

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities

29 - 30 October 2015
Vienna, Austria

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Thursday, 29 October

Time: **13:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 201**
Title: **Ways and means to overcome ethnic discrimination in the Baltic States**
Convenor: **Institute of European Studies; Institute of European Studies**
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: In the Baltic countries there are elements of ethnic discrimination against non-indigenous population. Non-governmental organizations present at the roundtable vision of overcoming this negative phenomenon in the framework of the rules and mechanisms that operate in the European Community.

Refreshments will not be provided

Friday, 30 October

Time: **12:00-14:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 201**
Title: Presentation of the Report "Xenophobia, Discrimination of the National Minorities and Aggressive Nationalism in Europe (January 2014 – June 2015)"
Convenor: European Center for Democracy Development
Working languages: English

Summary: The report, published by the European Center for Democracy Development, aims to analyse the most prominent manifestations of hatred in countries of the so-called "Greater Europe", i.e. Council of Europe member-states and countries located within European geographical borders. The main objective was to identify factors that influence the demand for radicalism and factors that contribute to the reduction of radical sentiments in society. The first stage involved 10 European countries: United Kingdom, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and France.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **12:00-14:00**
Venue: **Segmentgalerie 1**
Title: Men, women, minorities, majorities – the gender aspects of integration
Convenor: OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Gender is an important factor that should be taken into account in the design and implementation of integration policies, in order to make such policies more effective and inclusive. Gender inequality can weaken the fabric of society, as can the marginalization of particular ethnic groups. Minority women, for example, may face other barriers to their full participation in society than male minority representatives. This should be addressed through measures that specifically address their respective needs. Looking through the lens of the HCNM Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies, and the experience of specific participating States, a number of experts will discuss how participating States can mainstream gender when developing policies to promote the integration of society.

Refreshments will be provided