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Cover story: The many faces of human trafficking

Alexander Stubb: Rediscovering the spirit of Helsinki

Dora Bakoyannis: Greek Chairmanship 2009 gears up for
“interesting times”

Ten years of the Researcher-in-Residence Programme





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OSCE Chairmanship 2008: Finland

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Message from President Tarja Halonen of Finland

Every year, tens of thousands of women, children and men around the world fall victim to human trafficking. This present-day form of slavery knows no geographical boundaries and affects us all. It is a serious criminal activity and a gross violation of human rights, and it poses a grave threat to international security.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

The OSCE, whose participating States adopted an action plan on trafficking in 2003, is in an excellent position to combat this phenomenon, as described in this issue of the *OSCE Magazine*. However, we need to co-operate more closely with the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union to turn various regional and global agreements into practical action. This calls for considerable financial resources and expertise and a genuine willingness to pool efforts.

Human rights offences, violence, discrimination, poverty, hunger and unemployment increase people's risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. And unfortunately, because women and children are particularly vulnerable to these adversities, there are so many of them among the victims.

Work-related human trafficking should also be actively prevented; we need to ensure that everyone's right to decent work is fulfilled. A better framework for cross-border movement of people is required to make it a truly positive force — for people themselves and for countries of origin and destination.

Another crucial measure is increasing public awareness of the different forms of human trafficking. We in Finland, for example, had thought some years ago that we were being spared the problem of trafficking. We were wrong. There is no area too remote for international organized crime. We adopted our first national action plan against trafficking in human beings in 2005 and we introduced some improvements to it in 2007.

But national responses alone are not sufficient. Countries of origin, transit and destination will also have to work together and draw in NGOs, since they are closest to the realities of the everyday life of individuals.

I am pleased to see that the OSCE participating States are determined to accelerate their action to prevent and fight human trafficking. The high-level anti-trafficking conference that was jointly organized by the OSCE and the Finnish Chairmanship in Helsinki in September was an encouraging step because we were able to focus on the rights of victims during the investigation and prosecution process in human trafficking cases.

I look forward to many more such initiatives to help bring about the kind of world we are all striving for: one that is safe, secure and just.

Tarja Halonen
Helsinki, December 2008

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United Nations, New York, 26 September. OSCE Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb takes questions from journalists after his address to the UN Security Council. He said the OSCE was re-energizing its work on conflict resolution and crisis management. Photo: Magdalena Herrgard/Consulate General of Finland (New York)

Rediscovering the spirit of Helsinki

BY ALEXANDER STUBB

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on 4 and 5 December is not the first occasion on which the OSCE participating States are convening in Helsinki to discuss wide-ranging matters concerning stability, security and co-operation in Europe and beyond.

In the early 1970s, it was in the Finnish capital that a process was launched which was to play a significant role in overcoming differences and finding common ground between erstwhile adversaries. Two decades later, in 1992, Helsinki served as the backdrop for another historic gathering marking the dawn of a new era — one that would erase dividing lines and foster genuine common security.

As the year 2008 draws to a close, we are coming together once again in the same city, this time presented with a fresh opportunity to renew the spirit of Helsinki.

By this time, we all know what the spirit of Helsinki represents: It is the spirit of change, the desire to seek change peacefully guided by shared principles and shared values.

Although the transatlantic and Eurasian landscapes have changed dramatically since 1975, and although much has been achieved, we have not yet realized the common vision that we have been pursuing for so long — a vision of security, stability and prosperity between our States and within our societies. Indeed, long-standing conflicts remain unresolved and new threats have emerged that call for firm collective responses. Sadly, military confrontation and unilateralism have found their way back into the toolbox of State policy.

NEW DIALOGUE

Still, I believe that now is not the time to assign blame for recent developments. On the

contrary, now is the ideal time to strengthen our sense of common purpose and the OSCE itself. It is a time for reflecting on how to put the achievements of the past to good use and adapt them to today's new global and regional context. It is a time for reaffirming the commitments that we have assumed within the OSCE framework. And it is a time for reinvigorating the way we implement these commitments.

This is why I envisage the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki as the start of a new dialogue.

The events of August 2008 served as a painful reminder that there is no such thing as a "frozen conflict" and that we need to act quickly and do our utmost to settle the remaining conflicts in the region. This year, the OSCE, through the work of Special Envoy Heikki Talvitie and many others, has intensified the efforts being deployed to consolidate negotiations concerning the Transnistrian conflict.

Finland has also thrown its full support behind the work of the Minsk Group, which spearheads the OSCE's search for a political solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The aim of the Minsk Group's Co-Chairmen and Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, is to encourage Armenia and Azerbaijan to give serious consideration to the proposal drawn up by the Co-Chairs themselves in Madrid last year, laying out basic principles for resolving the conflict. I am pleased to see that the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation have confirmed the continued importance of the mediation by the Minsk Group.

As for the aftermath of the war in Georgia, I have been pursuing a two-pronged objective: to promote the implementation of the cease-fire agreement and humanitarian efforts in the region, and to solidify the basis for long-term stability and security.

Neither of these goals can be achieved overnight, but the OSCE owes it to the region — after it played such a vital role in bringing about an immediate ceasefire — to maintain the momentum by continuing to bring to bear the Organization's ability to act rapidly and flexibly.

The impact of the fighting permeated every dimension of security. We saw the faces of refugees and displaced people, both in Vladikavkaz and in Gori. The medium- to long-term impact on the environment and the economy has also been immense: Farmers lost a whole year's agricultural production as a result of forest fires and direct bombing. Confidence-building activities have come to a standstill, with demining now the top priority in many villages.

The Organization's response has had to be strategically targeted to diverse needs. At my



request, two OSCE institutions, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, jointly assessed the human rights situation in and around the conflict areas. The OSCE's Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities led a joint mission with the UN Environment Programme to examine the ecological damage caused by the conflict and to draw up recommendations for action.

In keeping with the wish of the participating States, the OSCE will continue being a key player in the area. During these uncertain times, the Organization's inclusive approach and its role as an instrument for permanent dialogue and as a platform for action are more valuable than ever.

The solutions we offer — in South Ossetia, where the OSCE has the lead role, and in Abkhazia, which is managed within the UN framework — will have to be as comprehensive as possible. This was the concept behind the joint initiative recently launched in Geneva by the UN, the OSCE and the EU using a new platform. The process is off to a good start. It now needs all sides to give further impetus to these international discussions, both on security and stability arrangements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and on the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons.

TIRELESS ENGAGEMENT

Let me now turn to the host of challenges that we have been tackling throughout the year.

The new threats to security are complex and know no borders. I am pleased that, under the Finnish Chairmanship, the OSCE has spared no effort to co-operate with various partners in fighting terrorism, the spread of small arms and light weapons, and cybercrime. Inter-State co-operation on border issues, a crucial economic and security matter, has also been high on the agenda.

New York, 23 September. On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb invited foreign ministers holding OSCE chairmanships from 2007 to 2011 and the OSCE Secretary General to discuss ways to strengthen the OSCE's action in Georgia.

Left to right: Miguel Ángel Moratinos of Spain (2007), Dora Bakoyannis of Greece (2009), Alexander Stubb of Finland (2008), OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Marat Tazhin of Kazakhstan (2010) and Petras Vaitiekunas of Lithuania (2011).



United Nations, Geneva, 14 October. Top officials of the UN, the OSCE and the EU met ahead of diplomatic-level discussions on stability and security in Georgia and the region. Shown at a press conference are (left to right):

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations; Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union; UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Bernard Kouchner, Foreign Minister of France; Alexander Stubb, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Finland; and Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. UN Photo by Jean-Marc Ferré

The Finnish Chairmanship has also sought to bolster the OSCE's role in promoting security, transparency and dialogue in the politico-military arena across the width and breadth of Europe. Finland's Chairmanship of the Forum for Security and Co-operation during the last four months of 2008 is proving to be a window of opportunity to co-ordinate the Forum's agenda with that of the Permanent Council and build synergy.

The dialogue on economic and environmental issues has also been a prime task. The focus of the Economic and Environmental Forum on matters concerning maritime and inland waterways highlighted the links between security, the economy and the environment. The Finnish Chairmanship also took up climate change and its security implications, a crucial theme that the OSCE needs to address too in the future.

In the human dimension, the OSCE made considerable progress in implementing three priority areas of the Finnish Chairmanship: combating trafficking in human beings; promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, especially as concerns the Roma and Sinti people; and integrating gender matters into the mainstream of all OSCE activities. I was also glad to see that discussions have moved forward on the principles underlying democratic elections and the needs of election observation.

On the subject of field operations I would like to underscore the vital role that the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has been playing on the ground. An essential pillar of the UN Mission in Kosovo established under UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), the OSCE Mission has been helping to create sound and strong local

institutions, promoting democratic values at the grass-roots level and protecting the interests of all communities. I am gratified to see that, despite the diverging views of the participating States, the OSCE has been able to continue this important work.

Just a year ago, at their meeting in Madrid, the OSCE foreign ministers agreed to intensify the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, an important Partner for Co-operation. Emphasis was to be placed on such activities as helping to secure the borders between the country and its Central Asian neighbours, and providing support in areas related to policing and the fight against drug trafficking.

We expect to unveil a number of projects soon, including the establishment of a border management staff college in Dushanbe. The fact that the OSCE's Asian Partners for Co-operation held their meeting in Kabul in November also demonstrated our wish to stand firmly behind Afghanistan.

Finally, I found it satisfying to have been able to foster a sense of continuity in the Organization through informal meetings of future and past Chairmanships in the "quintet" format. I believe everyone agrees that this has been helpful for longer-term planning.

This past year has revealed how the strengths of the OSCE enabled it to stand up to the multi-faceted challenges that came its way. Let's seize the opportunity to reinvigorate the spirit of Helsinki.

Alexander Stubb is the Foreign Minister of Finland and outgoing Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE.

Greek Chairmanship 2009 gears up for “interesting times”

Strengthening the presence and role of the OSCE in early warning, prevention and management of conflicts and crises will be a prime pursuit of the Greek Chairmanship, said Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis in an interview in mid-November with OSCE Spokesperson Martin Nesirky. Although the events in Georgia in the summer of 2008 had “shattered long-standing perceptions regarding security in the region”, she believed that the crisis could serve as a springboard for a broader discussion of a new and comprehensive security architecture in Europe, with the OSCE providing “a pretty good table” for this discussion.

Dora Bakoyannis assumed the post of Foreign Minister in February 2006, becoming one of the first women in the history of Greece to occupy a senior cabinet position. She was also the first female mayor of Athens, serving for three years, from October 2002. She was voted “World Mayor” in an annual international competition among mayors after Athens successfully hosted the 2004 Olympic Games. Since 2006, she has been included in the Forbes Magazine annual list of the world’s 100 most powerful women leaders.

After studying political science and communication at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, she went on to pursue further studies in political science and public law at the University of Athens. The Foreign Minister was married to the late journalist and parliamentarian Pavlos Bakoyannis, who was assassinated in 1989. Her father, Greek statesman Constantine Mitsotakis, now 90, served as Foreign Minister (1980-1981) and Prime Minister (1990-1993).

Martin Nesirky: Why is the OSCE important to Greece? In your view, what is special about the OSCE compared with other organizations?

Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis: The OSCE is a living organism that, since the 1970s, has stood by the peoples of Europe in their efforts to realize the vision of more progress, more stability and more democracy.

It is a unique forum for dialogue and co-operation, with a comprehensive approach to security. And it has an unparalleled ability to swiftly adapt to Europe’s ever-changing geopolitical environment.

The OSCE is the “underdog” among regional organizations, and we Greeks have a soft spot for it. Its staff works tremendously hard, with a lot of care, and does a great deal of good in the world on a modest budget. For all these reasons, the OSCE deserves our full support.

What will the priorities of your Chairmanship be, and why have you chosen them?

I wouldn’t dare steal the Finns’ thunder, Martin! We’re just halfway through November. We are



DOUKAS ANTONIOS / GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY

preparing for the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki and I can tell you for sure that our plate is more than full. Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb and his Finnish team have done an amazing job, and I am confident that in Helsinki we will take another important step towards a more cohesive and effective OSCE.

What I can tell you, though, is that Greece will be an honest broker. The Greek Chairmanship will try to build a stronger OSCE at the heart of the European security architecture. This comes at a time when the quest for security has become ever more complex and difficult, when the only constant in the international environment lies in the fluidity and multifaceted nature of the challenges. The current international financial crisis, which concerns and affects everyone, only accentuates this fluidity.

The Greek Chairmanship will endeavour to fulfil the exacting obligations of the mission it is undertaking to the best of its abilities. Three principles will guide our work: respect for the Organization’s regulations, pursuit of optimum convergence and consensus, and strengthening of the presence and role of the OSCE in early warning, prevention and management of conflicts and crises.

I will therefore be so bold as to make a promise to the other 55 participating States: You can put your trust in Greece. As for the rest, you will have to wait until 15 January in Vienna, when we will launch the Greek Chairmanship!

What impact has the Georgian crisis had on your preparations for the Chairmanship and on the OSCE?

The crisis in August shattered long-standing perceptions regarding security in Eurasia. At the same time, it reminded us that, after so many wars and so much suffering, we still resort to violence to resolve disputes. Mistakes and miscalculations continue to lead to tragic misadventures at the expense of the lives of ordinary people. It is a disgrace for all of us to be repeating the same mistakes. You would think we might know better by now.

At the end of the day, however, the crisis can serve as a springboard for a broader discussion of a new, comprehensive security architecture that takes into account the changes in the geopolitical map of Europe, the enlargement of the EU, the evolution of NATO and the strategic role of the Russian Federation.

One thing is certain: There cannot be a lasting peace in Europe as long as we continue to view our relations through a zero-sum lens. We should be able to sit at the table and talk our way through our problems. And I think the OSCE is a pretty good table for this discussion.

How would the Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE tackle the unresolved conflicts in general?

I want to be very clear on this: My approach is not “general”, but rather specific and conflict-oriented. Every single conflict reflects a failure of diplomacy. It is a tragedy for the people on the ground. Every case is unique and demands our special attention.

I believe that, by choosing Greece to hold the next Chairmanship, the other participating States have entrusted my country with a great responsibility. We will do our best to live up to everyone’s expectations. I will consider even the most modest progress on any of these conflicts to be a huge success if it makes people’s lives just a little bit better. That is where our focus will be throughout the year.

What is your vision for the future of the Balkans, including Kosovo, and what role should the OSCE play in the region?

The recent history of the Balkans is a sad reminder of the shortcomings of the international community in conflict prevention at the end of the Cold War. It demonstrates our weakness in responding to the urgent need of the times for a vision and a courageous handling of the break-up of Yugoslavia. It also marked the OSCE’s coming of age.

The Balkan countries and their peoples have suffered enough. They have finally turned the page. They are building a brighter future on a clear European path, which was set out at the EU Summit in Thessaloniki in 2003, during a Greek EU Presidency. Since then, Greece has continued to support this path in a consistent and tangible manner.

The OSCE’s role is crucial here. With field operations in all the Western Balkan countries, the OSCE

combines knowledge of the local environment with international expertise. It runs tailor-made projects at community level that reach out to people, while consolidating democratic institutions, the rule of law and human rights.

We expect a lot from our OSCE missions in this part of the world, especially from the largest of the Organization’s 19 field operations. Kosovo remains a sensitive issue and continues to demand our constant care and attention. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo will receive it.

In the end, the Balkans will take their rightful place in Europe. There can be no other future but one of prosperity and peace within the European family. Until we reach that point, Europe will never be complete.

French President Sarkozy has responded to Russian President Medvedev’s security pact proposal by calling for an OSCE summit in mid-2009. This would be the first OSCE summit since 1999 in Istanbul and would come 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. What is your view on such a summit? Could this help revive the future of the arms control regime for Europe, and the CFE Treaty in particular?

As I said, the crisis in Georgia may have prompted or re-energized a broader discussion on the need for a comprehensive security architecture in Europe. Indeed, some of the Organization’s participating States, such as France and Russia, have argued in favour of initiating such a dialogue. Whether this dialogue will eventually reach the level of a summit meeting remains to be seen.

The discussion is under way as we speak. But time is going by fast. At the upcoming Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki, we will have to agree on some more specific directions. Greece recognizes the need to carry out an open and substantial dialogue — we believe it useful and necessary — without trying to predetermine its outcome.

We will be in ongoing communication with all our partners and, provided the participating States decide in favour of this dialogue, we are prepared to host any meeting decided upon. Of course the European Union and NATO will continue to play a decisive role as well-defined poles of security in our region, with the United States and Russia each weighing in heavily, and this is a good thing. The fact that both countries are participating States represents a great added value for the OSCE.

Finally, we will work closely with our partners in Central Asia, especially Kazakhstan, which, in 2010, will be the first participating State from this geographic area to assume the OSCE Chairmanship.

How do you see the future of the “Quintet” — the Chairmanships from 2007 to 2011?

Reinventing the wheel is a waste of time. And in the OSCE, it is an expense we cannot afford. I have supported the idea of the Quintet from the very beginning. I consider it to be a very useful framework that guarantees long-term planning of



Athens, 13 November. Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis with OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut at a seminar to introduce the OSCE and the forthcoming Greek Chairmanship to the diplomatic corps, academics, civic groups and representatives of the media.



DOUKAS ANTONIOS / GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY

activities and a more sophisticated elaboration of the overall OSCE strategy. It builds up consistency, continuity and the institutional memory of the Organization.

You have already mentioned the global economic crisis. It could have an impact on the OSCE. What would you say to those who would cut funding?

Budget approval is a headache for every Chairmanship. But the OSCE is asked to do a lot with very little, and so the least we can do, as participating States, is to give the Organization the means with which to do its job and to become more effective. Above all, if the OSCE is to be successful, consensus must be forged among the participating States.

We will spare no effort to bridge the diverging views — step by step, if we have to — so that we can build the necessary consensus, with full respect for transparency. The smooth functioning of the Organization is vital to the success of any undertaking and thus will be a fundamental priority of our Chairmanship.

You make great use of social networks such as FaceBook. What plans do you have in this area for your Chairmanship?

It is a fact that nowadays the new social media and Web tools 2.0, as developed on the Internet, play an important role in shaping public opinion and in mobilizing people's participation. We saw this in the recent US elections. My contact with citizens has been reinforced by my presence on the Web.

A large proportion of — for the most part — young people use these new means of networking to exchange views, create groups, get to know each other better and support common causes, so we need to tap into these new social media if we want to be successful in communicating our messages.

Using the already up-to-date website of the OSCE as a starting point, we will aim to develop

our presence in Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and YouTube, and other new modern social media tools. In doing so, we will open up new channels of communication and platforms for public participation and we will be able to share the OSCE's activities with the public. We hope that this will be our contribution towards making the OSCE more accessible to average citizens — so that they do not perceive it as an impersonal, gigantic, bureaucratic mechanism, but rather as an Organization that, with the help of new technologies among other tools, can better affirm the diversity of the citizens of its 56 participating States.

You have been a trailblazer for women everywhere — not just in your own country — throughout your public and professional life. You have doubtless heard this question before, but does this place a special onus on you to promote gender issues, including during your Chairmanship year?

I feel that a special onus is on me to rise to the challenge of an OSCE Chairmanship at a difficult time such as this. You know the ancient Chinese saying: "May you live in interesting times." It was a wish and a curse at the same time. Today, we are living through what are clearly interesting times, and we all just have to do our best.

That entails a broad and diverse agenda. Gender issues are certainly a major element — the case for the link between gender empowerment and security is clear, after all — but I doubt that we will have the luxury of focusing on a single issue.

And which would you prefer — Chairman-in-Office, Chairperson-in-Office or Chairwoman-in-Office?

Any of these will do. I was never big on titles.

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The participating States share a common commitment to fight trafficking in human beings, and the OSCE serves as a political and action-oriented tool to help tackle this complex problem, says Eva Biaudet, the OSCE's Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Prior to her appointment in October 2006, Ms. Biaudet was Finland's Minister of Health and Social Services and a member of parliament. She launched a Nordic-Baltic campaign against trafficking in human beings and helped shape the country's trafficking-related legislation. For "leading the fight against human trafficking with a humanistic approach", she was recently made a Knight (Chevalier) of the Legion of Honour, the highest decoration in France. In an interview with Sonya Yee, Press and Public Information Officer at the OSCE Secretariat, Ms. Biaudet discusses the importance of bringing co-operation between local actors to an international level to better protect the rights of trafficking victims. She also calls for better data-gathering and analysis to enable a more proactive and evidence-based approach to tackling the phenomenon.



COURTESY OF PETRI KROOK

INTERVIEW WITH THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Eva Biaudet: Rights of victims are paramount in fight against human trafficking

Sonya Yee: How does fighting trafficking in human beings fit into the OSCE's work as a security organization?

Eva Biaudet: The concept of comprehensive security can be traced back to the early beginnings of the OSCE: The security of a State is linked with the security of its people. This means that States have a serious obligation to protect their citizens from having their rights violated — and being trafficked and exploited is an abhorrent violation of human rights.

The comprehensive mandate of my Office is sharply focused on the prevention of human

trafficking, the protection of victims and the prosecution of criminals. Most people associate trafficking with illegal border crossings, but boundaries, whether east or west, don't mean much as far as this criminal activity is concerned.

What we should really be concerned about is that human trafficking is all about exploitation — whether it is for sexual purposes, or whether it takes the form of forced begging, using children for criminal activities or treating men and women like slaves in farms, factories and households, or even engaging in the illicit purchasing and selling of human organs. There is no limit

to what criminals are capable of doing to exploit their fellow human beings.

The OSCE is becoming increasingly known as a leading advocate for the establishment of national rapporteurs on trafficking. Why are they important?

In their efforts to respond more effectively to the various issues surrounding trafficking, governments and their partners need more and better information on what the many faces of trafficking are, what the scale and scope of the problem are, what the trends are, how these are being addressed, and which responses work best.

Of course other organizations are providing their own set of useful data, but the monitoring and analysis that officials need to enable them to draw up more responsive policies and procedures are still missing. A national rapporteur or an equivalent mechanism is meant to fill this gap in reliable knowledge and information. The fact that the instrument is at the national level also sends a message that the responsibility for addressing this issue lies with governments.

One more thing — the greater the number of countries that establish such an institution, the easier it will be for national counterparts to share information at the international level. This is why we are devoting so much of our energy to promoting the concept.

How is the OSCE helping participating States to establish these mechanisms?

We are assisting them to implement their commitments. Towards this purpose, we organized two important meetings in the past two years within the framework of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons. This is a unique international forum that the OSCE is funding to harmonize the strategies and agendas of all actors engaged in the fight against human trafficking, thereby avoiding duplication. So far, we have made it possible for countries to come together and share best experiences and lessons learned. Our most recent initiative was when we invited experts who are actually performing the national rapporteur function to exchange views at a seminar that we organized in September.

Some countries — Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Romania and the United States, for example — already have a national rapporteur function in place. They are finding it to be a helpful tool, but acknowledge that they are still going through a learning process. No two countries have exactly the same mechanism as they have had to adapt these to their own needs and circumstances.

However, there are certain features that we consider extremely important. We think that national rapporteurs should have a legal basis so they can gain access to sensitive information, while also being held responsible for protecting this information.

We also think that a national rapporteur should issue an independent report addressing all forms of trafficking in the country, preferably once a year. The report should evaluate government measures to combat the problem and include information not only from the judiciary but also from all the bodies, agencies and services concerned. It should be the focus of discussions among parliamentarians, who are the ones deciding on budgets and legislation. But it shouldn't stop there; the report should be made public and be shared with key people in regions and municipalities throughout the country because it is at these levels that the protection of victims actually should be taking place.

A number of international organizations are involved in the fight against trafficking. What is the OSCE's main contribution?

We are in the useful position of being neutral. In countries such as Moldova, for instance, where several international organizations are engaged in action on the issue, it is felt that we are good co-ordinators and facilitators because we are not competing for funding and don't represent just one government.

Our added value stems from our "bottom-up" relationships. We work directly with governments and assist them to build the structures and mechanisms they need in their fight against human trafficking. We also co-operate closely with international organizations. At the same time, we have close connections with NGOs and grass-roots groups, also through our field operations. Whenever I am invited to visit a country, I make it a point to also meet representatives of NGOs and to familiarize myself with what they're doing and listen to their stories.

You also serve as co-ordinator of all anti-trafficking efforts within the OSCE across its dimensions. How does this work in practice?

As called for in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003), this Office provides advice and lends its expertise to colleagues in other parts of the OSCE in support of their anti-trafficking initiatives — because obviously the issue goes beyond the human dimension of security.

The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings assists participating States to implement the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which was endorsed by the Maastricht Ministerial Council Meeting in 2003. The Office of the Special Representative sets an overall framework for the anti-trafficking efforts of the entire Organization. In providing participating States with recommendations concerning implementation of their anti-trafficking commitments, the Action Plan advocates protecting victims' rights, bringing perpetrators to justice and adopting prevention measures that take human rights into account.



You have devoted a good part of your career to leading anti-trafficking and other human rights-related initiatives. Do you think that solutions are elusive, even though many actors are involved? Has there been progress?

My perspective on this changes all the time. I am learning every day — often about not-so-pleasant things. Criminality is constantly changing. Horrible new ways of exploiting people keep emerging. But I also think that the level of awareness among decision-makers has developed positively. A number of countries are drawing up new legislation, reviewing their structures and increasing their support for NGOs.

Let's not lose sight of the fact that the OSCE's approach is based on the principles of human rights and the goal of protecting the victim, which are not always easy to put into practice. Helping victims alone demands a high level of professional competence, a commitment to long-term support and a willingness for a wide range of actors to co-operate.

And let's be aware that behind many stories of trafficked children and women and men is a long history of exploitation and of society's failure to protect them. Despite this, we know people are remarkably resourceful and resilient and *can* recover from a traumatic experience, especially if they manage to get help early. This is why identifying victims early is crucial.

And we also have to be willing to try new approaches. At a conference on trafficking in children in May this year, we brought together people responsible for the protection of children at the local level. Most of us think that social work at the grass-roots level does not carry any implications beyond the local level, but under international law, countries are obliged to protect every child under their jurisdiction, whether the child is from a village or from a city, and regardless of the child's immigration status. This was the first time local counterparts from both origin and destination countries came together — and now I hope it will be easier for them to work with one another.

What are your hopes and plans for 2009, your third year in office?

I would like to increase the focus on issues concerning prevention, which is one of the most challenging tasks in fighting trafficking because it is about changing behaviour and changing societies. But I would say that my most urgent short-term priority is the work we're doing on national rapporteurs. I hope that a significant number of countries will be able to introduce this mechanism before too long — preferably before I complete my term of office of course! This would represent a major step forward in our anti-trafficking efforts.

Helsinki, 10 September, OSCE Conference on the Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking. Finnish President Tarja Halonen (centre) with Ambassador Aleks Harkonen, Head of the OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, and OSCE Special Representative Eva Biaudet.

Photo courtesy of Petri Krook <http://koti.welho.com/petkrook>

In the politico-military dimension for instance, OSCE experts train border personnel to identify fraudulent documents and to distinguish victims of trafficking from criminals engaged in the activity. We also co-operate very closely with our policing colleagues.

In the economic dimension, the emphasis is on empowering women by supporting job creation in areas with a high rate of migration. The OSCE's gender specialists address domestic, gender-based violence that clearly puts people at risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

Our Office also interacts regularly with field staff who specialize in trafficking issues. Together we discuss the projects and priorities that we should help push higher on the host countries' political agendas. I value the support we get from our field staff for our efforts — to promote the creation of national rapporteurs, for example.

“Trafficking in human beings means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)



Acting against trafficking

Self-directing the theatre of life's hard knocks

Focus on anti-trafficking

Eastern Europe

Moldova

BY JUDITH HALE

Nicon Caraman, aged 22, spends many Saturdays driving several hours on bumpy, zigzag roads. His destinations are schools in the most remote corners of Moldova, usually run-down structures with shattered windows and poor heating — if any — even in the dead of winter. Upon arrival, Nikon finds no welcome mat laid out for him; in fact the reception can be downright frosty. But he is too focused on the job at hand to take it personally. Warming up with a generous dose of tea, which he keeps piping hot in a thermos, he prepares to get into character.

Along with 14 associates, Nikon is a volunteer actor and trainer whose aim is to reach out to young people in rural and isolated parts of the country by bringing the “Forum Theatre” right to their doorstep. This year, the Association of Young Trainers from Moldova, as the group calls itself, has decided to shine a spotlight on the harsh realities of trafficking.

The plot is fictional but realistic at the same time, simple and easy to follow although it deals with complex issues: A young Moldovan is confronted

with a seemingly insurmountable set of problems. Gets into heated argument with parents. Hears about an attractive job offer that sounds like it could be the way out of a desperate situation. Takes a risk. Becomes easy prey for traffickers. Winds up in deep trouble.

The initially sceptical students, ranging in age from early teens to early twenties, stay glued to their uncomfortable chairs through the twists and turns of the story. But — hold on — this is no ordinary theatre; the ending is not quite the ending. Members of the audience get to “rewind” the scenes, go back in time and start with a clean slate.

By exchanging views with the characters, the students start reflecting about how their own goals and values and their concern for their safety and self-respect might influence their choices if they found themselves in a similar dilemma. They discover that they can interrupt the action on stage and say: “Stop, that’s risky! Why don’t you try taking another route instead?”

The second time around, the plot unfolds differently and so does the protagonist’s destiny.

When Ion (not his real name) walked into the cold, makeshift theatre — actually the school gym — he could not resist making fun of the whole event and announcing out loud for all to hear that he would not stay until the end. But then, transfixed by the scene played out in front of him, Ion’s expression changed from cynical to alarmed as

A village school in Calarasi, western Moldova, 11 September. More than 200 students and their teachers watch the unfolding of a scene on human trafficking, after which they can interact with actors and shape the plot.
Photo: OSCE/Dumitru Berzan

Reaching out to vulnerable groups in Moldova. Over the past few months, I have attended many of the performances of the “Forum Theatre” all across Moldova — in Causeni, Criuleni, Calarasi and Dubasari — and I must say that I have never seen such intent-looking young audiences following every move on stage and listening to the dialogue with rapt attention.

These adolescents are the prime target group of our outreach campaign. Their age range, their economic background and their family situation combine to make them among the most vulnerable to trafficking in Moldova today.

As is widely known, Moldova is a major source country for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of exploitation. We hope that when they realize what can happen to their friends and relatives abroad, these young people will behave more responsibly if and when they decide to join the exodus abroad, and that they will think twice about “helping” others to migrate.

Up to around 30 per cent of the work force, or about 750,000 people, are believed to have left this country of four million, either legally or illegally, in search of greener pastures. NGOs believe that more than one per cent of these migrants have been — or will be — trafficked at some point.

And so, when we take the travelling play on human trafficking to schools in the far reaches of the country, including

areas close to or inside Transdniestria, these staggering figures are uppermost in our minds: Close to half of the student population in Moldova has at least one parent who has been absent for months or even years. An estimated 20 per cent of children have both parents living and working abroad.

With parentless households, poor job prospects, and television touting the good life in the West, it is hardly surprising that people are convinced they are making a perfectly rational choice when they decide to remove themselves from their irrational situation. At least 25 per cent of young Moldovan women, for example, experience violence in the home. Victims of domestic abuse are more likely to be trafficked: 90 per cent of identified trafficked victims had experienced violence at home.

Since 2001, more than 2,500 people from Moldova have been identified as victims of trafficking by the International Organization for Migration and its partners. Although the majority of them are women, more and more male victims of exploitation in the labour force have been seeking assistance. Cases of children and minors being trafficked for begging and petty crime are also increasingly coming to light.

Working with more than 25 implementing partners, the OSCE Mission to Moldova has been co-ordinating efforts to combat trafficking, assist victims and improve the efficiency of the prosecution process since 2003. Directly or through its partners, the Mission provides public officials and representatives of civil society with policy, legislative and institutional support.

Veaceslav Balan, Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme Assistant in the OSCE Mission to Moldova

www.osce.org/moldova



Confronting the harsh realities of human trafficking.

OSCE/DUMITRU BERZAN

Nicon, playing the role of a violent father, raised his hand against his child.

Ion felt compelled to make himself heard once again, this time to seek answers to some concerns troubling him. He proposed wiser choices for the characters and asked them why they behaved the way they did. And he could not resist giving the father some advice on how he could perhaps be a better parent.

“This could easily happen to any of us,” Ion said, turning to the audience. “Let us not break off our

friendships with people who return home from their horrible experiences in a foreign place. That is exactly when they need our love and sympathy the most.”

By year’s end, Nicon and his friends will have presented 20 performances to about 8,000 young people, teachers, social workers and local public officials. “We deliberately seek out schools that we know offer poor-quality education, where students are given few opportunities to broaden their minds,” says Dumitru Berzan, a 26-year-old former professor of German language and literature, who is the driving force behind the Forum Theatre.

He describes some of the challenges that the group has encountered along the way: having to deal with wary school administrators who cancel the event at the last minute, for example, or having to perform in less than ideal spaces such as school corridors and classrooms, and even in a forest.

“Once, a teacher demanded that we stop in the middle of what she felt was an ugly scene,” recounts Dumitru. “We managed somehow to get her to let us continue, and she ended up thanking us profusely. She said she could not have imagined that such a dark narrative could prove so enlightening.”

Dumitru credits some friends for bringing the innovative outreach technique to his attention after discovering it during a stay in Italy. “Social theatre using the ‘psychosocial animation’ method is new to Moldova,” he says. “It works really well in large groups, even in front of an audience of more than 200 people.” The OSCE Mission to Moldova is an enthusiastic supporter and provides generous funding for the miscellaneous expenses of the six-month project.

“We have found the perfect art form that reflects reality,” Dumitru says. “The interactive approach makes the audience more receptive to messages because they are passed on from trainers who are also relatively young. By involving themselves in the plot, students learn what it feels like to go through some wrenching decision-making. They realize that it is within their power to make wise choices for themselves. The hope is that the whole theatre experience will be a deterrent to their having anything to do with the trafficking trade in the future, either as victims or as perpetrators.”

Dumitru never tires of jotting down his observations from each performance and indulging in some self-analysis on how he and his fellow volunteers are also benefiting from their Saturday activity. “In our efforts to make Moldova a better place to live in,” he writes, “we’ve become more open to all sorts of people and circumstances, and this has been good for our personal growth. I can’t think of a more worthwhile way to spend a weekend.”

Judith Hale is the Senior Anti-Trafficking and Gender Adviser to the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Naked facts

People are not a commodity

BY MILUTIN PETROVIC

Trafficking in human beings is one of the most pressing problems that Serbia is facing today. Because of its complex nature, it is not easy to combat. Unfortunately, we cannot all be like Clint Eastwood who can take care of the bad guy while munching on a sandwich at the same time. However, we can at least try to think of practical and imaginative ways to fight evil.

I believe that individuals like you and me *can* make a difference — but only by joining hands with law enforcement officials, civil society activists and committed organizations. This is why I decided to join the “Naked Facts” campaign of ASTRA, a local NGO that works closely with the OSCE Mission to Serbia to fight trafficking. In fact I felt it was almost my patriotic duty to get involved.

Why “Naked Facts”? In this age of media-hype and shrill marketing, activists need to challenge themselves to learn how to draw the



ASTRA

public’s attention to important social messages. So we decided to compete in this fast-paced multimedia environment by building a campaign around a picture showing naked — or half-naked — men, which is still considered taboo, at least in our part of the world. Alongside this image are these stark words:

Women are not meat.

Children are not slaves.

People are not a commodity.

These are just the naked facts.

I led the creative team that drew up the public service announcement and also directed the radio and television spots. There were no plans for me to be part of the “naked” group. However, after some of the men got cold feet at the last minute, I stepped in as a replacement.

Novi Sad, Serbia, July 2008.

One of the many young people at the forefront of the anti-trafficking campaign of the NGO ASTRA does her part at an international music festival.

Disturbing trends in trafficking in Serbia.

The profile of human trafficking in Serbia has been undergoing a transformation over the past eight years. Originally a destination and transit country, today the country has also become a source of victims, most of whom are being trafficked internally.

And while most of the victims identified used to be foreigners, today the overwhelming majority are from Serbia itself. Of 38 people identified as victims by the authorities so far this year, for example, all but five were of Serbian origin.

Trafficking is no longer just for sexual exploitation. Other forms — for forced labour, forced begging and petty crimes, and fixed marriages — are on the rise. Minors younger than 18 make up about half of the victims identified.

Since 2001, the OSCE Mission to Serbia has been spearheading international efforts to combat trafficking in the country by promoting preventative measures, the protection of victims, and the prosecution of perpetrators at both the policy and the practical levels. It works closely with key professional groups in the policing, judicial and social support sectors to improve their capacity to deal with trafficking.

The Mission has served as a bridge between the Government and specialized NGOs, and this has resulted in the forging of a dynamic partnership. This alliance led to the adoption, in December 2006, of a comprehensive national anti-trafficking strategy which the OSCE Mission had helped draft and negotiate.

With the help of the Mission, Serbia became one of the first countries in south-eastern Europe to put in place an institutional structure to identify victims of human trafficking and refer them to specialized support services. The concept is patterned after the national referral mechanisms that have been promoted by the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Today, the official focal point for action to combat trafficking in Serbia is the State Agency for the Co-ordination of the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims, with three specialized NGOs playing a vital role by managing a hotline, running shelters and offering reintegration programmes, among a wide spectrum of services.

Madis Vainomaa, Human Rights Programme Co-ordinator, OSCE Mission to Serbia

www.osce.org/serbia

When we launched the campaign and the image was splashed on billboards and posters all over Belgrade, everyone was shocked at its boldness — I would like to think in an exhilarating way. I think we succeeded in teasing people's minds, which we had set out to do in the first place.

I remember coming across a similar campaign by the Swedes a few years ago; from what I recall of the images, a dash of humour was intended. Our concept was different. Although some of my friends could not resist cracking jokes about our picture, they soon realized that it wasn't meant to be funny.

Indeed, most people were rather moved. Several friends said that they considered our participation in the project as an act of courage and chivalry. My family was supportive and proud of my role, both behind the scenes and under the spotlight. This feedback was important to me; I felt that I had set a positive example of civic activism for my growing daughters.

Proof that we had succeeded came when — after bracing ourselves for some critical coverage

in the tabloids, the daily fare of the general Serbian public — the reporting turned out to be actually rather thoughtful and sober.

I do hope that the campaign has a long-term impact among the population in terms of lessening the ignorance about the problem and addressing the deep-seated prejudice against trafficking victims. I believe it is this ignorance and this prejudice that embolden criminals to carry out this inhuman activity. Educating the general public is a concrete, first step to try to do something about it. Without this starting point, the police, the judiciary and other legal and social services cannot do battle with this modern-day evil.

Milutin Petrovic is a Serbian film producer, actor, writer, composer and rock and roll musician. He was the executive producer, editor and actor in "Land of Truth, Love and Freedom", which was named the best film in the former Yugoslavia in 2000 and received wide acclaim at international film festivals.



How an NGO and the OSCE teamed up with an all-male personality line-up to fight trafficking in Serbia



We wanted to do something that was different from anything that had ever been done before, something that would shake people out of their comfort zone. When we got in touch with Milutin Petrovic to let him know we wanted to come up with a short video in connection with our awareness-raising campaign, we felt that he was exactly the

person we were looking for. Apart from being a popular and respected personality in Serbia, he is always bursting with creative ideas.

Nadezda Milenkovic was the creative director of this ambitious campaign. Besides Milutin, who was the film director, six other well-known personalities in Serbia took part in the "notorious" poster: journalists Željko

Bodrožić, Jugoslav Ćosić and Dejan Anastasijević; Ivan Tasovac, director of the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra; Vukašin Marković, actor and leader of a popular reggae band; and Branislav Lečić, actor and former Minister of Culture under the late Prime Minister Zoran Đinđić.

I'm sure it was not easy for them to stand in front of photographers

and television cameras and allow themselves to be featured in posters, billboards and television spots — in the buff. But I hope that they realize that thanks to them, the campaign's messages are being sent out loud and clear.

In fact, just recently, I heard an elderly couple in the bus discussing how they had just learned that anybody can be a potential victim of trafficking and that one can call a help hotline 24 hours a day. Right there and then, two myths had been shattered: young women and girls are not the only ones who fall prey to trafficking, and it is not only the police who can help.

In the past six years, ASTRA's awareness raising campaigns, supported by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, have led to an increase in the number of calls to our hotline, which is the only one in the country. As a result, we have been

able to identify and assist some 270 victims so far, including more than 100 children. Equally important, we are also receiving more calls alerting us to suspected cases, enabling us to carry out preventative work.

In the long-run, though, we can only be fully effective if we have a favourable political climate. It will be so much easier for us if the authorities acknowledge that human trafficking is one of the most profitable forms of organized crime and that they will do all they can to tackle it.

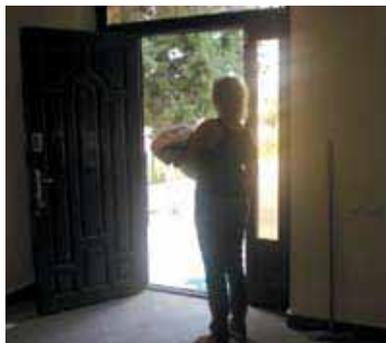
Ivana Radovic, Co-ordinator of the Prevention and Education Programme of ASTRA, an NGO dedicated to eradicating all forms of trafficking in human beings, especially in women and children.

The "Naked Facts" campaign, launched in June 2008, will run until the end of the year: www.astra.org.yu/novi

Sheltering victims

Azerbaijan searches for solutions

Baku, Azerbaijan. After their harrowing experience, trafficking victims feel safe, secure and cared for in their temporary home.
Photos: Baku Shelter/
Mehriben Zeynalova



BY RASHAD HUSEYNOV

“I had nowhere else to turn. All I could think of was how to put an end to my miserable existence,” says Irada (not her real name), 28. “But after coming to this place, I started thinking about tomorrow. Now I know I won’t be alone.”

“This place” is the three-storey Baku Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking, which the Azerbaijani Government set up in 2006, following the adoption in 2004 of its national anti-trafficking action plan which the OSCE Office in Baku had helped prepare. The shelter is run by the NGO “Clean World” and financed by the State budget.

Irada could never have imagined that her ill fortune — marriage to an alcoholic and subsequent divorce — could take a turn for the worse. “I could not go back to my family because I had gotten married without their consent,” she says. “Then I met an old friend who said she could help me get a job in Dubai as a nanny. She and her brother immediately started getting all my documents ready and before I knew it, I was off to Dubai.”

Irada was in for a rude awakening shortly after landing at the airport of the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates. “I was deprived of all my papers and forced to work as a prostitute.”

A few months later, one of her clients helped her get in touch with law enforcement authorities in her native Azerbaijan who arranged her return home. Personnel of the Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which is part of the Interior Ministry, met Irada at the Baku International Airport and took her to the shelter.

Relieved that she made it back safe and sound,

Irada was still confused about one thing: What was she to do with the baby she was expecting? She was leaning towards having an abortion but after a few days at the shelter, changed her mind when she was assured of free maternity care.

“I now have a reason to go on living,” says Irada.

“This year, apart from Irada, we took two other pregnant women under our wing,” says Mehriben Zeynalova, director of the Shelter. “We have places for 50 victims of human trafficking. We can actually take in men too, but so far all our temporary residents have been women: In 2006, we took in just four, then, in 2007, the number went up to 29. So far this year, we have taken in 38 women.”

The staff have been thoroughly trained in the day-to-day running of the shelter and the proper way of dealing with victims of trafficking. Conducted by experts from Ukraine, the courses were financed and organized by the OSCE Office in Baku in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration. The OSCE Office also provided financial assistance to refurbish the shelter and establish a toll-free hotline for victims.

Access to medical and psychological counselling and to legal assistance is made possible by the Ministries of Education and Health Care. Victims are also helped to reunite with their families — not an easy task since victims are usually held responsible for their plight. The Government also gives victims the equivalent of \$40 when they leave the shelter.

“The humane treatment of victims like Irada is very much at the forefront of our efforts,” says Ms. Zeynalova. “A working group of 11 members from various NGOs closely monitors the way the

New report challenges myths about trafficking in Azerbaijan.

Trafficking in human beings in Azerbaijan is usually associated only with exploitation in prostitution affecting women. Now a recently released report, entitled “Determinants of Labour Exploitation and Trafficking of Nationals and Foreigners in Azerbaijan”, has challenged this narrow view.

“It’s the first-ever report on Azerbaijan focusing on trafficking for labour exploitation and forced labour, which affects mostly men,” says Blanka Hancilova, the report’s lead author. “Interest in this lesser-known area is growing. After all, targeted action against human trafficking is possible only if one understands its different forms.”

The report indicates that exploitation is taking place not only in the sex business, but also in the construction and oil industries and in sectors dealing with agriculture, domestic services, open-air markets, and restaurants and catering.

It discusses Azerbaijan as a destination for potential victims of labour exploitation from such countries as Pakistan, India and China — a relatively new phenomenon stemming from the country’s oil and construction boom.

“No one who has been exploited in areas other than prostitution has yet been able to come forward and seek legal recourse”, says Ms. Hancilova. “This suggests that the legal and judicial system may not even be aware that labour exploitation is an issue. Certainly it shows that there is a lack of both governmental and NGO support for victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, who often happen to be men.

But the report also mentions a few bright spots: a Government-supported shelter for victims of sexual exploitation and a special police department which identified more than 100 trafficked women from Moldova, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan itself in 2007.

The report is part of a long-term project to develop a comprehensive response to trafficking in the South Caucasus which is being implemented by the International Labour Organization in close partnership with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the OSCE, with funding from the European Commission (TACIS).

Maryam Haji-Ismayilova, focal point for action to combat trafficking at the OSCE Office in Baku

www.osce.org/baku

shelter is run to ensure that it meets the standards laid down in the national action plan.”

MORE SHELTERS

Visiting the shelter during an official trip to Azerbaijan in June this year, Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, welcomed the Interior Ministry’s plan to open four other similar shelters in different regions of the country.

“My general impression is that the Azerbaijani authorities are committed to fighting human trafficking,” she said, after meeting the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the Minister of the Interior, the Prosecutor General and representatives from the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

At the same time, she expressed concern at the low numbers of victims identified — about 100 in 2007 — relative to the scope of the problem. “Experience from other OSCE countries has shown that victims hesitate to turn to the law enforcement authorities for help,” she said. “They do not have enough confidence in the system and



False job advertisements in newspapers promise high wages in Azerbaijan and abroad. A poster of the International Organization for Migration says: “Don’t be fooled! Check it out!”

are concerned that corrupt practices will place them at further risk. This is why we are advocating that the country set up a national referral mechanism to serve as a safe channel through which victims can seek assistance, that will make it easier for them to come forward.”

She called attention to the importance of raising awareness among the public and of giving special training to law enforcers, labour inspectors and health personnel who are likely to deal with victims.

Ms. Biaudet also urged the Government to recognize the crucial role played by NGOs. “More efficient victim identification can take place only through the increased involvement of civil society institutions,” she said.

In 2008, aside from Azerbaijan, Ms. Biaudet and her staff have also visited Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Romania and Spain to assess the efforts of those countries to promote action against trafficking as a national priority and to implement their OSCE commitments.

Jose Luis Herrero, Head of the OSCE Office in Baku, says that the revision of the national action plan by the Interior Ministry serves as an opportunity to address the concerns raised by Eva Biaudet. “In fact, the authorities are open to any assistance that international organizations and NGOs can contribute to the process,” he says. “In the meantime, the OSCE Office will do everything it can to continue building the capacity of the Government, local NGOs and civil society to tackle this challenge.”

Azerbaijan has been primarily a source and transit country for trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour, but it is fast becoming a destination country for this criminal activity because of its rapid oil-based growth. According to this year’s official estimates, crimes related to human trafficking have increased by more than 50 per cent, with almost 40 criminal groups detained.

Rashad Huseynov is a National Press and Public Information Officer in the OSCE Office in Baku.

Steering clear of the snares of traffickers

Kayrakkum, northern Tajikistan, 25 July. Left to right: Alisher Alajanov, from the NGO "Golden Goal" in Kyrgyzstan, Shakhnoza Khasanova, a student from Kazakhstan, and Gulchehra Mirzoeva from the NGO "Modar" exchange views at the summer school. Behind them is a sign saying, "Youth for a world free of human trafficking".



BY FIRUZA GULOMASEINOVA

Over ten days in July this year, 60 high school and university students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, aged 15 to 26, relaxed, made friends, shared experiences, swam in the lake, produced a play and displayed their art work at the "Shifo" camp at Lake Kayrakkum in northern Tajikistan.

Lest this be misconstrued as frivolous holiday fun, courtesy of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, the thread weaving these activities together was a seminar to raise the awareness of young people about one of the most crucial issues of their time: how to avoid becoming "trophies of traffickers".

The summer school sought to instil a sense of personal and social responsibility in the students, enable them to foster networks and absorb as much information as possible to protect themselves from the perils of trafficking. This was the first camp addressing the topic of trafficking in Central Asia.

"Trafficking does not always involve crossing a border, of course," says Graziella Piga, Manager of the Gender and Anti-Trafficking Programme of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

"However, in this country and in many parts of Central Asia, the trend is for young people to leave their country right after high school, often illegally. Trafficking in minors and children, whether for sex or for labour exploitation, is increasing at an alarming rate."

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are source countries for trafficked women, while Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan serve as source, transit and destination countries.

Shakhnoza Khasanova, 22, from Kazakhstan agreed that young people like herself belong to the most vulnerable group. "Many of us are lured by images of a beautiful life beyond the borders of our homeland, which make us easy prey for traffickers," Shakhnoza said, "and there is very little information about the risks associated with seeking our fortune abroad."

"I hardly knew anything about the trafficking problem before I joined the summer school," said Sevara Khalmatova, 18, a student at the Kyrgyz-Uzbek University in Osh,

Kyrgyzstan. "Now I'm very well informed. What stuck in my mind is that I should be wary of job offers abroad, no matter how well they pay."

Completion of the summer school does not mean the end of the active involvement of the 60 students.

"We're instilling in these young people the responsibility to pass on their new knowledge to as many of their peers as possible, said Gulchehra Mirzoeva from the NGO "Modar", which helped make the seminar possible. "We're encouraging them to form groups of volunteers, write articles for their local paper, organize seminars at their universities, and spread information through their friends and the Internet."

Daler Juraev, a third-year student at the Khujand branch of the Tajik Technical University, says that he will be assigned to a local school in Istravshan district for his practice-teaching period and plans to devote two or three sessions to human trafficking based on the courses at the summer school.

"It occurred to me that I can take advantage of this useful experience to organize a similar summer school in Kyrgyzstan," said Alisher Alajanov, 26, who represented "Golden Goal", an NGO in Osh that works closely with the OSCE's Field Office in fighting trafficking. He led the five Kyrgyz students who participated in the camp.

The seminar, which the OSCE Office in Tajikistan helped design, support and administer, was organized in co-operation with two NGOs and had the full support of the Government's Inter-Ministerial Commission to Combat Human Trafficking.

The summer school was part of a broader programme including workshops in key cities for young people, teacher training and a series of awareness-raising campaigns. In July, for example, the OSCE Office held an anti-trafficking seminar for the staff of 14 embassies and consulates in Tajikistan responsible for issuing visa and travel documents.

Firuz Gulomaseinova is a Senior Press and Public Information Assistant in the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

Mining the OSCE's institutional memory

Ten years of the Researcher-in-Residence Programme

By Alice Nemcova

Leafing through nearly 180 research proposals that the OSCE's Prague Office has supported and promoted over the past ten years, only occasionally did my memory fail me as I recently tried to put faces to names. Most of the master's and doctoral degree candidates and political and social scientists who have spent from a few weeks to six months as Researchers-in-Residence in the Prague Office have left an indelible mark on my mind.

There has been no shortage of outstanding personalities in our midst: Professor Paul Gordon Lauren, a distinguished professor of history at the University of Montana, who came especially to gather material for his book on human rights; Chen Xulong of the University of Beijing and Michael Moser of the University of Wisconsin, who became good friends after discovering a shared interest in the role of small and large States in the shaping of the Helsinki Final Act; and a group of Italian researchers from Bologna whom we hosted in three batches and worked with over two years on a book about the co-operative aspects of the OSCE's presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Admittedly, spending one's waking hours in the monk-like activity of reading and scanning manuscripts, and drawing up catalogues, indexes and chronological charts is not everyone's idea of an exciting job with the OSCE, which is better known for its conflict prevention activities and field operations. But over at the Prague Office, seeing a researcher's radiant grin or hearing an exclamation of triumph after weeks or months of inquisitive and persistent research is enough to make our day. This is the moment when one elusive missing link suddenly surfaces from a vast sea of seemingly disconnected data.

My understanding of the history of the OSCE region and the role of the OSCE's institutional memory was yet to be honed when I joined the secretariat of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Prague in March 1991. This was a time of momentous geopolitical change. A few months earlier, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe had just heralded a new role for the CSCE: to promote and support stability and security in a new, post-Cold War Europe extending beyond the Ural Mountains.

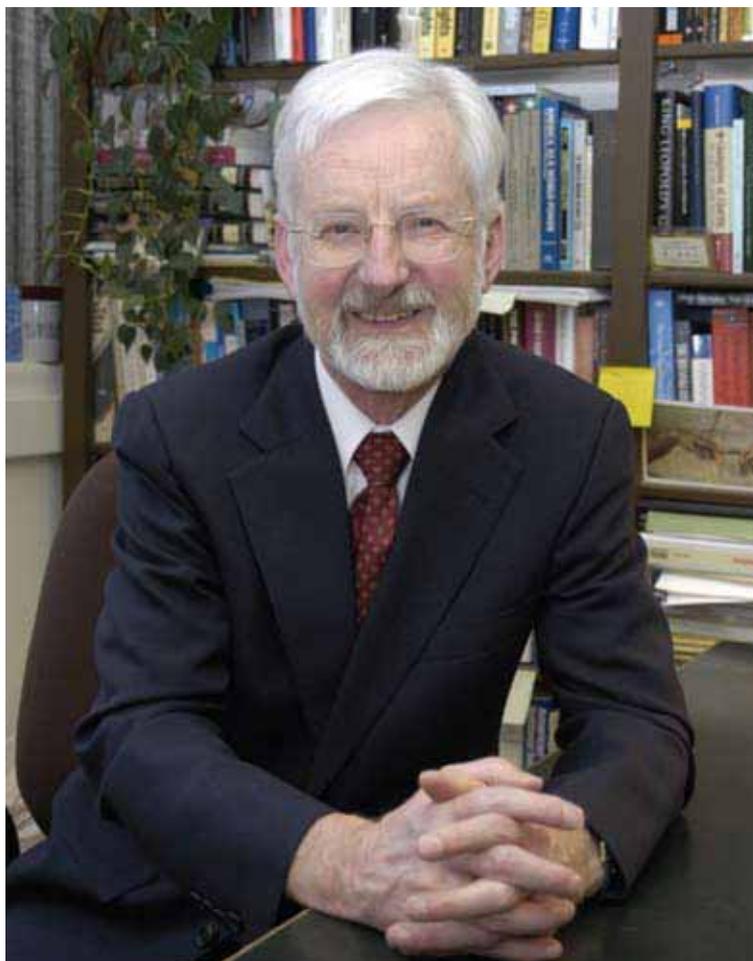
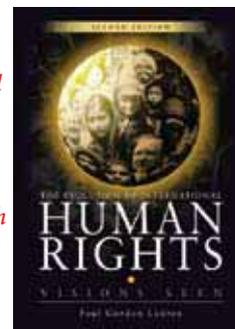
To support and sustain this formidable mandate, the Heads of State or Government agreed that it was time to give the CSCE a semblance

*"Any book of high quality — particularly one dealing with a topic as complicated and as sensitive as human rights — is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of its sources. In writing *The Evolution of International Human Rights: Vision Seen* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998 and 2003), I needed to consult original documents dealing with the negotiations surrounding the Helsinki Final Act, the origins of the OSCE itself, and subsequent efforts to advance human rights.*

The documents made available to me by the most helpful staff of the Researcher-in-Residence Programme of the OSCE in Prague in June and July 2001 were simply invaluable. They provided information and insights that I would have never been able to discover anywhere else. For this, I am most grateful.

The book, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, has been translated into Arabic, and is currently being translated into Chinese. It served as the basis for a 'Great Course' offered by The Teaching Company, entitled 'The Rights of Man'. A third edition of the book is being prepared."

Paul Gordon Lauren, Regents Professor, University of Montana



of permanence by establishing a secretariat in Prague, a Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna and an Office for Free Elections in Warsaw.

When the CSCE Council of Ministers met for the fourth time in Rome in 1993 and decided to move the secretariat to Vienna, they also agreed to leave an office in Prague to serve as a depository of historical documents. Although the goal of consolidating all the policy archives of the CSCE and making them available in digital format seemed daunting at the time, today the Prague Office is proud of the fact that a large part of its historical collections is now available on the public as well as internal OSCE websites in all the Organization's six working languages.

Having been responsible for documentation services at the meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials (forerunner of the Senior and Permanent Councils), and the first five CSCE Councils of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, I learned a lot about the flow of information during the negotiating and decision-making processes of these bodies. This experience proved most useful in carrying out our team's initiatives, such as designing a blueprint for an electronic document management system, which was launched in 2000, or the production of a CD-ROM containing 30 years' worth of conference documents (1972 to 2002).

From a public visibility point of view, one could conclude that the Researcher-in-Residence Programme is a well-kept OSCE secret and that the archives in Prague can only serve as a reference service. But those who apply to the Programme are aware that, once accepted, they will be granted direct access to a treasure trove of primary sources and will be able to devote their undivided attention to their projects.

So what subjects have drawn academics and practitioners to the Prague Office? The OSCE's field operations, especially the large missions in south-eastern Europe, lead the list, followed by issues in the human dimension, relations between the OSCE and other international organizations, and politico-military issues such as the security sector and disarmament.

A thorough review of the first decade of the Researcher-in-Residence Programme has revealed that, while a wide expanse of terrain has been covered, much more remains to be explored. This is not surprising, considering the debates and discourses stemming from a consensus-based political decision-making process in the OSCE. And besides, the archives in Prague span 36 years of dramatic moments of European history.

Years ago, a former colleague who was also a kindred spirit wrote a paper bewailing the absence of an analytical capability within the Organization. He touched upon the fact that irreplaceable information would be lost if nothing was done to

Interested in becoming a Researcher-in-Residence? Contact:

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Prague Office website:
www.osce.org/secretariat/13083.html

OSCE documents available to the public:
www.osce.org/documents

The Prague Office staff pose with a poster commemorating a meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in 1992, a significant historic event that took place in Prague. Left to right: Jiri Macke, Senior Finance and Administrative Assistant; Irena Seidlova, Office Assistant; Ambassador Jaromir Kvapil, Head of Office; Iveta Dzurikova, Secretary; Chris Hall, Archives Assistant; David Bednar, Senior Information Technology Assistant; Claire Loucks, intern; and Alice Nemcova, Senior Documentation and Information Assistant and Co-ordinator of the Researcher-in-Residence Programme. Not shown is Oldrich Hrabanek, Information Technology Assistant.



preserve the existing institutional memory: "The OSCE has a rich and interesting history which needs to be preserved. The Organization is too young to be losing its memory and too small to do everything in-house."

My friend was right to sound this ominous warning. Ten years on, however, he can rest easy since the OSCE's Prague Office has been providing Researchers-in-Residence with enough factual evidence to keep the history of the OSCE and its

painstakingly learned lessons alive for the foreseeable future.

Alice Nemcova, Senior Documentation and Information Assistant in the Prague Office of the OSCE Secretariat, co-ordinates the Researchers-in-Residence Programme. She is also a focal point for records management within the OSCE, working closely with Conference Services, the Press and Public Information Section, and Information Management in Vienna.

Why should traumatic events have well-ordered archives?

By Martine Hawkes

When I arrived in Prague from Australia to conduct research for my doctoral thesis, my original intention was to focus on the reconciliation issues in the aftermath of genocide. However, as I became more familiar with the OSCE's historical documents, I found myself slightly altering my approach to the subject as I became drawn to the role archives play in responding to genocide and similar tragedies.

I was given invaluable access to the official documents of the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM), which the OSCE deployed in late 1998 and had to withdraw in early 1999. This less organized material opened my eyes to the more invisible challenges of archiving and responding to traumatic events.

The discovery of this collection proved crucial to my research and has raised many interesting questions that it would never have occurred to me to ask: How can an archive be linear and well-ordered when it springs from trauma? Should the "archive of trauma" be as sequential and as acceptable as an ordinary library or a museum?

Surely it is only fitting that such an archive should be somewhat in disarray, as deciding what to keep and what to discard would not come easily to its guardians. After all, despite its seemingly "systematic" nature, genocide disobeys all "natural" orders. Surely it would be harder to bear if the archives of episodes such as these did not appear somewhat chaotic and unstructured? Perhaps the unofficial OSCE-KVM records tell us something of the uncertainty and the immobilizing effect of these traumatic events?

These are the questions that I am now in the final stages (I hope!) of exploring through my thesis. My three-month stint in Prague as a Researcher-in-Residence, from July to September 2006, was truly a unique opportunity to immerse myself in the process and philosophies that gave birth to an incredible archive.

Martine Hawkes is a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at the University of South Australia in Adelaide, but is based in Melbourne.



The Prague Office serves as the depository of archival materials covering:

- The Helsinki process (1973-1975)
- The Organization's evolutionary phase as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, including three follow-up meetings and most expert meetings, as well the Stockholm phase of the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures (1976-1989)
- The years during which the CSCE built its institutions and became an organization (1990-1995) and the launching of field activities (1991-2000)

Most of these documents are available in the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Japan: Learning from democratic control of defence policy

by **Isao Miyaoka**

I had long been interested in finding out more about the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, a landmark agreement adopted at the highest level by the participating States at the Budapest Summit in 1994. I was especially curious about how international norms concerning the democratic control of the armed forces were being promoted; I believed that Japan should loosen its bureaucratic grip on its self-defence forces and pursue a more democratic way.

Earlier, the OSCE's Prague Office had, at my request, sent specific electronic files and hard copies of documents to me in Japan. At a certain point in my research, however, I felt I needed to carry out a more systematic document search myself and to have direct access to as many records as possible.

The Researcher-in-Residence Programme afforded me the ideal vehicle to do so. Although my stay in Prague was brief — from March to April 2004 — the comprehensive database placed at my disposal, the well catalogued documentation, and the exceptionally helpful staff made it possible for me to carry out my research with maximum efficiency.

This research-friendly environment was consistent with a key principle that the OSCE advocates: transparency. I believe that the OSCE's credibility would be even further enhanced if it established a mechanism for declassifying restricted documents after a lapse of ten years or so.

My view is that the Researcher-in-Residence Programme deserves to be better known among scholars all over the world. I know of no other similar programme offered by other security-related institutions. The OSCE should be proud of this activity and continue to strengthen it as a model for other international organizations.

Isao Miyaoka, D. Phil.,
is an Associate Professor
at Osaka School of
International Public
Policy, Osaka University,
Japan.



“From March to May 2008, the OSCE’s Researcher-in-Residence Programme offered me a privileged first-row seat to observe the history and workings of one of the world’s most sophisticated international organizations. The opportunity to consult the archives and the extensive library, the multifaceted exchange with peers and experts, and the stimulating work environment contributed enormously to a successful outcome of my work on my master’s degree thesis on the role of armed non-State actors in security sector reform.”

Christoph Buehler (Switzerland), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and University of St. Gallen

National Minority issues

Historical documents reveal alternative views

By Matti Jutila

When minority issues reappeared on Europe's political agenda during the final years of the Cold War, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) served as a forum where governments discussed the subject and where they eventually adopted new norms for minority protection and related monitoring mechanisms.

The decisions and declarations of these meetings are readily available on the Internet. But the online route is not quite sufficient when one is writing, say, a doctoral thesis on the transnational governance of minority rights in post-Cold War Europe. By taking part in the Researcher-in-Residence Programme in September and October 2005, I was able to study the discussions and debates that went into the making of European minority policies.

Other researchers before me have already noted how the formation of the minority rights regime was influenced by developments in the former Yugoslavia and in parts of the former Soviet bloc. The minority protection system that has emerged since then is widely considered to be a rational response to the challenges facing the European continent.

Initially, I shared this view. Later on, however, I became more critical of it. I started investigating how this "rationale" had been constructed. My hunch was that it might have been built on an old and disputed theory stating that "nationalisms" in Europe were divided into Eastern (ethnic and "bad") and Western (civic and "good") nationalisms. An analysis of the speeches delivered at the Helsinki Summit in 1992 and other conferences supported my hypothesis.

This dichotomous view of European nationalisms, I believe, was essential in building the political rationale behind a minority protection system in which some countries are suspected of minority rights violations and some are deemed blameless — based not on the evaluation of their actual minority policies, but on their position in the dichotomy. The results of my study will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *European Journal of International Relations (EJIR)*, published by SAGE.

I found it illuminating to go through the endless stream of powerful speeches and statements delivered at the Helsinki Follow-Up Meeting

Matti Jutila is a researcher at the Aleksanteri Institute, the Finnish Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Helsinki's Department of Political Science.



in 1992 by various parties to the conflict, describing the situation in Yugoslavia. Had the Researcher-in-Residence Programme not granted me access to restricted material, it would have been impossible for me to gain valuable insights into the process that has led to today's commitments concerning minority rights.

Of course there remains the problem that material classified as restricted cannot be directly cited in publications. But it is sometimes possible to find ways to get around these constraints. In the library of the Finnish parliament, I discovered the same verbatim records from the

Helsinki Summit that I had studied in Prague, also marked restricted. And so, in my forthcoming article, I attribute direct citations to the "restricted" material in the library.

The Researcher-in-Residence Programme is essential to helping scholars gain a better understanding of OSCE policies and the processes behind their development. The OSCE archives contain draft declarations and proposals that did not make it into the final documents and that cannot be found from public sources. The best way researchers can return the favour is by undertaking research-based constructive criticism of these policies and processes.

OSCE and EU interaction

Preventing conflict in the Baltic States

By Stefan Gänzle

The OSCE clearly has a competitive advantage over other specialized research institutes and libraries in that its Prague Office boasts a complete collection of CSCE/OSCE documents dating back to the launching of the Helsinki Process in 1973. I was keen to gain access to these archives, which I knew would shed light on my topic of interest: OSCE and EU interaction aimed at preventing conflict in the Baltic States throughout the 1990s. The OSCE's Researcher-in-Residence Programme provided an opportunity for me to do so, but it did not offer any financial support. However, I was fortunate enough to be granted a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which funded my two-month stay in Prague under the Programme in February and March 2001.

Co-operation and co-ordination between interlocking institutions in post-Cold War Europe have rarely been the focal point of interest within the halls of academe. The relationship between the OSCE and the EU figures prominently in my doctoral thesis, which I completed in 2003 and which the Nomos press published in 2007. It makes a case for improved theoretical concepts relating to the making of EU foreign policy in general and the EU's activities in the northeastern Baltic Sea region in particular.

The withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, minority problems and border disputes were just a few of the many political issues that the OSCE had to tackle after the Baltic States were admitted to the CSCE in 1991. The Researcher-in-Residence Programme in Prague enabled me to carry out an in-depth study of relevant policy issues between the individual Baltic States, as well as between all of them and the Russian Federation.

I also examined all the initiatives that the EU had thus far launched under the umbrella of the OSCE, such as the Stability Pact for Europe, which was adopted under the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy in 1993, and which was presented through the diplomatic platform of the OSCE's Permanent Council.

The core concept behind EU foreign policy was mobilization of all the relevant actors in the region to pursue the common goal of a stable, secure and prosperous Northern Europe. By "integrating" both the individual countries and

Stefan Gänzle is a senior researcher at the German Development Institute (DIE) in Bonn. He has just returned from a four-year teaching stint at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver.



the institutions engaged in the Baltic Sea region into the drafting and implementation process of various foreign policy initiatives, the EU has managed to strengthen its capacity to solve problems in a complementary manner, which, in turn, enables it to pursue its overriding objective of strengthening its role in international affairs.

The Prague Office showed a great deal of interest in my studies and

helped me to identify interesting persons to interview within the OSCE itself. I was able to visit the Secretariat and the delegations of Estonia and Latvia to the OSCE in Vienna. Overall, I not only benefited academically, but I also had a wonderful time with interesting people from different places — even beyond the "Vancouver to Vladivostok" orbit — in an exciting city with golden roofs shimmering in the sun.



Scholarly studies based on research carried out at the Prague Office are keeping the OSCE's institutional memory alive and are enabling the international community to learn lessons.

Northern Ireland learns policing lessons from the Balkans

By Trevor Service

It seems like a lifetime ago that, in 2003, I was awarded one of five Royal Ulster Constabulary Bursaries in Northern Ireland to undertake research on policing methods based on partnerships. The concept behind the bursary scheme was to encourage officers of what has since become the Police Service of Northern Ireland to identify good practices in policing that we could learn from.

The topic I chose to explore was “Partnerships and Confidence-Building in the Post-Conflict Balkans”. It seemed a natural personal and professional choice for me. Certain aspects of the situation in the south-eastern European countries were similar to ours at home. We had divided communities, had emerged from a long history of violent and bloody civil strife, and were going through a peace process. The police, both in Northern Ireland and in the Balkan States, had been engaged in bringing about changes that sought to make them more accountable and acceptable to all sides of the community.

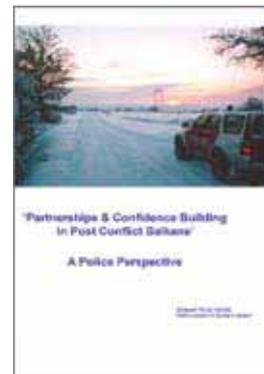
I spent some time examining archive material on the region under the Researcher-in-Residence Programme of the OSCE’s Prague Office before meeting members of the Strategic Police Matters Unit at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. This proved to be most useful and helped put things into context for my month-long field research in Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo.

I met Paul Richardson, a British police officer and police adviser with the OSCE Mission to Croatia and together we embarked on a whirlwind tour of Eastern Slavonia, where Paul arranged meetings with police and community representatives in Vukovar, Osijek and Ilok. I also visited the police academy in Zagreb and community groups in Knin, close to the Bosnian border, to satisfy my interest in police training and reform, especially as they relate to community policing.

From Croatia, I proceeded to the police academies in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, looking at how they trained police officers in community policing.

After a hectic month, I returned home to Belfast and spent another couple of months writing up my observations. Perhaps one of the most startling findings I came up with was at the Kosovo Police Service School, which at the time was being run by the OSCE (it has since evolved into the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development).

Trevor Service is a Police Inspector with the Police Service of Northern Ireland. He has been a police officer for 26 years and works in leadership development at the Police College in Belfast. He is responsible for designing and implementing training for community policing officers and has carried out research into community policing in south-eastern Europe, the United States and Sweden.



Trevor Service (left) and a police officer in Ilok, Croatia.

I had been invited to sit in on “community safety action team” training. This was an attempt to bring both sides of the community together in problem-solving involving police and other partners. To an outsider, this might not mean a lot. But when one is from somewhere like Northern Ireland or Kosovo, this would be considered a remarkable achievement.

The experience made such a huge impact on me that I returned again to the Kosovo Police Service School in 2005, solely to observe the same training on behalf of the Police College in Belfast. Kosovo police officers were somewhat bemused — but

pleased — that I was there wishing to learn from them, whereas a few years earlier, in 1999 and 2000, I had been mentoring fledgling local officers as part of my duties under CIVPOL, the UN Civilian Police programme.

Perhaps this was a reflection of the progress that the KPS had made in this short period. The training methods they had adopted, especially in relation to problem-solving and working with communities and other partners, certainly gave us in the Police Service of Northern Ireland food for thought concerning joint training with community representatives and police officers.

Post-conflict rehabilitation

Healing the trauma of war

By Erin Martz

I found out about the Researcher-in-Residence Programme purely by searching the Internet. With the help of the staff of the OSCE's Prague Office over a one-month period this past summer, I looked over documents containing information related to post-conflict rehabilitation. My goal was to analyse the multilevel processes and programmes that have led to the successful protection and rehabilitation of both individuals and communities after conflicts and wars.

This is the topic of my book, *Post-Conflict Rehabilitation: Creating a Trauma Membrane for Individuals and Communities and Restructuring Lives after Trauma*, which is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2010.

Apart from my research work in Prague, I exchanged views with several OSCE staff members in Vienna by e-mail and over the phone, and that gave me a better sense of the work that was being done by the OSCE participating States in my area of expertise.

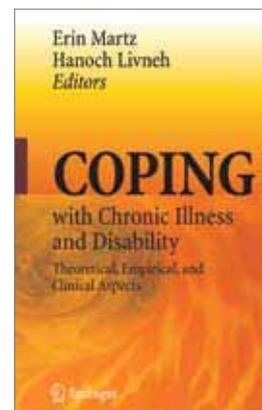
During my research, terminological differences between post-war reconstruction and post-war rehabilitation came to light. I gained new insights that found their way into the introductory chapter of my book, namely: At the international level, reconstruction — which can be considered part of development — is defined as the broad-based rebuilding of countries after conflict or war, especially in terms of infrastructure, such as roads, and physical resources needed for governments to function.

Rehabilitation, on the other hand, refers to the healing of the human being. This involves individual interventions to address psychological trauma or physical injuries and disabilities, for example, or the economic, social and political reintegration of groups of people at the community level.

Naturally, as my background is in rehabilitation counselling, education and research, I wish that more could be done to address the human concerns, but I do understand that resources to help countries recover from wars and conflict are often spread too thinly.

Erin Martz, Ph.D. and Certified Rehabilitation Counsellor, teaches in the Rehabilitation Counselling Programme of the University of Memphis (Tennessee, USA).

By taking part in the OSCE's Researcher-in-Residence Programme, Erin Martz sought to take her research from the individual to the community level.



"I was granted full access to the extensive library and archived collections of the Prague Office from February to April 2008 while working on my master's degree thesis analysing the role of "Europeanization" in the engagement of the EU and the OSCE in Kosovo. The opportunity to read between the lines of restricted documents provides researchers with a fresh look at well-known facts and events. The possibility to consult with OSCE experts, who are always ready to offer valuable advice, makes the Researcher-in-Residence Programme particularly important for scholars working on OSCE-related issues."

Vera Axyonova (Kazakhstan), Intercultural Communication and European Studies, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany

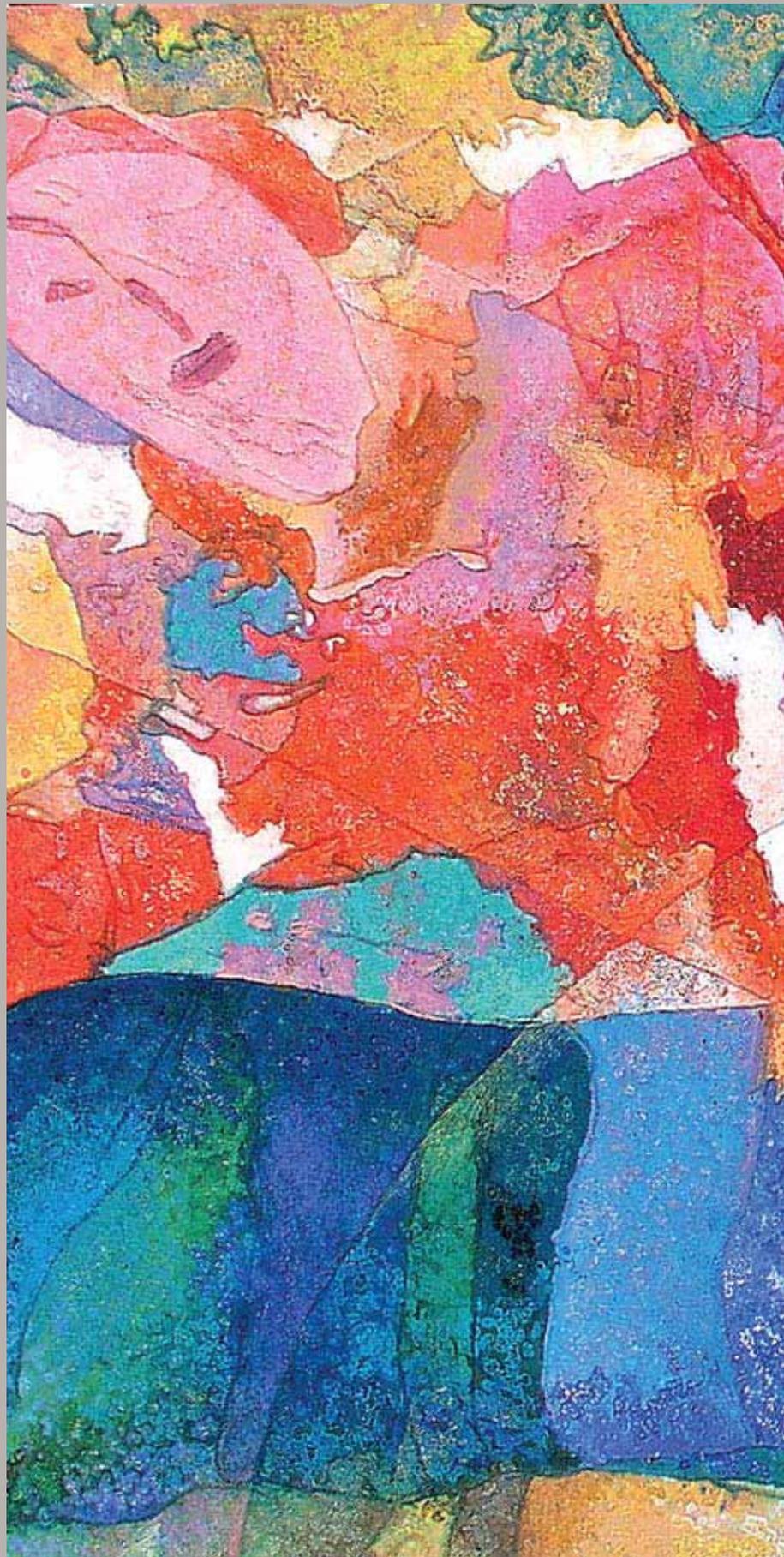
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Erika Seywald
"Auf Seide gebettet", oil on canvas