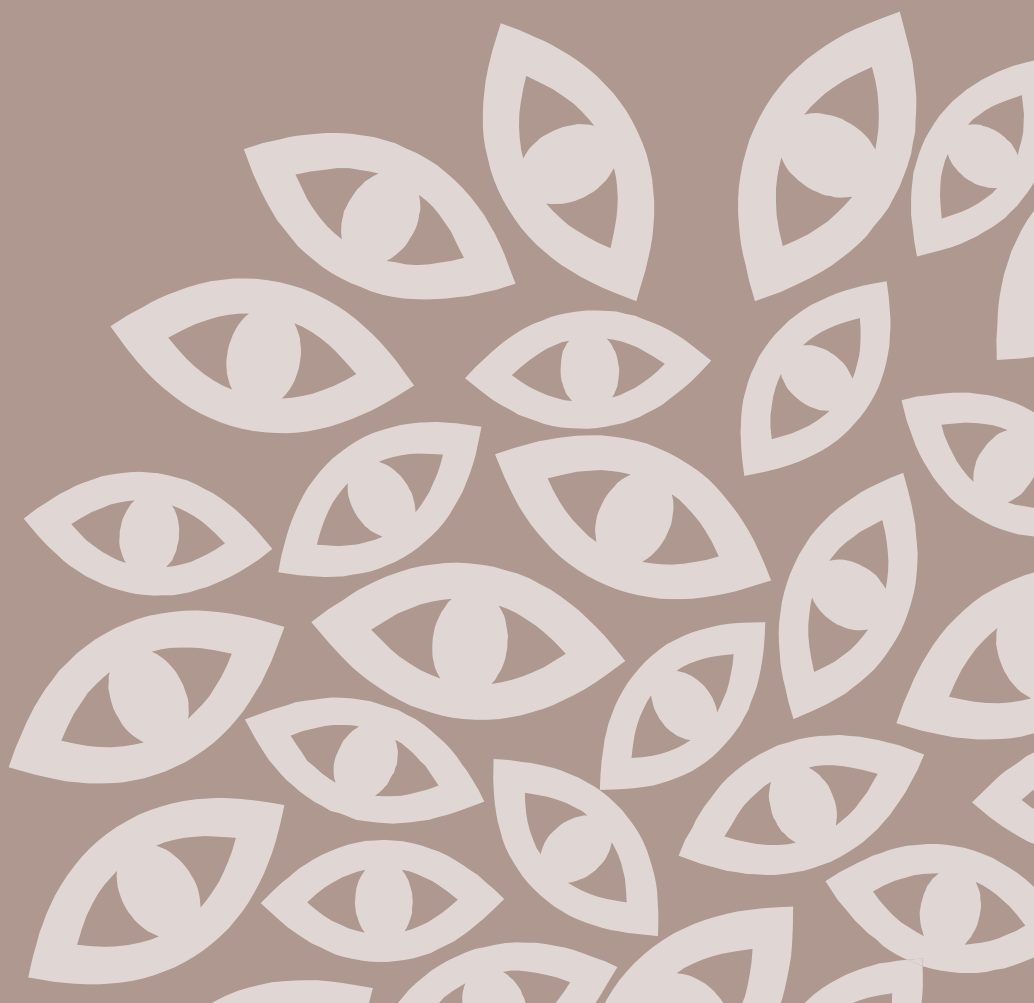


Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights



# ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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# Overview by the ODIHR Director



Over the course of 2012, people and their governments continued to struggle with the fallout from the economic and financial difficulties that have troubled many of the countries in the OSCE area for the past five years. The effects of belt-tightening both at the state level, as governments have been forced to cut spending, and for individuals, as increasing numbers have been unable to find or keep work and incomes have fallen, have been wide ranging.

Those effects have posed new challenges and intensified existing ones in the work of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In responding to these, one thing is clear: We — the authorities and civil society in OSCE participating States, and ODIHR in the assistance it provides to both — must not allow economic and financial difficulties to be used as an excuse for failure to meet these challenges. Many of these challenges can also be found in countries that have been touched little, or not at all, by recent financial difficulties.

We must maintain our vigilance in promoting and defending the

human rights and security of all in the OSCE area, and in ensuring that every citizen has the opportunity to have a voice in the making of decisions that directly impact his or her life.

The challenges are significant, as can be seen in the pages of this report.

Marginalized groups and communities, including Roma and migrants, have been the targets of violence in a number of countries, in attacks inflamed by intolerant rhetoric scapegoating them for the economic troubles. OSCE participating States have committed themselves to combat such hate-motivated crimes.

The search for better economic opportunities continues to drive migration flows both into and within the OSCE area. Governments need to help ensure that these people do not become victims of trafficking in human beings, and countries can only benefit from earnest efforts to assist newcomers in integrating into their societies.

Austerity measures in some participating States have meant reductions in the resources provided for the promotion and protection

of human rights. National human rights institutions, which play an invaluable role in this process, have suffered reductions in the means at their disposal to monitor and help improve the human rights situation in their countries.

These are just a few examples of the challenges we face. Fortunately, the authorities in participating States — those affected by economic difficulties, as well as those relatively untouched — are not alone in facing them. As recently as the OSCE Summit in Astana, in 2010, they highlighted the important role of civil society in helping ensure “full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, including free and fair elections, and the rule of law”.

At the 2012 Ministerial Council, in Dublin, I had the opportunity to meet with civil society representatives from across the OSCE area. Among the issues they raised on that occasion was the need for concrete steps to ensure the security and protection of human rights defenders — a need recognized by OSCE States as early as the 1994 Ministerial Council, in Budapest.

This was a strong reminder that the implementation of this commitment requires greater attention. ODIHR is ready to provide assistance, in co-operation with civil society and the governments of participating States, in reducing the gap between this important commitment and the unfortunate reality.

As part of its established work in the areas of human rights and democratization, the Office supported the Irish OSCE Chairmanship in bringing together representatives of governments and civil society, in November in Vienna, at a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association, to explore ways to better

implement commitments to ensure the enjoyment of these rights.

On the margins of the meeting, ODIHR released a report describing both challenges and good practices identified through the monitoring of 27 assemblies and demonstrations in 11 participating States from May 2011 to June 2012. The report also includes recommendations to help countries meet their commitments in this area.

Also in co-operation with the Irish Chairmanship, the Office organized a Human Dimension Seminar, in Warsaw in May, on the Rule of Law Framework in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, at which more than 150 participants examined and shared expertise on the role of legal systems in confronting this persisting problem.

The year also saw the Office release two sets of guidelines on human rights education, one for law enforcement officials and the other for secondary school systems, in recognition of the important roles police and educators play in guaranteeing and helping increase understanding of these fundamental rights.

ODIHR's annual hate crimes report, released in November, stressed that, despite increased efforts by some participating States to combat these crimes, a lack of reliable data on the scope of the problem and on targeted victim groups and perpetrators continues to hinder progress in this domain.

At a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting organized in Vienna in April, participants shared expertise and good practice in the area of combating racism, intolerance and discrimination in society through sport. Among the recommendations made at the meeting as to promote the use of well-known athletes, in their capacity as role models, in public campaigns to promote understanding, fairness and equality.

As part of its activities to address anti-Semitism, the Office published the third edition of *Holocaust Remembrance Days in the OSCE Region*, providing an overview of governmental practices and examples to help public officials and others promote Holocaust remembrance, as part of broader efforts to foster mutual respect and tolerance.

A field visit to the Czech Republic, organized in May in co-operation with the Irish Chairmanship and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, was aimed at assessing progress made in integrating Roma children into quality, mainstream education. The resulting report, released in October, highlighted good practices and offered recommendations to support inclusive education for Roma students.

This same theme of inclusion was behind the introduction in 2012 of the 3.3-million euro Best Practices for Roma Integration project, funded by the European Union, supported by OSCE participating States and implemented by ODIHR. The project is aimed at increasing Roma participation in political and public life and decision-making, promoting the legalization of housing, and combating discrimination against and raising the visibility of Roma communities in the Western Balkans, and will continue in 2013.

In 2012, ODIHR continued with a broad range of activities in the area of democratization. In co-operation with OSCE field operations in Central Asia, the Office organized the fourth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice in October in Almaty, bringing together around 100 experts from the region to examine and share lessons learned in the latest reforms of the criminal justice sector across the region.

The annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, hosted by the Office in Warsaw over two weeks at the end of September and beginning of October, saw

the presentation of two important new tools for the development and implementation of trial-monitoring programmes: *Trial Monitoring: a Reference Manual for Practitioners* and the *Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights*.

Election observation, as has been the case since its establishment in 1991 as the Office for Free Elections, had a high profile among ODIHR's activities.

The Office carried out election-observation activities in 15 participating States in 2012, with the participation of nearly 2,000 observers from 48 of those states, and produced 60 election-related reports, including final reports providing recommendations on how electoral processes could be improved in relation to OSCE commitments and other international standards. The Office also published two new resources for the observation of specific aspects of election processes: *The Handbook on Media Monitoring for Election Observation Missions* and the *Handbook for the Observation of Voter Registration*.

In circumstances where many OSCE participating States are grappling with extensive reductions in expenditures, ODIHR is aware of the need to adapt to working with limited resources. Doing more with less, we remain committed to assisting governments and civil society in enhancing the security of every individual, of every participating State and of the entire OSCE community through upholding commitments on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

*Ambassador Janez Lenarčič  
Director, OSCE Office for  
Democratic Institutions  
and Human Rights (ODIHR)*





People lining up to vote at a polling station in a police headquarters in the Anacostia area of Washington, D.C., 6 November 2012. (OSCE/Thomas Rymer)



# Elections





Since its foundation, work on elections has been central to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document the participating States agreed to ensure democratic elections; ODIHR's mandate is to support the 57 participating States in meeting this aim. This mandate is implemented by ODIHR through an array of activities, with observation and assessment of elections in the OSCE region being the most visible. This is complemented by follow-up activities aimed at facilitating the implementation of recommendations contained in ODIHR's observation mission reports. Other election-related activities include reviewing electoral legislation, publishing guidelines and handbooks on election-related issues and training election observers.

ODIHR has developed and is implementing a comprehensive methodology for conducting election observation. This methodology is based on a long-term approach that involves assessing all key elements of an electoral process, and has permitted ODIHR to follow election processes in participating States, and to provide meaningful recommendations for their improvement. ODIHR's election observation methodology is based on the understanding that elections consist not only of the election day itself, but that a comprehensive, in-depth assessment must include the whole electoral process before, during and after election day. This involves the assessment of all elements and phases of the electoral process: the legal framework; the work of the election administration; the conduct of the election campaign; contestants' access to the media and media coverage of the electoral process; election-day procedures, including the counting and tabulation of results; and the handling of election-related complaints.

ODIHR's election observation activities have covered 55 of the 57 OSCE participating states. This leaves only two participating States where no election-related activity has taken place so far: the Holy See and Mongolia; the latter joined the OSCE family at the end of 2012.

In the past year, the Office continued its efforts to assist participating States in the implementation of election-related recommendations. Such activities included reviews of election legislation to bring it in line with OSCE commitments, as well as technical assessments on the use of new voting technologies (NVT) in the election process. Such follow-up activities were closely co-ordinated within ODIHR and with OSCE field operations in order to ensure the most efficient provision of support to participating States in meeting their commitments.

## MAIN ISSUES

### Democratic standards

The foundation for ODIHR's work on assessing electoral processes was provided in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document. Since these commitments were agreed upon by the participating States, progress has been made in the conduct of elections. Nevertheless, serious challenges remain or have, in some cases, resurfaced.

Improvements include the administration of elections, as well as their organizational and legal frameworks. While these advances are welcome, it is the actual implementation that makes the difference. ODIHR has identified and reported on serious shortcomings in a number of OSCE participating States that directly contradict the principles of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document.





A ballot box is emptied at a Moscow polling station ahead of counting in Russia's presidential election, 4 March 2012. (OSCE/Jens Eschenbaecher)

These shortcomings include:

- ◆ Attempts to limit the competition among parties and candidates, thereby creating an uneven playing field;
- ◆ Biased reporting by the media favouring particular candidates or parties;
- ◆ The misuse of state resources to the benefit of certain candidates and parties;
- ◆ Inaccurate voter registers and insufficient voter registration guidelines and safeguards to prevent misuse;
- ◆ Undue influence on voters to vote for specific candidates or parties;
- ◆ Complaints and appeals procedures that do not allow for effective and timely redress of complaints;
- ◆ Restriction of access for domestic and international observers and, thereby, the prevention of effective observation; and

- ◆ Fraudulent practices during voting processes and the counting and tabulation of votes.

### Implementing recommendations

One vital aspect of ODIHR's election-related activities is reporting about all aspects of an election process that is factual, accurate and balanced. Actual observation forms the basis for concrete and constructive recommendations at the conclusion of any observation activity. These recommendations are focused on areas where the electoral practices of participating States could be improved and aim to support them in bringing their elections closer in line with OSCE commitments, as well as with other international standards.

ODIHR engages with participating States in post-election dialogue and works with the authorities to address election-related

recommendations. In 2012, ODIHR continued and intensified the co-ordination with other international and regional organizations, such as the Council of Europe's European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and signatories of the 2005 Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation, to harmonize approaches and avoid duplication. A number of participating States also presented their efforts to follow-up on recommendations before the OSCE Human Dimension Committee, thus enabling discussion and the sharing of good practices.

### Observation methodology

ODIHR's election observation methodology has been consistently refined, expanded and adapted to take into account new challenges and issues of increasing



ODIHR launched the *Handbook on Media Monitoring for Election Observation Missions* and the *Handbook for the Observation of Voter Registration* in Vienna on 13 July 2012. (OSCE)

importance. In 2012, ODIHR published a *Handbook for the Observation of Voter Registration* and a *Handbook on Media Monitoring for Election Observation Missions*.

The *Handbook on Observation of Voter Registration* provides guidance on how to approach voter registration as part of the overall observation of an election. While ODIHR has included voter registration in its general methodology for observing elections, this handbook provides a more systematic and comprehensive approach to observing this critical part of the election process.

The *Handbook on Media Monitoring for Election Observation Missions* provides a succinct explanation of the media-monitoring methodology used by ODIHR in its election observation activities. This handbook includes a set of guidelines for the coverage of election

campaigns by public and private media outlets, particularly broadcast and print, but also touching upon those related to the Internet and other new media. The final part of this publication includes some basic information on technical aspects of media monitoring, explaining the specific role of the media analyst in ODIHR observation missions.

## ACTIVITIES

Observation missions are the most publicized part of ODIHR's election mandate. The findings and recommendations in election observation reports provide valuable input for the Office's other programmes, as well as for the activities of other OSCE institutions and field operations, in promoting democratic processes. In 2012, ODIHR's activities in the field of elections

continued to focus on the following areas:

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

### Election observation

The aim of ODIHR's election-related activities is to assess the efforts of OSCE participating States in conducting their elections in line with OSCE commitments and to offer recommendations to participating States on how to bring their elections in line with the relevant commitments. As part of the Office's well-established election observation methodology, an



Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, the Head of the ODIHR Elections Department, and Douglas Wake, the First Deputy Director of ODIHR, examine the voters list at a polling station in central Zemun, during Serbia's parliamentary and early presidential elections, 6 May 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

election observation process begins with the deployment of a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM). Ideally, it is deployed several months before an election in order to assess the pre-electoral environment. It is the task of the NAM to assess whether an election observation activity is needed and could bring added value to the electoral process. The NAM then identifies and recommends the nature and scope of such an ODIHR activity, based on the needs and the potential value identified in relation to the process. In 2012, ODIHR conducted 17 NAMs throughout the OSCE area.

These NAMs consider whether the legal framework for elections is in line with OSCE commitments and to what degree there is public confidence in the election administration and the conduct of elections. They also assess the preparations by the election administration for the upcoming

election. Further issues assessed include, whether the framework is adequate in terms of respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, whether the electoral system allows for checks and balances, as well as for effective complaints and appeals. Finally, a NAM also looks at the level of civil society activity and the quality of the media environment.

ODIHR makes due effort to send a NAM to every participating State holding an election. Due to limited resources in terms of funding and staff, however, a NAM is not deployed in every case where an election is being held. A NAM may also determine that an observation activity for a particular election is not necessary or feasible and, instead, recommend increased follow-up on previous recommendations or intensified engagement with local actors on electoral-reform issues.

ODIHR deployed election-observation activities to elections in 15 participating States in 2012. These missions were guided by two main objectives: first, to assess whether the elections met OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections and were conducted in line with national legislation; and second, to assist the participating State to bring the election further in line with the commitments by offering concrete and concise recommendations to help the participating State improve their elections.

As such, election-related activities are effective feedback processes, offering concrete recommendations to identify and help resolve shortcomings. They are not aimed at criticizing or commending those participating States in which ODIHR deploys activities. Fulfilling its mandate in an impartial, professional and accountable manner,





Corien Jonker (r), the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) for the parliamentary elections and early presidential elections in Serbia, speaks to an election commission official at a polling station in Staro Sajmište, Belgrade, 6 May 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

and contributing to transparency, in 2012 ODIHR published 60 election-related reports, including NAM reports, interim reports, statements of preliminary findings and conclusions, final reports and legal reviews.

For six of the 15 elections, ODIHR deployed full-scale Election Observation Missions (EOMs), including long- and short-term observers, which are seconded by individual participating States, as well as core teams of experts. Limited Election Observation Missions (LEOMs) include a core team of experts and long-term observers, but no short-term observers. ODIHR deployed three LEOMs in 2012 to observe the election process, but without conducting a comprehensive and systematic observation of election day. As per ODIHR's methodology, LEOMs are deployed to participating States where long-term observers are

deemed necessary to ensure comprehensive regional coverage, but election days are expected to go smoothly, or where fundamental shortcomings are so significant as to render election-day observation inconsequential.

Four election assessment missions (EAMs), comprising only a core team of experts, were also deployed in 2012. These were deployed in cases where the involvement of long- and short-term election observers was deemed unnecessary, due to the existence of effective checks and balances, such as an independent judiciary, robust civil society and pluralistic media and the high level of confidence in the electoral process. As is the case with EOMs and LEOMs, EAMs make an overall assessment of the legal and administrative framework of elections and provide direct recommendations. ODIHR also deployed two election expert

teams to look at specific issues, during the presidential election in Turkmenistan and the parliamentary elections in Romania. Additionally, the Office organized an expert visit to Russia during the 2012 local elections to see how new voting technologies are used there.

Nearly 2,000 people from 48 participating States took part in ODIHR election observation in 2012. An extra-budgetary programme to support the participation of observers from countries that do not generally second observers, the ODIHR Fund for Diversification, was leveraged throughout 2012. The Fund countries include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The Fund was used to send 41 long-term observers and



## Election Observation Activities in 2012

	COUNTRY	ELECTION TYPE	ELECTION DATE	MISSION TYPE
1	Kazakhstan	Early parliamentary elections	15 January	EOM
2	Turkmenistan	Presidential election	12 February	EET
3	Russian Federation	Presidential election	4 March	EOM
4	Armenia	Parliamentary elections	6 May	EOM
5	Serbia	Parliamentary and early presidential elections	6 & 20 May	LEOM
6	Greece	Early parliamentary elections	6 May	EAM
7	France	Parliamentary elections	10 & 17 June	EAM
9	Netherlands	Parliamentary elections	12 September	EAM
9	Belarus	Parliamentary elections	23 September	EOM
10	Georgia	Parliamentary elections	1 October	EOM
11	Lithuania	Parliamentary elections	14 October	EAM
12	Montenegro	Early parliamentary elections	14 October	LEOM
13	Ukraine	Parliamentary elections	28 October	EOM
14	United States	General elections	6 November	LEOM
15	Romania	Parliamentary elections	9 December	EET

almost 40 short-term observers to take part in nine election missions throughout the year. The sustained funding and support from OSCE participating States for this programme is critical to ensuring a broader geographical range of expertise.

ODIHR is tasked by OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 19/06 on “Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE” (Brussels, 2006) to improve the work with various other organizations active in monitoring through the development of “a framework for co-ordination in this field”. Thus, on the basis of a 1997 co-operation agreement, ODIHR continued its co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly while also regularly working with other parliamentary partners, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to observe election-day proceedings.

In addition, the Office worked regularly, especially within the framework of the 2005 Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation, with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the Electoral Assistance Division of the United Nations, the European Commission, the Carter Center, the National Democratic Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, to promote common principles on international election observation. In 2013, ODIHR will host the 8th Declaration of Principles Implementation Meeting in Warsaw.

In addition, ODIHR co-operates actively with the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission on legal reviews and continues to be involved in working with OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, amongst others, by sharing knowledge and

experience on conducting election observation.

### *Key Findings*

2012 election observation missions identified certain positive developments in the administration of elections. Shortcomings, however, remain in a number of participating States. Problems encountered include:

#### ***Attempts to limit competition:***

In many participating States, specific candidates and parties were left off of ballots or de-registered during campaigns. This is in contrast to OSCE commitments, which grant all citizens equal rights to seek political or public office without discrimination.

***Biased media reporting:*** Often, it is difficult for individual candidates and parties to get equal



Voters find their names on the voters list for Montenegro's early parliamentary elections in Golubovci, outside Podgorica, 14 October 2012. (OSCE/Thomas Rymer)

access to media. In consequence this not only violates their respective right to convey their messages to the electorate on equal footing, but restricts voters' opportunities to make an informed choice. State-controlled and public media have a special obligation in this regard.

***The misuse of state resources:***

Despite their responsibility, many governments fail to ensure that public funds and administrative resources are not misused to support the campaign of candidates and parties. In several participating States, there is not an adequate framework that ensures an equal playing field for free electoral campaigns.

***Inaccurate voter registers and insufficient voter registration guidelines and safeguards:***

Participating states have committed themselves to provide every eligible person with the right to vote. However, lack of proper documentation and updating of voter registers, especially in regards to newly eligible voters, deceased citizens or voters who moved within or outside the country, often resulted in eligible voters being denied this right or provided the basis for fraud, contributing to a lack of public trust in election administration and the electoral process in some participating States.

***Inadequate complaints and***

***appeals procedures:*** It is important that disputes resulting from electoral contests can be channeled through independent courts of law in an effective and timely manner and that this avenue is available to all stakeholders in an election process.

Often, relevant bodies and procedures did not allow for the effective and timely protection of electoral rights at the various stages of the election process, both for voters and contestants.

***Lack of transparency and accountability during the counting and tabulation of votes:***

While the OSCE commitments require that votes are counted and reported honestly and that official results are made public, sometimes fraudulent procedures have been observed during the counting of votes and tabulation of results.

***Support to OSCE field operations***

ODIHR continued to actively support the activities of OSCE field operations in the area of elections by following electoral events (referenda, local elections and by-elections), as well as advising on a



Radmila Šekerinska (c), the head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the 6 May parliamentary elections in Armenia, speaking during a press conference in Yerevan, 7 May 2012. (OSCE/Thomas Rymer)

variety of election-related issues, from amendments to legal frameworks to electoral procedures and administration. ODIHR also regularly sends its staff and independent experts to participate in key events related to the electoral process, including official working groups on issues such as electoral-law reform.

OSCE field operations play an important role in longer-term election-related technical assistance. Targeted technical assistance programmes delivered by OSCE field missions, if designed in a manner that effectively addresses previous ODIHR recommendations, can represent an important complement to ODIHR's work.

### Follow-up to observation missions

For a number of years, ODIHR has been engaging more proactively in follow-up with participating States

to continue the election dialogue after completion of an election observation activity. The Office has also established the practice of formally presenting its final reports and the recommendations contained therein during a two-to-three day visit to the respective participating State.

Such follow-up activities were conducted in a range of OSCE participating States and one Partner for Co-operation Country in 2012. ODIHR officially presented final reports to and discussed its recommendations with the authorities and other stakeholders in Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Finland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Slovenia, Serbia and Spain. In 2012, ODIHR for the first time piloted an attempt to plan and conduct follow-up in close co-operation with the members of the Declaration of Principles group to promote greater synergies.

In addition, ODIHR staff members and experts regularly participated in official working groups and roundtables on issues such as electoral-law reform, voter registration and women's participation, for example in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Advice on new voting technologies and the voter registration process was provided during visits to Albania and Moldova. During the recent process of electoral reform in Albania, ODIHR co-operated closely with the OSCE Presence in Albania in supporting that work. The post-election period provides an opportunity for participating States to benefit from ODIHR election observation recommendations through an active follow-up process. These recommendations can assist participating States in meeting their commitments to conduct democratic elections.

## Legal Reviews 2012

COUNTRY	TITLE OF DOCUMENT	DATE OF ISSUE
Hungary	Joint Opinion on the “Act on the Elections of Members of Parliament”	18 June
Turkmenistan	Assessment of the electoral legislation	23 July
Tunisia	ODIHR Opinion on the draft law “On Establishing an Independent Election Management Body of the Republic of Tunisia.”	4 December
Uzbekistan	Joint Opinion on draft amendments and addenda to the law “On Elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan” and “On Elections to the Regional, District and City Councils (Kengesh) of People’s Deputies of Uzbekistan”	17 December

### Reform of electoral legislation

Legal frameworks are crucial to holding elections in agreement with OSCE commitments. Such frameworks should ensure that crucial rights are protected and standards adhered to in a structured manner. The review of electoral legislation and legal frameworks, therefore, has become one of the most important elements of the follow-up process.

ODIHR continued in 2012 to offer comments on and assessments of draft electoral legislation, election laws and relevant amendments. The Office carried on its good co-operation with the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission to offer joint opinions, principally on draft electoral legislation or amendments to legislative frameworks for elections. In 2012, ODIHR

published four reviews of electoral legislation: in Hungary, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Two of these were conducted jointly with the Venice Commission. In addition, ODIHR provided extensive support and comments on the legal reform process in Albania, as well as in several other participating States.

### Development of election observation methodology

ODIHR has developed a comprehensive methodology for long-term observation of elections that encompasses all elements of the election process. As part of its mandate to refine its election observation methodology, in 2012 ODIHR published two new handbooks on the observation of specific aspects of election processes: the *Handbook on Observation of Voter Registration* and the

*Handbook on Media Monitoring during Election Observation Missions*. These handbooks provide additional guidance to observers in these two fields to enhance their professionalism.

In 2012, ODIHR organized a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Democratic Elections and Election Observation, which generated lively discussion and a number of recommendations to participating States and ODIHR on the improvement of the conduct of democratic elections and further refinement of observation methodology. In addition, ODIHR translated a number of its handbooks, including the sixth edition of the *Election Observation Handbook*, into Arabic in order to share expertise with OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.



ODIHR translated a number of its handbooks, including the sixth edition of the *Election Observation Handbook*, and the *Handbook for Long-Term Election Observers*, into Arabic in order to share expertise with OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.





Election commission members counting ballots during early parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan, Astana, 15 January 2012. (OSCE/Jens Eschenbaecher)

### Observer training

While it is primarily the responsibility of OSCE participating States to provide ODIHR with trained and experienced observers, the Office continued to assist participating States in organizing training for election observers. This training is meant to provide observers with the necessary election observation skills and knowledge and to underscore the need for a unified approach in the Office's election observation.

In 2012, ODIHR conducted two training events for short-term observers, in Sarajevo, and one for long-term observers, in Istanbul. They were made possible by generous support from participating States through extrabudgetary contributions. These training courses aimed to broaden the pool of observers from participating States eligible under the Fund for Diversification. In total, ODIHR trained 61

short-term observers and 31 long-term observers in 2012.

ODIHR also supported national training efforts for election observers and provided training for the German Centre for International Peace Operations, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the Russian Diplomatic Academy, the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the London-based Electoral Reform International Services and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. In addition, 2012 saw the launch of an online e-learning module for short-term observers, which is also available in Russian. Over 300 observers from over 100 countries, including 49 participating States, successfully completed the course in 2012.

### Support for OSCE Partners for Co-operation

ODIHR continues to offer election-related support to OSCE Partners for Co-operation. In 2012, the Office presented the final report of the Election Support Team for the 2010 parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. ODIHR also continued its engagement with Tunisia. As part of a German-funded project to promote democratic structures among OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the Office translated six handbooks into Arabic and invited government and civil society representatives to its training events for short- and long-term observers. ODIHR also provided a legal opinion on Tunisia's draft law on establishing an elections management body; the first time ODIHR has provided an election-related legal review for a Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation.

Thomas Vennen (r), Head of ODIHR's Democratization Department, and Alice Thomas, Acting Chief of ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit, listen as Helen Darbishire of the organization Access Info Europe addresses participants at a session on promoting free access to information, which took place during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 25 September 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)





# Democratization



In the Commemorative Declaration adopted at the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana, OSCE participating States reaffirmed their commitment to democracy that applies equally to all. By assisting states in the building and consolidation of democratic institutions, ODIHR aims to help governments become more responsive, responsible and representative. The Office's democratization work is aimed, therefore, at assisting participating States in meeting their OSCE commitments in areas such as democratic governance and lawmaking, the development of pluralistic party systems and political party regulation, enhancing the rule of law, strengthening parliaments, ensuring freedom of movement and migrant integration, and promoting gender equality and women's political participation. In most human dimension-related areas, ODIHR also provides direct support to participating States' legal reform efforts by reviewing draft and existing legislation for its compliance with human rights standards and OSCE commitments.

ODIHR's work focuses on providing policy advice and assistance in building the capacities of democratic institutions in all three branches of government, and facilitating the inclusion of civil society actors in decision-making processes. The recommendations provided to participating States by election observation missions form the basis for much of this work.

In line with its mandate, ODIHR provides technical expertise to various actors in the process of democratization, either directly or with the support of OSCE field operations. The Office's democratization programme works in partnership with civil society organizations, encouraging them to contribute actively to democratization activities based on principles of good governance and the rule of law. The programme also works to strengthen state institutions, for the benefit of men and women equally, with a focus on political parties, migrants and other groups, and to increase democratic participation.

## MAIN ISSUES

### Rule of Law and Legal Reform

In some participating States, justice systems have been — and continue to be — in need of assistance in developing laws and systems meeting relevant international standards and OSCE commitments. ODIHR's rule of law activities include providing support to independent judiciaries, highlighting reforms that strengthen fair trial guarantees, promoting robust and independent legal professions and reinforcing the effective functioning of administrative justice systems.

In ensuring the quality and effectiveness of legislation related to the human dimension in the OSCE region, ODIHR provides support to states by reviewing and assessing compliance of relevant draft and existing legislation with international standards, making recommendations for improvement and sharing good practices. ODIHR also provides, upon request, comprehensive assessments of the legislative processes in participating States to improve democratic lawmaking.





Participants problem solve during an exercise at an introductory course on the OSCE's Human Dimension for representatives of government and civil society from the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Warsaw, 15 December 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

### Democratic Institutions and Practices for Democratic Governance

Political parties, parliaments, civil society and citizens are vehicles for democratic governance and the building of democratic institutions across participating States. In order to ensure political pluralism, strengthen citizen participation and achieve more equal representation, the practices that link and direct the interaction between citizens and government should be continuously addressed. In some parts of the OSCE area, however, these democratic mechanisms need targeted support. ODIHR's democratic governance projects and activities are designed and implemented to assist participating States in strengthening laws, democratic institutions and processes, by focusing on parliamentary support, political pluralism and the promotion of civil

society to advocate for democratization policies and contribute to policy debates.

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

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to promote the equal participation of women and men in all spheres of public and private life, as a key foundation of a representative, democratic society. Nonetheless, discriminatory legal frameworks and institutional practices continue to hinder women's full and equal participation in society across the OSCE region. To this end, ODIHR supports participating States in progressing towards gender equality commitments by strengthening legal frameworks, promoting women's meaningful participation in politics and strengthening national mechanisms for the advancement of women.

### Migration and Freedom of Movement

A variety of factors, such as the impact of the global financial crisis, increased population mobility and world-wide demographic trends, have caused increasing migratory flows in the OSCE region. Economies and societies of host OSCE participating States and migrants can mutually benefit from tapping into migrant skills and knowledge, as well as ensuring their further development. This requires the implementation of effective migrant integration policies, while respecting freedom of movement and cultural and religious diversity, and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants.

Intensified migratory flows within borders of OSCE participating States create challenges for authorities in providing access to state services and the ability for all



Benjamin Moreau, the Chief of ODIHR's Rule of Law unit, and Nurlan Abdirov, a Member of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, (l-r) at the Fourth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia, Almaty, 29 October 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

citizens to exercise civil rights. In those participating States where these services are provided on residence-based criteria, residency registration is used as a tool in planning and delivering services. If citizens are not enrolled in a residency registration system, this impacts their ability to exercise their right to freedom of movement, as well as many other civil and fundamental rights. ODIHR continues to support OSCE participating States in the development of population-registration systems and the promotion of good practices in the area of migrant integration in the OSCE region.

## ACTIVITIES

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

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

## RULE OF LAW AND LEGAL REFORM

All OSCE participating States can benefit from expert advice and assistance in meeting relevant international standards and OSCE commitments, especially in relation to their institutional and legislative frameworks to address the many challenges in the field of rule of law. ODIHR assists OSCE participating States in the identification

and promotion of good practices through a variety of means, including expert meetings and exchanges, monitoring projects and assessments, and the development of policy guidelines, legislative reviews, comments and recommendations. Inclusiveness and a participatory approach form the basis for ODIHR's activities, which are carried out in partnership with parliaments, political parties, judiciaries, government agencies, legal communities, international organizations and civil society.

### Independence of the Judiciary

ODIHR continues to assist participating States in strengthening judicial independence by promoting the *Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence*, which form the basis for country-specific discussions with decision makers, scholars and legal communities,



Gabriela Knaul, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, discusses ways to enhance co-operation in the strengthening of judicial independence in the OSCE region with Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, the Director of ODIHR, at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 26 September 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

along with other international standards and recommendations on judicial independence. Building on conclusions from country-specific discussions, ODIHR offers specialized technical assistance to participating States in relation to the independence and accountability of judges.

On 30 March in Bishkek, ODIHR and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek published a report on the *Selection of Judges in the Kyrgyz Republic and International Standards on Judicial Independence*, outlining conclusions from the 2011 training event organized for members of the Council for the Selection of Judges. The report offers recommendations on further reform of the system for selecting judges, to bring it in line with international standards and good practices on judicial independence.

ODIHR hosted a workshop on reform of the

performance-evaluation system for judges with the OSCE Mission to Moldova on 21 and 22 November in Chisinau. The workshop brought together judges from various levels, members of the Superior Council of Magistrates and other stakeholders in judicial reform from Chisinau and the regions. It resulted in recommendations for concrete amendments to two draft by-laws regulating the evaluation of judges' performance in Moldova.

On 26 September, Gabriela Knaul, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, addressed the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Likewise, she participated in a meeting with ODIHR and OSCE field missions' representatives to exchange information and discuss enhancing co-operation in the strengthening of judicial independence in the OSCE region.

### Trial Monitoring

OSCE commitments assign importance to trial observation as a confidence-building measure to promote transparency in the justice sector and, ultimately, improve adherence to the rule of law. ODIHR and OSCE field operations conduct trial monitoring to obtain first-hand information about fair-trial issues in individual cases, to gain a general understanding of trends in justice systems, and to contribute to judicial reform and the development of better functioning justice systems consistent with OSCE commitments.

With the purpose of maximizing OSCE expertise in monitoring trials, as a contribution to the sustainability of OSCE trial monitoring programs and to enhance the substantive and methodological skills of NGOs, ODIHR finalized and launched two methodological tools





Alex Conte, Representative to the UN for the International Commission of Jurists; Benjamin Moreau, the Chief of ODIHR's Rule of Law Unit; Maria Alcidi, ODIHR Rule of Law Officer, and Pipina Katsaris, a lawyer specializing in international and criminal law, (l-r) present ODIHR's new trial monitoring tools during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 26 September 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

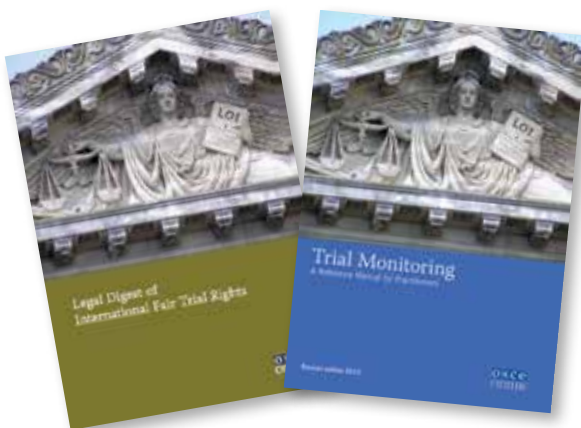
on trial monitoring in 2012 at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw: *Trial Monitoring: A Reference Manual for Practitioners* and the *Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights*. The Trial Monitoring Manual compiles the knowledge and good practices collected by OSCE trial-monitoring programmes in more than a dozen OSCE countries. The

Legal Digest includes a detailed description of fair trial rights, a compilation of the most recent principles and UN Human Rights Committee and European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence, and good practices derived from trial monitoring exercises.

In 2012, with a view to ensuring knowledge transfer to the legal community, ODIHR developed a

capacity-building programme in the area of trial monitoring focused on civil society. ODIHR trained 19 NGO representatives and attorneys from Belarus in Vilnius on 25 and 26 June, and 23 from Kyrgyzstan on trial monitoring methodologies and fair trial standards in Osh, on 23 and 24 March.

From 10 to 12 September, ODIHR organized the 10th OSCE Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting for Field Operations in Istanbul. The meeting brought together 30 participants, including representatives from ten OSCE field operations and, for the first time, 11 NGOs, with the aim to share expertise and good practices and to develop networks between trial-monitoring practitioners. The meeting also included training on fair-trial standards, including topics such as providing access to a lawyer, covert investigation, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses and



ODIHR launched two resources on trial monitoring in 2012 at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw: *Trial Monitoring: A Reference Manual for Practitioners* and the *Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights*.





Rezarta Schuetz, the Senior Rule of Law Officer at the OSCE Mission to Skopje, listening as Mihail Gotovski, the Project Co-ordinator for the Coalition All for Fair Trials in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, speaks at an ODIHR trial-monitoring meeting, Istanbul, 10 September 2012. (OSCE)

procuring expert evidence in criminal proceedings.

### Criminal Justice Reform

ODIHR continued to promote expert discussions in the field of criminal justice and to assist participating States in their reform efforts. The 2012 Expert Forum on Criminal Justice, organized in co-operation with OSCE Field Operations in Central Asia, was held in Almaty from 29 to 31 October. Around 100 experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, including court judges, prosecutors, policymakers, members of parliaments, lawyers, civil society representatives and academics gathered to share lessons learned and good practices in the latest national reforms of the criminal justice sector. They focused on the respective roles of judges, investigators and prosecutors and

discussed the processing of torture allegations in criminal proceedings. Conclusions from the Forum will help shape ODIHR's future support programme to Central Asian participating States. A report summarizing the discussions will be published in early 2013.

### Administrative Justice

The OSCE has adopted a comprehensive approach to trial monitoring, covering criminal, civil and administrative proceedings. Administrative justice is an increasingly important area of ODIHR's activities. In 2012, ODIHR, in co-operation with Sweden's Folke Bernadotte Academy, continued its series of expert consultations to finalize a draft handbook on monitoring administrative justice, building on events organized in 2011. Valuable input was provided by experts from OSCE field

operations, the Council of Europe, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and academia. The draft handbook, which combines a compilation of fair-trial standards with practical guidance on monitoring administrative proceedings for compliance with these standards, will be finalized in early 2013. The handbook will serve as a reference tool to support monitoring activities and awareness-raising initiatives on fair-trial standards in administrative proceedings.

### Supporting the Adjudication of War Crimes

In 2012, ODIHR carried on follow-up activities to the EU-funded War Crimes Justice Project, which was completed in October 2011. In particular, ODIHR organized four training seminars on war crimes,



Slavica Đukić-Dejanović, the Speaker of the Serbian Parliament, listens as Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, the Director ODIHR speaks at the presentation of an assessment report on the lawmaking and legislative process in the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, 7 February 2012. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

modes of liability and co-operation, and mutual legal assistance for more than 100 Bosnian judges, prosecutors and lawyers. These training events were based on the “International Criminal Law Training Curriculum”, developed as a part of the War Crimes Justice Project, which ensured that the training seminars met the training needs of war crime legal practitioners. These activities were conducted by ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Criminal Tribunal for Ex-Yugoslavia, the Criminal Defence Section and the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Election Dispute Resolution

Timely, fair and effective resolution of electoral disputes can ease political tensions and reduce potential conflicts. In follow-up

to recommendations by Election Observation Missions, ODIHR assists participating States in fostering access to justice and effective legal remedies for election-related disputes in accordance with OSCE commitments. In Kyrgyzstan, ODIHR brought together national stakeholders and international experts in the area of election-dispute resolution on 29 May in Bishkek, thus piloting a series of roundtable consultations to follow up on the recommendations of ODIHR Election Observation Mission reports related to election-dispute resolution.

The roundtable in Bishkek was organized in close co-ordination with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic, IFES and the UNDP Kyrgyz Elections Support Project. It gathered more than 50 experts from these institutions and several other organizations

with the aim to present and discuss election-dispute resolution recommendations from the latest ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Reports, legal reviews undertaken jointly with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and relevant international standards. The roundtable thus offered a platform for discussion on ways to improve election-dispute resolution in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### Strengthening Capacity for Legislative Reform

Legislation can only be implemented properly if it is drafted in a clear and concise manner. In addition, it should reflect the main parameters of international human rights instruments and of commitments that States have entered into. Decisions to conduct legal reform are ordinarily taken at the highest levels of government, especially in



Dinara Oshurahunova (l), Chairperson of the NGO Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, listens as Alexander Orehov of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) speaks at a roundtable discussion on the effective resolution of electoral disputes in Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, 29 May 2012. (UNDP Kyrgyz Election Support Project)

legislatures. Those who draft legislation must reflect these political decisions in law and are sometimes faced with new and complex legislative issues. They might even lack the relevant expertise to complete the task adequately. ODIHR supports legal-reform efforts throughout the OSCE region by reviewing draft and existing legislation, providing expertise to assess compliance of draft or existing laws with relevant international standards, making recommendations for improvement, and sharing good practices to help lawmakers explore other options. This process is often followed by consultations with legislators and civil society on draft or existing legislation.

The legal opinions prepared by ODIHR in 2012 were particularly diverse in both their geographical focus and subject matter, addressing, for instance, the calculation of constitutional time limits in

Kazakhstan, the alternative civilian service in Armenia, political party legislation in Turkmenistan, restrictions on the disposal of property with the aim of preventing terrorism in Serbia, freedom of religion legislation in Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan, freedom of assembly laws in Belarus and Poland and both gender equality and judicial disciplinary proceedings in Moldova.

Ideally, ODIHR assistance is sought by authorities in participating States through all stages of the policy-development and drafting process to assess the existing legislative framework, discuss options and guide decisions on legislative amendments. In 2012, the Ministry of Justice of Moldova used ODIHR's 2010 Assessment of the Legislative Process in Moldova to prepare a new draft Law on Normative Acts, which was then submitted to ODIHR for review and analysis. Upon completion of the

2012 opinion, ODIHR participated in expert consultations on the draft law, which will continue in 2013, as the draft law progresses through the various stages of the legislative process.

In providing legislative assistance to participating States, ODIHR continued to collaborate closely with other OSCE institutions, such as the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, as well as other international bodies, including the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, on legislation pertaining to issues such as freedom of assembly, freedom of religion or belief, the judiciary, political parties and national human rights institutions.

Co-operation with ODIHR's Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, the Core Group of Experts on Political Parties and the Panel of Experts on



## LEGAL REVIEWS IN 2012

COUNTRY	TITLE OF REVIEW	DATE OF ISSUE
ARMENIA	Opinion on the draft “Law of the Republic of Armenia on Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Alternative Services” and on the “Draft Law on Making Supplements to the Law on the Enforcement of the Criminal Code”	2 May
	Opinion on “Selected Issues Regarding the Admissibility of Appeals to the Cassation Court of the Republic of Armenia”	29 November
AZERBAIJAN	Joint ODIHR-Venice Commission opinion on the “Law on Freedom of Religious Belief of the Republic of Azerbaijan”	15 October
BELARUS	Joint ODIHR-Venice Commission opinion on the “Law on Mass Events of the Republic of Belarus”	20 March
KAZAKHSTAN	Opinion on the “Calculation of Time Limits in the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan”	14 March
	Opinion on draft “Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Access to Information”	18 April
	Note on the “Regulatory Resolution of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan on the Application of Criminal Legislation on Human Trafficking by Courts”	28 November
KYRGYZSTAN	Comments on “Amendments and Additions to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic On Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic”	22 March
	Opinion on the “Legal Framework Regulating Population Registration in the Kyrgyz Republic”	14 June
	Opinion on the “Draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the State Population Register and Draft Amendments to Related Legislation”	22 November
MOLDOVA	Opinion on the “Revised Amendments and Addenda Enhancing Gender Equality in Certain Legal Acts of the Republic of Moldova”	12 July
	Opinion on the “Draft Law on Normative Acts of Moldova”	26 September
	Opinion on the “Draft Law of the Republic of Moldova on the Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges”	14 December
POLAND	Note on the “Draft Law Amending the Law on Assemblies of Poland”	21 May
SERBIA	Opinion on the “Draft Law of Republic of Serbia on Restrictions on Disposal of Property with the Aim of Preventing Terrorism”	5 January
TURKMENISTAN	Comments on the “Law of Turkmenistan on Political Parties”	30 July

Freedom of Religion or Belief continued in 2012. ODIHR organized annual meetings in Warsaw and Vienna, respectively, for the Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and the Core Group of Experts on Political Parties to discuss developments in the OSCE region in these areas and incorporate their expertise into the revision of the *Guidelines on Freedom of*

*Peaceful Assembly* and the *Guidelines on Political Party Regulation*.

ODIHR and the 2012 Irish OSCE Chairmanship also organized a Civil Society Forum and a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association, from 7 to 9 November in Vienna. The events brought together 250 participants, including OSCE delegations, UN

and Council of Europe officials, as well as recognized experts and civil society representatives from the OSCE region and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, to discuss key issues related to freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly, including challenges posed by new technologies. The meeting resulted in recommendations





Marta Achler, the Chief of ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit, addresses participants at the annual meeting of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly as Neil Jarman, the Panel's Chairperson, listens, Warsaw, 9 May 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

to OSCE participating States and institutions to strengthen these freedoms.

### Improving Legislative Efficiency and Transparency

As outlined in relevant OSCE commitments, democracy on a practical level requires an open and transparent, participatory and efficient legislative process. Since 2005, ODIHR has been applying a methodology of legislative assessments to address cases where lawmaking processes do not function adequately. According to this methodology, assistance is provided upon request, through preliminary and/or comprehensive assessments of the legislative process in a participating State, to gain a detailed understanding of the specifics of the legislative system and tailor assistance to the needs identified.

Following the 2010 *"Preliminary Assessment Report on the Legislative System of the Republic of Serbia"* and a 2011 request from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia that ODIHR carry out a comprehensive assessment of the country's lawmaking process, the written assessment on law drafting and the legislative process in the Republic of Serbia was launched in February 2012, and followed by two workshops in Belgrade on specific topics pertaining to democratic lawmaking in Serbia. The first workshop, held on 26 and 27 March, focused on measures to increase transparency and public participation in the lawmaking process, while the second, held on 19 and 20 November, discussed the role of parliamentary oversight in lawmaking. The entire process, including both the written assessment and ensuing workshops and events, served to promote a home-grown,

comprehensive reform process for national decision-makers in the field of lawmaking.

ODIHR also provided expertise to the international conference "Ensuring Good Quality, Consistent and Accessible Legislation through Uniformed Nomotechnical Rules and Standards", organized by the OSCE Mission to Skopje on 21 November.

### Guidelines for Legislators

ODIHR assists legislators and other stakeholders from OSCE participating States based on guidelines that outline how to regulate specific and, often, complex human dimension issues. These guidelines offer requisite advice and expertise based on universal and regional human rights instruments, good state practice and general principles of law, all of which are recognized by OSCE participating States in their human dimension commitments.



Borys Tarasyuk, the Head of the Committee on European Integration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Marcin Walecki, the Chief of ODIHR's Democratic Governance Unit, and Maria Rauch-Kallat, the former Minister of Health and Women of Austria, listen as Rusudan Kervalishvili, the Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia, (l-r) speaks at an event on promoting women's political participation in Ukraine, Kyiv, 31 May 2012. (OSCE/Ajla van Heel)

Each set of guidelines is drafted through an extensive consultative process involving expert discussions and thematic roundtables with key stakeholders from a wide array of OSCE participating States. In 2012, ODIHR continued work on revising the *Guidelines for the Review of Legislation Pertaining to Religion or Belief* and, along with its Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, similarly decided to start revising the *Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly*, starting in 2013, to take stock of significant new developments in the area. ODIHR also agreed with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission to draft a new set of *Guidelines on Freedom of Association* in 2013.

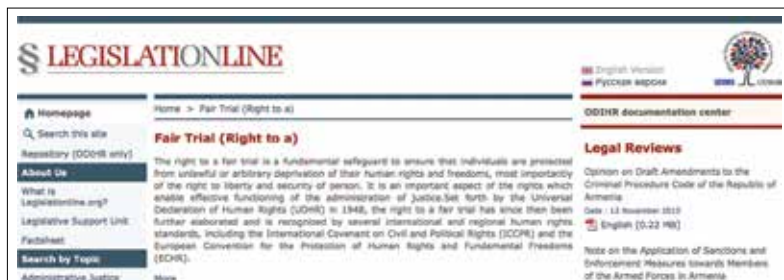
### Access to Law

To enhance access of legislators and other stakeholders in OSCE participating States to legislation

on human dimension issues in the OSCE region and to relevant international instruments and documents, ODIHR has created an online legislative database: [www.legislationline.org](http://www.legislationline.org). This database provides direct, free-of-charge access to laws, good practices and precedents from other jurisdictions. Its thematic structure ensures easy access to an online compilation of international standards and domestic laws from OSCE participating States related to the OSCE's human dimension. The website has interfaces in English and Russian,

but collects legislation in all official OSCE languages. The site also contains all ODIHR reviews on draft and existing legislation, as well as all legislative assessments of law-making processes.

In 2012, almost all themes outlined on *legislationline.org* were extensively revised and updated. Moreover, in the process of reorganizing the website, comments from users were collected, and this feedback will be used in the process of revamping *legislationline.org* in 2013.





Kristin van der Leest, ODIHR Adviser on Gender Issues, listens during an ODIHR-supported conference on measures to raise women's participation in Polish political life, Warsaw, 17 April 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND GENDER

In the OSCE commitments, participating States have recognized the importance of establishing effective mechanisms for inclusive public participation in democratic institutions, including the equal participation of women and men in political and public life. In 2012, ODIHR continued to support participating States in meeting their commitments on democratic governance and gender equality by providing assistance in three key areas: increasing women's participation in political and public life, strengthening parliaments and ensuring pluralist political party systems.

The Office collaborated with key democratic institutions of

participating States, particularly parliaments and political parties, as well as civil society. Furthermore, ODIHR continued to co-operate closely with OSCE field operations, and placed emphasis on strengthening partnerships with regional and international actors. For example, given ODIHR's role as the OSCE liaison to the Council of Europe on local governance in countries of South-Eastern Europe, ODIHR and the Council of Europe organized a regional co-ordination meeting to strengthen programming in this thematic area in South-Eastern Europe from 21 to 23 October in Belgrade.

In the sphere of political participation, ODIHR continued to support the sharing of good practices in promoting women's meaningful participation and in strengthening legal frameworks and institutions to protect and promote gender equality.

### Increasing Women's Participation in Politics

The equal participation of women and men in political and public life, including decision-making, is a key component of any vibrant, inclusive democracy. Women's representation in public life is slowly increasing across the OSCE region: the average proportion of women representatives in national parliaments in October stood at 23.6 per cent. Nonetheless, wide disparities between participating States remain, with the figure in individual participating States ranging from 8.7 to 50 per cent.

In 2012, ODIHR's work on women's political participation included strengthening women's participation in political parties, promoting women's substantive representation in parliaments, and enhancing women's political participation in electoral processes at both national





Participants discuss how women can strengthen their political campaigning capacities at a seminar co-organized by ODIHR on increasing women's participation in political parties in Georgia, Tbilisi, 26 April 2012. (Photo: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy)

and local levels. To implement its activities, the Office supported the organization of roundtables, seminars and conferences, facilitated peer-to-peer exchange through workshops and study tours and promoted the sharing of good practices through the development of research reports, handbooks and advocacy tools.

ODIHR continued implementation of its project "Women in Political Parties" in Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova during 2012. Recognizing that political parties play a key role in facilitating women's political advancement, the project aims at building the capacity of parties to adopt voluntary measures to promote women as party leaders, decision-makers and candidates for public office. To this end, ODIHR continued to develop the *Handbook on Women in Political Parties*, focusing on how to strengthen

internal party democracy as a means to promote greater gender equality within parties. The Handbook integrates good practices identified during training seminars delivered in four of the five pilot countries in 2012: from 23 to 25 April in Tbilisi, from 18 to 20 June in Tirana, from 4 to 6 September in Chisinau, and from 22 to 24 November in Astana. Each event consisted of an interactive roundtable featuring political party leaders, followed by intensive training for potential women candidates and leaders.

In its activities to promote women's political participation, the Office co-operated with OSCE field operations and other partners, including governments, gender equality bodies, civil society and academia, and continued to promote its baseline study *Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan*. Upon the

request of the Irish Department of Justice and Equality, ODIHR contributed to the conference "How to Elect More Women?", held on 20 January in Dublin. ODIHR also participated in a conference on electing more women in Northern Ireland, organized on 9 March in Belfast by the Centre for the Advancement of Women in Politics at Queen's University Belfast, and the Christiansborg Seminar on Women in Politics, organized by the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy on 11 and 12 September in Copenhagen.

On 17 April in Warsaw, at the workshop "Women in Politics" organized by the Polish Institute of Public Affairs, experts presented an ODIHR-commissioned report on women's electoral representation in Poland. As a follow-up to this event, ODIHR contributed to four regional workshops on women's political leadership organized by the School





Liliana Palihovici, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Moldova, addresses a roundtable discussion on increasing the participation of women in political parties as Ambassador Jennifer Brush (l), the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, and Marcin Walecki (r), the Chief of ODIHR's Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, listen, Chisinau, 5 September 2012. (OSCE/Ecaterina Leucă)

of Young Leaders in various cities throughout the country.

ODIHR continued to raise awareness about women's political representation and support women's political networking through the organization of high-level training events in OSCE participating States. The Office organized the "Roundtable on Women's Participation in Ukraine 2012 Parliamentary Elections", in co-operation with the National Democratic Institute, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Equal Opportunities Caucus of the Parliament of Ukraine. Held on 31 May 2012 in Kyiv, participants discussed strategies to strengthen the role of women in the Ukraine 2012 Elections. From 21 to 23 June in Baku, ODIHR organized a workshop on women's political participation, in co-operation with the OSCE Office in Baku, resulting in increased awareness of women's potential

leadership roles in political parties in Azerbaijan. In co-operation with the OSCE Office in Yerevan, ODIHR organized a roundtable with former women participants of ODIHR training on women's political participation on 25 and 26 June in Yerevan. The event provided ODIHR with feedback on the impact of its capacity-building activities and allowed participants to discuss their experiences during the last electoral campaign. On 19 and 20 December in Tbilisi, ODIHR contributed to the workshop "Women in Politics" organized by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, in Georgia where ODIHR experts provided intensive training on women's participation in politics to representatives of nine political parties.

In 2012, ODIHR also continued its history of facilitating networking among women representatives from government and civil society on the margins of human dimension

events. Women Power Breakfasts were organized during the Human Dimension Seminar from 14 to 16 May and of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting from 24 September to 5 October, both in Warsaw.

### Strengthening National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

National mechanisms for the advancement of women serve to protect women's rights and to ensure that gender equality commitments are implemented in OSCE participating States. Independent national human rights institutions (NHRIs) play a very important role, both in promoting public awareness and understanding of women's rights and in protecting these rights.

ODIHR continued to implement its National Human Rights Institutions and Gender Equality



Jasminka Džumhur, the Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina, speaks to journalists ahead of an expert workshop on national human rights institutions and the role they can play in promoting gender equality, Sarajevo, 4 December 2012. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilović)

Project, publishing a *Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*. The Handbook, recog-



nized as the first publication in the OSCE region to specifically focus on NHRIs' gender equality work, provides an overview of trends, examples of good practice and recommendations to guide NHRIs in strengthening their institutional capacity and practical work on women's rights and gender equality.

A draft of the Handbook was discussed with 25 NHRI experts

from Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe during a Regional Expert Workshop on National Human Rights Institutions and Gender Equality organized by the Office on 20 June in Almaty, in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Astana and attended by June Zeitlin, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues. Building upon the success of this event, ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a second workshop, in Sarajevo on 4 December, which gathered 25 representatives of NHRIs and specialized equality bodies from South-Eastern Europe and the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. These events provided a platform for NHRI experts to share good practices, challenges and lessons learned in effectively protecting and promoting women's rights and gender equality. ODIHR

also presented the Handbook during the 11th International Conference of NHRIs, titled "Human Rights of Women and Girls: Promoting Gender Equality: The Role of NHRIs," on 6 November in Amman.

### Combating Violence against Women

Violence against women and girls is a persistent problem across the OSCE region. Exacerbated by its lack of visibility and institutionalized inequalities and stereotyping, it is often viewed as a private or domestic affair rather than a human rights violation. Yet violence against women has far-reaching implications for women's inclusion in society and should be recognized as a manifestation of control over women, limiting decision-making in all spheres. For ODIHR, preventing and combating violence against women is, therefore, a precondition



Participants brainstorm about increasing women's participation in political life in Georgia at a roundtable co-organized by ODIHR in Tbilisi, 25 April 2012. (Photo: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy)

for all other activities aimed at promoting women's rights.

In 2012, ODIHR continued to provide support to field operations in their activities to prevent and combat violence against women, and succeeded in building partnerships with key external actors. For example, ODIHR contributed to the conference organized by UN Women on the enforcement of domestic violence legislation, held on 23 and 24 January in Almaty. In co-operation with the Council of Europe, UN Women and the OSCE Gender Section, the Office organized a side event on violence against women and domestic violence during the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, where more than 40 participants discussed international standards in preventing and combating violence against women, resulting in the identification of concrete opportunities for ODIHR to support OSCE

participating States in strengthening their legal frameworks.

### Strengthening Parliaments

Effective, pluralistic and representative parliaments are essential to effective democratic governance. ODIHR's democratic governance activities are rooted in the standards that OSCE participating States have agreed to uphold. These activities provide assistance to parliaments, focusing on increasing the capacity of parliamentarians to carry out their legislative, representative and oversight functions. This assistance is offered in collaboration with OSCE field operations and implemented in co-operation with key domestic stakeholders, international organizations and civil society groups.

Building on ODIHR's parliamentary support work, the Office co-operated with the Parliament

of Georgia to organize an international conference on "Codes and Standards of Ethics for Parliamentarians". The event, held on 19 April in Tbilisi, included expert-led sessions, in which participants discussed challenges in regulating professional conduct of members of parliament, with a special focus on the experience of other OSCE countries. To support the conference, ODIHR commissioned Transparency International Georgia to produce an independent study on parliamentary ethical standards in Georgia. As a result of this event, the Georgian Parliament expressed its interest in reviving its 2004 Code of Ethics.

In co-operation with the Albanian Parliament and the OSCE Presence in Albania, the Office also organized a conference on "Standards of Parliamentary Ethics and Codes", held on 17 and 18 July in Tirana. The event brought together senior Albanian members



of Parliament and representatives of Albanian civil society, academia, the Council of Europe and the diplomatic community. Observers from OSCE field operations also attended the event, where parliamentarians and experts examined the need for parliamentary-ethics regulation, drawing on examples from different OSCE States.

ODIHR's engagement in promoting norms of parliamentary ethics resulted in the development of a study on professional and ethical standards for parliamentarians. The study, to be published in 2013, is aimed at promoting good practices and will serve to assist OSCE participating States in developing and reforming ethical standards.

ODIHR plays a key role in sharing the wealth of OSCE experience in implementing parliamentary-support programmes and often acts as a "knowledge hub". To this end, ODIHR implemented a project on "Strengthening Parliamentary Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region" in 2012. The Office developed a comparative report on parliamentary structures established in OSCE parliaments as a means to strengthen gender equality and women's substantive representation. During a workshop and study tour organized in Vienna on 10 and 11 December, ODIHR presented the draft report to over 50 participants, including 29 women parliamentarians from OSCE and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation countries. The event also enabled participants to share good practices and lessons learned in establishing and running such structures, as well as to exchange views with the Speaker of the Austrian Parliament and the Minister for Women and Civil Service.

ODIHR was also invited to present the study's findings at a workshop gathering Serbian parliamentarians interested in establishing a women's caucus, organized by the Belgrade Center

for Political Excellence with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, on 18 December.

### Ensuring Pluralistic Political Party Systems

A political party system that offers real choice and operates according to fair rules can help to ensure democratic advancement, citizen representation and a vibrant policy debate. Political parties often serve as bridges between the executive and legislative branches of government and help to effectively prioritize the legislative agenda within a system of government. Political parties also perform critical functions between elections that serve to promote genuine multi-party systems necessary to support the development of effective, sustainable political institutions.

ODIHR's support to OSCE participating States' efforts to establish a legal and regulatory framework guaranteeing basic conditions in which multi-party systems can thrive is based on OSCE commitments and the principles expressed in the *Guidelines on Political Party Regulation*. Based on these guidelines, ODIHR's democratic governance programme continued to provide support and advice to participating State institutions, political parties, OSCE field operations and civil society on how to best protect and advance political pluralism.

ODIHR also utilized its expertise on political party regulation to build the analytical capacity of independent think tanks to advocate for policy reform. This support resulted in the publication of a report on *Political Party Regulation and Women's Participation in Political Life in Tajikistan*, authored by a leading think tank, the National Association of Political Scientists of Tajikistan.

The financing of political parties was another key focus area for

ODIHR in 2012. The Office worked with the Central Election Commission of Moldova, the Anti-Corruption Agency in Serbia, OSCE field operations and a number of civil society organizations to promote their efforts in reforming party-financing regulation.

To this end, ODIHR organized events in Serbia to discuss implementation of the 2011 Law on Financing of Political Activities and the challenges related to monitoring and oversight of political party funding in the country. Furthermore, on 30 and 31 October, ODIHR contributed to the conference on "Political Party Finance in Moldova: Current Situation and Reform Options", co-organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the Central Election Commission of Moldova, IFES and the East Europe Foundation and Institute for Development and Social Initiatives. As a result of this event, ODIHR initiated a combined legal review of the two sets of amendments related to political party and campaign finance in Moldova, in co-operation with the Venice Commission.

In the spirit of promoting political pluralism, ODIHR facilitated a study tour to Poland from 10 to 14 September for 11 representatives of political parties, ministries and think tanks from Kazakhstan, in the framework of the project "Enhancing Kazakhstan's Political Party System" implemented by the OSCE Centre in Astana in co-operation with ODIHR. The agenda included briefings at the Presidential Administration and the National Assembly of Poland, as well as meetings with leading political parties and prominent civil society organizations.





ODIHR is supporting the establishment of a state-wide, fully computerized population register in Kyrgyzstan, following a request from the State Registration Service. (OSCE/Eric Gourlan)

## MIGRATION AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

OSCE participating States have long recognized that the free movement of people and ideas is essential to building trust and confidence in the pursuit of peace and stability across the OSCE region. Freedom of movement is the fundamental right of everyone to leave any country, including their own, to return to their country and move freely within borders of their state. In an OSCE context, however, the term “freedom of movement” incorporates not only free mobility within state borders but also freer cross-border mobility. ODIHR supports OSCE participating States in developing policies that protect the right to freedom of movement and the facilitation of free cross-border travel.

ODIHR continues to provide assistance to participating States in developing effective migration-management policies, with a special focus on mainstreaming gender aspects into these policies, and the promotion and facilitation of integration of regular migrants.

### Migrant Integration

In 2012, ODIHR identified Turkey as a country that stands out among OSCE participating States with its relatively new tradition of immigration and as a particularly significant hub of migratory flows, including both irregular and transit migrants. In co-operation with the Migration Policy Group, ODIHR began a two phase assessment of migrant-integration measures, according to the internationally recognized Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) methodology, to take into account the draft “Law on Foreigners and

International Protection”. Phase I of the assessment, which aimed to create baseline data, was completed in 2012. Phase II of this assessment will be completed after adoption of the Law in 2013.

The Office supports OSCE participating States by raising awareness and promoting the exchange of good practices on migrant integration in the OSCE region. In 2012, ODIHR raised awareness among OSCE participating States of OSCE migration commitments, with a focus on good practices related to the integration of documented migrants during a regional training event on migration and international human rights law, organized by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the NGO Group 484 and the International Commission of Jurists, from 16 to 19 October in Kladovo.



Dace Schlentz, an ODIHR Adviser on Migration and Freedom of Movement, presents an ODIHR report on the challenges facing women from migrant households in Tajikistan, Dushanbe, 12 September 2012. (OSCE)

### Gender-Mainstreaming Migration Policies

The regional distribution of female migrants varies significantly within OSCE participating States. Certain OSCE participating States are not only destination countries, but also countries of origin of a significant number of female migrants. In some participating States, female migrants already make up more than half of the total migrant population. The number of women migrating into and between OSCE participating States with the sole purpose of employment has been steadily increasing. Migration not only affects the social and economic situation of migrants themselves, but also of their family members, who have been left behind in their countries of origin.

In 2012, ODIHR, in co-operation with UN Women, implemented the project “Social and Economic

Integration of Women from Migrant Households in Tajikistan” to assist the national and local authorities of Tajikistan to identify a systemic solution to address the exclusion of women from migrant households who are affected by labour migration. As part of this project, ODIHR conducted an assessment of the social and economic inclusion of women from migrant households in Tajikistan. The results of the assessment were presented during the National Conference “Social and Economic Inclusion of Women from Migrant Households in Tajikistan”, which took place on 12 and 13 September in Dushanbe. During the conference, more than 65 participants from national and local governments, civil society and international organizations discussed challenges abandoned women from migrant households in Tajikistan face, due to ongoing gender-based discrimination and stereotypes, and

human rights abuses. Based on the assessment and the conference recommendations, a draft action plan on direct assistance to these women was elaborated by ODIHR and submitted to the Tajik public authorities.

### Population Registration

In those OSCE participating States that practice residency registration, burdensome registration criteria may discourage internal migration and, in effect, limit the right to freedom of movement. Using its *Guidelines on Population Registration* as a primary tool, ODIHR assists political decision makers, practitioners and relevant authorities in developing registration policies that protect the right to freedom of movement.

In 2012, ODIHR continued to provide assistance to Kyrgyzstan’s State Registration Service in the establishment of a unified





Zoran Đoković, an ODIHR Adviser on Migration and Freedom of Movement, presents ODIHR's assessment of the voter registration system in Moldova, as well as plans for the establishment of a state voter register, Chisinau, 27 July 2012. (OSCE/Goran Petrov)

state population register and the simplification of procedures for residency registration. To this end, ODIHR conducted an assessment of the prospects for the establishment of a nationwide population register. Findings and recommendations from the assessment helped the authorities in determining the optimal technical model for the implementation of the state population register. ODIHR also supported the development of a legislative framework for the functioning of the population register. These activities contributed to the government's decision to establish a population register in 2013 that will operate on the basis of legislation developed with ODIHR assistance.

### **Voter and Population Registration**

In many OSCE participating States, the voter register is linked to the

population register or compiled from it. In such cases, the quality of the population register directly affects the exercise of universal and equal suffrage. In those participating States that use data from the population register to compile voter lists, ODIHR provides advice and expertise to ensure synergies and effective linkages between voter registers and population-registration systems, as part of its ongoing assistance to participating States to ensure follow-up on recommendations from ODIHR election observation missions.

On 14 March in Dushanbe, ODIHR, in partnership with the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of Tajikistan, organized a roundtable discussion on measures to develop effective links between population and voter registration in Tajikistan, as well as on reforms to the country's legal electoral framework. The roundtable

brought together government representatives, political parties and NGOs to explore the possibilities and challenges associated with creating a centralized voter register in Tajikistan based on information from the country's existing public registers.

Upon the request of the Central Election Commission of Moldova, ODIHR conducted an assessment of Moldova's "Elections" electronic election-management system and the voter registration system. Findings and recommendations from the assessment report were presented and discussed at a roundtable held in Chisinau on 26 July. On the basis of the assessment report, the Central Election Commission now plans to develop an action plan to improve the voter-registration system and to approach the Government and the Parliament for their support in its implementation.



## SUPPORT FOR OSCE PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

As follow-up to the OSCE-Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation Civil Society Conference held on the margins of the Vilnius Ministerial Council in December 2011, and in response to the 2011 Ministerial Council decision on “broadening dialogue and strengthening practical co-operation and the sharing of best practices”, ODIHR increased its co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners in 2012.

In this vein, ODIHR supported a workshop on “Constitutions, Women and the Arab Spring”, held from 16 to 18 March 2012 in Istanbul. The civil society-organized workshop brought together 25 women representatives of reform-minded political parties and civil society from North Africa, South-Eastern Europe and other European countries to discuss measures to ensure women’s political engagement during periods of transition.

In another novel development, ODIHR implemented the project “Promoting democratic structures among OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation”, upon Tunisia’s request. The project focused on providing legislative assistance in the field of elections, freedom of assembly, the judiciary and political party legislation. The resulting three reviews will be issued in early 2013.

The project also aimed at promoting political party regulation and women in political life, as well as improving youth participation in political processes. ODIHR contributed its expertise to several major events in Tunisia organized by local authorities and partners, such as the Tunisian Ministry of Women and Family Affairs and the Tunisian School of Politics. In addition, 27 stakeholders from Mediterranean Partner countries, including government and civil society representatives, participated in OSCE ODIHR Human Dimension meetings, as well as events aimed at strengthening parliaments and national mechanisms for the advancement of women.

ODIHR also organized a Workshop entitled “Introduction to the OSCE Human Dimension for Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation” for 22 government officials and civil society actors from the Mediterranean region, held from 12 to 14 December in Warsaw. The event, which set the path for future co-operation with Mediterranean partners, was specifically tailored to their democratization needs. Finally, ODIHR translated a number of its publications into Arabic in an effort to increase the accessibility of ODIHR methodologies and tools to OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries.



Mohamed Sektaoui, the Chief Executive of Amnesty International, Morocco, speaks while Amal Mukhtar, a Political Researcher at the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Egypt, listens during an introductory course to the OSCE’s Human Dimension for representatives of government and civil society from the OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Warsaw, 14 December 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)



Alovsat Aliyev of the Azerbaijan Migration Centre, Aina Shormanbayeva of the International Legal Initiative in Kazakhstan and Ella Polyakova of the Organization of Soldiers' Mothers of St Petersburg (l-r) listen to Svetlana Gannushkina of the Russia-based Civic Assistance Committee at a meeting to establish an OSCE-wide network of legal practitioners to improve access to justice for trafficked persons, Warsaw, 3 April 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)





# Human Rights



2012 has seen challenges to the protection of human rights in the OSCE region, in spite of the detailed and extensive commitments undertaken by the participating States to respect, protect, promote and fulfil universal human rights. In a number of participating States, this has included legislative changes restricting freedom of peaceful assembly and the operation of civil society organizations and their ability to raise funds. Declining financial resources and austerity measures have affected human rights protection, including the ability of state bodies to meet their human-rights protection obligations.

Attacks on human rights defenders continued in 2012, including physical attacks, intimidation and other forms of harassment. Many of these attacks were not followed by effective responses from authorities. The global effort against terrorism continues to pose a challenge to participating States in ensuring that human rights are adequately safeguarded in the process of maintaining security.

In line with its mandate, ODIHR assists participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments through its monitoring efforts, capacity-building activities and the development of practical tools and resources. ODIHR's human rights programmes have addressed key issues and developments in participating States, ensuring prompt reaction to requests and providing tailored assistance to best fit the needs expressed. In this effort, ODIHR has engaged extensively with governmental authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society alike.

## MAIN ISSUES

### Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

Legislative changes in some participating States have imposed undue restrictions on assemblies, including the establishment of disproportionate penalties in cases of non-compliance with legal requirements. In some cases, assemblies have been unduly restricted or even banned. Notification procedures for assemblies have sometimes been abused and law enforcement agencies have resorted to disproportionate use of force. The practice of establishing encampments and other temporary structures, which is redefining the concept of an assembly, has posed additional challenges. The increased use of social media is, moreover, changing the notion of assembly notification, and of the roles of organizers and participants. This has led authorities to respond to some assemblies organized on-line without regard to OSCE human dimension commitments. In many cases, nevertheless, authorities have successfully and effectively facilitated assemblies, even in challenging circumstances such as multiple large events or significant security considerations.

### Support for Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions

The right of individuals to know and act upon their rights and duties in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms has been enshrined in the OSCE concept of security since 1975. Participating States have reiterated the important role played by civil society and free media in helping to ensure full respect for human rights ever



Maj Britt Theorin, the Chairperson of the Sweden-based NGO Operation 1325, (r) listens as keynote speaker Detective Inspector Khizra Dhindsa, representing the Association of Chief Police Officers of England and Wales, (l) speaks at an OSCE-organized expert meeting focusing on ways of empowering women in countering violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism, Vienna, 12 March 2012. (OSCE/Mehdi Knani)

since. Nevertheless, human rights defenders in the OSCE area continue to face challenges in carrying out their legitimate work to promote and protect human rights. These have included physical assaults, attacks and threats, restrictions on the freedoms of association, expression or movement, and use of fiscal and administrative measures to restrict their activity. 2012 saw the release of prominent human rights defender Evgeny Zhovtis in Kazakhstan, but Azimzhan Askarov from Kyrgyzstan and Ales Bialiaty from Belarus remain in prison.

Repeating its calls for concrete OSCE action to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, a commitment adopted by participating States in Budapest in 1994, the 2012 OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference held on the margins of the Dublin Ministerial Council meeting on 5 December recommended that guiding OSCE principles on the

protection of human rights defenders be created.

Progress was made towards the establishment of a Secretariat of the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), which is due to become fully operational in 2013. The body was created to co-ordinate the activities of 40 such institutions from across Europe. ODIHR has received reports that a lack of financial resources is negatively affecting the ability of NHRIs in a number of participating States to effectively carry out their mandate.

#### Prevention of Torture

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to prohibit and take measures to prevent torture and other ill-treatment. Nevertheless, torture and other forms of ill-treatment remain pervasive in the OSCE area. This stems from the inadequate

training of law enforcement officers, poor detention conditions and a lack of will to address this problem through the effective investigation and punishment of acts of torture and other ill-treatment. In 2012 two OSCE participating States, Hungary and Austria, became parties to the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The instrument provides for the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism for the prevention of torture.

#### The Death Penalty

With Latvia's ratification of Protocol 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which abolished the use of the death penalty in all cases, the number of OSCE participating States that have now completely abolished the death penalty has reached 51. OSCE



participating States have committed themselves to consider and share information about ending capital punishment. Belarus and the United States remain the only countries in the OSCE area that still carry out executions, including in the course of 2012.

### Protecting Human Rights in the Fight against Terrorism

Realizing that efforts to combat terrorism can only be successful if they are carried out in compliance with human rights standards, OSCE participating States have firmly committed themselves to protecting human rights while countering terrorism. However, there remain challenges in meeting this commitment. Broad and vague definitions of terrorism continue to be used in a number of participating States, curbing the freedom of expression of dissenting voices. Discriminatory measures that violate fundamental precepts of freedom of religion have been applied in some states. Actions to combat the financing of terrorist activities in other cases have had a negative impact on civil society organizations engaged in legitimate, often human rights-related activities.

### Security Sector, Human Rights and Gender

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security commits OSCE participating States to protect the human rights of armed forces personnel, men and women alike. Nevertheless, problems persist in the security sector, ranging from a lack of understanding of the gender aspects of initiatives and policies and mistreatment and bullying of personnel, to denial of equal access to employment opportunities or undue restrictions on the exercise of civil and political rights of armed forces personnel. Insufficient or

non-existent independent oversight and compliance mechanisms, such as military ombudsperson institutions, limit avenues to redress these grievances.

### Trafficking in Human Beings

OSCE participating States continue to fall short of the full implementation of human dimension commitments in the field of anti-trafficking. Participants in the 2012 OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on the Rule of Law Framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings concluded that challenges remain in developing a human rights based and victim-centered approach to combating trafficking. They also noted that, although all forms of trafficking in human beings are criminalized in most OSCE participating States, the number of investigations and prosecutions remains very low and very few traffickers are convicted.

## ACTIVITIES

ODIHR's human rights activities can be divided into five programmatic areas:

- ◆ Human rights monitoring and response;
- ◆ Human rights education and capacity building;
- ◆ Human rights and anti-terrorism;
- ◆ Human rights, gender and security; and
- ◆ Human rights and anti-trafficking.

### Human Rights Monitoring and Response

On 8 and 9 November, ODIHR supported the Irish OSCE Chairmanship in organizing a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association. The two-day meeting brought

together state and civil society representatives from OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation with the aim to advance the full implementation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, while also taking into account the role played by new technologies.

On the margins of this meeting, ODIHR released its report on Monitoring the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in Selected OSCE participating States. The 100-page report is the result of ODIHR's human rights monitoring work carried out in 11 participating States from May 2011 to June 2012. Throughout the life of this project, ODIHR monitored 27 assemblies, demonstrations and counter-demonstrations. Of these, 15 took place in 2012 in Croatia, Hungary, Switzerland and the United States. The main goal of the monitoring was to identify gaps and challenges, as well as examples of good practices, in how participating States meet their commitments on freedom of peaceful assembly. The ensuing report includes the findings of the assembly observations, as well a set of recommendations to participating States aimed at promoting full compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments.

In advance of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association, ODIHR and the Irish OSCE Chairmanship jointly facilitated a Civil Society Forum, bringing together more than 70 participants from OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to discuss good practices, opportunities and problems presented by the digital age and new technologies in the enjoyment and the promotion of the rights to freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly. Their recommendations were presented at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting.



Snježana Bokulić, the Head of the ODIHR Human Rights Department, presents ODIHR's new human rights education guidelines for law enforcement officials and secondary schools, together with Pavel Chacuk, an ODIHR Human Rights Adviser, Felisa Tibbitts of Human Rights Associates and the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and Cristina Sganga, a Human Rights Trainer and Adviser, Warsaw, 24 September 2012. (OSCE/Piotr Markowski)

ODIHR continues to monitor the situation of human rights defenders. In November 2012 an ODIHR delegation, jointly with representatives of the OSCE Office in Bishkek, visited human rights defender Azimjan Askarov in prison in Bishkek. Askarov is serving a life imprisonment term following proceedings that are widely regarded as having fallen short of international fair trial standards.

ODIHR briefed the Human Dimension Committee on the relevant issues and developments regarding the death penalty in September 2012, and presented the 2012 *Background Paper on the Death Penalty in the OSCE Region* at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The publication is compiled annually to facilitate the exchange of information on the question of abolition among participating States.

### Human Rights Education and Capacity Building

In July 2012, ODIHR conducted two training seminars for Belarusian trainers and educators, to promote the use of the ODIHR-developed human rights education training manuals for Belarus. *Protecting and promoting human rights through active participation*, one of the ODIHR-supported tools promoted in the training, was subsequently named best publication at the Fourth Festival of Non-Formal Education in Belarus, held on 7 to 9 December in Minsk.

To promote effective human rights education and to support OSCE participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments, ODIHR published two sets of guidelines on human rights education in 2012. The *Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Law Enforcement*

*Officials* and the *Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Secondary School Systems* were developed in recognition of the key role law enforcement officials play in safeguarding human rights and of the importance of schools in helping young people better understand and defend their rights.

The role of police agencies in the provision of systemic and effective human rights education for their personnel and effective implementation of the *Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Law Enforcement Officials* was further discussed on 10 and 11 December 2012 in Istanbul, at a meeting organized by ODIHR and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats department, with the support of the Turkish National Police. More than 40 police officers and representatives from police academies, civil society and international



Maina Kiai, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Assembly and Association, giving the keynote address at the OSCE's Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association, Vienna, 8 November 2012. (OSCE/Jonathan Perfect)

organizations across the OSCE region shared good practices in human rights education for law enforcement officials and highlighted different ways to improve teaching approaches, methodologies and course evaluation, as well as other aspects of the curriculum.

ODIHR continued to provide support to civil society organizations in monitoring public assemblies. In February, jointly with the international NGO Human Rights Foundation and the Georgian NGO Human Rights Centre, ODIHR organized an event in Tbilisi with approximately 70 human rights defenders and the participation of Maina Kiai, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The event was mainly intended to discuss challenges and good practices in freedom of assembly and association in European countries. In this context, one roundtable

discussion was devoted to the presentation of a freedom of assembly monitoring report, prepared by the Human Rights Centre with the support of ODIHR, following the systematic monitoring of assemblies in Georgia carried out in 2011.

ODIHR also provided training in assembly-monitoring methodology to local NGOs in Serbia and Azerbaijan, in partnership with OSCE field offices to promote the freedom of peaceful assembly.

Building on the work carried out in 2011 to support NHRIs in the OSCE area, on 17 and 18 October in Warsaw, ODIHR organized an expert roundtable for NHRIs to facilitate the exchange of ideas and discussion on future work to support NHRIs. The meeting was attended by representatives of NHRIs, intergovernmental organizations, OSCE field operations and international experts.

ODIHR also continued to support OSCE field operations and other OSCE structures in providing human rights training and facilitating the exchange of information on human rights issues between OSCE actors. In the context of torture prevention, in November ODIHR organized a roundtable with the participation of international experts and OSCE field presences seeking to draw on experiences and lessons learned across the OSCE and to identify how best ODIHR can promote and facilitate work to prevent torture and other ill-treatment.

### Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism

In partnership with the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, in 2012 ODIHR completed a project to support Tajik law enforcement institutions to develop a training programme on the protection of human rights while





ODIHR consultant Friedrich Schwindt delivers a training course for Georgian law enforcement officers on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism, Tbilisi, 16 May 2012. (OSCE/Mårten Löfberg)

countering terrorism. Placing particular emphasis on local ownership, the relevant curriculum was developed by a group of ten experienced trainers from the Academy and Training Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Higher School of the State Committee on National Security. Pilot training at the Academy and the Higher School was delivered in November in Dushanbe and it is expected that the course will be integrated in the regular curriculum of both institutions.

ODIHR also provided a series of country-based training events on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism. Georgian law enforcement officers completed a three-day training course on 18 May, organized by ODIHR and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The course was attended by more than 25 senior and mid-level police officers from Georgia's

Special Operations, Counter-Terrorism and Patrol Police working in the area of combating terrorism. In March, police trainers in Ashgabat completed a three-day training of trainers course organized by ODIHR to help train future Turkmen police officers in the protection of human rights while countering terrorism. In December, ODIHR delivered training on the protection of human rights in countering terrorism to 25 security service, police and border officials in Ukraine.

Throughout 2012, ODIHR delivered training sessions on human rights and border security during the periodic annual courses of the OSCE Border Management Staff College and trained future instructors at the college. From 27 to 31 March, ODIHR also conducted a week-long training course on the protection of human rights while countering terrorist threats at the borders. The training sessions

aimed at providing officials from border and customs agencies from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation with a human rights-based approach to securing borders from terrorism.

Jointly with the OSCE Secretariat Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit, ODIHR organized two expert roundtables on preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. The two events, co-organized with the OSCE Gender Section in Vienna, focused on the empowerment of women in countering violent extremism on 12 and 13 March and on youth engagement on 23 and 24 October.

### Human Rights, Gender and Security

In January, ODIHR launched the Human Rights, Gender and Security



ODIHR expert Ihar Kuzminich delivers a presentation to police trainers of the S.A. Niyazov Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan during a course on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism, Ashgabat, 14 March 2012. (OSCE/ Svetlana Ostroushenko)

(HRGS) programme, which builds on ODIHR's earlier work with the security sector. A mapping exercise was carried out in 2012 to help identify current gaps when promoting and protecting human rights and women's rights, as well as when seeking to achieve gender equality and ethnic diversity in the security sector. It identified significant potential for the HRGS programme to conduct a wide range of activities that would help build bridges between civil society and state actors and share good practices on issues such as anti-discrimination mechanisms and human rights monitoring of the security sector.

ODIHR continued to provide training on gender in the security sector to a variety of actors in OSCE participating States. Based on its *Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit*, in 2012 ODIHR organized and led seven training events, with a total of 172 participants. Training

was delivered in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Tajikistan. The training covered a range of issues related to the integration of a gender perspective in security-sector policies and institutions, gender and border management, and police responses to domestic violence. Participants included representatives of police forces, border security agencies and other state bodies.

Helping police officers better respond to cases of domestic violence was the focus of training organized by ODIHR and partners in Kyrgyzstan and Georgia on 8 and 11 June, respectively. The training session in Kyrgyzstan, organized in co-operation with the Interior Ministry and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, provided senior law enforcement management with insight into developing strategies for mainstreaming gender considerations into their

work, so police can be more effective in responding to cases of domestic violence. The training session in Georgia, organized in co-operation with UN Women and the Interior Ministry, was held in Gori and focused on improving the quality of police response to reported incidents of domestic violence in settlements of internally displaced persons. Two training events on fundamental gender concepts and one training for trainers were delivered at the OSCE Border Management Staff College.

ODIHR facilitated and contributed to ongoing discussion on ways to mainstream gender and human rights in the security sector. The Office was active in the first annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, in Vienna, highlighting the need to mainstream human rights and gender in the implementation process.



Cindy Dyer, the Vice-President Vital Voices Global Partnership, Mariana Katzarova, the ODIHR Senior Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, Ajla van Heel, the ODIHR Gender Officer, and Marieke van Doorninck, a City Councillor in Amsterdam, (l-r) moderate discussions at the OSCE event, “Political leadership: Who can speak for the victims of trafficking?”, Warsaw, 15 May 2012. (OSCE/Piotr Markowski)

On the margins of the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, ODIHR, jointly with the European Organisation of Military Associations, organized a side event highlighting the need to lift restrictions on the right to association of security personnel.

In October, ODIHR co-hosted, with the OSCE Gender Section in Vienna, an event on “Enhancing the Role of Women in Conflict Mediation in the OSCE Region”. The event was attended by 110 participants and discussions focused on obstacles women face in entering mediation processes, entry points for women to participate in formal and informal peace processes and examples of women acting as mediators.

### Human Rights and Anti-Trafficking

From 14 to 16 May ODIHR, jointly with the Irish Chairmanship of the

OSCE, organized a Human Dimension Seminar on the Rule of Law Framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The Seminar was attended by more than 150 participants, including representatives of 42 OSCE participating States and 5 Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The event provided an opportunity to review the role of an effective rule of law framework in the fight against human trafficking.

ODIHR continued its activities to promote access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking. In particular, it facilitated the exchange of strategies and information among lawyers and legal practitioners involved in the provision of free legal advice and representation to trafficked persons. From 2 to 4 April, the Office organized a meeting on this topic in Warsaw, bringing together 45 participants from law firms, legal

clinics, pro-bono clearinghouses, civil society and intergovernmental organizations.

In July, ODIHR began implementation of a project focusing on human rights protection for trafficked persons and vulnerable groups in Central Asia. The three-year project focuses on three main areas: the development of National Referral Mechanisms for the identification of and assistance to the victims of trafficking; enhancing access of victims to justice and effective remedies, including compensation; and distribution of small grants to local NGOs. Between July and December ODIHR carried out inception visits in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The visits were aimed at defining the focus and modalities of country-specific and regional activities, through consultations with governmental agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.



Larry Olomofe, the ODIHR Adviser for Combating Racism and Xenophobia, leads a training session on combating hate crime for representatives of civil society organizations working on behalf of people of African descent in the OSCE region, Warsaw, 2 October 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)



# Tolerance and Non-discrimination



OSCE participating States have embraced an extensive list of commitments to combat racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions. In these commitments, participating States recognize that intolerance and discrimination may escalate into wider violence and pose the threat for the security and stability of societies. Even though progress has been made to combat manifestations of intolerance, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms remain prevalent in the OSCE region. To combat intolerance and to protect freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, ODIHR works with participating States and a broad network of civil society organizations.

## **MAIN ISSUES**

### **Hate-Motivated Crimes and Violent Manifestations of Intolerance**

According to the annual ODIHR report *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses*, published in November 2012, numerous cases of hate-motivated intimidation, threats, vandalism, assaults, arson and murder were recorded throughout the OSCE region. The report stressed, once again, that a main challenge to understanding the scope and prevalence of hate crime remains the absence of reliable data.

### **Freedom of Religion or Belief**

Restrictions on freedom of religion or belief are still reported throughout the OSCE region. In particular, the lack of recognition of the freedom to operate without registration, as well as bureaucratic and restrictive registration practices, limit both the basic right to exercise freedom of religion or belief and the access to legal personality for religious or belief communities in some parts of the OSCE. Additionally, the debate over the display of religious symbols and the relationship between freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief continue to dominate discussion.

### **Challenging Biases and Prejudices through Education**

OSCE participating States have recognized the importance of education to building cohesive, pluralistic and diverse societies. As bias and prejudice may lead to violent expressions of intolerance, educational activities that include teaching about challenging stereotypes and bias, as well as about fundamental rights and equality, awareness-raising about the positive aspects of diversity and promotion of the remembrance of the Holocaust can help challenge such attitudes. Such activities are particularly needed in times of economic and financial crisis, when marginalized groups often become the targets of negative stereotyping.





Nataliya Dryomina-Voloc (l), from the National Academy of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine, and Maia Kvirikashvili, from the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, discuss a case study during a pilot training session for prosecutors, organized by ODIHR, on the effective prosecution of hate crime cases, Warsaw, 5 July 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

## ACTIVITIES

ODIHR supports participating States and civil society to effectively respond to hate crime, to protect and promote freedom of religion or belief and to promote mutual respect and understanding. ODIHR has developed a comprehensive approach to combating hate crime. Its programmes are designed to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies, government officials and civil society to combat hate crimes and to raise awareness through educational programmes. In line with its mandate, ODIHR's activities also include monitoring, collecting and the dissemination of information on hate crimes and good practices designed to address them.

In 2012, activities were conducted in the following fields:

- ◆ Collecting and disseminating information about hate crime;

- ◆ Awareness raising;
- ◆ Reviewing legislation;
- ◆ Supporting law enforcement agencies;
- ◆ Supporting civil society;
- ◆ Responding to intolerance against Muslims;
- ◆ Responding to anti-Semitism;
- ◆ Raising awareness about intolerance against Christians; and
- ◆ Promoting freedom of religion or belief.

### Collecting and Disseminating Information about Hate Crime

Despite the increased efforts of participating States to combat hate crime, the lack of reliable information on numbers and types of hate crimes, targeted victim groups and perpetrators continues to be a challenge in effectively responding to hate crime across the OSCE region. Efficient government responses can

be formulated only with detailed and reliable data on perpetrators and victims and on the extent and type of crimes being committed.

To help address this dearth of information, ODIHR continues to be a collection point for hate crime data in the OSCE region. As in previous years, ODIHR published the annual report on hate crime, the Office's main activity in this area. The report published in 2012 demonstrated, once again, that there are significant disparities in data collection among most participating States. Information submitted to ODIHR over the cumulative period of 2008-2011, indicated that 50 participating States collect some data on hate crimes. However, only 25 participating States submitted data on hate crimes committed in their jurisdictions. The report's recommendations emphasize the need to identify hate crimes, record, investigate and prosecute them, and



Henri Nickels, Programme Manager at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, listens as Carolyn Bys, an ODIHR Hate Crime Officer, speaks at an expert meeting on the development of a practical guide on the monitoring and collecting of hate crime data, Warsaw, 14 February 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

to strengthen collaboration with civil society to complement efforts of national authorities to respond.

In 2012, ODIHR worked with an expert group to develop a practical guide on hate crime data-collection and monitoring systems. Together with experts, ODIHR conducted visits to Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States to gain a better understanding about their respective official approaches to collecting and analyzing hate crime data. ODIHR representatives also met with NGOs supporting victims of hate crimes. The development of the guide is an initial step of ODIHR's efforts to support participating States in this area.

The fourth meeting of the National Points of Contact on Hate Crime was held in Vienna on 15 and 16 November, to coincide with International Tolerance

Day. The National Points of Contact are nominated officials responsible for providing information to ODIHR on hate crimes, such as the number of these crimes and updates on relevant legislation and policies designed to combat and prevent such crimes. Participants exchanged their experiences about approaches to hate crime by different participating States and looked at examples of exchange between civil society and public authorities in order to identify effective strategies to deal with hate crime across the OSCE region.

As the absence of reliable information remains a significant barrier to efforts to combat hate crime, ODIHR continually seeks other ways to collect additional information. On 15 and 16 October, ODIHR organized a training event on hate crime and methods of reporting for ten OSCE field operations, representatives from the International

Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In order to make information from the annual hate crime report available to a broader audience, ODIHR is developing a website based on this document.

### Awareness raising

In 2012, ODIHR provided expertise at awareness-raising events on hate crimes in Brussels, The Hague, Istanbul, London, Madrid, Milan, Sarajevo, Skopje and Warsaw. ODIHR also presented its guidelines and tools at the European Parliament in November 2012. The aim of these presentations is to encourage a variety of approaches to addressing hate crime and to raising awareness among government and criminal-justice officials, as well as civil society, on the impact of hate crime. Participants were provided



ODIHR Hate Crime Officers Joanna Perry and Carolyn Bys, and Floriane Hohenberg, the Head of ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, (l-r) present the highlights from ODIHR's annual hate crime report for 2011 at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, 3 October 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

with information about tools ODIHR has developed to respond to hate crimes and were encouraged to make use of them.

On 19 and 20 April, ODIHR organized a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting focusing on combating racism, intolerance and discrimination in society through sport. During the event, participants emphasized the importance of implementing existing OSCE commitments to combat hate crimes. Participants called upon participating States to include a comprehensive definition of hate crimes in their legislation and to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Participants also underlined the importance of preventive measures to achieve sustainable results in the fight against racism. They called for implementation of initiatives such as educational activities, awareness-raising and public campaigns

promoting tolerance and non-discrimination in sports and through sports. Consultations with the National Points of Contact and civil society representatives on the future of the hate crime report took place prior to the meeting.

In order to raise the awareness of police, prosecutors, government officials and NGOs about the concept of hate crime and associated issues within the local context, ODIHR published its booklet *Understanding Hate Crimes* in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The publications were developed in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Mission to Skopje, respectively.

### Reviewing Legislation

Upon the request of participating States, ODIHR conducts legal reviews on draft and existing

legislation dealing with discrimination and hate crime. The aim of this activity is to help lawmakers ensure that legislation is in accordance with OSCE commitments and other international standards. The reviews also include recommendations on how potential areas of concern might be addressed. ODIHR's publication *Hate Crime Laws – A Practical Guide* provides a basis for these legal reviews. The guide, published in 2009 in English and Russian is also currently available in Bosnian, French, German and Romanian.

ODIHR also responded to requests for legislative reviews related to freedom of religion or belief. ODIHR completed comments on amendments and additions to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on "Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations" and prepared an opinion on a draft Law of the Republic of Armenia that





A participant gives his comments on the session to Azra Junuzović, the Deputy Head of ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department. TAHCLE is customized to reflect and address the circumstances, needs and conditions in the host State, and implemented with law enforcement officers for the benefit of police, communities and society, Zagreb, 23 March 2012. (OSCE/Nevenka Lukin)

would impact the freedom of religion or belief. In October, ODIHR published a joint opinion with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission on the "Law on Freedom of Religious Belief" of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

### Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in their Efforts to Tackle Hate Crimes

ODIHR continued to work with the International Association of Prosecutors to finalize a *Practical Guide for Prosecutors on Hate Crimes*. In July, ODIHR held a consultation meeting in Warsaw on the final draft of the Guide. The participants, 28 prosecutors from 23 participating States, also took part in a seminar based on a draft guide. In September, ODIHR trained 22 prosecutors upon invitation of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Support to law enforcement agencies to combat hate crime remains high on ODIHR's agenda. ODIHR's Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme was delivered in four participating States. This unique programme aims to improve police skills in recognizing, understanding and investigating hate crimes; to interact effectively with victim communities; and to build public confidence and co-operation with law enforcement agencies.

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding to implement the TAHCLE programme in Bulgaria, ODIHR worked with the intergovernment working group to customize the curriculum. In March, ODIHR trained 47 investigators in Bulgaria on how to recognize and investigate hate crimes. Participants were also provided with an overview of applicable legislation in Bulgaria. Likewise, ODIHR trained

60 police officers from Croatia, Poland and Hungary on investigating hate crimes.

From 12 to 15 November, after ODIHR signed a Memorandum of Understanding to train law enforcement officials in Ukraine, ODIHR conducted a needs assessment visit to Kiev to determine the extent and nature of hate crimes, understand the current police response to hate crime, and identify policing structures and the approach to police training. ODIHR is working with Ukrainian officials to customize training curriculum and deliver the training seminars to law enforcement officials in 2013.

ODIHR presented TAHCLE at the annual meeting of the Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC) attended by senior representatives from across Europe. Following the presentation, the AEPC invited ODIHR to facilitate a training seminar for representatives of its police



Participants share ideas on human diversity during a presentation of ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme to Polish law enforcement officials, Warsaw, 22 February 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

college members in 2013. To support the exchange of good practices, ODIHR supported an event that gathered law enforcement officials from Poland and Germany in Berlin on 27 February. Additionally, three more participating States have expressed interest in implementing TAHCLE in 2013.

### Supporting Civil Society

An important part of ODIHR's work includes support to civil society organizations. In line with the Ministerial Council Decision adopted in 2006 in Brussels, which tasks ODIHR to closely co-operate with civil society working in the field of combating intolerance and discrimination, ODIHR trains civil society representatives and conducts awareness-raising activities. ODIHR also works to ensure the presence and participation of civil society groups at OSCE meetings, where

they have the opportunity to engage in discussion with government representatives from participating States and develop contacts and co-operation with other organizations from the OSCE region.

In 2012, ODIHR trained more than 150 representatives from civil society organizations in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey. As part of the project Best Practices for Roma Integration (BPRI) project in the Western Balkans, ODIHR conducted two regional training seminars for 36 Roma representatives in Sarajevo on preventing and responding to hate crimes against Roma. In order to reach out to new civil society organizations, ODIHR organized two workshops, in Dublin on 25 May and Oslo on 26 November, on hate crimes targeting people with disabilities. The workshops gathered more than 50 activists,

who gained a deeper understanding of the concept of hate crime, and monitoring and reporting mechanisms, as well as potential areas of engagement to support government efforts to respond to hate crimes against persons with disabilities. On 1 October in Warsaw, the Office also organized a training seminar for 22 civil society representatives of African descent from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United States. The training included presentations on the concept of hate crime and ways in which members of African communities can increase reporting to law enforcement agencies.

On the margins of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting focusing on combating racism, intolerance and discrimination in society through sport, ODIHR organized a civil society meeting for 25 NGO representatives. Participants



Ilya Lensky, the Director of the Jews in Latvia Museum, speaks at a workshop on collecting data on anti-Semitic hate crimes as Melissa Sonnino, the Community Affairs Coordinator at CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, listens, Warsaw, 18 December 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

prepared recommendations that were presented during the meeting, underscoring the need for sporting associations and fan clubs to explicitly condemn acts of intolerance and discrimination, and stressing the positive impact of the participation of sports celebrities in awareness-raising campaigns.

### Responding to Anti-Semitism

Creating educational tools on the Holocaust and addressing anti-Semitism are an important part of ODIHR's efforts to confront anti-Semitism. In this area, ODIHR works closely with participating States, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. ODIHR's partners include the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Studies in Israel and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, among others.

Fifteen participating States have produced country-specific materials on historical and contemporary anti-Semitism, which also cover the history of the persecution of Jews. On 4 May, Austria launched its customized version of the ODIHR teaching materials on combating anti-Semitism. To promote sharing of good practices, ODIHR organized a workshop with 11 experts from other participating States where the teaching materials are in use. On 19 November in Berlin, ODIHR held a workshop in co-operation with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to explore the relationship between education on combating anti-Semitism and education to promote Holocaust remembrance. During the meeting, 13 practitioners discussed challenges and good practices in this area.

Participating States have also committed themselves to promote

remembrance of the Holocaust. In 2012, ODIHR published the third edition of Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region. This overview of governmental practices highlights the fact that 37 OSCE participating States have established an official Holocaust memorial day, while another six promote Holocaust remembrance without having established an official day. The publication also outlines good practices and ideas that may reinforce and inspire public officials and others to promote Holocaust remembrance as a foundation on which to build human dignity, mutual respect and tolerance.

To support efforts of NGOs to monitor and respond to anti-Semitic hate crimes, ODIHR held a workshop for civil society representatives from Belarus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Moldova, Poland and Switzerland in Warsaw on 18 December.



### Responding to Intolerance against Muslims

In order to promote the use of *Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims*, published in collaboration with UNESCO and the Council of Europe, ODIHR organized two roundtables — in Vienna on 6 September and Paris on 5 November. Seventy-nine representatives from educational institutions and NGOs prepared recommendations on how the Guidelines could be used in schools to fight intolerance and discrimination.

ODIHR convened two training seminars for NGOs on preventing and responding to hate crimes against Muslims — in Sofia on 12 September and Berlin on 24 and 25 November. During the events, civil society representatives dealing with intolerance against Muslims and members of Muslim communities from Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Spain and Switzerland learned about monitoring of hate crimes.

### Raising Awareness about Intolerance against Christians

Intolerance against Christians, including violence, and its relationship with the freedom of religion or belief, was the topic of a workshop organized in Rome on 26 and 27 June. The workshop gathered more than 30 civil society representatives from the OSCE region. Participants discussed the impact of hate crime and how NGOs can improve collection of information about hate crimes against Christians. A special emphasis was placed on attacks on places of worship, as this form of hate crime is commonly experienced by Christian communities.

### Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief

In 2012, ODIHR initiated the development of guidelines on the recognition of religious or belief communities. The document will serve as an update to the 2004 Guidelines for Review of Legislation

Pertaining to Religion or Belief and will include both international standards and good practices. The draft document is being developed in co-operation with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. On 2 October, ODIHR convened a consultation meeting with 23 experts from the OSCE region on the draft document. In 2013, ODIHR plans to organize several public consultation events on this document.

On 12 October, ODIHR, in conjunction with the OSCE Centre in Astana, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the State Agency for Religious Affairs of Kazakhstan, organized a "Roundtable on the Implementation of the Law on Religious Activity and Religious Associations" in Almaty. The event brought together 95 participants from the Government, civil society, religious and belief communities to discuss the implementation of the law.

Participants at the Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), listen to a presentation of the "Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims", produced by ODIHR in co-operation with the Council of Europe and UNESCO, Strasbourg, 26 June 2012. (Council of Europe)



A teacher's assistant works with Roma children at the Trmice Elementary School in Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic, 24 May 2012. (OSCE/Thomas Rymer)



# Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues





The OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, adopted in 2003, remains the foundation of ODIHR's activities on issues related to Roma and Sinti. This, in conjunction with Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/08, "Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area" (Helsinki, 2008) and Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/09, "Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Ensure Roma and Sinti Sustainable Integration" (Athens, 2009), guides the work of ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

The need to enhance access to education for Roma and Sinti children and to develop and implement comprehensive school-desegregation programmes is recognized in the 2003 Action Plan. In 2012, ODIHR paid particular attention to the marginalization and segregation of Roma and Sinti in education and conducted a field visit to the Czech Republic, in co-operation with the Irish OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

An apparent rise in anti-Roma racist rhetoric, extremist movements, the number of incidents of racially motivated violence and the number of Roma asylum-seekers are troubling issues witnessed in a number of participating States in 2012, exacerbated in some cases by the current economic and financial crisis in Europe. ODIHR worked to raise awareness of these developments throughout the year, at the U.S. Helsinki Commission, at various conferences and meetings OSCE Human Dimension events and a number of conferences organized by other stakeholders.

Roma and Sinti women's issues were a particular focus of ODIHR's agenda this year. The empowerment of Roma and Sinti women was a specifically selected topic at the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. In addition, at various conferences and meetings ODIHR addressed multiple forms of discrimination against and the vulnerability of Roma and Sinti women.

As in the previous years, ODIHR continued to provide assistance to participating States in the development of national Roma-integration strategies. The Office also engaged in raising awareness of the Roma genocide and participated in the opening of the memorial to Roma Holocaust victims in October in Berlin.

## ACTIVITIES

Based on the 2003 Action Plan, and subsequent Ministerial Council Decisions, ODIHR's activities in this sphere in 2012 focused on:

- ◆ Improving Roma access to education;
- ◆ Combating hate crimes and discrimination against Roma throughout the OSCE area;
- ◆ Supporting the empowerment of Roma and Sinti representatives, particularly Roma and Sinti women and youth;
- ◆ Supporting governments and enhancing policy instruments; and
- ◆ Increasing co-operation with intergovernmental and international organizations.

### Improving access to education

ODIHR, in co-operation with the Irish OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, conducted a field visit to the Czech



Elena Gorolova (l), from from the Group of Roma Women Harmed by Sterilization, addresses participants at an event to highlight discrimination against Romani women in access to health care, as Gabriela Hrabanova, the Policy Co-ordinator at the European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network, listens, Warsaw, 26 September 2012. (OSCE/Shiv Sharma)

Republic from 21 to 25 May. The aim of the visit was to assess the progress toward integrating Roma children into mainstream education and addressing continuing challenges in the area of education, especially the placement of Roma children into schools for the mentally disabled. The delegation met with representatives of the national and local governments and education and law enforcement officials. In October 2012 ODIHR published the report: “Equal Access to Quality Education for Roma children: Field Assessment visit to the Czech Republic”. ODIHR’s report notes examples of good practice in some Czech schools, though it finds that many Roma children are still unduly placed in specialized primary schools. The report’s recommendations include phasing out practical schools, promoting and supporting inclusive education, and introducing supportive measures for pupils

from disadvantaged backgrounds. The report was presented and discussed at the Human Dimension Committee meeting in Vienna on 30 October with interested participating States.

#### **Combating hate crimes and discrimination**

Cases of violence, discrimination and intolerance against Roma and Sinti were reported by civil society throughout the year. An apparent rise in anti-Roma incidents, coinciding with the effects of the financial and economic crisis in Europe is of particular concern.

In February, the ODIHR Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues addressed the U.S. Helsinki Commission, providing a detailed presentation of the situation of Roma in the OSCE area and highlighting current challenges with regard to racism and intolerance

against Roma and Sinti communities. ODIHR supported the publication of *The Gypsy “Menace”: Populism and the New Anti-Gypsy Politics*, which provides an academic analysis of current trends and possible ways to combat this extremism. The ODIHR Senior Adviser addressed the issue of violence and anti-Roma rhetoric in the article “Time to act on Roma Inclusion” published in September in the OSCE magazine.

Anti-Roma marches organized by extremist groups and incidents of violence against Roma and Sinti were the focus of discussion at a side-event organized by ODIHR in co-operation with the European Roma Rights Centre during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Concerns were raised regarding ultra-nationalist events and demonstrations that attract a significant number of spectators and sympathizers. This intolerance



Angela Kocze, from the Hungarian Academy of Science, Mabela Kamberi, representing the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Sonja Barbul of ODIHR, (l-r) discuss the empowerment of Roma women at the Roma and Sinti consultation meeting in Warsaw, 26 September. (OSCE/Idaver Memedov)

poses a threat to social cohesion and needs to be countered by firm action by the relevant authorities in participating States. Participating States have committed themselves to take effective measures against racially-motivated crimes.

ODIHR continued to promote the improvement of relations between police and Roma and Sinti communities as a means to enhance the protection of Roma against violence and intolerance. The Office, in cooperation with the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, launched the OSCE manual *Police and Roma and Sinti: Building Trust and Understanding*, in Bratislava. The launch event, on 6 December, was hosted by the Ministry of Interior. Following the launch, a seminar took place in Donovaly gathering some 40 participants, mostly police officers who work directly with Roma communities, including two Roma officers. The participants discussed the

current police approach to Roma communities, data collection and root causes of the rising number of excluded communities in Slovakia. The inclusion of more Roma officers within police forces was one of the recommendations made at the event.

#### **Empowerment of Roma and Sinti representatives, particularly Roma and Sinti women and Roma youth**

In 2012, ODIHR paid particular attention to raising awareness of the multiple forms of discrimination and vulnerability Roma and Sinti women face. The Special Day on Roma and Sinti during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on 26 September focused on the empowerment of Roma women. The presentations delivered that day confirmed the need to enhance efforts to empower Roma women

so they can play a role as agents of change in their communities and in society in general. Representatives from participating States and Roma women organizations stressed that education is vital to increasing Romani women's active participation in public and political life.

ODIHR co-organized two other side events at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting focusing on Roma and Sinti women: one on access to health care, and the other on forced evictions. ODIHR also supported the non-governmental Roma organization Romedia Foundation, in producing a short film presenting Roma and Sinti women and their personal perspectives on these topics, which was shown during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as an advocacy tool to raise awareness on Roma women's rights.

On the Special day on Roma and Sinti, ODIHR also hosted the





Andrzej Mirga, the head of the OSCE Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, told the United States Helsinki Commission that serious problems continue to confront Roma and Sinti communities in Europe during a presentation in Washington, D.C., 15 February 2012. (U.S. Helsinki Commission)

third “Roma Consultation Meeting”, with more than 40 Roma and Sinti women civil society representatives from across the OSCE region. The consultation meeting led to the adoption of “Warsaw Romani, Sinti and Travellers Women’s Declaration”, which highlights the vulnerable situation of Roma and Sinti women and the negative impact of government austerity measures, which may have inter-generational consequences for Roma communities, especially Roma women, by failing to improve their economic conditions. In addition, ODIHR contributed to various conferences on Roma women. In February, in a presentation at a conference on Roma women’s health in Belgrade, ODIHR highlighted the particular difficulties for Roma women in accessing health care and the need to do more to address the multiple forms of discrimination they face.

On 5 September in Vienna, the ODIHR Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues gave the keynote speech at the OSCE expert roundtable “Women as Agents of Change in Migrant, Minority and Roma and Sinti Communities in the OSCE Area”, organized by the OSCE Gender Section. The presentation stressed that poverty, lack of education and other factors that keep Roma women dependent make them more vulnerable to discrimination, domestic violence and trafficking, recommending that participating States play a proactive role by including of gender-sensitive measures to improve the situation of Roma women. ODIHR supported the participation of a group of Roma women civil society representatives at this roundtable.

On 11 and 12 October, ODIHR took part in the OSCE Conference “Alliance against Trafficking in Persons” in Vienna, where the

root causes behind the vulnerability of Roma women and children to trafficking were discussed. While these factors, including poverty, social exclusion, lack of education and discrimination, may not be different from those affecting other social or ethnic groups, their scope and extent have a disproportionate impact on these communities.

ODIHR also facilitated and promoted the empowerment of Roma youth. The Office funded and co-organized meeting in December with the European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network and ternType-International Roma Youth Network in Brussels. The event gathered 40 Roma youth participants representing several youth networks and mainstream civil society organizations working with Roma youth. In addition, on 7 and 8 December, ODIHR contributed to a meeting of the Informal Contact Group on the Roma Youth Action Plan organized

by the Council of Europe, in discussions focusing on the progress made in implementing the Roma Youth Action Plan.

### **Supporting governments and enhancing policy instruments**

As follow-up to ODIHR's assistance in developing the Action Plan for the support of Roma people in the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2015, the Office assisted the Moldovan Bureau for Inter-ethnic Relations in raising awareness about the Action Plan at the regional and local levels. Three regional roundtables, in Chisinau, Soroca and Cahul, were organized with regional and local authorities and Roma civil society representatives. Moreover, the Action Plan was translated into three languages (the state language, Russian and Romani) and leaflets in these three languages were produced and distributed to local authorities and Roma civil society organizations.

ODIHR continued to address the vulnerable situation of Roma who lack civil-registration documents and supported the participation of three experts at the conference "Solving the Problems of People without Documents and Access to Rights", held in Skopje in April within the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, chaired by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

From 19 to 22 November, ODIHR, in co-operation with OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, conducted a needs assessment visit to Ukraine. During the visit, the OSCE delegation held meetings with Ukrainian authorities, representatives of Roma civil society and Roma communities. The aim of this visit was to assess the progress toward developing a Ukrainian Roma Integration Strategy and Action Plan. In December, ODIHR and the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National

Minorities provided the Ukrainian authorities with comments to the draft Roma Integration Strategy.

On 27 and 28 March, ODIHR held a meeting with the Roma Focal Points from across the OSCE field operations in Tirana to discuss and exchange information on ODIHR activities related to improving the situation of Roma and related groups in the Western Balkan region and to strengthen continued interaction between OSCE field operations and ODIHR in this area.

### **Increased co-operation with intergovernmental and international organizations**

ODIHR continued its co-operation with other international actors working to improve the situation and enhance the integration of, and to combat discrimination and racism against, Roma and Sinti. ODIHR led a workshop at the International Stakeholder Conference on the Danube Region Strategy on 13 and 14 June in Vienna and provided its expertise to the Council of Europe's Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues at meetings in both Skopje (22 to 25 May) and Strasbourg (28 to 30 November). Moreover, on 23 and 24 April in Sarajevo, ODIHR participated in the Donor Conference on the Sarajevo Process, which discussed housing solutions for internally displaced persons and highlighted the need to find sustainable solutions for refugees and displaced Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in the Western Balkans. ODIHR further co-operated with relevant EU institutions and provided input at the annual European Union Platform meeting in Brussels, on 21 and 22 May, and at the European Union Symposium "Making a tangible difference in Roma people's lives", held on 22 June in Vienna.

## FROM THE ROMA FOR THE ROMA

More than 1,000 stakeholders, mostly Roma, have been directly involved in activities and events organized by the Best Practices for Roma Integration (BPRI) project since its launch in June 2012. A key approach of the BPRI project is empowering the Roma community to work for their own integration. BPRI is a regional project funded by the European Union, supported by OSCE participating States and implemented by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The goal of the project is to contribute to the integration of Roma in the Western Balkan countries.

Seven Roma researchers have been hired to present policy-practice gap studies throughout the Western Balkans, while 25 young Roma were engaged in a training programme as part of BPRI's activities for securing greater participation of Roma in policymaking. These programmes seek to develop future leaders and advocates for the improvement of the overall situation of the Roma communities in the Western Balkans.

The Policy Practice Gap Studies programme, for instance, was designed to help young Roma to research gaps in the current legislation that may affect Roma and give them a chance to strengthen their advocacy skills. Likewise, more than 30 Roma women benefitted from workshops provided by BPRI, where they learned more about the benefits of political participation and decision-making at the local level.

The Roma-to-Roma principle was likewise used to support local Roma experts in their work on the creation and adoption of local action plans in municipalities in Albania with substantial numbers of Roma. In Montenegro, BPRI supported a Roma consultant in developing the local action plans in three municipalities where there was an identified need.

Local action plans are an important tool for defining priorities for the integration of Roma communities

at the municipal level. One of BPRI's goals is to ensure that Roma communities participate in the development of these action plans, together with representatives of different municipal services.

### Fostering exchange of good practices regionally

Beyond the local action plans, a number of positive, local practices in implementing policies have been designed to improve the situation of Roma. Thus, by promoting a regional approach to sharing experience among municipalities and jurisdictions, BPRI is facilitating the exchange of good practices and information about fundraising mechanisms.

The BPRI project established and has provided expertise to a regional working group of local self-government representatives as a way to facilitate regional co-operation on the improvement of housing and living conditions in Roma settlements. Regional co-operation on the legalization of housing is one of the key elements in improving the general living conditions of the Roma, Ashkali and the Egyptians in the Western Balkans.

The project has four main components: increasing participation in political and public life and decision-making, promoting the legalization of housing in Roma settlements, combating discrimination, and raising the visibility of Roma communities. The project uses a regional co-operative approach to support these goals.

Supporting Roma in finding alternative, innovative solutions that remove barriers to integration and improve their situation from around the Western Balkans and elsewhere is really what the Best Practices for Roma Integration project is all about.



Senior representatives from ODIHR, the Council of Europe and the European Commission were on hand for the launch of the Best Practices for Roma Integration (BPRI) project in Budva, 27 June 2012. (OSCE/Aleksandar Mrdak)





# Annexes



# Programmes and Projects

(Funded by extrabudgetary contributions)

## ELECTIONS

Programmes/ Projects/ Fund	Region/country	Included work on:
Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deploying experts and nominees from eligible participating States<sup>1</sup> as long-term and short-term election observers within OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions or Assessment Missions in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine</li> </ul>
Election Observer Training	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training of short-term and long-term election observers from participating States eligible for the Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions</li> <li>Moodle-enabled e-learning module for short-term election observers</li> </ul>
Election Technical Assistance	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert reviews of electoral legislation (Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan)</li> </ul>
Election Observation Development	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ODIHR Handbooks on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Media Monitoring for Election Observation Missions</i>;</li> <li><i>Observation of Voter Registration</i>;</li> <li>observing new voting technologies (in development); and</li> <li>observing campaign finance (in development).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
ODIHR Election Support Team(s) to Afghanistan	Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presenting the Final Report of the 2010 Election Support Team (EST)</li> </ul>
Translation of OSCE/ODIHR Election Handbooks into Dari/Pashtu	Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presenting the Dari and Pashtu translations of the <i>OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Handbook</i> (6th Edition)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

## RULE OF LAW

Programme	Region/Country	Included work on:
Rule of Law	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of international standards on judicial independence and selection of judges (Kyrgyzstan)</li> <li><i>Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights</i></li> <li><i>Trial Monitoring: A Reference Manual for Practitioners</i> (revised edition)</li> <li>Repository of OSCE documentation on trial monitoring</li> <li>Training on trial monitoring methodologies for civil society (Belarus, Lithuania)</li> <li>Presenting the 2011 Report: <i>Trial Monitoring in Belarus</i></li> <li>War crimes related training (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</li> <li>Fourth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia</li> </ul>

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Programme	Region/Country	Included work on:
Democratic Governance	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicizing OSCE commitments on democratic governance and the <i>Guidelines on Political Party Regulation</i></li> <li>Gender training for political party representatives</li> <li>Codes and standards of ethics for parliamentarians</li> </ul>



## GENDER EQUALITY

Programmes	Region/Country	Included work on:
Increased Participation of Women in Politics	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening parliamentary structures for women MPs, including field research in the Western Balkans and outreach to women MPs from Tunisia</li> <li>Supporting political stakeholders to apply measures to increase women's participation in political parties (Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova)</li> <li><i>Handbook for Women in Political Parties</i></li> <li>Strengthening national mechanisms (particularly NHRIs) for the promotion and protection of gender equality (Central Asia, South Caucasus, Eastern Europe)</li> <li><i>Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality</i></li> </ul>
Human Rights, Gender and Security	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowerment of women in countering violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism (VERLT)</li> <li>Promotion of the Russian and English versions of the <i>Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit</i> (Tajikistan)</li> <li>Toolkit-based training (Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)</li> <li>Promoting the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Baltic Sea region, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)</li> <li>Protecting human rights in the armed forces (Italy, Tajikistan)</li> <li>Increasing diversity in the security sector</li> <li>Translating the report "Security and Gender Equality at the Local Level" from Serbian into English for wider distribution</li> </ul>

## MIGRATION/FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Programme	Region/Country	Included work on:
Migration and Freedom of Movement	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social and economic inclusion of women from migrant households (Tajikistan)</li> <li>Developing a legislative framework for a population-registration system (Kyrgyzstan)</li> </ul>

## LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Programme/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Legislation Review Fund	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert reviews of legislation on elections, referendums, political party financing, election campaign financing, freedom of assembly, counter-terrorism, freedom of conscience, religious organizations, judges' disciplinary liability (Belarus, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, San Marino Uzbekistan)</li> <li>Legislative drafting standards (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)</li> <li>Supporting the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly</li> <li>Providing greater access to laws through ODIHR's database, including its Russian-language interface (<a href="http://www.legislationline.org">www.legislationline.org</a>)</li> </ul>
Democratic Lawmaking and Access to Law	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil Society Forum preceding the 2012 OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association</li> </ul>

Strengthening Democratic Processes and Institutions in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia	Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the legislative process (Kyrgyzstan, Armenia)</li> <li>• Legal opinions (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldova)</li> <li>• Assistance in evaluating judges' performance (Moldova)</li> <li>• Providing greater access to laws through ODIHR's database, including its Russian-language interface (<a href="http://www.legislationline.org">www.legislationline.org</a>)</li> <li>• Civil Society Forum preceding the 2012 OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association</li> <li>• Deploying experts and nominees from the Diversification Fund's eligible participating States as short-term election observers and regional analysts within an OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission (Belarus) and an OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team (Romania)</li> </ul>
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## HUMAN RIGHTS

Programmes	Region/Country	Included work on:
Human Rights Monitoring	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk research and analysis of freedom of association in the context of the work of human rights defenders, freedom of peaceful assembly, right to a fair trial and to effective remedy</li> <li>• Assembly monitoring (Croatia, Hungary, Switzerland, United States)</li> <li>• <i>Report: Monitoring of Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in Selected OSCE Participating States (2011–2012)</i></li> </ul>
Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting <i>Countering Terrorism and Protecting Human Rights: A Manual</i> (English and Russian versions)</li> <li>• Operational training curriculum for police, trainers' manual and training-of-trainers programme based on the <i>Manual</i></li> <li>• Guidebook and expert roundtable on youth engagement to prevent terrorism and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), with OSCE Secretariat Transnational Threats Department</li> <li>• Training on human rights and counter-terrorism for the OSCE Border Management Staff College, including training-of-trainers programme (Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Serbia, Ukraine and Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Jordan and Tunisia)</li> <li>• Integrating human rights into curricula of national police academies (Tajikistan)</li> </ul>
Human Rights Education and Capacity Building	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building the capacity of different stakeholders to uphold human rights in freedom of assembly monitoring (Georgia)</li> <li>• Training-of-trainers on human rights education (Belarus/Ukraine)</li> <li>• <i>Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality</i></li> <li>• Promoting <i>Human Rights Education in the School Systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America: A Compendium of Good Practice</i> (Russian version)</li> <li>• Roundtable on human rights education in the school systems of Central Asia</li> <li>• Translation and publication of the OSCE human dimension commitments in Uzbek</li> </ul>
Anti-Torture	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combating torture and preventing ill-treatment (South Caucasus)</li> </ul>

Anti-Trafficking	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human rights protection for trafficked persons and vulnerable groups, including a consultation meeting with NGOs and inception visits (Central Asia)</li> <li>• Fundamental rights training for border guards with EU FRONTEX</li> <li>• Active membership in European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons (COMP.ACT)</li> <li>• Facilitating the establishment of an OSCE-wide network of (<i>pro bono</i>) lawyers to enhance trafficked persons' access to justice and remedies</li> <li>• Providing legal assistance to combat trafficking for labour exploitation</li> <li>• Training on National Referral Mechanisms for victims of trafficking (Uzbekistan)</li> <li>• Promoting integration of Roma children and families to prevent child labour and human trafficking (Albania)</li> <li>• Developing a guide to human rights in the return of trafficked persons</li> </ul>
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## TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Programmes	Region/ Country	Included work on:
Educational and Public Awareness-Raising Activities to Promote Tolerance, Respect and Mutual Understanding, and Remembrance of the Holocaust	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and analysis of the Austrian and German country versions of the teaching materials on anti-Semitism</li> <li>• Exploring the relationship between Holocaust education and education to combat anti-Semitism</li> <li>• Promoting the updated online version of <i>Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE region – An overview of governmental practices</i></li> <li>• Promoting <i>Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims: Addressing Islamophobia through Education</i> to teachers, ministries of education, educational agencies and international organizations</li> <li>• Producing the <i>Guidelines</i> in Spanish, German and Russian versions</li> </ul>
Combating Hate Crime	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting a practical guide for prosecuting hate crimes</li> <li>• Drafting a practical guide on hate crime data collection and monitoring systems</li> <li>• Drafting a training manual for prosecutors</li> <li>• Delivering training on hate crime to prosecutors (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</li> <li>• Training against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Ukraine)</li> <li>• Combating racism and xenophobia affecting people of African Descent</li> <li>• Combating disability hate crime (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland)</li> <li>• Training for civil society on combating hate crime (Italy)</li> <li>• Review of <i>Preventing and Responding to Hate Crime: A Resource Guide for NGOs in the OSCE Region</i></li> </ul>
Freedom of Religion or Belief	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of expertise for implementation of legislation (Kazakhstan)</li> <li>• Co-operation with the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL)</li> </ul>



## ROMA AND SINTI

Programme	Region/Country	Included work on:
Best Practices for Roma Integration	South East Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening Roma involvement in decision-making, public or political life, national/regional co-ordination and other cross-border initiatives</li> <li>• Good practices in multi-sector municipal collaboration</li> <li>• Supporting governments in policy-making and drafting legislation for legalization of informal settlements/social housing</li> <li>• Assistance to promote anti-discriminatory policies and practice</li> <li>• Increasing public awareness about the Roma's right to be included</li> </ul>

## OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS

Programme	Region/Country	Included work on:
Programme on Increasing Understanding of the OSCE Human Dimension	OSCE and Mediterranean Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translation into Arabic of existing ODIHR tools, including OSCE elections handbooks</li> <li>• Contributing expertise on international human rights standards, promoting women's participation in political parties and political party regulation at national and regional events held by other organizations</li> <li>• Facilitating participation of government officials and civil society in OSCE Human Dimension events and workshops</li> <li>• Human Dimension Course for government officials and civil society</li> <li>• Training short-term election observers</li> <li>• Reviewing legislation related to the Human Dimension (Tunisia)</li> </ul>

# Legislative Reviews

In 2012, ODIHR published 13 legal reviews or opinions, many of them conducted jointly with the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

## ELECTIONS

State	Title
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Opinion on the "Act on the Elections of Members of Parliament"</li> </ul>
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opinion on the draft law "On Establishing an Independent Election Management Body of the Republic of Tunisia."</li> </ul>
Turkmenistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of electoral legislation</li> </ul>
Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Opinion on draft amendments and addenda to the law "On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "On elections to the regional, district and city councils (Kengesh) of people's deputies of Uzbekistan"</li> </ul>

## LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Participating State	Title of Document
ARMENIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opinion on the draft law of the Republic of Armenia on "Making Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Alternative Services" and on the draft law on "Making Supplements to the Law on the Enforcement of the Criminal Code"</li> <li>Opinion on selected issues regarding the "Admissibility of Appeals to the Cassation Court of the Republic of Armenia"</li> </ul>
AZERBAIJAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Opinion on the "Law on Freedom of Religious Belief of the Republic of Azerbaijan"</li> </ul>
BELARUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Opinion on the "Law on Mass Events of the Republic of Belarus"</li> </ul>
KAZAKHSTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opinion on the "Calculation of Time Limits in the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan"</li> <li>Opinion on draft laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan on "Access to Information"</li> <li>Note on the "Regulatory Resolution of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan on the Application of Criminal Legislation on Human Trafficking by Courts"</li> </ul>
KYRGYZSTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on amendments and additions to the law of the Kyrgyz Republic on "Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations" in the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>Opinion on the "Legal Framework Regulating Population Registration in the Kyrgyz Republic"</li> <li>Opinion on the draft law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the "State Population Register and Draft Amendments to Related Legislation"</li> </ul>
MOLDOVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opinion on the "Revised Amendments and Addenda Enhancing Gender Equality in Certain Legal Acts"</li> <li>Opinion on the draft law on "Normative Acts of Moldova"</li> <li>Opinion on the draft law on the "Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges"</li> </ul>
POLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note on the draft law "Amending the Law on Assemblies of Poland"</li> </ul>
SERBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opinion on the draft law on "Restrictions on Disposal of Property with the Aim of Preventing Terrorism"</li> </ul>
TURKMENISTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on the "Law of Turkmenistan on Political Parties"</li> </ul>

# Selected 2012 Conferences and Meetings

## HUMAN DIMENSION EVENTS

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Combating Racism, Intolerance and Discrimination in Society through Sport	Vienna	19-20 April	182
Human Dimension Seminar on the Rule of Law Framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings	Warsaw	14-16 May	153
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Democratic Elections and Election Observation	Vienna	12-13 July	218
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting	Warsaw	24 September-5 October	1,073
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association	Vienna	8-9 November	246

## DEMOCRATIZATION

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Launch of the "ODIHR Report on the Legislative Process in Serbia"	Belgrade	7 February	20
Roundtable on "Population and Voter Registration and the Electoral Legal Framework in Tajikistan"	Dushanbe	14 March	50
Contribution to the regional workshop "Constitutions, Women and the Arab Spring"	Istanbul	16-18 March	25
Capacity-building event for legal professionals on trial-monitoring methodologies	Osh	23-24 March	30
Workshop on "Transparency and Public Participation in the Lawmaking Process"	Belgrade	26-27 March	30
Launch of the "Report on the Selection of Judges in the Kyrgyz Republic and International Standards on Judicial Independence"	Bishkek	30 March	70
Conference on "Women in Politics"	Warsaw	17 April	80
Conference on "Codes and Standards of Ethics for Parliamentarians"	Tbilisi	19 April	40
Roundtable and seminar on "Increasing Participation of Women in Political Parties of Georgia"	Tbilisi	25-27 April	90
Annual meeting of the ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly	Warsaw	8-9 May	10
Women's power lunch on "Political Leadership: Who Can Speak for the Victims of Trafficking?"	Warsaw	15 May	40
Roundtable on implementation of ODIHR recommendations related to election-dispute resolution	Bishkek	29 May	50



Roundtable on “Women’s Participation in Ukraine’s 2012 Parliamentary Elections”	Kyiv	31 May	120
Expert meeting on the freedom of religion guidelines; and conference on “Registration, Religious Autonomy and Freedom of Religion or Belief”	Budapest	31 May-2 June	30
Roundtable and seminar on “Increasing Participation of Women in Political Parties of Albania”	Tirana	18-20 June	80
Regional expert workshop on “National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Gender Equality”	Almaty	20 June	25
Capacity-building event for legal professionals on trial-monitoring methodologies	Vilnius	25-26 June	25
Presentation of ODIHR opinion on the legislative framework for population registration in Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek	27 June	20
Training for defence counsel on the ICTY jurisprudence relating to modes of liability and elements of crime	Sarajevo	6 July	25
Conference on “Standards of Parliamentary Ethics and Codes”	Tirana	17-18 July	60
Roundtable on the “Prospects for the Establishment of a State Population Register in Kyrgyzstan”	Bishkek	24 July	50
Round table on the electronic system “Elections” and voter registration in Moldova	Chisinau	26 July	50
Roundtable and seminar on “Increasing Participation of Women in Political Parties in Moldova”	Chisinau	4-6 September	40
Annual trial-monitoring meeting	Istanbul	10-12 September	30
Study visit to Warsaw on “Enhancing Kazakhstan’s Political Party System” for representatives of political parties, government officials and independent experts	Warsaw	10-14 September	15
ODIHR & UN Women national conference on “Socio-economic Integration of Women from Migrant Households in Tajikistan”	Dushanbe	12-13 September	65
Roundtable discussion on the amended freedom of assembly law of Ukraine	Kyiv	17 September	15
International conference on “Criminal Justice Reform in Kazakhstan”	Almaty	21 September	80
HDIM side-event on “Freedom of Information and Whistleblower Protection”	Warsaw	25 September	20
HDIM Side event “Presentation of ODIHR Trial Monitoring Tools”	Warsaw	26 September	30
Legal reform roundtable for OSCE Field Operations	Warsaw	27 September	25
HDIM women’s power breakfast on “Dispelling the Myth, Women in Parliament: Does Quantity Matter?”	Warsaw	28 September	40
HDIM side event on “Breaking the Silence: Preventing and Combating Violence against Women by Implementing International Standards”	Warsaw	28 September	40
Training for judges and prosecutors on adjudication of war crimes	Sarajevo	17-18 October	25

Training on “Migration and International Human Rights Law”	Kladovo	16-19 October	25
Regional conference on local governance	Belgrade	23-24 October	40
Expert forum on “Criminal Justice in Central Asia”	Almaty	29-31 October	100
Training for judges and prosecutors on liability under international humanitarian and criminal law	Sarajevo	8-9 November	30
Workshop on “Oversight Functions of the Parliament and Their Role in Better Regulation”	Belgrade	19-20 November	40
Workshop on reform proposals related to judges’ performance evaluations	Chisinau	21-22 November	25
Workshop on judges’ performance evaluation	Vadul-lui-Voda	21-22 November	25
Training for judges and prosecutors on mutual legal assistance	Sarajevo	22-23 November	25
Roundtable and seminar on “Increasing Participation of Women in Political Parties in Kazakhstan”	Astana	22-24 November	70
Regional expert workshop on “National Human Rights Institutions and Gender Equality”	Sarajevo	4 December	35
Roundtable on the “Legal Basis for the Establishment of the State Population Register”	Bishkek	6 December	60
Training at the Tunisian School of Politics	Tabarka	6-9 December	30
Regional workshop on “Parliamentary Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region”	Vienna	10-11 December	50

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Training for border guards on human rights, gender and border security at the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC)	Dushanbe	20-21 February	26
Expert Meeting on “The Role and Empowerment of Women in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism”	Vienna	12-13 March	190
Training of trainers on “Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights”, in co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	13-15 March	15
Training on monitoring freedom of peaceful assembly in cooperation with the OSCE Office in Baku	Baku	25-26 March	36
Strategy meeting for lawyers and legal practitioners	Warsaw	2-4 April	45
National consultation on the draft national action plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Georgia, in co-operation with UN Women	Tbilisi	18-20 April	24
Regional roundtable “Human Rights Education in the school systems in the countries of Central Asia”	Istanbul	8-9 May	23
Training on “Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights”, in co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia	Tbilisi	16-18 May	28

Training of the Ministry of Interior on developing a gender-mainstreaming strategy	Bishkek	8 June	28
Training on improving the quality of police response to domestic violence, in cooperation with UN Women	Gori	11 June	25
Training for border guards and trainers on human rights, gender and border security at the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC)	Dushanbe	18-22 June	41
Training-of-trainers on human rights education in schools and beyond	Lviv	9-13 July	24
Training-of-trainers on the promotion of human rights through civic participation	Lviv	15-19 July	22
Roundtable on support to national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the OSCE region	Warsaw	17-18 October	23
Roundtable on “Enhancing the Role of Women Mediators in the OSCE Region”	Vienna	22 October	110
Expert meeting on “Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism”, in co-operation with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department/ Action against Terrorism Unit	Vienna	23-24 October	137
Civil society forum on freedom of assembly and association	Vienna	7 November	70
Roundtable on “Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Armed Forces”	Skopje	19-20 November	27
Pilot training session on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism, part of the project in Tajikistan	Dushanbe	26 November-1 December	32
Roundtable on torture prevention in the OSCE region for OSCE Field Operations	Warsaw	29-30 November	15
Training session on “Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights”, in co-operation with the Security Service of Ukraine	Kyiv	4-6 December	25
Roundtable “Human Rights Education for Law Enforcement Officials in the OSCE Area: Existing Good Practice and Remaining Challenges,” in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat Transnational Threats Department	Istanbul	10-11 December	40
Training on improving the quality of police response to domestic violence	Bishkek	11-12 December	50



## TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Consultation meeting on " <i>Hate Crime Data Collection and Monitoring Systems: a Practical Guide</i> "	Warsaw	14 February	13
Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) for Polish law enforcement officials	Warsaw	15-16 February	26
Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) for Croatian law enforcement officials	Zagreb	21-23 March	12
Official launch of Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE)	Sofia	23 March	25
Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) for Bulgarian law enforcement officials	Sofia	26-31 March	47
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for civil society organizations in the Russian Federation	St. Petersburg	1-3 April	25
Roundtable on "Combating Racism, Intolerance and Discrimination in Society through Sport" and civil society meeting prior to the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting	Vienna	19 April	25
Workshop on the online tool for teaching materials on combating anti-Semitism	Amsterdam	24-25 April	15
Workshop on the Austrian version of the teaching materials on combating anti-Semitism	Vienna	4 May	11
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for civil society organizations dealing with intolerance against Muslims in Spain	Madrid	7-8 May	22
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes against people with disabilities	Dublin	25 May	32
Regional training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for Roma civil society organizations (in cooperation with BPRI Project)	Sarajevo	14-15 June	36
Workshop on the role of civil society in combating hate crimes against Christians	Rome	26-27 June	52
Consultation meeting on <i>Hate Crime Data Collection and Monitoring Systems: a Practical Guide</i>	Warsaw	4-5 July	14
Consultation and training on <i>Prosecuting Hate Crimes: a Practical Guide</i>	Warsaw	5-6 July	28
Consultation meeting on hate crime with representatives of organizations for people of African descent	Lublin	20 July	20
Roundtable meeting to promote <i>Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims</i> , "Countering Intolerance against Muslims through Education for Societies in Transition"	Vienna	6 September	31
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for prosecutors	Sarajevo	6-7 September	22
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes against Muslims	Sofia	12 September	26

Meeting with Polish Ministry of Interior, representatives of organizations for people of African descent and ODIHR	Warsaw	19 September	26
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes against people of African descent	Warsaw	1 October	22
Consultation meeting of civil society on the draft <i>ODIHR Guidelines on the Recognition of Religious or Belief Communities</i>	Warsaw	2 October	16
Hate crime training for OSCE field operations staff	Warsaw	15-16 October	16
Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) for Hungarian law enforcement officials	Budapest	24-25 October	22
Consultation meeting on <i>Hate Crime Data Collection and Monitoring Systems: A Practical Guide</i>	Almaty	31 October	13
Roundtable meeting to promote <i>Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims: "Globalization, Diversity and Social Cohesion in Educational Settings"</i>	Paris	5 November	48
Needs assessment visit to Ukraine on the implementation of TAHCLE	Kyiv	12-15 November	50
Annual meeting of National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes	Vienna	15-16 November	57
Roundtable on "Exploring the Relationship Between Holocaust Education and Education to Combat Anti-Semitism"	Berlin	19 November	13
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for civil society organizations dealing with intolerance against Muslims	Berlin	24-25 November	28
Workshop on preventing and responding to hate crimes for civil society organizations dealing with intolerance against people with disabilities	Oslo	26 November	25
Expert meeting on "Model Law on Tolerance"	Warsaw	29 November	20
Launch of <i>Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE region: An Overview of Governmental Practices</i>	Liege	12 December	50
Training on preventing and responding to hate crimes for civil society organizations dealing with anti-Semitism	Warsaw	18 December	13

## CONTACT POINT FOR ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Sixth meeting with the OSCE Field Operation Roma Focal Points	Tirana	27-28 March	20
Roma civil society consultation meeting "Roma and Sinti and Empowerment of Roma Women"	Warsaw	26 September	40
Three regional roundtables on "Increasing the Role and Capacity of Local Authorities in Developing and Implementing National and Local Action Plans for Roma Integration in Cooperation with the Roma Community"	Chisinau Sorooca Cahul	17-18 October 24-25 October 30-31 October	44 35 34
Launch of the Slovakian-language version of <i>Police and Roma and Sinti: Good Practices in Building Trust and Understanding</i>	Bratislava	6 December	40

## 2012 Publications

Title	Language
2011 ODIHR Annual Report	English/Russian
Handbook for the Observation of Voter Registration	English
Handbook on Media Monitoring for Election Observation	English
Trial Monitoring: A Reference Manual for Practitioners	English
Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights	English
Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality	English
2012 Background Paper on the Death Penalty	English/Russian
Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Secondary School Systems	English/Russian
Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Law Enforcement Officials	English/Russian
Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region: An Overview of Governmental Practices	English
Hate Crime in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses - Annual Report for 2011	English

Additionally, ODIHR translated 10 of its publications into Arabic for dissemination in Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation countries.



# Election Reports and Statements Released in 2012

## **Local Government Elections in Norway (internet voting), 12 September 2011**

1. Election Expert Team Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Poland, 9 October 2011**

2. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

## **Federal Assembly Elections in Switzerland, 23 October 2011**

3. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

## **Presidential and Municipal Elections in Bulgaria, 23 & 30 October 2011**

4. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Presidential Election in Kyrgyzstan, 30 October 2011**

5. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Early Parliamentary Elections in Spain, 20 November 2011**

6. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in the Russian Federation, 4 December 2011**

7. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Croatia , 4 December 2011**

8. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Early Elections of the National Assembly in Slovenia , 4 December 2011**

9. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

## **Early Parliamentary Elections in Kazakhstan, 15 January 2012**

10. Election Observation Mission Interim Report 2
11. Preliminary Statement by the International Election Observation Mission
12. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Presidential Election in Turkmenistan, 12 February 2012**

13. Needs Assessment Mission Report

## **Presidential Election in the Russian Federation, 4 March 2012**

14. Election Observation Mission Interim Report
15. Preliminary Statement by the International Election Observation Mission
16. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Early Parliamentary Elections in Slovakia, 10 March 2012**

17. Needs Assessment Mission Report

## **Presidential Election in France, 22 April, 5 May 2012**

18. Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Armenia, 6 May 2012**

19. Needs Assessment Mission Report
20. Election Observation Mission Interim Report 1
21. Election Observation Mission Interim Report 2
22. Preliminary Statement by the International Election Observation Mission
23. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary & Early Presidential Elections in Serbia, 6 May 2012**

24. Needs Assessment Mission Report
25. Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
26. Preliminary Statement by the International Observers
27. Preliminary Statement by the International Observers (2<sup>nd</sup> round)
28. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

**Early Parliamentary Elections in Greece, 6 May 2012**

29. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in France, 10 & 17 June 2012**

30. Needs Assessment Mission Report
31. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

**Early Parliamentary Elections in the Netherlands, 12 September 2012**

32. Needs Assessment Mission Report
33. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Belarus, 23 September 2012**

34. Needs Assessment Mission Report
35. Election Observation Mission Interim Report
36. Preliminary Statement by the International Election Observation Mission
37. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Georgia, 1 October 2012**

38. Needs Assessment Mission Report
39. Election Observation Mission Interim Report 1
40. Election Observation Mission Interim Report 2
41. Preliminary Statement by the International Election Observation Mission
42. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Lithuania, 14 October 2012**

43. Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Early Parliamentary Elections in Montenegro, 14 October 2012**

44. Needs Assessment Mission Report
45. Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
46. Preliminary Statement by the International Election Observation Mission
47. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine, 28 October 2012**

48. Needs Assessment Mission Report
49. Election Observation Mission Interim Report 1
50. Election Observation Mission Interim Report 2
51. Preliminary Statement by the International Election Observation Mission
52. Election Observation Mission Post-election Interim Report

**General Elections, United States, 6 November 2012**

- 53. Needs Assessment Mission Report
- 54. Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report 1
- 55. Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report 2
- 56. Preliminary Statement by the Limited Election Observation Mission

**Early Parliamentary Elections in San Marino, 11 November 2012**

- 57. Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Romania, 9 December 2012**

- 58. Needs Assessment Mission Report

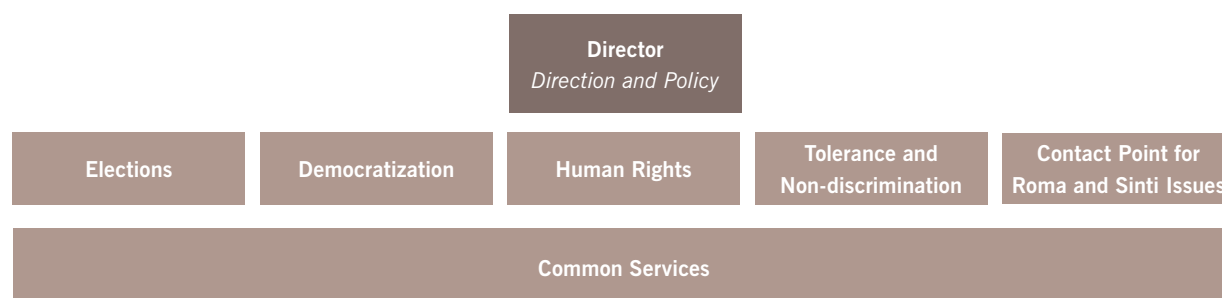
**Presidential Election in the Czech Republic, 11 & 12 January 2013**

- 59. Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Monaco, 10 February 2013**

- 60. Needs Assessment Mission Report

# ODIHR Structure and Budget



## ODIHR Programmes: 2012 Unified Budget (all figures in euros)

Direction and Policy	1,281,100
Fund Administration Unit	2,063,400
Common Operational Costs	863,300
Human Dimension Meetings	656,600
Democratization	1,480,900
Human Rights	1,194,600
Elections	6,435,700
Tolerance and Non-discrimination	1,281,600
Roma and Sinti Issues	550,700
<b>TOTAL ODIHR Unified Budget</b>	<b>15,807,900</b>
Augmentation Budget	231,400
<b>Total Fund Resources</b>	<b>16,039,300</b>