistance for project activities on SALW and SCA. A key element of the projects, most notably in South-Eastern Europe, was on combating illicit trafficking, helping to



A security sector that is accountable and inclusive and respects human rights is more effective in providing security to a state and its people. It also prevents the outbreak and recurrence of conflicts and supports sustainable development. The OSCE has a long track record in supporting states in reforming and strengthening the governance of their security sector. Its engagement in the area of SSG/R reflects the Organization's comprehensive approach to security. With SSG/R being a priority of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, the CPC worked towards a more coherent and co-ordinated OSCE approach to SSG/R.



Students from the Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) during a study tour to the OSCE organized by the CPC and the Programme Offices in Bishkek and Nur-Sultan. They met with the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other OSCE officials to learn about current and prospective OSCE work in their respective countries and shared their views on how the CAYN model could be replicated in other regions, Vienna, 3 October 2019. (OSCE)

reduce and prevent destabilizing excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional ammunition.

Work also continued in 2019 to remove and dispose of rocket fuel components in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan in order to address threats to human security and the environment. It is estimated that, by 2022, overall stockpiles of 180 tonnes of the rocket fuel components mélange and samin in Kyrgyzstan and 160 tonnes of samin in Armenia will be removed and disposed.

The Section also assisted participating States in their implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

In 2019, the CPC continued to facilitate a comprehensive 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. In 2019, in consultations with donors and focal points throughout the OSCE, the CPC thoroughly updated all project-related templates. Expert advice was provided on 108 project proposals worth €79.3 million, including with respect to SMM activities funded through voluntary and extrabudgetary contributions amounting to €16.9 million. Furthermore, the CPC facilitated eight training sessions at field operations on project cycle management, programme and project planning, monitoring and evaluation and extrabudgetary project handling, in which 155 OSCE mission members (89 women; 66 men) took part.

DURABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) was established to provide durable housing solutions to vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991–1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. It is implemented by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and mostly financed by the international donor community.

The OSCE, together with the UNHCR, continues to support the fair, transparent and consistent implementation of the RHP, focusing on beneficiary selection to ensure that assistance is provided to the most vulnerable refugees, as well as support to the four partner countries in ensuring sustainability of the solutions offered by housing projects. The RHP has had an enormously positive effect on the lives of ordinary people who previously lived in deplorable housing conditions and who now have a place they can call home. Not only has the RHP helped foster greater regional co-operation between the four partner countries, but it has also had a positive impact on regional reconciliation in South-Eastern Europe.

As of the end of December 2019, almost 6,400 housing units had been delivered to RHP beneficiaries, with an additional 3,300 projected for 2020 and 800 for 2021. In 2019, the RHP was selected from 700 project submissions from 115 countries to be showcased at the second Paris Peace Forum in November.



A proud beneficiary of the RHP in her new home in Goražde. During the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, her family had left Foca and settled in Goražde in substandard housing conditions without proper sanitation. The RHP has provided her with a social housing apartment.

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 2019, it issued:

- 534 daily morning and afternoon briefings prepared on working days and official holidays when required;
- 1,675 updates and special reports; and
- 10,866 alert messages.

Transnational threats

Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats: **Rasa Ostrauskaitė (until 14.9.)**

Budget: €3,032,900 (Unified budget), €2,569,865 (Extrabudgetary actual 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

The OSCE's Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) supported OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in their efforts to address transnational threats in 2019. 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 that deals with cyber/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and three thematic units: the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Border Security and Management Unit and the Strategic Police Matters Unit.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

TNTD continued to organize training on cyber/ICT security, including courses on the international law of cyber-operations and scenario-based discussions aimed at highlighting the practical uses of OSCE cyber/ICT security CBMs. Upon their request, TNTD provided three participating States with customized CBM implementation reports and facilitated co-operation through a series of meetings of national focal points. TNTD enhanced the dialogue with OSCE Partners for Co-operation through regional events, like the second Interregional Conference on Cyber/ICT Security in the Republic of Korea.

COMBATING TERRORISM

To support civil society in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT), TNTD trained facilitators of the Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism (LIVE) Initiative and published two additional guidebooks on understanding referral mechanisms in P/CVERLT and on understanding gender and P/CVERLT.

TNTD co-operated with the UN and INTERPOL to promote the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks by organizing a regional workshop for South-Eastern Europe in Skopje. Furthermore, an OSCE-wide expert seminar on the protection of so-called soft targets took place in Vienna, which offered opportunities to share related experiences, particularly on establishing public-private partnerships.

Seminars on strengthening rule-of-law-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism were organized jointly with OSCE field operations in Albania, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, based on the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Rabat Memorandum.

In response to the exploitation of the Internet by violent extremists and terrorists, three national tabletop exercises were held in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Jointly with the United Nations Counterterrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a regional workshop for Central Asia on electronic evidence was organized.



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger opening the 2019 Chairmanship's OSCE-wide Cyber/ICT Security Conference, Bratislava, 17 June 2019.
(OSCE/Nikolas Ott)



Participants at a seminar for future facilitators of courses tailored for women leaders on P/CVERLT, Belgrade, 12 November 2019.
(OSCE/Aleksandra Klosinska)



Montenegrin Border Officials during a study visit to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, 27 November 2019. (OSCE/Florian Krejsa)



Workshop participants discuss potential benefits and challenges of introducing intelligence-led policing in Mongolia, October 2019, Ulaanbaatar. (OSCE/Juraj Nosal)

Supporting efforts to prevent and counter the financing of terrorism, TNTD organized 15 training sessions jointly with the UNODC and OSCE field operations throughout Central Asia and in Albania, as well as a regional conference in Ashgabat.

Finally, more than 400 participants (politicians and policymakers, practitioners from the public and private sectors) gathered in Bratislava at the 2019 OSCE-wide counterterrorism conference to take stock of efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and VERTLT.

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT

Addressing the threat posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) remained in focus, including through four deployments of the OSCE mobile training teams (MTTs), the organization of a second round of advanced training for new members of the MTTs and outlining a visual arts training tool.

TNTD organized training courses on the detection of fraudulent documents and imposters, and supported advanced training for border officers from participating States in Central Asia.

Capacity-building support to establish national passenger data systems through the drafting of roadmaps and the provision of legal advice was provided to eight participating States. The third OSCE-wide Seminar on Passenger Data Exchange (UNSCR 2396) and the ID@Borders and Future of Travel Conference were organized for decision makers and practitioners from participating States and countries representing the Partners for Co-operation.

TNTD continued to support efforts to counter illicit trafficking in cultural property, including joint OSCE/World Customs Organization regional training for Central Asian participating States' customs services, regional training for Asian Partners for Co-operation and two national training courses for police and customs officers. The innovative Cultural Property Protection Resources Platform was launched using the OSCE POLIS system.

The TNTD-led Gender Equality Platform in border security and management continued to develop and grow: members attended a train-the-trainer session on gender

mainstreaming in border security and management and contributed to the publication of a brochure called Gender made Easy.

TNTD, jointly with the OCEEA, launched the Regional Anti-corruption Platform for Internal Control Departments of border agencies in South-Eastern Europe, Moldova and Ukraine.

POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The OSCE provides police assistance to participating States in two major fields: general police development and reform, and countering threats posed by criminal activity.

TNTD supported the OSCE Chairmanship in organizing the Annual Police Experts Meeting on Artificial Intelligence and Law Enforcement, and an OSCE-wide anti-drug conference on Tackling Trafficking in Synthetic Drugs.

TNTD organized and delivered workshops for law enforcement managers and experts from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation on intelligence-led policing and promoted the community policing concept and the OSCE Police Academies Network (PAN).

On combating the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, TNTD organized training for Afghan law enforcement officers in the Russian Federation.

TNTD assisted Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in raising the capacities of criminal justice practitioners in their fight against gender-based violence through national and regional training and with a public campaign during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

On cybercrime, TNTD concluded a two-year regional project in South-Eastern Europe and delivered training in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

TNTD and the OCEEA launched a three-year regional capacity-building initiative in South-Eastern Europe on asset seizure measures aimed at disrupting organized criminal groups. In co-operation with the CPC and the OCEEA, TNTD also explored ways to counter illicit trafficking in SALW and hazardous waste.

Economic and environmental activities

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities: Ambassador Vuk Žugić

Budget: €2,313,200 (Unified budget), €2,067,812 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 28 (including 6 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/oceea

Throughout 2019, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) continued to support participating States in the implementation of their commitments in the economic and environmental dimension with the aim of strengthening security and stability, building confidence and preventing conflicts in the OSCE area. The Office supported participating States in meeting objectives set by international frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and assisted the Slovak Chairmanship with its priorities on energy co-operation, new technologies, good governance and connectivity in the digital era.

The 27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) focused on promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through energy co-operation, new technologies, good governance and connectivity in the digital era. The EEF, which includes two preparatory meetings and a concluding meeting, is the main annual OSCE event in the economic and environmental dimension. At the 2019 forum, participants engaged in constructive discussions and shared best practices on the impact of the digital transformation and new technologies on economies and societies in the OSCE region.

In October 2019, the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting reviewed the implementation of OSCE commitments with a particular focus on opportunities for enhancing stability and security through good environmental governance, water management and strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, technological innovations in the energy sector were elaborated.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

The Office works to enhance security and stability in the OSCE region by promoting co-operation and supporting

OSCE participating States in implementing international commitments on economic issues.

Good Economic Governance and the Fight against Corruption

The Office promotes good economic governance through capacity-building and by assisting participating States in drafting and implementing effective policies to enhance the integrity and transparency of the public sector. At the high-level OSCE regional conference entitled “The role of digital technologies in reducing corruption risks”, held in October in Kazakhstan, Professor Paola Severino, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, stated that, *“[t]he added value of the Organization in the international fight against corruption lies first and foremost in the core mission of the OSCE – to promote and strengthen security. Even in the digital era, corruption remains one of the major challenges affecting the OSCE area, as well as a major threat to democracy, human rights, rule of law and, last but not least, economic development.”*

The Office assisted selected municipalities in Ukraine in 2019 in implementing integrity plans aimed at addressing vulnerabilities to corruption and establishing effective



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajčák and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger opening the OSCE Virtual Centre for the Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure, Bratislava, 5 December 2019. (MFA Slovakia)



Opening of the 27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Prague, 11 September 2019. (OSCE)

THE OSCE E-LEARNING PLATFORM

E-learning, such as through massive open online courses (MOOCs), addresses the growing need for lifelong learning while reaching a wider audience and adapting to a digitalized world. The OSCE now offers several courses at <https://elearning.osce.org/>.

Anti-corruption training

The OCEEA developed free online training modules on preventing and combating corruption for government officials, representatives of law enforcement agencies, the private sector, and civil society. The curricula cover legal and non-legal tools, the latest legislative and policy trends, and other relevant measures and practices in anti-corruption efforts. It aims at providing a base knowledge and raising awareness of the range of international instruments available to national policymakers, anti-corruption practitioners, and assisting them in developing/ implementing effective anti-corruption measures designed to reduce possibilities for corruption, instability, and transnational crime.



Energy security training

Electricity blackouts caused by natural and man-made disasters are a serious security concern across the OSCE area. Storms, floods and wildfires can destroy critical energy infrastructure; human failure and fatal errors can exacerbate natural disasters, resulting in widespread power outages with negative effects on people, the economy and the environment.

The OCEEA established the Virtual Competency and Training Centre for the Protection of Critical Energy Networks to respond to this threat. The Centre offers online training materials to build the capacities of energy-related decision makers on how to anticipate, manage and mitigate risks to critical energy networks, with a focus on electricity grids. The Centre makes use of the latest training methods for an interactive user experience such as simulations in virtual reality/3D, augmented reality and gamification.

integrity systems at the municipal level through a combination of capacity-building activities and policy advice.

In the context of the project “Strengthening anti-corruption reform in Armenia”, the OCEEA supported the development of a National Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2019–2022 and an Action Plan, which the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Armenia adopted both in October 2019. Following recommendations of OSCE experts, the Government of Armenia also established a Corruption Prevention Commission in November 2019.

Human Capital Development

Promoting the regulation of labour mobility particularly in Central Asia is a key area of action to harness the economic potential of migrants to improve household income and GDP. In 2019, the OCEEA supported concerted actions to improve the effectiveness of migration policies by involving countries of origin and destination in annual round tables held in Tashkent.

The OCEEA has also been engaged for a long time in promoting the upskilling of marginalized women and youth and in supporting an effective ecosystem for innovative

start-ups and social enterprises, especially in South-Eastern Europe and Armenia, with a view to leveraging opportunities provided by the accelerated technological revolution and reducing its disruptive effects on economic stability and prosperity.

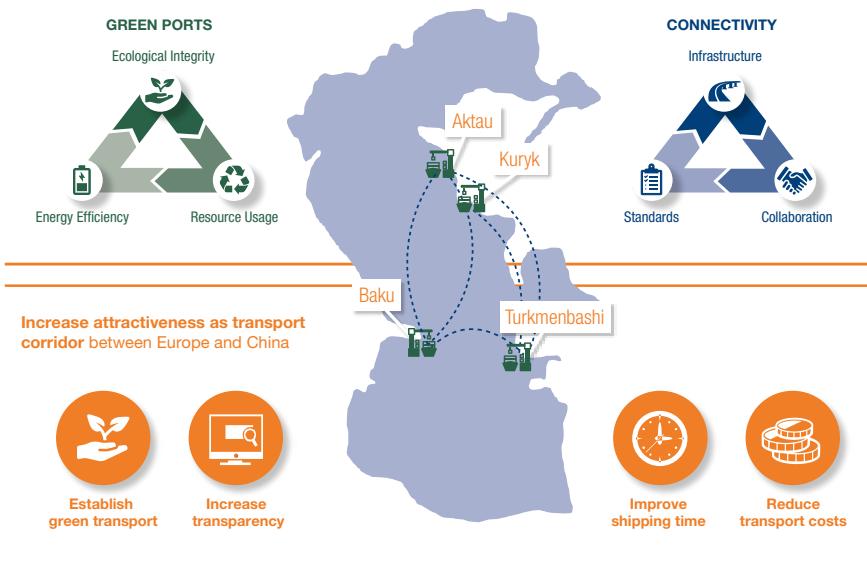
ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION

In 2019, the OCEEA continued to support activities aimed at transboundary water co-operation, disaster risk reduction, environmental good governance, hazardous-waste management and potential security risks stemming from climate change.

Transboundary Water Co-Operation

The OCEEA continued to focus on transboundary water co-operation and water diplomacy in a number of river basins in the OSCE area. Since 2017, the OCEEA has been implementing, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, a Global Environment Facility–funded project to support the establishment of the Dniester River Basin Commission. In 2019, the Commission held its second meeting and a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of

Strengthening Green Ports and Connectivity in and among the ports of Baku (Azerbaijan), Aktau/Kuryk (Kazakhstan) and Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan)



environmental challenges and priorities in the Dniester basin was finalized under the project.

In November 2019, the OCEEA organized a Water Diplomacy Workshop in Strasbourg, France. The workshop brought together representatives of transboundary river commissions from across the OSCE area, relevant government representatives and other key stakeholders to showcase best practices, exchange lessons learned and enhance water co-operation among participating States.

The OCEEA project "Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention" aims to strengthen capacities in gender-sensitive water governance and water diplomacy from Central Asia and Afghanistan. It supports women's participation in water management and conflict resolution at

GREEN PORTS AND CONNECTIVITY

Trade volumes between Asia and Europe are increasing, which brings economic opportunities for OSCE participating States along major trade routes connecting Asia and Europe. In order to unlock the full economic potential for the region, the connectivity, sustainability and reliability of trade must be improved. With the extrabudgetary project "Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region", the OCEEA assists major ports on the Caspian Sea become greener, safer and more sustainable. A feasibility study is exploring how to integrate green-energy and energy-efficiency practices in port operations to reduce carbon emissions and how to build a common digital platform connecting ports on the Caspian Sea for the purpose of data exchange in order to improve reliability and increase economic competitiveness. Based on the study's findings, an implementation strategy will be developed in 2020 that will cover economic, technical and governance aspects. The project also builds on lessons learned in the project "Promoting economic connectivity in the OSCE", which concluded in 2019 and was aimed at developing intraregional connectivity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

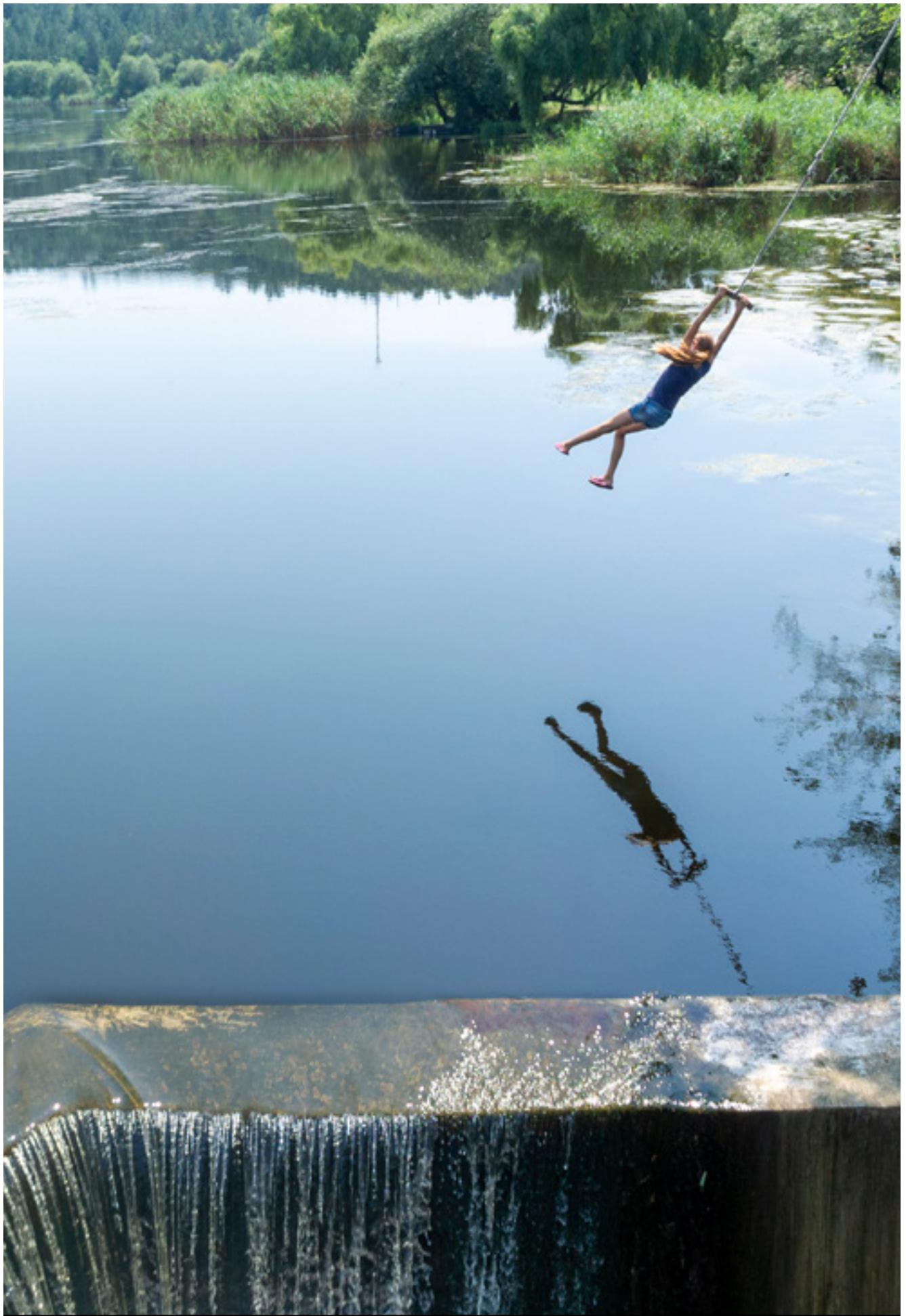
all levels. In September 2019, a regional training course on water diplomacy with a special focus on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Good Environmental Governance

The OCEEA organized the 2019 Aarhus Centres Annual Meeting in Vienna, bringing together close to 100 participants from 15 countries in the OSCE area, including representatives of Aarhus Centres, National Focal Points to the Aarhus Convention and representatives of non-governmental and international organizations and OSCE field operations. The meeting highlighted the Centres' contributions in support of the Agenda 2030 and drew attention to their engagement in the implementation of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In December 2019, the OCEEA also conducted a study tour for 20 participants from Central Asian participating States to Germany to learn about the application of SEA in infrastructure projects and regional planning.



OCEEA regional workshop on the use of open data and new digital technologies to prevent corruption, Skopje, 2 December 2019. (OSCE)



Addressing the disappearance of small rivers through ecological restoration of the transboundary river Yagorlyk is on the agenda of the joint OSCE, UNDP, UNECE Dniester River Basin project funded by the Global Environment Facility, 30 July 2019. (Anna Zhovtenko/OSCE)

Combating trafficking in human beings

Special Representative and Co-ordinator: **Valiant Richey**

Budget: €1,091,800 (Unified budget), €398,733 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 14

www.osce.org/secretariat/trafficking

@osce_cthb

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) assists the OSCE participating States in their efforts to prevent human trafficking, investigate and prosecute perpetrators and protect victims. In 2019, the OSR/CTHB implemented a wide range of programmes using a “policy to practice” approach.

TECHNOLOGY AND TRAFFICKING: ADDRESSING NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In recent years, technology has transformed the human trafficking landscape both in terms of how human traffickers misuse it to advance their interests—including recruitment, control and exploitation of victims—and in how it can be deployed to advance the prosecution, protection and prevention goals of the OSCE participating States.

On 8 and 9 April 2019, more than 400 practitioners from across the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation took part in the 19th High-level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference.

The conference entitled “Using Technology to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Turning a Liability into an Asset”, highlighted the misuse of technology to facilitate trafficking, as well as its use as a tool for preventive and victim-protection measures. The urgent need to adopt policies to disrupt ICT-facilitated trafficking was also a significant focus.

Building impactful partnerships has also been a high priority for the Office, including in the context of technology. In 2019, the OSR/CTHB collaborated with Tech Against Trafficking, a coalition of technology companies, on a publication identifying over 300 tech tools for combating trafficking in human beings (THB).

ETHICAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT: LEADING BY EXAMPLE AT THE OSCE AND BEYOND

While human trafficking for labour exploitation is one of the most prevalent forms of THB, it is also among the least addressed. In 2019, the OSR/CTHB supported participating States by updating its Compendium of relevant reference materials and resources on ethical sourcing and prevention of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in supply chains. Moreover, the *Model Guidelines on Government Measures to Prevent Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains* were published in all the OSCE official languages.

The OSR/CTHB in co-operation with the United Kingdom and the Ethical Trading Initiative, also organized the

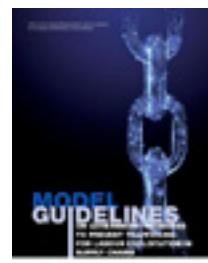


Banner of the 19th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, which was held in Vienna on 8 and 9 April 2019.

International Conference on Tackling Modern Slavery, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in Public Sector Supply Chains. The conference promoted the importance of leadership and implementation of measures to prevent THB in supply chains of administrations, governments and multilateral organizations.

Leading by example, the OSR/CTHB also undertook activities aimed at developing the capacities of OSCE executive structures to prevent human trafficking in internal procurement activities. In 2019, a pilot project conducted with the OSCE Mission to Serbia in partnership with the University of Nottingham to analyse procurement data for risks of human trafficking was finalized.

The Office also aims to advance implementation of harmonized procurement measures across international organizations. Engagement with the UN’s 25th High-Level Committee on Management Procurement Network Meeting in March 2019 marked an important first step to achieve this goal. As a result, a Task Force for the Development of a Joint Approach in Combating Human Trafficking in Supply Chains was established within the UN’s procurement network.





On the margins of the 19th Alliance Conference, participants can get a first-hand impression of how cutting-edge technology can be used to combat human trafficking, Vienna, 8 April 2019. (OSCE)



Special Representative Valiant Richey speaks with staff during a visit to a reception centre for asylum seekers in Zagreb, 4 September 2019. (OSCE/Tetiana Rudenko)

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES: VICTIM IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE

People in migration flows can be exposed to numerous threats, including trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation. The OSCE supports policymakers and practitioners in adopting responses to THB in migration flows that emphasize the identification and protection of victims and accountability for criminal actors.

After consultation with relevant stakeholders from those participating States most affected by migration, the OSR/CTHB issued, in 2019, *Uniform Guidelines for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Human Trafficking within the Migrant and Refugee Reception Framework in the OSCE Region*. The Guidelines aim to facilitate the coordinated, harmonized and victim-centred identification of trafficking cases within mixed migration flows across the OSCE region.

SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING: BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The OSR/CTHB has been a pioneer in developing simulation-based, anti-trafficking training exercises. The training framework brings together law enforcement officers, financial investigators, labour inspectors, prosecutors, migration and asylum authorities, NGOs and social service providers to tackle simulated cases of THB in a live-action and multi-agency setting.

The simulation-based training accomplishes three goals: It builds the skills and knowledge of practitioners, disseminates OSCE principles and concepts throughout the participating States and builds networks of practitioners that have already led to the solving of real cases.



FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS AND TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: FOLLOWING THE MONEY

Trafficking in human beings is principally a financially motivated crime. Financial evidence can be used to identify victims and perpetrators, and seizing illegal profits can undermine the profit motives of traffickers and support reparation for victims.

In November, the OSR/CTHB, in co-operation with the Secretariat to the Liechtenstein Initiative's Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, housed at the UN University Centre for Policy Research, published *Following the Money: Compendium of Resources and Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Investigations Related to Trafficking in Human Beings*. The publication contains a compendium of resources for financial investigations related to THB, a comprehensive list of financial indicators of THB and a step-by-step guide to help practitioners in both the public and private sectors to develop systems for financial investigations into THB.

The training has also been adapted to national, regional and international contexts. In June 2019, the second international Russian-language exercise in Kazakhstan was undertaken with the support of the Regional Hub for Countering Global Threats within the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies of Kazakhstan. In September, in Italy, the first international English-language exercise with a focus on Mediterranean migration routes took place; it was hosted by, and carried out with the core support of, the Carabinieri Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU).

COUNTRY VISITS: IDENTIFYING GOOD PRACTICES AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Country visits serve to establish a direct and constructive dialogue with participating States on anti-trafficking policy and to raise the profile of anti-trafficking efforts in the OSCE region. In 2019, the OSR/CTHB undertook three country visits (to Austria, Croatia and Georgia) and two follow-up visits (to Romania and Tajikistan) and conducted technical assistance visits to Iceland and Turkmenistan. Country visit reports were published on Austria and Cyprus, and a follow-up report was published on Tajikistan.

INTERAGENCY CO-OPERATION: THE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (ICAT)

Partnership is key to effective anti-trafficking response systems and to the approach of the OSR/CTHB. In 2019, in partnership with UN Women, the OSCE served as the first non-UN entity to co-chair the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). This ground-breaking arrangement highlights the OSCE's regional expertise on THB and reflects the inclusiveness and interagency co-operation that the ICAT stands for.

Gender equality is an important cross-dimensional component of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. It is also a priority area in the OSCE's fit-for-purpose agenda. The Organization has intensified its efforts to build internal capacities for mainstreaming gender in all of its programmes, activities and initiatives. It also continues to provide vital support to participating States in key areas such as implementing the women, peace and security agenda; combating violence against women; and promoting the role of women in mitigating the negative impacts of natural disasters and environmental degradation.

THE GENDER FOCAL POINTS NETWORK

The OSCE Gender Issues Programme co-ordinates an Organization-wide network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs). Currently, there are 88 GFPs across the Organization, in the Secretariat, institutions and field operations. The GFPs play an instrumental role in mainstreaming gender in OSCE programmes and activities: They provide in-house capacity to enhance knowledge and skills on gender equality and to advise OSCE staff members on how to implement gender commitments in practice. The GFPs also collect and consolidate data used to measure progress made in implementing the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

GENDER PARITY ON PANELS

As part of the Secretary General's commitment as an International Gender Champion, he has made attaining gender parity and ending male-only panels at OSCE-organized events a priority. In order to monitor progress, the OSCE Gender Issues Programme conducted an analysis

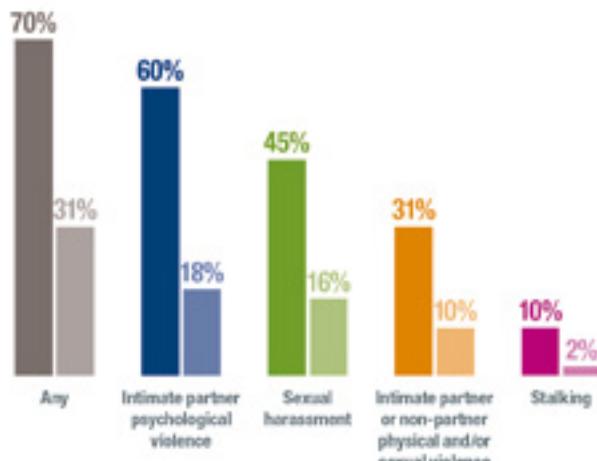
of gender parity in 194 panels and conferences organized by the OSCE in 2018 that covered all three dimensions of security. This baseline research was discussed with staff and participating States. The Gender Issues Programme will continue to monitor and report on progress in achieving gender parity in OSCE panels and events.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

A key OSCE contribution to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda is the support that OSCE executive structures provide to the participating States, upon their request, in designing and strengthening their national action plans on UNSCR 1325. In 2019, the Gender Issues Programme launched a project that aims to accelerate the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in the OSCE region by assessing progress and gaps in operationalizing national action plans and developing capacities and strategies to effectively implement them. The project's results and recommendations will support both interested governments

HIGH PREVALENCE OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



16 million
women have experienced some form of sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence, or non-partner violence (including psychological, physical or sexual violence) since the age of 15

4.9 million
women have experienced intimate partner physical or sexual violence

4.4 million
have experienced non-partner physical or sexual violence

*Approximate figures

ONE IN FIVE WOMEN HAS EXPERIENCED NON-PARTNER PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE



■ Since the age of 15 ■ 12 months prior to the survey



Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, and Melanne Verveer, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues during a high-level discussion on "Promoting the Role of Women in Addressing Environment and Security Challenges", Vienna, 5 July 2019. (OSCE Micky Kroell)



Participants at the kick-off event of the OSCE's Mentoring Programme for Women, which supported 56 mentor-mentee pairs in 2019, Vienna, 28 February 2019. (OSCE Micky Kroell)

and civil society actors in OSCE participating States in implementing the women, peace and security agenda.

WOMEN AS ADVOCATES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Environmental degradation and climate change affect women and men disproportionately. Women are more vulnerable and account for a higher percentage of casualties than men in the aftermath of natural and human-made environmental disasters, in part due to unequal access to information and resources. In July 2019, the Gender Issues Programme, in co-operation with the Slovak Chair-in-Office, the OCEEA and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE, brought together experts and practitioners to reflect on how environmental challenges impact women in particular and explore how to integrate a gender perspective in environmental planning and decision-making. The event featured a conversation with Mary Robinson, who, as former President of Ireland, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, brought multiple perspectives to the discussion. The event raised awareness on the part of participating States and executive structures about the environment–gender–security nexus, as well as gender-mainstreaming in environmental policy-making and disaster risk reduction.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 2019, the Gender Issues Programme published the results of its Survey on the Safety and Well-being of Women in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. The study is the first comparable representative survey conducted in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe on physical, sexual

and psychological violence and on sexual harassment and stalking by partners and non-partners. Women were asked about their experiences of violence in general and in connection with armed conflict and/or with their belonging to a disadvantaged group. The findings demonstrate high levels of violence against women in all countries surveyed and the impact of violence on women's physical and psychological well-being. Recommendations included in the survey reports aim to improve protection of, and support for, survivors of gender-based violence. Throughout 2019, local launch events and a dissemination campaign on social media were held in the seven countries where the survey was conducted. A launch event was also organized in Kosovo. All reports are available on the project website.

PREVENTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

In May 2019, the Gender Issues Programme, in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the Office of Internal Oversight, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and ODIHR, organized a round table in Kyiv on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by individuals engaged by the OSCE. Representatives from the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations learned about international good practices and discussed ways to improve current OSCE policies and practices to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. As a first result, an OSCE-wide task force was established on the topic, and a review process of OSCE policies was initiated.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



INTIMATE PARTNER PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE IS THE MOST WIDESPREAD FORM



■ Since the age of 15 ■ 12 months prior to the survey



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.

Human rights defenders from the OSCE region participate in a brainstorming exercise on human rights monitoring principles during a workshop on human rights monitoring, safety and security organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Budva, Montenegro, 27 May 2019. (OSCE /Marine Constant)

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Director: Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

Budget: €16,694,000 (Unified budget), €300,000 (Supplementary budget), €6,115,010 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 79 international, 67 local (including 17 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 respect for the rights of Roma and Sinti.



Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), addresses participants at the opening of the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, on a panel with Lech Wałęsa, leader of the Solidarity movement and former President of Poland and Miroslav Lajčák, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Warsaw, 16 September 2019. (OSCE/Piotr Dziubak)

“This year we are celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which gave so many people hope for a future based on democracy and human rights. It is for the sake of that future that we must safeguard the principles to which all OSCE countries have committed: strong and independent institutions, the rule of law, respect for the universality of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and democratic elections.”

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 2019, ODIHR observed 15 elections in 14 participating States. Over the year, the Office published some 60 election-related reports, which comprehensively assessed electoral processes for consistency with OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards. Final reports provided recommendations to participating States on how their elections could be improved. In 2019, the Office supported 13 participating States⁴ 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 by

assisting with their efforts to train election observers, convening a 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 electoral dispute resolution.

DEMOCRATIZATION

ODIHR continued to support OSCE participating States in 2019 in strengthening their judicial independence and accountability. For example, the Office deployed a mission to monitor a major judicial appointment process and also released the publication *Gender, Diversity and Justice*. The Office’s democratic governance work focused on regional initiatives to promote parliamentary oversight (in co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly), strengthening networks for women leaders at the national and regional levels, engaging young leaders as academics and policymakers and publishing new *Guidelines on Promoting the Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities*.

⁴ Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and United States of America.

YOUTH FOR TOLERANCE

Last year, ODIHR convened its first forum of youth activists entitled “Engaging the OSCE to Address Anti-Semitism, Racism and Xenophobia”. Twenty-three activists from 21 participating States were introduced to the work of the OSCE and ODIHR in this field, and they actively engaged in the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting by presenting young peoples’ concerns and proposals in a number of working sessions and side events.



Youth activists at ODIHR’s forum on engaging the OSCE to address anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia, Warsaw, 24 September 2019. (OSCE/Piotr Markowski)

Another key aspect of ODIHR’s democratization work in 2019 was the promotion of transparency, openness and inclusiveness in law-making processes. The Office reviewed 21 pieces of draft legislation from 12 different OSCE participating States – often at the request of OSCE field operations – on a range of issues, from the judiciary, political party regulation and national human rights institutions to equality, freedom of expression and hate crimes.

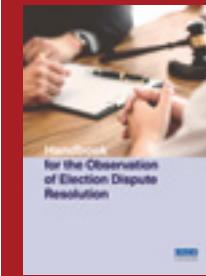
Throughout the year, ODIHR also responded to requests for support in the field of migration and freedom of movement, facilitating the sharing of good practices, contributing to the development of migration-related policies and providing capacity-building and awareness-raising activities focused specifically on the special needs of women and youth.

HUMAN RIGHTS

To support security sector institutions in promoting and protecting human rights in their day-to-day work with communities, ODIHR trained law enforcement officials on human rights-compliant policing of peaceful assemblies and on human rights aspects of anti-terrorism issues and the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

ODIHR also continued to sensitize OSCE participating States to crucial aspects of the prevention of torture and

HANDBOOK FOR THE OBSERVATION OF ELECTION DISPUTE RESOLUTION



As part of its efforts to develop and refine its election observation methodology, ODIHR published a *Handbook for the Observation of Election Dispute Resolution* in September. Election observers pay close attention to the

handling of election disputes, including the availability of effective remedies, legal standing, accessibility and timelines for handling cases. The Handbook establishes a more systematic and comprehensive approach to observing this key aspect of the election process, thus contributing to greater protection and promotion of the fundamental rights and freedoms necessary for ensuring democratic elections.

provided practitioners in the criminal justice system with a targeted new tool to tackle an often overlooked issue: *Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Places of Deprivation of Liberty*. ODIHR engaged youth at the local level in dialogue about the right to freedom of religion or belief and issued new policy guidance in the publication *Freedom of Religion or Belief and Security*. The Office’s support for human rights defenders, including national human rights institutions, aimed to strengthen their ability to prevent and address human rights violations and to help victims obtain redress. ODIHR also worked with partners on new tech tools that will provide training and knowledge resources to human rights defenders working at the grass-roots level.

TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In recognition of the need for a co-ordinated response to address hate crime, ODIHR continues to work alongside criminal justice actors, civil society and victim representatives to this end. Throughout 2019, ODIHR held training events and workshops that brought together state institutions and civil society to jointly improve the monitoring, reporting and recording of hate incidents. These efforts were accompanied by the publication of new resources, including a trainers’ manual for civil society workshops on building coalitions for tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as country-specific tools to guide police in recording and investigating hate crimes.

In addition to the practical assistance it provides, ODIHR works to increase understanding of particular hate crime

Election observation in 2019

Not starred denotes a full-scale election observation mission comprised of a core team of experts, long-term observers and short-term observers

* denotes limited election observation mission comprised of a core team of experts and long-term observers

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



contexts. In 2019, this included an expert round table on intersectionality held by ODIHR to explore approaches to preventing and responding to hate crimes committed with multiple bias motivations. Addressing intolerance and discrimination requires the combined efforts of many communities, and ODIHR therefore held a meeting in October where faith groups could share good practices and gain practical skills on responding to manifestations of intolerance.

CONTACT POINT FOR ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

In 2019, ODIHR implemented local awareness-raising activities in ten municipalities in North Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia relating to the enrolment of Roma children in pre-school and primary education, as well as facilitating dialogue between parents, schools and local authorities on challenges precluding Roma children, especially girls, from accessing and continuing education. In November, ODIHR organized the regional seminar “Promoting equal access to quality early childhood education for Roma and Sinti children”, which brought together 30 experts and educational workers from ten countries. ODIHR’s Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues also held events to draw attention to Roma youth and women as agents of change.

The Office continues to focus attention on racism, intolerance and violence against Roma and Sinti in the



Election observers look on at a polling station during the second round of North Macedonia's presidential election, Skopje, 5 May 2019. (OSCE/ Maria Kuchma)

OSCE area. Together with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, ODIHR held an event in July in Vienna focusing on increasing manifestations of intolerance, racism and discrimination against Roma and Sinti 75 years after the Roma and Sinti genocide.

Effective and human rights-compliant policing of Roma communities was also a priority in 2019. ODIHR carried out police training in Romania and Ukraine to improve interaction with Roma communities.

ODIHR 2019 PUBLICATIONS AT A GLANCE

 A grid of 12 small images, each representing a different publication from ODIHR in 2019. The publications cover various topics including Roma and Sinti issues, gender, diversity, and justice, and anti-Semitic hate crimes. The designs are diverse, featuring colorful graphics like balloons, geometric shapes, and people.

28 April** Spain Early parliamentary	12 May, 26 May** Lithuania Presidential	9 June Kazakhstan Early parliamentary	30 June Albania Local	7 July Greece Early parliamentary	21 July Ukraine Early parliamentary	13 October** Poland Parliamentary	10 November** Romania Presidential	17 November Belarus Early parliamentary	22 December Uzbekistan Parliamentary
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High Commissioner on National Minorities

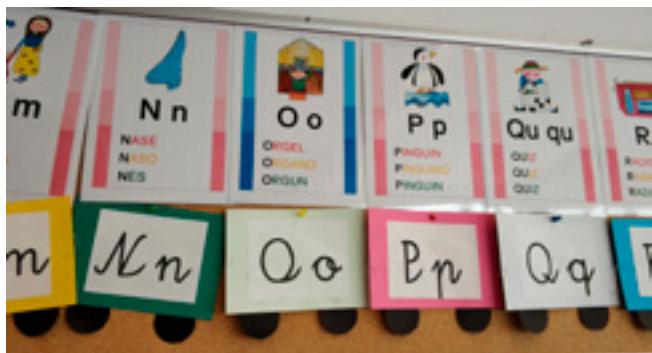
High Commissioner: Ambassador Lamberto Zannier

Budget: €3,504,000 (Unified budget), €829,330 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 20 international, 12 local (including 5 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/hcnm

During the early 1990s, interethnic hostilities swept across Eastern Europe, causing devastation and deep rifts between communities. To prevent this from happening again, the position of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) was established in 1992. Today, the High Commissioner regularly travels the length and breadth of the OSCE area, identifying the main factors of potential instability within societies, as well as the underlying causes of tensions, which, if neglected, could lead to crises and potentially violent conflict within or among the 57 OSCE participating States. The role of the HCNM in promoting sustainable integration of diverse societies remains key. Throughout 2019, High Commissioner Lamberto Zannier carried out his mandate through quiet diplomacy, high-profile public events and programmatic work on the ground.



Multilingual education policies promote integration and social cohesion. The HCNM organized a visit for multilingual education practitioners from Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Georgia to trilingual primary schools in the Ortisei/St Ulrich/Urtijëi, region of South Tyrol where pupils are taught in Italian, German and Ladin, 23 October 2019. (OSCE/Andrii Honchak)



Participants at the Regional Expert School on Multilingual and Multicultural Education for Integration and Sustainable Development in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The Expert School was co-organized by the OSCE HCNM, the Education Ministry of Kyrgyzstan and UNICEF Kyrgyzstan with support from the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Issyk-Kul, 5 July 2019. (OSCE / Michael Angermann)

A common feature shared by many societies today is their diversity. When managed well, diversity brings untold benefits such as new skills, improved relations with neighbouring states and trading opportunities. Conversely, when identity issues become polarized, interethnic conflict in society can increase. Policymakers can harness the benefits of diversity with well-informed integration policies, government bodies dedicated to interethnic relations and diversity training toolkits for civil servants. In 2019, the HCNM advocated for these and other inclusive measures during his visits to OSCE participating States.

MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS

With conflict prevention, long-term policy solutions are more enduring than quick fixes, as demonstrated by the HCNM's multi-year regional and country programmes. In diverse societies, meeting the needs of all people requires a balanced approach, especially in education. A recurring event in the HCNM's Central Asia Education Programme is, therefore, the annual Regional Summer School on Multilingual and Multicultural Education in Central Asia. Ninety education professionals and policymakers took part in last year's edition. The HCNM also supported the expansion of multilingual education piloting for kindergartens in Kazakhstan and Uyghur-language schools in the Almaty Region. Other milestones included a signed memorandum of understanding between the HCNM and Tajikistan's Ministry of Education and Science to further develop multilingual and multicultural education, as well as training workshops and study visits for the Ministry of Education of Ukraine on multilingual education.

Tolerance and understanding should be nurtured with the next generation. A positive step are "tolerance and diversity" courses targeting youth in Georgia. The HCNM also pioneered the development of a bilingual Macedonian-Albanian/Albanian-Macedonian phrasebook for general use. The development of interactive content for the digital versions of the phrasebook is also underway. Recognition of the need for all citizens to learn the state language,



OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Lamberto Zannier (l) launches The Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age alongside Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid (c) and Estonian Foreign Minister Sven Mikser (r), Tallinn, 13 February 2019. (*Inimõigust Instituut/Estonian Institute of Human Rights*)

while respecting minority languages, guided the annual Stakeholders Committee Meeting of the Bujanovac Department of the Subotica Faculty of Economics of Novi Sad University in Southern Serbia.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

High Commissioner Zannier is committed to finding concrete ways to prevent conflicts, particularly through regional partnerships. Responding to UN Secretary-General António Guterres' call for greater collaboration on conflict prevention, the office of the HCNM continued its series of panel discussions at the UN. In July 2019, a follow-up panel discussion enabled regional organizations such as the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States and the OSCE, as well as the UN, to exchange experiences and working methods in this field.

THE ROLE OF HCNM RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES IN PROMOTING DIVERSITY

The *Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age* were launched in Estonia in February at an event opened by Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid. The 37 guidelines show how to capitalize on the specific role of digital media to catalyze the integration of diverse societies. The proposed recipe is a mix of multilingualism reflecting the linguistic diversity in society;

"Focusing on youth allows us to address the root causes of segregation and exclusion from the outset."

High Commissioner Lamberto Zannier speaking at the UN, New York, 19 July 2019

the participation of various groups, including minorities, in media content production and delivery; and restraint by states in their interference in other countries' affairs.

Several high-profile events focusing on the HCNM's thematic guidelines and recommendations also provided space for related issues such as integration, equality, non-discrimination and statelessness. Round tables in Tashkent and Bukhara, Uzbekistan, presented the HCNM's *Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*, and events in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, presented The *Graz Recommendations on Access to Justice and National Minorities*. During one occasion, High Commissioner Zannier observed: "In multi-ethnic societies, it is important that law-enforcement agencies not only reflect the ethnic diversity of society, but [that they] are also trained to operate effectively in multi-ethnic environments together with the communities involved."

The year concluded with a conference in Sweden marking the 20th anniversary of *The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life*. The event, which brought together academics, experts and practitioners, addressed issues of political representation, as well as economic participation and cross-border co-operation, and it offered a specific gender angle. Epitomizing the High Commissioner's approach, it advocated the full participation of national minorities in society as a pathway to integration with respect for diversity.

Representative on Freedom of the Media

Representative: **Harlem Désir**

Budget: €1,603,100 (Unified budget), €508,427 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 17

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

The Representative on Freedom of the Media observes media developments in the participating States, advocates and promotes full compliance with the Organization's principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media, and responds to serious non-compliance therewith. 2019 was the first year since the adoption of the Ministerial Council Decision on the Safety of Journalists in Milan in December 2018.

MAJOR ISSUES

In 2019, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media addressed, in particular, the safety of journalists and responded to attacks and threats against them. Two journalists were killed in the OSCE region in 2019: Lyra McKee, who was shot while covering riots in Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom; and Vadim Komarov, who died after being attacked in Cherkasy, Ukraine. Many other journalists were attacked, wounded or threatened because of their investigations, reports or critical views. The fight for the protection of journalist's safety and against impunity is a priority of the Office. During the year, the Representative intervened over 300 times in 39 participating States on incidents or legal issues that affect media freedom or the work of journalists.

The Office's Safety of Female Journalists Online (#SOFJO) project continued to raise awareness of the threats and harassment specifically faced by female journalists online. The Office organized screenings of the documentary film A Dark Place in 16 participating States.

The legal safety of journalists was also a key issue covered by the Office. Too many journalists are being prosecuted and even detained because of their work. The Representative intervened with authorities on their behalf and called for the release of imprisoned journalists. He also raised numerous cases involving the blocking of websites, forced closures of media outlets, defamation, administrative

fines and attempts to reveal journalists' sources. Several journalists in different participating States, on whose behalf the Representative intervened, were released in 2019.

The Representative also intervened on new laws in participating States on such issues as media regulation, tackling terrorism and violent extremism, and new Internet regulations that have an impact on media freedom. The Representative assisted the participating States in ensuring that such laws would be in line with OSCE commitments and international standards on freedom of expression and media freedom. The Office published legal reviews with accompanying recommendations for Albania, Austria, France, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Uzbekistan.

At the Global Conference for Media Freedom, in London in July, the Representative, together with Special Rapporteurs from the UN, the Organization of American States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, issued a Joint Declaration on the Challenges to Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age. This included recommendations on building and maintaining a free, open and inclusive Internet.

PROJECTS

The Office continued its Safety of Female Journalists Online project. Panel discussions were organized with journalists in 16 countries on the occasion of the screening



OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir addressing the audience at the Safety of Journalists Conference "Journalists Under Attack: A Threat To Media Freedom", held in Vienna on 12 April, 2019. (Johannes Deutsch)



Elena Chernenko from Kommersant addressing the Conference on "Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists in the Russian Federation and the OSCE Region: Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age", held in Moscow on 6 November, 2019. (Anton Iakunin)



Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir taking part in ceremonies commemorating the two-year anniversary of the assassination of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, 16 October 2019, Malta. (Robin Grass)



Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir during a press conference at the South East Europe Media Conference (OSCE)

of the documentary *A Dark Place*. A joint report was published, together with the IPI, on legal responses to online harassment and abuse of journalists, with an analysis of the situation and legislation in Finland, France and Ireland. A conference was held in Vienna to discuss policy developments and adopt recommendations.

The Representative launched the second exchange opportunity for journalists within the Cyprus Media Dialogue project, with 15 journalists from both Cypriot communities selected to work at a host media outlet for one week. The project encourages and furthers dialogue and co-operation between media and journalists across the island, and it aims to advance accountable, quality journalism in Cyprus.

The Office also launched a new project on the impact of artificial intelligence on freedom of expression. The project aims to promote a clearer understanding of policies and practices in the development and use of artificial intelligence, and the profound impact this will have on the future of the realization of human rights online, in particular the freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

CONFERENCES

The Office organized annual regional media conferences for OSCE participating States in South-Eastern Europe (Sarajevo in June), Central Asia (Bishkek in July) and the South Caucasus (Tbilisi in October), bringing together

journalists, experts and government representatives to discuss media freedom in the region and to share their visions and experiences.

The Office organized, in Vienna in February, the "#SOFJO Increasing Opportunities for Freedom of Expression and Media Plurality" conference on the safety of female journalists online. More than 100 international media experts and policymakers from across the OSCE region discussed policy developments and challenges, the identification of countermeasures and the nature of offences against women journalists.

The Office organized, in Vienna in April, the conference "Journalists Under Attack: A Threat to Media Freedom", which aimed to assist OSCE participating States in implementing the 2018 Ministerial Council Decision on the Safety of Journalists and to provide safe working conditions for journalists. Over 200 participants from over 30 countries discussed the safety of media workers and listened to the testimonies of journalists who had suffered attacks and those of the relatives, colleagues and friends of killed journalists.

The Office took part in the OSCE's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September, with four side events: one called "Journalism behind bars in Turkey"; another on the impact of artificial intelligence on freedom of expression; a screening of the SOFJO documentary *A Dark Place*; and a fourth side event on media freedom and tolerance and non-discrimination.

The Office of the Representative held, in Moscow in November, a conference called "Freedom of the Media and Safety of Journalists in the Russian Federation and in the OSCE Region: Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age". The Office organized the event with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. The conference brought together representatives of diverse Russian media (both independent and state-owned), media experts and representatives of the authorities and institutions of the Russian Federation.

In November, the Office, together with members of the Transatlantic High-Level Working Group on Online Content Moderation and Freedom of Expression, held an event in Vienna that addressed the question of how to curtail the spread of hate speech, violent extremism and disinformation online while protecting free speech.

OBSERVING MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE COMMITMENTS

During the year, the Representative:

- intervened over 300 times in 39 participating States;
- organized eight major conferences in Bishkek, Sarajevo, Tbilisi, Vienna and Warsaw with civil society, journalist associations, experts and government representatives on the main challenges to media freedom;
- visited 17 countries to meet with journalists, media organizations and government officials;
- published nine legal reviews for nine participating States;
- published a communiqué on media pluralism, safety of female journalists and safeguarding marginalized voices online;
- published a joint report called "Legal Responses to Online Harassment and Abuse of Journalists";
- issued a Joint Declaration on Challenges to Freedom of Expression 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.

Field operations in 2019

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. Several 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 2019:

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 Bishkek
- Programme Office in Dushanbe
- Programme Office in Nur-Sultan
- Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan



Presence in Albania

Head of Presence: Ambassador Bernd Borchardt

Budget: €2,981,200 (Unified budget), €503,647 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 18 international, 66 local

www.osce.org/presence-in-albania

In 2019, the OSCE Presence in Albania continued to work with Albanian partners in support of justice and electoral reform, the rule of law and progress towards gender equality; to empower civil society and young people; to strengthen the capacities of the parliament; and to fight corruption, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings.

JUSTICE REFORM

As part of the justice reform process, the Presence provided technical support to new self-governing bodies by fostering regional co-operation through peer-to-peer visits and exchange of best practices. It also offered capacity-building activities for members of the justice institutions in charge of the re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors, aimed at enhancing their capacities in conducting the process in an efficient manner.

ELECTORAL REFORM

The Presence assisted the parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform in addressing ODIHR's recommendations on elections by organizing a number of round tables and conferences. It also supported the Central Election Commission in addressing the issue of the misuse of state resources and in implementing the legal framework on decriminalization process. The Presence also organized

a voter education campaign for Roma and Egyptian populations and offered election training for police officers engaged in election duties.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

The Presence supported the National Co-ordinator against Corruption in conducting a mid-term evaluation of the Intersectoral Strategy against Corruption. It also supported the High Inspectorate on the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflict of Interest by conducting capacity-building activities, providing technical assistance to the institution in conducting an initial evaluation of whistleblower legislation and also by reviewing the legislation on conflict of interest.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE)

The Presence supported the Albanian Co-ordination Centre on CVE in holding outreach meetings across the country, as well as co-ordination meetings with regional partners and activities with neighboring states on CVE. It provided training courses on the promotion of a police-public partnership model in the prevention and countering of violent extremism. Over 100 probation officers were trained on CVE in prisons and probation, while more than 80 young offenders on probation were made aware of violent extremism. Albanian officials were also trained on combating cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime.

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Presence supported the Albanian State police in tackling transnational threats by facilitating intensified cross-border and interagency co-operation and information exchange. In addition to hosting working meetings at the regional and central level between Albania and neighboring countries to strengthen co-operation and ensure uninterrupted communication between law enforcement agencies in the region, the Presence also conducted an assessment of the green border between Albania and Montenegro and organized a study visit to the airport in Pristina and a similar peer visit to the Integrated Border Management Centre in Skopje.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Presence supported Albania's national human rights institutions in strengthening their co-operation and improving collaboration. It developed a methodology on

BORDER MANAGEMENT CO-OPERATION

The Presence assisted in the drafting and negotiation of Hot Pursuit Protocols between Albania and its neighbors and facilitated on-the-ground exercises with law enforcement agencies. This helped to significantly increase co-operation and mutual trust between the Albanian border police and their counterparts in the region.



Border officers during a simulation exercise to test the operability of the so-called Hot Pursuit Protocols between the border police agencies of Albania and Montenegro, Muriqan/Sukobin Border Crossing Point, 17 October 2019. (OSCE)



High-level conference on electoral systems organized by the Presence, in co-operation with the ad hoc parliamentary committee on Electoral Reform. The conference's input helped drafting amendments to election legislation, Tirana, 25 September 2019. (OSCE)



Presentation of the results of the OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women for Albania by the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Gender Issues Section, Tirana, 8 October 2019. (OSCE)

human rights monitoring in Albania with a special focus on the protection of minorities. The Presence also followed up on legislative developments by monitoring and commenting on legislation pertaining to the protection and promotion of human rights.

ASSEMBLY SUPPORT

The Presence continued to support Albanian's Parliament, the Assembly, in its efforts to improve its legislative and oversight functions and to strengthen the capacities of its administrative staff. It assisted various parliamentary committees and members of parliament (MPs) in broadening their networking and outreach efforts through assessment visits at both the national and international level. These activities had a dual impact in encouraging MPs to establish stronger links with the public while at the same time expanding knowledge of the Assembly's functioning among institutions under its oversight, as well as among a diverse group of citizens in the areas and regions covered.

PRISON REFORM

The Presence worked with Albanian institutions to improve the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration mechanisms for offenders in compliance with international standards. It provided assistance aimed at improving legislation related to the penitentiary system and the Probation Service. Having identified the lack of a unified practice of maintaining statistics in detention facilities countrywide, the Presence organized a workshop aimed at establishing unified and standardized guidelines on the collection and reporting of statistics.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Following a government initiative to draft an anti-defamation package of legislative amendments, the Presence provided support for the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in advising the Albanian authorities with the aim of ensuring that the laws are in compliance with European standards on media freedom and freedom of expression. The Presence also supported the local media by providing a platform for discussion through a Media Partners Group that is taking the first steps towards local ownership.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING

The Presence supported Albania in combating all forms of human trafficking and exploitation, with a particular focus on child trafficking and child labor. The Presence focused on policy development, inter-institutional co-ordination and capacity development for professionals engaged with child protection issues. In co-operation with the Magistrates' School, the Presence trained some 60 judges and prosecutors on the new anti-trafficking legislation. In order to address trafficking in the context of migration, it also helped to develop new procedures for the treatment of irregular migrants by strengthening the multi-agency approach to anti-trafficking.

YOUTH TRAIL 2019

Forty young people from all over South-Eastern Europe gathered in Tirana to participate in the Youth Trail 2019. The third edition of the Youth Trail, a flagship youth-centered event, was organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania, with the support of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, the Regional Youth Co-operation Office, the Tirana Municipality and the German Government. Over five days, the young people taking part in the event got to know each other, explored Tirana and debated about the future of democracy, security, peace and co-operation in the region.



Participants during a group exercise at the Youth Trail 2019, Tirana, 23 May 2019. (OSCE)

Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Head of Mission: Ambassador Bruce G. Berton (until 1 September 2019) and Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec (from 26 September 2019)
Budget: €11,682,000 (Unified budget), €1,415,981 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)
Staff: 34 international, 281 local
<http://www.osce.org/bih>

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continued to play a vital role in enhancing BiH'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.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

Due to the Mission's advocacy and capacity-building, the Banja Luka District Court issued the country's first judgment awarding a victim of human trafficking full compensation. The Mission also issued a spot report titled "War Crimes Case Management at the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina", which raised public awareness about systemic problems hindering the processing of war crimes cases at the state level, and consequently denying victims justice.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY QUALITY EDUCATION

The Mission supported the implementation of recommendations from its report on "two schools under one roof". As a result, a Žepče school unified two journalism clubs, while Maglaj and Stolac schools organized joint sports activities and an environmental protection debate. The Mission facilitated the implementation of the first-ever PISA international student assessment in BiH, and the use of its results for improving the quality of education in BiH.

STRENGTHENING INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The Mission organized events across the country, including workshops on inter-religious dialogue and peacebuilding among Islamic, Catholic, Serbian Orthodox and Jewish communities for youth and training on freedom of religion or belief, in co-operation with ODIHR. Additionally, the Mission conducted a mapping exercise with municipal commissions to identify mechanisms of co-operation and promotion of inter-religious dialogue at the local level.

SUPPORTING ANTI-CORRUPTION AT ALL LEVELS

The Mission supported the development of the BiH Anti-corruption Strategy and the replication of the Sarajevo

Canton's successful ICT solutions for corruption prevention in the Una-Sana Canton and the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton. The Mission also published its second report on the effectiveness of the judicial response to corruption, underscoring the substantial failure to prosecute high-level corruption in BiH. Furthermore, the Mission trained 750 civil servants of the Federation of BiH and 600 institutional anti-corruption focal points in Republika Srpska.

FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Marking the tenth anniversary of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, the Mission launched a report on discrimination in BiH with specific recommendations for institutions. The Mission also supported the sixth OSCE South East Europe Media Conference, which examined the issues of media development and sustainability, safety of journalists, legal and policy framework for media freedom, and sustainable solutions for public service broadcasters.

RECONCILIATION

The Mission facilitated co-operation among five municipalities in the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska in the area of the Majevica mountain range. After establishing a permanent working group, the municipalities drafted a co-operation plan and jointly mapped and cleared a bicycle path to boost tourism in the area. The five Majevica municipalities, once divided by battle lines, are now committed to building a systemic partnership for sustainable tourism development.

The Mission organized a joint concert performed by pupils from two ethnically divided music schools at the symbolically significant premises of the pre-war joint music school of Mostar. The event attracted significant attention from the



Recreational cycling tour on Majevica Mountain after the joint endeavour of marking and cleaning a 80km long bicycle route connecting the territories of five municipalities, 29 June 2019. (OSCE/Elma Kadić)



Cover of the OSCE-led survey on violence against women – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Results. (OSCE)



Lecture by the OSCE Chairperson in Office Special Representative on Gender Issues, Ambassador Melanne Verveer, on Women's Leadership: A Strategic Imperative for a Prosperous and Peaceful World, Sarajevo, 8 May 2019. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilović)

media and the general public. As a result, the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Minister of Education announced that, in agreement with the two schools, the end-of-school-year joint concert would become a traditional event as a gift to Mostar residents. Specialized training sessions conducted in co-operation with the Islamic community of BiH improved the capacity of more than 100 imams to conduct effective prevention of VERLT in their communities.

In Maglaj, three renowned high-ranking veterans, who once fiercely fought against each other on the front lines, came together to star in the documentary "Maglaj – War and Peace", as produced by the OSCE Mission to BiH in earlier years and screened on a number of occasions in 2019, followed by discussions on prospects of reconciliation in BiH.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HATE AND EXTREMISM

Cross-departmental Mission support led to the development of guidelines for the prevention of VERLT through education and media reporting on violent extremism and terrorism-related incidents.

ARMS CONTROL

The Mission improved the physical security and safety of ammunition and weapons stockpiles at storage sites across BiH. The risk of accidents, theft and proliferation decreased, owing also to Mission-procured intrusion detection systems and firefighting equipment.

The Mission supported the establishment of a training facility at an Armed Forces ammunition-testing laboratory, augmenting the expertise of military personnel on weapons and ammunition life-cycle management.

COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In 2019, the Mission launched the OSCE Survey on the Well-Being and Safety of Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was followed by a number of events that addressed



Civil society representatives taking part in a clean-up activity organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with a round table with municipal stakeholders on environmental protection, Novi Grad, September 2019. (OSCE/Svetlana Stanisavljević)

GUIDELINES AGAINST CYBERTHREATS AND VERLT

The Mission facilitated inclusive development of standard-setting *Guidelines for a Strategic Cybersecurity Framework in BiH*, which will serve as a basis for future strategies and action plans. Cross-departmental Mission support also led to the development of guidelines for prevention of VERLT through education and media reporting on violent extremism and terrorism-related incidents.

the survey's conclusions and advocated for a better law enforcement response to violence against women.

EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

The Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues visited BiH in 2019, where she met with a variety of stakeholders to discuss the implementation of UNSCR 1325, as well as the socio-economic status of women and their role in peacebuilding and BiH's political life. Additionally, the Mission finalized curricula on teaching gender equality in political parties and organized train-the-trainer sessions for female members of a number of political parties in BiH.

EMPOWERING YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Mission continued to strengthen the role of its Youth Advisory Group in the Mission's activity planning and implementation, which was supported by engagement with the Mission's youth focal points.

SECURITY CO-OPERATION

The annual Mission-supported Youth and Security School enabled future security experts to engage with policymakers and decision makers and thus to improve their knowledge of security issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

In expanding citizen access to information and involvement in environmental decision-making, the Mission collaborated with the NGO Eko Forum and the City of Zenica to establish a new Aarhus Centre in the industrial centre of Zenica. Together with Aarhus Centre Sarajevo and Sarajevo and Istočno Sarajevo universities, the Mission implemented a semester-long Environmental Legal Clinics Programme, offering future lawyers practical experience of working on real-life environmental cases. In fostering local-level environmental action, the Mission organized a series of clean-up activities in communities struggling with illegal dumping.

The Mission facilitated an update of the document on *Disaster Risk Assessment from Natural and Other Disasters in BiH*, ensuring a strong foundation for disaster prevention and preparedness planning.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission signed a co-operation statement with the Islamic community in BiH, further strengthening long-standing co-operation on prevention of VERLT and promotion of freedom of religion and belief, including the development and implementation of specialized training for imams. The Mission invested significant efforts in strengthening partnerships with the Ministry of Civil Affairs in BiH, the Regional Youth Co-operation Office and the European Youth Award organization in promoting youth participation in civic life.

Mission in Kosovo

Head of Mission: Ambassador Jan Braathu

Budget: €17,462,600 (Unified budget), €98,900 (Supplementary budget), €210,603

(Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 117 international, 387 local

www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo

The OSCE Mission continued to work closely with public institutions in promoting inter-community dialogue and community rights, gender equality and youth participation; enhancing public safety and security; facilitating election reform processes; and assisting public universities in expanding media and information literacy teaching in the higher education system.

INTER-COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In 2019, the Mission continued to engage with institutions to enhance communication and dialogue between communities. In July 2019, following Mission facilitation, four municipalities in the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South region signed the Inter-municipal Declaration to Promote Inter-community Dialogue, which outlines municipalities' commitment to improving and strengthening relations between communities through a variety of activities. In October 2019, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South organized the first activity stemming from the declaration, a youth camp bringing together over 50 members of Kosovo Albanian, Kosovo Serb, Kosovo Bosniak, Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Turk and Kosovo Ashkali youth, who gave their feedback to municipal officials on their projects and discussed finalization and implementation of the 2020 Inter-municipal Activity Plan. Of the 38 municipalities, 33 are multi-ethnic, 29 of which have signed the declaration and are engaged in implementing a variety of inter-municipal civic activities.

To help increase communication between communities, the Mission organized, between March and June 2019, Albanian and Serbian language classes in the Obiliq/Obilić municipality. Youth forums for Albanian, Roma and Serb communities focused on improving their advocacy and negotiating skills, while also discussing the importance of dialogue and understanding, issues of non-discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes. A Youth Employment Camp was held in an effort to increase employment opportunities for young people from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities through training on how to write CVs and cover letters, while employment fairs to increase their employment prospects served as a medium between these communities and companies, as well as international and local organizations.

ENGAGING WITH YOUTH

The Mission stepped up its support for law graduates with traineeship programmes with relevant institutions. In its efforts to enhance access to justice in northern Kosovo, it supported the inclusion of young legal professionals from the four northern Kosovo Serb-majority municipalities in the community of legal professionals in Kosovo. In co-ordination with the Kosovo Bar Association, eight law graduates were given one-year internships in law firms in northern Kosovo. This is the third generation of young lawyers benefiting from the internship programme supported by the Mission. So far, 21 young law graduates have participated

► MULTIMEDIA PRODUCED IN 2019

Documentary films

- *Above the Fold*, focusing on the safety of journalists
- *To be Home Again*, with personal stories and accounts of displaced persons and returnees

Televised stories, shows and radio debates

- 10 TV shows on multilingualism
- 8 TV shows on gender, and
- 3 TV and radio shows on VERLT

in the programme, which is designed to prepare them professionally by passing the Kosovo bar exam and become certified legal practitioners.

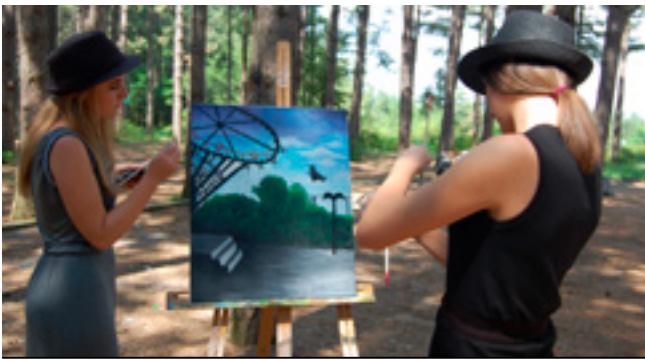
Through a Mission-supported camp on protection and promotion of cultural heritage, architecture students, guided by local and international experts, worked on the restoration of heritage sites in the Kosovo Croat-majority village of Letnicë/Letnica and documented the cultural heritage of the village for a future municipal conservation and development plan.

ELECTIONS

The Mission supported the Central Election Commission (CEC) throughout 2019. Upon a CEC request, the Mission provided technical assistance for the extraordinary mayoral elections in the four northern municipalities on 19 May, as well as for the conduct of the 6 October Assembly of Kosovo elections in the four northern municipalities. Upon facilitation by the Mission and the EU Office in Kosovo, in



Mark Dixon, a security issues specialist, speaking to participants of the Mission-organized Youth Forum Academy for students from different ethnic and religious groups promoting youth leadership and activism on human rights issues, Prishtinë/Priština, 27 September 2019. (*Dardan Rushiti*)



Young women paint during a two-day "Peace and Tolerance" art workshop organized by the municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac as part of implementing the Inter-municipal declaration on inter – community dialogue, Ferizaj/Uroševac. (Vlera Halili/ Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality)

April, all Assembly of Kosovo caucus leaders signed a joint statement of commitment towards strengthening electoral processes by addressing the recommendations of EU election observation missions. Before its dissolution on 22 August, the Assembly formed a special committee for this purpose. This work was put on hiatus as a result of the elections in October, but it will continue in 2020.

GENDER EQUALITY AND MAINSTREAMING

The Mission strengthened its advocacy for the inclusion of advanced domestic violence-related provisions in the Criminal Code of Kosovo, which entered into force in April 2019 with most of the Mission's suggestions taken into account. Mission activities also included raising awareness on domestic violence and women's rights to property and inheritance, education on gender stereotypes among high school students and gender mainstreaming of municipal mechanisms for community protection. It supported the Kosovo Co-ordinator against Domestic Violence in assessing and reviewing the Action Plan and Strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence 2016–2020 and supported the Agency for Gender Equality by commenting on and amending the new Kosovo Programme for Gender Equality 2019–2023. On 22 November, ahead of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Mission published the *Survey on the Well-being and Security of Women in Kosovo* and organized six follow-up roundtables in different regions to promote policy ideas based on its findings. It also published the *Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence in Kosovo* report and conducted a survey on crime victim compensation among residents of shelters for victims of domestic violence and trafficking in human beings.

MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

During OSCE Day at *Dokufest*, an internationally acclaimed documentary film festival held annually in Prizren, the



The OSCE Mission organized a conference to launch the OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women in Kosovo, Prishtinë/Priština, 22 November 2019. (OSCE/Oscar Gray)

THEMATIC REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2019

- Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence in Kosovo
- Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women in Kosovo
- Assessment of Voluntary Returns in Kosovo



Mission launched a project called "Induction to Media and Information Literacy in Secondary, Higher and Informal Education in Kosovo", which was supported by the Norwegian Embassy. Moreover, the Mission developed nine syllabuses on progressive media and information literacy education for the public university in Prishtinë/Priština (UP). The university academic staff integrated the material to expand the existing curricula on Media Literacy, Academic Writing and Mass Communication from one to three comprehensive courses. As of October 2019, modules from the Mission-developed syllabuses are being taught in the Journalism Department at UP.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM

In September 2019, the Mission organized a training course on post-traumatic stress disorder in relation to foreign fighters and spouses repatriated from Syria. The training targeted psychiatrists, psychologists, teachers and representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Upon the request of the Kosovo Co-ordinator on Counterterrorism/ Countering Violent Extremism (CT/CVE), training was organized with the aim of increasing knowledge and necessary skills so as to develop a sound methodological approach for the process of rehabilitating adults repatriated from Syria.

The office of the Co-ordinator on CT/CVE was created based on advice from the Mission, with a view to merging strategies on violent extremism and terrorism. In addition, the Mission, jointly with the Kosovo Police, delivered presentations on preventing violent extremism through a community policing approach to around 350 students and university professors from public universities.



The Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Jan Braathu, visits polling stations in northern municipalities during 6 October assembly elections, Zubin Potok, 6 October 2019. (OSCE/Yilka Fetahaj)

Mission to Montenegro

Head of Mission: Ambassador Maryse Daviet

Budget: €2,152,100 (Unified budget), €470,098 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 9 international, 23 local

www.osce.org/mission-to-montenegro

The Mission's unique partnership with Montenegrin institutions was highlighted in visits to Podgorica by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajčák and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger. In separate meetings with President Milo Đukanović, Prime Minister Duško Marković and Parliamentary Speaker Ivan Brajović, the strong and action-oriented Montenegrin–OSCE partnership was emphasized: from support to electoral reform, strengthening democratic institutions and promoting gender equality to building a free, resilient and professional media landscape and fostering security sector co-operation and reform, as well as regional youth co-operation with the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO).

PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION (SEC)

The Mission deployed international election experts to work alongside SEC focal points to enhance the SEC's capacity to administer democratic elections and to strengthen its transparency and professionalism in preparation for the parliamentary election planned for 2020. These experts also supported the digitalization process, monitored implementation of ODIHR recommendations and supported the development of strategies for voter education, gender mainstreaming and ensuring equality for persons with disabilities in elections in line with OSCE commitments. Technical exchanges facilitated improved regional co-operation.

WORKING WITH PARLIAMENT

The Mission worked with the Gender Equality Committee, members of parliament and parliamentary staff to implement Montenegro's Action Plan for a More Gender-Sensitive Parliament. The commissioning of a gender analysis of the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will support the introduction of gender-responsive budgeting. The Mission strengthened the oversight and legislative functions of the committees on legislation; the economy; education; science; culture; and sports and provided staff training to the Parliament's Human Resources Unit.

SUPPORT FOR THE RYCO AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Mission continued to support the RYCO and its Podgorica branch office by providing training for 45 NGOs and high schools from South-Eastern Europe and for 45 teachers and civil society organizations from Montenegro on how to apply for RYCO projects. The Mission supported RYCO regional trainers; contributed to an intercultural educational exchange visit to Switzerland for 40 high school students; and brought together RYCO local branch officers to share best practices, develop a training plan for RYCO grantees and address administrative issues. The Mission championed youth engagement in the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization and supported the development of the 2020–2021 Action Plan for Implementation of the National Youth Strategy.

"My wish is to provide people in my community with positive examples and to try to transfer my knowledge ... Now I know what the law prescribes and what the entitlements of a confidential person are."

"Children need support and motivation so they can continue with their education and [so that they] are able to take their destiny into their [own] hands. Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro must be informed about which institutions to address and how to prevent and confront domestic violence."

Participants in a Mission-run training course for ten Roma and Egyptian women community activists who, as a result of the training, were accredited as confidential advocates for victims of domestic violence and early marriage.

SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL GENDER EQUALITY MECHANISMS

Working in partnership with the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Mission continued supporting municipal gender focal points in implementing the National Action Plan for Achieving Gender Equality. The Mission supported four municipalities in developing local gender action plans and two municipalities on gender-responsive budgeting.



Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Maryse Daviet speaks at the 11th session of Women's Parliament as part of the international campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence", Podgorica, 29 November 2019.
(Parliament of Montenegro)



Consultant Stephen Herrmann exchanging ideas and best practices with Montenegrin journalists on moderating users' comments (OSCE/Daniel Blank)



Nada Drobnjak, MP, Chair of the Gender Equality Parliamentary Committee announces Montenegrin Government's intention to pilot gender responsive budgeting in the next cycle of the agro budget within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with the support of the Mission, Podgorica, 26 November 2019. (Parliament of Montenegro)

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN CULTURAL PROPERTY

Protection of Montenegro's cultural heritage continued to be a shared priority for the Mission and the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department, with support from the Italian and Slovak embassies to Montenegro. The Mission also worked with the Ministry of Culture and other national institutions to develop intersectoral and international co-operation mechanisms, including assistance to create a database to catalogue national treasures. The Mission, with support from the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department, facilitated a workshop provided by Interpol to encourage basic awareness and provide training on how to utilize their investigative processes.

SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE DIRECTORATE AND FORENSIC CENTRE

The Mission increased its support for the Police Directorate and Forensic Centre in developing a comprehensive approach to tackling organized crime. The Mission also donated a forensic analysis workstation and mobile forensic equipment to extract evidentiary data at crime scenes, and it licensed software to track evidence online and gain access to digital devices. Devices that read vehicle registration numbers enhance the fight against the smuggling and theft of motor vehicles.

SUPPORT FOR THE MEDIA

The Mission supports public service media in Montenegro through training, consultancies, study visits and technical and material support. In 2019, the Mission commissioned a comprehensive needs assessment for the national public broadcaster. Freedom of the media was fostered through by working in co-ordination with the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Council of Europe and the



Cover page of the Research on Inappropriate, Defamatory and Hate Speech in Media Content in Montenegro published by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. (OSCE)

European Delegation to Montenegro together with the Ministry of Culture to revise the legislative framework on the media. The Mission provided assistance to strengthen self-regulation mechanisms and undertook a training needs assessment for journalists to support the development of a journalism training centre. In a new approach, training provided at individual media houses enabled participants to develop strategies to overcome challenges faced in newsrooms on a daily basis. In close co-operation with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Mission supported regional initiatives on issues involving the media, including the safety of journalists.

With the completion of the assessment of the 2012–2019 police reform process, the Police Directorate now has a tool for evidence-based programme planning and evaluation that ensures a gender perspective for use in the further implementation of reforms.

"The donation of forensic equipment makes a significant contribution to the fight against all forms of crime, assists the criminal-police sector and supports scientists at the Forensic Centre. Co-operation with the OSCE has produced significant results over the years, and we recognize the OSCE as our strategic partner."

Veselin Veljović
Police Director



Veselin Veljović, Director of the Police Directorate of Montenegro and Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Maryse Daviet sign the Agreement on donation of forensic equipment to the national Forensic Centre in Danilovgrad, 11 September 2019. (OSCE /Marina Živaljević)

Mission to Serbia

Head of Mission: Ambassador Andrea Orizio

Budget: €6,258,600 (Unified budget), €1,348,469 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 21 international, 117 local (including 15 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/mission-to-serbia

Building on its expertise and trusted position, the Mission worked in partnership with Serbia's institutions, media and civil society in 2019 to foster their ownership over the country's ambitious reforms. The Mission tailored its assistance to help Serbia strengthen the rule of law and separation of powers; to foster an accountable security sector; to combat organized crime, corruption and transnational threats; to increase media freedom and improve ethics and professionalism; and to promote human rights, gender equality and the integration of national minorities, while considering the important regional context. The Mission most notably focused on two key endeavours – the inclusive development of the country's new media strategy and constitutional amendments on the judicial independence – and engaged in OSCE-wide electoral efforts in view of elections planned for 2020.

COMBATING CORRUPTION, ORGANIZED CRIME AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

In 2019, the Mission worked with the Ministry of Interior, the prosecution and the judiciary to build their capacities to combat constantly changing forms of corruption and economic crime, cybercrime, organized crime, the financing of terrorism and transnational threats. The Mission facilitated meetings of the expanded Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors and supported operational exchanges between the Task Force against Human Smuggling and its regional counterparts.

SUPPORTING CITIZENS' LINKS WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Mission has been strengthening Serbia's Parliament, the National Assembly, as a venue for dialogue, legislative scrutiny and oversight. Despite strained party relations, the Mission helped reinvigorate cross-party initiatives in 2019 such as the Green Parliamentary Group and the Women's Parliamentary Network, and it supported contacts between women members of parliament (MPs) from the region. Through mobile sessions and field visits, the Mission also facilitated MPs' contacts with citizens from across



The Head of Mission, Ambassador Andrea Orizio (l), with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger (c) and Prime Minister Ana Brnabić (r), Belgrade, 9 October 2019.
(OSCE/Milan Obradović)

BUILDING CAPACITIES OF SERBIA'S INSTITUTIONS, MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY



Serbia, enabling direct discussions on family violence, environmental protection and gender-sensitive budgeting at the local level.

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRATIC VALUES, AND MEDIA LITERACY AMONG YOUTH

Having pioneered an innovative youth mainstreaming approach across its programmes, the Mission led several youth education initiatives in 2019. The Mission helped further develop curricula and teacher training in civic education and media literacy, and it worked with law faculties to strengthen students' knowledge in the areas of gender equality, non-discrimination, anti-corruption and environmental protection. To help law students from national minorities become part of Serbia's legal community, the Mission launched a two-year Legal Learning Project for Serbian and Bosnian law students, building upon successful bar exam training conducted earlier for Serbian and Albanian law students. The Mission also supported the Academic Alumni Network of high-achieving MA and PhD students, and it taught young professionals about the functioning of democratic institutions and political and electoral systems during the fourth cycle of the Democracy Academy.

SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR CITIZENS

Having tailored an in-service training programme for community policing officers, the Mission worked with the

Ministry of Interior to strengthen the accountability of police officers towards citizens, to improve their communication and to ensure a more inclusive police service. The Mission also fostered a police partnership with Municipal Safety Councils and built the capacities of local emergency response services to effectively help the country's most vulnerable citizens. By promoting contacts between the police, local authorities and civil society, the Mission worked to improve the police response to domestic violence and to promote UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security at the local level. The Mission also worked together with the police, prosecution and journalists to improve the safety of journalists.

CROSS-CUTTING APPROACH TO DISCRIMINATION AND HATE CRIMES

To strengthen a comprehensive criminal justice response to hate crimes, the Mission facilitated meetings of the intersectoral working group of the police, prosecution, the judiciary, the government, independent institutions and civil society. The Mission also developed *Guidelines for Criminal Prosecution of Hate Crimes* and organized a series of comprehensive training sessions for prosecutors from across Serbia. In 2019, the Mission also hosted a regional conference on hate crime education and worked with civil society to raise awareness of hate crime among youth. The Mission also organized specialized training for the police to recognize and respond to discrimination and bias motivation with elements of hate crime.



Participants in the Legal Learning Project for southwest Serbia on the first day of their professional practice with state institutions, Novi Pazar, 9 September 2019.
(OSCE/Micaela Thurman)



Youth safety was the focus of police training for the prevention of drug abuse in schools, Belgrade, 28 August 2019. (OSCE/Milan Obradović)

Mission to Skopje

Head of Mission: Ambassador Clemens Koja

Budget: €6,506,100 (Unified budget), €550,529 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 40 international, 114 local

www.osce.org/skopje

In 2019, the OSCE Mission to Skopje continued to support reforms pertinent to judicial independence, media freedom, community rights, democratization, police professionalization, strengthening Parliament and improving electoral processes. The Mission focused on assisting further implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement and provided early warning on security-related developments in the country.

EARLY WARNING

The Mission monitored local and national political and intercommunity developments. Mission staff from Skopje and Tetovo engaged with political interlocutors, civil society, religious leaders and state and local authorities to provide timely information on important developments. The Mission reported on the security situation and implemented local confidence-building activities with a focus on interethnic dialogue and social inclusion.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

The Mission assisted the Ministry of Justice in implementing the National Judicial Reform Strategy by helping to introduce amendments to the Law on Criminal Procedure and the new Criminal Code. It provided targeted capacity building for 430 practitioners from judicial institutions on criminal procedure, evidentiary procedure, direct and cross-examination, as well as appeals procedure.

TRIAL MONITORING

The Mission monitored more than 400 court hearings in 32 high-profile cases, including many that had the potential to affect the security situation. The cases included those arising from the illegal interception of communications previously prosecuted by the Special Prosecutor's Office (SPO). The Mission published its second interim report on the SPO cases which provided recommendations to the prosecution, judiciary, Parliament and Government.

“The OSCE Mission to Skopje has been supporting the implementation of the strategic plan of the Assembly. The primary aim of this plan is to strengthen the representative role of the Assembly, highlighting the Network of Constituency Offices for MPs as an important mechanism for outreach to citizens. The OSCE’s support for this network, including capacity-building for MPs and office assistants, has brought people closer to the decision-making process and made MPs more accountable to their constituents.”

Talat Xhaferi
President of the Assembly of North Macedonia

ADVANCING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The Mission worked with 460 legal practitioners, 130 young people and 40 institutions and activists on effective ways to address intolerance. It supported the authorities in adopting the new Law on Anti-discrimination and Criminal Code amendments pertaining to hate crime. The Mission was instrumental in helping to register 123 hate crimes and delivered countrywide public awareness campaigns addressing gender bias against women and intolerance during sporting events. To advance human rights in prisons, the Mission supported the development of by-laws that introduce into practice standards in line with the UN's Nelson Mandela Rules. It also monitored the functioning of the complaints mechanism in prisons, including the female wing of the largest prison in the country.



Member of Parliament Daniela Rangelova, chairperson of the parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, addresses the OSCE-supported conference on gender-sensitive parliament, Skopje, 26 June 2019. (OSCE/Zoran Richliev)



A kick-off event for a Mission-led anti-rumour campaign “Loud against rumours”, Skopje, 10 September 2019. (Anja Triposka Atanasov)



A simulation exercise for border and customs officers on how to join forces and better detect migrant smuggling and drug trafficking was part of the Mission's efforts to enhance the capacities of North Macedonia's border security and management agencies, Kjafasan border-crossing point with Albania, 16 October 2019. (OSCE/Zoran Richliev)

FOSTERING MEDIA FREEDOM

The Mission supported media development in the country by implementing activities that improved communications among journalists, police officers, judges and prosecutors. The Mission also conducted a media literacy survey and a major public campaign promoting media literacy, and it supported a helpline for journalists who had been victims of attacks.

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT

The Mission worked to build the capacity of Parliament to more effectively assume its representational and oversight roles. The Mission provided training for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, supported the renewed constituency relations network and organized study visits and networking opportunities. In addition, the Mission worked with parliamentary committees to advance oversight capacity and gender sensitivity.

SUPPORT FOR THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

The Mission provided technical assistance to the State Electoral Commission (SEC) as it organized the 2019 presidential election. With a longer-term focus, the Mission supported the SEC with respect to electoral participation on the part of people with disabilities, as well as gender mainstreaming in electoral administration, including conducting a gender audit of the SEC, the first of its kind in South-Eastern Europe.



Students dancing as part of the Mission's Building Bridges annual event, which brought together some 1,000 students from throughout the country for a day of music, sports and fun. The event was co-organized with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Dutch Embassy, Skopje, 18 October 2019. (OSCE/Zoran Richliev)

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN POLICE AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR

In 2019, the Mission expanded its "Learning from the Women to Women" mentoring programme for women in the police to other public sector institutions. In co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Mission initiated a one-year programme that aims at individual empowerment and further career development for 20 mentors and 20 mentees representing key ministries in the country.

"My participation in the mentoring programme for women in the police was an extremely positive experience. It made our section more visible and recognizable. During the programme, I was approached by many female police officers and, more importantly, by male colleagues who requested to be included in the mentoring process."

Hrizantema Rendevska
Head of the Women's Section of the Police Union



The Mission's Senior Police Adviser, Aneta Manuilova hands over certificates for completion of the Mission's mentoring programme for women in the police, Skopje, 15 November 2019. (OSCE /Naser Nagavci)

ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

The Mission continued to be a key partner for the Ministry of Information Society and Administration as it implemented the Public Administration Reform Strategy. The Mission supported the development of a merit-based, equitable and professional human resources management system through the revision of laws on public sector employees and on civil servants.

SUPPORTING FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE POLICE

In support of the professionalization of law enforcement in North Macedonia, the Mission facilitated the development of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' new strategies on human resource management, training, disciplinary procedures, community engagement and communication. The Mission also supported a joint working group set up by the police and prosecution to draft a new protocol for co-operation between the two institutions. The Mission also conducted a gender equality and mainstreaming workshop for senior police officers and trained 72 junior police officers on policing in a multicultural context, thus contributing to the development of more transparent and democratic policing practices.

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.

Mission to Moldova

Head of Mission: **Claus Neukirch**

Budget: €2,302,700 (Unified budget), €353,035 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 13 international, 39 local

www.osce.org/mission-to-moldova

In 2019, the OSCE Mission to Moldova continued facilitating the Transnistrian settlement process in line with the principles endorsed by all 57 OSCE participating States: the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for Transnistria within Moldova's internationally recognized borders.

CONTINUED DIALOGUE IN THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS

With a particular focus on conflict resolution and confidence-building by the Slovak Chairmanship, the Transnistrian settlement process benefited from the strong support of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2019. The Chief Negotiators from the Republic of Moldova and Transnistria and their teams continued working towards improving the lives of people on both banks and achieving a final settlement.

The Sides achieved notable progress in facilitating unimpeded travel by officials and consolidated the achievements reached since 2016, in particular with regard to the Berlin-plus package of confidence-building measures. These measures were jointly designed by the Sides and reflect the internationally agreed principles of the Transnistrian settlement that define the Mission's mandate.

For the first time in years, the number of pupils enrolled in Moldova-administered Latin-script schools located in Transnistria increased. Jointly operated vehicle registration offices in Ribnita and Tiraspol enabled more than 3,000 Transnistrian vehicle owners to travel on international roads with Moldovan neutral-design licence plates. More than 330 students from the Transnistrian university received apostilles on their diplomas, which

enabled them to pursue studies abroad. Moldovan farmers from the Dubasari district reported tilling their lands and collecting harvests without any obstruction.

In a statement adopted on 6 December at the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council, the foreign ministers of the 57 OSCE participating States commended the commitment, leadership and political will of the two Sides, which led to the resolution of the above-mentioned long-standing issues affecting lives of people on both banks.

The international partners were particularly unified in their efforts to advance the settlement process during a period of political transition in Moldova. This was reflected in high-level visits by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajčák and Secretary General Thomas Greminger, as well as a joint visit by the mediators and observers in the 5+2 format led by the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Franco Frattini. The latter was key to resuming the talks between the two Sides after a six-month break. Later in the year, the Sides continued their dialogue during a 5+2 round of talks in Bratislava and at a conference on CBMs in Bavaria organized with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office.

The Mission remained heavily engaged in the settlement process on the ground through shuttle diplomacy by the Head of Mission, by supporting the meetings of the Chief



Stefan Driga is one of many Moldovan farmers who have regained access to their lands on Transnistria-controlled territory since August 2018 thanks to an agreement signed by Chisinau and Tiraspol in 2017. (OSCE/Liubomir Turcanu)



Technical assessment works ongoing on the bridge between the villages of Gura Bicului and Bychok, which is part of an international transport corridor linking Moldova to the port of Odesa and to the European Union. (OSCE)



Over 80 representatives from Moldova and Transnistria together with the mediators and observers in the 5+2 format participated in an informal conference on CBMs in Bavaria. (OSCE/Igor Schimbator)

Negotiators and by supporting the 13 expert working groups. The Mission commissioned a technical assessment of the Gura Bicului–Bychok bridge, which is part of an international transport corridor. The assessment provided an estimate of repair works necessary to bring the bridge to its initially designed capacity and to unlock economic potential.

In 2019, Chisinau and Tiraspol engaged in an active discussion of issues related to the protection of human rights both in the working groups and among civil society. The Mission organized a workshop on human rights monitoring for ombudspersons' representatives from both banks and 37 confidence-building activities for legal and civil society professionals. These activities promoted better communication, co-operation and capacity-building for professionals on topics related to the thematic areas of the expert working groups, such as gender equality, obtaining civil status documents and combating human trafficking.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE TOLERANCE AND INCLUSIVITY

The Mission continued supporting Moldova's efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations and to promote tolerance and inclusivity, which are important CBMs for the settlement process.

The Mission continued assisting the Moldovan Government in implementing the national strategy on the consolidation of interethnic relations, promoting efforts to combat hate

crimes and increasing awareness and understanding of the Holocaust in a local context. One of the highlights of this co-operation was the development of an optional course called "The Holocaust: History and Life Lessons", which addresses the issue of the Holocaust in a local context. Since the start of the 2019/2020 academic year, the course has been offered to high school students across Moldova. The Mission provided expert support to the development of the course and a supplementary methodological guide for teachers.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

As a confidence-building measure, the Mission organized, for the sixth time, a Model OSCE for young people from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River to improve their understanding of compromise and consensus, as well as to establish gender hubs in five regions of Moldova, which provide a venue where young people can talk about gender equality and issues of domestic violence.

MONITORING THE SECURITY ZONE

In 2019, 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 observations collected during over 150 monitoring visits were shared with all the delegations to the JCC and all OSCE participating States, including the host country.



Since the start of the 2019/2020 academic year, 35 schools in Moldova have offered high school students an opportunity to study an optional new course called "The Holocaust: History and Life Lessons". Designed with expert support from the OSCE, the course promotes tolerance and mutual respect. (OSCE/Igor Schimbator)

Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Chief Monitor: Ambassador Yaşar Halit Çevik

Budget: €100,8 million for the mandate period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 (€84,7 million from assessed contributions and €16,1 million from extrabudgetary contributions). Total expenditure as of 31 December 2019 is € 69,1 million, including €5,6 million extrabudgetary actual expenditure.

Staff: 1,322 (887 international, 435 local), including 763 Mission members conducting monitoring activities as of 31 December 2019

www.osce.org/ukraine crisis

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine was deployed in March 2014. The SMM is an unarmed civilian mission operating 24/7 with 10 monitoring teams throughout the country. The Mission's mandate includes establishing facts, gathering information and reporting on the security situation throughout Ukraine. The SMM also monitors and supports respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and facilitates dialogue. With over 1,300 staff members, the SMM aims to contribute to reducing tension and fostering peace, stability and security.

MONITORING OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN EASTERN UKRAINE

The Mission continued to apply a comprehensive approach to the monitoring of the security situation, including its human dimension, in eastern Ukraine. More specifically, the Mission continued to support the implementation of the Minsk agreements by monitoring and reporting on compliance with their various provisions, including adherence to the ceasefire, withdrawal of proscribed weapons and the disengagement of forces and hardware, as well as relevant mine action activities.

In 2019, the Mission recorded four percent fewer ceasefire violations compared with 2018, especially following a recommitment to the ceasefire, which started on 21 July.

The SMM continued to observe the presence of weapons, some of which were in or near populated areas.

The SMM monitored the disengagement of forces and hardware in the Stanytsia Luhanska disengagement area, as well as the renewed disengagement process in the Petrivske and Zolote disengagement areas. To that end, the Mission enhanced its presence on the ground, including through the use of technical means – additional SMM cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Disengagement near Stanytsia Luhanska enabled the repair of the broken section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, as decided in the framework of the TCG. Part of the bridge had been destroyed in 2015 due to the conflict, adding to the



An OSCE SMM mine officer monitors demining activity at the bridge near Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region, August 2019.
(OSCE/Viktor Konopkin)

"I have been monitoring the situation at the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge for a long time. It has been heart-breaking to see civilians, especially the elderly, suffering under extreme conditions while crossing the contact line. The progress made since the beginning of the disengagement has been nothing less than transformative. I feel like we are part of something special."

Dariusz Rakowski
OSCE SMM mine action officer



OSCE SMM monitoring officers patrolling in Vaslovivtsi, Chernivtsi region, September 2019. (OSCE/Sabrina Schirmer)



Deputy Chief Monitor Mark Etherington and other SMM staff patrolling on the broken section of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge prior to its reconstruction, Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region, July 2019. (OSCE/Oksana Dobrovolska)

hardship of the thousands of people, including the elderly and those with limited mobility, who had to walk on unstable and steep makeshift ramps to cross the contact line on a daily basis at the only entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) in the Luhansk region. On 20 November, the new section of the bridge opened for civilians.

The SMM also continued to monitor other aspects of the impact of the conflict on civilians. It recorded 147 civilian casualties (19 fatalities and 128 injured) and damage to about 550 civilian properties, including 15 operational educational facilities. Civilians' freedom of movement remains limited: only five EECPs are operational along the almost 500-kilometre-long contact line. The Mission issued a thematic report on the challenges civilians face when crossing the contact line.

The Mission continued to observe anti-tank mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), including some for the first time, both in government- and non-government-controlled areas. Some were seen near residential areas, EECPs and roads frequently used by civilians and the SMM. Additionally, the Mission issued a thematic report highlighting the threats posed by mines and UXO: between 1 January and 31 December 2019, 11 civilians were killed and 36 injured due to the explosion of mines, UXO or improvised explosive devices.

The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, predominantly in non-government-controlled areas, particularly in parts of the southern Donetsk region and border-crossing areas near the border with the Russian Federation. The use of the Mission's technical means for remote observation as a supplement to the physical presence of SMM patrols allowed the Mission to partially mitigate this and other impediments. Notwithstanding, SMM UAVs continued to be subjected to signal interference and small-arms fire on a regular basis on both sides of the contact line.

The Mission dispatched 3,714 patrols in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and facilitated 1,141 "windows of silence" (localized adherence to the ceasefire) to enable repairs and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure on both sides of the contact line. The SMM published a thematic report on this topic, highlighting that such work helped restore, among other things, water, gas and electricity to over 4 million people.

SMM OUTSIDE DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS

In line with the OSCE's mandate and its approach to comprehensive security, the SMM continued to implement its mandate across Ukraine. Eight monitoring teams outside Donetsk and Luhansk regions regularly monitor, among other things, the following issues: the security situation; the situation concerning internally displaced persons and national minorities; the impact of, and reaction to, decisions and policies adopted by the government in relation to the crisis in and around Ukraine; freedom of the media and expression; and mandate-related high-profile court cases.

TECHNOLOGY

The Mission proved to be agile in responding to rapidly changing developments on the ground, tailoring the use of technology to support monitoring patrols on both sides of the contact line. Twenty-eight static cameras show images from along the contact line 24/7. This, combined with footage from unmanned aerial vehicles and other aerial imagery, constitutes partial mitigation against security risks, including the presence of mines and UXO, and helps overcome freedom-of-movement restrictions. The use of technology has been particularly instrumental in the Mission's monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of forces and hardware from the three pilot disengagement areas.



OSCE SMM monitors operating a mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle near Nikishyne, Donetsk region, September 2019. (OSCE/Sergiu Railean)

Since the establishment of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, the Mission has been following developments, in particular changes in affiliation at the local level.

MEDIATION

At TCG meetings held in 2019, the Chief Monitor, in his capacity as Co-ordinator of the Working Group on Security Issues, called for measures that resulted in a reduction in tension and the protection of civilians. The sides also agreed to recommit to the ceasefire (starting from 21 July) and on renewed disengagement of forces and hardware from the areas near Zolote and Petrivske and, for the first time, near Stanytsia Luhanska. Additionally, agreement was reached to repair the broken section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (see above).



Deputy Chief Monitor Antje Grawe speaks at an OSCE SMM panel discussion on women, peace and security, Kyiv, October 2019. (OSCE/Oleksii Filippov)

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The Mission continued to mainstream its gender-equality action plan across all activities, in particular throughout the monitoring and reporting cycle, which resulted in a more in-depth understanding of security, socio-economic and human dimensions. Although women remain under-represented, the Mission continued taking steps to improve gender balance, including for managerial positions. The SMM also continued engaging with women involved in dialogue initiatives and provided briefings to women about the SMM's mandate and activities.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

In 2019, the Mission carried out 76 outreach activities, raising awareness of the SMM's role, activities and objectives, in particular comprehensive security with civic engagement and dialogue. In addition to addressing gender equality issues and prevention of gender-based violence, the Mission focused on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which recognizes that sustainable peace is built on broad inclusivity. A series of stories for social media called "Women on the Contact Line", on both female community leaders and female monitoring officers living and working in conflict-affected areas, as well as videos

documenting the daily work of SMM monitoring officers, received over 2.2 million views. Outreach activities were mostly focused on presenting the Mission's activities in line with its Mandate. The Mission also conducted mine awareness activities among children living along the contact line.

"For children living close to the contact line, mine awareness is a sad but necessary part of growing up. We conduct outreach in schools, which includes responding to real-life experiences as recounted by students who find tripwire mines and explosive objects near their schools and their houses, or in parks. We teach practical ways to minimize the risks, but kids can only be safe when the mines are removed. As long as they are laid and weapons fired, children along the contact line remain at risk. In the absence of demining, safe-behaviour rules are the difference between life and death."

Baiysh Kalchaev

OSCE SMM mine action officer

"We are exposed to the risks of mines and UXO here. There is a military presence in the village, so people think we are safe, but mines choose no insignia, age or sex, as the SMM has shown us. We are grateful for these sessions because they raise both teachers' and children's awareness about the risks; everyday prevention and repetition will keep us safe in the long run."

Galina Fedorovna

deputy school principal, Novookhtyrka, Luhansk region

"I used to visit my father, who lives on the other side of the contact line, only once or twice a year. Now I can go every week. I am very happy that the bridge was rebuilt. This means I can see my father much more often. For that, I have to thank the OSCE."

Ala
Luhansk city

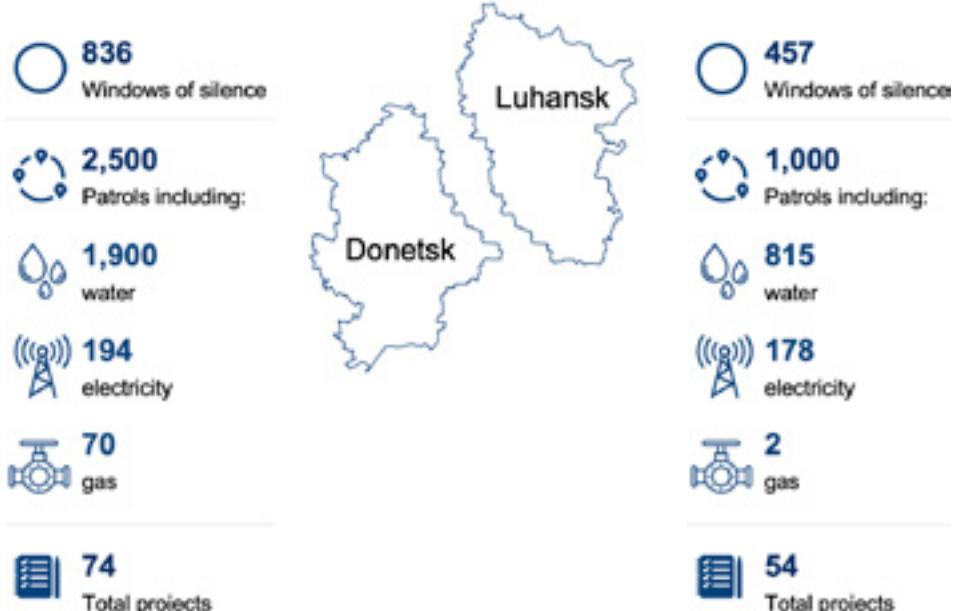


Civilians crossing the repaired bridge near Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region, October 2019. (OSCE/Viktor Konopkin)

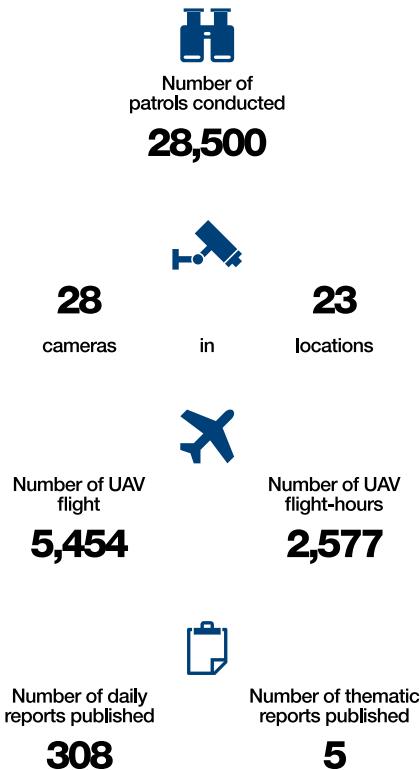


OSCE SMM monitors conducting a mine awareness class at a school in Novookhtyrka, Luhansk region, February 2019. (OSCE/Viktor Konopkin)

**SMM SUPPORT OF
INFRASTRUCTURE
REPAIRS IN EASTERN
UKRAINE (1 JANUARY–31
DECEMBER 2019)**



**2019 OSCE SMM
ACTIVITIES IN FIGURES**



Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Project Co-ordinator: Ambassador Henrik Villadsen

Budget: €3,618,500 (Unified budget), €2,941,496 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 3 international, 92 local (including 42 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/project-co-ordinator-in-ukraine

In 2019, the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator's work in Ukraine provided an opportunity to highlight joint efforts aimed at strengthening democracy, rule of law, human rights and security of the country's people. In pursuit of those goals, the Project Co-ordinator continued achieving practical results through projects implemented across all OSCE dimensions, with several examples highlighted in this report.

GOOD PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES HELP PEOPLE USE THEIR VOTING RIGHTS

Millions of Ukrainians went to polling stations nationwide three times in 2019 to elect a president (in two rounds of voting) and a new parliament. To help prepare for these elections, the Project Co-ordinator updated its online training system for election commissioners and developed and distributed 200,000 brochures outlining administrative procedures to about 30,000 polling stations. At the parliamentary elections, the OSCE supported an online training system that was used by 138,000 people, mostly leading members of district and precinct commissions; almost half of them used the resource more than once. International observers, notably ODIHR, stated that the election processes were well administered, and opinion polls showed increased trust on the part of Ukrainians in democratic procedures.

Flexibilities offered by the digital voter register, established years earlier with the support of the Project Co-ordinator, enabled the Central Election Commission (CEC) to simplify the procedure used to change voters' registered address. This eased the situation for voters who were not living or working in the area of their registration, and it was of critical importance for those displaced by the conflict in the eastern part of the country, who would not have been able to vote

otherwise. Some 315,000 Ukrainians used this opportunity to enable them to vote in the presidential election, and 280,000 people changed their registered address for the parliamentary election.

The data of 35.6 million people stored in the State Voter Register was well protected with software and equipment provided by the Project Co-ordinator in late 2018, with no cyber-disruptions reported during either election. To strengthen the transparency of the election administration, the CEC used the OSCE-procured equipment to start showing its meetings online in November.

DIALOGUE AND PRACTICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY

In a move to recognize the value of dialogue for managing conflicts, the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service proposed making dialogue a part of the new public service culture, with a memorandum to this effect signed by the Agency and the Project Co-ordinator. The government used OSCE support in organizing dialogues to address reform challenges in the education of national minorities, decentralization, public administration and healthcare. To strengthen the community of local experts in dialogues, the Project Co-ordinator trained 340 civil servants and



NGOs with OSCE support stage a trafficking situation at a construction site to warn people of the risks of becoming victims of traffickers, Kyiv, 31 July 2019. (Kostiantyn Chernichkin)



The Avdiivsky Coke Plant located near the contact line where the OSCE produced an analysis of environmental risks related to its work, Avdiivka, Donetsk Region, 30 October 2019. (Kostiantyn Chernichkin)



Border personnel trained to address chemical security risks at the Orshanets training ground, Cherkasy Region, 4 April 2019. (Kostiantyn Chernichkin)



Local community leaders and activists in Kramatorsk, eastern Ukraine, at a training to use dialogue to prevent or diffuse conflicts, 24 October 2019. (Yevgen Maloletka)

activists, 15 of whom received mentorship support in running dialogues to address a variety of conflicts in their communities.

In promoting practical ways to enhance co-operation between the authorities and civil society, the OSCE trained 704 officials and staff from 693 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on public consultation mechanisms, management of state-funded projects and provision of social services by civil society. An online course on state-funded projects was launched. In addition, Kyiv and Cherkassy selected five civil society organizations as providers for palliative care services as part of an OSCE-supported pilot effort.

INTERAGENCY CO-OPERATION TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING GOES LOCAL

2019 capped five years of efforts by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator to establish a functional system to provide assistance to survivors of trafficking in human beings and to prosecute perpetrators of this crime in 13 regions of the country, including the capital city of Kyiv. The purpose was to develop a national referral mechanism (NRM) – a system where such work is done through co-operation among social service providers, law enforcement, medical practitioners, educators and NGOs. To enable NRMs at the local level, the Project Co-ordinator trained 26,480 NRM stakeholders and supported 750 meetings for multidisciplinary co-ordination councils.

As the remaining regions in the country benefit from support from the IOM in this regard, the co-ordinated efforts of the OSCE and the IOM have resulted in an overall improvement in government response: In 2014, only 27 people were recognized as victims, with 86 criminal cases opened, while 185 people were recognized as victims in 2019, and 306 investigations were launched. Co-operation also resulted in eight nationwide information campaigns to warn Ukrainians of the risks associated with trafficking.

PREVENTION OF CHEMICAL SECURITY RISKS STRENGTHENED

The Project Co-ordinator helped the Medved's Research Center of Preventive Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine establish a national reference centre that will support national authorities with



Participants of a training on trafficking in human beings for future social service providers, students of sociology and psychology faculties, 18 July 2019. (Yevgen Maloletka)

credible analysis of chemicals to respond to incidents and conduct investigations. With equipment provided by the Project Co-ordinator, the Centre will be able to reliably identify unknown toxins.

To help Ukraine enhance chemical security at its borders, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator taught 100 customs officers and border guards how to detect dangerous substances and respond to incidents: This was done at training grounds and during interactive simulation exercises at land, air and sea border-crossing points.

As chemical security risks are exacerbated by ongoing hostilities in industrialized eastern Ukraine, the Project Co-ordinator worked to strengthen water monitoring in the basin of Siverskyi Donets and performed an environmental audit of three endangered enterprises near the contact line to produce recommendations on disaster prevention. To spread awareness of conflict-related environmental risks, a study tour for 15 journalists was organized to the region.

Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

Chief Observer: Ambassador György Varga

Budget: €1,499,200 (for the period from 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020)

Staff: 22 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 2019, the Observer Mission marked the fifth anniversary of its deployment at the two Russian checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk. Operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency, the Observer Mission (OM) has ensured an uninterrupted presence at the two border-crossing points (BCPs) since the beginning of its mandate. As part of the OSCE's overall efforts to foster stability and security in the region, the OM continues to represent a unique and reliable source of information on movements across the two BCPs. The OM continues to issue weekly updates and spot reports, which inform the Chairmanship, the participating States and the OSCE Secretariat and institutions about movements across the two BCPs. Originally distributed in English, these reports have also been distributed in Russian since July 2017. Last year, the OT issued 12 spot reports concerning Russian convoys bound for Ukraine. The OSCE Permanent Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission until 31 May 2020. As of 2018, following a decision of the Permanent Council, the usual duration of the OM's mandate was extended to four months instead of three.

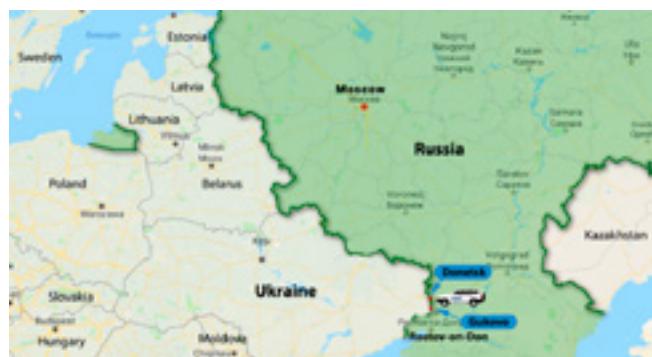
Since the launch of the Mission on 30 July 2014, the OM's mandate has remained unchanged, tasking the OSCE international observers with monitoring and reporting on the situation at the checkpoints (BCPs) of Donetsk and Gukovo, as well as on the movements across the border.

The Mission continues to implement a 24-hour shift rotation system at the two border checkpoints. The Observer Mission is currently working with 22 observers – including the Chief Observer – from 15 participating States. At the moment, the Observer Mission ranks sixth among the 16 OSCE field operations in terms of both the number of international secondees and the number of seconding states.

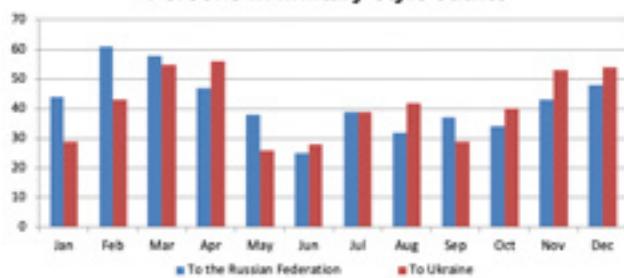
CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE MEDIA

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. The Chief Observer also held meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in May 2019.

The Observer Mission also continued to co-operate with representatives from local and regional media outlets in order to help the local population better understand the Mission's mandate and the role of the OSCE in the region. During the reporting period, and especially on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the deployment of the OM, the



Persons in military-style outfits



**SINCE ITS DEPLOYMENT,
THE OM HAS OBSERVED
THE FOLLOWING
MOVEMENTS:**

- More than 20,176,721 people (data received from the host country's authorities)
- 38,805 people in military-style outfits
- 2,011 families
- 180 aircraft (flying over the territory of the Russian Federation)
- 120 funeral vans
- 622 ambulances
- 175,445 trucks
- 43,239 cargo minivans
- 94 Russian convoys
- 4,996 trains

**BORDER
CROSSING
OBSERVATIONS
IN 2019**

- More than 3,967,989 people (data received from the host country's authorities)
- 42,539 trucks
- 1,000 people in military-style uniforms
- 69 ambulances
- 13 funeral vans, including one van with "Cargo 200" inscribed on it
- 12 Russian convoys

"Taking into consideration the decision of the OSCE participating States to maintain the OSCE presence at the two border checkpoints, we have been doing our best to carry out our activities, [which have been] demanding impartiality and transparency from the observers ... for five years already. During my reports to the OSCE Permanent Council, I have had the opportunity to realize that the geographical scope and the content of the Observer Mission's mandate continue to remain the main differences between the positions of the participating States. The Observer Mission has gathered enough experience during the last five years to be able to react in a quick way to potential operational changes based on the consensus of the participating States."

Chief Observer to RIA Novosti on 31 July 2019

OM's activity was actively followed by numerous Russian and Ukrainian news agencies. The Chief Observer gave interviews to several media agencies on the OM's activities.

OBSERVATION TRENDS

In 2019, the Mission's observers noted a 57 per cent decrease compared to 2018 in the number of people in military-style uniforms crossing at the two checkpoints. The number of passenger cars and other vehicles crossing the border remained steady throughout the year.

PARTNERSHIPS

Good working relations, information exchange and co-operation in relevant areas continued between the OM and the SMM in 2019. The OM regularly delivered information to the SMM on trains crossing the border at the Gukovo BCP and on convoys crossing the border at the Donetsk BCP. On 9 July, Chief Observer Ambassador Varga met in Kyiv with the newly appointed Chief Monitor, Ambassador Halit Çevik, to discuss areas of co-operation and to maintain synergy in the OSCE's activities.



Border observer team driving to the Ukrainian - Russian state border, June 2019.
(OSCE/Paul Picard)



Border observers at the border checkpoint Donetsk, 25 July 2019.
(OSCE/Dmitriy Posledov)



Car maintenance in the Observer Mission, Kamensk-Sakhtinsky, 8 March 2019.
(OSCE/Dmitriy Posledov)

Centre in Ashgabat

Head of Centre: Ambassador Natalya Drozd

Budget: €1,661,200 (Unified budget), €527,633(Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 6 international, 22 local

www.osce.org/centre-in-ashgabat

In 2019, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat celebrated its 20th anniversary with an increased number of activities across the OSCE's three dimensions of security. Border management and transnational threats, good governance, environmental protection, gender equality and media freedom were the focus of the Centre's work. The Centre worked to promote CSBMs and ethical standards in law enforcement, to facilitate economic connectivity and sustainable water management, to support the Ombudsperson's Office and to promote the implementation of human rights commitments.

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

Together with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and the OCEEA, the Centre organized a high-level regional conference on countering terrorist financing and organized crime. Some 200 experts from Central Asia and other OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, and from international and regional organizations discussed good practices related to countering terrorist financing and the misuse of Internet technologies by organized crime.

The Centre conducted a practical course on profiling and risk assessment for 25 law enforcement and border control officers and a training course on analysis of X-ray imagery for 20 customs and transport police officers working at aviation checkpoints across the country.

Two hundred and fifty law students and cadets from five universities attended lectures on codes of conduct and ethical standards in law enforcement.

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

The Centre, in co-operation with the CPC, organized a roundtable discussion on SALW/SCA stockpile security and surplus destruction for senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and law enforcement bodies.

Twenty-two senior officers from the Ministry of Defence were trained in the implementation of commitments under the Vienna Document 2011.

The Centre hosted two round tables to discuss a draft law on strategic trade control within the framework of the implementation of Turkmenistan's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1540 for 2018–2022.

The Centre continued its extrabudgetary project to support Turkmenistan's co-chairmanship of the Heart of Asia–Istanbul Process regional infrastructure confidence-building measures (RICBM) through joint organization of the seventh meeting of the regional technical groups on RICBM.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Centre continued its long-term co-operation with Turkmenistan in supporting legislative reforms in the area

STRENGTHENING BORDER SERVICE CAPACITIES IN TURKMENISTAN

Thanks to generous contributions from Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, the Centre implemented 14 activities as part of its flagship project "Strengthening Border Service Capacities in Turkmenistan", which has a special focus on Afghanistan. The project established a pool of national experts in mountain operations, first aid and canine training. Sixteen Turkmen border guards received internationally recognized certification in open-water diving issued by Professional Scuba Schools in Naples, Italy. Special equipment was donated to the project beneficiaries. The Centre also conducted one joint and two regional workshops for the State Border Service of Turkmenistan and the Border Police/Ministry of Defence of Afghanistan on counterterrorism and money laundering, risk management and interagency co-ordination, as well as gender mainstreaming. As part of the project activities, 144 Turkmen and 19 Afghan border officials were trained.

of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), including amending the law on AML/CFT and enhancing the professional capacity of AML/CFT officers. Jointly with the OCEEA, the Centre launched a new activity on promoting institutional and legislative measures to combat corruption.

ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY

To assist Turkmenistan in strengthening its trade and transport management system, the Centre hosted a regional seminar attended by five Central Asian countries, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan. The seminar resulted in an outcome document with recommendations to enhance regional economic connectivity and co-operation through the facilitation of trade and transport and the digitalization of customs and transit procedures. A national seminar elaborated proposals for effective management of logistics and supply chains.



Students participate in a selective waste collection event held in the city of Mary within the framework of the Centre's assistance to the host country in implementation of the Aarhus Convention through the Aarhus Centres, Mary, 22 October 2019. (OSCE)



Students take part in a quiz on the Organization's structure, principles and values as part of the Centre's 20th anniversary celebrations, Ashgabat, 7 November 2019. (OSCE)

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

A seminar, which was attended by five Central Asian countries, provided a platform for regional expert-level dialogue on the use of innovative technologies for sustainable water management.

ENERGY SECURITY AND RENEWABLES

The Centre provided training on the development of the renewable-energy sector, efficient energy and protection of critical energy infrastructure for governmental officials, students and public organizations.

THE AARHUS CENTRE

The Aarhus Centre implemented awareness-raising activities for approximately 500 participants on emerging environmental issues and challenges affecting Turkmenistan and the region.

SUPPORT FOR THE OMBUDSPERSON

The Centre, jointly with ODIHR, organized a seminar for the Ombudsperson's Office and other bodies to improve their collaboration on human rights promotion and protection. A study visit to Slovakia introduced the Ombudsperson and her staff to the practices of human rights institutions.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Representatives from relevant ministries and public organizations discussed methods of providing assistance to the victims of human trafficking at a Centre-organized event.

Forty students from the Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan participated in a course on international human rights standards during criminal proceedings and investigations.

Representatives of the Ombudsperson's Office; the Ministry of Education; the Institute of State, Law and Democracy; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs discussed practices related to the creation of a mechanism for consultations with representatives of national minorities during a study visit to Lithuania.

The Centre further supported the Keik Okara public organization, which operates a support and assistance centre for victims of domestic violence.

RULE OF LAW

The Centre organized a seminar on strengthening rule of law-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism for more than 30 practitioners from government agencies and the bar association.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

The Centre provided support for a transition to new models of broadcast financing in Turkmenistan, with a number of events resulting in experts' recommendations for optimal models of broadcast financing.

The reform of media laws in the digital age was addressed at a seminar for 30 representatives of relevant institutions and media and a round-table discussion with 16 senior representatives of key media outlets and institutions.

The Centre also trained journalists in online journalism and skills to cover political, economic and humanitarian issues. A seminar introduced journalism teachers, journalists and representatives of relevant institutions to trends in journalism education and experiences in the development of a module on freedom of expression envisaged by the National Human Rights Action Plan of Turkmenistan for 2016–2020.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE OSCE

The Centre celebrated its 20th anniversary with an OSCE week. During the week, the OSCE Secretary General and the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan addressed an international conference, which was attended by 80 representatives of national partner institutions, civil society and the diplomatic corps, as well as the OSCE Chairmanship, institutions and structures.

The OSCE week also featured an exhibition called "The World Around Us", which presented photographs of people with disabilities who participated in Centre-organized photography training.

A course on the OSCE introduced 40 international relations students from Turkmenistan's universities to the history, structure and principles of the OSCE.

Programme Office in Bishkek

Head of Office: Ambassador Pierre von Arx

Budget: €6,811,000 (Unified budget) €304,294 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure, including the OSCE Academy in Bishkek)

Staff: 13 international, 108 local

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

In 2019, the Programme Office in Bishkek continued the implementation of programmatic activities in accordance with its mandate and of 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 countering terrorism and transnational threats such as human trafficking, border management, implementation of justice and election reform, building open and resilient societies and developing the country's regions, trade facilitation, as well as strengthening efforts to combat corruption at all levels. New initiatives to promote youth and gender equality in the host country were also supported.

SUPPORT FOR INCREASED INTERACTION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND THE POLICE

The Office supported the establishment of an Association of Mobile Police Reception Local Public Councils (MPR LPCs) in Kyrgyzstan. The Association unites 30 local public councils formed by representatives of Local Crime Prevention Centres, local self-government bodies, women's councils and active members of civil society. In total, there are 150 members, 60 per cent of whom are women. The Association mobilizes efforts on the part of state authorities and civil society to support the operation and civilian oversight of the work of the 30 MPRs, which operate in all seven provinces of the country. Close co-operation between state bodies and the MPR LPCs help address public security issues, including domestic violence and violence against children, as well as accountability of law enforcement bodies.

PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION AND DIALOGUE

The State Border Service of Kyrgyzstan and the Office organized a cultural visit for around 100 children of border guards from Uzbekistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan, with the aim of



A police officer operating an MPR in Naryn province meeting with town elders and civilians during a regular visit to a remote town in the area of the MPR's deployment, 5 May 2019. (Ministry of Interior of Kyrgyzstan)

PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VERT

Throughout 2019, the Office supported a number of training activities for law enforcement personnel from multiple state agencies and civil society representatives aimed at enhancing capacity and identifying new ways to address various aspects of preventing and countering radicalization.

strengthening cross-border co-operation, fostering friendly relations and promoting unity between border communities in both countries. The visit consisted of sightseeing, excursions and lectures on the shared history of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. This exchange platform will help children learn about and value their shared cultural heritage and the important work of border services at the joint border. The children from Uzbekistan were presented with national souvenirs as a token of good-neighbourly relations, mutual respect and co-operation.



Children from Uzbekistan wave flags of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan at a border crossing in Osh province, Kyrgyzstan, during an excursion organized by the State Border Service of Kyrgyzstan and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, 28 August 2019. (OSCE/Chyngyz Zhanybekov)

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUPPORT TO THE STATE CUSTOMS SERVICE



"Women's equal participation in decision-making is not just an international best practice; it is a requirement of our times."

Ambassador Pierre von Arx
Head of Office

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CO-OPERATION WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

Throughout the year, the Office organized a number of events to commemorate its 20-year presence in Kyrgyzstan. These included a high-level conference organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan to discuss past achievements and future prospects of co-operation, as well as a model OSCE for students and a Security Day event for schoolchildren in the city of Karakol.

ENHANCING CAPACITIES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Reinforcing Kyrgyzstan's disaster risk preparedness by bolstering co-ordination among state agencies, as well as mainstreaming international good practices, remained a priority for the Office in 2019. Throughout the year, more than 400 specialists from the Ministry of Emergency Situations enhanced their skills to monitor environmental threats using Geographic Information System software

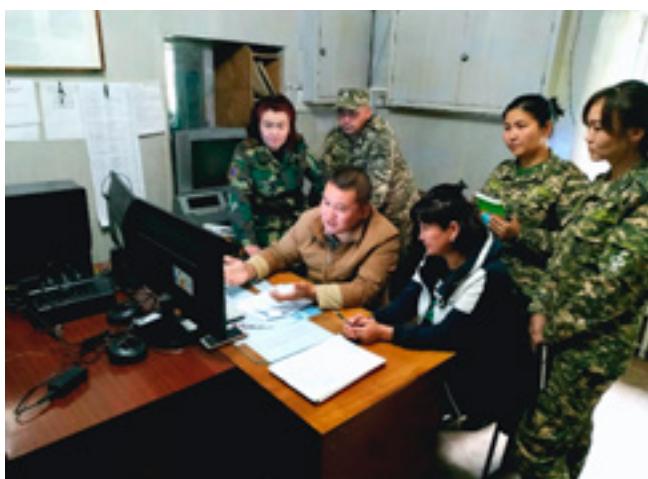
with the aim of responding more effectively to wildfires, mitigating the risks associated with uranium tailings sites and responding rapidly to environmental hazards in a co-ordinated manner and in line with international standards.

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND PARTICIPATION

Throughout 2019, the Office assisted Kyrgyzstan in strengthening the inclusivity of electoral processes and promoting citizens' political participation, in view of legislative amendments that foresee a 30 per cent quota for women in local councils and ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their electoral rights. The Office supported the organization of discussion platforms on promoting democratic principles during law making. Additionally, the Office focused on supporting countrywide capacity-building activities for election commissions on ensuring the active participation of underrepresented groups in electoral processes.

OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek is a well-known education and research institution that provides high-quality graduate education for young people from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. For the 2018/2019 academic year, the Academy received over 3,000 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.



Officers from the Ministry of Emergency Situations participate in a live-simulation exercise using state-of-the-art technology and in accordance with international standards, 14 March 2019. (OSCE/Chyngyz Zhanybekov)



Local women politicians participate in a round-table discussion on amendments to laws regulating electoral processes in line with a broad national electoral reform, Bishkek, 2 September 2019. (OSCE/Kunduz Rysbek Kyzy)

Programme Office in Dushanbe

Head of Office: Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri (from May 2019)

Budget: €7,311,600 (Unified budget), €2,228,671 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

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

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

In 2019, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe celebrated both the 25th anniversary of the OSCE's presence in Tajikistan and the tenth anniversary of its Border Management Staff College (BMSC). The Office expanded its engagement with the host country to support the implementation of its commitments in all three dimensions of security. This was evidenced by a newly introduced focus on disaster risk reduction, practical support and awareness-raising to pave the way for Tajikistan's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and investing in the knowledge and skills of young people. The Office also focused on increasing national ownership and regional co-operation throughout its work, with the inauguration of the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre in Dushanbe and regional, tailored training courses for law enforcement from all five Central Asian states and Afghanistan, just being some of the examples.

COUNTERING SECURITY THREATS: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

The Office has increasingly applied a regional lens to addressing explosive threats, while furthering the capacity of, and partnership with, Tajikistan's Ministry of Defence. This culminated in the inauguration of the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre in Dushanbe in 2019. The Centre will serve as an internationally recognized platform for training instructors on explosive ordnance disposal, and it will foster co-operation among relevant ministries and agencies in Central Asia and beyond. Tajikistan's First Deputy Minister of Defence, the US Ambassador to Tajikistan and the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe officially opened the Centre in August 2019. The Ministry of Defence will take full ownership of the Centre by 2021 and will thereby ensure sustainability and institutionalization of the training offered by the Centre. The Office's Explosive Hazards Programme has also promoted regional confidence-building, jointly training experts from all five Central Asian states and

MAINSTREAMING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Office involved young people in its work from a variety of angles. Initiatives included expanding the Network by Consensus, a platform engaging over 500 young people from Tajikistan and the region to actively shape civic and political life; holding start-up weekends that focused specifically on improving the skills of young female entrepreneurs; and nurturing the OSCE-established network of young gender champions, who tackle gender stereotypes in all areas of Tajikistan through a peer-to-peer approach.

Afghanistan for the first time in 2019. Over 350 experts from Central Asia and Afghanistan have so far enhanced their knowledge and skills during level I to level III courses on explosive ordnance disposal organized by the Office.



(l-r) John Mark Pommersheim, Ambassador of the United States to Tajikistan; Lieutenant General Emomali Sobirzoda, First Deputy Minister of Defence/Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Tajikistan; and Valeriu Chiveri, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe during the official opening of the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre of Tajikistan's Ministry of Defence in Dushanbe, 6 August 2019. (OSCE/Didor Sadulloev)



Rescue workers from Tajikistan's Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence during a simulation exercise to test the government's preparedness in responding to natural disasters and emergency situations, Dushanbe, 16 October 2019. (Denis Dmitriev)

IMPROVING DISASTER RISK AWARENESS IN TAJIK COMMUNITIES

Some 93 per cent of the territory of Tajikistan is mountainous, making the country prone to natural disasters and the impact of climate change. In its newly developed Disaster Risk Reduction project, the Office focused on building community resilience and enhancing national emergency response. Together with Tajikistan's Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoESCD) and the Tajik Red Crescent Society, the Office increased the disaster risk awareness of 1,000 people from remote villages in the Khatlon region by offering tailored courses on disaster preparedness, climate change and first aid. The Office also assisted the CoESCD and the local administration in clearing 45,900

cubic metres of soil and debris caused by mudflows, which ensures access to, and the safety of, 620 affected households, a school and a highway in the Shaartuz district. The CoESCD also organized a large-scale simulation exercise to test the government's preparedness to respond to natural disasters and emergency situations, to which the Office and other partners of the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Co-ordination Team contributed.

PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Tajikistan signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018. Support from the Office to advance ratification constituted a strong focus in 2019. The Office co-operated with government and civil society across Tajikistan to raise awareness about the Convention, local laws and issues of restricted rights through training, public events and the production of videos using sign language. The Office empowered more than 80 persons with disabilities and representatives of disability rights organizations to claim their rights through a series of inclusive moot courts, where they practised their newly obtained skills in fictitious court cases, which included appeals, lines of argument and addressing the court. Round-table discussions held throughout the country for several hundred people helped to expand awareness and



gather momentum to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in public life and establish a rights-based approach to disability. Feeding into these public debates, government and community representatives jointly visited public buildings to assess their accessibility for disabled persons. The Union of People with Disabilities followed up on improvements discussed during these visits, which were co-organized by the Office, to ensure a tangible impact.

CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BORDER MANAGEMENT STAFF COLLEGE

Since its establishment in 2009, the BMSC provided high-quality education for more than 3,400 border security management officials from 45 OSCE participating States and nine countries

representing the Partners for Co-operation. Paying particular attention to Tajikistan's security co-operation with Afghanistan, 55 per cent of staff course participants were from Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Since the introduction of the annual women-only staff course in 2014, female participants have accounted for nearly half of the annual staff course graduates. The tenth-anniversary celebration at the beginning of October was attended by 16 visiting heads of OSCE delegations in the framework of a week-long working visit to Central Asia.

In the spirit of providing internationally recognized and specialized training, the College successfully ran its one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership course for 21 border and customs officials, the first completed course since its accreditation by Estonia's Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education in 2018. In September, Slovakia's OSCE Chairmanship hosted the BMSC's first-ever advanced course, which explored the connection between security sector governance and reform and border security and management. Furthermore, the College broadened its educational programme by hosting a joint Afghan-Tajik-Turkmen regional border management awareness workshop in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat.



Participants taking part in a session of a four-day inclusive moot court, Kanibadam, Sughd region, 4 July 2019. (OSCE/Farhod Nabiyulloev)



Magdalena Kulik (r) of Poland and Ganbaatar Jantsankhorloo of Mongolia during the graduation ceremony of the third BMSC Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership, Dushanbe, 20 September 2019. (OSCE/Nozim Kalandarov)

Programme Office in Nur-Sultan

Head of Office: Ambassador György Szabó

Budget: €2,232,700 (Unified budget), €27,326(Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 6 international, 22 local

www.osce.org/astana

In 2019, the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan built on its strong relationships and partnerships 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 developed new approaches with key partners in P/CVERLT and worked to promote sustainable economic growth, the green economy and gender equality. It supported Kazakhstan's efforts to help victims of human trafficking, to promote judicial and penitentiary reform and to prevent torture. The Office actively engaged youth, media and academia in regional security dialogue. It launched an extrabudgetary project on police reform with support from the government of Norway. In total, the Office implemented 135 events in all three security dimensions with over 6,600 participants nationwide.

TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

In response to Kazakhstan's repatriation of families from conflict zones, the Office worked with civil society, youth, women and men, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy that incorporates best practices shared by other participating States in both identifying FTFs through analysis and a series of training-of-trainers events on document security. It helped promote best practices shared by experts from other countries on working with women and children returning from conflict areas. The Office supported the publication

of two manuals in Russian on the rehabilitation of national FTFs in Kazakhstan. 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 to combat transnational organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in drugs and to enhance border security while promoting respect for human rights. State regulation, information literacy and fact-checking were the focus of the tenth Central Asian Internet Forum, which brought to Almaty some 200 practitioners



Ambassador György Szabó, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, delivers a welcome speech at an OSCE-supported workshop on the rehabilitation of prisoners convicted of violent extremism, Nur-Sultan, 24 July 2019. (OSCE/Bakytzhan Arystanbek)



Participants of the 13th annual OSCE CAYN seminar, Almaty, 26 June 2019. (OSCE/Colin McCullough)

and experts from the region and beyond. In 2019, the Office supported annual regional seminars on CSBMs under the Vienna Document 2011 and on the management of explosive ordnance and mine action together with the OSCE Project Office in Dushanbe.

GREEN GROWTH

Some 470 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 meeting of the Aarhus Centres countrywide. The Office's multi-year efforts resulted in Kazakhstan ratifying and signing into law the protocol on pollutant release transfer registers in December.

COMBATING CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING

The Office promoted training in the areas of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML-CFT) by working with no fewer than 1,080 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.

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 defence 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 national week-long simulation exercise in Karaganda on how to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking. The Office supported seminars on mechanisms for human rights protection, including for some 60 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.

ENGAGING YOUTH

In line with the Slovak Chairmanship's priority on fostering youth exchange and the political participation of young people, the Office organized cross-dimensional activities that engaged over 300 young regional leaders. The annual Central Asian Youth Network seminar for university students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia marked its 13th anniversary in Almaty with a conference called "Dialogue. Data. Digital Security"; a Zhas (Youth) Camp and ZhasCamp Talks, which were held in four cities with over 200 participants; and the Central Asia Leadership Programme, which supported young environmental experts from across Kazakhstan.

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Project Co-ordinator: Ambassador John MacGregor

Budget: €2,499,200 (Unified budget), €327,545 (Extrabudgetary actual expenditure)

Staff: 2 international, 33 local

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

In 2019, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) continued to support the host country's efforts to address transnational threats, promote transparency in governance, fight corruption, combat money laundering and counteract trafficking in human beings and drugs.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The PCUz continued activities in support of the fight against terrorism, addressing P/C VERLT and the question of returning ftf's, with a focus on women and youth.

The PCUz organized a national tabletop exercise on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, which was conducted in Tashkent. The exercise focused on increasing national capacities to counter the development and spread of online content for terrorist purposes by enhancing international co-operation and sharing best practices in engaging with private companies and other non-state actors.

The exercise's findings led to the development of a national road map on how to address threats posed by the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. This road map is expected to help policymakers in particular in formulating human rights-compliant and gender-mainstreamed policies and frameworks on preventing and countering online content promoting violent extremism and terrorism.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

The Project Co-ordinator facilitated the organization of the Fourth Central Asian Internet Governance Forum. The Forum, the first of its kind in Uzbekistan, provided a platform for more than 150 high-level government officials and representatives from the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations to share best practices on how to address issues related to cybersecurity, freedom versus regulation of the Internet and Internet accessibility, as well as global and national approaches to Internet governance.

ELECTIONS

The Project Co-ordinator continued to provide assistance to the host country in implementing its OSCE commitments related to promoting democratic elections, improving the electoral process and partnering with the parliament and Central Election Commission to address the recommendations contained in ODIHR's Election Observation Mission 2017 Final Report.



Participants in a training course on improving advocacy and leadership skills for regional representatives of the Women's Committee, Tashkent, 3 July 2019. (OSCE/Malika Urinboeva)



The opening of the Second Central Asian International Business Forum on the practical application and implementation of, and concepts for, smart city technologies. (OSCE/Murod Khusanov)

GOOD-GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE

The Project Co-ordinator continued to provide assistance to the national authorities on combating corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing, as well as on increasing transparency of government institutions by introducing open data principles.

The Project Co-ordinator supported the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in organizing and holding the Law-Enforcement Network meeting, which is part of the OECD's Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN), with a focus on the challenges all ACN countries face in addressing the problem of high-level corruption. In addition, corruption perception research in the business sector was organized in co-operation with national and international partners.

The Project Co-ordinator also provided capacity-building for government authorities and the private sector in the area of identification, analysis and mitigation of money laundering and terrorism financing risks.

SUPPORTING OPEN GOVERNANCE

An open data project in co-operation with the Ministry for ICT Development and the State Committee on Statistics provided expertise to develop a national open data strategy and strengthened the capacities of national stakeholders through an exchange of best practices and a number of training courses.

PROMOTION OF A GREEN ECONOMY

The Project Co-ordinator supported the promotion of green economy policies through an exchange of best practices on green and sustainable mobility.

The Project Co-ordinator also organized the Second Central Asian International Business Forum, which was aimed at familiarizing participants with the practical application and implementation of, and concepts for, smart city technologies in Central Asia.

STRENGTHENING ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

Throughout 2019, PCUz anti-trafficking efforts continued to address new and emerging issues in counter-trafficking by highlighting good practices and challenges. The PCUz contributed to strengthening the capacities of actors at the national and local levels through the provision of national and local platforms. More than 110 investigators from all regions of Uzbekistan acquired expert knowledge and skills on new forms and methods of recruitment of potential victims of human trafficking and explored the link between human trafficking and related crimes such as terrorism and money laundering. Particular attention was paid to the gender aspects of human trafficking and the importance of women in policing.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

The PCUz started co-operating with the newly created Committee on Women and Gender Issues of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the aim of enhancing women's role in the political and social affairs of the country. For example, a series of training events and round-table discussions in various regions of the country contributed to advancing the role of women in political participation and provided comprehensive support for businesswomen, especially in the context of the development of family entrepreneurship and networking activities. In addition, the PCUz aims to promote women's participation and women's role in crime prevention and to raise awareness of the different perspectives of law enforcement and women's organizations on how to deal with these issues. In this regard, a series of round-table discussions were launched in November and December on the role of women in preventing crime within their communities by elaborating on the concept of community policing and the importance of civic-law enforcement partnership in preventing criminal activities.



The opening panel at a presentation of the Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons, a publication by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) that was translated into Uzbek, Tashkent, 30 July 2019. (OSCE/Malika Urinboeva)



The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Valiant Richey (l), in a conversation with the Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, Kozimjon Komilov (c), and the Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, Tanzila Narbaeva (r), at the OSCE-wide conference on the role of the judiciary in combating trafficking in human beings, Tashkent, 14 November 2019. (OSCE/Ambassador John MacGregor)



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 commitments, resources and expertise. 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 for Co-operation

In 2019, the OSCE continued its political dialogue and shared experience with its five Asian and six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. To better reflect the growing co-operation between the OSCE and its partners, the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava renamed the existing contact groups the Asian Partners for Co-operation Group and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group, respectively.

ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners continued to explore 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 the OSCE's commitment to women, peace and security; advancing the Partnership for sustainable security; countering trafficking in human beings and modern slavery; the current situation and ways forward on the Korean Peninsula; and democratic institutions and the safety of journalists in Afghanistan. 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, as well as in several Asian Contact Group Meetings, and held numerous high-level meetings with senior government representatives from all five Asian Partner countries, as well as various informal consultations aimed at exchanging best practices in the area of promoting comprehensive security across all three dimensions.

The 2019 OSCE Asian Conference in Tokyo was called "How to Achieve Comprehensive Security in the Digital Era: The Perspectives of the OSCE and Its Asian Partners". In view of the 25th anniversary of the OSCE Asian Partnership to be celebrated in 2020, the conference was a unique opportunity to exchange best practices in tackling complex transborder threats and challenges, and in ensuring that technological advances are harnessed for the benefit of all. The OSCE Secretariat further supported South Korea in organizing another interregional conference that focused on cyber/ICT security in 2019.

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

2019 marked the 25th anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group. This occasion provided the opportunity not only for commemoration but also for Organization-wide reflection about the future of the Mediterranean Partnership. As the Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, Albania promoted a forward-looking discussion, including through a dedicated ambassadorial retreat that took place in Malta in June. At the retreat and in other formats, a plurality of participating States and Partners called for strengthening the Mediterranean Partnership, including by revising the Partnership tools in the direction of more action-oriented dialogue. The Mediterranean Conference in Tirana, held on 24–25 October, provided a high-level political platform for presenting ideas about the future of the Partnership. The OSCE Secretary General, the OSCE Troika and a number of delegations put forward specific proposals.

Celebrations were supplemented with a rich programme of political dialogue in 2019. Albania organized six meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group. To ensure continuity with previous Chairs, key topics included youth, terrorism, economic connectivity, interfaith dialogue, energy and cybersecurity. The Partnership Fund supported a significant number of co-operation projects in 2019, including training in the human and economic and environmental dimensions and a host of activities in the domain of transnational threats.

In November, ODIHR organized the first Young Policy Advisers Course for OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in Florence. The course strengthened the participants' knowledge of democratic institutions and OSCE commitments in the field of democratic governance, facilitating a deeper understanding of the role of policy advisers and the skills they need.



Secretary General Thomas Greminger at the Zaatari refugee camp, which he visited as part of his official trip to Jordan, 5–6 November. (OSCE)

Co-operation with international and regional organizations

2019 was a particularly important year for the OSCE's dialogue and practical co-operation with other international and regional organizations. It marked the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Platform for Co-operative Security: a document designed to strengthen the mutually reinforcing relationship between organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of security within the OSCE area. Adopted by the OSCE heads of state and government at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, the Platform was a key milestone in the OSCE's efforts to develop a network of relations with partner organizations active in the politico-military field and in the human and economic dimensions of security. To celebrate this anniversary, the Secretariat organized a side event on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council held in Bratislava on 5–6 December.

Political dialogue



UNITED NATIONS (UN)

2019 marked a major step forward in advancing the enduring partnership between the UN and the OSCE. The Secretary General, the Slovak Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and the United Nations Secretary General endorsed a “Joint Statement to Supplement the UN-OSCE Framework for Cooperation and Coordination”. Through this document, the parties committed to further enhancing their co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

At the operational level, 2019 saw the successful finalization of a joint action plan between the OSCE Secretariat and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). The action plan is aimed at implementing joint activities in priority areas identified in the relevant memorandum of understanding signed between the parties the previous year.



UN Secretary António Guterres (l) and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger during their meeting in Vienna, 27 May 2019. (OSCE/Xhodi Sakiqi)

The OSCE was the first regional organization to hold consultations with the Chair of the recently established UN Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible state behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security in 2019. The consultations provided the OSCE participating States with the opportunity to express their expectations about the UN process regarding cyber/ICT security, as well as to share examples of best practices applied in the OSCE region.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)

Co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE continued to develop successfully in the four agreed areas of co-operation dedicated to the fight against terrorism; combating human trafficking; protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, particularly through the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities; and promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. Two annual meetings of the CoE-OSCE Co-



The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić (l), and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger in New York on 25 September 2019. (OSCE/Xhodi Sakiqi)

ordination Group once again proved to be an effective format for sharing views on issues of mutual interest. As in 2018, the OSCE Secretary General took the opportunity to personally welcome the Group at its autumn meeting in Vienna and to reiterate the relevance and impact of joint activities by the OSCE and the CoE.

Regular communication between experts, day-to-day informal dialogue and co-ordination of activities, including in the field, continued to be the foundation of OSCE–CoE interaction. Political contacts intensified thanks also to the well-established practice of special briefings that share the priorities of the respective Chairmanships. In 2019, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office personally presented Slovakia's priorities in Strasbourg. Both the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary General further participated in the commemorative ceremony of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and the 129th session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Helsinki. The Secretary General also met with the new Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, at the UN General Assembly in New York and in Vienna on the occasion of her first address to the Permanent Council. They discussed issues of particular concern to both institutions and agreed on a pragmatic approach to strengthening co-operation.



EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

In 2019, the OSCE and the EU carried out a mid-term review of the implementation of the exchange of letters signed in December 2018 with the European External Action Service and the European Commission. During the reporting period, both organizations further enhanced operational co-operation through the implementation of EU-funded projects. Furthermore, the new EU Strategy on Central Asia expressed political support for the role of the OSCE in the region, reflecting a renewed consideration for the Organization as a partner.

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Miroslav Lajčák, briefed the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 21 January. The EU Working Party on the Western Balkans visited the OSCE on 28 January. The Secretary General visited the EU twice in 2019 and addressed the EU's Ambassadors Conference on 2 September.



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

The OSCE continued in 2019 to show a high degree of interest in the Atlantic Alliance in relation to OSCE-driven arms control processes, such as the modernization of the Vienna Document and the Structured Dialogue. As part of a long-established tradition, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office briefed the North Atlantic Council on 29 January. NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoanna participated in the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava.



COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

As in previous years, Secretary General Thomas Greminger addressed the CSTO Permanent Council Meeting, in the margins of which he met with CSTO acting Secretary General Valery Semerikov. Counteracting terrorism being a key area of co-operation between the OSCE and the CSTO, acting Secretary General Valery Semerikov took part in the OSCE-wide CiO Counter Terrorism Conference, held in Bratislava on 25–26 March. At the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava, the CSTO was represented by Deputy Secretary-General Alymbai Sultanov.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretary General met bilaterally with the heads of several partner organizations, including Rashid Alimov, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; and Sergey Lebedev, Executive Director of the Commonwealth of Independent States, to leverage partnerships and foster joint approaches to issues of common interest and common concern. The OSCE Secretariat also participated in the Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, held in Dushanbe on 15 June; a Asia-Europe Meeting Seminar on Enhancing Human Capital for Sustainable Digital Connectivity, held in Bangkok on 25 October 2019 and organized by the then-ASEAN Chairmanship, Thailand; and the Heart of Asia–Istanbul Process Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Conference held in Istanbul on 8–9 December 2019.



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and UN Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov (r) in the margins of the UN General Assembly, where they signed a biennial action plan for 2019–2021 to strengthen OSCE–UNOCT co-operation in preventing and countering terrorism, New York, 23 September 2019. (OSCE/Xhodi Sakiqi)



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Sergey Lebedev (r), during their meeting in Vienna, 26 June. (OSCE/Ekatserina Harsdorf Enderndorf)

Operational Co-operation

In 20 years of co-operation with international and regional organizations, the OSCE has developed a large network of contacts and relations with organizations and institutions active in the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions of security. Today, most of the OSCE's operational activities are carried out in collaboration with partner organizations. The following are a few highlights of joint activities implemented in 2019.

SUPPORTING THE SECURITY SECTOR

The OSCE has a long record of co-operation with other international organizations in supporting the security sector in OSCE participating States. This includes partnerships to assist national efforts to reform security institutions and strengthen good governance. In 2019, the CPC continued to exchange experiences with UN agencies and the European External Action Service about ways to develop guidance and policy, leverage expertise across organizations and undertake SSG/R assessments.

2019 also saw many capacity-building activities for law enforcement officials that were implemented with the support of other organizations. In the area of border security and management, Frontex is one of the OSCE's

key partners. In October, the OSCE signed a working arrangement with Frontex, laying the ground for even closer co-operation between the two organizations in the area of border security.

UNODC is another important OSCE partner, including in building capacities to counter cross-border crime. In Kyrgyzstan, the Office in Bishkek and the UN agency organized advanced train-the-trainers courses on the detection of human beings, as well as explosive and narcotic substances, for the canine officers of the State Service for the Execution of Punishment, State Border Service and the State Customs Service. In Albania, the Presence works with UNODC to further international law enforcement co-operation. In the area of crime prevention,

THE OSCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

The OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security is a joint initiative of the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Vienna (UNODA), in partnership with several organizations whose work contributes to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. It supports the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security; youth; and Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 17 on building partnerships.

In 2019, the OSCE granted 100 scholarships to young professionals from 52 OSCE participating States and 10 countries representing the OSCE Partners for Co-operation. They took part in the training programme Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation in the OSCE Area carried out from April to June 2019. In 2019, the training programme was awarded the OSCE Secretary General Gender Award for being an outstanding initiative to support young women in the security sector.



Participants during a training session on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, Vienna, July 2019. (UNODA)

the OSCE Mission to Serbia and UNODC joined forces in organizing a regional “Line Up Live Up” train-the-trainers programme on the use of sports in youth crime prevention and local training sessions on the prevention of drug abuse among youth for more than 125 school police officers.

In Turkmenistan, the Centre in Ashgabat and the IOM continued their co-operation in support of an advance passenger information (API) system as required by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). With the latter, the OSCE concluded a memorandum of understanding in November 2019 in favour of more systematic co-operation in air transport facilitation and border security. With IOM, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized capacity-building events for law enforcement and the judiciary on the links between migration and human trafficking, human trafficking and information technologies, and criminal proceedings involving migrants and refugees.

The OSCE’s diverse partners in supporting national security sectors further includes INTERPOL, which worked with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro to provide basic training for law enforcement agencies on how they can best access INTERPOL investigations to fight illicit trafficking of cultural property. It also includes the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), which joined forces with the OSCE Mission to Skopje to organize a task force meeting addressing trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

COUNTERING THE THREATS OF CORRUPTION, MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORISM FINANCING

Several OSCE executive structures have joined forces with other international organizations to assist participating States in combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

In South-Eastern Europe, OSCE field operations, the Secretariat’s CPC and ODIHR have been co-operating with the EU to assist authorities in the region in tackling corruption and organized crime. The OSCE Mission to Serbia also works with the EU to enhance the quality and efficiency of the reporting of suspicious transactions and the administration of core functions for the prevention of money laundering.

Also, in the area of AML/CFT, the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG) organized the first Eurasian Forum on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism. The event led to the creation of a regular AML/CFT platform in Kyrgyzstan.

In Uzbekistan, the Project Co-ordinator works with the OECD in an anti-corruption partnership, and partners with the EAG in support of the country’s AML/CFT efforts in trilateral co-operation with the UNODC. The Programme Office in Dushanbe also collaborated with the UN’s anti-crime agency to build the AML/CFT capacities of representatives of law enforcement and banking authorities. In Albania, UNODC, the OSCE Presence and the TNT Department of the OSCE Secretariat have joined forces to implement a multi-year training programme on countering terrorist financing.

RAISING AWARENESS AMONG JUDICIAL ACTORS: PAVING THE WAY FOR THE 2020 AGENDA ON PROSECUTION

Judges play a crucial role in upholding the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings and in determining the guilt and punishment of perpetrators. OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/17 recognizes this role and urges co-operation between the judiciary and law enforcement. In this spirit, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, in co-operation with other OSCE field operations, organized an international conference for judges. The conference gathered judges of the supreme or cassation-level criminal courts from more than 20 OSCE participating States, countries representing the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and SCO member states to discuss the role of the judiciary in combating trafficking in human beings.

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Specialized UN agencies, the Council of Europe and the EU were the OSCE’s primary partners in support of activities in the human dimension in 2019.

Among the UN agencies, UNDP partnered with the OSCE Mission to Serbia in supporting the Women’s Parliamentary Network and with the Programme Office in Bishkek in opening the Civic Education Centre at the Central Election Commission. The Centre is open to the public and serves as a central place for receiving information on electoral rights and processes, also in view of upcoming parliamentary elections in 2020. In co-operation with the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNDP supported the enhancement of capacities of national human rights institutions in 2019.

ODIHR worked closely with UN Women on creating the new Gender and Security Toolkit. ODIHR also co-operated closely with UNESCO to address anti-Semitism through education, creating new curricula to help teachers to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism.

The Programme Office in Dushanbe supported the organization of the first penitentiary reform forum of Tajikistan, which was co-organized by the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan, UNODC, OHCHR and the EU.

2019 saw a record number of more than 70 million people fleeing war, persecution and conflict worldwide. In South-Eastern Europe, there are still over 300,000 people with displacement-related needs. Within this context, the OSCE remains particularly proud of its partnership with UNHCR in support of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP). As of 31 December 2019, almost 5,700 of the most vulnerable displaced, refugee and returnee families had been assisted by the RHP in a concrete manner, representing nearly half of the total number of housing solutions the RHP is intended to provide by its closure, currently foreseen for the end of 2021.

SAVING THE DNIESTER

The Dniester River is one of the largest transboundary rivers in Eastern Europe and a life-giving resource for more than ten million people in Moldova and Ukraine. The OSCE, UNDP and the UNECE are supporting a multi-year project entitled “Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin”, funded by the Global Environment Facility. A regular activity of the project is the Summer Dniester School, which was held for the 12th time in July 2019. It provides environmental education to young people and raises awareness for the river’s unique ecosystems.



Participants of the Youth Summer School "Dniester 2019", Malovata Noua, Moldova, 13 July 2019. (*I. Trombitsky*)

With UNHCR, the OSCE also continued its work in the area of statelessness. The third Practical OSCE–UNHCR Seminar on Sharing Good Practices on Statelessness among OSCE participating States was held in October 2019 and provided opportunities for experts at the technical level to discuss obstacles and solutions to childhood statelessness. Following North Macedonia's accession to the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the OSCE Mission to Skopje and UNHCR worked with national authorities to implement international standards concerning the protection of stateless persons, including their right to nationality and access to citizenship. Furthermore, ODIHR regularly partners with UNHCR on Roma and Sinti issues.

The Council of Europe and the OSCE co-operated in 2019 in the areas of democratization and the protection of human rights, including in Serbia, where the OSCE Mission and the CoE built the capacities of lawyers to protect fundamental human rights before national courts, the Constitutional Court of Serbia and the European Court of Human Rights. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, they helped develop policies targeting Roma, and build capacities of national minority councils to advocate for the improvement of the legal framework governing national minority issues. In Montenegro, the OSCE Mission and the CoE co-operated with the Ministry of Culture on a series of public consultations to review proposed media legislation. In Ukraine, the two organizations worked together to support the country in strengthening its justice system, notably

through international human rights protection mechanisms. ODIHR continued its close co-operation with the CoE and its Venice Commission in the fields of legislative assistance, democratic governance and the rule of law, finalizing guidelines on freedom of peaceful assembly and releasing a joint opinion on the legal framework for freedom of peaceful assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EU and the OSCE partnered in several projects in support of the OSCE's human dimension, such as promoting judicial independence, or implementing activities in support of victims and witnesses of crime in Serbia. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, both organizations work on a number of joint initiatives, including the “War Crimes Monitoring Project”, which is funded by the EU.

ODIHR also strengthened its co-operation with the EU in 2019, with projects focusing on supporting elections in the Western Balkans and promoting human rights, gender equality and the rule of law in Belarus. ODIHR also regularly works with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the OHCHR.

ODIHR continued its regular collaboration with parliamentary delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament in joint election observation missions.

OSCE–UNHCR COLLABORATION IN ADDRESSING DISPLACEMENT

In the last five years, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and UNHCR have been working together to address the protection needs of displaced persons. In 2014, they developed a joint publication called *Protection Checklist: Addressing Displacement and Protection of Displaced Populations and Affected Communities along the Conflict Cycle*, which was made available on the OSCE's website in English and Russian. This is a reference tool for OSCE field staff who work on, or might be confronted with, displacement issues. The two organizations also provide training to OSCE staff to help them apply the checklist's recommendations in practice. In 2019, they held workshops for the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan on how to address displacement in a collaborative approach. Moreover, in September, they organized an in-house round table to discuss ways the protection checklist could better address the needs of OSCE field operations. These discussions serve as a basis for the next workshops in 2020, when the topic of displacement is planned to be discussed in a cross-cutting way with representatives of various OSCE field operations and UNHCR staff.



Participants at the joint UNHCR–OSCE workshop on the implementation of the protection checklist, Nur-Sultan, April 2019. (UNHCR/Alexandra Kogay)

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The OSCE's South-Eastern European field operations have joined forces with the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO) local branch offices to promote reconciliation and co-operation among youth in South-Eastern Europe. Joint initiatives included a series of RYCO initiatives to provide tools and skills to enable youth engagement and exchanges organized by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and a Youth Trail to promote OSCE values among youth co-organized by RYCO, the OSCE Presence in Albania and the Municipality of Tirana in May 2019.



Capacity-building meeting of the RYCO Local Branch Officers supported by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Žabljak, 27 June 2019. (RYCO)

List of abbreviations

AIAM – Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting
ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AML-CFT – anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism
API – Advance Passenger Information
BMSC – Border Management Staff College
CAYN – Central Asian Youth Network
CBMs – Confidence building measures
CCT – Committee on Countering Terrorism
CoE – Council of Europe
COESPU – Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units
CoESCD – Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
CPC – Conflict Prevention Centre
CSBMs – Confidence-and security building measures
CSTO – Collective Security Treaty Organization
EU – European Union
Frontex – European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSC – Forum for Security Co-operation
FTFs – Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GID – Geneva International Discussions
GFP – Gender Focal Point
HCNM – High Commissioner on National Minorities
HLPG – High-Level Planning Group
ICT – Information and communication technology
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross
IPRM – Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism
IOM – International Organization for Migration
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
OHCHR - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PA – Parliamentary Assembly
PAN – Police Academies Network
P/CVERLT – Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
RHP – Regional Housing Programme
RICBM – Regional Infrastructure Confidence-Building Measures
RYCO – Regional Youth Co-operation Office
SALW – Small arms and light weapons
SCA – Stockpiles of conventional ammunition
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
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
UNCTED – United Nations Counterterrorism Executive Directorate
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
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

OSCE staff at a glance

3,605 staff members from 51 countries	252 internationally recruited staff
1,225 seconded staff members	2,128 locally recruited staff
working in 20 locations in the OSCE area	
OVERALL  42% women / 58% men	
LEADERSHIP  25% women / 75% men	
CONTRACTED STAFF  49% women / 51% men	
SECONDED STAFF  27% women / 73% men	

THE 2019–2026 GENDER PARITY STRATEGY

Gender equality is a critical part of the OSCE Secretary General's Fit for Purpose reform agenda and essential for the achievement of the Organization's goal. Gender parity- that is, the equal representation of women and men, is an important step towards achieving gender equality.

While the OSCE has managed to achieve overall parity in recent years, women remain significantly underrepresented in managerial and decision-making roles. The 2019-2026 Gender Parity Strategy was developed by the OSCE's Department for Human Resources to correct this gender imbalance at the top of the Organization. It aims to reach parity across all staff levels by 2026 and includes ambitious interim targets, which will help the OSCE achieve this objective.

This includes the creation of an enabling, bias-free work environment, the introduction of complementary talent management measures, and improved leadership and accountability for the attainment of results.

Unified budget

2019 UNIFIED BUDGET	2019 EXPENDITURE	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
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THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS

The Secretariat	40.880.600	41.110.745	30%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	16.394.000	16.689.566	12%
High Commissioner on National Minorities	3.504.000	3.480.791	3%
Representative on Freedom of the Media	1.603.100	1.466.566	1%
TOTAL FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS	62.381.700	62.747.668	45%

OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS

South-Eastern Europe

Mission in Kosovo	17.462.600	17.560.916	13%
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	11.682.000	11.669.830	8%
Mission to Serbia	6.258.600	6.255.892	5%
Presence in Albania	2.981.200	2.937.590	2%
Mission to Skopje	6.506.100	6.492.452	5%
Mission to Montenegro	2.152.100	1.841.456	2%
Total for South-Eastern Europe	47.042.600	46.758.137	34%

Eastern Europe

Mission to Moldova	2.302.700	2.284.924	2%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	3.618.500	3.404.150	3%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners	5.500	4.829	0%
Total for Eastern Europe	5.926.700	5.693.904	4%

Caucasus

High-Level Planning Group	246.500	193.031	0%
The Minsk Process	911.200	434.635	1%
Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference	1.179.700	1.026.082	1%
Total for Caucasus	2.337.400	1.653.748	2%

Central Asia

Programme Office in Nur-Sultan	2.232.700	2.177.674	2%
Centre in Ashgabat	1.661.200	1.655.593	1%
Programme Office in Bishkek	6.811.000	6.726.518	5%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	2.499.200	2.496.644	2%
Programme Office in Dushanbe	7.311.600	7.269.156	5%
Total for Central Asia	20.515.700	20.325.585	15%
TOTAL FOR OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS	75.822.400	74.431.373	55%
GRAND TOTAL	138.204.100	137.179.041	100%

* The Unified budget excludes the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

Contributions by participating States

PARTICIPATING STATE	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS 2019 UNIFIED BUDGET (€)	% OF TOTAL
Albania	89.365	0,1%
Andorra	89.365	0,1%
Armenia	45.276	0,0%
Austria	3.183.664	2,3%
Azerbaijan	45.276	0,0%
Belarus	196.365	0,1%
Belgium	4.603.182	3,3%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	89.365	0,1%
Bulgaria	361.469	0,3%
Canada	7.491.790	5,4%
Croatia	199.052	0,1%
Cyprus	198.465	0,1%
Czech Republic	668.635	0,5%
Denmark	2.854.284	2,1%
Estonia	126.987	0,1%
Finland	2.648.758	1,9%
France	14.305.060	10,4%
Georgia	45.276	0,0%
Germany	15.074.344	10,9%
Greece	1.154.676	0,8%
Holy See	89.365	0,1%
Hungary	653.327	0,5%
Iceland	183.169	0,1%
Ireland	1.068.298	0,8%
Italy	14.269.333	10,3%
Kazakhstan	259.277	0,2%
Kyrgyzstan	45.276	0,0%
Latvia	130.958	0,1%
Liechtenstein	89.365	0,1%
Lithuania	130.958	0,1%
Luxembourg	474.837	0,3%
Malta	93.336	0,1%
Moldova	45.276	0,0%
Monaco	89.365	0,1%
Mongolia	45.276	0,0%
Montenegro	45.276	0,0%
Netherlands	5.390.614	3,9%
Norway	2.849.068	2,1%
Poland	1.627.498	1,2%
Portugal	1.020.840	0,7%
Romania	448.012	0,3%
Russian Federation	5.512.574	4,0%
San Marino	89.365	0,1%
Serbia	98.183	0,1%
Slovak Republic	283.727	0,2%
Slovenia	267.723	0,2%
Spain	6.664.071	4,8%
Sweden	4.598.799	3,3%
Switzerland	3.812.058	2,8%
Tajikistan	45.276	0,0%
Republic of North Macedonia	89.365	0,1%
Turkey	1.189.371	0,9%
Turkmenistan	45.276	0,0%
Ukraine	510.924	0,4%
United Kingdom	14.303.977	10,3%
United States of America	17.878.952	12,9%
Uzbekistan	245.457	0,2%
Gap in Scales	49.621	0,0%
Total	138.204.100	100,0%

Extrabudgetary pledges and voluntary contributions

DONOR

	PLEDGE AMOUNT (€)
ALBANIA	25.000
ANDORRA	35.000
AUSTRALIA	19.007
AUSTRIA	69.590
AZERBAIJAN	50.000
BELGIUM	50.000
BULGARIA	25.000
CANADA	40.339
CYPRUS	30.000
CZECH REPUBLIC	237.266
ESTONIA	883
EUROPEAN UNION	13.565.479
FINLAND	1.150.883
FRANCE	20.000
GENEVA CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)	194.129
GERMANY	7.761.802
HUNGARY	50.000
ICELAND	30.883
IRELAND	123.000
ITALY	1.912.263
JAPAN	736.072
LIECHTENSTEIN	190.582
LITHUANIA	20.000
LUXEMBOURG	135.000
MALTA	20.000
MONACO	35.000
NETHERLANDS	2.070.958
NORWAY	30.845
POLAND	114.480
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	92.768
SLOVAKIA	976.613
SWEDEN	2.328.023
SWITZERLAND	916.468
TURKEY	55.000
UKRAINE	26.910
UNITED KINGDOM	670.740
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)	115.174
UNITED STATES	17.206.280
Grand Total	51.131.436

* Voluntary contributions to the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine are included.

** Extrabudgetary contributions for the year 2019 are included on a cash basis only.

EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

	PLEDGE AMOUNT (€)
Secretariat	13.442.609
Secretariat Unallocated Funds*	10.988.988
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	3.888.949
High Commissioner on National Minorities	128.837
Representative on Freedom of the Media	361.432
Mission in Kosovo	102.489
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	998.281
Mission to Serbia	2.448.413
Presence in Albania	283.300
Mission to Skopje	313.348
Mission to Montenegro	-
Mission to Moldova	526.362
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	4.343.350
Programme Office in Nur-Sultan	-
Centre in Ashgabat	183.111
Programme Office in Bishkek	280.726
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	182.965
Programme Office in Dushanbe	1.422.406
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine	11.235.869
TOTAL	51.131.436

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

Extrabudgetary expenditures

EXTRABUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

Secretariat	12.792.894
Secretariat Unallocated Funds	
Office for Democratic Inst. and Human Rights	6.115.010
High Commissioner on National Minorities	829.330
Representative on Freedom of the Media	508.427
Mission in Kosovo	210.603
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.415.981
Mission to Serbia	1.348.469
Presence in Albania	503.647
Mission to Skopje	550.529
Mission to Montenegro	470.098
Mission to Moldova	353.035
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2.941.496
Programme Office in Nur-Sultan	27.326
Centre in Ashgabat	527.633
Programme Office in Bishkek	304.294
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	327.545
Programme Office in Dushanbe	2.228.671
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine	12.575.923
Total	44.030.912

* Actual expenditures for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine are included.

Staff

* Includes staff in posts as at 31 December 2019 financed from the unified budget and extrabudgetary contributions.

Statistics of OSCE seconded and contracted fixed-term staff as at 31 December 2019*
(including staff financed from extrabudgetary contributions)

