

OSCE Office for  
Democratic Institutions  
and Human Rights

# Annual Report 2014

Published by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)  
Ul. Miodowa 10  
00-251 Warsaw  
Poland

[www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr)

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ISBN 978-92-9234-915-8

Designed by Nona Reuter  
Printed in Poland by Agencja Karo

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

# Annual Report 2014





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# Overview by the ODIHR Director

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The events of 2014 reasserted the continued relevance of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as the world's largest regional security organization. The crisis in and around Ukraine, the most serious security crisis in the OSCE region since the end of the Cold War, underlined the importance of the Organization's role in promoting security, including in what the OSCE calls the "human dimension" of security.

As in every security crisis, it is the most vulnerable individuals who suffer the most. When the OSCE was established in 1975, with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the human dimension of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security was designed to protect the rights of everyone in the OSCE area, including the most vulnerable. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is the largest of the OSCE's autonomous institutions and covers almost all aspects of the human dimension – not only the protection of these fundamental human rights, but also work in the areas of elections, democratic governance and rule of law, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, and improving the situation of Roma and Sinti.

Today, ODIHR works within a broad mandate of commitments in these areas, allowing us to assist OSCE participating States whenever and wherever the rights of marginalized individuals are at stake. All 57 participating States have recognized that their commitments to strengthen democracy and human rights safeguard against real threats to the peace and security of their societies.

2014 saw governments in some participating States implicitly – or explicitly at times – undercutting the importance of the human dimension commitments they made in the past. While the crisis in and around Ukraine brought into stark focus many of the issues on which ODIHR's mandate is based, implementation of human dimension commitments can be strengthened everywhere. As such, ODIHR in this Annual Report looks back and highlights the Office's activities in what was a very eventful and intense year of work supporting the implementation of commitments across the human dimension throughout the OSCE region.

The Office's efforts to support democracy and human rights in Ukraine have been highlighted



Michael Georg Link (l), Director of ODIHR, and Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin (r) met in Kyiv to discuss the final election observation mission report on the 25 May early presidential elections and the situation in eastern Ukraine, including the situation of Roma there, July 14. Foreign Ministry of Ukraine

throughout, as it was an exceptional focus in 2014. Election observation missions in Ukraine were the largest and most visible on record and the Human Rights Assessment Mission conducted by ODIHR in March and April, jointly with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, shed light on a number of serious human rights violations in the country. The Office also closely monitored and reported on the situation and plight of Roma in Ukraine during the crisis.

As part of its established work in the area of human rights, in October the Office co-organized a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Vienna on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Economic Crisis with the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship. Participants discussed economic, social and cultural rights, the protection of vulnerable groups as well as rights and responsibilities of governments during times of economic crisis. They stressed that the commitment to defend and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms remains just as relevant – if not more so – in the face of decreasing resources and competing demands.

ODIHR's *Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders*, published in June, are another example of ODIHR's human rights work. The guidelines concentrate on the protection of those who are at risk as a result of their human rights engagement, and on measures to create and consolidate a safe and enabling environment in which human

rights defenders are empowered to carry out their vital work.

The year also saw a broad range of activities by ODIHR in the area of democratization. In the spring, the Office published the *Baseline Study on Cross-Border Mobility in the OSCE Region*. The study informs national experts and responsible government institutions in their efforts at visa facilitation and the promotion of cross border people-to-people contact. Likewise, the newly published *Handbook on Women's Participation in Political Parties* aims at encouraging political party leaders, men and women alike, to support the integration of gender aspects into internal political party decision-making processes.

As part of its activities to strengthen capacity for legal reform, over the year ODIHR reviewed 23 laws and draft laws from a number of participating States. The reviews, performed upon requests from the respective states, included legislation on judicial independence, prosecution reform, criminal procedures, freedom of association, gender equality, national human rights institutions and political party financing. Eight of the reviews were prepared jointly with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission.

ODIHR's Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues worked throughout 2014 to enhance the public and political participation of Roma and Sinti, especially women and youth. The Roma and Sinti Youth



Jérémie Juvet, Model OSCE Swiss Youth Ambassador (l), and Michael Georg Link, Director of ODIHR (r) at the Opening session of the 21st OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel, 4 December. OSCE/FDFA/Béatrice Devènes



ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link (l) and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier speaking at a press conference after their meeting in Berlin, 11 July. "ODIHR is not only the most important instrument in the OSCE for Elections, Human Rights and Democratic Institutions. It is the real 'daughter of freedom' in Europe's security community," Link said in his statement. German Foreign Office

conference in Belgrade, "Activism, Participation, Security", represented a continuation of ODIHR's work to encourage the participation of Roma and Sinti youth in their communities. Other activities carried out by the Contact Point included a joint roundtable in Chisinau with United Nations agencies and the Council of Europe on Roma women's political participation.

Countering anti-Semitism was the focus of a high-level commemorative event in November, co-organized by ODIHR, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and the German Federal Foreign Office, designed to mark the 10th anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism. The adoption of the Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism at December's OSCE Ministerial Council reaffirmed existing commitments and reiterated the determination of participating States to pursue common efforts throughout the OSCE region.

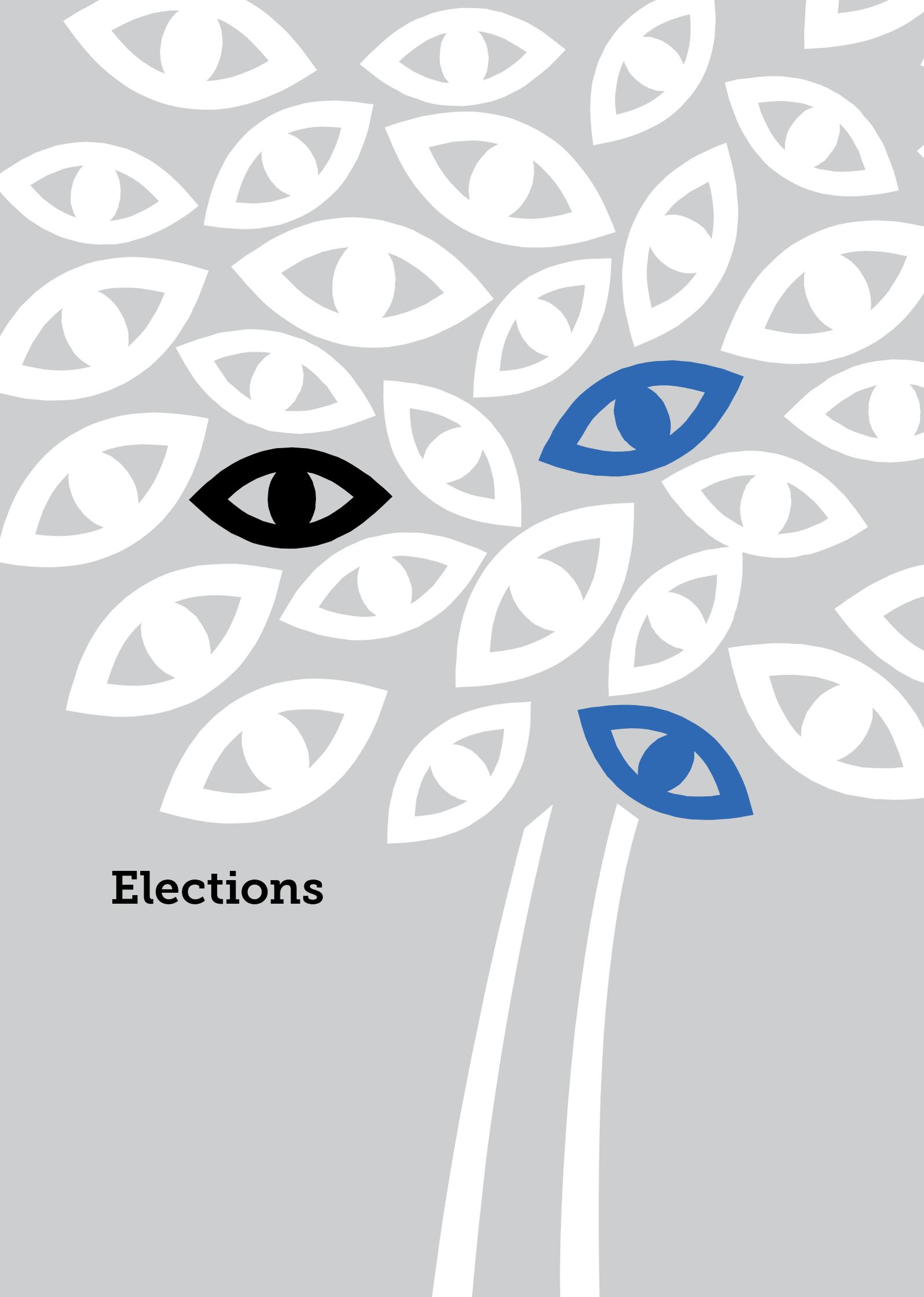
Launched in June, ODIHR's new hate crimes reporting website highlights the continued need to improve the collection and recording of reliable data, such as on victim groups targeted and perpetrators, in order to support the efforts being made in many participating States to combat these crimes. The website will enable better access to more up-to-date information on advances in this effort.

The Office carried out 12 election-observation activities in ten participating States and Afghanistan in 2014. The May early presidential election in Ukraine was ODIHR's largest deployment in its history, with over 1,200 observers from 49 participating States. ODIHR produced 45 election-related reports, including final reports providing recommendations on how electoral processes can be improved in relation to OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections.

The Office's observation methodology continued to evolve in response to emerging trends in elections, with the revised *Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Participation of National Minorities in Electoral Processes*, published in co-operation with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, which provides guidance to experts focusing on national minority participation, by analysing factors affecting their inclusion and representation, as well as to observers monitoring the electoral process.

ODIHR remains committed to its mandate and role in promoting comprehensive security, especially during times of crisis, by supporting the work of governments and civil society. This is a short overview of ODIHR's many activities in 2014, the following pages present a much more comprehensive description, with special focus on our work in Ukraine throughout the year. I encourage you to browse through it to discover what may not always be the most publicly visible, but certainly is one of the most important aspects of the OSCE's work to make our region more secure.

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



**Elections**

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Within the OSCE, democratic elections are recognized as the cornerstone of democracy and are regarded as one of the key elements of long-term security and stability. As a community committed to the respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, OSCE participating States have committed themselves to upholding such important principles of democratic elections as universality, equality, transparency, secrecy of the vote, accountability, fairness and freedom. In the 1990 Copenhagen Document, they declared that these principles would serve as the basis of the authority and legitimacy of governments.

In recognizing the importance of democratic elections, OSCE participating States mandated ODIHR to assist them in the implementation of election-related commitments through the conduct of election observation. The Office's comprehensive election observation methodology, which is grounded in independence, impartiality and professionalism, and seeks to provide needs-focused and long-term analysis of observed electoral processes, has positioned the organization at the forefront of international observer efforts.

With election-related activities conducted in nearly all OSCE participating States, ODIHR reports and recommendations offer participating States a comprehensive, professional, and impartial picture of the electoral processes observed and of possible improvements. Reporting by ODIHR demonstrates that, while numerous examples of commendable electoral practice have been noted, a number of issues continue to pose challenges for participating States and have the potential of negatively impacting citizens' election-related rights.

A methodology developed over a decade-and-a-half, as tasked by the OSCE participating States, continues to be applied systematically and uniformly to the assessment of all the electoral processes across the OSCE region. ODIHR also continuously strives to further develop this methodology with a view to addressing new and emerging issues. A number of thematic handbooks have been published in recent years, contributing to the spectrum of methodological materials guiding experts in specific elements of an electoral process. The two latest handbooks address the issues of electoral participation of national minorities and the observation of campaign finance, providing guidance on how these elements can be observed by election missions more systematically.

While underscoring the importance of observation, participating States have also repeatedly reaffirmed the significance of post-electoral dialogue and committed themselves to follow up on ODIHR's election recommendations. Over the last few years, ODIHR has made itself increasingly available and responded positively to requests for post-electoral dialogue. This has included in-country presentations and discussions of final reports, expert consultations and legal reviews of drafts or amendments to election-related legislation.

## MAIN ISSUES

### Democratic Standards

Over the years, a large number of commitments have been adopted that serve to safeguard the free expression of the will of the people through periodic and genuine elections. Within the OSCE, in addition to the 1990 Copenhagen Document, which provided the most important elements of the election observation framework, later documents expanded ODIHR's mandate and included a range of further election-related commitments. The OSCE's political commitments supplement a body of legally binding election-related obligations and good electoral practice. All existing obligations, commitments and good practice serve as clear and objective benchmarks for the assessment of electoral processes. Essentially, the existing international reference documents and commitments underscore that genuine elections should be viewed as public political competitions between distinct alternatives, taking place in an environment providing equal opportunities for the various competitors. Elections are a process rather than a one-day event and are thus looked at in their entirety, analyzing aspects beyond election day procedures, such as the ability of voters to make informed choices between alternatives, the transparency and integrity of campaign finance, the availability of timely and effective legal redress, and the compliance of results tabulation with requirements for accuracy, honesty and transparency.

### Implementation of Commitments

Election observation itself should not be seen as the main objective of co-operation with the OSCE participating States in the field of elections. Observation only serves to provide the basis for such co-operation in the form of objective findings and constructive recommendations for necessary changes. Therefore, the ultimate goals of election observation are the improvements that states introduce to election legislation and practice as a result of observers' work and post-electoral engagement.

In the course of its observation activities, ODIHR continues to note varied degrees of implementation of OSCE commitments and other standards for democratic elections. ODIHR reports on both commendable practices, aimed at strengthening and guaranteeing citizen's election-related rights, and

practices that have the potential of impacting negatively or infringing on such rights.

The positive developments that the ODIHR continues to note include:

- Strengthened legal frameworks;
- Greater engagement and inclusive dialogue;
- Enhanced attention to the issue of women's participation; and
- Increased awareness of the importance of campaign finance.

A number of areas, however, continue to require further attention and would benefit from greater attention and action by OSCE participating States, including:

- Limitations on the right to be elected;
- Lack of a free campaign environment;
- Inequitable access to media;
- Lack of confidence in the impartiality and independence of election administration bodies; and
- Inadequate complaints and appeals procedures.

Recognizing the significance of dialogue on the results of election observation, OSCE participating States have agreed to follow up on ODIHR's findings and recommendations. It is therefore a commitment and the responsibility of OSCE participating States to consider the conclusions provided and to engage with ODIHR in discussions on how the suggested improvements could be reflected in legislation and practice.

It is encouraging that, in recent years, the awareness and acceptance of a concept of follow-up among the OSCE participating States has grown. A number of states have taken welcome initiatives to hold inclusive and comprehensive electoral review events and invited ODIHR for consultations on planned reforms or on specific electoral issues. Positively, the practice of voluntary reporting by the OSCE participating States to the Human Dimension Committee on the implementation of ODIHR's recommendations has also continued, furthering the implementation of OSCE commitments and promoting post-electoral engagement.



Jamshed Jamshedov (c) and Abdumanon Dodoev (l) of Tajikistan's Central Commission on Elections and Referenda, during the presentation of an election report in Dushanbe by Amb. Paraschiva Badescu (centre-right), and Alexey Gromov, ODIHR Election Adviser (r), 9 April. OSCE/Nozim Kalendarov

An election observation mission from ODIHR monitored the early presidential election in Ukraine, 25 May. To prevent fraud, every ballot was individually numbered and hand-stamped. Michael Forster Rothbart/mfrphoto.com



## ACTIVITIES

Observation missions are the most visible part of ODIHR's election mandate. The findings and recommendations in election observation reports provide a valuable resource for ODIHR's other programmes, as well as for the activities of other OSCE institutions and field operations. In 2014, ODIHR's activities in the field of elections continued to focus on the following areas:

- Election observation;
- Follow-up to observation missions and their recommendations;
- Development of election observation methodology;
- Assistance to reform of electoral legislation;
- Training of observers; and
- Support for OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

### Election Observation

ODIHR assesses electoral processes throughout the OSCE region for their compliance with OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards for democratic elections. To date, ODIHR has deployed election-related activities in nearly all OSCE participating States.

In line with the Office's well-established election observation methodology, an election observation process begins with the deployment of a needs assessment mission (NAM). A NAM, typically deployed several months before an election, assesses the pre-election environment and the preparations for the elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM recommends whether to deploy an ODIHR activity for the elections, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. In 2014, ODIHR conducted 11 NAMs.

When recommending a possible election-related activity, a NAM considers a number of issues:

- Whether the legal framework for elections is in line with OSCE commitments;
- Respect for fundamental rights and freedoms;
- Existing checks and balances;
- The state of preparedness of the election administration;

- The level of public confidence in the election administration and the conduct of elections;
- The nature of the media environment;
- The complaints and appeals system;
- The level of civil society involvement; and
- The implementation of prior ODIHR recommendations.

In 2014, ODIHR deployed election-related missions for 12 elections in ten participating States and one partner for co-operation (Afghanistan, from extra-budgetary funding). As with all ODIHR missions, these were guided by two principal objectives: first, to assess whether the elections met OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards for democratic elections, and were conducted in accordance with national legislation; and second, to offer concrete and concise recommendations to support participating States in improving their electoral processes.

The purpose of election observation, therefore, is not to commend or criticize those countries in which ODIHR deploys observation missions. Instead, the Office offers constructive feedback and provides concrete recommendations to remedy identified shortcomings. Over the course of 2014, ODIHR published some 50 election-related reports, including NAM and interim reports, statements of preliminary findings and conclusions, and final reports, with the objective of fulfilling its mandate in a transparent and accountable manner.

Five of the 12 election missions deployed were full-scale election observation missions (EOMs), including long- and short-term observers, which are seconded by individual participating States, as well as core teams of experts recruited directly by ODIHR. Limited election observation missions (LEOMs), which include a core team of experts and long-term observers but no short-term observers, as they do not conduct comprehensive and systematic observation of election day, were deployed for elections in five participating States. As per ODIHR's methodology, LEOMs are deployed to participating States where long-term observers are deemed necessary to ensure comprehensive regional coverage, but election-day issues are expected to be unproblematic or where fundamental shortcomings are so significant as to render election day observation inconsequential.

## 2014 Election-Related Activities

1	Serbia	Early parliamentary, 16 March	LEOM
2	Afghanistan	Presidential and provincial council, 5 April and 14 June	EST
3	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Presidential, early parliamentary, 13 and 27 April	EOM
4	Hungary	Parliamentary, 6 April	LEOM
5	Ukraine	Early presidential, 25 May	EOM
6	Turkey	Presidential, 10 August	LEOM
7	Latvia	Parliamentary, 4 October	EAM
8	Bulgaria	Early parliamentary, 5 October	LEOM
9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	General, 12 October	EOM
10	Ukraine	Early parliamentary, 26 October	EOM
11	Moldova	Parliamentary, 30 November	EOM
12	Uzbekistan	Parliamentary, 21 December	LEOM

In addition, ODIHR deployed one election assessment mission (EAM), comprising a core team of experts, but no long- or short-term observers. EAMs are deployed to elections where the presence of short- and long-term observers is not considered necessary because of high levels of confidence in the conduct of elections, well-tested electoral practices and proven checks and balances, such as an independent judiciary, robust civil society and pluralistic media. Conversely, an EAM can also be deployed when there is an interest in maintaining dialogue with election stakeholders in a participating State, but where there is a lack of political pluralism offering a genuine choice between competing political alternatives, previous ODIHR priority recommendations have not been implemented, there is a lack of progress in bringing the legal framework for elections closer in line with OSCE commitments, or where an observation activity, even of a limited nature, is unlikely to add any significant value. As is the case with EOMs and LEOMs, EAMs make an overall assessment of the administrative and legal framework for the conduct of elections and provide targeted recommendations.

ODIHR also deployed an Election Support Team (EST) to Afghanistan, based upon a special mandate from the Permanent Council and with support from voluntary extra-budgetary contributions

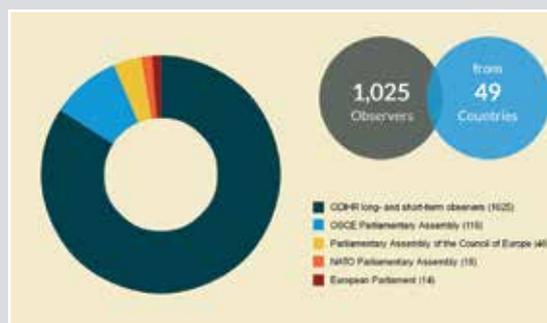
(see Support for OSCE Partners for Co-operation sub-section).

In 2014, some 3,000 observers from 52 participating States took part in ODIHR observation activities. To support the participation of observers from countries that do not generally second observers, ODIHR continues to leverage the extra-budgetary Fund for Diversification. The 17 States currently eligible for the Fund are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. In 2014, the Fund enabled the deployment of 11 long-term and 16 short-term observers. The continued support of OSCE participating States for this extra-budgetary programme is instrumental in ensuring broad geographic diversity on election observation missions.

In 2014, ODIHR also established an extra-budgetary Election Observation Sustainability Fund. This fund is used by ODIHR to bridge the gap between the number of requested observers and the number of those seconded by the OSCE participating States. The recruitment and participation of professional observers covered by the Sustainability Fund complements the secondment process and the

## UKRAINE | 2014

ODIHR's timely responses to Ukraine's early presidential election in May and early parliamentary elections in October signalled commitment and support for Ukraine's democratic process. The election observation missions deployed were two of the largest missions in the organization's history. For the May election, more than 1,200 observers from 49 countries reported from across the country. ODIHR looks



forward to working with the authorities on further strengthening electoral processes in the post-electoral period.

recruitment of observers covered by the Diversification Fund. In 2014, the Fund allowed ODIHR to send 186 additional short-term observers as part of missions deployed in connection with two elections held in Ukraine: 98 and 90 observers for the May and the October elections, respectively.

### Key Findings

ODIHR election observation activities over the course of 2014 indicate that the picture remains mixed when it comes to the participating States' implementation of commitments for democratic elections.

Positive practices included:

- **Strengthened legal frameworks** that are generally accessible and aspire to respect OSCE commitments and international obligations in the letter of the law;
- **Greater engagement and inclusive dialogue** among political contestants and civil society in developing and introducing electoral reform;
- **Enhanced attention to the issue of women's participation**, including the introduction of temporary special measures to promote women candidates; and
- **Increased awareness of the importance of campaign finance**, including strengthened regulations and oversight mechanisms.

At the same time, several aspects continued to pose challenges. Common shortcomings include:

- **Limitations to the right to be elected** that unreasonably impede specific persons or groups, including independent candidates. In some cases, candidate rights were denied due to restrictive application of candidate registration procedures, particularly during the verification of support signatures;
- **Lack of a free campaign environment** and the necessary conditions to allow parties and candidates to campaign on a level playing field. The abuse of state resources in favour of incumbents caused concern in several countries, particularly when such abuse amounted to intimidation of voters;
- **Inequitable access to media**, as well as insufficient legal safeguards for freedom of expression and, in some cases, the criminalization of defamation limited the opportunity for candidates to convey their message to the electorate on an equal basis, as well voters' capacity to make informed choices;
- **Lack of confidence in the impartiality and independence of election administration bodies**, including concerns about undue influence from state institutions. In several cases, transparency was undermined due to restricted access for observers and media; and
- **Inadequate complaints and appeals procedures** did not always ensure effective and timely mechanisms for the protection of electoral rights. This included the lack of opportunity for stakeholders to challenge key aspects of an electoral process, limited means of appeal, and overlapping jurisdictions of different institutions.



Tana de Zulueta (l), Head of the ODIHR election observation mission for the 25 May early presidential elections in Ukraine, and Michael Georg Link (r), Director of ODIHR, taking part in the discussion of follow-up to the report at the roundtable event in Kyiv, 14 July. OSCE/Victor E. Glasko

### Follow-Up to Observation Missions and their Recommendations

Election observation is not an end in itself, but rather an activity meant to assist participating States in implementing their election-related commitments and improving electoral practices. This provides an opportunity for ODIHR to engage with participating States after an election through a range of activities to follow-up on recommendations stemming from ODIHR's comprehensive final reports.

In 2014, ODIHR was invited to and visited Georgia, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine to present its reports and meet with relevant stakeholders, including state institutions, political parties and civil society. In particular, follow-up visits to Georgia, Tajikistan and Ukraine included roundtable discussions that assembled numerous electoral participants and facilitated a more inclusive electoral reform process. ODIHR also hosted follow-up discussions with representatives from Iceland and Norway at its office in Warsaw. These various meetings offered important opportunities to

discuss ODIHR findings and recommendations, provide clarification and learn about any plans for implementation.

Several of these follow-up activities helped identify possible next steps and entry points for further engagement. Tajikistan presented ongoing and planned activities to address ODIHR's recommendations; Turkmenistan considered conducting thematic workshops on specific electoral issues; Iceland expressed interest in the Office's expertise on campaign finance and the complaints and appeals process; and Norway stated interest to further engage on issues related to electoral dispute resolution.

Beyond presenting its final reports, ODIHR also participated in roundtables and seminars in Albania, Georgia and Uzbekistan, and more broadly supports states in various activities aimed at implementing its recommendations in line with OSCE commitments.

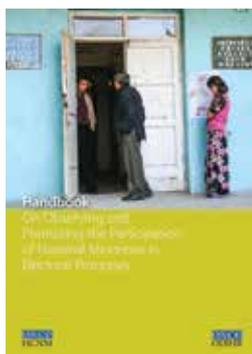


Nicola Schmidt (c), Deputy Head of the ODIHR Elections Department, speaking at a meeting on the launch of the *Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Participation of National Minorities in Electoral Processes*, in Warsaw, Poland, 22 September. OSCE/Piotr Markowski

### Development of Election Observation Methodology

ODIHR continuously works to enhance its well-established observation methodology to fulfil the election-related part of its mandate. It maintains its practice of observing before, during and after elections and continues to refine its approach to ensure comprehensive review of all the relevant aspects of the electoral process.

In 2014, ODIHR published a revised *Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Participation of National Minorities in Electoral Processes*. This handbook was developed in co-operation with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and provides guidance to experts focusing on national minority participation, by analysing factors affecting their inclusion and representation, as well as to observers monitoring the electoral process. It builds on the *Guidelines to Assist National Minority Participation in the Electoral Process* of 2001, with new information on international standards and good practice, as well as outlining the methodology used by EOMs to observe the participation of national minorities.



In recognizing that campaign finance issues have an increasing impact on the quality of elections, ODIHR gathered experts in Warsaw in June for a seminar on campaign finance. The meeting served as an opportunity to discuss the evolving and varied regulation of campaign finance across OSCE participating States and how ODIHR can establish more comprehensive and standardized methodology for observing this aspect of the electoral process. The event was a crucial step in contributing to ODIHR's publication of a new handbook dedicated to the observation of campaign finance.

ODIHR also works to ensure that its observation missions update operational aspects in their work to remain efficient and functional. The Office piloted the large-scale use of digital pens for submission of observation information by short-term observers in four observation missions, helping to streamline and enhance data collection by short-term observers.

### Reform of Election Legislation

ODIHR continues to assist participating States in the follow-up process, specifically through providing comments and assessments on draft electoral legislation, election laws and amendments. Legal opinions are commonly prepared in partnership with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. In 2014, ODIHR conducted three joint legal reviews, for the governments of Bulgaria, the Kyrgyz



Ballots counted in Storogenets following the early presidential election in Ukraine, 25 May. Michael Forster Rothbart

Republic and Moldova, respectively. These covered broad issues of electoral legislation, as well as the thematic issue of political party and campaign finance. In addition, ODIHR prepared one opinion on aspects of campaign finance in Latvia.

### Training of Observers

While OSCE participating States assume the primary responsibility for training seconded observers deployed to election observation missions, ODIHR continues to support such efforts. Through continuing extra-budgetary contributions, ODIHR has been able to offer comprehensive training to ensure potential observers are prepared to undertake professional election observation.

In 2014, ODIHR hosted one training course for long-term observers, in Belgrade, and one for short-term observers, in Tirana. These courses served to broaden the pool of potential observers from participating States that do not regularly send election observers and that are eligible under the Fund for Diversification. In total, 30 potential long-term and 36 short-term observers from 18 participating States benefitted from training this year.

Beyond conducting its own training, ODIHR regularly supports a range of national efforts to train election observers. Throughout 2014, ODIHR contributed to courses organized by the German Centre for International Peace Operations, the Russian Diplomatic Academy, the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the Prague Security Studies Institute and Electoral Reform International Services. ODIHR also supported OSCE field operations in Albania and Kazakhstan in their efforts to provide training on electoral observation to a range of national stakeholders.

ODIHR has recognized the growing relevance of Internet learning and has responded by making its election observation methodology available online. In 2014, ODIHR continued to offer an e-learning course for short-term observers in English and Russian. Launched in 2012, the course remains popular with a wide-range of participants from both government and civil society involved in elections. By the end of 2014, more than 4,500 participants had enrolled in the course, with more than 1,300 having completed it. Participants have come from 128 countries, including 51 OSCE participating States and 10 OSCE Partners for Co-operation.



Director Link (l) takes part in election observation in Sarajevo for Bosnia and Herzegovina's general elections on 12 October. OSCE/ Thomas Rymer

### Support for OSCE Partners for Co-operation

Supporting OSCE Partners for Co-operation has remained a priority for ODIHR's election efforts. Following a decision by the OSCE Permanent Council, ODIHR deploy an EST to Afghanistan for its 2014 presidential and provincial council elections. The EST was deployed to Kabul and remained in-country for more than four months to assist government

and international efforts in conducting the presidential and provincial council elections and to prepare a report, including recommendations, with a view to enhancing the conduct of future elections.

### International Co-operation

Throughout its activities, ODIHR continues to realize the benefit of co-ordinating and collaborating with its international partners, as well as with citizen observer groups. This co-operation remains crucial to ensuring consistency in messages and interventions.

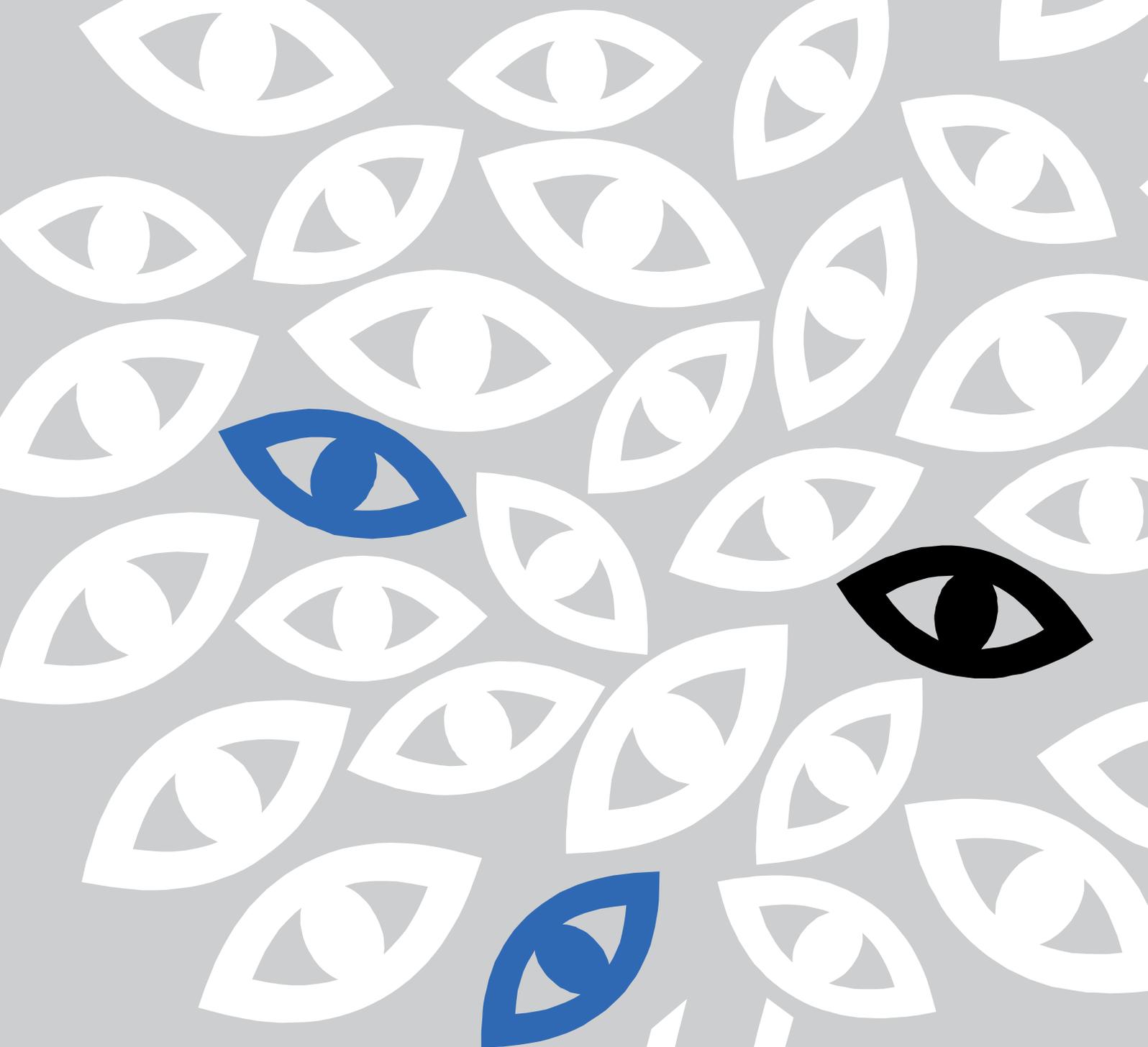
ODIHR regularly works with a range of international partners in the electoral field to co-ordinate activities, share methodology and review electoral obligations, standards and good practice. The Office continues to join efforts with partners from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the Congress for Local and Regional Authorities in the delivery of post-election statements. Co-operation also continues with citizen observer groups and the various observer networks, including the Global



An election worker prepares for the election early on the morning of 20 August 2009 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Canada in Afghanistan/Canada en Afghanistan

Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM), the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO), the Association of World Electoral Bodies (AWEB) and the Community of Democracies.

In 2014, ODIHR also regularly engaged with international partners within the framework of the Declaration of Principles Group for International Election Observation, in particular related to follow-up activities. This was highlighted during ODIHR's post-election visit to Ukraine following the 2014 presidential election, where a synchronized approach was initiated with several key partners, including the European Union, the National Democratic Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. ODIHR also linked up with the Carter Center in Tunisia during the country's presidential election to enhance co-operation and to share best practices of observation.



**Democratization**

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ODIHR plays a key role in encouraging participating States to making their democratic institutions and processes more transparent, representative and accountable in line with their pledges under OSCE commitments, including the Astana Declaration, which reaffirms the commitment that democracy applies equally to all. ODIHR's democratization aims to assist participating States in meeting their OSCE commitments in areas such as democratic governance and lawmaking; the development of pluralistic party systems and political party regulation; enhancing the rule of law; improving parliaments; ensuring freedom of movement and migrant integration; and promoting gender equality and women's political participation. ODIHR also reviews draft and existing legislation in the human dimension upon request of for their compliance with human rights standards and OSCE commitments.

ODIHR's democratization work is multi-faceted, and focuses on strengthening and empowering state institutions as well as key democratic stakeholders, such as political parties, non-governmental organizations, men and women in an equal manner, migrants, youth and other groups. In doing so, ODIHR provides practical policy advice and assistance to build the capacities of democratic institutions in all three branches of government, and to facilitate the inclusion of civil society actors in decision-making processes. ODIHR's democratization work also follows up on recommendations made by ODIHR election observation missions and numerous guidelines and tools provide an overview of good practices that can be applied by OSCE participating States and civil society on democratization-related issues in the OSCE region.

ODIHR's democratization programme underscores that democratic reform must involve civil society, and thus ODIHR works in partnership with state governments and local civil society organizations, encouraging them to cooperate in ensuring the full respect for fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law.

## MAIN ISSUES

### Rule of Law and Legal Reform

Justice systems in all participating States can benefit from assistance in improving their performance related to the respect of relevant international standards and OSCE commitments on rule of law and human rights. ODIHR's rule of law activities include strengthening judicial independence and the monitoring of trials in criminal and administrative cases, and providing support to the effective functioning of criminal justice systems in line with fair trial rights and the promotion of a fair resolution of electoral disputes.

Moreover, ODIHR supports legal reform activities in OSCE participating States, upon request, through the substantive review and analysis of laws and draft laws, and the review of legal procedures, to ensure open and transparent legislative processes. In this way, ODIHR helps to ensure that laws, and the procedures whereby they are drafted, debated and adopted, are in line with international standards and key OSCE human dimension commitments.

### Democratic Governance

ODIHR assists OSCE participating States in building, strengthening and protecting democratic institutions as vehicles for pluralistic democracy in support of their efforts in meeting OSCE commitments on democratic governance. In 2014, ODIHR supported participating States in strengthening political party systems and parliaments, and is increasing political participation, through co-operation and the exchange of good practices among parliamentarians, political parties, civil society and OSCE field operations. ODIHR also supported and provided expertise to OSCE participating States in their efforts to implement policy measures aimed at the broad participation of all citizens, including women, minorities and youth, in political life.

### Gender Equality and Women's Participation in Politics

OSCE participating States have recognized that the equal and meaningful participation of women and men in political and public life is necessary for the effective functioning of democratic societies. While women's representation in national parliaments in the OSCE region has increased slightly, to 25.3 per

cent in 2014<sup>1</sup>, further efforts are needed to translate women's numerical representation into true power and influence in politics. In turn, ODIHR works to promote gender equality in all aspects of the political process to advance women's participation in political parties, parliaments, elected office and at the local level.

### Migration and Freedom of Movement

The OSCE region continues to be one of the most attractive immigration destinations for migrants from participating States and from outside countries, hosting more than half of the world's migrants. OSCE participating States face the challenge of migration management, having to deal with changing volumes of migration flows, a disparity in national migration legislation and policies, and the need to strengthen international co-operation within the OSCE region and beyond.

OSCE participating States have concluded multilateral and bilateral agreements to achieve the liberalization of cross-border travel. In those instances where visa requirements for travel between OSCE participating States remain, challenges exist in relation to the facilitation of visas for *bona fide* travelers.

OSCE participating States that face increased migration within their state borders use residency as a pre-requisite and a tool for the planning and delivery of public services. Equally, citizens' enrolment in a residency registration system determines their ability to exercise their right to freedom of movement, as well as many other civil and fundamental rights.

ODIHR provides support to OSCE participating States in promoting cross-border contact and the protection of the right to freedom of movement by reforming population registration systems and by facilitating the development of efficient national migration management mechanisms, while protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants.

<sup>1</sup> ODIHR assessment based on information about lower houses of parliaments, compiled by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. See <http://www.ipu.org/wmrn-e/world.htm>, as of December 2014.



Kydyrbayeba Aigul (l), a judge at the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, at a roundtable, co-organized by Supreme Court of Kazakhstan and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, 15 May, Astana. Press Service of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan



Svetlana Novak (l), Head of the Evaluation Board, Victor Micu (c-l), President of the Superior Council of Magistracy, Rita Tamm (c-r), Human Dimension Officer at the OSCE Mission to Moldova, and Tina Gewis (r), Chief Rule of Law at ODIHR, listen Ghennadi Eni from the Evaluation Board at meeting on performance evaluation of judges in Moldova, Chisinau, 27 June. OSCE/ Liubomir Turcanu

## ACTIVITIES

ODIHR's democratization activities can be divided into three basic areas:

- Rule of law and legal reform;
- Democratic governance and gender; and
- Migration and freedom of movement.

### Rule of Law and Legal Reform

ODIHR offers legislative assistance to OSCE participating States' legislative reform efforts in line with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments, and supports regulatory reform activities of states to ensure that legislation is drafted and adopted in line with key OSCE commitments on transparency and inclusiveness in the law-making process.

In the field of rule of law and legal reform, ODIHR offers legal expertise and facilitates the exchange of good practices. It provides expert opinions on legislation pertaining to human dimension fields, conducts expert meetings, monitors projects, organizes training workshops and develops policy guidelines and recommendations. The Office also provides expertise to debates about legal reform in participating States to ensure these discussions are inclusive and participatory. ODIHR partners with government agencies, parliaments, judiciaries, political parties, legal communities, international organizations, academia and civil society in these activities.

### Independence of the Judiciary

Assisting participating States in strengthening judicial independence continued to be a focus of ODIHR's rule of law work in 2014. Along with OSCE commitments and international standards on the independence of judges, the *Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence* form the basis for country-specific discussions with decision makers, academics and legal communities in the OSCE area. Building on conclusions from such discussions, ODIHR offers assistance to participating States in relation to the independence and accountability of judges.

In 2014, ODIHR conducted an expert assessment of the performance evaluation system of judges in Moldova, and presented the findings and recommendations at a roundtable with judicial stakeholders in Chisinau on 27 June. ODIHR's assistance to the Moldovan authorities was instrumental to the introduction of a performance evaluation system for judges, with an emphasis on the development of professional skills within the judiciary rather than disciplinary responses to identified shortcomings in judicial performance.

ODIHR contributed expertise on the principle of judicial independence and practical implications, in line with the *Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence*, at roundtables organized by the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, on 15 May in Astana, and by the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, on 18 September in Tashkent, in support of ongoing reform processes on strengthening the performance and independence of the judiciaries in these participating States.



NGO representatives participating in training by ODIHR on trial-monitoring techniques and fair trial rights in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, 6 March. OSCE/Arsen Ambaryan



Haykuhi Harutyunyan, President of Protection of Rights Without Borders (PRWB), at ODIHR's Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, 27 November. OSCE/Danielle Johnson



Tina Gewis (r), Chief of ODIHR Rule of Law Unit, together with Nataliya Nikitenko (l), Head of Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, Constitutional Legislation and State Structure of the Kyrgyz Jogorku Kenesh, and John McGregor (c), the Deputy Head of OSCE Centre in Bishkek at Fifth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 24 November. Andrei Borisovich Novoselov

In 2014, ODIHR prepared two joint legal opinions, with the European Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission), on draft legislation pertaining to the independence of the judiciary, focusing on the selection, performance evaluation, discipline and career tracks of judges in Moldova and the disciplinary responsibility of judges in the Kyrgyz Republic. This continued the Office's legislative support to these countries' judicial reform efforts.

#### *Trial Monitoring*

OSCE participating States have acknowledged the importance of trial monitoring as a tool to ensure greater transparency in the implementation of OSCE commitments and have agreed to allow monitors to be present in courts as a measure to promote confidence building. In line with this engagement, ODIHR has developed its trial-monitoring programme to assist OSCE participating States in their legal and judicial reform processes, in line with OSCE commitments.

ODIHR completed the monitoring of 14 criminal cases against high-ranking individuals from the former Georgian government and published the OSCE/ODIHR Georgia Trial Monitoring Report on 9 December 2014. ODIHR's monitoring of these trials, at request of the Georgian authorities, began in February 2013 and covered 327 court hearings, and followed the methodology laid down in its

trial-monitoring tools, including *Trial Monitoring: A Reference Manual for Practitioners*. The report provides concrete recommendations to the Georgian authorities and relevant stakeholders in the criminal justice sector on how to improve the respect for fair trial rights in criminal proceedings in Georgia.

In fulfilling its role as a depository for OSCE's trial-monitoring work and methodology, ODIHR also supports OSCE field operations in their trial-monitoring activities. On 5 and 6 March, ODIHR trained 25 NGO monitors in the Osh region of Kyrgyzstan on fair-trial rights and trial-monitoring methodologies, upon request of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. On 6 and 7 May in Belgrade, ODIHR supported an OSCE Mission to Serbia trial-monitoring project and selected NGOs to participate in a training course on trial-monitoring methodologies.

To support civil society actors in South Eastern Europe engaged in trial-monitoring activities, ODIHR conducted country assessments from 7 to 13 September in Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in partnership with Court Watch Foundation Poland. These assessments aimed to develop trial-monitoring activities that are based on the engagement of citizens and provide for improved sustainability of trial-monitoring efforts as a means to support judicial reforms.

## UKRAINE | 2014

Throughout 2014, ODIHR provided timely opinions on the quickly evolving legislative framework in Ukraine. ODIHR reviewed amendments to certain laws passed on 16 January as the landscape of the conflict shifted. The Office also provided feedback

on drafts of two anti-corruption laws, a law combating cybercrime, amendments to laws covering financing political parties and election campaigns and a law governing police activities.

On 26 to 28 November in Tbilisi, ODIHR organized the Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting, which brought together 50 participants from OSCE field operations, national and international NGOs and, for the first time, NGOs from OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Participants exchanged experiences and discussed challenges related to the practical application of trial-monitoring principles, including non-intervention, objectivity and confidentiality.

### *Criminal Justice Reform*

In light of the large number of ongoing judicial reform processes in the OSCE region, criminal justice remained at the center of ODIHR's democratization work in 2014. The Fifth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice in Central Asia was organized by ODIHR in co-operation with OSCE Field Operations in Central Asia and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime on 24 and 25 November in Bishkek. The forum supported exchanges of experience and expertise among criminal justice experts from across the OSCE region in discussions on recent reforms, trends and initiatives in the criminal justice area in Central Asia. More than 70 law- and policymakers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, academics and representatives of civil society organizations exchanged information and good practices on a wide range of topics related to criminal law and procedure, such as enhancing the equality of arms between the prosecution and the defence, judicial control in the pre-trial phase, and gender aspects in criminal justice delivery.

Throughout 2014, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, ODIHR supported criminal justice reform efforts in Georgia by reviewing and commenting on its Criminal Procedure Code and providing concrete recommendations for amendments. In Montenegro, ODIHR also provided expertise supporting criminal procedure reform and prosecution-related

legislation by commenting on the legal framework on the prevention of and on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

### *Administrative Justice*

The OSCE applies a comprehensive approach to trial monitoring, covering criminal as well as administrative proceedings. Administrative justice is an increasingly important area of ODIHR's trial-monitoring activities. As follow-up to the 2013 launch of the *Handbook on Monitoring Administrative Justice*, ODIHR and Sweden's Folke Bernadotte Academy supported the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in April 2014 by providing expertise and presenting the handbook's methodology to support the implementation of the Mission's project on monitoring administrative justice.

### *Supporting the Adjudication of War Crimes*

ODIHR continues supporting participating States in South Eastern Europe in addressing the challenges related to combatting impunity for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. ODIHR organized a regional conference on 19 and 20 May in Sarajevo on the role of national jurisdictions in implementing international law, including international humanitarian and criminal law and human rights law, in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Swiss Embassy and the country's courts. The regional conference brought together 65 judges, prosecutors, defence attorneys, NGOs and academics from across Europe to assess the current status of domestic prosecutions of international law violations in the region, and exchange good practices on war crime prosecution and adjudication. In addition, participants debated how to foster co-operation in criminal procedures and national reconciliation. The conference was implemented within the framework of the second phase of the Office's War Crimes Justice Project.

Ambassador Andrey Sorokin (l), Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Hovhannes Manukyan (c-l), Armenian Minister of Justice, Hovhannes Sahakyan (c-r), Chairman of the Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs of the Armenian National Assembly, Nathalie Tagwerker (r), Deputy Head of the ODIHR Democratization Department presenting the assessment report on legislative procedure in Yerevan, Armenia, 30 October. Photolure



### *Strengthening Capacity for Legislative Reform*

ODIHR reviews state legislation in the human dimension upon request and provides opinions and comments with recommendations aimed at bringing individual laws or draft laws in line with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments.

In 2014, ODIHR published 19 legal reviews for 11 OSCE participating States. The legal reviews focused on a variety of issues, such as freedom of religion or belief, criminal procedure codes, independence of the judiciary, combating violence against women and domestic violence, political party regulation, housing rights and torture, as well as new subject areas such as police reform, anti-corruption laws, and combating cybercrime. In 2014 the main geographical focus of ODIHR's legislative assistance was on Western and Eastern Europe, with legislative reviews conducted for Austria, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Ukraine.

ODIHR collaborates closely with other OSCE institutions and international or regional organizations, such as the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, in providing legislative assistance. Four joint opinions on draft laws pertaining to the judiciary and to political parties were conducted in co-operation with the Venice Commission. ODIHR also participated in two assessment missions organized by the Venice Commission to provide background for the drafting of two joint opinions on draft laws on the disciplinary liability of judges in Moldova on

11 and 12 February in Chisinau, and on 20 May in Bishkek, respectively.

ODIHR also organized and participated in a number of follow-up events to discuss its legal opinions and recommendations with key stakeholders in OSCE participating States: on 24 June in Tashkent, relating to the definition of torture under the Criminal Code; on 27 June in Chisinau, relating to the evaluation of judges; and on 24 November in Podgorica, relating to violence against women, domestic violence and compensation for crime victims. During these follow-up meetings, state counterparts committed to incorporate ODIHR's recommendations in ongoing and upcoming legal reform processes.

As a result of the Office's legislative assistance, draft and existing legislation was amended or is in the process of being amended to reflect ODIHR's recommendations. For instance, following two ODIHR opinions produced in 2013 on the anti-discrimination legal framework of Montenegro, a new Law on Prohibition of Discrimination was adopted in 2014 that incorporates the majority of ODIHR's recommendations, particularly those regarding the definition of harassment and discrimination and on the structure of the law. In Ukraine draft anti-corruption laws were revised to reflect key recommendations made by ODIHR in earlier legal opinions. Also, the Parliament of Montenegro informed ODIHR that many of the recommendations the Office made on the legal framework for preventing and combating violence against women and

Natalia Bourjaily (c), Vice-President – Eurasia for the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law and Member of the ODIHR/Venice Commission Expert Working Group on Drafting Guidelines on Freedom of Association, presenting recommendations, Warsaw, 7 May. OSCE/Murat Gungor



domestic violence have been or will be taken into account in the ongoing legislative reform process. Similarly throughout 2014, the national authorities of Austria, Moldova, Slovakia and Ukraine explicitly recognized the value of ODIHR's legislative assistance to ongoing legislative drafting processes.

#### *Improving Legislative Efficiency and Transparency*

To assist OSCE participating States in efforts to improve their lawmaking processes, ODIHR has developed a methodology to conduct comprehensive lawmaking assessments. This methodology involves the preparation of an assessment report on the legislative framework regulating the legislative process and actual practice, followed by thematic workshops and the drafting of a regulatory reform roadmap with concrete action points. ODIHR also conducts preliminary assessment reports, which focus only on the legislative framework regulating lawmaking processes.

In 2014, ODIHR produced a comprehensive legislative assessment report for Armenia. This assessment describes and assesses the constitutional, legal and organizational framework, and the practice of lawmaking in Armenia, and includes recommendations for reform to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the lawmaking process. The Armenian comprehensive assessment was officially launched and presented on 30 October in Yerevan and will be followed by thematic workshops

focused on policymaking and legislative planning in 2015.

A preliminary assessment of the legislative procedures of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, focusing on the legislative framework, was completed and presented on 2 June in Bishkek. As a consequence, the Presidential Administration of Kyrgyzstan requested that ODIHR initiate a comprehensive assessment of the lawmaking process in 2015.

ODIHR continued its activities to facilitate the drafting and adoption of a Regulatory Roadmap in Serbia, which is the final step of the comprehensive assessment of the law-drafting and legislative process initiated in 2011. To this end, ODIHR organized a consolidating workshop focused on public participation, monitoring of implementation, evaluation and harmonization of lawmaking on 26 and 27 November in Belgrade, and presented a draft Roadmap to the Legislative Committee of the National Assembly on 18 December.

#### *Guidelines for Legislators*

ODIHR assists participating States by preparing legislative guidelines that outline how to regulate specific and often complex human dimension issues. Legislative guidelines, offering advice and expertise, and based on universal and regional human rights instruments and OSCE commitments, as well as established state practice and general principles of law, are drafted following an extensive consultative process involving expert participation

## LEGAL REVIEWS IN 2014

Participating State	Title of Document
AUSTRIA	Opinion on the draft Federal Law of Austria amending the Law on the Recognition of Adherents to Islam as a Religious Society
GEORGIA	Joint OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe Opinion on the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia
KYRGYZSTAN	Comments on "The Concept Paper on State Policy in the Sphere of Religion of the Kyrgyz Republic"
	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Amendments to the Legal Framework on the Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges in the Kyrgyz Republic
	Opinion on the Draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Safeguarding and Protection from Domestic Violence
LATVIA	Opinion on the Law on the Bureau on Prevention and Combating of Corruption of Latvia
MALTA	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Act to regulate the Formation, the Inner Structures, Functioning of Political Parties and their Participation in Elections of Malta
MOLDOVA	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Law on Disciplinary Liability of Judges of the Republic of Moldova
	Opinion on the Law on the Selection, Performance Evaluation and Career of Judges of Moldova
MONTENEGRO	Opinion on the Draft Law on Compensation of Damages for Victims of Criminal Acts in Montenegro
	Opinion on the Impact of the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence on Legislation in Montenegro
SERBIA	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on Draft Amendments to the Law on the Financing of Political Activities of Serbia
SLOVAKIA	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on Certain Provisions of the Draft Act on Land-Use Planning and Construction of the Slovak Republic
UKRAINE	Opinion on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine passed on 16 January 2014
	Opinion on Two Draft Anti-Corruption Laws of Ukraine
	Opinion on the Draft Law of Ukraine on Combating Cybercrime
	Opinion on Draft Amendments to some Legislative Acts of Ukraine concerning Transparency of Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns
UZBEKISTAN	Opinion on the draft Law of Ukraine on Police and Police Activities
	Opinion on Article 235 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Tove Skarstein (l), Norwegian Ambassador to Hungary at ODIHR event on promoting women as candidates in upcoming local elections, in Budapest, 3 October. Horváth Éva



and thematic roundtable discussions with key stakeholders from a wide array of OSCE participating States.

In 2014, ODIHR drafted new joint ODIHR-Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Association, which were adopted on 12 and 13 December 2014 at the 101st plenary session of the Venice Commission. These guidelines are the result of a broad consultative process, which consisted of four events on key freedom of association-related matters, organized on 10 and 11 March in Florence, 7 and 8 May in Warsaw, from 9 to 11 September in Warsaw and on 3 and 4 November in Paris. These gathered experts on freedom of association issues and representatives from civil society organizations and the international community, from across the OSCE area.

Furthermore, ODIHR continued to support the activities of its Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, the Core Group of Experts on Political Parties and the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief. In June 2014, new *Joint Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities* were adopted at the 99th plenary session of the Venice Commission.

#### **Access to Law**

ODIHR collects human dimension legislation from across the OSCE region in its legislative database, **[www.legislationline.org](http://www.legislationline.org)**, through which legislators

in participating States can obtain examples from other countries' legislation and regulatory systems. This database has existed since 2002 and is one of the biggest on-line, free-of-charge platforms providing direct access to human rights legislation. It contains more than 10,000 documents, in particular, national and international legislation pertaining to 18 human dimension topics in all OSCE participating States. The database also contains key international instruments and materials pertaining to the protection of human rights. In 2014, the database was accessed 384,129 times, an increase of five per cent compared to the previous year.

In 2014, almost all thematic areas reflected on *Legislationline* were extensively revised and updated, and the *Legislationline* website made more user-friendly and transparent. ODIHR also conducted an on-line, tailor-made survey for *Legislationline* users, which demonstrated that, overall, users considered *Legislationline* to be a good comparative law research tool that helps them in their daily work.

#### **Democratic Governance and Gender**

ODIHR continued to promote pluralistic, representative and accountable democratic institutions in its portfolio of activities related to democratic governance and gender, which focuses on three main areas: increasing political participation of women and youth; strengthening parliaments;

Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues June Zeitlin (l), and Pekka Haavisto, the Finnish Minister for International Development, address participants at the opening of the Gender Equality Review Conference, Vienna, 10 July. OSCE/Micky Kroell



and supporting multi-party political landscapes. In 2014, the Office supported 40 national and regional initiatives on democratic governance and gender equality, facilitating knowledge sharing and co-operation among national parliaments, political parties, government bodies and independent human rights institutions with the participation of civil society. OSCE field operations remained key partners in the implementation of ODIHR's democratic governance and gender equality activities.

#### *Increasing Women's Participation in Politics*

Responding to an increasing demand for its expertise, ODIHR organized 21 events on women's political participation in 2014, reaching out to more than 900 stakeholders from across the OSCE region. ODIHR promoted institutional strategies for governments and political stakeholders to advance women's political participation, using its baseline study *Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan*. The study was presented at a seminar on Women's Participation in Politics on 3 October in Budapest, and at a conference on Women's Political Participation in Malta on 3 November in Valletta, organized in co-operation with the House of Representatives, the Commissioner for the Promotion of Equality and the National Council of Women of Malta.

ODIHR worked with political party leaders, women politicians and gender advocates to build capacity and develop systematic approaches to advance

women's participation in political parties. In 2014, ODIHR finalized its political party gender audit methodology, which assesses gaps and good practices in promoting gender equality and women's participation in key internal party processes, structures and policies. ODIHR conducted gender audits of parliamentary political parties in Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan, resulting in the development of gender reports for selected political parties, as a basis for future development of political party gender action plans.

In 2014, ODIHR published the *Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*, highlighting the special role and responsibility of political parties in advancing women's participation, integrating gender aspects into party decision-making and supporting women politicians in advancing their political careers. The handbook was launched on the margins of the OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference on 10 and 11 July in Vienna, which gathered 200 participants from across the OSCE region. The handbook's recommendations were presented at the Women's Power Breakfast on Women and Political Parties, held on the margins of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on 25 September in Warsaw, facilitating a discussion on improving women's access to political parties. The handbook was also discussed at the Seminar on Gender Equality in Politics: the Role of Political Parties in Poland, on 17 December in Warsaw.



Kaja Kallas, Member of the Estonian Parliament and Chairperson of the Economic Affairs Committee speaking at the ODIHR Regional Workshop on Parliamentary Ethics and Codes of Conduct in Warsaw, 19 March. OSCE/ Agnieszka Rembowska.

Aiming to strengthen gender equality and women's role in parliaments, ODIHR continued to promote its *Comparative Study of Structures for Women MPs*. The study presents an eight-step framework for the effective establishment and running of women's parliamentary caucuses. It was presented at the Sixth OSCE Regional Conference of Women MPs, held on 5 March in Sarajevo, facilitating a discussion on gender-sensitivity in parliaments and highlighting the importance of multi-party co-operation on gender equality. ODIHR supported the Parliamentary Women's Caucus of Mongolia in sharing knowledge and developing policy and strategic planning, by organizing a Study Visit to Sweden from 3 to 5 June in Stockholm. Mongolian parliamentarians were provided with the opportunity to discuss gender equality issues with the Swedish government, parliament, political parties and women's organizations.

In 2014, ODIHR started expanding its work on women's participation to the local level, by collecting comparative data on women's representation in local councils and mayoral offices, as well as by providing support on women's participation to local-level policymakers. In workshops held in Albania, Austria, Georgia and Poland, ODIHR discussed strategies for advancing women's access and role in local politics with political stakeholders.

ODIHR continued to prioritize co-operation with OSCE field operations and institutions on this issue,

organizing a Workshop on Women's Political Participation for OSCE Staff on 6 and 7 February in Warsaw. Participants from 14 OSCE field operations, the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, the Gender Section at the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly shared good practices and challenges in implementing women's participation programming and identified entry points for enhancing and streamlining such work in their areas of responsibility. The participants jointly worked on developing a Comprehensive Framework to OSCE Programming on Women's Political Participation.

#### *Strengthening National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women*

National mechanisms for the advancement of women are crucial to protecting women's rights and monitoring state compliance with national and international gender equality obligations. In 2014, ODIHR contributed to the launch of the Mongolian translation of the *Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*, held on 15 April in Ulaanbaatar and supported the National Human Rights Commission and civil society in Mongolia to protect women's rights more effectively. In co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, ODIHR supported a study visit to Lithuania of the Serbian Citizens' Protector, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, and the Provincial Citizens' Protector, from 5 to 8 October in Vilnius.

Mr Link, Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, giving his opening speech at the political parties seminar in Warsaw, 1 July. OSCE/Murat Gungor



### **Combating Violence against Women**

Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence requires not only the development of adequate legal frameworks, but also policy measures to ensure their effective implementation. While many OSCE participating States have adopted laws on domestic violence, their implementation remains weak due to persistent gender-based stereotypes and the tendency to view this human rights violation as a private or family matter.

In 2014, ODIHR supported participating States in improving their legal frameworks for preventing violence against women and domestic violence, protecting victims and punishing perpetrators. Upon request, ODIHR published a Legal Opinion on the Draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Safeguarding and Protection from Domestic Violence, and an Opinion on the Impact of the Ratification of the Istanbul Convention on Legislation in Montenegro, making concrete recommendations for improvement of the legal framework towards effective prevention of violence against women and domestic violence.

### **Strengthening Parliaments**

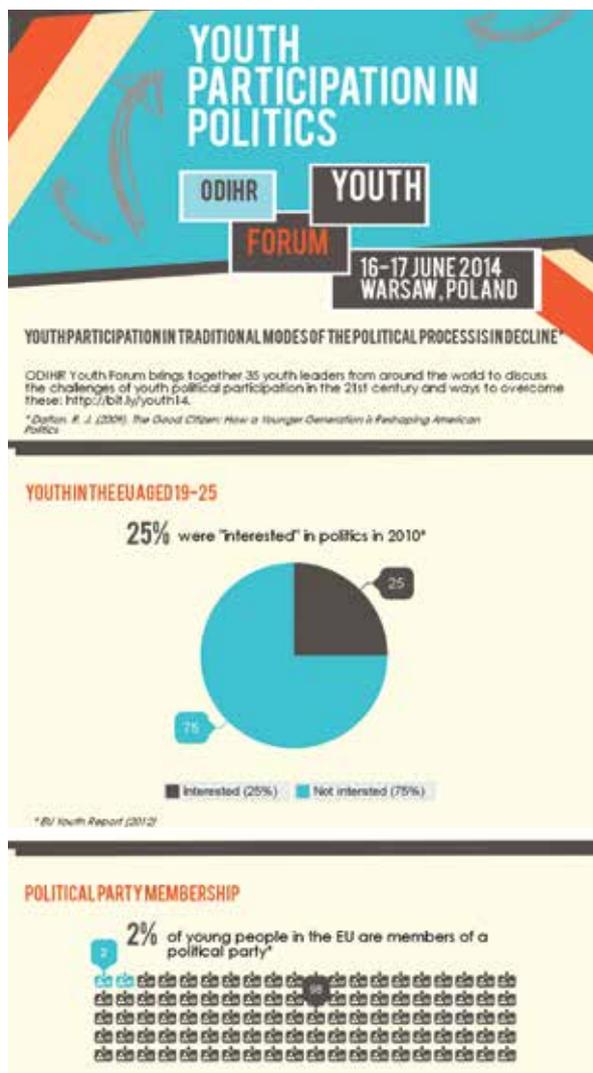
In close co-operation with OSCE field operations, ODIHR continued to provide expertise on ethics and public integrity to parliaments of OSCE participating States. ODIHR's *Background Study: Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians* offers

practical measures that the OSCE participating States can take to promote ethical parliamentary behaviour. ODIHR shared its expertise on parliamentary ethics in Georgia, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Poland, Serbia and Sweden. The Office organized a regional workshop for 25 Members of Parliament and experts from Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom on 18 and 19 March in Warsaw. ODIHR also supported the efforts of the Parliament of Serbia in reviewing and finalizing their parliamentary code of conduct in a meeting on 1 and 2 October in Belgrade, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, ODIHR provided expertise to the regional meeting "Achieving Financial Autonomy of Parliaments to Adequately Fulfill Member of Parliaments' Rights and Obligations" on 3 and 4 July in Sarajevo. The meeting discussed policy measures that can be taken by parliaments to ensure greater accountability and financial autonomy. ODIHR organized a side event on Parliamentary Openness on 22 September in Warsaw on the margins of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The event highlighted the 2012 Declaration of Parliamentary Openness and explored strategies for promoting parliamentary openness, accountability of elected officials and citizen engagement in policymaking.



A youth forum organized in Warsaw on 16 and 17 June focused on promoting political participation of young leaders in the OSCE region. OSCE/Murat Gungor



**Ensuring Pluralistic Political Party Systems**

Political parties are fundamental to ensuring pluralistic democracy and citizens' participation in political and public life. Political parties play a key role in ensuring women's meaningful political participation, the proper functioning of parliaments, transparency of party financing, and the separation between political parties and the state. These issues were the focus of ODIHR's activities in 2014 when assisting OSCE participating States in advancing their multiparty political landscapes.

The Office continued to utilize the ODIHR-Council of Europe *Guidelines on Political Party Regulation*, as a tool to assist OSCE participating States in formulating legal frameworks that comply with OSCE commitments and other international standards. ODIHR organized a Roundtable on Political Party Finance in Georgia on 13 and 14 February in Tbilisi, and presented good practices of political party regulation to 25 Mongolian parliamentarians on 25 and 26 June in Ulaanbaatar. In Mongolia, ODIHR emphasized the importance of independent financial oversight and monitoring of political parties. The Expert Workshop on Campaign Finance Monitoring, held on 30 June in Warsaw, also focused on issues



Participants at a course for young policy advisers, in Sandö, Sweden, 30 October. Folke Bernadotte Academy/Lora Remacka

related to the legal framework for political financing, spending and contribution limits, and campaign finance oversight.

On the regional level, ODIHR's 2014 Political Party Expert Seminar, held on 1 and 2 July in Warsaw, gathered more than 50 experts from 21 OSCE participating States. The seminar discussed OSCE commitments and challenges faced by parties and their regulators, including issues of internal party democracy, functioning of parties in politically polarized environments and the abuse of state resources. Participants from Kosovo also attended. On 16 and 17 September in Warsaw, ODIHR hosted a study visit for the Anti-Corruption Agency of Serbia on the issue of political party regulation, aiming to support Serbia's efforts in implementing its legislation on financing political parties.

#### *Youth Participation in Political and Public life*

Across the OSCE region, there is declining participation and trust by young people in democratic institutions. In response to challenges faced by OSCE participating States to include young people in decision-making, ODIHR continued to act as a knowledge hub of good practices on youth participation in the OSCE region, by supporting regional events in South-East Europe and Central Asia. ODIHR also hosted a side event on youth political participation on the margins of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, organized in

co-operation with the Swiss Chairperson-in-Office on 23 September in Warsaw.

In 2014, ODIHR implemented the project "Promoting and increasing youth political participation and civic engagement in the OSCE region", bringing together more than 80 young leaders from 37 OSCE participating States during two youth leadership forums. Activists and bloggers, media representatives, civil society, government and party representatives, reflected on evolving patterns in youth political participation. Participants agreed on a set of recommendations to overcome existing challenges and to utilize new technologies in democratic processes. The forums were held on 16 and 17 June and on 13 and 14 November in Warsaw.

With the aim of increasing the capacities of young policy professionals, a "Policy Advisers Course for Eastern Partners" was organized for 25 young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine from 27 to 31 October in Sandö, Sweden, in co-operation with the Folke Bernadotte Academy and the Central European University's School for Public Policy. The course provided policy advisers with an opportunity to gain practical analytical, policymaking, reporting and negotiating skills, while also ensuring that gender aspects are considered in democratic institutions and policymaking.

## Migration and Freedom of Movement

Freedom of movement within state borders and the ability to travel or live abroad are often pre-requisites for the exercise of many fundamental rights, such as the right to education, the right to work and the right to family life. Essentially, the right to freely move within state borders and the ability to visit foreign states is a pre-condition for equality of opportunity, which allows people to pursue their personal and professional goals.

ODIHR supports OSCE participating States in developing policies that protect the right to freedom of movement and facilitate freer cross-border mobility. ODIHR assists participating States by raising awareness of migration and freedom of movement commitments, promoting the exchange of good practices and building the capacity of key national stakeholders in implementing comprehensive migration policies that take into account gender aspects of migration and facilitate better integration of migrants in line with OSCE commitments.

### Migrant Integration

The Office, in co-operation with the NGO the Migration Policy Group, continued to support OSCE participating States by conducting country assessments on migrant integration measures, in accordance with the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) methodology. A MIPEX Assessment Report for Turkey was published on 30 April, including findings and recommendations on how to improve migrant integration.

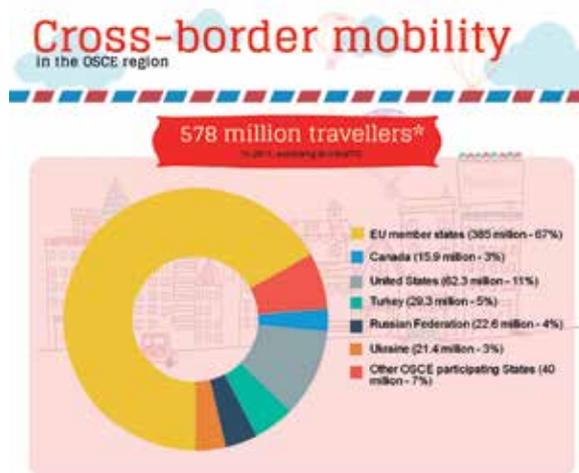
ODIHR continued to build the capacity of national authorities and civil society actors in meeting international standards on migrant integration by conducting training on best practices in migrant integration in line with OSCE commitments at the request of OSCE participating States and Field Operations. More than 225 participants attended nine training events in Tirana, Yerevan, Riga, Chisinau, and Odessa, Lviv, Kharkiv and Kyiv, in Ukraine.

### Gender Mainstreaming Migration Policies

Women of working age make up almost half of the migrant population in OSCE participating States. During labour migration, many male and female migrant workers may encounter gender-specific obstacles and challenges, such as gender-stereotyped labour roles, resulting in employment that does not match their skills, wage discrimination or

a lack of national policies that address the specific needs of both men and women.

In 2014, ODIHR continued to promote the inclusion of gender aspects in national labour migration policies of participating States, in line with OSCE commitments and international standards. On 15 and 16 May in Riga, ODIHR organized a regional training on gender-sensitive labour migration policies for 28 government and civil society representatives from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



### Cross-Border Mobility

The liberalization of entry regulations and the waiving of visa requirements by OSCE participating States have contributed to continued growth of international travel within the OSCE region: In the last 20 years, the total number of foreign visitors to the OSCE region doubled and the number of foreign visitors from both within and outside of the region is likely to rise to as high as 1.1 billion by 2030 from 578 million in 2011.

In 2014, ODIHR developed and published a *Baseline Study on Cross-Border Mobility in the OSCE region*, which aims to support OSCE participating State national experts and responsible government institutions in their efforts at visa facilitation and the promotion of cross border people-to-people contact.

The Baseline Study was launched during the "Expert Meeting on Visa Facilitation and Cross-Border



Mobility in the OSCE Region,” organized by ODIHR on 15 and 16 May in Vienna. The meeting included 30 visa policy experts from different parts of the OSCE area, who explored and exchanged good practices related to visa facilitation and the promotion of international travel.

### **Population Registration**

Residency registration in many OSCE participating States significantly affects the exercise of the right to freedom of movement and choice of residence. While in many participating States residency registration requires a simple notification to the relevant authorities, in some OSCE participating States it requires the fulfilment of certain administrative legal criteria. Complex and onerous registration criteria can effectively deter certain categories of the population from taking up legal residence in the place of their choice.

Based on its *Guidelines on Population Registration* as a primary tool, ODIHR assists political decision makers, practitioners and relevant authorities in reforming population-registration systems to protect the right to freedom of movement and to facilitate international travel.

Upon request of the State Registration Service of Kyrgyzstan, ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Transnational Treat Department and the International Civil Aviation Organization, conducted a joint assessment of the Kyrgyz legal and policy framework for the issuance of travel documents. The Assessment Report, given to the Kyrgyz authorities in September, contains detailed recommendations for the development of a secure framework for the issuance of travel documents that rely on verifiable identity data from population-registration records.

### **Support for OSCE Partners for Co-operation**

ODIHR continued its co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, with the aim of increasing understanding of the OSCE human dimension, by providing support in the fields of elections, legislative assistance, strengthening parliamentary systems, women’s political participation, gender equality and human rights.

In follow-up to ODIHR’s training on its election observation methodology in Tunisia, representatives from several leading Tunisian citizen observer groups, including leaders from Mourakiboun, Youth without Borders, I-Watch, and the Tunisian

Association for the Integrity of Democracy and Elections, undertook comprehensive monitoring of the 2014 parliamentary and presidential elections. During the presidential election, the Office visited Tunisia and held meetings with several citizen observer groups, providing follow-up to a 2013 ODIHR-Democracy Reporting International workshop on report writing and to discuss future activities to support civil society, including the review of legislation for local elections.

In follow-up to its engagement with Tunisia on promoting political participation, ODIHR invited a Tunisian representative to participate in the Office’s Youth Forum involving young leaders from the OSCE region, organized on 12 and 13 June in Warsaw. In addition, a civil society representative from Israel participated in ODIHR’s annual trial-monitoring meetings held from 26 to 28 November in Tbilisi to share experiences on trial-monitoring programmes and activities.

With the aim of expanding and consolidating its engagement with OSCE Mediterranean Partners, ODIHR continued dialogue with all these countries throughout 2014 to highlight the benefits of its tools and publications and to define further areas of assistance, particularly in the areas of women’s political participation, tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of religion or belief. To this end, the Office compiled a factsheet on its engagement with OSCE Mediterranean Partners in English and Arabic.



**Human Rights**

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In 2014, OSCE participating States continued to face challenges in ensuring the enjoyment by everyone of human rights.

ODIHR assists participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments through its monitoring efforts, capacity-building activities and the development of practical tools and resources. ODIHR's human rights programmes address key issues and developments in participating States, reacting to requests and providing tailored assistance to best fit expressed needs. In doing this, ODIHR engages extensively with governmental authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society alike.

Human rights defenders continued to be the targets of attacks, threats and stigmatization in certain participating States, in some cases accompanied by judicial harassment and imprisonment. Fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of association and of peaceful assembly, continued to be limited in many countries by undue restrictions. Efforts to ensure accountability for violations committed by state actors in the fight against terrorism remained insufficient.

## MAIN ISSUES

### Death Penalty

The OSCE region has seen some notable developments, continuing the worldwide trend towards abolition. In the United States, the state of Washington introduced a moratorium on executions. Poland ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Protocol 13 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), abolishing the death penalty in all circumstances.

Two participating States retain the death penalty, Belarus and the United States. The implementation of commitments not to use the death penalty in a manner contrary to international standards remains a challenge.

### Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

Throughout the OSCE area, undue restrictions to the right to assemble peacefully persisted. At times assemblies were banned, in other situations notification and/or authorization procedures were unduly burdensome. Laws often failed to provide effective remedies and accountability for violations or at times stipulated disproportionate sanctions for organizers failing to comply with procedural

requirements. Spontaneous assemblies and those without identifiable organizers continued to pose regulatory and practical challenges for many participating States. There continued to be reports of inappropriate police action, including dispersals of peaceful assemblies and disproportionate use of force. In a number of cases, however, authorities demonstrated good practice in facilitating public assemblies, including in challenging circumstances that posed significant security concerns.

### Human Rights Defenders

Laws governing the operation of NGOs that impose over-bureaucratic administrative requirements and obstacles to the receipt of foreign funding, as well as practices of arbitrary checks, inspections, warnings and informal pressure, remained an issue of growing concern across the region in 2014. Such laws and practices fuelled stigmatization and put those working for NGOs at risk of harassment and violence, criminal prosecution and imprisonment.

In several participating States human rights defenders continued to face stigmatization and smear campaigns – sometimes orchestrated by public authorities – portraying them as enemies of the people, traitors, spies or foreign agents. Human rights defenders were directly targeted in several OSCE participating states by the authorities, as well as violent groups. They suffered from attacks and

## UKRAINE | 2014

The crisis in Ukraine resulted in a sharp deterioration of the human rights situation there. The Human Rights Assessment Mission conducted by ODIHR between 6 March and 1 April jointly with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities reported that a number of serious human rights violations occurred during the reporting period. In particular, ODIHR collected allegations of attacks on, threats against and intimidation of journalists and activists, mostly in the south and the east of the country,

and oftentimes in the context of public assemblies. The situation in Crimea posed additional concerns and, in particular, the Mission heard credible allegations of enforced disappearances there. In a number of cases, victims were reportedly subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in custody. As the crisis escalated in Ukraine, further allegations of serious violations of human rights, in particular in conflict-affected areas, continued to be reported to ODIHR



OSCE/ODIHR observer monitoring a demonstration in Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic, 1 May. UEA/Michael Hamilton

threats to their lives and the authorities' indifference or unwillingness to ensure their protection against such attacks. In several participating states they faced undue restrictions on their right to freedom of expression and to seek and impart information, and were subjected to state surveillance, monitoring of Internet communication and other interference with their right to privacy.

### Human Rights in the Fight against Terrorism

In 2014, participating States made commitments aimed at addressing the ever-increasing threats of the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and kidnap for ransom. The commitments reiterated the need to comply with human rights standards in the fight against terrorism, but some states' responses to terrorism may still be overly broad or unduly restrict human rights and fundamental freedoms. In particular, in some participating States the overly-wide scope of certain offences aimed at preventing recruitment, incitement and material support to terrorism can adversely affect rights, such as freedom of expression, association and assembly, freedom of religion or belief, the right to respect for private and family life and freedom from discrimination.

## ACTIVITIES

### Human Rights Monitoring and Response

In response to a request by the Government of Ukraine, ODIHR undertook a Human Rights Assessment Mission to consider the human rights situation throughout the country. ODIHR deployed a total of 19 monitors in the period between 6 March and 1 April 2014 to collect information about relevant developments and their implications for human rights. Interlocutors included government officials at all levels, elected representatives, staff members of the national human rights institution, local community representatives, as well as representatives of national and international NGOs and international organizations. Monitors were deployed to Chervonohrad, Donetsk, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Lyubovichi, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolayiv and Odessa, as well as in Crimea. They conducted a total of 187 interviews. A comprehensive report, highlighting the main findings and presenting key recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities, as well as the de-facto authorities in Crimea, was published in May.

In September, ODIHR followed up by organizing a meeting in Warsaw with Ukrainian civil society representatives to discuss developments affecting

human rights since the Human Rights Assessment Mission. In response to the needs expressed, ODIHR supported the work of human rights defenders engaged in documenting human rights violations during armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, by organizing a safety and security training workshop in December.

At the request of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, ODIHR conducted a training workshop on human rights monitoring for regional human rights and reporting focal points of the Mission from 12 to 14 November. Nineteen monitors received an introduction to human rights monitoring, information analysis and reporting, as well as specific knowledge on monitoring in post-conflict and conflict situations. Applicable international and domestic legal norms were also discussed.

On 17 December, ODIHR released its second report on *Monitoring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in Selected OSCE Participating States*. The report is the result of ODIHR's second cycle of monitoring public assemblies, carried out in nine participating States from May 2013 to July 2014. As part of this exercise, in 2014 ODIHR observed 19 demonstrations in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands and Spain. The main goal of monitoring was to identify gaps and challenges, as well as examples of good practices, in how participating States meet their commitments on freedom of peaceful assembly. The ensuing report includes the main findings of the monitoring exercises, as well

as a set of recommendations to participating States aimed at promoting full compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments and other international human rights standards.

In December 2014, ODIHR organized its first Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Monitoring Roundtable, in Vienna, where civil society groups and OSCE field operations exchanged experiences in monitoring public assemblies. The event provided a forum for an open discussion of obstacles to observation, ways to address them and on how to use assembly monitoring findings most effectively.

ODIHR also continued to follow and take action on individual cases of human rights defenders. In July and December, ODIHR officials visited prominent Kyrgyz human rights defender Azimjan Askarov in prison in Bishkek.

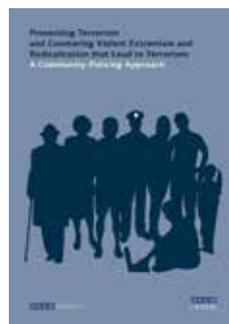
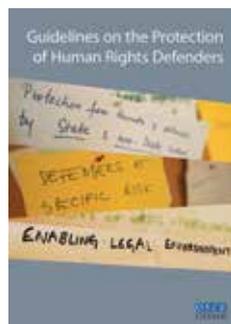
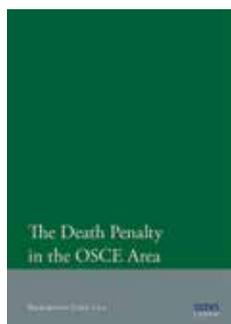
The Office continued to monitor the status of the death penalty in the OSCE area and published its report *The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area: Background Paper 2014*. The publication is compiled annually to facilitate the exchange of information among participating States on the use capital punishment.

### Human Rights Education and Capacity Building

ODIHR launched its *Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders*, on 10 and 11 June



Professor Alan Miller, the Chair of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, at the first NHRI Academy, Budapest, 25 June. Daniel Vogel



Select publications produced by the ODIHR Human Rights Department in 2014

in Berne, at the conference “The OSCE and Human Rights Defenders: The Budapest Document 20 Years On”. The conference was organized jointly by ODIHR and the Swiss Chairmanship, with the support of the incoming Serbian Chairmanship.

ODIHR has been raising awareness of the guidelines and encouraging their use, with a view to ensuring their implementation. Activities included presentations at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September. National events in Hungary and Kyrgyzstan in November and December provided forums for discussion between civil society and state officials about the implementation of the guidelines in those countries. To date, the guidelines have been translated into Russian and Hungarian.

To support the implementation of OSCE commitments to facilitate the establishment and strengthening of independent national institutions in the area of human rights, ODIHR held the first National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) Academy, from 23 to 27 June in Budapest, bringing together staff from 34 NHRIs. The Academy was organized jointly with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and the School of Public Policy at Central European University. The event aimed at strengthening gender mainstreaming in the work of NHRIs and the independence of NHRIs to conduct monitoring of human rights, including social and economic rights. Participants also were encouraged to interact with UN bodies, as well as to share good practices between NHRIs and to promote networking among them. These objectives reflected the results of a careful needs assessment carried out prior to the Academy.

ODIHR continued its work to strengthen the capacity of the police in OSCE participating States to facilitate assemblies in line with human rights standards. Jointly with the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department, ODIHR has been developing a human rights training guide to the policing of assemblies, to consist of a handbook and a training manual. The tool will support law-enforcement officials in command positions to guarantee the freedom of peaceful assembly, to facilitate assemblies and, in that context, to take decisions in line with human rights.

### Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism

ODIHR continues to assess the human rights situation of detainees held at the United States Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. ODIHR held consultations with lawyers of detainees and civil society representatives in February, in Washington D.C. and New York, as well as with United States government officials in September.

Furthering its co-operation with the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, from 7 to 11 April, ODIHR delivered a week-long training session on “Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism and Border Security”. The course brought together 22 senior border officials from ten OSCE participating States and two OSCE Partners for Co-operation. The course focused on the need to develop and implement human rights-compliant measures as an essential requirement for successfully countering terrorist threats.

ODIHR continued developing its training programme for counter-terrorism law-enforcement officers on countering terrorism and protecting human rights. As part of this programme, ODIHR



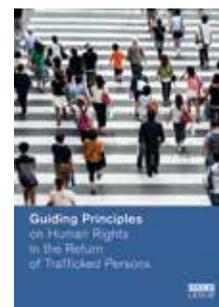
Participants at training on counter-terrorism and human rights, in Warsaw, Poland, on 26 November. OSCE/Murat Gungor



Participants at the human rights and counter-terrorism training, Sarajevo, 11 July. OSCE



Snježana Bokulić, Head of the ODIHR Human Rights Department, presenting *The Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons*, at event in Warsaw, 25 September. OSCE/Murat Gungor



organized, jointly with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, a pilot course on complying with human rights standards while enhancing counter-terrorism strategies and skills for 12 law-enforcement officers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 10 and 11 July in Sarajevo. A second training session, on 26 and 27 November in Warsaw, gathered 17 senior law-enforcement officers from eight OSCE participating States.

In March, ODIHR and the OSCE Transnational Threats Department published a *Guidebook on Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT): a Community Policing Approach*. The publication provides guidance primarily to policymakers and senior police professionals on central issues that can impact the success or failure of police efforts to harness a community-policing approach to preventing terrorism and countering VERLT.

### Human Rights, Gender and Security

ODIHR continued its co-operation with the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and delivered two more events under its FSC Human Rights Discussions Series. On 16 July in Vienna, the first event discussed the conditions of service and human rights of armed forces personnel, while the second, on 23 October, addressed the civil and political rights of men and women serving in the military.

Continuing to highlight human rights issues that affect armed forces personnel, ODIHR maintained the spotlight on freedom of association of military personnel. In co-operation with the European Organisation of Military Associations, ODIHR organized a meeting on the role of military associations in protecting human rights of armed forces in Central and Eastern Europe for 20 representatives of military associations and ministries of defense from nine participating States, on 10 September in Budapest.

In co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, ODIHR provided training for 18 representatives of the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Foreign Affairs and European Integration on gender mainstreaming in the security sector and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, from 13 and 14 May in Chisinau.

### Freedom of Religion of Belief

ODIHR, jointly with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, finalized the *Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious of Belief Communities*. The document was adopted by the Venice Commission in June.

### Human Rights and Anti-Trafficking

Together with its implementing partners, ODIHR carried out nine projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan



Ms. Feruza Khaytmuratova (l) from the Ombudsperson's Central Office, Ms. Lola Saidmukhamedova (c), Member of the Expert Group under the Ombudsperson's Representative in Tashkent city and Mr. Sardor Muminov (r), Officer of the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Interior at training on torture prevention in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 24 July. OSCE/Snježana Bokulić

and Tajikistan aimed at strengthening the protection of victims of trafficking and vulnerable groups in Central Asia.

In November in Istanbul, ODIHR organized a regional roundtable and a practical seminar for lawyers on access to justice for trafficked persons and co-operation mechanisms between state authorities and civil society. The roundtable gathered representatives of law-enforcement agencies, judiciaries, national anti-trafficking co-ordinating bodies, NHRIs and civil society organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The practical seminar on legal counselling and assistance gathered 15 legal practitioners involved in litigating cases concerning trafficking in human beings from the five Central Asian participating States. As a part of its efforts aimed at ensuring human rights safeguards in the return of trafficked persons to their countries of origin, in September, ODIHR launched its *Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons*. The Guiding

Principles are intended for use by state authorities and civil society, as well as inter-governmental organizations that are involved in developing, applying, evaluating and reforming national laws, policies and practices related to the return of trafficked persons.

### Torture and other Ill-treatment

In April, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and ODIHR organized a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to provide a forum for discussions on the prevention of torture and the opportunity to take stock of relevant developments in the OSCE region. The meeting brought together officials from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, and representatives of civil society organizations, OSCE field presences, intergovernmental organizations and of other relevant actors.

The meetings was preceded by a Civil Society Forum, organized jointly by ODIHR, the Swiss OSCE



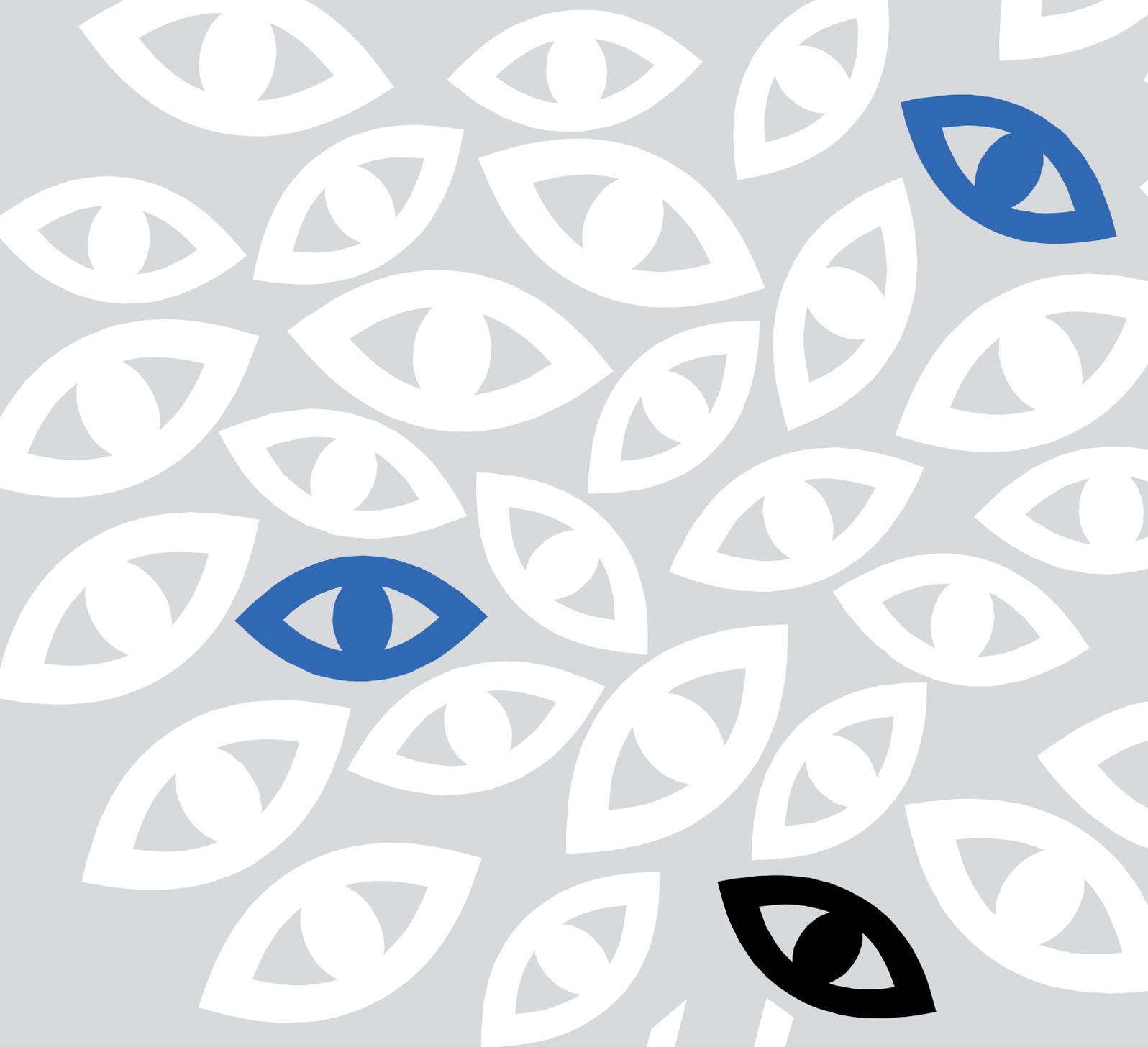
Michael Georg Link, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (second left), speaking at the Opening session of the 2014 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 22 September 2014.

Chairmanship and the Civic Solidarity Platform – a network of NGOs. The Forum gathered some 50 representatives of civil society organizations from North America, and Central and Eastern Europe, and served as a platform to discuss the prevention of torture, the right to privacy and data protection and non-discrimination. Recommendations made during the Civil Society Forum were subsequently presented at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting.

In July, in collaboration with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, ODIHR organized a workshop on the concept and models of national preventive mechanisms for participants from the Office of the Ombudsperson of Uzbekistan, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Health, the penitentiary system administration and civil society organizations. Experts from the Polish and Slovenian national preventive mechanisms shared their good practices, challenges and experiences with participants.

### Human Rights in the Economic Crisis

The October Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting provided a forum for discussion of how the economic crisis has impacted human rights implementation in the OSCE area. Organized in Vienna by the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and ODIHR, the meeting was attended by officials from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, and representatives of civil society organizations, OSCE field presences, intergovernmental organizations and of other relevant actors. Discussions highlighted the need for greater attention by participating States to mitigating and overcoming the adverse impact of the crisis on the enjoyment of human rights, and on vulnerable groups in particular.



**Tolerance and  
Non-discrimination**

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Diversity and pluralism are the foundation of cohesive societies that respect human rights and democratic development. ODIHR works closely with participating States to address their commitments to counter racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians and followers of other religions or beliefs. Work with governments is complemented by close collaboration with civil society and international organizations.

## MAIN ISSUES

### Countering Hate Crime

Efforts to counter hate crime remain at the centre of ODIHR's work. The Office introduced several additions to its existing range of programmes, training and publications in 2014. These additions emphasized the role of prosecutors in dealing with hate crimes and the importance of recording these crimes.

ODIHR unveiled the new *Hate Crime Reporting* website, which replaces the annual *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses* report. Containing data going back to 2009, the website allows users to find information about different countries and to search according to different biases. It also allows people to find information according to the type of crime.



### Addressing Intolerance and Prejudice

Hate crime is only one aspect of the problems created by intolerance. Racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance against Muslims and other forms of prejudice continue to undermine societies across the OSCE region. Participating States have committed themselves to establishing comprehensive educational policies that address intolerance and promote mutual respect and understanding.

Expressions of intolerance, in particular the propagation of stereotypes and prejudice, can lead to hate crimes. As such, educational efforts that

counter racism and intolerance, promote mutual respect and understanding, and foster an appreciation of cultural, religious, racial, ethnic and other diversity, as well as reinforce remembrance of the Holocaust, can help eliminate such attitudes.

## ACTIVITIES

ODIHR plays an active role in strengthening the capacities of participating States and civil society to address intolerance and hate crime. ODIHR's programmes, publications and initiatives help participating States meet their commitments and develop comprehensive approaches to counter and limit the prevalence of hate crimes and intolerance.

From training dedicated to law-enforcement personnel, prosecutors and civil society to educational programmes raising awareness and promoting mutual respect and understanding, ODIHR was active on all fronts.

In 2014, ODIHR's tolerance and non-discrimination activities focused on the following fields:

- Collecting and disseminating information about hate crime;
- Addressing hate crime;
- Supporting law-enforcement agencies;
- Supporting civil society;
- Countering intolerance against Muslims;
- Countering anti-Semitism;
- Responding to racism and xenophobia; and
- Addressing intolerance against Christians.

### Collecting and Disseminating Information about Hate Crime

The launch of the *Hate Crime Reporting* website in June 2014 has enabled better access to the information ODIHR collects on hate crime within the participating States. Along with providing the data included in previous annual reports, users can cross-reference and search for data by country and bias motivation. Visitors can find information about national developments and legal responses in participating States. The website is also a platform for information, news and analysis related to ODIHR's work in countering hate crimes.

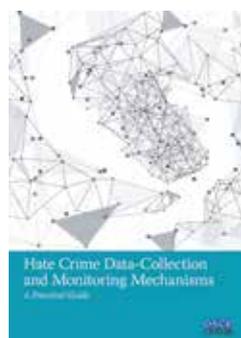


Participants at the training-of-trainers event as part of the Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme, in Warsaw, Poland on 24 July. OSCE/ Murat Gungor

Thirty-six participating States submitted information for the *Hate Crime Reporting* website during the 2013 cycle, along with 109 civil society organizations covering incidents in 45 countries. Information on specific countries also includes key observations prepared by ODIHR based on the commitments on hate crime collection made by participating States. These recommendations can draw governments' attention to potential gaps in their hate crime data collection, and help them help identify areas for improvement.

Under-reporting remains a key challenge. Many victims do not come forward to report hate crimes. This happens for a number of reasons, ranging from language barriers to mistrust in the authorities or fear of reprisals. ODIHR works closely with civil society to overcome this challenge and promote and assist co-operation between civil society and governments.

In 2014, ODIHR published *Hate Crime Data Collection and Monitoring: A Practical Guide*, which raises awareness of the importance of recording hate crimes. Written in co-operation with national experts, partner international organizations and civil society groups responsible for monitoring



hate crimes, the guide offers 10 practical steps on how participating States can design comprehensive responses to strengthen their hate crime reporting capacities.

ODIHR's hate crime reporting website relies on information reported by participating States. Much of this work is done through National Points of Contact on Hate Crime (NPC), appointed by their respective governments. As part of ongoing efforts to support NPCs in their role, ODIHR arranged its annual NPC meeting in Vienna on 20 to 21 November 2014. Thirty-three participants attended from 30 countries.

During the meeting, NPCs exchanged information, challenges and good practice initiatives and discussed the role of intergovernmental organizations with representatives from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), ODIHR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in supporting effective responses to hate crime. They also mapped their approaches to hate crime recording in the OSCE region, identifying their strengths and challenges. During the meeting, NPCs agreed on a revised role description, which includes conducting training at the national level and working with ODIHR to deliver capacity-building activities throughout the OSCE region, in addition to submitting information on hate crimes and responses.

ODIHR also delivered two workshops for government officials — in Skopje on 21 October and Prishtinë/Priština on 19 and 20 May — in co-operation with OSCE field operations, to strengthen their data collection mechanisms on hate crimes.

As part of its collaboration with other international organizations, ODIHR organized an expert round-table in November 2014 with representatives of FRA, the UNHCR and ECRI. Participants shared updates about activities on hate crime and discussed how their organizations understand hate crime and hate speech concepts. This event followed the Office's annual training of trainers on hate crime for staff from OSCE field operations and other international organizations, attended by 17 participants.

International organizations also contribute annually to ODIHR's hate crime reporting website, which includes information from OSCE field operations, the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration.

The third pillar of ODIHR's hate crime reporting practice consists of civil society contributions. For the latest update of its hate crime reporting website, ODIHR received information from 109 civil society organizations and groups covering incidents in 45 countries. In addition to the close collaboration that took place during the analysis of data submitted covering 2013 in the hate crime reporting website, ODIHR held several training events for civil society, as discussed below.

As part of these activities, ODIHR reviews legislation to address discrimination and hate crime on the request of participating States. These legal reviews can help ensure that laws are in line with OSCE commitments and other international standards, identifying areas for improvement and potential issues. *Hate Crime Laws – A Practical Guide* outlines ODIHR's approach to these legislative reviews.

### Countering Hate Crime

Based in commitments made by participating States, ODIHR promotes a comprehensive approach to hate crime, which brings together government and civil society to develop the best response to hate crimes, based on the local reality.

In addition to events organized by the Office, ODIHR staff actively participated in international conferences, webinars and symposiums. Taking place in Brussels, Budapest, Madrid, Riga, Rome, Skopje, Stockholm, Thessaloniki, Vienna, Vilnius and Warsaw, these raised the awareness of authorities, criminal-justice officials and non-governmental organizations to the OSCE approach to addressing hate crime.

#### *Working with Police and Prosecutors*

ODIHR has established its expertise in training law-enforcement officials in perceiving and responding to hate crimes. The Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme is based on the premise that dealing effectively with hate crimes involves police as proactive agents of change. It draws on the OSCE participating States' experiences in confronting hate crimes and the achievements of law-enforcement agencies in addressing the issue.

In Italy, ODIHR delivered workshops on hate crime to 160 national police and Carabinieri officers from 7 to 11 February, as well as TAHCLE training of trainers for 33 national police and Carabinieri instructors from 2 to 4 July. In Montenegro on 24 and 25 April, ODIHR conducted a workshop for senior police officials and commanders as follow-up to TAHCLE implementation in 2013.

In 2014, interest in the programme significantly increased, demonstrated by the signing of agreements to implement TAHCLE in Latvia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In addition, the Office continued its co-operation with the Association of European Police Colleges by delivering training of trainers that included participants from 13 OSCE participating States.

ODIHR strengthened its range of tools to counter hate crime by bringing together existing publications, workshops and training into a new comprehensive training programme for prosecutors. The Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training (PAHCT) programme was created to help prosecutors build solid hate crime cases and complements existing efforts to train law-enforcement personnel.

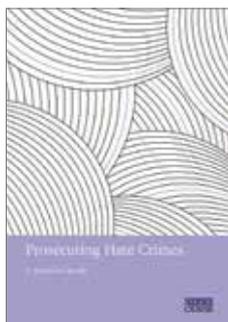
Over the course of 2014, ODIHR trained 76 prosecutors on how to recognize bias elements in hate crimes. This included a training seminar in Thessaloniki, on 30 and 31 October and involving over



Staff from Moldova's Ombudman's office participating in ODIHR workshop, Chisinau, Moldova, 9 June. OSCE/Anne Giebel

30 participants. Greece has committed to implementing PAHCT. Aiming to increase the number of countries implementing PAHCT, training activities were organized in collaboration with OSCE field operations in Belgrade from 11 to 13 June and in Prishtinë/Priština from 27 to 29 May, drawing 20 and 25 participants, respectively.

ODIHR published *Prosecuting Hate Crimes: A Practical Guide* as a companion to PAHCT. Written in co-operation with the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), it aims at improving the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes across the OSCE region. Additionally, on 22 October in Washington, D.C., ODIHR organized a panel discussion with IAP as part of the World Bank's Law, Justice and Development Week 2014 to present the publication and exchange ideas on addressing challenges to the successful prosecution of hate crimes.



#### **Working with Civil Society**

ODIHR works closely with civil society to record and address hate crime, as tasked by participating States in Brussels in 2006. To further reach out to civil society organizations and build their capacity to

recognize hate crimes, ODIHR organized ten training sessions on hate crime for more than 200 civil society representatives from 32 countries in 2014.

ODIHR organized a training event in Moldova to assist the national Ombudsman and his staff in recognizing and reporting incidents of bias-motivated violence, as well as ensuring effective support for victims. This was followed by a two-day workshop with 21 civil society representatives, concluding with an exchange between government officials, civil society and the Ombudsman.

As information on hate crimes targeting Muslim women and women of African descent continues to be lacking, ODIHR organized a training-of-trainers session for women from 11 participating States on combating hate crimes and intolerance, with an emphasis on gender discrimination. ODIHR completed the implementation of five small-scale projects in four participating States – Austria, Hungary, Poland and Sweden – to build the capacity of people of African descent to respond to hate crimes.

#### **Addressing Intolerance and Prejudice**

Hate crimes are but one form of intolerance. ODIHR works to address all manifestations of intolerance through education, training and other activities. Throughout 2014, ODIHR worked to counter multiple forms of prejudice, while also increasing its



Michael Georg Link, Director of ODIHR, speaking in Berlin at the high-level conference to commemorate the OSCE's 2004 Berlin Declaration on anti-Semitism, 13 November. OSCE/Thomas Rymer

emphasis on the impacts of intolerance on women. ODIHR continued to support the work done by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office's Personal Representatives on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination.

#### *Countering Anti-Semitism and Promoting Holocaust Remembrance*

On 12 and 13 November, ODIHR, the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany co-organized a high-level commemorative event and civil society forum designed to mark the 10th anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism. The purpose of the event was to identify current challenges related to anti-Semitism and to review the implementation of OSCE commitments. Recommendations developed by civil society were presented during the high-level event. These included calls for participating States to meet their commitments on monitoring and prosecuting anti-Semitic hate crimes, promoting increased co-operation between European agencies in countering anti-Semitism and improving security for Jewish communities. The event served to explore challenges and address concerns related to the disconcerting number of anti-Semitic incidents that continued to take place in the OSCE region in 2014. At the ensuing OSCE Ministerial Council, the adoption of the Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism reaffirmed existing commitments and reiterated the determination of participating States to pursue common efforts throughout the OSCE region.

In parallel to ODIHR's efforts to counter anti-Semitism, the Office continued to promote Holocaust

remembrance and education. On 28 January, ODIHR co-organized a roundtable in Chisinau with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the Bureau for Interethnic Relations. The roundtable gathered participants from state institutions, international organizations, civil society and Holocaust survivors for a discussion about the benefits and significance of Holocaust remembrance and education. In addition, ODIHR submitted a questionnaire to participating States in preparation for the publication of the bi-annual overview of Holocaust Memorial Days across the OSCE region, in preparation for 27 January 2015, the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

#### *Countering Intolerance against Muslims*

Since 2011, ODIHR has been delivering training workshops for community leaders and civil society representatives on preventing, responding to and reporting on hate crimes against Muslims.

In Vienna on 28 April, in collaboration with the Swiss Chairperson-in-Office, ODIHR organized an expert conference on addressing the security needs of Muslim communities in the OSCE region, which focused on identifying challenges and good practices. Recognizing the need to develop effective measures against anti-Muslim hate crimes, participants from 26 participating States outlined key recommendations related to the protection of Muslim communities. These include development of long-term strategies to counter violent manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, mainstreamed into governmental human

Mohamed Abubaker (l), Detective Inspector with the Swedish National Bureau of Investigation, addressing at an expert meeting on law enforcement measures and hate crimes against Muslims, in Vienna, 28 April. OSCE/ Irine Kurtanidze



rights plans and programmes; and development of mechanisms to ensure effective transfer of information from intelligence services to the police to help prevent crimes against Muslims.

Following this event, ODIHR organized a focus group discussion for 17 women from 13 participating States on 13 May, in which participants shared their own experiences of hate-motivated violence and discrimination, while highlighting factors that either hamper or facilitate better responses to hate crimes. Many participants reported on good practices and co-operation with the authorities and with other communities. They also identified the need for public officials to send a consistent message stressing the positive aspect of diversity and countering the marginalization of and negative attitudes towards Muslims, or members of any other communities.

In collaboration with the Council of Europe, ODIHR co-organized an event focusing on the *Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims: Addressing Islamophobia through Education*. The event, held from 17 to 19 September in Budapest, enabled participants to identify challenges and best practices in tackling intolerance against Muslims through education.

#### ***Responding to Racism and Xenophobia***

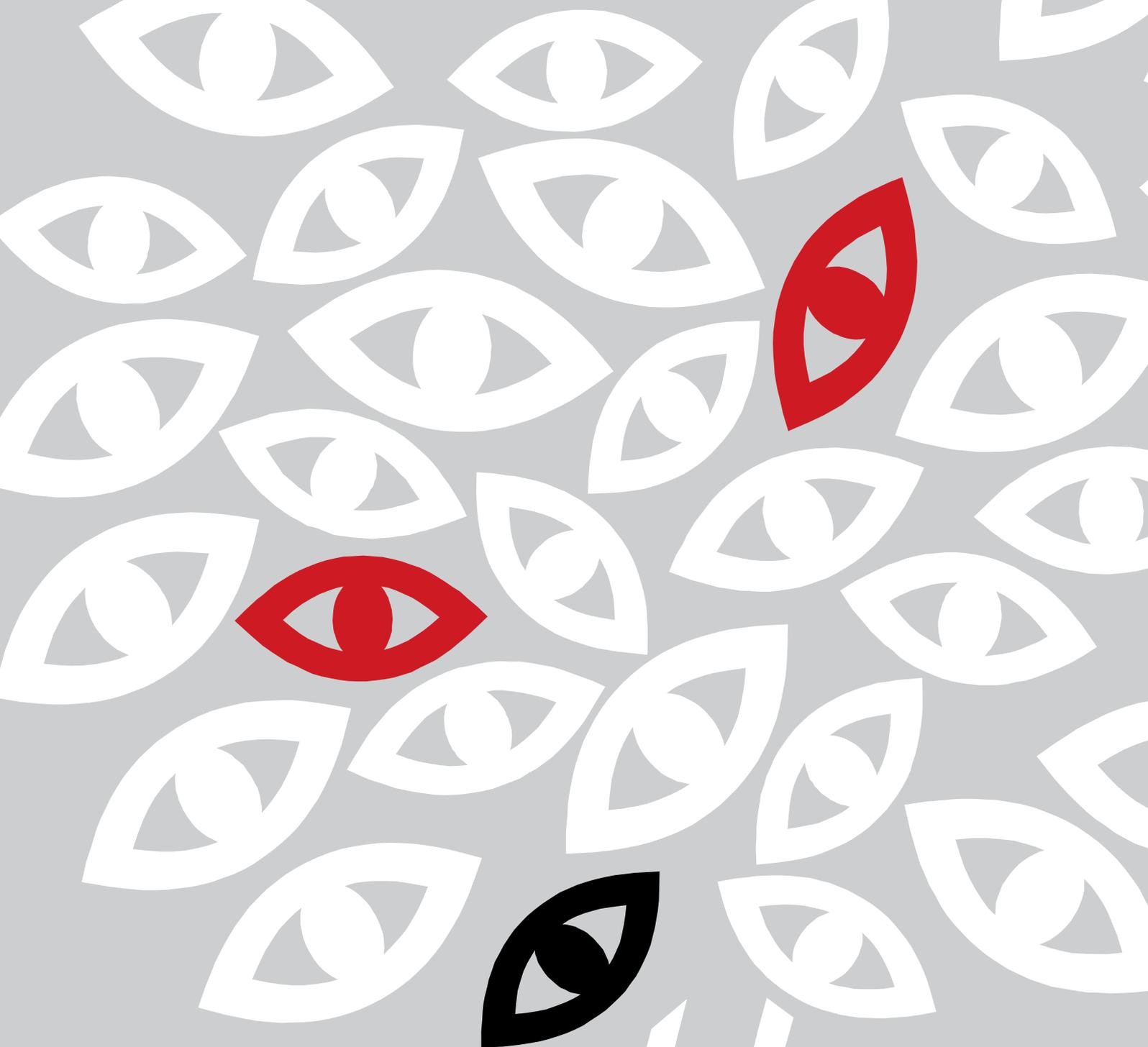
In 2014, ODIHR implemented an initiative to work with people of African descent and counter hate crimes and discrimination from a gender perspective. The unique experiences and challenges confronting women of African descent in the OSCE

region was the focus of a two-day workshop organized for women of African descent in Warsaw on 29 and 30 May. The 21 women from 15 OSCE participating States recommended that ODIHR continue its work by reaching out to women of African descent in the OSCE region and by supporting civil society organizations.

ODIHR also organized a brainstorming meeting with representatives of people of African descent from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Poland and the United States on 11 November. Participants at this meeting, held in Berlin, discussed ODIHR's continued engagement with people of African descent by both encouraging hate crime victims to report their cases to the authorities and encouraging civil society to contribute to ODIHR's annual hate crime reporting and training initiatives.

#### ***Intolerance against Christians***

In 2014, ODIHR continued its work addressing intolerance by supporting the work of Ambassador Alexey Avtonomov, Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions. The Office collaborated with civil society groups active in monitoring data on hate incidents targeting Christians for ODIHR's annual hate crime reporting website and during civil society training events.



**Contact Point for  
Roma and Sinti  
Issues**

In 2014, ODIHR marked the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues. With the establishment of the Contact Point at the Budapest Summit, in 1994, the OSCE participating States committed to improving the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

Over the past twenty years, the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues has played an important role in addressing the discrimination against and persecution of Roma and Sinti and in promoting their inclusion. It reviews the implementation of OSCE commitments relating to Roma and Sinti and facilitates contacts among participating States, international and non-governmental organizations, OSCE institutions, Roma and Sinti representatives and civil society. The Contact Point utilizes field visits, workshops, publications and teaching materials for addressing specific human rights concerns and improving the situation of Roma and Sinti, including by combating racism and discrimination against them; improving their access to education; addressing their socio-economic needs; building on good relations between police and Roma and Sinti communities; and enhancing their participation in public and political life.

## ACTIVITIES

ODIHR's work on issues relating to Roma and Sinti communities in the OSCE area is guided by the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti and the relevant Ministerial Council decisions. In 2014, ODIHR focused on the following issues:

- Roma and Sinti in crisis situations;
- Enhancing public and political participation of Roma and Sinti, especially women and youth;
- Security issues, including relations between police and Roma and Sinti communities;
- Raising awareness about the Roma and Sinti genocide to counter current forms of racism and discrimination against them; and
- Assisting the governments of OSCE participating States in implementing their policies on Roma and Sinti.

### Public and Political Participation of Roma and Sinti, especially Women and Youth

ODIHR's work on Roma and Sinti issues centers on enhancing the public and political participation of these communities, in line with the relevant findings of the *Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area: Status Report 2013*. In 2014, ODIHR's activities in this regard included hosting an expert meeting, in Warsaw on 28 November, addressing opportunities and risks for Roma and Sinti engaging in local-level politics.

The meeting convened 15 Roma and Sinti political activists, elected representatives and politicians, and experts and academics with extensive experience and knowledge related to the political participation of Roma and Sinti. To explore current mechanisms for political participation of Roma and Sinti at the local level and to highlight both opportunities and

## UKRAINE | 2014

### Roma and Sinti in crisis situations

Upon receiving reports of attacks against Roma in Ukraine against the backdrop of the crisis there, ODIHR conducted a specific monitoring exercise in the country in June and July 2014, and publicized its findings in the report "Situation Assessment on Roma in Ukraine and the Impact of the Current Crisis". The report highlights the difficult situation of Roma living in Ukraine, where recent political and security developments have had a negative impact on the community, especially for those who have been displaced as a result of the conflict in the east.

As in other conflicts the OSCE region has seen in the past, Ukrainian Roma remain a vulnerable population due to the lack of civil or residence registration documents, which has a negative impact in situations of displacement and hampers their access to humanitarian assistance, or their recognition as internally displaced persons

according to the law. Civil registration documents, which Ukraine's Roma often lack, are a precondition for every individual to enjoy basic rights and services, including civic rights enabling them to participate in elections or to run for political office.

The assessment also emphasized that Roma in Ukraine face inadequate housing conditions, police misconduct towards Roma, and difficulties accessing quality education and employment. Negative attitudes towards Roma persist within society, while there is limited recognition of the discrimination Roma face.

The report was launched on 29 September 2014, at a side event during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, with the participation of Ukrainian officials and Roma civil society. ODIHR also shared the report with the Ukrainian authorities and is prepared to assist them in addressing the key findings of this mission.



Agnes Osztołykan, Former Member of the Hungarian National Assembly at ODIHR's expert meeting on effective political participation of Roma and Sinti in Warsaw, Poland, 28 November. OSCE/Murat Gungor

challenges in this area, the expert meeting focused on legal frameworks that govern minority participation in the OSCE area as part of minority or mainstream parties or through minority representation systems. Furthermore, the meeting explored the challenges faced by Roma and Sinti as candidates at the local level, whether as part of minority or mainstream parties, including the relationships between Roma and Sinti women and youth with mainstream and Roma parties, and their prospects as candidates and representatives.

Public and political participation was also addressed from the viewpoint of youth, at the "Roma and Sinti Youth Conference: Activism, Participation, Security", which took place in Belgrade, on 8 and 9 December, and was convened by ODIHR with the support of the Office for Human and Minority Rights and the Ministry of Youth and Sport. The conference built on ODIHR's Roma Youth Initiative grant-making activity from 2013, as well as activities targeting youth implemented within ODIHR's former project Best Practices for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans program. Additionally, the Roma and Sinti Youth Conference was developed in the context of the OSCE Swiss and Serbian Chairmanship priorities on strengthening the involvement of civil society, as well as youth, in the work of the OSCE.

The conference brought together over 50 young Roma and Sinti from 18 countries, including

ODIHR's junior experts – young Roma and Sinti activists and scholars who prepared background papers for the event. Its agenda focused on the empowerment and social inclusion of Roma and Sinti communities through youth activism and the participation of Roma and Sinti youth in politics and democratic processes. The conference also pioneered a discussion about security and Roma and Sinti youth from a cross-dimensional perspective.

The participation of Roma and Sinti women, in particular, was the focus of a number of activities ODIHR conducted in 2014, such as the joint visit to Albania, conducted by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Gender Issues and ODIHR's Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, which took place from 2 to 4 April. Similarly, together with resident United Nations agencies and the Council of Europe, ODIHR held a joint roundtable on Roma women's political participation, which took place on 24 April in Chisinau. ODIHR also hosted a Roma and Sinti women consultation meeting on the margins of the OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference, held on 10 July 2014 in Vienna. In this way, 13 Roma and Sinti women activists from Europe and the United States meaningfully contributed to the Gender Equality Review Conference by raising concerns on the multiple forms of discrimination they face in crisis situations, in the economic sphere and in political participation, or with regard to violence they face from outside and within their



Cristina Marian, young Roma activist and lawyer from Moldova, and ODIHR Junior Expert on Roma and Sinti youth issues at OSCE's Roma and Sinti Youth Conference in Belgrade, Serbia, 8 December. OSCE/Edvard Molnar



Michael Georg Link (r), with Ambassador Miroslava Beham, the OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues (l), speaks at a Roma and Sinti women consultation meeting hosted by ODIHR CPRSI as part of the OSCE Gender Equality Conference in Vienna, 10 July. OSCE

communities. ODIHR also supported the participation of Roma and Sinti women activists in the 2014 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

### Security of Roma and Sinti Communities

Violence and racist attacks threatening Roma and Sinti communities remained a concern for ODIHR in 2014, and were addressed in a number of ODIHR activities aimed at strengthening the security of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area. These activities included work on building trust between police and Roma and Sinti at the local level, and enhancing the existing co-operation between ODIHR, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Transnational Threats/Strategic Police Matters Unit, as illustrated by the expert meeting on "Police and Roma and Sinti: Current Challenges and Good Practices in Building Trust and Understanding", organized in Warsaw on 8 April to mark International Roma Day.

The expert meeting brought together 19 participants with experience in community policing, the human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in the context of policing, curriculum development for policing in multi-ethnic communities and addressing hate crimes. The participants included representatives of national law-enforcement agencies and related institutions; civil society organizations, including those specializing in Roma and Sinti issues; and experts on policing. In addition, the expert meeting provided a platform for discussions about a future roadmap for the three OSCE

structures to assist participating States in addressing the existing challenges in the area of Roma and Sinti and policing and to promote policing in Roma and Sinti communities at the local level. The summary of the report was published in June.

Together with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Transnational Threats/Strategic Police Matters Unit and several independent experts, ODIHR also conducted a joint field assessment visit to Slovakia from 26 to 31 October. The visit focused on the issue of security of Roma in Slovakia, assessing the relations between police and Roma communities in the country, and included meetings with representatives of national and local authorities in Bratislava, Košice and Prešov regions. The report on the field visit will be published in the spring of 2015.

ODIHR raised awareness of human rights challenges with regard to policing in Roma and Sinti communities at a conference on ethnic profiling organized by the Swedish Equality Ombudsman in Stockholm on 21 November, and at the Regional Conference on Police Reform organized by the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the Ministry of Interior on 26 and 27 November. At both events ODIHR promoted the manual on *Police and Roma and Sinti: Good Practices in Building Trust and Understanding*.

### Roma and Sinti Genocide

Within the context of combatting racism and discrimination, ODIHR remains engaged in raising



12 of the participants at OSCE Roma and Sinti Youth Conference in Belgrade, Serbia on 8 and 9 December. OSCE/Edvard Molnar



Loé Lagrange, Office Coordinator from ADC Memorial Brussels speaking at the OSCE Expert Meeting on Police and Roma and Sinti: Current Challenges and Good Practices in Building Trust and Understanding, at ODIHR in Warsaw, 8 April. OSCE/ Agnieszka Rembowska

awareness about the Roma and Sinti genocide. Teaching about the persecution of Roma and Sinti in the past is key to countering the prevalent racism and discrimination these communities face today.

ODIHR strengthened its engagement on this issue through active co-operation with the Committee on the Genocide of the Roma of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and by organizing the expert meeting “Teaching about the Roma and Sinti Genocide – Experiences and Good Practices within the OSCE Area”, which took place in Warsaw on 2 June. The meeting brought together participants from Roma and Sinti civil society organizations and from academia to discuss experiences and practices within the OSCE area on teaching about the Roma and Sinti genocide during the Second World War.

### Assisting the Governments of OSCE Participating States

ODIHR continued to support the governments of OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments with regards to Roma and Sinti, including by promoting the key findings of the 2013 Status Report. For example, together with the Swedish Government, ODIHR promoted the “White Paper on abuses and rights violations of Roma during the 1900s – Towards a better understanding of human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in Sweden” on 30 September, in Warsaw, at a side event at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The event showcased this white paper as an example of how states can acknowledge and give official recognition to the long history of racism and discrimination against Roma and Sinti.

Additionally, ODIHR facilitated a roundtable on equal access to education for Roma children in the Czech Republic, co-organized with the Ministry for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation and the NGO Slovo 21. The roundtable took place in Prague on 29 May, as follow-up to the field assessment visit in 2012. The meeting convened 50 participants, including government officials, Roma parents, representatives from civil society and the international community, who took stock of the government initiative since 2012 and the remaining challenges to desegregating education. Access to equal, quality education for Roma and Sinti children

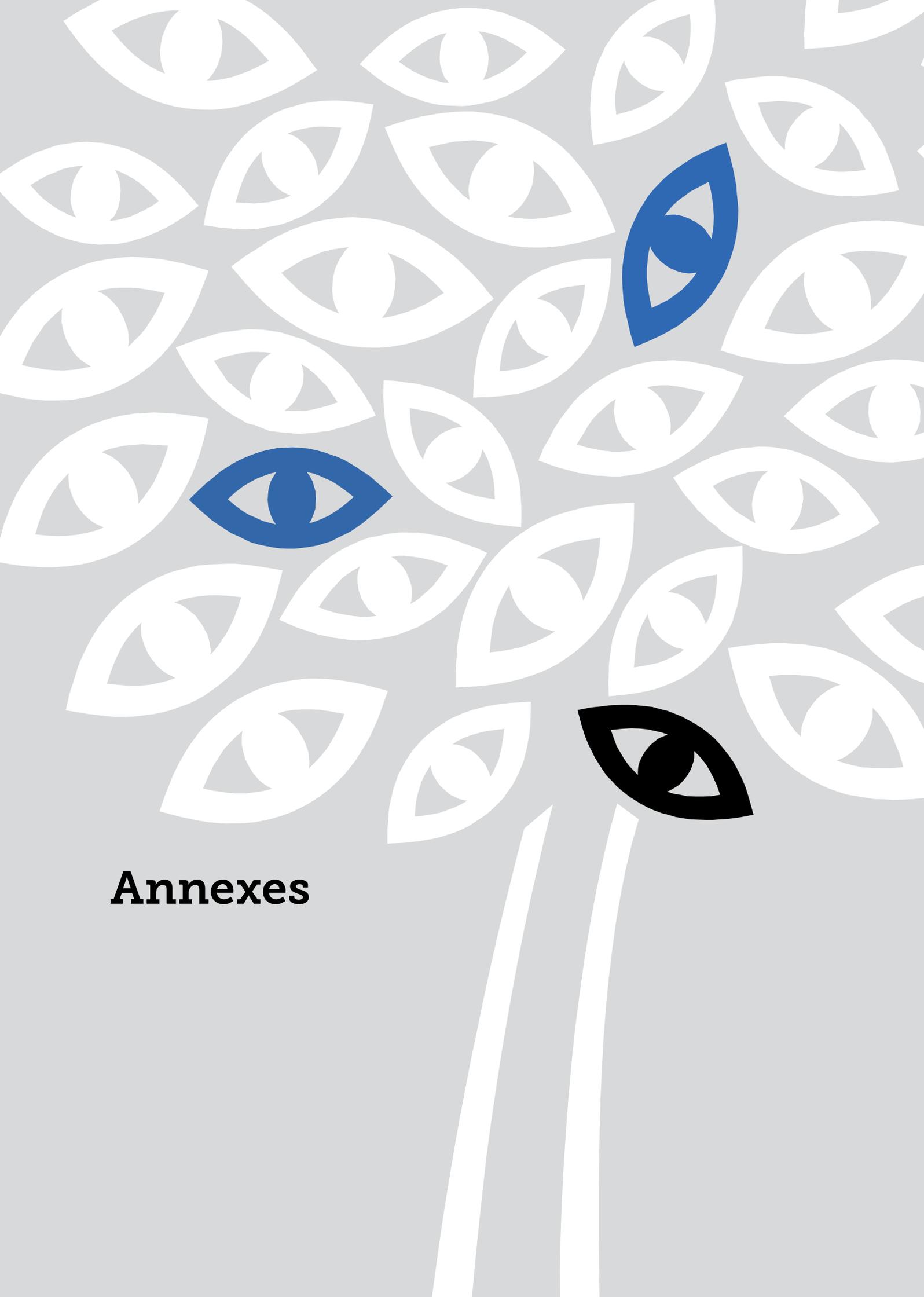
Lukáš Daněk, founder of the NGO Ride for Happiness, participates in a conference organized ODIHR on the issues concerning youth from Roma and Sinti communities, Belgrade, 8 December. OSCE/Edvard Molnar



is still a challenge in many OSCE participating States and needs urgent attention to ensure a better future for their communities.

In order to explore durable policy responses to Roma migration, ODIHR supported a social-inclusion empowerment project targeting Roma migrants in Wroclaw, Poland. This activity intensified dialogue between Roma migrants, civil society and local authorities.

ODIHR also delivered presentations at conferences organized by international organizations and European institutions to raise awareness about the importance of needs- and knowledge-based policy making to address the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.



**Annexes**

# PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

(Funded by extrabudgetary contributions)

## Elections

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/country	Included work on:
Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deploying experts from eligible participating States* as long-term and short-term election observers within OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions or Assessment Missions in Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine</li> </ul>
Election Observer Training	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training of short-term and long-term election observers from participating States eligible for the Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions</li> </ul>
ODIHR Election Support Team to Afghanistan	Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deployment of ODIHR Election Support Team for 2014 presidential and provincial council elections</li> </ul>
Election Observation Development	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of <i>Handbook on Observing and Promoting Participation of National Minorities in Electoral Processes</i></li> <li>Finalizing for publication in early 2015 of the <i>Handbook for Observation of Campaign Finance</i></li> </ul>
Election Observation Sustainability Fund	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deploying professionals directly recruited from participating States as short-term election observers within two Election Observation Missions to Ukraine</li> </ul>

\* Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

## Democratization

### Rule of Law

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Rule of Law	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of Trial Monitoring project in Georgia</li> <li>War crimes Justice Project - Phase II: regional conference (South-Eastern Europe)</li> <li>Fifth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia</li> </ul>
Strengthening Democratic Processes and Institutions in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia	Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research for and preparation of regional roundtable on Electoral Dispute Resolution (to take place in 2015)</li> </ul>

## Democratic Governance

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Democratic Governance	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting OSCE commitments on democratic governance and the <i>Guidelines on Political Party Regulation</i></li> <li>Political party expert seminar in Warsaw for OSCE participating States</li> <li>Support to the Parliament of Serbia in reviewing the Code of Conduct</li> <li>Project <i>Promoting and increasing youth political participation and civic engagement in the OSCE region</i></li> </ul>

## Gender Equality

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Increased Participation of Women in Politics	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening parliamentary structures for women MPs (Mongolia)</li> <li>Exchange of expertise on women's participation in political parties (Malta, Poland)</li> <li>Project <i>Strengthening women's participation in political parties in the OSCE region (Phase II)</i> (Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia)</li> <li>Translation of the <i>OSCE/ODIHR Comparative Study of Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region</i> into Russian</li> </ul>

## Legislative Support

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Legislation Review Fund	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert reviews of legislation on elections, referendums, political party financing, election campaign financing, freedom of assembly, anti-torture, judges' disciplinary liability (Bulgaria, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)</li> <li><i>Legislative Guidelines on the Freedom of Association</i></li> <li>Support and maintenance of co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly and Core Group of Experts on Political Parties</li> <li>Providing greater access to laws through ODIHR's database, including its Russian-language interface (<a href="http://www.legislationline.org">www.legislationline.org</a>)</li> </ul>
Strengthening Democratic Processes and Institutions in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia	Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive assessments of legislative process in Armenia and Georgia</li> <li>Legislative assistance to Ukraine</li> <li>Providing greater access to laws through ODIHR's database, including its Russian-language interface (<a href="http://www.legislationline.org">www.legislationline.org</a>)</li> </ul>

## Human Rights

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Human Rights Monitoring	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assembly monitoring (Spain, the Netherlands, France, Czech Republic, Albania, Bulgaria)</li> <li>• Deployment of a Human Rights Assessment Mission to Ukraine (together with HCNM) and follow-up activities</li> </ul>
Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued development of an operational training curriculum for counter-terrorism officers and pilot training sessions</li> <li>• Launching of the <i>Guidebook on Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT): A Community Policing Approach</i>, with the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department</li> </ul>
Human Rights Education and Capacity Building	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued development, launching and promotion of the <i>OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders</i></li> <li>• Civil Society Forum, together with Chairmanship-in-Office, and Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the prevention of torture</li> </ul>
Anti-Trafficking	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of human rights protection, including access to justice, for trafficked persons and vulnerable groups through national assessments and expert roundtables (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)</li> <li>• Launching of the <i>Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons</i></li> </ul>
Freedom of Religion or Belief		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of capacity building activities on international standards pertaining to freedom of religion or belief in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan</li> </ul>

## Tolerance and Non-discrimination

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Educational and Public Awareness-Raising Activities to Promote Tolerance, Respect and Mutual Understanding, and Remembrance of the Holocaust	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level commemorative event and civil society forum for 10th anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism (with the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany)</li> <li>• Training seminar <i>Educational Responses to Islamophobia: Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims in Europe</i> (with the Council of Europe)</li> </ul>

Combating Hate Crime	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs assessment visits on implementation of Training of Trainers against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) and signing of MoU (Latvia)</li> <li>• TAHCLE in Italy and Montenegro</li> <li>• Training of officials, police, judges, prosecutors and civil society (Greece, Serbia)</li> <li>• Finalizing and launching <i>Prosecuting Hate Crimes: A Practical Guide</i></li> <li>• Roundtable to increase capacity of people of African descent to combat hate crimes, racism and xenophobia</li> <li>• Expert meeting on "Enhancing Law Enforcement-Community Relations in Combating Hate Crimes against Muslims" (with the Chairmanship-in-Office)</li> </ul>
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## Roma and Sinti Issues

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Assisting Participating States to Effectively Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up to the Roma Youth Initiative project (encourage voluntarism and grassroots engagement in Roma communities) through the Roma and Sinti Youth Conference in Belgrade</li> <li>• Increased awareness among Roma youth on how to exercise their civic and social rights</li> <li>• Facilitate networking and debate on Roma youth issues and lessons learned from grassroots level engagement</li> </ul>
Best Practices for Roma Integration	South-Eastern Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening Roma involvement in decision-making, public or political life, national/regional co-ordination and other cross-border initiatives</li> <li>• Good practices in multi-sector municipal collaboration</li> <li>• Supporting governments in policy-making and drafting legislation for legalization of informal settlements/social housing</li> <li>• Assistance to promote anti-discriminatory policies and practice</li> <li>• Increasing public awareness about the right of Roma to be included</li> </ul>

## OSCE Mediterranean Partners

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Programme on Increasing Understanding of the OSCE Human Dimension	OSCE and Mediterranean Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-printing and dissemination of versions in Arabic of existing core ODIHR tools</li> <li>• Contributing expertise on international human rights standards, promoting women's participation in political parties and political party regulation to national and regional events held by other organizations</li> <li>• Facilitating participation of government officials and civil society in OSCE human dimension events</li> </ul>

# LEGISLATIVE REVIEWS IN 2014

In 2014, ODIHR published 23 legal reviews or opinions, many of them conducted jointly with the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

## ELECTIONS

MOLDOVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Opinion on the Draft Law Amending the Electoral legislation</li> </ul>
BULGARIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Opinion on the Draft electoral legislation</li> </ul>
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Opinion on the Draft Election Code of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> </ul>

## LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

AUSTRIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opinion on the draft Federal Law of Austria amending the Law on the Recognition of Adherents to Islam as a Religious Society</li> </ul>
GEORGIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe Opinion on the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia</li> </ul>
KYRGYZSTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on "The Concept Paper on State Policy in the Sphere of Religion of the Kyrgyz Republic"</li> <li>• Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Amendments to the Legal Framework on the Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges in the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>• Opinion on the Draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Safeguarding and Protection from Domestic Violence</li> </ul>
LATVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opinion on the Law on the Bureau on Prevention and Combating of Corruption of Latvia</li> </ul>
MALTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Act to regulate the Formation, the Inner Structures, Functioning of Political Parties and their Participation in Elections of Malta</li> </ul>
MOLDOVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Law on Disciplinary Liability of Judges of the Republic of Moldova</li> <li>• Opinion on the Law on the Selection, Performance Evaluation and Career of Judges of Moldova</li> </ul>
MONTENEGRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opinion on the Draft Law on Compensation of Damages for Victims of Criminal Acts in Montenegro</li> <li>• Opinion on the Impact of the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence on Legislation in Montenegro</li> </ul>
SERBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on Draft Amendments to the Law on the Financing of Political Activities of Serbia</li> </ul>
SLOVAKIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on Certain Provisions of the Draft Act on Land-Use Planning and Construction of the Slovak Republic</li> </ul>
UKRAINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opinion on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine passed on 16 January 2014</li> <li>• Opinion on Two Draft Anti-Corruption Laws of Ukraine</li> <li>• Opinion on the Draft Law of Ukraine on Combating Cybercrime</li> <li>• Opinion on Draft Amendments to some Legislative Acts of Ukraine concerning Transparency of Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns</li> <li>• Opinion on the draft Law of Ukraine on Police and Police Activities</li> </ul>
UZBEKISTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opinion on Article 235 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> </ul>

# SELECTED 2014 CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

## Human Dimension Events

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Prevention of Torture	Vienna	10-11 April	214
Human Dimension Seminar on Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations	Warsaw	12-14 May	120
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on promotion of freedom of expression: rights, responsibilities and OSCE commitments	Vienna	3-4 July	210
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting	Warsaw	22 September-3 October	1234
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting: Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Economic Crisis	Vienna	30-31 October	121

## Democratisation

### *Rule of Law*

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Capacity building of legal professionals on fair trial rights and trial-monitoring methodologies	Osh	5-6 March	25
Contribution to Kazakh Supreme Court roundtable on Judicial Reform	Astana	15 May	76
WCJP II- Regional conference on the role of national jurisdictions in implementing international law	Sarajevo	19-20 May	73
Roundtable on Judges' Performance Evaluation in Moldova	Chisinau	27 June	23
Training for NGO representatives on trial monitoring methodologies	Skopje	12 September	20
Contribution to OSCE PCU's launch of Rule of Law project "Safeguarding Human Rights Through Courts"	Kyiv	15 September	55
Contribution to Uzbek Supreme Court roundtable on Judicial Independence	Urgench	18 September	58
Contribution to ZIF/FBA Rule of Law Training Course, Session on Trial Monitoring	Stockholm	9 October	20
Session on OSCE/ODIHR Trial Monitoring experience at World Bank's "Law and Justice Development Week"	Washington.	22 October	60

Contribution to ZIF Trilateral Dialogue on Rule of Law assistance with OSCE, UN and EU	Berlin	11-12 November	20
Fifth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice in Central Asia	Bishkek	24-25 November	72
Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting with Field Operations and NGO representatives	Tbilisi	26-28 November	50
Contribution to Dutch/Montenegrin Regional Rule of Law conference on Criminal Justice Cooperation	Budva	11-12 December	50

### *Legislative Support*

Country Visit to Armenia of the ODIHR Assessment Team / legislative procedures	Yerevan	24-28 February	30
Consultation Seminar on "Freedom of Association and New Technologies"	Florence	11 March	16
Country Visit to Georgia of the ODIHR Assessment Team / legislative procedures	Tbilisi	31 March - 4 April	56
Consultative Roundtable on "Funding, Independence, and Accountability of Associations"	Warsaw	6-7 May	35
Contribution to Expert Meeting on Protest Principles (Article 19)	London	15-16 May	20
Launch of the report "Preliminary Assessment of the Legislative Procedures of the Kyrgyz Republic"	Bishkek	2 June	30
Consultative Roundtable on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly: Challenges and Good Practice	Washington	18-19 June	40
Contribution to Conference on the Reform of the Judicial-Legal System (National Human Rights Centre)	Tashkent	23-24 June	60
Contribution to Consultative Seminar on ODIHR Opinion on Article 235 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan on Torture (Scientific-Co-ordination Council under the National Human Rights Centre)	Tashkent	24 June	40
Consultative Seminar on assessment of Moldovan system for evaluation of judges and review of relevant law	Chisinau	27 June	80
Contribution to the Event on the State of Freedom of Assembly in South Eastern Europe (USAID, the Open Society Foundation, Research in Action and the European Centre for Non-Profit Law (ECNL)).	Skopje	25-26 August	60
Consultative Roundtable on "Enabling Legal Framework for Freedom of Association: Focus on Formation of Associations, Objectives and Activities, Liability and Sanctions"	Warsaw	8-9 September	28
Presentation of the ODIHR Report "Assessment of the Legislative Procedures in Armenia"	Yerevan	30 October	40
Presentation of two OSCE/ODIHR Opinions on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence at the Hearing before the Montenegrin Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality	Podgorica	24 November	40

## ANNEXES

Meetings with Georgian authorities on the Georgia Trial Monitoring Report and ODIHR Opinion on Criminal Procedure Code	Tbilisi	27 November	15
Consolidating Workshop on "Preparing a Regulatory Reform Roadmap on Law Drafting and Legislative Process in the Republic of Serbia"	Belgrade	26-27 November	34
Participation in the 27th International Conference on Legal Knowledge and Information Systems	Cracow	12 December	50
Presentation of the "Draft Regulatory Reform Roadmap on Law Drafting and Legislative Process in the Republic of Serbia" to the Committee on Legislative and Constitutional Issues of the National Assembly	Belgrade	18 December	14

### *Democratic Governance*

Roundtable on Political Finance in Georgia	Tbilisi	13-14 February	50
Contribution to Parliamentary Support Program Meeting	Sarajevo	6-7 March	20
Regional Workshop on Parliamentary Ethics and Codes of Conduct II	Warsaw	18-19 March	25
ODIHR/Council of Europe Regional Co-ordination meeting with the SEE Field Operations on Local Governance	Tirana	12-14 May	20
First Youth Political Participation Forum	Warsaw	16-17 June	55
Presentation and Discussion of Political Party Regulation	Ulaanbaatar	25-26 June	25
Campaign Finance Monitoring Expert Workshop	Warsaw	30 Jun	20
2014 Political Party Expert Seminar	Warsaw	1-2 July	50
Study Visit to Poland of Anti-Corruption Agency from Serbia	Warsaw	16-17 September	10
Parliamentary Openness for Greater Accountability and Citizen Engagement (HDIM Side Event)	Warsaw	22 September	30
Recognising the Role of Youth – Challenges and Opportunities? (HDIM Side Event)	Warsaw	23 September	45
Meeting of the Parliamentary Working Group on Code of Conduct	Belgrade	1-2 October	15
ODIHR and Folke Bernadotte Academy - Policy Advisors Training Course for Eastern Partners	Sandö	27-31 October	30
Contribution to OSCE Café at the World Forum for Democracy	Strasbourg	3-4 November	40
Second Youth Leadership Forum	Warsaw	13-14 November	55
Contribution to Second Regional Meeting for Local Self-Government Programs	Podgorica	17-18 November	15

*Gender Equality*

Workshop on Women's Political Participation for OSCE Staff	Warsaw	6-7 February	35
Roundtable on Politics, Power and Women: the Local Perspective	Vienna	14 February	30
Follow-up Workshop for Polish Women Leaders – Candidates for 2014 Local Elections	Warsaw	4-6 March	30
Sixth OSCE Regional Conference of Women MPs	Sarajevo	5 March	100
Roundtable on Women in Local Governance	Tbilisi	10 March	80
Gender Audit of Political Parties	Tbilisi	18-21 March	20
Launch of Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Mongolian language	Ulaanbaatar	15 April	20
Conference on Women – Building Blocks of our Society	Valletta	30 April	50
Annual Co-ordination Meeting on Local Governance and Women's Participation in Local Politics	Tirana	12-13 May	20
Gender Audit of Political Parties	Yerevan	13-17 May	20
Consultative Meeting on Increasing Participation of Women in Political Parties	Chisinau	26 June	10
OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference	Vienna	10-11 July	200
Launch of the Handbook on Women in Political Parties at the margins of the OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference	Vienna	10-11 July	50
Gender Audit of Political Parties	Dushanbe	18-21 August	20
HDIM Women's Power Breakfast: Women and Political Parties – Who needs who?	Warsaw	25 September	60
Seminar on Women's Participation in Politics – Hungarian and International Panorama	Budapest	3 October	50
Study Visit of Serbian NHRI to Lithuania on Gender Equality	Vilnius	5-8 October	8
Conference on Women's Political Participation in Malta	Valletta	3 November	80
Consultative Meetings with Political Parties in Georgia on Gender Equality in Party Structures	Tbilisi	5-7 November	15
Contribution to Thematic Session of the Parliamentary Gender Equality Committee of Montenegro: Networking of Women in Political Parties and Politics	Podgorica	21 November	20
Consultative Meetings with Political Parties in Armenia on Gender Equality in Party Structures	Yerevan	2-5 December	15
Seminar on Gender Equality in Politics: The Role of Political Parties	Warsaw	17 December	30

*Migration/Freedom of Movement*

ODIHR training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Riga	26-27 February	33
ODIHR regional training on gender-sensitive labour migration policies	Riga	15-16 May	28
Expert Roundtable on Visa Facilitation and Cross-Border Mobility in the OSCE Region	Vienna	15-16 May	30
ODIHR training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Chisinau	22-23 May	34
ODIHR training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Chisinau	9-10 October	25
ODIHR/OSCE Presence in Tirana- training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Tirana	16-17 October	24
ODIHR/IOM Mission in Ukraine - training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Odesa	27-28 October	16
ODIHR/IOM Mission in Ukraine - training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	L'viv	30-31 October	25
ODIHR /OSCE Office in Yerevan - ODIHR training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Yerevan	26-27 November	20
ODIHR/IOM Mission in Ukraine - training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Kharkiv	1-2 December	19
ODIHR/IOM Mission in Ukraine - training on best practices in integration of migrants in line with the OSCE commitments	Kyiv	4-5 December	32

**Human Rights**

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Meeting of the Expert Group to Develop the Human Rights Training Guide to Policing Assemblies	Warsaw	29-30 January	15
Launch of ODIHR-TNTD/ATU Guidebook on Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT): a Community Policing Approach	Vienna	17 March	57
Civil Society Forum	Vienna	7-9 April	50
Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism and Border Security	Dushanbe	7-11 April	22
Developing OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders: Consultation with OSCE participating States	Vienna	9 May	35
Training on Gender and Security Sector	Chisinau	13-14 May	25
ODIHR-Swiss Chairmanship Conference: The OSCE and Human Rights Defenders: The Budapest Document 20 Years On	Berne	10-11 June	135

NHRI Academy	Budapest	23-27 June	34
Training on Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights	Sarajevo	10-11 July	12
FSC Human Rights Discussions Series: Conditions of Service and the Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces		17 July	35
Training on National Preventive Mechanisms	Tashkent	22-24 July	29
The Role of Military Associations in Protecting Human Rights of Armed Forces Personnel in Central and Eastern Europe	Budapest	10 September	14
UN Human Rights Council Side Event: OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders	Geneva	15 September	45
Consultation Meeting with Ukrainian Civil Society Representatives	Warsaw	18-19 September	62
HDIM Side Event: Human Rights in Ukraine: HRAM Report Recommendations, Current Assessment and Priorities for Action	Warsaw	23 September	50
HDIM Side Event: OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders	Warsaw	23 September	35
Launch of the Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons	Warsaw	25 September	27
Joint ODIHR-DCAF HDIM Side Event: The Role of Ombuds Institutions and NHRIs in Security Sector Oversight	Warsaw	26 September	30
FSC Human Rights Discussions Series: Civil and Political Rights of Armed Forces Personnel	Vienna	23 October	41
Training on Human Rights Monitoring for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine	Kyiv	12-14 November	20
Regional Roundtable on Access to Justice for Trafficked Persons and Co-operation Mechanisms between State Authorities and Civil Society	Istanbul	17-18 November	38
Seminar on Legal Counselling and Assistance as Key Factors in Promoting Access to Justice for Trafficked Persons	Istanbul	20-21 November	21
Training on Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights	Warsaw	26-27 November	17
Promoting a Safe and Enabling Environment for Human Rights Defenders: Civil Society-Government Consultations	Budapest	27-28 November	42
Launch of ODIHR's Report on Monitoring the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in Selected OSCE participating States, May 2013 – July 2014	Vienna	17 December	40
Promoting a Safe and Enabling Environment for Human Rights Defenders: Civil Society-Government Consultations	Bishkek	9-10 December	61
Meeting of the Expert Group to Develop the Human Rights Training Guide to Policing Assemblies	Warsaw	9-10 December	15
Roundtable on Monitoring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly	Vienna	17-18 December	26

**Tolerance and Non-Discrimination**

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Presentation of the TAHCLE programme to the Latvian State Police and to the Latvian Police College	Riga	16-17 January	50
ODIHR/IHRA Roundtable on Holocaust Remembrance in Moldova	Chisinau	26-29 January	67
TAHCLE workshops on hate crime for the Italian law enforcement	Rome	7-11 February	160
Training workshop on Hate Crime for Members of the Greek Racist Violence Recording Network	Athens	18-19 February	31
Presentation of TAHCLE evaluation and prosecutors' hate crime training programme in Bulgaria	Sofia	17 March	15
Roundtable on International Day of Racism, presentation of projects on building the capacity of people of African Descent	Vienna	20 March	20
Needs Assessment visit to fYRoM on implementation of TAHCLE	Skopje	7-9 April	50
Training workshop on Hate Crime for Members of the Greek Racist Violence Recording Network	Thessaloniki	12-15 April	25
Enhancing Law Enforcement - Community Cooperation in Combating Hate Crimes against Muslims expert meeting	Vienna	28 April	88
Muslim Women Focus Group Meeting	Warsaw	13 May	16
Training and workshop on hate crime data collection for government officials	Pristina	19-20 May	32
Training on combating hate crimes for prosecutors and Kosovo Police investigators	Pristina	27-29 May	25
Focus Group meeting of women of African Descent	Warsaw	29-30 May	21
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for Moldovan Ombudsman's Office	Chisinau	9-10 June	25
Training on combating hate crime for civil society representatives	Chisinau	11-12 June	21
Training on combating hate crimes for prosecutors	Belgrade	11-13 June	20
Training on combating hate crimes for civil society representatives	Rome	30 June-1 July	26
Training of Trainers against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) for the Italian law enforcement	Rome	2-4 July	33
TAHCLE training-of-trainers	Warsaw	22-25 July	20
Hate crime training for OSCE field operations staff, UNHCR and IOM	Warsaw	21-22 August	17
Seminar on educational responses to Islamophobia, intolerance and discrimination against Muslims in Europe	Budapest	17-19 September	35
Training of trainers on hate crimes for women activists	Warsaw	28-30 September	17

Presentation of data collection guidelines	Warsaw	30 September	50
Training and workshop on hate crime data collection for government officials	Skopje	21 October	36
Panel discussion during the World Bank's Law, Justice and Development Week 2014 on hate crimes; promoting fairness, justice and equity through community awareness and effective prosecution	Washington DC	22 October	25
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for prosecutors	Thessaloniki	30-31 October	31
People of African Descent brainstorming meeting	Berlin	11 November	10
Berlin High Level Commemorative Event on anti-Semitism	Berlin	12-14 November	447
Annual meeting of National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes	Vienna	20-21 November	35

### Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
8th Regional Meeting of the Focal Points on Roma in OSCE Field Operations	Podgorica	11 March	9
Expert Meeting "Police and Roma and Sinti: Current Challenges and Good Practices in Building Trust and Understanding"	Warsaw	8 April	19
Seminar "Equal Access to Education of Roma Children in the Czech Republic"	Prague	29 May	50
Expert Meeting "Teaching about the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Experiences and Good Practices Within the OSCE Area"	Warsaw	2 June	19
Roma and Sinti Women Consultation Meeting on mainstreaming of Roma and Sinti women's issues within the work of the OSCE on Roma and Sinti and on Gender Equality	Vienna	10 July	16
Side event "Roma and related groups in Central Asia and South Caucasus" at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting	Warsaw	29 September	25
Side event "The Situation of Roma in the Current Crisis Situation in Ukraine" at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting	Warsaw	29 September	25
Side event " 'White Paper on abuses and rights violations of Roma during the 1900s' – Towards a better understanding of human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in Sweden" at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting	Warsaw	30 September	50
Expert meeting "Roma and Sinti Political Participation: Opportunities and Risks of Local-level Engagement"	Warsaw	28 November	15
Roma and Sinti Youth Conference: Activism, Participation, Security	Belgrade	9 December	61

## 2014 PUBLICATIONS

	Title	Language
1	2014 ODIHR Annual Report	English/Russian
2	Baseline Study on Cross-Border Mobility in the OSCE Region	English/Russian
3	Handbook on Women's Participation in Political Parties	English
4	Integrating Gender into Oversight of the Security Sector by Ombuds Institutions and National Human Rights Institutions	English/Russian
5	Integrating Gender into Internal Police Oversight	English/Russian
6	Integrating a Gender Perspective into Internal Oversight within Armed Forces	English/Russian
7	Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders	English/Russian
8	Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT) Programme Description	English/Russian
9	Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons	English/Russian
10	Hate Crime Data-Collection and Monitoring Mechanisms	English
11	Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Participation of National Minorities in Electoral Processes	English
12	Handbook for the Observation of Campaign Finance	English
13	Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area, Status Report 2013	Russian
14	Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations	Russian
15	Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community Policing Approach	Russian
16	The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area: Background Paper 2014	English/Russian
17	Prosecuting Hate Crimes: A Practical Guide	English
18	Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities	English

# ELECTION REPORTS AND STATEMENTS RELEASED IN 2014

## **Presidential election in Georgia, 27 October 2013**

1. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Presidential election in Tajikistan, November 2013**

2. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary elections in Turkmenistan, 15 December 2013**

3. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

## **By-Elections in Ukraine, 15 December 2013**

4. OSCE/ODIHR Election Expert Team Final Report

## **Presidential Election in Afghanistan, 5 April 2014**

5. OSCE/ODIHR Exploratory Visit Report
6. OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team Final Report

## **Parliamentary elections in Hungary, 6 April 2014**

7. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
8. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
9. International Limited Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
10. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Presidential election in Lithuania, 11 May 2014**

11. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

## **Early Parliamentary Elections in Serbia, 16 March 2014**

12. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
13. International Limited Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
14. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Presidential Election in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 13 April 2014**

### **Early Parliamentary Elections, 27 April 2014**

15. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
16. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
17. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement 2
18. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Early Presidential Election in Ukraine, 25 May 2014**

19. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report 1
20. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report 2
21. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
22. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Belgium, 25 May 2014**

23. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Presidential Election in Turkey, 10 August 2014**

24. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
25. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
26. International Limited Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
27. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Latvia, 4 October 2014**

28. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
29. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

**General elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12 October 2014**

30. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
31. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
32. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement

**Early Parliamentary Elections in Bulgaria, 5 October 2014**

33. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
34. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
35. International Limited Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement

**Early Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine, 26 October 2014**

36. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
37. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
38. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission EOM Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Moldova, 30 November 2014**

39. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
40. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
41. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement

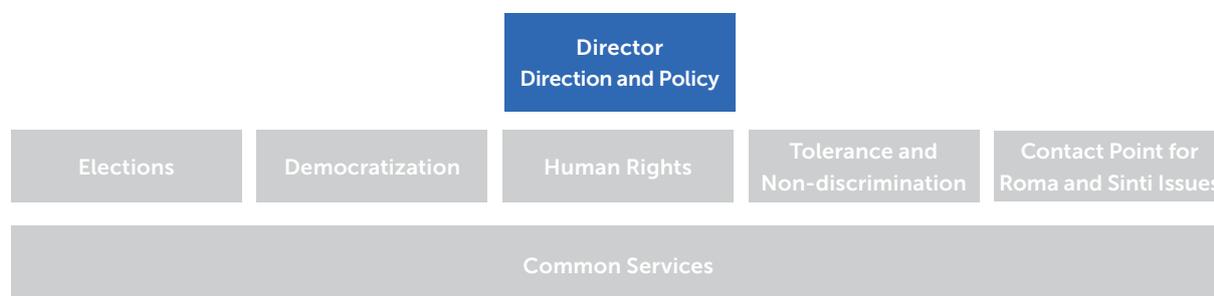
**Parliamentary Election in Uzbekistan, 21 December 2014**

42. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
43. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
44. OSCE/ODIHR EOM Preliminary Statement

**Parliamentary Elections in Tajikistan, February 2015**

45. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

# ODIHR STRUCTURE AND BUDGET



ODIHR Programmes: 2014 Unified Budget (all figures in euros)	
Direction and Policy	1,293,000
Fund Administration Unit	2,151,900
Common Operational Costs	769,700
Human Dimension Meetings	605,900
Democratization	1,520,200
Human Rights	1,202,300
Elections	6,405,200
Tolerance and Non-discrimination	1,306,300
Roma and Sinti Issues	550,700
<b>TOTAL ODIHR Unified Budget</b>	<b>15,805,200</b>
Augmentation Budget	234,100
<b>Total Fund Resources</b>	<b>16,039,300</b>









