

Upcoming events

General

March

- *Concept of police reform. Planning workshop "Designing a Police Service for the Kyrgyz people"*

April

- *The OSCE Chairman - in Office - Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel is planning to pay a visit to Kyrgyzstan.*

- *The OSCE Centre in Bishkek has also planned several activities in the coming months with respect to its dimensions:*



Human Dimension

April

- *Seminars on Human Rights for Professional of Mental Health System.*
- *Training on Critical Thinking and Interactive Teaching Methods for Teaching Staff of the Training Centre for Prison Staff.*



Economic/Environment Dimension

March

- *The first training seminar within the OSCE project "Regional seminars on preparation of business projects for Foreign Direct Investment attraction".*

April

- *International workshop "Anti Money Laundering and Counter Financing Terrorism. Starting Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in the Kyrgyz Republic".*

May

- *OSCE project "Training for Arbitrators of the International Court of Arbitration in affiliation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic and Lawyers".*

Activities

A series of the community policing trainings under the activities of the Police Assistance Programme in Kyrgyzstan took place in January-February at the Kyrgyz Police Academy. The training consisted of 16 one-week courses with a basic introduction in community policing and problem solving, as well as issues of effective communication skills for police, human rights and community partnership. The aim of the training was to improve public-police relations, enhance the public confidence toward the police and promote transparent policing. Among the participants of the training courses were the heads of the police stations and sub-stations and neighborhood police officers. In overall, 320 police officers will be trained before the end of July 2005.



The OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Dutch Government are providing support and financial assistance to the NGOs Internews and Cimera - Kyrgyzstan to help them monitor the way media covers the 27 February parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan. The project includes monitoring of the main electronic and print media and helps to analyze how fair and balanced the media are towards different parties and candidates.



(Press conference on implementation of the media monitoring project)

Monitoring group of 30 people trained for the monitoring cover the state and non-state media in all regions of Kyrgyzstan. The quantitative monitoring will include 34 electronic media and 150 print media outlets of Kyrgyz Republic. The code sheets will be entered into a database and each media company monitored will have separate graphs showing how much time/space they devote to which candidates and what the tone of that coverage is. The final Analytical Media Report will be issued within the next weeks after elections.



Following the Working Group Recommendations on education standards for the national minorities set up last year, the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities has seconded an expert at the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education. Mrs. Inga Pavula, who started her work on 1 February 2005. Her main objective is to assist the Ministry of Education in setting up the curricula for the representatives of the national minorities within the framework of the new general curricula. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the academic representatives she will also organize a series of trainings for the teachers and will try to identify the ways of assessments in the educational area for the national minorities.

Activities

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek took an initiative in organizing a one-day information sharing meeting on border-related issues that was held on 8 February 2005 at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The meeting was aiming at the exchange of information on ongoing or planned activities in order to raise transparency between all players involved in the large-scaled border-related investment projects in Kyrgyzstan. Among the participants were International Organizations, such as OSCE, BOMCA/UNDP, USAID, UNODC; Administration of President of the KR, Foreign Ministry and the relevant governmental bodies. It was agreed that such meetings should be conducted every two months whereas the OSCE could provide co-ordination efforts. It was also agreed to maintain a project matrix on border-related activities to be regularly updated by each participating party.



On 11 February Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek Ambassador Markus Muller chaired Election Assistance Coordination Meeting, which took place at the OSCE Academy. Among the participants of the discussion were the Chairman of the Kyrgyz Central Election Commission, Mr. Sulaiman Imanbaev, representatives of the UNDP, USAID, DFID, foreign embassies, international organizations and NGOs. The agenda of the meeting included information exchange round with respect to the specific activities of the represented organizations, including such issues as results of candidates' registration, training of commission members' and voters' lists.

Events

The Fifth Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee on Police Assistance Programme took place in Bishkek on February 25, 2005 at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The main objectives of the Meeting were to discuss progress of the Programme implementation and to agree on the proposed budget restructuring, as well as to agree on the future activities. Ambassador Muller also informed the participants on the external evaluation of the Programme to take place in April. All the members expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Programme, and based on different options. The next Meeting Committee is planned for June 24, 2005. The existing Programme is scheduled to last till July 31, 2005, and the planning for the next phase of the programme is currently underway. As one of the steps towards the comprehensive reform in the law enforcement sector, the OSCE, jointly with the Kyrgyz counterparts, are organizing a Planning Work-shop to take place on March 9-10, 2005.

Contact Info

Marina Dmitrieva

Public Relations / Media Officer

e-mail:

marina.dmitrieva@osce.org

ACTIVITIES of the CENTRE

OSCE continues Central Asian Youth Network activities in 2005

The OSCE Centres in Central Asia launch the second year of activities within Central Asian Youth Network by gathering the new lot of students for a 5-day research seminar starting on the 21st February in Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan. Over 50 students from all five Central Asian countries, 13 supervisors from around the world, and numerous guest speakers and session moderators from the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and the Warsaw-based OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights took part in it. The programme aims at contributing to international co-operation, conflict prevention, liberalization and democratization by promoting good relations and friendly cross-border contacts among students in the region. Last year's participants, as part of the Network, were involved in a number of group activities throughout the year: producing a research paper, participating in a seminar and a conference in Uzbekistan, and engaging in online discussion groups on the Network website www.cayn.net.



(Participants of the CAYN are actively discussing important issues)

The best student research papers from Network 2004 were published in a special collection that has been distributed among educational institutions in the region. Similar activities are envisaged for this year's newcomers to the Network with research seminar at Issyk-kul being the first of them. The aim of this seminar is threefold: a) students will be introduced to the OSCE and its dimensions as well as its principles and commitments by guest speakers from OSCE institutions; b) they will have a chance to discuss the topics of their group research with other students and supervisors; and c) students will improve their presentations, public speaking and academic writing skills during special skills development sessions.

In Focus

Civic Education

Civic education is an essential of democratization process. Success of democratic development depends to a great extent on level of citizens' education on participating in political life and governing of the state. With purpose of facilitating democratization process in Kyrgyzstan, the OSCE Centre has started working on the topic since 2003. Last year it went in line with the Bulgarian Chairmanship's priority on education. The partners of the OSCE Centre in this field are the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES). Since 2001 IFES has prepared a two-volume civic education textbook and associated teacher's guide. It was approved in 224 schools and has become a part of the national curriculum. OSCE supported IFES trainings for schoolteachers and local educational experts. Teachers benefit from the project by learning new interactive methods of teaching, which require students not only listen, but also think and produce own ideas and views. The OSCE Centre intends to continue activities in this direction in 2005 as this field, besides being in need for support at this stage of democratic development of Kyrgyzstan, also goes in line with the priority on Human Rights Education of 2005 Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Activities

On 20 January, the representatives of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Emergencies of the Kyrgyz Republic MEEKR, "BIOM" Ecology Movement and Bishkek Branch of the Central Asian Regional Environmental Center conducted a round table on the National Report on Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Report was prepared by the MEEKR, which is a state agency responsible for implementation of the Convention, and will be presented at the Second Meeting of the Parties in Almaty on 25 May 2005. The main purpose of the meeting was development of recommendations on possible changes and amendments to the Report. Among the participants were representatives of the Kyrgyz Government, NGOs and international organizations. They jointly adopted a resolution-statement, which approves the Report and calls for more donor assistance for implementation of the Aarhus Convention pillars in the Kyrgyz Republic.



On 24-25 January, the Centre organized participation of the Kyrgyz Republic's sponsored delegation to the 2nd Preparatory Seminar for the 13th Economic Forum called "Migration from an economic, environmental and security perspective" in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The delegation consisted of 2 representatives from the Department of Migration Services under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 5 representatives of civil society and academia.

Conferences, events, workshops

On 24-29 January, the OSCE Centre arranged a study tour to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia on anticorruption practices for the Kyrgyz authorities. The tour was organized in response to request of the Director of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on Good Governance with consent of the State Commissions on Prevention of Corruption of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia. The Kyrgyz delegation included Mr. K. Omuraliev, Director of Consultative Council on Good Governance Secretariat and Mr. Temir Sariev, a Member of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) and was accompanied by Mr. Asim Acikel, OSCE CiB Economic/Environment Officer. The one-week study tour purported to give a comprehensive overview of anticorruption practices in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia, including specific tasks as acquaintance with operations of the State Commissions of Prevention of Corruption in the context of establishment of the Anti Corruption Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic. Also, the Kyrgyz delegation benefited from consultations with representatives of legislative, judicial, and executive branches who are contributing to combating corruption in both countries.



(OSCE supported UN Anti-Corruption International Day)

On 18 January, CiB launched a six-month project "Feasibility Study on Establishing an Anti-Corruption Agency in the Kyrgyz Republic", which aims to support the Kyrgyz Government in the area of good governance and strengthening the institutional basis on fighting corruption. The project recruited two national consultants who are conducting feasibility study and will develop proposals to the Kyrgyz Government with regard to the structure and operational and regulatory framework of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic based on international experience and best practices of the analogous agencies. The national consultants are working under supervision of the Director of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on Good Governance of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Working Group, which is a consultative body to the consultants, and consists of representatives of the Kyrgyz Government, civil society, and international donor agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, Asian Development Band, had the first introductory meeting and reviewed the Terms and References of the Project at OSCE Center in Bishkek conference hall on 15 February. During the next two days, the CiB hosted meetings between national consultants and representatives of the local academia and civil society, as well as the international donor organizations.

Activities

In the framework of support and facilitation of penitentiary reform process, the OSCE Centre has organized a series of seminars on critical thinking and interactive teaching methods for teaching staff of the newly established Training Centre for Prison Staff under the Central Prison Administration of the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Training Centre for Prison Staff, which operates since June 2003, is undergoing the process of development and improvement. Staff and trainers of the Centre are in strong need for programmatic, methodological and expert support. Since the beginning of the Centre's operation, the OSCE Centre in cooperation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE ODIHR) has provided such assistance. Training on critical thinking is organized on recommendation of Ms. Monika Platek, OSCE ODIHR Expert on penitentiary reform, who paid the 2nd expert visit to the Training Centre for Prison Staff in May 2004. During the visit, Ms. Platek assessed the development process of the Centre, identified needs and worked our recommendations for its further improvement. The OSCE Centre in cooperation with the Critical Thinking Laboratory of the American University in Central Asia has organized 2 trainings in November 2004 and 3rd one on 15-17 February 2005. The last training is planned for April 2005.

Activities

In February, the Osh Field Office jointly with its partner "Human Rights and Democracy Center" organized trainings on legal aspects of the electoral process for key elections actors such as judges, observers, lawyers, prosecutors and law enforcement bodies. Qualified experts from the Central Election Commission, Osh Province Election Commission and UNDP were invited as trainers. The event was aimed at increasing the knowledge of participants on electoral procedures and upgrading the level of preparedness to conduct fair, open and transparent elections.



Within the on-going OSCE project "Promotion of Cross-border and Inter-ethnic Cooperation in Jalalabat Province", implemented by ACTED, the OFO organized a round table in the Kyrgyz-Uzbek near border village of Noshken. The participants, representing local state administration, police, Aksakals, teachers, and deputies of the village councils discussed existing cross border challenges such trade citizenship and documentation. Participants identified potential mechanisms to tackle these problems: the authorities were highly encouraged to display information boards in both languages at the checkpoints. The Aksakals pointed out the necessity to multiply cross border events such as cultural exchanges and inter-school sport activities.

Activities of the Osh Field office (OFO)

On 12 January 2005 OFO organized a round table to discuss about the possible creation of a southern Association of Aksakal Courts. Members of Aksakal Courts, local judges, state representatives and NGOs participated in the work of the round table. The results of the round table brought to the elaboration of a Charter of the Aksakal Courts Association and the participants elected its supervising bodies. The Round table participants prepared a letter to be addressed to the Kyrgyz Government seeking support for the Aksakal Courts. Participants also discussed about the manual to be used by the Aksakals, which compiles the latest legislation in key areas of intervention of this traditional institution. In line with this initiative, on 2 February 2005 the Kyrgyz President Akaev addressing the National Meeting of Kurultay mentioned in his speech that it is important to carry out the discussion on possibilities of establishing one institution at the regional level – a Southern Association of Courts of Aksakals "... By establishing courts of Aksakals at the district and provincial levels we will try to set up an Association of the Council of Aksakals at the country level. Therefore you need today to debate your ideas and solve future tasks by establishing an Organizer's Committee", - mentioned President Akayev.



(OSCE, ACTED and Burgondu state officials discussing over water use related tensions between Kyrgyz and Uzbek villagers and possible solutions)

On 10 February representatives of the OFO visited the near border village located in Burgondu village administration (Jalalabat Province) with its implementing partner ACTED to evaluate and assess the cross border situation related to the use for irrigation purposes of the Ferghana Canal. The field mission included field observation and discussions about the technical possibilities to install water pumps that would allow the Kyrgyz village to irrigate over a hundred hectares of cultivated land in the area.

For any information related to activities of the OSCE Osh Field Office, please contact:

fieldoffice@osce.org.kg

Activities

In January, OFO staff paid a monitoring visit to the Kadamjai antimony factory in Batken province, established in 1940 for processing ores extracted from local mines. A number of leaking tailing ponds were observed to be contaminating water systems flowing across the nearby international border. The site has been earmarked by the ENVSEC initiative as a top priority for intervention. If necessary measures would not be undertaken in time, such sites in the region pose a large threat to environment.



In February 2005 OFO launched a regional project on media development and media accessibility in Batken Province (the South of Kyrgyzstan). Together with its implementing partner organization "Osh Media Resource Center" and Batken based Youth NGO "Baar", OFO will run a small Batken Media Center, which will include existing media outlets in Batken Province and independent journalists. The Center will provide the journalists with such facilities as e-mail, Internet, intercity telephoning and faxing as well as offer series of trainings aimed at improving the media capacity and enhance journalist skills. It is expected that within the project course more partners dealing with media development and access to information are attracted to this most remote region of Kyrgyzstan. This project comes in-line with the OSCE Media Support Programme for 2005 particularly for the development of regional media and ensuring free access to information in rural areas.