

2012-13 ACTIVITY REPORT

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities



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Table of Contents

Foreword	4
Economic and Environmental Forum process	7
Good Governance	11
Combating corruption	12
Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism	17
Economic Activities	23
Developing business and investment opportunities	23
Dialogue on transport and border-crossing facilitation	26
Migration management	31
Energy security	35
Environment and Security	41
The Environment and Security Initiative	41
Water	47
Managing the land and hazardous substances	50
Security implications of climate change	52
An engaged civil society	54
The Aarhus network	57
Building confidence	62
Resources	64
Publications and web links	64
Giving credit	67
Acronyms and abbreviations	68
How to find us	70

Dear reader,

I am honoured to present to you, the OSCE participating States and all of our partners, this report on the OSCE's activities in the economic and environmental dimension in 2012-2013.* This is the first such report published during my tenure as the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and it is my hope that you find the information contained herein stimulating and thought provoking.

Within the reporting period, my office has continued to implement its mandates. Throughout, our work has been guided by Ministerial Council and Permanent Council decisions, the priorities of the Irish 2012 and Ukrainian 2013 OSCE Chairmanships and the input provided by Delegations through the Economic and Environmental Committee.

At the same time, the OSCE Field Operations, in partnership with both national authorities and non-governmental stakeholders, have continued to support their host countries in introducing comprehensive economic reforms, promoting sustainable development and strengthening institutional and human capacity in a variety of areas. These activities range from energy diplomacy to cross-border trade and transport facilitation, from water management to international migration, from public participation in environmental decision-making to combating corruption and money laundering. My office has worked closely with the Field Operations to promote regional co-operation, share best practices and engage in cross-dimensional co-operation, when applicable.

The highlight of the second dimension in 2012 was the OSCE Ministerial Council's adoption in Dublin of the Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. Our organization now has a strong, clear mandate to work on good governance with all of its economic, social, environmental, political and security implications.

* The report covers activities implemented by the OCEEA and the OSCE Field Operations during the period June 2012 – May 2013 but also includes selected key activities conducted by the Co-ordinator's Office from June to September 2013, such as the Concluding Meeting of the 21st Forum in Prague.

My office has continued to assist participating States in strengthening their anti-corruption legislation and institutional arrangements in accordance with their international commitments and has focused on key areas such as corruption prevention policies, asset declaration and asset recovery. In September 2012, together with the UNODC, the World Bank and the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, we hosted a "Seminar on Identifying, Restraining and Recovering Stolen Assets in the OSCE Region". In early 2014, my colleagues expect to publish an updated version of the *OSCE Handbook on Best Practices in Combating Corruption*.

We have also continued our collaborative engagement with key partner organizations in tackling money laundering and terrorism financing, in particular by supporting the implementation of international standards, tools and methodologies. In co-operation with the World Bank, my office has provided support to the authorities in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Serbia to conduct Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism National Risk Assessments. The process of conducting this type of assessment assists participating States in identifying threats and vulnerabilities, developing inter-agency co-operation and increasing the effectiveness of national efforts to address money laundering and terrorism financing.

In addition, in the field of transport, we have promoted the use of the *OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective* in the form of capacity building events. The publication of the Handbook's Russian language version in February 2013 has assisted us in reaching a much wider audience.

The OCEEA, together with partner organizations and the OSCE Field Operations has pursued efforts to implement Ministerial Council Decision No 10/11 on Promoting Equal Opportunity for Women in the Economic Sphere. In September 2012, the OCEEA provided support to women entrepreneurs from Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan by organising a training course in Istanbul, Turkey, that included workshops and industrial site visits



Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

for 25 female managers of small handicraft, jewellery and textile businesses.

The preparatory process for the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum on “Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region” was another important activity of my office during the reporting period. Together with the Ukrainian 2013 Chairmanship, we held preparatory meetings in Vienna and Kyiv in February and April, respectively, as well as the Prague Concluding Forum Meeting in September. We now have a set of recommendations for our future work in areas including strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks to prevent adverse environmental impacts of energy activities, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, reinforcing good governance in energy activities and enhancing public-private co-operation.

I am pleased to note our intensified co-operation on energy and environmental issues with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. In June 2012, in Jordan, the OSCE organised a workshop on “Water scarcity, land degradation, climate change, energy security and the role of the civil society” and in April 2013, in Vienna, we hosted an expert workshop on “Sustainable Energy in the Southern Mediterranean”.

During the reporting period, the OSCE held the Chairmanship of the ENVSEC Initiative for a second consecutive year. One of our main objectives has been to renew the Initiative’s focus on security and

to specifically emphasize sustainable development, climate-related risks and regional dialogue. Under the overall guidance and co-ordination of the OSCE with funding from the European Commission’s Instrument for Stability, one of ENVSEC’s major achievements during the reporting period was the recent launch of a three-year project focussed on climate change in Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia.

In addition, my office has contributed to strengthening national and regional capacity to manage wildfires, particularly in the South Caucasus region. Across the OSCE region, we have also promoted disaster risk assessment preparedness, transboundary natural resource management, the adoption and implementation of international legal instruments such as the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers. Here, we have co-operated with governments, NGOs and industrial representatives from selected participating States.

In November 2012, at the Rome Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, Ukraine and Moldova signed a bilateral Dniester/Nistru River Basin treaty. This treaty brings to fruition eight years of transboundary co-operation supported by the OSCE, the UNECE and several other stakeholders. Positive results have also been achieved with regard to the OSCE-supported Aarhus Centres network. For the first time, Turkmenistan, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have opened their doors to Aarhus Centres, and new centres have been opened in Kazakhstan, Montenegro and Tajikistan.

In the years to come, and in the OSCE’s time-honoured spirit of partnership, we will continue to build upon these achievements in strengthening economic and environmental aspects of security.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yigitguden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities



A surfer paddling by a wind farm, off Colwyn Bay, North Wales, United Kingdom.

Finalist of the OSCE Photo Contest "Safeguarding our future: Sustainable Transport and Energy", 2011

In 2013, the Forum continues the dialogue on energy and the environment.

Economic and Environmental Forum process

In 2012 and 2013, under the leadership of the Irish and Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanships, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) has striven to facilitate an inclusive, open and effective dialogue among the participating States on the OSCE's main priorities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension (EED). It has also contributed to strengthening the interaction between the Vienna-based Delegations of the participating States and other relevant stakeholders, including the OSCE Field Operations, other international organizations, the civil society, academia and the private sector. Such dialogue has mainly taken place within the framework of the annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) process. Other meetings devoted to key economic and environmental challenges are the Economic and Environmental Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) and the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC) meetings.

The 21st Economic and Environmental Forum

On 26 July 2012, at the 922nd Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, participating States decided to devote the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in 2013 to "Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region" (PC.DEC/1047). The decision built upon the commitments included in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, as well as in different other Ministerial Council decisions related to environment, energy and water management.



Logo of the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

The OCEEA, together with the 2013 Ukrainian Chairmanship, organised the three Forum cycle events.

The First Preparatory Meeting took place on 4-5 February 2013 in Vienna. Participants analysed the impact of various energy sources, both traditional and new, on the environment. Inter alia, the challenge to improve the environmental footprint of production, transportation and consumption of fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) was discussed. Other thematic areas addressed during the meeting included: the linkages between energy and environment and their impact on security and co-operation; the environmental challenges and opportunities of energy consumption and transportation; the promotion of sustainable management of energy resources; the co-operation between public and private sectors and international organizations; the communication of environmental challenges and risks; and the promotion of public participation in decision making.



The Diplomatic Academy in Kyiv was the venue of the Second Preparatory Forum meeting in April 2013

The Second Preparatory Meeting was held on 16-17 April 2013 in Kyiv and focused on the opportunities presented by renewable and sustainable energy. The agenda included sessions on: strengthening co-operation among OSCE participating States by promoting new and renewable sources of energy; green growth and sustainable energy and their contribution to security; improving governance and regulatory frameworks for private investments to promote the transition to sustainable energy; innovation and technology transfer in the field of sustainable energy; and promoting security and stability through partnerships for sustainable energy.

The recommendations emerging from the two preparatory meetings served as basis for the preparation of the **Concluding Meeting**, which took place on 11-13 September 2013 in Prague. More than 250 participants had the opportunity to exchange views and formulate proposals, *inter alia*, on: strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks and fostering international co-operation to prevent adverse environmental impacts of energy activities; tackling the negative environmental legacies of energy-related activities; promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency; reinforcing environmental good governance in planning, financing and the implementation of energy-related activities; and promoting co-operation between the public and the private sector and international organizations in these

important areas. The Concluding Meeting also entailed an excellent opportunity to review the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of energy, with a focus on diversifying the energy mix. A report on this topic was prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), one of the main partners of the OSCE in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Economic and Environmental Committee

Between June 2012 and May 2013, discussions on the preparation or the main outcomes of the 20th and 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum cycles and the 2012 and 2013 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meetings featured regularly on the EEC's agendas. In November 2012, a *Progress Report on "Initiating Reviewing Implementation of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension"* was presented to participating States.

On a regular basis, the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC) brings together representatives of the 57 OSCE participating States to discuss key issues of common concern and to provide guidance to the work and activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. The EEC normally meets on a monthly basis in Vienna.

Several **thematic EEC meetings** have been organised during the reporting period:

- The meeting in July 2012 was devoted to good governance, one of the priorities of the Irish Chairmanship in 2012 and the main theme addressed during the 20th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum cycle. During the meeting, good governance was analysed from a cross-dimensional perspective in the context of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. The discussions initiated during this meeting, continued in the EEC meetings held in October and November 2012 and contributed to paving the way for the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on "Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism" (MC. DOC/2/12) at the Dublin Ministerial Council. In June 2013, the second thematic Committee of the year was devoted to good governance, focusing on the implementation of the Dublin Declaration.
- In September 2012, a thematic meeting was dedicated to the promotion of equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere, taking into account cross-dimensional aspects. Experts from the OSCE Secretariat and other organizations were invited to provide their views on this important issue.
- Another thematic meeting, in October 2012, focused on water management and co-operation. Delegates and experts invited to the meeting examined the opportunities of international and regional co-operation in addressing the challenges related to water management and explored the role the OSCE could play with regard to these issues. The topic will remain high on the OSCE agenda in the coming years as water co-operation is a declared priority for the 2014 and 2015 OSCE Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia.
- In March 2013, OSCE delegations and experts, together with representatives from the private sector, shared their views on Critical Energy Infrastructures Protection (CEIP). The presentations demonstrated effective co-operation amongst the OSCE's different

administrative units in the area of CEIP. They also highlighted the valuable real-world activities being undertaken by the OSCE's field presences, such as the Centre in Bishkek, and took into account the importance of public-private co-operation.

- In June 2013, a thematic meeting was organised to review progress made with regard to the implementation of the Dublin 2012 Ministerial Council Declaration on "Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism". Participating States agreed to further step up their common efforts in fully implementing their commitments in this field, including in the areas of corruption prevention; promoting public sector integrity, transparency and accountability; removing barriers to stolen asset recovery; extending protection of whistle-blowers; and ensuring fuller engagement of civil society and the private sector in the fight against corruption.

Looking ahead: 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum

On 25 July 2013, the Permanent Council adopted the Decision No. 1088 on the theme, agenda and modalities of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, thus backing the proposal by the incoming Swiss OSCE Chairmanship to devote next year's Forum to "*Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area*".

The agenda of the 2014 Forum will focus on the following topics:

- Addressing preparedness, emergency response and recovery related to environmental challenges;
- Promoting partnerships and initiatives covering environment and security issues for greater preparedness, resilience and adaptation to environmental challenges;
- Exchanging best practices relating to preparedness, emergency response and recovery;
- Promoting environmental good governance.

DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COMBATING CORRUPTION, MONEY-LAUNDERING AND THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

(MC.DOC/2/12, December 2012, Dublin Ministerial Council)

(...)

We reiterate that good governance at all levels is fundamental to economic growth, political stability, and security.

(...)

Transparency in public affairs is an essential condition for the accountability of States and for the active participation of civil society and the private sector in economic and development processes.

(...)

We therefore reaffirm our full commitment to tackling corruption and countering money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and related offences by making them policy priorities backed up by appropriate legal instruments, adequate financial, human and institutional resources

(...)

We affirm that the OSCE political commitments related to good governance and transparency cut across all three dimensions,

(...)

I. Good governance and transparency

(...) we underline the importance of providing education and training on **ethical behaviour** for public officials, establishing and enforcing relevant **codes of conduct** and **conflict-of-interest legislation**, and adopting and implementing comprehensive **income- and asset-disclosure systems** for relevant officials. (...)

We recognize that achieving good governance and combating corruption will not succeed without the **full and equal participation of women and men** in political and economic processes and institutions

(...)

II. Combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism

(...) We welcome that the OSCE, and in particular the OCEEA, continues to assist participating States, at their request, with **developing and/or harmonizing their national anti-corruption legislation**, in line with their international commitments, with ensuring **practical implementation** and effective enforcement through exchanges of experience and good practices at the regional, subregional and national levels, (...)

We recognize that combating corruption requires long-term and comprehensive strategic approaches and strong institutions. (...)

We also acknowledge the fundamental importance of effectively preventing transfers of the proceeds of crime, the theft, embezzlement and other diversion of public assets, and of **recovering stolen assets**, for the credibility of our anti-corruption efforts and for economic development. (...)

We recognize the importance of extending sufficient **protection to whistleblowers** in the public or private sector, as they play a key role in the prevention and detection of corruption, thus defending the public interest. (...)

We fully support the international standards contained in the revised **Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** and we express our support to the work of FATF-style regional bodies and their observers (...)

III. Civil society and the private sector

(...) We underline the importance of **enhancing the contribution of academia, the business community and civil society** to raising awareness of impediments to economic growth, including barriers to market entry, trade and investment, and of the need for greater transparency to foster sustainable economic development.

We recognize that **freedom of information** and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement, and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, and money-laundering and its predicate offences. (...)

We encourage the OCEEA to explore opportunities for **co-operation with the Open Government Partnership**, (...)

IV. Working together for progress

We recognize that the OSCE provides a forum for **political dialogue, information exchange and co-operation** on good governance (...)

We recognize the valuable contribution that the OSCE executive structures, including the **OSCE field operations**, bring to the wider work of the Organization in promoting good governance, transparency and the rule of law. (...)

Good governance

Strengthening good governance, being a central component of the OSCE's mandate in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, has benefited from increased visibility and attention throughout 2012 under the Irish OSCE Chairmanship.

The good governance was in the focus of the 20th Economic and Environmental Forum process, featured highly on the agenda of the 2012 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in October 2012, and was included in the work programme of the Economic and Environmental Committee that followed closely the Forum meetings' preparation and analysed their conclusions and recommendations. Moreover, the July 2012 Economic and Environmental Committee meeting examined the role of good governance in the context of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and provided exchange of experiences on the implementation of anti-corruption policies and strategies.

This intensified political dialogue led to the adoption by the OSCE Ministerial Council in Dublin, in December 2012, of the *OSCE Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism* (MC.DOC/2/12). This new OSCE document enhances the Organization's mandate in these key areas of engagement and provides guidance for future work. Good governance and transparency, including countering corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, are vital to economic development, prosperity, stability and security, and thus are among the key priorities of the Organization.

The *Dublin Declaration*, a detailed and substantive document, consolidates the participating States' commitments and adherence to the principles of good governance and also tasks the OCEEA to render support in several specific areas, including the development and

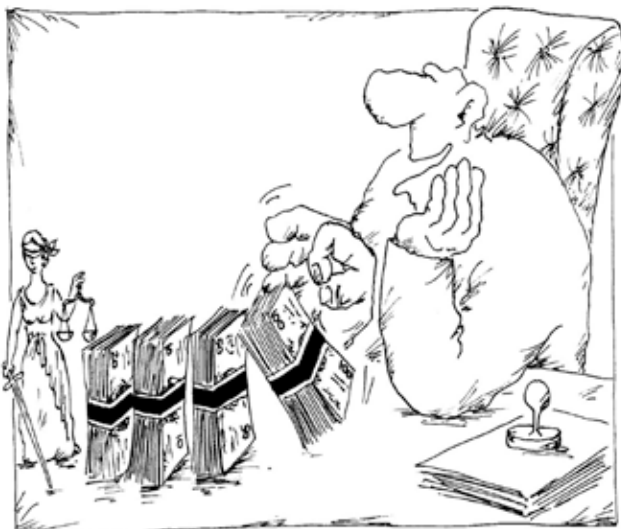
strengthening of asset recovery and "whistle blower" protection mechanisms.

The support expressed in the *Declaration* for the revised Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) paved the way for the OSCE to proceed toward FATF observer status, which was confirmed in February 2013.

The OCEEA supported the 2012 Irish OSCE Chairmanship and the participating States in their dialogue on the wide range of issues related to good governance and countering corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. At the same time, the Office has continued to carry out a number of activities to assist interested participating States in implementing their OSCE and other international good governance related commitments. *Inter alia*, the OCEEA provided legislative and institutional support and advice, convened thematic training events, facilitated the development of guidance documents and offered a platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices.

Preparations for Prague Forum in Kazakhstan

In June 2012, in co-operation with the Financial Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan and with support from the OCEEA, the OSCE Centre in Astana organised a high-level national event focusing on the 2012 Irish OSCE Chairmanship priorities in the sphere of good governance in the context of the 20th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process. The event brought together 60 representatives from state institutions and civil society involved in legislative efforts and practical work related to good governance. One of the meeting's key objectives was to contribute to the preparation of the national delegation for the Concluding Meeting of the 20th EEF, in September 2012, in Prague. Due to its successful outcome, similar events would be repeated in the years to come prior to OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum meetings.



The negative economic, social, political and security impact of corruption was illustrated through a Cartoon Posters Exhibition – Art against Corruption, organised on the margins of the 2012 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague. Above are selected works of Alex Dimitrov, Republic of Moldova/ Cartoon competition from Transparency International Moldova.

The OCEEA's interaction and co-operation with other organizations, civil society and the private sector has been and will remain among essential aspects of its work. The OCEEA has jointly organised several awareness raising and capacity building activities with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Council of Europe, the Basel Institute on Governance and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units in order to strengthen good governance and combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism in the OSCE region.

Yet another example of building up synergies and strengthening inter-institutional coordination is the OSCE - UNODC Joint Action Plan for 2013-2014, finalized in April 2013, which includes specific objectives for co-operation in the areas of combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Combating corruption

The OCEEA has continued to promote the implementation of relevant international anti-corruption instruments, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Specifically, the Office has assisted interested participating States in harmonizing their national anti-corruption legislation with their international commitments.

In September 2012, the OCEEA organised a seminar on “Identifying, Restraining and Recovering Stolen Assets in the OSCE Region” in Vienna together with the UNODC, the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative of the World Bank and the UNODC, the Irish Chairmanship and the Basel Institute on Governance. The aim of the seminar was to provide a platform for exchange of expertise and best practices, and to raise political awareness among OSCE participating States of the key importance asset recovery holds for the credibility and effectiveness of national and international anti-corruption efforts. The seminar brought together some 130 experts and government officials from a large number of OSCE participating States and Partner for Co-operation countries. The main outcome of the seminar was the Expert Conclusions document (CIO. GAL/115/12) which was circulated to all Delegations.

In April 2013, in Astana, the OCEEA organised a workshop entitled “*Sharing Good Practices and Lessons Learned from the Development and Implementation of Anti-corruption Preventive Policies*” together with the Government of Kazakhstan, the UNODC and the OECD. The exchange of experience and good practices focused on two sets of topics, namely development and implementation of integrity and corruption prevention measures by government authorities, and promoting good governance in the private sector. Government experts from Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and representatives of business associations and civil society organizations attended and participated in the workshop.

The OCEEA currently updates the *OSCE Handbook on Best Practices in Combating Corruption*, originally published in 2004. In December 2012, the OCEEA held a *First Expert Review meeting* to gather expert opinions on the draft revisions.

Highlights from the field

In April 2013, in Ashgabat, a two-day workshop organised by the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** and supported by the OCEEA, focused on “*Mechanisms to Increase Integrity in Public Service and Prevent Corruption and the Laundering of its Proceeds*”. It gathered representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Internal Affairs, Justice, National Security, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Supreme Court and the Arbitration Court, the State Border Service, Customs Service and State Tax Service. The training was part of a larger national project conducted by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat to support Turkmenistan in preparing for the review of its implementation of commitments under the UNCAC and to become a member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. Experts from the OCEEA, UNODC, Latvia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia shared good practices in preventing corruption. The workshop participants discussed, *inter alia*, the structure of anti-corruption agencies, anti-corruption action strategies, integrity measures including codes of conduct and asset declarations for public officials, and the value of utilizing anti-money laundering tools to prevent and combat corruption. As a follow-up to



Expert presenting during an anti-corruption workshop in Ashgabat, April 2013

the workshop, the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** and the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** conducted a study tour to Serbia to further strengthen the dialogue and contacts among representatives of similar agencies from the two countries.

Since summer 2012, the **OSCE Centre in Astana**, in coordination with the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the NGO Azamatyk Kuryltay (People’s Convention), as well as with construction companies, local authorities, the World Bank office and Soros Foundation in Kazakhstan continued to support civil society’s participation in the national and local *Transparency and Sustainable Development Expert Councils* (TSDECs) for monitoring the “Western Europe-Western China” international road construction project, which crosses five of Kazakhstan’s regions and connects Europe and Asia. Two pilot projects have been completed and a third project was launched in May 2013. The activities have been designed to provide a platform for dialogue and co-operation between different stakeholders involved in or affected by the construction works along the road. The projects target important economic, environmental and social issues in the context of sustainable development, and promote participatory decision-making, self-governance and anti-corruption in the regions. They help build the foundations of permanent, self-sustainable TSDEC multi-stakeholders’ structures in the five regions, in parallel and in co-

operation with the existing Aarhus Centres network in the country. The scheme is expanding and the TSDECs currently expand to two additional regions where new road construction projects are envisaged.

As a contribution to the national anti-corruption campaign which started in 2011 in the Kyrgyz Republic, during 2012, the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** designed an *Ethics Training Manual* for public servants. It was developed with considerations of both local context and international best practices on professional ethics of public servants. The manual was first tested at a “*Training of Trainers*” event sponsored by the Centre. After being translated into Kyrgyz and published, it has become part of the regular courses at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Government of Tajikistan has also identified corruption as a threatening phenomenon. The President of the Republic stated that “corruption hinders the progress of the economy, weakens the foundations of democratic society” and that “prevention of corruption and the fight against corrupt practices will continue to be a fulcrum in the legal policy of the state” (<http://www.president.tj/en/node/4325>). Consequently, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** strengthened its co-operation with the country’s anti-corruption bodies, namely the Agency for State Financial Control and the Fight against Corruption, and the Anti-Corruption Council. Along with working with the state authorities, the civil society’s involvement and its role in combating corruption were emphasized and civil society representatives were involved in workshops and trainings. *Inter alia*, the Office organised a *Workshop for Journalists on investigation techniques* with a special focus on corruption. The workshop’s objectives were to stimulate the development of high-quality anti-corruption investigative journalism in Tajikistan and inform journalists on legal safeguards that exist in Tajik and international media laws. Another workshop was conducted to strengthen the capacity of the investigators of the Anti-Corruption Agency and other state authorities involved in corruption disclosure and the investigation of corruption-related crimes. These activities were organised as a part of the broad *Good Governance Programme* to assist Tajikistan in building capacities to promote good governance and combat corruption, provide anti-corruption education, raise awareness, promote public participation, and

support local authorities to enhance their capacities to apply corruption prevention practices.

The **OSCE Office in Baku** has continued its close involvement in the area of good governance in support of the host country’s authorities and civil society. In this context, the Office provided support to the Agency Against Corruption under the President of the Republic in drafting the new *National Action Plans*. It also provided technical assistance to the Agency for Services to the Citizens and Social Innovation under the President of the Republic to improve the visibility and communication strategy of the pilot “*Easy Service Centre*” (Asan), established to increase effectiveness and transparency regarding the provision of essential State services to citizens. The Agency integrated most of the recommendations provided by the Office into its internal action plan and initiated their actual implementation. The Office in Baku has also developed a *monitoring and evaluation methodology* for the regular assessment of the progress made in the implementation of *e-governance* in Azerbaijan. Following international best practices in another OSCE participating State – Estonia, the Office organised a seminar to discuss the proposed methodology involving over 50 representatives of the Government and civil society.

The Office of the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** (PCU) has been supporting *e-Governance* initiatives nationwide for the past 5 years with the view to ensure greater transparency and openness of local governments at all levels, as well as the provision of quick and efficient services to citizens. During the reporting period, PCU continued its efforts to assist Ukrainian authorities in streamlining the process of administrative services provision through *the use of e-Government tools*. The Lviv city benefited from the introduction of three municipal digital services enabling local residents to register on-line applications for social housing, fill in on-line complaints with local authorities, and use on-line chat with authorities on topical issues. The Dnipropetrovsk regional government installed 50 information touch-screen kiosks to provide local residents with up-to-date information on the decisions made by local authorities. These efforts have contributed to better accountability and transparency of local governments and improved the decision-making process.



Mr. Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor of Lviv (left) and Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, PCU Ambassador speaking to press at the final e-Governance conference in Lviv in November 2012

The **OSCE Presence in Albania**, in co-operation with the High Inspectorate for Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflict of Interest, prepared and published a *Manual on the Role of Responsible Authorities in Preventing and Controlling Conflict of Interest*. The Manual aims to assist around 580 responsible authorities that serve as focal points for the High Inspectorate in all public institutions at central and local level to effectively detect, prevent and resolve conflict of interest cases. The manual includes case studies and detailed explanations and is intended to be a reference not only for officials dealing with conflict of interest, but also for other interested groups such as civil society, business communities, law students and researchers. Training activities for the focal points, designed according to the manual will follow later in 2013.

The Presence has also supported an assessment on the future establishment of an *online declaration system for public officials' assets*. The report analyses the current management of the officials' asset declaration process and provides technical specifications for designing and implementing a coherent online declaration system for the High Inspectorate. The introduction of an online declaration system will facilitate the declaration process, strive to minimize human interaction and accelerate the processing of the information, as well as improve the transparency of data for the public.

The **OSCE Presence in Albania** has continued to support capacity-building and awareness-raising

activities targeting mainly the public administration to strengthen local authorities' ability to implement anti-corruption measures and facilitate the investigation of corruption cases. Some 200 local public and elected officials were trained on ethics, conflict of interest and anti-corruption measures from May to November 2012. Leaflets and brochures containing details on the amended legal framework for the prevention of conflict of interest and officials' assets declaration were prepared and circulated to inform and empower a wide range of public officials and civil society groups. Incorporating feedback from participants, these training activities provided a clear understanding on how to identify and deal with potential cases of conflict of interest or corruption, and to build trust and confidence among the local population.

In the summer of 2012, the **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** finalized the implementation of the *Local First Initiative* and seven municipalities met all standards and fulfilled the criteria set in the *Municipal Management and Accountability*. The main focus was on strengthening municipal management, development planning, accountability and enhance citizens' participation in decision making. Within the *Municipal Assembly/Council Support* component, 17 municipal representative bodies enhanced their oversight capacities and procedures and improved communication with citizens and management. Ten more municipalities met all standards and criteria within the *Media and Communication* component. The Mission has also supported induction trainings for 30 municipal councils and assemblies and engaged with 14 municipalities to develop and commence implementation of action plans which address, *inter alia*, budget transparency and budget management. The Mission also assisted all ten cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in strengthening governance practices in policy and decision making, communication with citizens and maintaining merit-based civil service systems.

Seeking to enhance accountability and transparency in schools, the Mission has provided trainings to 250 school directors on managing school revenues and expenditures, as well as on implications of the Law on Public Procurement. In 2013, the Mission supported the development of *Training Manuals* for bodies focusing on good governance in schools. The Mission presented



Representative of OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (right), presenting the graduation certificate to the Mayor of Srebrenica for completing the Media and Communication component of the Local First Initiative, August 2012

its *evidence-based advocacy* methodology to members of the newly established country-wide anti-corruption network named ACCOUNT in *five workshops* around the country. It encouraged watchdog coalitions, which were established and supported by the Mission in the previous period, to join the network. The Mission has also monitored major corruption and economic crime cases. Collected data has been assessed and the assessments shared with the judiciary.

The **OSCE Mission to Montenegro** continued its support to the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro (JTC) in *training prosecutors, police and judges* in the area of corruption and organized crime. In accordance with the practice established in previous years, the trainings were held in close co-operation with the JTC and UNDP Office in Montenegro. Their main focus was on the detection, investigation, prosecution and effective adjudication of organized crime and corruption cases. From September 2012 to May 2013, 18 presidents of courts in Montenegro, 15 state prosecutors and 120 judges, court officials, deputy state prosecutors and representatives from police and other state authorities attended such trainings on personal and professional integrity, good governance in courts and prosecution offices, and development of integrity plans in judiciary. In the same period, three trainings on financial investigations were organised for judges, prosecutors and police officials, with experts from Ireland, Italy and Croatia.

The Mission has continued to provide support to the relevant host country institutions countering corruption at the local level, more specifically to the Ministry of Interior's Local Self-Government Sector, the Montenegrin Union of Municipalities, and the Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative of Montenegro. In a project implemented in 2012, the Mission facilitated the development of a *Model Local Action Plan* for fight against corruption. In 2013, a set of follow-up activities has been designed and implemented to ensure that the results of the project be fully accepted and the developed model applied. These activities included training for municipal officials in charge of anti-corruption measures, as well as public presentations of the developed documents and procedures.

Public procurement, according to official audits, is a large source of corruption in Serbia. The **OSCE Mission to Serbia** has, for the past 10 years, stressed the priority of preventing corruption in public procurement. In 2012 it developed a *Map of Corruption in Public Procurement in Serbia* identifying 21 risks and vulnerabilities in Serbia's public procurement system which had been misused for corruptive purposes. This report was submitted to the Parliament. The new legislation which was passed in December 2012 contained significant anti-corruption provisions regarding whistle blowers, parliamentary oversight, and greater transparency and regulating conflict of interest. It is the most important legislative change that the Government has implemented in combating corruption. The Mission's contribution to furthering the fight against corruption in public procurement was noted by high-ranking Serbian officials, including the Speaker of Parliament and the First Deputy Prime Minister, the latter in charge of coordinating Serbia's anti-corruption efforts.

Integrity plans are risk management tools used to increase the awareness of an institution's vulnerabilities and risks that create opportunities for corruption, and to develop a corruption mitigation plan specific to the institution. An estimated 4,500 public institutions, government bodies, territorial autonomous bodies, local self-government bodies, and public enterprises were obliged to adopt and submit their integrity plans to the national Anti-corruption Agency in April 2013 for the first time. The OSCE Mission to Serbia helped establishing a system through developing model integrity plans

Networking, building partnerships and speaking engagements

2012

August, Vienna

The OCEEA participated in the *UNODC Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Groups* on Prevention of Corruption as well as on Asset Recovery.

September, Warsaw

The OCEEA participated in the *ODIHR/OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* and contributed to the discussion on intra-organizational co-operation, particularly in the areas of good governance, migration management and gender issues.

October, Belgrade

The OCEEA participated in the “*Regional South Eastern Europe Local Government Reform Co-ordination Meeting*” co-organised by the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

2013

February, Bishkek

The OCEEA, in co-operation with colleagues from the OSCE field presences, conducted at the premises of the OSCE Bishkek Academy a 4-day interactive *teaching module* devoted to the OSCE’s work in the economic and environmental field, including on the topic of good governance. Twenty-two students from Central Asia and Afghanistan, who were enrolled in the Academy’s Master’s Programme in Economic Governance and Development, participated in the module.

and specific plans for the State Prosecutor’s Council, the National Assembly, the Public Procurement Office, the Anti-corruption Agency, six municipalities in Vojvodina and six municipalities in south-west Serbia. These institutions have now internal plans to minimize risks of corruption and will be monitored on how they implement specific measures to counter the identified vulnerabilities.

Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism

In the field of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) the OCEEA has continued to focus both on supporting national efforts, *inter alia*, with regard to the development of national action plans or the conduct of national risk assessment exercises, and on advancing regional co-operation. Disseminating information, promoting international AML/CFT standards and contributing to capacity building at national and local levels were also prioritized by many of the OSCE Field Operations. They brought in an important added value,



The 2012 Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Irish Ambassador O’Leary (right), and Goran Svilanovic, CoEEA, presenting the OSCE Handbook on Data Collection for AML/CFT, during the 2012 EEDIM, Vienna, October 2012

tailoring their activities to the specific needs of the host countries. A key factor for success has continued to be the inclusive, participatory approach, involving all relevant stakeholders from both the public and the private sectors. During the reporting period, the *OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in support of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism National Risk Assessments* was finalized and launched at the EEDIM in October 2012 and then used for capacity building. This publication was funded by the Irish 2012 OSCE Chairmanship.

In September 2012, the OCEEA co-organised, jointly with the International Monetary Fund and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science (ISISC), a *Regional Risk Assessment Workshop* in Siracusa, Italy. The meeting gathered representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Serbia who had been participating in a year-long project to collect and analyse data for the purposes of assessing the risks of money laundering occurring in each state.

In October, in Belgrade, in completing a series of workshops for the South-East European countries, the OCEEA, together with the Council of Europe and the World Bank, co-organised *Serbia's National Money Laundering Risk Assessment Final Workshop*. Serbian government agencies responsible for managing national anti-money laundering procedures participated in the event, as well as observers from the Governments of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Slovenia. One of the key objectives of the meeting was drafting action plans for the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the national risk assessment process.

In October, in Belgrade, an OSCE-organised *Training Workshop on Regional Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Typologies* gathered senior officials and the directors of the financial intelligence units of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Slovenia. Serbia's Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering presented the publication "*Money Laundering Typologies in the Republic of Serbia*", which the Serbian authorities drafted and the **OSCE Mission to**

Serbia helped to publish. The financial intelligence units of the other South-East European OSCE participating States also presented national money laundering typologies recently encountered in each country.

In May, in Bishkek, the **OCEEA, together with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek** and the World Bank, organised the *Final Workshop of the Kyrgyz Republic Money Laundering National Risk Assessment*. The workshop concluded a 14-month long series of workshops and desk reviews on how to identify potential risks and loopholes for money laundering. The findings of the risk assessment process were discussed with more than a dozen of relevant agencies. The OSCE plans to lend support in developing an action plan to respond to the risks identified.

At the invitation of the authorities of Montenegro, the OSCE Secretariat - the OCEEA and TNTD/ATU - and the UNODC implemented needs assessment missions to Podgorica in November 2012 and May 2013 to advise the authorities in charge of drafting Montenegro's 2013-2015 Action Plan for the implementation of the 2010-2014 Strategy for Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. The missions included OSCE-led discussions on the use of concrete indicators by which the implementation of the action plan can be measured.

In March, in Tashkent, the **OCEEA and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** (PCUz) played a leading role in organising a large *International Training on the revised Financial Action Task Force (FATF) International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism & Proliferation*. The training was organised with substantive and financial contributions from the Russian Federation, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM), and the Government of Uzbekistan. More than 70 participants representing financial intelligence units, law-enforcement agencies and financial supervisory authorities from Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and China gathered to review the changes contained in the FATF Recommendations that were revised in 2012.

Highlights from the field

During the reporting period, the **OSCE Centre in Astana** has organised and supported *seven local and two regional workshops and training seminars* on these topics. A workshop on international mechanisms and tools to combat money laundering and terrorism financing was held in December 2012 in partnership with the Financial Police of Kazakhstan and the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Office of the US Embassy in Kazakhstan. It gathered 70 government officials representing the law enforcement, judicial, banking and financial sector entities. It highlighted modern tools and effective practices in AML/CFT crime typologies and financial investigative techniques in the banking sector, based on the experience of Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States. In April 2013, in Astana, the **OSCE Centre in Astana and the OCEEA** in co-operation with the World Bank, Kazakhstan's Committee for Financial Monitoring (CFM) and the US Embassy in Kazakhstan held a two-day national workshop on the revised Financial Action Task Force (FATF) international standards. About 60 participants from Kazakhstan's ministries, law-enforcement agencies, financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions and national professional associations gathered to study the recent revisions to the FATF international standards and to consider the steps required in Kazakhstan to comply with the revised recommendations.



Expert presenting during a national workshop on the revised FATF standards, Astana, April, 2013

The Office of the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** (PCUz) has continued to support the development of *skills and expertise* among the national Financial Intelligence Unit, the Central Bank and the commercial banks to detect and prosecute activities of money-laundering and financing of terrorism. It supported a *consultancy* by a German expert who assisted the Central Bank in amending the current guidelines to improve the internal control guidelines for the banking sector. The focus was on the emanating threat of money laundering connected to emerging anonymous payment technologies and new payment methods such as internet and mobile phone banking, prepaid credit cards, etc.

The **OSCE Office in Baku** has supported the host country's AML/CFT through increasing the *capacity of financial supervisory bodies, the judiciary and civil society organizations*. In 2012, the Office developed the technical competencies of Financial Monitoring Service (FMS) analysts by organising a *Study Visit to the International Training and Methodological Centre of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation*. The Office in Baku further improved the capacity of 76 judges to deliberate AML/CFT cases through a two-day training session. Moreover, the Office facilitated co-operation between civil society and the Government through a workshop organised jointly with the Financial Monitoring Service and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Beyond the capital, the Office improved the knowledge of commercial banks' staff regarding effective AML/CFT coordination and communication with the FMS through a *training course in Ganja*, a western city of Azerbaijan. Finally, the Office in Baku developed the capacity of key AML/CFT officers in using the newly adopted FATF's recommendation on Risk Based Approach through a two-day seminar.

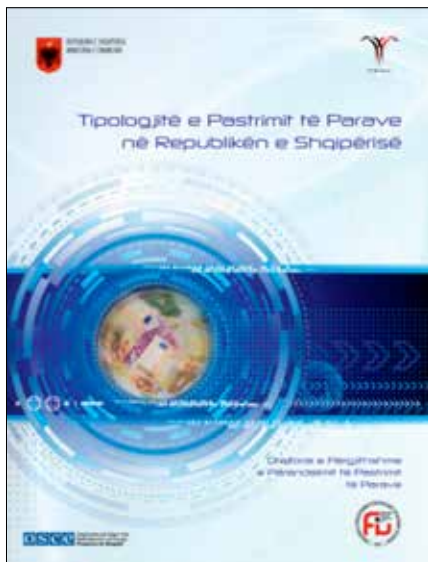
In 2012, the Office of the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** (PCU) started its co-operation with the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine by *analyzing the key challenges* related to combating money laundering and financing of terrorism the country was facing. Among the most pressing issues, the FIU singled out the need to develop an *e-learning* platform for FIU staff and compliance officers, and to strengthen FIU's

training capacity. In addition, the PCU has initiated work on the *database of mutual assessment reports* that will be accessible to the FIU and used for improving the financial monitoring process. Currently, the PCU is also involved in the preparation of a *Study Visit to Denmark and Netherlands* for the members of FIU to get them familiarized with advanced international financial monitoring tools and procedures.

The **OSCE Presence in Albania** supported the publication of an Albanian-language *Handbook on Money Laundering Typologies* in the Republic of Albania, prepared by the Albanian Financial Intelligence Unit. The Handbook introduces cases of money laundering in various sectors of the economy, identified by the Financial Intelligence Unit in co-operation with other institutions. This Handbook will help the public and private institutions obliged by law to report to the FIU on suspicious transactions, to improve the quality of reporting as well as their capacities in preventing and exposing money laundering cases. The publication will also serve as a reference for other groups interested in this topic, such as anti-corruption agencies, civil society and media.

On 17 April 2013, the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE TNTD/SPMU organised a *Seminar on the Identification, Seizure and Confiscation of Assets Arising from Human Trafficking*. The audience were thirty-five local police, prosecutors, judges and members of the General Directorate for the Prevention of Money

Handbook on Money Laundering Typologies in the Republic of Albania



Laundering. Among speakers were also international experts from Liechtenstein, Switzerland and the UK. The purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness on how to efficiently counteract financial criminal activities related to human trafficking at the national level through enhancing capabilities and co-operation between the police and other relevant law enforcement institutions.

In March of 2013, the **OSCE Mission to Montenegro** organised a *two-day Workshop for the host country's Anti-money Laundering Institutions and their reporting entities* from the non-banking sector, in particular the representatives of the capital markets and insurance industry regulators. The changes in the reporting requirements, introduced by the recent national legislation amendments, were presented at the workshop. Additional attention was dedicated to the strengthening of inter-agency and regional co-operation in anti-money laundering efforts.

Effectively combating financial crime entails both uncovering crimes and identifying where alleged criminals store their illicit proceeds. Financial oversight and financial investigations are conducted by officials from a wide range of institutions who often lack formal channels of co-operation and have not been exposed to forensic accounting training. In response to these challenges, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** conducted an intensive three month *Forensic Accounting Course* for 12 officials from public procurement, audit and anti-corruption agencies as well prosecutor's offices and the Tax Police. Participants were given real life case studies and were taught how to use public data in order to determine ownership of companies, and analyze suspicious activities regarding structures of bank loans and terms of awarded privatisations. As a result, officials in each of these institutions were able to improve evidence gathering and identifying proceeds of crime for financial investigations. Informal channels of co-operation were created by which they have been able to exchange data on alleged financial crime. The Mission to Serbia developed a set of *case studies* based on actual uncovered financial crime in Serbia, such as financial crime cases on the Belgrade Stock Exchange, privatization of public enterprises and irregularities in public procurement to assist relevant authorities in conducting criminal investigations as well as financial flow investigations.



OSCE organizers congratulating participants in a Forensic Accounting Course, Serbia

Networking, building partnerships and speaking engagements

2012

June, Rome

The OCEEA joined the *Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary Meeting* in Rome and participated in the FATF working group on risk. The working group meeting provided an opportunity to finalize the scope of an OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in Support of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism National Risk Assessments.

July, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

The OCEEA participated in the *20th Plenary Meeting of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units*. At the Plenary Meeting, the OSCE was officially confirmed as an observer to the Egmont Group.

July, Prague

The OCEEA provided a keynote address at an *OSCE Training Seminar on the Identification, Seizure and Confiscation of Criminal Assets arising from Different Forms of Human Trafficking – A Practical Perspective*.

December, Strasbourg, France

The OCEEA participated in the *40th Plenary Meeting of MONEYVAL* and presented the aforementioned OSCE Handbook on Data Collection.

December, Paris

The OCEEA participated in the *High-Level Meeting and the 14th Steering Group Meeting of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN)*.

2013

January, Ostend, Belgium

The OCEEA participated in the *Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units' Working Group meeting on Technical Assistance*.

March, London

The OCEEA led sessions on national risk assessments and the OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in Support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessments at the *2013 Annual Meeting of the Group of International Financial Centre Supervisors (GIFCS)*.

May, Minsk

The OCEEA participated in the *Technical Assistance Working Group* in advance of the Plenary Meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.



Economic activities

Developing business and investment opportunities

Economic and social disparities, poverty and unemployment have negative impact on social development. Concurrently, they may lead to social unrest, political crises, or pose other security risks. Poverty and lack of economic opportunities create a fertile ground for trafficking in human beings and other organized crime activities, as well as for the proliferation of extremism. Therefore, addressing economic and social aspects of security and promoting international economic co-operation have been an important component of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security since the Organization's earliest days.

The OCEEA and the OSCE Field Operations contribute to strengthening the social welfare and economic development across the region, targeting in particular areas of risk – as part of the general conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation mandate - more vulnerable groups. Targeted projects and activities have been developed and implemented to promote, *inter alia*, entrepreneurship and small- and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), rural development, greater economic diversification, initiatives to attract investment and enhance public-private co-operation.

Promoting women entrepreneurship

The Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No 10/11 *on Promoting equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere* intensified the OSCE's engagement in this field.

In September 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey, with financial support from a number of OSCE Delegations and in co-operation with the UNDP in Afghanistan, the Turkish SME Development Organization (KOSGEB) and the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), the **OCEEA** organised a 3-day capacity building seminar followed by two days of visits to successful jewellery and textile factories in Turkey. 24 women entrepreneurs from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan attended the event to expand their knowledge and skills in financial



Women entrepreneurs from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan visit a jewellery factory during an OSCE capacity building workshop, Istanbul, September 2012

management, marketing, human resource management, product development, communication skills and fair trade principles.

In order to further support the beneficiaries of this programme in their efforts to find new markets, the OCEEA has been working to develop a promotional booklet and a website (<http://www.tradehandmade.net/en/project>) for their small handicraft, jewellery and textile businesses, both launched in June 2013 and currently accessible to the public.

The **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** has supported the *Intervention Fund for Women's Entrepreneurship*, a corporate philanthropy initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina run by two Sarajevo-based civil society organizations, which have provided funds for business start-up proposals. The Mission has also provided training to rural women entrepreneurs in Bijeljina, Kupres and Dobojo on how to establish businesses. Two of the business plans developed have been funded by the Intervention Fund.

Networking, building partnerships and speaking engagements

2012

November, Baku

The OCEEA, together with the OSCE Gender Section, actively participated in the *Third UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs*. The OCEEA presented the OSCE strategic and operational approach to overcome the existing gender gaps in today's women entrepreneurs' world. The Office also shared with the Forum participants the lessons learnt from the OSCE-led project on Afghan, Azerbaijani and Tajik women entrepreneurship support. The Forum highlighted the need to strengthen women entrepreneurs' business management skills and their access to international markets.

2013

February, Haifa, Israel

The OCEEA actively participated in a *Training Course on Small Business Development Centres*, organised by the Israeli Agency for Development Co-operation. It targeted representatives of Organizations and Institutions that support local entrepreneurship development in several countries. The OCEEA representative delivered several modules of the training course including management and communication skills for entrepreneurs, and also presented, in an exchange of best practices session with Israeli experts, the OSCE experience in the area of entrepreneurship and SME development support. A few potential follow-up projects were also discussed, in which Israel and other OSCE Partners for Co-operation could be involved.

Developing business and investment opportunities: highlights from the field

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan has completed an economic assessment of five Rasht Valley districts. The insights gathered during this process have guided the

Office's activities towards establishing the Rasht Valley Public-Private Dialogue Platform that would assist local stakeholders in elaborating common policy objectives for the Valley's development.

The Office has continued to support the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in developing the country's four free economic zones (FEZ), and, together, has convened two national *Free Economic Zones Coordination Council meetings* and two *International Economic Fora*. Furthermore, the Office has provided technical expertise to the Sughd and Dangara FEZs in order to strengthen their management capacities and improve their attractiveness to international investors.

OSCE Office in Tajikistan supports the country's WTO accession

In the context of Tajikistan's World Trade Organization (WTO) accession process, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan assisted the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in preparations for the accession negotiations with the WTO that occurred in Geneva in late 2012. On 26 October 2012, the WTO Working Party accepted the package of documents required for accession from the government of Tajikistan, and, following the ratification of the accession package by the Lower House of the Parliament of Tajikistan, the country became a full member of the WTO.

In 2012, the Office of the **Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** (PCUz) co-operated with the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources with regard to *legislative drafting* to promote the private part of Uzbek agriculture and to create a favourable environment for the farmers to establish cooperatives. *Inter alia*, the PCUz supported a group

of parliamentarians to attend a number of round tables in different regions to pursue dialogue between farmers and parliamentarians. The project also included a *National Conference* in Tashkent, during which the draft legislation was debated. Later on, the PCUz assisted the newly established Farmers Council in developing its mandate to become an effective membership organization providing services for 70.000 farmers in Uzbekistan. The PCUz support was directed towards the new decentralized structures - 13 regional offices and 156 district offices - of the reorganized Farmers Council. In the same field, PCUz promoted improvement of farmers' skills and managerial experience to enable them to create a greater variety of agricultural products and improve their quality. The project is implemented jointly with the Centre for Agricultural Information and Innovation within the Farmers Council as well as the Israeli International Co-operation Agency "Mashav".

The **OSCE Office in Baku** has contributed to Azerbaijan's strategy directed to diversifying the economy by supporting *Legal Advisory Centres for SMEs (LACs)* in Baku and Mingachevir, a western city of the country, through its implementing partner - the local civil society organization "Public Union on Human Rights Education." The LACs provide free-of-charge legal advice and business consultancy on registering and operating private businesses as well as on effective access to justice for entrepreneurs. Moreover, the Office has organised, through the Baku LAC, four training sessions to increase the knowledge of around 100 entrepreneurs on tax law, labour and social regulations. In addition, the Office in Baku organised policy roundtables for entrepreneurs and civil servants in the regions of Azerbaijan to raise the Government's attention to the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and to provide recommendations for further improvement of the business climate.

In Armenia, in May 2012, the National Center for Legislative Regulation commenced its activities with support of a multi-donor consortia supported by the **OSCE Office in Yerevan** and comprising the Austrian Development Agency, the Government of Ireland, the World Bank, USAID and UNDP country offices. The aim of this two year *Rapid Regulatory Simplification Project* is to review and streamline regulations in 17 sectors of Armenian economy. Chaired by the Prime Minister



Rasht Valley, Tajikistan

of the Republic of Armenia, the Reform Council is the political institution responsible of reform oversight. By the end of the year 2013, 7 priority sectors would be reviewed and legislation streamlined to reduce red tape on businesses and citizens. The overall estimated impact on the Armenian economy is estimated to represent the equivalent to 0.5% of national GDP. The Office in Yerevan is currently in the process of designing the second phase of the reform, which along with the continuation of simplification efforts will introduce Regulatory Impact Assessment instrument.

The OSCE Office in Yerevan, through its Programme Implementation Presence (PIP) in Syunik, has supported *economic diversification* efforts through capacity building provided to the Syunik to utilize the economic potential of *ecotourism* resources. The OSCE support would contribute to job creation in non-mining sector,



Meeting of the Reform Council in Yerevan discussing streamlining regulations – the process supported by the OSCE



OSCE staff member speaking to an Afghan trader at the Ishkoshim cross-border market, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province, Tajikistan, 2012.
The OSCE works to facilitate cross-border trade and transport that create new economic opportunities, particularly in remote regions.

helping to mitigate economic security risks caused by the dominant position of the mining industry. With the PIP support, the regional administration of Syunik has been able to compile pilot projects for economic diversification of regional economy and calculate the expected impact on jobs and income. The proposed projects are considered by the regional administration for the preparation of the 2014-2017 socio-economic development plans. The PIP assistance for ecotourism development has been implemented jointly with the USAID and the Women Resource Center in Kapan. It has included training for 150 professionals from hospitality industry, advisory support from an international expert to develop ecotourism products, publication of a tourist guide and map, and familiarization tour for the leading Armenian tour operators to introduce the ecotourism resources of the region.

The Office of the **Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** (PCU) has assisted the Volyn regional administration in developing the *investment promotion portal*, which is expected to boost economic development and spur

investment opportunities in the region. The portal will serve a dual function as it will be a promotional tool to attract potential investors, as well as should function as a platform for making investment decisions. The PCU will assist in linking the Volyn investment promotion agency with the Czechinvest (Czech Republic) agency which has earned a reputation of one of the most dynamic and successful FDI promotion agencies in Europe.

Dialogue on transport and border-crossing facilitation

Continuity and building upon past years achievements have remained among main aspects of the OCEEA's engagement in the area of transport during the reporting period. Using the solid mandate provided by three Ministerial Council Decisions - Brussels 2006 (MC Decision No. 11/06), Helsinki 2008 (MC Decision No. 9/08) and Vilnius 2011 (MC Decision No. 11/11) on transport dialogue in the OSCE, the OCEEA together with the OSCE Field Operations, as well as in close co-

operation with partner organizations, has continued to implement various transport-related activities.

The objective has remained to further enhance the security, efficiency and sustainability of transportation links and operations across the region, thus contributing to economic growth and strengthening the overall stability and security.

Utilizing the Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings

While in recent years a lot of efforts have been dedicated to finalizing the joint OSCE-UNECE *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings - A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*, published in February 2012, the

focus, over the reporting period, has moved towards sharing best practices and providing capacity building and training based on the principles, provisions and examples illustrated in the Handbook.

In June 2012, in Geneva, Switzerland, the OCEEA and the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) organised, in the framework of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (W.P.30), a one-day Round-Table on the Role of Best Practices at Border Crossings in the Implementation of the “Harmonization Convention”. The recently released OSCE-UNECE Handbook, particularly Chapter 9 on “*Measuring Border Agency Performance: Possibilities for Benchmarking*” was presented and discussed.

Handbook’s Russian version published

In February 2013, the OCEEA participated in the 2nd Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Ministerial Meeting held on the occasion of the 75th Jubilee session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee in Geneva and presented the Russian version of the OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective. The Ministerial Meeting gathered over 200 participants, including Transport Ministers of the 29 EATL countries (most of which are OSCE participating States).

Since the launching in February 2013 of the Russian version of the Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings, around 700 copies have been disseminated by the OCEEA as well as by the UNECE Transport Division among interested stakeholders. The OSCE Field Operations in Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe have received larger amounts of handbooks for a distribution among relevant national agencies, and research and training institutions. The OCEEA has also provided copies to counterparts in the Ministries of Transport, Trade and Customs in many countries. The World Customs Organization (WCO), which unites over 179 customs administrations, has started to use the Handbook in its Regional Office for Capacity Building in Baku and at a network of six Regional Training Centres in countries across the OSCE region. It is also being used as a training tool in the OSCE Border Management Staff College’s courses and has been made accessible to students enrolled in the M.A. in Economic Governance and Development at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Upon request of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), copies have been provided to their network of national associations across the entire CIS region. The Secretariats of BSEC, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) CAREC Programme, Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA), the Eurasian Economic Commission and a number of other organizations also received copies of the Handbook.



Cover page of the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective (Russian version)



Study trip to the Tajik-Afghan border at Nizhny Panj, July 2012

In July 2012, in Dushanbe, the OCEEA organised, together with the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC), a first *Regional Training Seminar on issues covered by the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings*. Experts from the UNECE, WCO, UNCTAD, as well as from Australia and the Russian Federation engaged in exchanges with over 40 participants from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. *Inter alia*, they discussed the international legal framework for trade and customs as well as concrete methods to strengthen co-operation between customs and other border agencies. Risk management approaches, including selectivity and profiling, as well as methods for measuring border agency performance, also featured on the training seminar's agenda. The need to balance security with trade and develop partnerships with private industry was among the key conveyed messages. On the last day of the training, participants visited a border crossing point along the Tajik-Afghan border at Nizhny Panj.

In September 2012, in Dushanbe, the OCEEA, the BMSC and the World Customs Organization (WCO) held a two-day *Regional Training Workshop on the Implementation of an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programmes and the Use of ICT and Non-Intrusive Inspection Methods*. The event gathered more

than 20 mid- and senior-ranking customs officials and business representatives from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The seminar aimed at explaining how countries in the region can develop and implement their own 'trusted trader' initiatives, with particular attention on accepting and recognizing each other's programmes. The importance of building partnerships between customs and the trade community was also among discussion topics.

In April 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, the OCEEA, together with the Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) organised a *Workshop on Border and Customs Issues*. The meeting, which was a part of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters, gathered over 40 senior customs officials and consular staff from BSEC Member States (all of which are OSCE participating States) as well as from the Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation Egypt. The workshop focused on topics covered in the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings. The need to effectively implement relevant UNECE and WCO conventions, increase inter-agency co-operation at national level, find a better balance between security and trade facilitation, and adopt a risk-based approach in customs controls were emphasized. Participants also learned about the opportunities offered by public-private partnerships in border management, which can

enable governments and the private sector to share contributions and benefits of modernizing infrastructure and procedures. The workshop's two panel sessions featured presentations by national customs experts from Georgia, Serbia and Turkey.

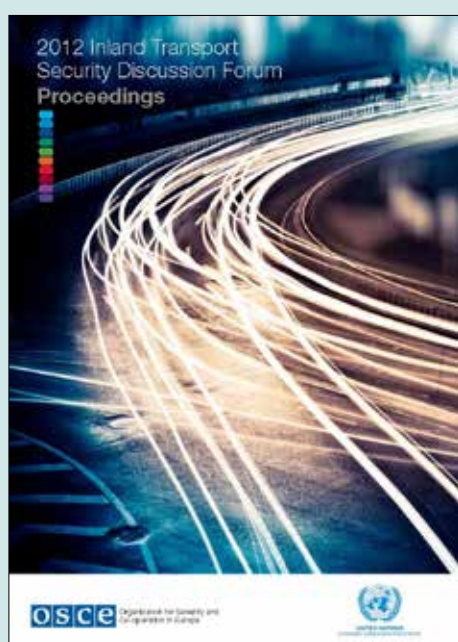
Highlights from the field

The **OSCE Centre in Astana** has conducted, over the reporting period, *eight project activities* to promote trade facilitation, transport efficiency, and modernization of customs procedures and practices. The Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings has proved instrumental in that regard. In particular, the Centre has focused on promoting co-operation between customs and businesses aimed at facilitating international trade, bringing down transport and import costs, increasing export potential and competitiveness, and stimulating economic growth. In total, the meetings and workshops have brought together *over 300 participants* from Parliament, Government, business associations and local companies. Most meetings have been dedicated to the recently introduced on-line declaration system for goods at border crossings. A specific focus has been put on risk assessment and management practices, and in particular on sharing information on the WCO's



Plenary session of the Regional Training Workshop on AEO Programmes, ICT and Non-Intrusive Inspections, Dushanbe, September 2012

Authorized Economic Operator Programme (AEO), which may help simplify and harmonize customs procedures in Central Asia, the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, and worldwide. The *AEO European Regional Forum* was held in Astana in the framework of the Sixth Astana Economic Forum in May 2013. It was hosted by the Kazakhstan Customs Committee and supported by the OSCE Centre in Astana.



Launching the 2012 Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum Proceedings

On the occasion of the 75th Jubilee session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee in Geneva in February 2013, the OSCE and the UNECE launched another joint publication entitled "2012 Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum Proceedings", a compilation of expert papers covering various aspects of inland transport security.

*Cover page of the OSCE-UNECE
2012 Inland Transport Security
Discussion Forum Proceedings*

Networking, building partnerships and speaking engagements

2012

September, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The OCEEA participated in a round table on “*Kazakhstan – New Silk Way – Bridge Between Europe and Asia*” organised by the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan. The OCEEA representative made a presentation on OSCE activities in the transport field and informed the audience about the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective.

November, Chisinau

The OCEEA participated in the *Regional Seminar and Practical Training on Trade and Transport Facilitation in TRACECA region*, convened in the framework of TRACECA's Logistic Processes and Motorways of the Sea II (LOGMOS) project. The OCEEA was invited to present the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings.

November, Brussels

The OCEEA attended, upon invitation, the WCO's *Permanent Technical Committee* to deliver a presentation on the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings and discuss forthcoming co-operation initiatives in the customs field.

November, Istanbul, Turkey

The OCEEA was invited to participate in the *Fifth International Forum on the Role of Customs Administrations in Promoting and Facilitating Trade among Silk Road Countries* organised by the Turkish Ministry of Customs and Trade, and speak in a designated panel on the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings, together with the UNECE and customs experts from Belarus and Turkey.

The OCEEA participated in a meeting of the BSEC's Working Group on Customs Matters, held at the BSEC's Headquarters, presented the OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings, and discussed future co-operation opportunities for promoting the Handbook in the BSEC region.

December, Geneva, Switzerland

The OCEEA participated in the “*Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting launching the Preparatory Process for the Comprehensive 10-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action*” organised by the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

2013

February, Geneva, Switzerland

The OCEEA participated in the *Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum: Secure parking areas*, organised by the Transport Division of the UNECE in partnership with the Belgian Ministry for Mobility and Transport and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). The representative made a statement on the OSCE activities in the field of transport and security.

The OCEEA also attended the *Road and Rail Financing Conference* organised by the UNECE in Geneva, on 25 February, ahead of the Ministerial Meeting and the 75th Jubilee session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee.

February-March, Brussels

The OCEEA participated in the WCO *Integrity Sub-Committee* and explored opportunities to organise joint targeted integrity training seminars for customs officials across the region.

March, New-York, USA

The Deputy Co-ordinator/Head, Economic Activities participated in the *Brainstorming Meeting on the Priorities of a New Development Agenda for the Landlocked Developing Countries* organised by the UN-OHRLLS where he made a presentation on the OSCE transport-related work in a Session on “*Transit Transport Co-operation at Bilateral, Regional and Global Levels*”.

Migration management

Migration management has been a priority area since 2005 following the adoption of the *Ministerial Council Decision on Migration (MC.DEC/2/05)*. The mandate in this field was reinforced in 2009 through the *Ministerial Council Decision on Migration Management (MC.DEC/5/09)*. These Decisions paved the way for the OCEEA to focus its efforts and work to promote a comprehensive, gender-sensitive and coherent approach to labour migration management.

The OCEEA has supported capacity building and training activities and has facilitated the exchange of best practices on comprehensive labour migration management, as well as on gender and labour migration among OSCE participating States.

The OCEEA has continued co-operate with other international organizations and institutions active in the area of migration management, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UNECE, ODIHR and the Moscow Higher School of Economics.



Cover of the OSCE-IOM "Training Modules on Labor Migration Management - Trainer's Manual"

The OCEEA has developed several capacity building and training tools on comprehensive labour migration management to assist the OSCE participating States in developing effective migration management policies and programmes. All materials are available in both English and Russian languages. Making use of these tools, the OCEEA has delivered multiple capacity building seminars.

Gender and Migration

In July 2012, in Turin, Italy, the OCEEA delivered a training session on the topic "*The Feminization of Labour Migration*" at the ILO Labour Migration Academy. The aim of the session was to analyse how gender-sensitive labour migration policies can address this phenomenon and how such policies should be implemented in order to be effective. The trainer used case studies from the OSCE Gender and Labour Migration Trainer's Manual.

In May 2013, in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, the OCEEA supported a two-day *Regional Seminar "Improving the Regulation of Migration Policies at Local Level"*, organised by the OSCE Centre in Astana in partnership with the Kazakh authorities, ODIHR, UNESCO, UN Women, local civil society organizations and OSCE field operations in the region. The OCEEA representative delivered a presentation on *Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Management*, focusing on why it is important, how it can be implemented, and what kind of discriminatory situations it is trying to solve. The presentation was followed by a discussion on best practices and local examples in this area. 70 local and central government officials, parliamentarians and civil society representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the workshop. They developed a set of recommendations on improving approaches for migration policy management at the regional level.

Harmonized Migration Data Collection

In March 2013, in Moscow, the OCEEA held a *Seminar on "Improving the Collection, Usage and Exchange of Comparable Data on Migration in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan"*. The seminar was organised together with the IOM and the Moscow-based Higher School of Economics. 40



OSCE-IOM Seminar on improving migration data collection, Moscow, March 2013

participants, including government officials from the Russian Federation and the three participating Central Asian countries, representatives of the CIS Interstate Statistical Committee, Russian academic circles, and international experts discussed international standards, regional and national aspects of migration data collection, ways to further improve migration statistics in the Russian Federation, and the steps needed to harmonize and exchange migration data between Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The seminar was part of an OSCE-IOM joint project aimed at supporting harmonization of migration data collection process in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) region. The findings of the four country assessments, a template for data collection and conclusions and recommendations will be compiled into a handbook later on this year. The key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of common templates for harmonized migration data collection (statistical indicators), which would help to foster data collection and sharing in the EurAsEC region.

Highlights from the field

In 2012 - 2013 the **OSCE Centre in Astana**, in partnership with the host country's government, local and civil

society entities, and with IOM, UNESCO, UN Women, organised, supported or contributed to six workshops and seminars on labour migration issues. *Inter alia*, the Centre focused on establishing a *Specialized Legal Course for Migration Police Officers*. The project is being presently implemented by the Karaganda Migration Police Academy with assistance from the OSCE, IOM and UN Women in Kazakhstan. The Centre supported a study tour to Belarus, which allowed lecturers of the Migration Police Academy in Karaganda, government and civil society representatives to exchange experiences on migration management, international migration law, gender-sensitive labour migration policies, capacity-building methods, and the new course, which is to be incorporated into the curricula of Interior Ministry's educational facilities. These activities resulted in a *Train the Trainers* event on migration management, which gathered some 40 migration experts and lecturers, and helped draft and finalize two manuals – one for trainers and another for students. The latter followed the international legal framework for migration governance and addressed issues related to: migration and mobility; freedom of movement; government responsibilities; refugee status determination; gender-related aspects of migration practices and legislation.

The **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** continued to assist in strengthening the state's response to trafficking in human beings (THB) and specifically provided support to local authorities in drafting both the *State Strategy* and the *Action Plan for Combating THB (2012-2015)*. Within the Mission's trial monitoring programme, the Mission monitored cases against suspected human traffickers and provided assistance to governmental and non-governmental actors as part of the country's anti-trafficking referral mechanism. Findings were routinely shared with relevant government and NGO partners in various fora. Coinciding with the 2012 visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina of the OSCE

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB, the Mission organised a public discussion event, at which the publication on THB for labour exploitation was presented. The Mission also conducted numerous anti-trafficking capacity building activities for judges, prosecutors, armed forces to be deployed in peace keeping operations, NGOs and social welfare centres. Following the 2012 adoption of amendments to the *Law on the Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum*, the Mission assisted the working group tasked with drafting the Rulebook to ensure that the current system for the protection of THB victims is further developed to ensure better exercise of their rights.

Networking, building partnerships and speaking engagements

2013

April, Istanbul, Turkey

The CoEEA attended the 5th *Ministerial Conference on the Budapest Process*, where he delivered a statement on behalf of the OSCE in support of the *Istanbul Declaration on A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration*. The Declaration was adopted by the participating countries of the Budapest Process. The main goal of the new partnership is to promote dialogue and mutual co-operation in managing migration along the Silk Routes. The conference was hosted by Turkey, the Chair of the Budapest Process. The Secretariat for the Budapest Process is the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).



Crossroads, Zoltan Balogh, Hungary

Finalist of the OSCE Photo Contest "Safeguarding our future: Sustainable Transport and Energy", 2011

Energy security

Promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue, ensuring continuity and strengthening synergies with partners remained key objectives for the OCEEA in the sphere of energy. From that perspective, the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum process under the 2013 Ukrainian Chairmanship, focussing on “*Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region*” represented an excellent opportunity. A more detailed report on the 2013 Forum meetings, conclusions and recommendations has been presented in the respective chapter of this report.

Throughout the reporting period, the OCEEA continued to support the dialogue among participating States concerning energy-related issues. On 23 May 2012, a thematic EEC meeting on “*Energy Security Dialogue and Co-operation in the OSCE Context*” took place in Vienna, with the participation of the OSCE Secretary General and of guest speakers from Lithuania, the Energy Community Secretariat; the Russian-German Energy Agency (RUDEA), and the OSCE Office in Baku.

In line with the UN Year of Sustainable Energy for All, on 22 June 2012, the OCEEA organised for EEC representatives, a *Study Visit to the European Centre for Renewable Energy* in Güssing, Austria. Twenty six members of the OSCE participating States’ Vienna-based delegations participated in the visit which included a briefing on the use of solid biomass as a renewable energy source as well as a tour of the biomass power plant in Güssing, the district heating plant in Urbersdorf, and the biogas plant in Strem.

As an example of cross-dimensional co-operation, the OCEEA is an active member of the Stakeholders Group for the Good Practices Guide on Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection (NNCEIP), a process which is being driven by the Action against Terrorism Unit / Transnational Threats Department (ATU/TNTD) of the OSCE Secretariat. In that capacity, on 10 October 2012, the OCEEA participated in a Stakeholders Workshop convened by the ATU. On 13 March 2013, a thematic EEC meeting focussed on “*Critical Energy*

Infrastructures Protection (CEIP)”, featuring speakers from the Centre for Energy Systems CESys s.r.o. (Slovakia) and OMV Group (Austria), as well as from the ATU/TNTD, and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

The OCEEA actively contributed to strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy issues with the Mediterranean Partners. On 18 May 2012, the Co-ordinator presented second dimension activities at the *Meeting of the Mediterranean Contact Group*, with a focus on sustainable energy and water management issues. On 30-31 October 2012, in Rome, the OCEEA participated in the *2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference*, presenting its activities and also moderating sessions on co-operation in the field of sustainable energy and on enhancing the economies of Mediterranean Partner countries. On 29 April 2013, in Vienna, the OCEEA organised an *Expert Workshop on Sustainable Energy in the Southern Mediterranean*, which brought together experts and representatives of participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation as well as representatives of international organizations and multilateral financial institutions. Discussions focused on sharing experiences and best practices, *inter alia*, on how to make sustainable energy a reality across the Mediterranean, establishing an in-depth dialogue on transforming the energy-mix, and creating new opportunities for inter-agency project co-operation. This event was a follow-up to MC.DEC/5/11 on the “Partners for Co-operation”, adopted in Vilnius in 2011, and responded to requests expressed by the Mediterranean Partners at the 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Rome, to pursue a closer dialogue and co-operation on sustainable energy.

The OCEEA represented the OSCE in the *Vienna Energy Club* (VEC) and actively participated, in October 2012, in the 7th VEC Meeting, hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and, in February 2013, in the VEC Meeting hosted by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Among the subjects discussed were sustainable energy and the Rio+20 follow-up as well as the UN year of Sustainable Energy for All.

Highlights from the field

The **OSCE Presence in Albania** facilitated meetings between representatives from local governments, civil society and the mining and oil industries to share their views on and promote the standards and methodology of the *Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative* (EITI). The meetings contributed to enhancing information and knowledge among local government units regarding, *inter alia*, royalty tax benefits. Participants agreed that a high degree of informality in the exploitation of minerals was negatively impacting both legal businesses and local governments. This co-operative approach was highlighted at the second Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum (16-17 April 2013, Kyiv) as a model for other OSCE participating States to follow. Albania was designated EITI-Compliant by the EITI Board on 2 May 2013.

On 19 February 2013, the Presence and the Canadian Embassy to Albania organised a *Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility* in the extractive industries, during which experts presented a *Situation Analysis Report* on the eight main domestic and foreign companies operating in the oil and gas, mining, cement production and hydropower sectors. The event raised awareness of authorities and the business community of the need to inform and involve local communities in the development of natural resource and energy projects. The published final report which can be accessed at <http://www.osce.org/albania> includes recommendations on possible next steps by the authorities in promoting corporate social responsibility.

On 13 and 14 February 2013, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia**, in partnership with the Ministries of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection, Foreign Affairs and the Provincial Secretariat for Energy and Mineral Resources, organised a Seminar dedicated

to “*Promoting Energy-related Policies and Initiatives aimed at Strengthening Environmental Sustainability*”. The goal of the event, which was a follow-up to the Mission’s successful *Green Diplomacy Training Course* held in November 2012, was to enhance the knowledge of government officials and civil society representatives on the linkages between policies related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change. The seminar was also aimed at facilitating co-operation between State officials and civil society organizations. It gathered, *inter alia*, more than 30 representatives from six ministries, the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, the Institute for Nature Conservation, four Aarhus Centres (Kragujevac, Subotica, Nis and Novi Sad) and other civil society organizations. The discussions highlighted a need to enable inclusive policy-making to reduce the carbon footprint of power-generating systems, improve the enforcement of energy efficient and renewable energy policies, and pursue sustainable development of local communities.

The **OSCE Office in Baku** continued its support to the Government of Azerbaijan to improve its operational preparedness for oil spills. The Office provided technical support to the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan in finalizing the *Draft National Marine Oil Spills Contingency Plan* (the National Plan) for Azerbaijan’s Sector of the Caspian Sea, which is to be officially approved and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers. In



Situation Analysis on Corporate Social Responsibility in Albania: Current Practices and Challenges of Extractive Industries, English and Albanian versions



Awareness raising event in a school in Kathlon region, Tajikistan, focusing on promotion of energy saving lamps and their safe disposal

In addition, the Office organised a *National Governmental Conference* on the National Plan, which provided an opportunity to key stakeholders to discuss and identify their individual and joint roles and responsibilities for implementation of the National Plan.

The **OSCE Office in Tajikistan**, within the *CASE Initiative*, addressed the need for energy saving and use of renewable energy in order to secure energy supply for all and prevent further deforestation due to use of trees and bushes as firewood. Two out of the eight small grant projects selected and implemented through the CASE Initiative focused on energy saving and renewable energy, thus facilitating stronger civic engagement in proper natural resources management, both in rural and urban areas.

In 2012, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan participated in the elaboration of a new *Concept for Improving Investment Climate in small hydropower sector* and supported Tajik authorities in designing a modern regulatory framework to help develop this key sector. In 2013, considering the important energy-security nexus, the Office has been supporting the elaboration of a *Social-economic Impact Assessment of small and micro hydropower plants in Rasht Valley*. This initiative aims at identifying the impacts and benefits of these activities to the local communities, possible improvements required in Tajikistan's regulatory framework on hydropower development, as well as at facilitating dialogue on economic development in the Rasht Valley.

On 14-15 May 2013, in Dushanbe, the **OCEEA and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan** organised an *Energy*

Diplomacy Workshop. This was the first such event held in Tajikistan. Over 20 representatives from governmental institutions, electricity agencies and private companies from Tajikistan and Afghanistan participated in the event. The aim of the workshop was to present an updated picture on energy co-operation principles, facilitate dialogue between various stakeholders from the two countries on energy related issues, and share experiences and best practices. Moreover, the event represented a good opportunity to discuss how Tajikistan and Afghanistan can benefit from exports and transit of electricity. As a follow-up to this initiative, a seminar is scheduled for the fall of 2013, and would include the participation of donors, embassies and international agencies based in Tajikistan.

On 26-27 March 2013, in Ashgabat, the **OCEEA and OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** organised an *Energy Diplomacy Workshop*. The event was the fourth in a series of similar capacity-building workshops since 2011. Some 30 key experts and officials of Turkmenistan's oil, gas, energy, economic and financial sectors and academia, from over 15 different ministries, State agencies and State companies participated. International experts provided an overview of the oil and gas industries from other gas exporting countries and presented methods and procedures of valuation of the oil and gas complexes and relevant negotiation techniques. Participants also discussed case studies related to international oil and gas contracts. The workshop contributed to upgrading the participant's knowledge on energy diplomacy issues and enhancing their capacity to develop energy policies. In response to the high interest and high level of participation, similar workshops would be foreseen in the future.



Local experts obtaining information on international valuation methods during an Energy Diplomacy Workshop organised by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, March 2013



The PCUz supports training and outreach to remote areas on the potentials of small scale renewable energy technologies, Jizzakh, Uzbekistan, June 2012

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** (PCUz) has been working on renewable energy since 2011, in response to the country's growing interest to develop renewable energy supplies. In September 2012 and in March 2013 presidential decrees were issued encouraging the Parliament, ministries, companies and NGOs to intensify their efforts to promote the use of renewable energy. Several PCUz activities have directly and indirectly contributed to the policy development in Uzbekistan – both by influencing the issuance of the decrees and by assisting in implementation.

In 2012, a parliamentary working group, comprising of national experts and NGO representatives, drafted a new *Law on Renewable Energy* for a parliamentary sub-committee. The draft was based on international expertise and an analysis of the potential to promote renewable energy in the country. PCUz supported the NGO “Eco Movement” and a group of experts to feed into the parliamentarians' efforts by providing analysis and strategy documents. As part of this endeavour, from 1 to 5 October 2012, the **PCUz together with the OCEEA** organised a *Study Visit on Renewable Energy to Spain*. A high level delegation of parliamentarians and

government officials from Uzbekistan were informed on the legal framework governing renewable energy use in Spain and visited solar and wind energy plants. In addition, a number of conferences, round tables and outreach activities were accomplished to keep the sustainable energy high on the political agenda and support the law drafting process. *Inter alia*, on 19 November 2012, in Tashkent, a *Roundtable on Development of Efficient Renewable Energy Policies in Uzbekistan* was organised by the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and the PCUz. The OCEEA attended the event and provided an overview of the renewable energy practices and policies in Europe and contributed to the recommendations of the roundtable.

In 2012, the five Central Asian countries established a *Regional Centre for Renewable Energy*. The PCUz together with the OCEEA and other regional institutions plan to arrange a *Regional Workshop* in October 2013, in Tashkent, on sharing international best practices for the promotion of renewable energy in Central Asia.

Networking, building partnerships and speaking engagements

2012

May, Güssing, Austria

The OCEEA attended the Conference on “*Sustainable Biomass: Greening Electricity Generation for Energy Access*” organised by UNIDO.

September, Krynica, Poland

The OCEEA participated in the *XXI Economic Forum* organized by the Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies (Poland) and contributed to two panels on “*Energy Geopolitics in Central and Eastern Europe*” and “*Energy Security: Energy Interdependence and Regional Integration*”.

September, IssykKul, Kyrgyzstan

The OCEEA participated in the “*Third International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development, Capacity Building for Energy Efficiency and Access to Cleaner Energy in Central Asia and Neighbouring Regions*”, organised by the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division.

September, Belgrade

The CoEEA delivered a speech on energy and the SEE region, at the *Belgrade Security Forum*, in the thematic session “*New Energy Partnerships – Is energy a source of concern or an anchor of stability?*”

October, Vienna

The OCEEA attended the *40th Anniversary Conference of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)*, on “*Worlds Within Reach from Science to Policy*”, where the role of sustainable energy in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals was prominently discussed.

October, Bonn, Germany

The OCEEA attended a Workshop on the “*Levelised Costs of Renewable Energy*” organised by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Renewable Energy Technology Deployment of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

November, Brussels

The OCEEA participated in a panel on “*The Institutional Landscape: Roles and Responsibilities of International Actors*”, which was part of the NATO Roundtable on Energy Security.

November, Istanbul, Turkey

The OCEEA participated in a meeting of the BSEC’s *Working Group on Energy* and presented the concept of the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process - “*Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region*”.

November, Geneva, Switzerland

The OCEEA participated in the annual Meeting of the *UNECE Sustainable Energy Committee*.

November, Belgrade

The OCEEA participated in the Roundtable “*Strengthening Green Diplomacy – A Step towards Enhancing Environmental Security*” and delivered a presentation on the role of international organizations and global energy governance as part of the Energy Diplomacy module of the event.

December, Brussels

The OCEEA attended a Joint Conference on “*European Smart Meter Roll-outs and the approach to handle Privacy and Security*.” It was jointly organised by Euroelectric and the European Smart Metering Industry Group.

2013

May, Astana

The CoEEA participated at the Astana Economic Forum 2013 and took part in the Panel on “*Mobilizing Climate Finance, the role of institutional investors in driving green growth and sustainable development*”. He presented OSCE’s contribution to green economy, stability and security through sustainable energy development.

May, Vienna

The CoEEA participated in the third Vienna Energy Forum (VEF 2013) where he contributed to the High Level Panel “*Energy in Post 2013 - Agenda*”. The VEF 2013 put the focus on the energy dimension captured in the Rio+20 outcome document and provided an interactive dialogue on key specific sustainable energy issues, such as policies, markets, finance and technologies.



Pamir, Tajikistan

Environment and security

The Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative

Over the reporting period, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) continued to promote the values of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative and conducted practical work in the countries of the region, thus contributing to the implementation of the ENVSEC's work programme agreed with the partners and supported by the stakeholders. These efforts were also backed by the OSCE Field Operations.

The **Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)** is a partnership of six international organizations – the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as an associated partner – with specialized, but complementary mandates and expertise, that provides an integrated response to environment and security challenges. The mission of ENVSEC is to contribute to the reduction of environment and security risks through strengthened co-operation among and within countries in four regions: Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, and South-Eastern Europe.

ENVSEC recognizes that the best way to address environmental and security concerns is through prevention, international dialogue and neighbourly co-operation. The Initiative assists governments and communities to identify common solutions and develop joint projects for achieving them, and facilitates dialogue and collaboration among policy makers, environmental experts, and the civil society across the borders, including national experts, ministries and national agencies, as well as NGOs and research institutes.

ENVSEC Chairmanship 2012

As of 1 April 2012, the OSCE, through the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, took up the Chairmanship of the ENVSEC Initiative for a second consecutive year, exceptionally.

The 2012 ENVSEC Chairmanship's objectives were:

- A renewed focus on security with a specific emphasis on sustainable development, climate-related risks and regional dialogue;
- A more visible ENVSEC;
- Improved financial sustainability; and
- Effective programming, results monitoring and reporting.

Under the first objective, major achievements included the finalization of the study on “*Advancing the security dimension of ENVSEC*” and the preparation of an implementation plan to advance its recommendations. The study provided a conceptual framework for defining security threats and gave guidance on how to put these concepts into practice. It defines ENVSEC's added value, identifies main security and environment challenges in the ENVSEC regions, and gives recommendations for ENVSEC's future thematic, geographic and programmatic developments.

Under the second objective, the ENVSEC partners published a number of reports, articles and interviews in prominent journals, websites and networks. For example, an interview with ENVSEC Co-ordination Unit staff on water and security issues in Central Asia appeared in the EU Central Asia Monitoring, supported by the Open Society Institute and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An article on ENVSEC work in Central Asia on uranium legacy management appeared in the Live Better Magazine. Moreover, “ENVSEC in the South Caucasus” and the “Aarhus Centres-Rio+20” are examples of publications produced by the OSCE within the framework of the Initiative.

To advance the third objective, ENVSEC aimed at diversifying its donor base and developing two new programmes: one in South-Eastern Europe, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and one on Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, funded by the Instrument for Stability of the European Commission. Additional funds were also mobilized from Sweden for ENVSEC work in Belarus.

Under the fourth objective, the ENVSEC partners and the Secretariat supported Finland's evaluation of ENVSEC within the framework of the mid-term evaluation of the Wider Europe Initiative (WEI), a bilateral development co-operation programme in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia announced by Finland in 2008. The results, published in September 2012, revealed that ENVSEC is an excellent match to the global objective of the Wider Europe Initiative, which is strengthening stability and security across the regions through interventions focused on the following priority themes: security, trade and development, information society development, energy and the environment and social sustainability. At project level, ENVSEC activities are being effectively implemented and address a range of important issues relating to the security-environment nexus. Recommendations for the future include: increasing the involvement of government focal points, work more as 'one ENVSEC', decreasing running costs, and making donors more visible to the beneficiaries.

Highlights from the regions - South Caucasus

In the South Caucasus region, where the OSCE assumes the co-ordinating role within ENVSEC, a number of project activities addressing environmental challenges specific to the region were implemented.

Fire Management

During the reporting period, the *Fourth National Roundtable Meeting* was held in **Georgia** in May 2012 to further advance discussions on the draft National Wildfire Management Policy. This document was revised to reflect on-going changes in legislation and institutional setup.

The statistical data and reports of the last decade indicate that the problem of forest fires is quite common in the South Caucasus region. These wildfires not only pose immediate risk to forests, other vulnerable ecosystems and the population, but can also have serious secondary consequences in terms of increased threats of erosion, landslides, mudflows or floods.

ENVSEC, since 2008, through an OSCE-led project and in cooperation with Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC), has been assisting the South Caucasus countries in enhancing their fire management capacities. The project is based on the outcomes of the "OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to Fire-Affected Territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh Region" in 2006 and the "Joint OSCE/ UNEP Environmental Assessment Mission to Georgia" in 2008 following the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

In **Azerbaijan**, in September 2012, a first *National Training* was held, followed by a roundtable with local communities to discuss the forest fire issues from their perspective and identify the main problems that have to be addressed at community level. Also in September, the *Second National Roundtable* was held in Azerbaijan with the participation of all main state actors engaged in the management of wildfires.

In December 2012, the *Second National Roundtable* was organised in **Armenia** to discuss the draft of the National Report and define the main elements of the national Wildfire Management Policy.



Forest Fire Field Exercise within the OSCE ENVSEC project "Enhancing National Capacity on Fire Management and Wildfire Disaster Risk Reduction in the South Caucasus", Gabala, Azerbaijan, September 2012

Moreover, the Global Fire Monitoring Network's "Training Handbook Euro Fire" was translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages and submitted to the responsible state agencies.

Implementation of the ESPOO Convention

In a **regional context in the South Caucasus**, one of the main objectives of the ENVSEC Initiative is to support countries of the region in ratifying and implementing the Espoo Convention. The project objective was to organise a regional capacity building workshop on the Espoo Convention with the participation of government and civil society representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. During the reporting period, the focus has been on developing substantive follow-up to a *Sub-regional Workshop* held in Tbilisi in 2011. Plans have been made to support participation of representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in training activities on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) tools for transition to green economy. Training activities were planned by the UNECE Espoo Convention Secretariat for 2013 within the framework of the EU project Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (Green EAP).

A party to the Espoo Convention since 1999, **Azerbaijan** commenced a process of strengthening its national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation, which, once accomplished, will contribute significantly to the implementation of the Espoo Convention. Especially in light of the rapid development of Azerbaijan's economy and its growing engagement particularly in the energy sector, there is a need to improve the national EIA legislation and to create an enabling environment for the practical application of the provisions and mechanisms of the Espoo Convention. The aim of the activities undertaken was to conduct a *comprehensive review of relevant legislation* and formulate recommendations on specific actions. In particular, emphasis has been put on ensuring compliance with national legislation, raising awareness and better understanding of the provisions and opportunities of the Convention among relevant ministries and agencies in Azerbaijan, and strengthening national capacities in establishing a new legal framework for both EIA and SEA processes.

The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. In this respect, the Espoo Convention is a key instrument for bringing together all stakeholders to prevent environmental damage and to increase co-operation. It is also an instrument for increasing access to information and public participation on projects affecting the environment. The Convention entered into force in 1997.

Sustainable urban development - Environmental Assessment and Capacity Building in Tbilisi

The project delivered comprehensive assessment of the state of environment of Tbilisi and provided practical recommendations to the decision-makers. The report "Global Environmental Outlook (GEO)-City Tbilisi" was published. With a view to increasing the visibility of the project and to promote the *GEO-City Tbilisi Report*, a radio-programme was prepared and broadcasted on the radio station Green Wave in July 2012. UNEP, OSCE, the Tbilisi City Hall and the national experts involved in the development of the GEO-City Tbilisi Report participated in the radio programme and discussed issues related to the environmental urban management of Tbilisi, its

Unmanaged population growth in the capital cities of the countries in South Caucasus was cited by the national stakeholders as one of the key environment and security risks and was listed as one of the ENVSEC priorities in the region. During the last decade, unprecedented population growth due to migration was observed in these capital cities, as thousands of people migrated to large cities creating pressure on urban infrastructure and environment.

At the 2009 ENVSEC national meeting in Georgia, the environmental situation in Tbilisi was identified by the national stakeholders as a priority concern. In response, a project was developed to improve environmental decision-making and promote Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) as a key instrument for informed decision-making on important municipal-level environment and security issues.

challenges and future outlooks. Furthermore, the GEO-City Tbilisi Report and the Executive Summary for Decision-makers were presented at the meeting of the National Association of Local Authorities in August 2012, which gathered representatives of all municipalities of Georgia and seven hundred copies of both reports were widely disseminated throughout Georgia.

Highlights from the regions - South-Eastern Europe

In the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative project “Promoting the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the South-Eastern European Region”, a *Regional Workshop on Environmental Consensus Building and Mediation Techniques* took place between 8 and 10 April 2013 in Podgorica. It was hosted by the **OSCE Mission to Montenegro**, and was jointly organised by the **OCEEA** in close co-operation with the **OSCE Field Operations in the region** and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). The primary target group were the Aarhus Centres and Aarhus Convention National Focal Points from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as selected leading environmental NGOs from the South-Eastern European (SEE) region including from Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244). The workshop, attended by approximately 35 participants, aimed at exploring possible strategies and approaches in conflict management related to the use of natural resources and environmental management. Furthermore, the workshop also focussed on the

application of different consensus building techniques and provided examples of settled disputes over natural resources between the business, state agencies and local communities. The training methodology allowed participants to test their existing skills and to increase their capacity through numerous mediation exercises, facilitation practices or interpersonal facilitations skills. The workshop was especially welcomed by the participants, who emphasized the need for further capacity building events in this area.

On 5 and 6 November 2012, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** organised the *Regional Roundtable “Co-operation and Networking - an Asset for Enhancing Environmental Security in the Western Balkans”*. Approximately 50 judges, state prosecutors, environmental inspectors, managers of Aarhus Centres and senior management from Ministries in charge of environmental issues from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia participated in the event. They discussed the status and implementation of the Joint Statement on activities aimed at increasing the rate of processing environmental violations, strengthening cross-sector co-ordination and improving the implementation of environmental legislation at the regional level, agreed upon by the participants at a similar event held in December 2011 in Belgrade. International experts presented the benefits of co-operating through judicial networks, the value of information exchange related to the breach of environmental laws, as well as examples of best practices in this area from the EU.

From 3 to 5 April 2013, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in



South Eastern Europe Regional Workshop on Environmental Mediation and Conflict Resolution, Podgorica, April 2013



OSCE supported the Regional Roundtable on Environment and Security in the Western Balkans, Belgrade, November 2012

partnership with the Ministry of Interior (Mol), organised *three specialized trainings* for representatives of the police service aimed at increasing their knowledge and skills to enforce environmental law and more effectively process crimes that threaten the environment. These trainings took place in Nis, Kragujevac and Pancevo and gathered a total of 75 inspectors from 18 police districts across Serbia. The curriculum included interactive presentations by criminal investigators from Austria and Sweden, as well as national experts who presented best practices in prosecuting environmental crimes in Serbia through the enforcement of EU legislation. The Mission received an overwhelmingly positive reaction from participants, who noted it was the first time they received comprehensive training on environmental legislation and its implementation.

Highlights from the regions - Eastern Europe

In early 2013, within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative, the OSCE launched a new project entitled “*Assessment of environmental risks in the Exclusion Zone along the Ukrainian and Belarusian borders to facilitate the demarcation process*”. The first co-ordination meeting took place on 6 March and discussed the assessment and mapping of the radiation situation in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone along the Ukrainian-Belarusian border, in order to develop regulations for human presence in this area.

Highlights from the regions – Central Asia

The ENVSEC Initiative held its *Regional Co-ordination Meeting in Central Asia* on 8 November in Almaty, Kazakhstan to exchange latest news on current work and agree on future priorities for addressing environment and security risks. More than 40 national focal points of the ENVSEC Initiative from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were joined by donor representatives, experts, other key stakeholders as well as representatives of the OCEEA and the OSCE Field Operations in the region. Participants stressed the importance of ENVSEC partners ensuring capacity to integrate results of ENVSEC programmes in national policies and plans. It was agreed that ENVSEC will strengthen its monitoring and measuring of security



Participants discussing environment and security priorities in Central Asia during the Regional ENVSEC Meeting, Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 2012

benefits and long-term impacts on the ground. The ENVSEC partnership will continue to provide a regional co-ordination platform, assessing environmental and security factors and devising strategies for minimizing risks and maximizing resilience. For example, a key outcome in 2012 was a system for safety monitoring of the Kirov dam in Kyrgyzstan on the trans-boundary Talas River that also serves downstream Kazakhstan. The post-2013 priority areas were identified as: social and economically responsible mining and uranium waste legacy management; dialogue with Afghanistan on trans-boundary water management; climate change adaptation with a focus on climate security and risk management; and improved access by civil society to environmental information and justice.

The OSCE Centre in Astana contributed to the successful participation of Kazakhstan in the Rio+20 UN Earth Summit in June 2012, where its “*Green Bridge Partnership Programme*” was approved as a regional initiative. Throughout the reporting period, the Centre actively helped to promote *green growth principles* in Kazakhstan by participating in high level discussions on political, legislative and institutional aspects of the transition to a green economy- green growth, renewable energy and sustainable development. The Centre specifically contributed to the *National Strategy of Transition of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy by 2050*, at the request of the Ministry of Environment Protection. *Seven project activities* were directly related to the topic, aiming, *inter alia*, at preparing a needs assessment study, mobilising expertise in renewable energy, energy efficiency, green growth and innovative technologies, and promoting the transition to a green economy in the country’s regions. Kazakhstan intends



Active participation of stakeholders in the Public Hearing for developing the Environmental Code for Tajikistan, Khorog, May 2013

to finalize the strategy by the end of 2013, and to start implementing it immediately with a commitment of 1% of GDP spending each year. In partnership with the UNDP office and the EU delegation, the OSCE Centre firmly supported Kazakhstan's green economy and green bridge initiatives in the last 3 years.

The **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** has continued to contribute to environment and security in Tajikistan by supporting the host government in improving its environmental legislation and producing tangible policies in line with international environmental conventions. The Office facilitated the development of a *National Environmental Code* that will reflect best international practices. By the end of 2012 a final draft was submitted to the government. In 2013, the Office continued supporting the legislative process by facilitating *public hearings* for the final draft Environmental Code, involving state institutions, the private sector and the general public in all regions of the country. The public hearings increased public participation in decision making and strengthened good governance efforts in environmental matters initiated in previous years. The comments received during the hearings will be incorporated into the National Environmental Code. The Office aims to submit the National Environmental Code to the Parliament by the end of 2013.

Participatory workshops on environment and security issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region

On 18-20 June 2012, in Amman, the OCEEA, in co-operation with the Jordanian Government, organised a workshop on "Water scarcity, land degradation, climate change, energy security and the role of the civil society". The meeting, attended by some 40 policy-makers, scientists, experts, and NGOs from the Mediterranean region, aimed at identifying environmental issues that could impact on security, as well as the environmental implications of security policies. The workshop was opened by the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier.

The workshop was part of a project that would facilitate a process whereby key decision-makers are able to motivate action to advance and protect peace and the environment at the same time. The project has received contributions from Spain, Belgium and Monaco. Follow-up workshops will identify the environmental issues that may have an impact on security, as well as environmental implications of security policies, and will map them in an easily understandable format. Through a participatory process, priorities for action will be set and a programme of work will be developed. The workshops will focus on the Southern Mediterranean region, but will include the inputs and outputs of the environment and security aspects stemming from and to the Northern Mediterranean and adjacent regions.

The proposal is structured in two different phases: The first phase comprises two expert workshops aimed at the preparation of a draft report which will provide the basis for discussion during the second phase. The second phase will consist of one regional consultation, which will focus on the development of recommendations and a programme of work.



Arid landscape in southern Jordan; about 75 per cent of the country has a desert climate with less than 200 mm of rain annually

Water

The *fifth Bilateral Consultation on transboundary water co-operation between Azerbaijan and Georgia* took place on 30 April 2013 in Tbilisi. The meeting was organised by the OSCE and the UNECE in collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia. The meeting was held within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative Project “*Implementation of the UNECE Water Convention: Finalisation of the agreement on management of transboundary watercourses shared by Georgia and Azerbaijan*” and aimed at supporting the two countries in strengthening transboundary water co-operation, and in finalizing the draft agreement through additional bilateral consultations. This project is a continuation of activities supported through a previous ENVSEC project, which enabled the organization of four rounds of consultations between the two countries and the development of a draft “*Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of Georgia on Co-operation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Use of the Water Resources of the Kura River Basin*”.

Dniester/Nistru River Basin

On 29 November 2012 in Rome, during the sixth session of the *Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (28-30 November 2012) a bilateral *Dniester/Nistru River Basin Treaty* between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova was signed. The Treaty is a result of 8 years of transboundary co-operation supported by the OSCE, the UNECE and several other actors, through a number of ENVSEC projects bringing together governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia on both sides of the Dniester/Nistru River. The Treaty is a pioneering example of a bilateral instrument for integrated river basin management in post-Soviet countries, helping set up a joint river basin commission to steer activities in the fields of monitoring, fish conservation, pollution prevention, and emergency response.

On 17 December 2012, with support from the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU)** and the



Signing ceremony of the Dniester River Basin Treaty, Rome, 29 November 2012

OCEEA, two automatic *water level monitoring stations* were installed and put into operation in the upper Dniester/Nistru near Ukraine’s settlements of Galych and Zalischyky. These monitoring stations help prevent flood damage by measuring water level and subsequent transmission of data from the upper Dniester/Nistru to its middle and lower parts in Moldova and Ukraine. In addition, the project studied flood communication at the local, national and basin levels in both countries and provided recommendations for improving existing information exchange on floods. The monitoring stations together will contribute to the efforts of water, hydro-meteorological, emergency and public authorities of both countries to prevent floods and ensure human safety during such extreme weather events and to facilitate adaptation to climate change.

The first basin-wide *Vulnerability Assessment Study* was conducted for the Dniester/Nistru River basin, analysing the influence of climate change on natural resources and different economic sectors in the basin. It will serve as basis for development of the strategic framework on adaptation to climate change in the Dniester/Nistru River basin.

Central Asia

In May 2013, the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** concluded its 2011-2013 series of training workshops on modern technologies of water resources management in Turkmenistan. The project aimed to train officials from the local Water Administrations to develop the new database and management system for water distribution network in different regions of the country

through application of *Geographical Information System (GIS)* software and use of *Global Positioning System (GPS)* devices to obtain spatial data.

The **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** supported an initiative devoted to raising awareness among young people and schoolchildren on radioactive safety and water security. A particular focus was dedicated to the supply of *clean drinking water* in a school in Istiqlol town, located in the north part of the country, near the border with Uzbekistan. The school, which has 260 students from different ethnic groups, is located on the top of a hill and was not supplied with drinking water from the centralized system. Before the implementation of the project, the schoolchildren and the personnel of the school used to drink water collected from a river contaminated by radioactive waste.

In January 2013, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management, organised a workshop on “*Common Water Management and Environmental Challenges in Afghanistan and Tajikistan*”. More than 70 participants from different ministries and agencies from the two countries, together with representatives of international organizations and NGOs, attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to identify possible solutions to some of the urgent water management and environmental challenges faced by Afghanistan and Tajikistan, especially in the upper transboundary Amu-Darya river basin. Furthermore, the workshop facilitated the exchange of opinions and information between the

two neighboring countries on river basin management and the needs and challenges encountered by Afghan and Tajik authorities and inhabitants along the Panj River, one of the main tributaries of Amu-Darya. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan further promoted *regional co-operation and supported Afghan and Tajik experts and students* to strengthen water and environmental management co-operation. The Office hosted on 29 March 2013 an extracurricular day for 30 Afghan and Tajik students from the faculties of Engineering and Natural Sciences at universities in Dushanbe. The event was part of an initiative to strengthen co-operation on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the Upper Amu-Darya River basin, which was held from 25 to 29 March in co-operation with the UNECE and the Environmental Protection Committee under the Government of Tajikistan. On 28 March, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan also supported an experience exchange between some 35 senior experts from Afghanistan and Tajikistan as part of the same initiative.

In 2012, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan also conducted a series of *four short term training workshops on international water law and water sharing principles* for officials from the relevant ministries, water management agencies, as well as for students from Universities in Tajikistan. More than 80 participants attended the trainings. Field trips to transboundary water objects and hydro power plants were also organised at the conclusion of each training session. In 2013, the Office is maintaining its effort in conducting trainings for officials working in water and energy sector, both in Dushanbe and in other regions of the country. Moreover, the Office is supporting the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources in conducting *Training of Trainers (ToT)* for Tajik professionals on the main principles of integrated water resources management and international water law. The participants in the ToT will be involved in future training activities in Tajikistan, in order to guarantee the sustainability of these endeavors.

The provision of efficient irrigation and water delivery services to farmers and the maintenance of a complex irrigation system are key areas of focus for the Water User Associations (WUAs) in Kyrgyzstan. In the course of 2012, as part of a project set up by the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek**, 48 WUAs from the southern provinces received *training on water resource management*,



Local water management specialists learning to use the GPS devices, Serdar, Balkan Velayat, Turkmenistan, May 2013

water saving and measuring methods, transparent water distribution, and ways to reduce tensions related to water disputes in the local community. In addition, the target WUAs received water measuring equipment and materials to rehabilitate the local irrigation system. After rehabilitation and installation of water meters and sluice gates in the irrigation systems, the waste of water was reduced by 35-50% (before, water waste was representing 50-65%) in all the locations where the CiB worked. Awareness raising activities among water users also helped to improve their understanding about the importance of timely payment for water use, and increased the collection of fees from water users from 50-60% up to 80-95% of the planned annual amount.

The issues of modern water management remained high on the agenda of the **OSCE Centre in Astana**. Its activities in this area covered surface, underground and drinking water resources management as well as glaciers melting issues. *Eight project events* aimed at capacity-building in water management and in activities related to climate change were implemented during the reporting period. A hallmark event was the inauguration, in October 2012, of the *Kyzylorda Water Management Training Centre*, which is expected to contribute to a more efficient Aral-Syrdarya water basin management. The Centre was co-established by the OSCE Centre in Astana, the Kyzylorda Regional Administration, the Executive Directorate of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) for Kazakhstan and Kyzylorda State University. It provides training on integrated water resource management, environmental legislation, natural



Nurek reservoir, Tajikistan; the reservoir fuels the hydroelectric plant, ensures drinking water supply for Nurek town as well as supplies for irrigation of agricultural land.

sciences, water engineering and climate change issues. The OSCE Centre contributes to its operation *vis-à-vis* its mandate in water management from the perspective of the enhanced regional security co-operation. The first courses received positive feedback from the national and local authorities. In particular, last November, the Centre co-organized with the Executive Directorate of Kazakhstan's IFAS, Kazakhstan's Agriculture Ministry and Aral-Syrdarya Basin Council a training course on environmental databases for the regional water authorities of the Kyzylorda and Southern Kazakhstan regions.

In May 2013, in Astana, the Centre and the Institute of the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) co-organised a *national video-conference on water management institutional charters, principles, practices and legislation* for 190 prosecutors and officials from the central and territorial PGO divisions across the country. The seminar helped improve the competence of prosecutors involved in criminal cases of accidents or losses caused by mismanagement in the water sector, and provided information on the regional water security aspects in Central Asia. International and local experts shared experiences and best legal practices with a specific focus on drinking water, and in particular on the role of prosecutors in protecting water resources.

As a result of a 2011 project on implementing integrated water resource management systems in the Kazakh Aral Sea Basin, conducted by the Centre in co-operation with the IFAS-Kazakhstan, 330,000 hectares of sea, lake and river waters and marshes in Kazakhstan entered the Ramsar list as Wetland of International Importance in October of 2012.

In July 2012, the Centre participated in a *Working Group Meeting on Risk Assessment and Adaptation to the Climate Change in the Chu-Talas trans-boundary basin*, organised with the support of the ENVSEC Initiative. At the meeting, the Centre informed on the OSCE activities in the water management sector in Central Asia. In August 2012, the Centre presented the outcomes of an OSCE-supported green economy assessment report at a conference on the cross-sectoral management of climate risks. In December, the Centre spoke at an international conference on the cryosphere of the Eurasian mountains, which marked the opening of the



OSCE Centre in Astana supports water management activities in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

UNESCO Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre in Almaty aimed to enhance *regional water security*. In December, the Centre addressed the participants of the *Regional Task Force on Trans-boundary Co-operation on Small Watersheds in Central Asia*. The project will contribute to the efforts of the Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan commission on water management for the Chu-Talas Basin, which has been supported by the OSCE since its establishment.

Managing the land and hazardous substances

Eastern Europe

On 23–25 April 2013, a ‘*Training of Trainers*’ workshop on prevention of environmental crimes was conducted for customs officers, border guards and representatives of environmental authorities in **Moldova and Ukraine**. The workshop focused on detection and prevention of illegal movement of hazardous wastes, ozone-depleting substances and endangered animals and plants. During the workshop, several representatives from each country were selected to be trained as instructors on

preventing environmental crimes, so that knowledge and skills received at the workshop could be developed and disseminated in both countries and be complemented with local practical experience. The project will provide continued support for the further training of the selected instructors, who will be part of a mobile group of trainers.

The Transdniestrian administration approached the Moldovan National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities to get help for the disposal of some obsolete radioactive sources held in the region. The **OSCE Mission to Moldova** was asked to assist in financing and monitoring these activities. In March 2012, an agreement was signed between the Republic of Moldova and the Transdniestrian region to set the framework for the disposal of radioactive sources, and the first removal occurred from the Sugar and Alcohol factory located in Ribnitsa. The second step of this agreement was achieved in April 2013, with the removal of 162 sources from the Tiraspol Central Library and a Dnestrenergo factory also located in Tiraspol. The next step would consist in the disposal of an additional 740 sources located in Bender and Tiraspol. External assistance will be needed in order to perform these next activities.

It is estimated that a quantity of 150 tons of *obsolete chemical pesticides*, potentially dangerous for health, are stored in poor conditions in the Transdniestrian region. The **OSCE Mission to Moldova** was asked by Transdniestrian authorities to provide assistance for their disposal. Therefore, The Mission launched in late 2012 a project with the support of the ENVSEC Initiative and selected a German company in order to re-pack properly these pesticides and send them to Germany for final destruction. This activity is closely co-ordinated with the Moldovan Ministry of Environment, which helps facilitate the export of these dangerous substances. In addition to the direct impact for a better environment and better health condition for the population, this activity is considered to promote and enhance confidence building between the two banks of the Dniestr/Nistru River. It is planned that some 100 tons of pesticides will have been removed by the end of 2013.

There are more such pesticides in the Republic of Moldova, in much higher quantities, far beyond the mandate and the capacities of the Mission. For such an activity, an interregional project including Ukraine could be envisaged, like for example the co-operation promoted by ENVSEC in the Dniestr/Nistru River Basin.

Central Asia

In continuing its support to help reduce the likelihood of the outbreak of conflict over land disputes in southern Kyrgyzstan, in the border areas of Batken, Osh, and Jalal-Abad provinces, the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** continued to carry out a *project aimed at improving land*

management practices in 30 municipalities of the three southern provinces of Kyrgyzstan. The project led to increased municipal revenue collection from lease of land and improved access for villagers to land distribution processes, due to one month advance public notice among the population. For example, in Tepe-Korgon and Myrza-Ake municipalities, the open auctions brought increased revenues as the land lease rate increased 10 times has a result of the fair competition, from 3000 KGS (about 47 EUR) to 30000 KGS (about 470 EUR) per hectare. The project also assisted the municipalities to develop plans to allocate agricultural land plots for the next five years, improve land tax collection, resolve several long-lasting conflicts on delineation of municipalities' borders, and strengthen inter-municipal relations. In addition, the Centre supported the pilot municipalities in identifying, making an inventory of, and registering "free" land plots, i.e. without legal property status. The result of the work was finding 76 free land plots (82 hectares) and 474 land plots (135 hectares) which were illegally attached by inhabitants to their own land plots. The results were transmitted to the local registration offices which agreed to register it on a free basis. In two municipalities public hearings were conducted to decide on allocation of the free land plots. This resulted in the endorsement of a plan to use the "found" land plots by the local councils. In other municipalities, individual decisions will be made on the land plots illegally attached by inhabitants to their land.

As part of its environmental activities, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** has supported the host country in becoming a party to international environmental conventions.



Radioactive sources, packed for transport, are controlled by a Moldovan expert



Obsolete pesticides held in the Transdniestrian region of Moldova



OSCE Centre in Bishkek supports municipalities in improving land management, inventory and registration, Kyrgyzstan



Unsafe waste disposal near populated area in Kathlon region, Tajikistan

Inter alia, during the reporting period, it has rendered assistance with the elaboration and consolidation of legislative acts necessary for joining the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal*. Towards the end of 2012, the recommendations for joining the Convention were submitted to the Government. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan further supported the Aarhus Centres in the country in raising awareness among the civil society and international donors about the security risks of unsafe disposal of hazardous and municipal waste in the country.

South Caucasus

The *Site Assessment and Feasibility Study of the Persistent Organic Pollutants and Obsolete Pesticides Burial Site in Nubarashen, Armenia* is implemented by the **OSCE Office in Yerevan** in co-operation with the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The corresponding MoU was signed in November 2011. The funding for the project is provided by the US Government. The proposed scope of work consists of three phases including: investigation of the extent of the burial site; input to the risk assessment; and input to long term technical solutions. A health risk assessment will also be performed using local expertise. The field assessment activities and a Quick Scan Stakeholder Analyses were implemented up to date. It is planned that the project would be completed by the end of August or early September 2013. A final Donor's Conference will be conducted to present the finding of both studies in the 3rd quarter of 2013.

Security implications of climate change

Climate change has moved from being a purely environmental and development issue to the forefront of national and international security agenda. Climate change will alter the socio-economic foundations of society as it will transform constants into variables - from precipitation patterns to coastal erosion, glacial melting or heat waves, etc. Failure to adapt to these changes can produce societal instability and evolve into conflicts. In addition, the risk of mal-adaptation practices may also exacerbate existing conflicts or create new ones.

On 28-30 November 2012, the OCEEA organised in Tbilisi a *Workshop on Climate Change and Security in the Southern Caucasus*. The workshop gathered government officials, international organizations, academia and NGOs to develop possible scenarios on how climate change will impact the region up to the year 2050. The workshop was part of a project aimed at developing scenarios for different OSCE regions to quantify the security implications of climate change. The studies assess the impact of climate change on natural resources, energy and food availability, and their repercussions. These scenarios will provide a tool for co-operative action and policy recommendations that can, for instance, be implemented by the OSCE field operations or that can be elevated to the Permanent Council. The project has received contributions from Spain, Germany and the ENVSEC Initiative.



Fence and warning sign of the Organic Pollutants (POP) and Obsolete Pesticides Burial Site in Nubarashen, Armenia

In July 2012, the research on EU experience in adaptation to climate change and its application to Ukraine was published (<http://www.osce.org/eea/93302>). The research analysed current policies and best practises in adaptation to climate change in the EU and provided a list of adaptation measures which were implemented in the EU and could be used for development of the national and local adaptation plans in Ukraine. *Nine workshops* on development of national and local adaptation plans in Ukraine were organised, to present the results of the study to local, sectoral and public authorities, the scientific community, NGOs and mass media. The findings of this research will be further used by national and local institutions in elaborating relevant adaptation policy.

With the financial support of the Instrument for Stability, the European Commission and ENVSEC launched in 2013 a 3-year project focusing on Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia in the area of climate change. The project will be implemented by ENVSEC partners as a consortium, under the overall guidance and co-ordination of the OSCE and in consultation with the European Union and its Delegations.

“The Security Council expresses its concern that possible adverse effects of climate change may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security” (Statement by the President of the United Nations Security Council during the 6587th meeting, 20 July 2011).

In order to support regional stability through transboundary co-operation on adaptation to the consequences of climate change, the project aims at enhancing the understanding and awareness of climate change as a security challenge and the consequent need for transboundary co-operation in adaptation in the three target regions - Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. At the same time, it will contribute to enhancing national and local stakeholders' capacity to anticipate, prevent and mitigate effectively and in a timely manner potential security risks resulting from climate change.

A set of activities have been developed to support each of the specific expected results.

As a first step, ENVSEC will undertake *three “participatory assessments”* - one for each of the three macro regions, to identify and map climate-related security issues and hot-spots. Then, it will produce and disseminate in each region information on security impacts of climate change and required adaptation measures, to help central and local governmental agencies, civil society organizations and academia understand better how climate change may threaten peace and stability and how it could act as a threat multiplier in case of existing and potential conflicts over shared natural resources in the three regions. The action will enable Governments, civil society organizations and academia to recognise and address climate change as a core development challenge.

ENVSEC will also focus on one transboundary water basin, *the Dniester/Nistru River basin*, to develop and initiate implementation of a climate-change adaptation strategy in agreement with relevant authorities. In this context, key stakeholders will be trained on security impacts of climate change as well as on conflict prevention measures related to climate change adaptation.

An engaged civil society

Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE)

CASE Armenia supported mainly projects that had a specific focus on increasing public awareness and public participation in environmental matters, promoting civic engagement in both urban and rural areas, promoting sustainable growth, supporting the capacity building of beneficiaries, and providing expertise on various environmental issues. Furthermore, the CASE Programme facilitated various feasibility studies, environmental assessments and environmental data monitoring, collection or analysis, and collaboration with local governments on improving the environment quality. The average grant size awarded under CASE Armenia amounted to EUR 6,000. In March 2013, the **OSCE Office in Yerevan** announced the fifth call for proposals of the CASE Small Grants Programme in Armenia, inviting civil society organizations to submit project concept papers that address environment and security challenges. The Office received 17 applications, both in paper and electronic format. The National Screening Board has pre-selected 10 applications, that will be further evaluated. In the final step of the selection process, the grant winners will be selected and announced.

CASE Azerbaijan supported projects having a specific focus on empowering civil society to address, in co-



School children participating in an environmental awareness event, CASE project, Armenia

operation with public and international organizations, issues such as biosafety, improving the efficient use of water, combating land degradation through sustainable agricultural practices, facilitating dialogue regarding reclamation of industrially polluted lands, enhancing youth environmental activism and improve academic education in biodiversity. The average grant size awarded under CASE Azerbaijan was EUR 10,000. In total, in the framework of the related projects, civil society organizations organised around 30 training and awareness raising events involving over 500 participants. Furthermore, the CASE-funded organizations produced and shared with the Government two reports with policy recommendations on biosafety and prevention of land degradation.

In **Tajikistan**, **CASE** supported projects that address priority themes such as land degradation and deforestation, climate change, energy-saving and efficiency, disaster risk reduction, as well as poor hazardous wastes control. One common feature of CASE projects was that they contribute to the dissemination of information and awareness raising on environmental challenges. During the reporting period, 43 training sessions, 1 roundtable and several environmental campaigns were organised. Approximately 1,300 community members, representatives of government authorities, civil society organizations and media in all four administrative regions of Tajikistan took part in such activities. The average grant size under CASE Tajikistan was EUR 5,000.

The Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) Small Grants Programme is a project designed and implemented by the OSCE since 2009, which aims at increasing the public and political awareness concerning the linkages between environment and security and building the capacity of the Civil Society Organizations to be strong partners to the Government as well as to other stakeholders in collaboratively addressing environment and security challenges.

The programme covers currently three countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan and has so far supported the implementation of 57 projects. From May 2012 to May 2013, the CASE programme has supported NGO projects as follows: 6 in Armenia, 6 in Azerbaijan, and 8 in Tajikistan.



School children celebrating the event “Golden Autumn” organised within the CASE project “Green patrols - reliable protectors of nature”, Tajikistan



Local participants in an awareness raising and capacity building event on combating land degradation, CASE project, Azerbaijan

South-Eastern Europe

The **OSCE Mission to Montenegro** continued to build upon the concept *School of Ecological Activism*, which it developed back in 2011 together with a local NGO, Ozone. The goal had been to increase the interest and involvement of political parties, media and students in environmental issues. During the reporting period, an analysis on “*Parliamentary Political Parties of Montenegro in the Function of Environmental Protection*” was produced. Political parties together with the civil sector discussed their role in this area and offered to establish closer relations and co-operation with ecological NGOs. Project participants were involved in the creation of four monthly bulletins, a reforestation action and clean-up, more than eight roundtable discussions, various public hearings, workshops and visits. In 2013, they also provided inputs to the *Guidelines for an Environmental Action Plan* that will be used by political parties to better develop their environmental policy platforms.

As part of its *Green Mission* campaign, the **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** supported the organization of an *Earth Day 2013 Eco Fair* aimed at promoting the work of civil society, innovators and businesses in ensuring a healthier environment. The Head of Mission and the Mayor of Sarajevo welcomed over 20 exhibitors and 16 presenters who discussed their endeavours and achievements in protection of the environment. The event drew considerable media attention as it focused on promoting student engagement and further networking between the civil

society organizations and innovators in joining efforts to advocate for effective and environmentally-friendly business and industrial solutions.

Seeking to raise awareness about the importance of reporting on the environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Mission organised an *environmental reporting competition* for journalists working in online, print and broadcast media. A jury of professionals evaluated 27 entries and selected four winners in each category plus a life-time award. Awards were presented at the World Environment Day 2013 ceremony at the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency. All winners were invited to participate in the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague.

The **OSCE Presence in Albania** conducted a pilot project with nine Local Government Units in the Vjosa Valley (Përmet Region) to introduce citizen-driven strategic planning through the creation of an *Inter-Local Strategic Community Development Plan*. The Presence provided technical assistance and facilitated a participatory planning exercise, assisting the local authorities in defining a joint vision and comprehensive strategic development plan, to promote sustainable development of the Valley and lay the groundwork for more effective delivery of decentralized public services. Wide public consultation was ensured during the process to finalise this strategic document. The plan is a long-term endeavour aimed at promoting the area’s economic and social development, using the existing and potential resources of the region. This community-



Winners of OSCE Environmental Media Awards, Sarajevo, June 2013



Public awareness and educational campaigns among school children on environmental issues are key activities of the OSCE PCU, Ukraine

driven planning process has improved transparency and citizen engagement in local government decision-making through involvement of approximately 200 representatives of civil society, the business community and other stakeholders in the working groups established. In addition, the priorities identified were presented to four focus groups of youth and were also displayed for the wider public. Comments and feedback were collected from citizens. The project has also illustrated the benefits of local governments working together on commonly shared issues, rather than as a collection of smaller entities. The Presence published a report on the strategic plan, its methodology, and on proposed projects for 2013-2022 to inform potential donors and to make best practices available to other local governments.

Eastern Europe

The Office of the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU)** has continued its support to environmental education in Ukraine by training educators on the principles of sustainable development and sensitizing school youth with regard to environmental security issues. These activities are carried out with the use of the *Green Pack* multi-media teaching materials. To date, about one third of Ukraine's schools are exposed to new environmental teaching methodology through training of teachers (more than 3,500 teachers trained to date), environmental actions at schools carried out by volunteers, and other projects that use the Green Pack educational technologies in target schools. In addition, three summer camps were held with the

PCU support during the reporting period, where more than 200 children enjoyed "green style" recreational activities. The PCU has also expanded the network of Green Pack partner organizations through which the Green Pack tool-kit and environmental education have been reaching out to Ukraine's school students and the population at large. It contributed to the new updated version of the Green Pack materials based on the feedback from practitioners and, in December 2012, the new version of the Green Pack set was released and distributed to about 3,000 schools.

Central Asia

In order to attract more attention to environment protection, the Office of the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz)** has supported the *information initiatives* of the State Nature Protection Committee and the NGOs "Ekomaktab" and "Eco-Movement". Different target groups were addressed. Youth groups and journalists are among the main target groups of the activities. In 2012, the PCUz arranged an *ecological summer camp for youth*, and continued to support a resource centre for journalists. *Media tours* were arranged, for instance to the Aral Sea area, where journalists and photographers visited places of interest for environmental articles. A *study tour to Denmark on environment journalism* and nature interpretation was arranged, and an internationally recruited trainer conducted master class training for eco-journalists in Tashkent. In particular, a strong emphasis was put on enhancing the information to journalists, so that the media publishes more and better on environment

and nature protection. In 2013, the activities will be continued and training courses for journalists and for students of journalism will be pursued. A campaign to promote healthy life style and reduced emission of greenhouse gases is being planned as well. Bicycling will also be promoted, as a safe and environmentally friendly transportation option in the capital city.

In 2012, the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** ran a *programme for education institutions* in the country to assist in addressing local environmental concerns, such as water pollution or lack of irrigation water. 30 high schools and universities from all over the provinces of Kyrgyzstan formed a *Water Task Forces Network*. The Centre, in close co-operation with the Japanese Embassy, equipped schools and universities with mini-labs to enable them with measuring quality of water, soils, and air. This program allowed the youth to learn more about environmental and public health issues, participate more actively in public processes, and serve as an early warning network in identifying and resolving local environmental problems.

From 9 to 11 October 2012 in Temirtau, Kazakhstan, the **OSCE Centre in Astana** supported a three-day workshop as part of a pilot project aiming at developing an autonomous capacity for *environmental monitoring*, in particular air pollution monitoring. The workshop was jointly organized with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), and the Socio-Ecological Foundation, an NGO. It gathered some 30 representatives from civil society, the business sector, and the Government. The pilot project resulted in air test samples collection and its diagnostics in national and foreign certified laboratories. Assisted by similar activities, Kazakhstan's NGOs could perform an accurate and legally recognized data-gathering using innovative technologies and were able to disseminate data in the best of public interest. The MEP, the OSCE Centre and their project partners encouraged a wider local communities' involvement in conducting experimental air monitoring in environmentally sensitive regions of Kazakhstan.

The Aarhus Centres Network

Central Asia

The **OCEEA** organised jointly with the UNECE a sub-regional meeting for Central Asia countries on *"Implementing the Aarhus Convention today: Paving the way to a better environment and governance tomorrow"* that took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan between 22-23 May 2012. Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia attended the event aimed at discussing the legal aspects of access to justice and the role of the judiciary in implementation and enforcing of the Aarhus Convention. The meeting came as a response to the call made by the Parties to the UNECE Aarhus Convention at their fourth session (Chisinau, 29 June – 1 July 2011), which flagged various needs for capacity-building, such as lack of expertise related to the procedural requirements for the Convention's proper implementation and acknowledged access to justice as the most challenging matter.

The meeting aimed at providing a platform for a dialogue for: (a) senior judges and representatives from the judicial training institutions as well as environmental law experts to discuss the legal aspects of access to justice and the role of the Judiciary in implementation and enforcement of the Convention as well as for (b) representatives from Aarhus Centres, governmental and non-governmental

Since 2002, the OSCE with the support of the ENVSEC Initiative has been supporting the establishment and functioning of – currently - 50 Aarhus Centres and Public Environmental Information Centres in several OSCE participating States, including those in Central Asia. In Central Asia there are 18 Aarhus Centres: Kazakhstan hosts 9 Centres in Almaty, Astana, Atyrau, Karaganda, Pavlodar, Shuchinsk, Northern-Kazakhstan, Southern-Kazakhstan and Mangistau. In Kyrgyzstan, the Aarhus Centre is located in Osh. In Tajikistan, there are 7 Aarhus Centres in Dushanbe, Khujand, Kurgan-Tyube, Khorog, Garm, Kumsangir and Tursunzade. In Turkmenistan the Aarhus Centre in Ashgabat started operating in July 2012. The Centres provide resources for putting into practice the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention: access to information; public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.



“Implementing the Aarhus Convention today: Paving the way to a better environment and governance tomorrow meeting”, Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2012

and international organizations to discuss challenges in the practical implementation of the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention and learn good practices.

The meeting was followed by a meeting of Aarhus Centres on 24 May 2012 to exchange best practices and lessons learned at the regional level.

From 26 to 27 August 2012, in Almaty, the **OSCE Centre in Astana** co-organised a two-day conference on environment and security initiated by the Ecological Forum of Non-governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (EcoForum). The event gathered over 70 activists and experts of the largest environmental network in the country, representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC), the UNDP office and the OSCE Centre. They exchanged experience and good practices while discussing ways and means for the civil society to better address environmental challenges at national and local level and promote low-carbon development, renewable energy, and efficient water management. Participants also reviewed the work related to the Aarhus Convention, the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and the creation of a proactive National Aarhus Centres Network. The Centre contributed to the discussions by providing an overview of OSCE activities in the economic and environmental field that involve public participation. Furthermore, in Kazakhstan, *five project activities* were

tailored to support newly established Aarhus Centres and laid the foundation for a national public network of Aarhus Centres and environmental NGOs.

The Centre contributed to CAREC’s performance, as a member of its Board, by supporting regional environmental co-operation and promoting international standards. Last June, the Centre supported an annual *Regional Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development* co-organized by the CAREC for nearly 40 participants from the Central Asian countries, including national focal points, representatives of NGOs and academia.

As part of its Aarhus Convention activities, the Centre supported *training courses* on environmental matters for *over 100 journalists* in four country’s regions. The courses were organised in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, the NGO *MediaNet*, regional governments and Aarhus Centres. They facilitated the exchange of information on the environmental challenges and provided training on environmental reporting by using new media tools and investigative journalism methods.

In December 2012, the Centre supported the *Atyrau Caspian Aarhus Centre’s board meeting*, which focused on its 2013 strategy to enhance public participation in environmental governance. In view of the Centre’s longstanding co-operation with the Caspian Sea region, it kept promoting maritime environmental security, in particular oil spills prevention, by participating in regional discussions on the issue. It also contributed to local and regional efforts aimed at disaster prevention, management and post-disaster recovery.

The **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** increased its contribution to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention by supporting the establishment of the *Aarhus Centre in Turkmenistan*. In 2012 the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat had supported the establishment of the Aarhus Centre of Turkmenistan, as a project implemented by the Public Association (Civil Society) “*Tebigy Kuwwat*” in close co-ordination with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan. The Aarhus Centre of Turkmenistan facilitates access to environmental information, encourages public participation in environmental decision-making and provides platform for access to justice in environmental matters.

The **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** actively worked with the country-wide network of Aarhus Centres and used established partnerships with government authorities and non-governmental organizations to support awareness raising activities and provide of training on the 3 pillars of the Aarhus Convention. The Office facilitated the establishment of a *national Aarhus network webpage* which provides information about the environment, the Aarhus Convention, the Aarhus Centres in Tajikistan, and environmental legislation including international environmental conventions. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan put a continued emphasis on supporting public awareness raising activities in the areas of environmental pollution, environmental protection, deforestation, climate change, radioactive waste, pesticide dump threats and land degradation, paying particular attention to the participation of youth, women and the general public. Programmatic activities reached out to all regions of Tajikistan. Furthermore, the Office facilitated training and guidance for the National Working Group, established by the government and consisting of representatives of different ministries, which is tasked with the development of a National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

The **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** is continuing its support to the Aarhus Centre to improve public awareness and effective implementation of environmental International Conventions and national laws. A variety of trainings was conducted in *mining conflict-prone areas* of Kyrgyzstan: Talas, Chatkal district, and Issyk-Kul province. The agenda of the trainings included critically important themes such as the conduct of environmental impact assessment, access to justice, and public participation in environmental monitoring processes.



Discussions with citizens on issues such as the “Alтын Asyr” lake, Aarhus Centre in Ashgabat, March 2013

South-Eastern Europe

With the aim to support the implementation of the PRTR Protocol in the South-Eastern Europe (SEE), the **OCEEA** organised on 28-29 May 2013 in Sarajevo, jointly with the UNECE, a *sub-regional workshop “Get your right to a healthy community”*. The workshop was attended by more than 55 representatives from countries’ authorities responsible for PRTRs, chemical and waste management, water, land, air and health protection, representatives of Aarhus Centres, industry, academia, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Its overall aim was to promote the implementation and ratification of the PRTRs in: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244), Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as Israel. Its outcome provides a basis for identifying priority needs for future PRTR development work, capacity-building activities and bilateral programmes.

From 19 to 20 April 2013, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia**, in co-operation with the Belgrade Faculty of Law and the Aarhus Centre in Kragujevac, organised a *Seminar on Enforcing Environmental Law in Serbia*. The event gathered approximately 50 law students from Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Nis Universities and representatives of environmental NGOs. The goal of the seminar was to educate law students about national and international environmental legislation, to equip Serbia’s future lawyers, judges and prosecutors with the legal tools necessary to implement the country’s environmental legislation. The modules included case studies and interactive presentations on the Aarhus Convention and its implementation, role and tasks of Aarhus Centres, public participation in environmental



Information board providing information about environmental challenges in the region, Aarhus Centre in Kurgan Tyube, Tajikistan



Panel discussion during the Sub-regional workshop on the PRTR Protocol in South-Eastern Europe, Sarajevo, May 2013

governance and relevant court practice. The presentations were conducted by university professors, representatives of the judiciary, staff from the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection, and the Office of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection. Participants requested the Mission to support further events on environmental law.

The Protocol to the Aarhus Convention on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) entered into force on 8 October 2009. Its objective is “to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers.” PRTRs are inventories of pollution from industrial sites and other sources. Recognizing that the implementation of PRTRs would enhance public access to information on global environmental issues, facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making and contribute to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, that took place in Geneva in April 2010, called upon Signatories to accede to the Protocol at the earliest opportunity and to apply the provisions of the Protocol in the interim. During the session, delegates from the countries with economies in transition repeatedly expressed a strong interest in the Protocol and identified technical and human capacity needs (e.g. expertise and good practices) as the main challenges for acceding to the Protocol.

On 29 - 30 November 2012, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection, organised a *Green Diplomacy training course* to improve government officers’ knowledge of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The 27 participants, including representatives of Aarhus Centres from Kragujevac, Nis, Novi Sad and Subotica learned about conducting negotiations on environmental issues, increasing public involvement, and their relevance to MEAs. International and national consultants, engaged by the Mission, addressed the complexity of negotiations in MEAs related to energy, cross-border pollution of water, air and soil and the challenges of engaging in discussions at an inter-state level.

The **OSCE Mission to Montenegro** continued to provide support to the Montenegrin Aarhus Centres throughout the reporting period. In September 2012, *the third Aarhus Centre* was opened in the northern Montenegrin town of Berane. The Mission organised a *two-day on-the-job training* for the staff of the newly-opened office, in co-operation with the representatives of Aarhus Centres Podgorica and Niksic. The Mission also supported a number of *regular Aarhus Centre activities*, such as workshops, roundtables and public debates on a variety of environmental topics. In November 2012, the Mission-funded joint *website* of Montenegrin Aarhus Centres - www.arhuscentri.me - went online.

In December 2012, the Mission co-organised the “*Green Star Award*” ceremony together with the Montenegrin Environmental Protection Agency and the three Aarhus Centres. This award is assigned to the organizations or individuals in different categories for the most outstanding environmental achievement in the previous year.

In April 2013, the Mission co-organised with OCEEA a three-day regional training on “*Environmental Mediation and Conflict Resolution*” for the representatives of Aarhus Centres and environmental NGOs from SEE. The training was designed to provide the Aarhus Centres’ staff with tools to deal with the issues they can expect to come across in the performance of their regular duties.

Within the regional extra-budgetary project funded through the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC),

the **OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina** and the City of Sarajevo signed on 30 May 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the *first Aarhus Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, in Sarajevo. Starting with a handful of volunteers and functioning within a project, the Aarhus Centre in Sarajevo has now grown into a non-governmental organization, led by an experienced manager, three staff and a strong base of volunteers. The Centre has established a unique web site on the Aarhus Convention for Bosnia and Herzegovina (www.aarhus.ba), hosted the pilot environmental law clinic for University of Sarajevo students, supported the preparation of the first comprehensive manual on Aarhus Convention Implementation for Bosnia and Herzegovina and organised tailored training seminars for local government servants and media representatives in Sarajevo. The Centre offers assistance in obtaining environmental information from public authorities, facilitation of public participation in decision-making, basic legal advice and interpretation of laws, regulations, policies and access to justice mechanisms, access to over 300 publications in the library for students, researchers and interested public, free internet access and free office/meeting/seminar space for NGOs working on similar issues. Additionally, two NGOs – the Center for Ecology and Energy (Tuzla) and Center for Environment (Banja Luka) - were successful in securing two-year EU funding through the EU Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights which will also result in these two organizations absorbing Aarhus Centre functions within their core activities. Through a contribution of the German Government, the Mission will launch an extra-budgetary project that will build on the regional project and seek to further build the capacity of Aarhus Centres, judges, prosecutors and civil servants to effectively partner in enforcing the Convention's provisions in their realm of work.

South Caucasus

The Meliq village community in the Aragatsotn region of Armenia applied to the Hrazdan Aarhus Centre with the request for assistance in their struggle against the construction of a third tailing which planned to be displaced within the community area. From the project provided by the mining company, it was clear that the village was in danger due to the high level of already existing pollution coming from the mining operation and



Site visit to the Alaverdi mining site, Armenia

the two tailing dumps, and the landslide zone where the mining operation and the village are located. The Centre contributed to raising awareness on environmental problems, involved relevant authorities, negotiated with the Government, set up a special expert group to study the existing documentation, involved youth, media, and well-known people of art, sport and civic activists. Finally, on 23 May, the Ministry of Nature Protection rejected the Toukhmanuk tailing project submitted by the Mego Gold Company on construction of a new, third tailing dump nearby the Meliq village.

Supporting implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Georgia

Aarhus Centre in Georgia has been instrumental in facilitating the implementation of the Aarhus Convention through improved public access to environmental information and public participation. As a result of the close co-operation with relevant state agencies, the Centre is able to compile and disseminate environmental information. A good example of such co-operation is the Parliament of Georgia that provides to the Aarhus Centre information on the draft laws concerning the environment and informs about the environment committee meetings enabling public participation in discussions of the draft legislation. The Aarhus Centre web-site provides easy access to the public to a constantly updated database of the Environmental Impact Assessment reports and permits issues by the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia. During this reporting period the Centre also

prepared information about the types of issued licenses and license holders in the field of natural resources and uploaded on the Aarhus Centre Georgia's web-site making it easily accessible to a wider public. The Aarhus Centre actively participated in the development of the Environmental Education Strategy and Action Plan for Georgia for 2013-2014. Public participation procedures on the forest management and a text of memorandum of understanding on the public involvement in different steps of decision-making in the forestry sector were developed by the Centre and submitted to the respective ministries. The Centre continued providing free legal consultations to the general public and NGOs on the Aarhus Convention related issues and national environmental legislation.

Eastern Europe

The **OSCE Mission to Moldova** has supported the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Moldova, which it ratified in 1999. Nevertheless, except for some amendments and regulations, it was not followed by the adoption of a mechanism to fully implement the three pillars of the Convention. Therefore, a series of actions are being developed with the purpose to streamline the implementation of the Aarhus Convention provisions in the Republic of Moldova. The OSCE Mission to Moldova opened on 30 April an *Aarhus Centre in Chisinau* to provide the local population with information and legal expertise on environmental matters. Simultaneously, the Mission opened a *Public Environmental Centre in Bender*, which will serve the same purposes in the Transdnestrian region.

A strong emphasis was also put on the implementation of the PRTR Protocol, by setting up a *National PRTR System* by the end of 2015. The objective of the National PRTR Register is to serve as an instrument of access to information, within the local communities which have the right to know the situation regarding the releases and transfers of pollutants, causing adverse effects on environment and health. The OSCE will fund the feasibility study as a first step for setting up National PRTR System. This tool will point out the importance of making changes at the level of the society, industrial and agricultural practices, in order to reduce the risks for environment and public health.

Building confidence

In December 2012, with support from the **OSCE Mission to Montenegro**, more than 100 officials from both local and national authorities discussed the mechanisms of *Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)* and the potential impact of national development programmes and projects on the environment from various perspectives. Thirty six conclusions resulted in identifying the main obstacles in the co-operation and co-ordination among institutions to properly implement regulations regarding SEA and EIA. These meetings and workshops were also useful to build the confidence between national and local authorities responsible for the environment, ecological NGOs, governmental institutions involved in policy making with regard to investments, and private companies performing the assessments of their impact on the environment. Future steps would include tackling many of the conclusions brought out through this project.

In 2012, the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** initiated a fact finding survey on the "Vorukh-Shurab" drinking water pipeline running through Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan territory, which was aimed at acquiring reliable empirical information on the current condition of water pipeline and water consumption pattern. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union no technical assessment of the condition of the drinking water pipeline and measurements of water volume were carried out. Correspondingly, residents of Kyrgyz and Tajik villages were blaming each other for inefficient use of drinking water due to lack of information. As a result of the survey, measurement of water flow on four points of the pipeline was conducted which allowed to determine the factual water consumption and problematic sections of the pipeline. The Centre discussed possibilities to resolve the issue of use of drinking water by Kyrgyz and Tajik residents with GIZ and the World Food Programme (WFP) operating in this area and put together their efforts to lay an additional piece of water pipe which could ease the access to water for both parties. The construction of this pipe will be completed by the end of 2013.



OSCE Mission Member talking to participants in the Summer School in Saharna, Republic of Moldova, July 2012

The OSCE Mission to Moldova has been supporting the regular meetings of the *Working Group on Economy and Agriculture*, held by both parties from Moldova and from the Transdniestrian region. In July 2012, about 100 young people from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River took part in OSCE-supported summer school set up in Saharna, along the river. With financial support from the Finnish Embassy in Bucharest and the National Endowment for Democracy (USA), and together with the non-governmental organization ECO-Tiras, the OSCE

Mission offered training, workshops, and discussions on the environment, confidence building, sustainable development and civil society issues – as well as the opportunity to meet other young people and have fun. These summer schools, held every year in different locations, also include football tournaments as well as concerts as part of the River festival which, with an attendance of some 1,000 people from both banks including local officials, and are considered as one of the largest and most popular summer events in the area. The work of the Aarhus Centre in Chisinau and the Public Environmental Information Centre in Bender offer an additional opportunity for confidence building.

“When you see all these young people from both sides of the river enjoying life, talking, making friends, you really understand that ‘confidence-building measures’ is so much more than a diplomatic phrase” commented Jennifer Brush, Head of Mission. There young people make friends, they learn to understand each other’s position. Confidence and trust are built through personal contacts and friendship.

Networking, building partnerships and speaking engagements

2012

June, Vienna

Between 12 and 15 June 2012, the OSCE, represented by the OCEEA and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan took part in the **Regional Meeting on Safe Management of Uranium Production Legacy Sites**, organised in Vienna by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The meeting aimed to provide a platform for sharing information on past, current and future plans and projects and for co-ordination among national and international stakeholders on remediation-related activities of uranium production legacy sites. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine as well as the OSCE, World Bank, EC, EBRD, NATO, Eurasian Economic Community, and UNDP. The meeting concluded that a Co-ordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites (CGULS) should be established to promote co-operation amongst IAEA Member States affected by uranium legacy sites, national and international organizations involved in the management, remediation or regulatory oversight of uranium legacy sites.

Resources

Publications and web links

Official Documents

Declaration on Strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism (MC.DOC/2/12)	osce.org/mc/98203
Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening transport dialogue in the OSCE (MC.DEC/11/11)	osce.org/mc/86084
Ministerial Council Decision on Promoting equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere (MC.DEC/10/11)	osce.org/mc/86085
Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area (MC.DEC/6/09)	osce.org/cio/40708
Ministerial Council Decision on Migration management (MC.DEC/5/09)	osce.org/cio/40711
Ministerial Council Decision on the Future orientation of the economic and environmental dimension (MC.DEC/4/09)	osce.org/cio/40699
Ministerial Council Decision on Further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability (MC.DEC/2/09)	osce.org/cio/40713
Ministerial Council Decision on Follow-up to the 16 th Economic and Environmental Forum on maritime and inland waterways co-operation (MC.DEC/9/08)	osce.org/mc/35514
Madrid Declaration on Environment and security (MC.DOC/4/07)	osce.org/mc/29550
Ministerial Council Decision on Follow-up to the 15 th Economic and Environmental Forum: water management (MC.DEC/7/07)	osce.org/mc/29446
Ministerial Council Decision on Energy security dialogue in the OSCE (MC.DEC/12/06)	osce.org/mc/23354
Ministerial Council Decision on the Future transport dialogue in the OSCE (MC.DEC/11/06)	osce.org/mc/23054
Ministerial Council Decision on Migration (MC.DEC/2/05)	osce.org/mc/17339
Border Security and Management Concept (MC.DOC/2/05)	osce.org/mc/17452
Ministerial Council Decision on Combating transnational organized crime (MC.DEC/3/05)	osce.org/mc/17419
Ministerial Council Decision on Combating corruption (MC.DEC/11/04)	osce.org/mc/23047
Maastricht Strategy Document for the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension (MC(11).JOUR/2/03)	osce.org/eea/20705
Permanent Council Decision on Theme, agenda and modalities for the Twenty-Second OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (PC.DEC/1088/13)	osce.org/pc/103903
Permanent Council Decision on Theme, agenda and modalities for the Twenty-First OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (PC.DEC/1047/12)	osce.org/pc/92556
Permanent Council Decision on Dates, agenda, mandate and modalities of the 2012 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (PC.DEC/1044/12)	osce.org/pc/92553
Permanent Council Decision on Strengthening the effectiveness of the economic and environmental dimension (PC.DEC/1011/11)	osce.org/pc/86066
Permanent Council Decision on Theme, agenda and modalities for the Twentieth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (PC.DEC/1004/11)	osce.org/pc/81368
Permanent Council Decision on Dates, agenda, mandate and modalities of the 2011 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (PC.DEC/995/11)	osce.org/pc/76457
Permanent Council Decision on Strengthening and improving the effectiveness of work in the economic and environmental dimension (PC.DEC/958/10)	osce.org/pc/73646
Twenty First OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region” – Compilation of Consolidated Summaries (EEF.GAL/18/13)	osce.org/eea/109563
Consolidated Summary of the Concluding Meeting of the Twentieth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance” (EEF.GAL/26/12)	osce.org/eea/95213
Consolidated Summary of the Second Preparatory Meeting of the Twentieth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance” (EEF.GAL/10/12)	osce.org/eea/91139
Consolidated Summary of the First Preparatory Meeting of the Twentieth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance” (EEF.GAL/10/12)	osce.org/eea/89138

More information and further documents can be found on [osce.org/eea](https://www.osce.org/eea)

AML/CFT, anti-corruption

Factsheet “OCEEA’s Good Governance Activities”	osce.org/eea/43649
Guidebook on best practices in combatting corruption (an updated version is forthcoming)	osce.org/eea/13738
Handbook on Data Collection un support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessments	osce.org/eea/96398

Transport

Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings - A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective	osce.org/eea/88200 unece.org/trans/publications/wp30/best-practices.html
Factsheet “OCEEA’s Transport Activities”	osce.org/eea/98372
Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings - A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective (Russian edition)	osce.org/ru/eea/99872

Environment

Aarhus Centres, a Brief Introduction	osce.org/eea/89067
ENVSEC in the South Caucasus: an Overview of Projects	osce.org/eea/89301
GEO-Cities Tbilisi, Executive Summary for Decision makers	envsec.org/publications/geocities_summary_for_decision_makers.pdf
GEO-Cities Tbilisi, An Integrated Environmental Assessment of State and Trends for Georgia’s Capital City	envsec.org/publications/geocities_tbilisi.pdf
Gender Mainstreaming in Aarhus Activities: A Guideline for Practitioners (jointly developed by the Office of the Secretary General - Gender Section and the OCEEA; published by the Gender Section)	osce.org/gender/87675?download=true
Gender and the Environment - A guide to the Integration of gender aspects in the OSCE’s environmental projects (jointly developed by the Office of the Secretary General - Gender Section and the OCEEA; published by the Gender Section)	osce.org/gender/36360
Aarhus Centres - Platforms for Co-operation, Participation, Partnership	osce.org/eea/32334
The OSCE and the Aarhus Convention	osce.org/eea/15981
Aarhus Centres FOCUS: Central Asia	osce.org/eea/68495
Aarhus Centres FOCUS: South Caucasus	osce.org/eea/68494
Aarhus Centres Guidelines	osce.org/eea/40506
Independent Evaluation of the Aarhus Centres and Public Environmental Information Centres	osce.org/eea/33674
Climate Change and the Water - Energy - Agriculture Nexus in Central Asia	osce.org/eea/88202
Climate Change and Food Security in Eastern Europe	osce.org/eea/82224

Migration management

Strengthening Migration Governance (November 2009)	The publication presents a summary of the key dynamics of migration in the OSCE region, looks at the international legal framework and reviews OSCE commitments on international migration. It was produced by the International Labour Office (ILO) in cooperation with the OCEEA and funded by the 2009 OSCE Greek Chairmanship. It is available in English.	osce.org/eea/72021
Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination (May 2006 and November 2007)	The Handbook gives a comprehensive overview of labour migration policies, solutions and practical measures for more effective migration management in countries of origin and of destination. It was produced by the OCEEA in cooperation with the ILO and IOM and is available in Arabic, Albanian, English, French, and Russian.	osce.org/eea/19242 osce.org/eea/29630 (Mediterranean version)
Training Modules on Labour Migration Management – Trainer’s Manual (February 2011)	The Trainer’s Manual complements the Handbook and has been developed by the IOM and the OCEEA in 2009. The project was financially supported by the 2009 OSCE Greek Chairmanship and the 1035 Facility of the IOM. The Manual is available in English and Russian.	osce.org/eea/92572
Guide on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policies (May 2009)	The Guide presents a number of good practices and provides suggestions on how to develop more gender-sensitive labour migration policies and programmes. It was produced jointly by the OCEEA, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE Secretariat Gender Section and funded by the governments of Finland, Greece and Slovenia. It is available in English and Russian.	osce.org/eea/37228
Gender and Labour Migration - Trainer’s Manual (Updated Version 2012)	The Trainer’s Manual complements the Guide and is meant as guidance for trainers on gender-sensitive labour migration policies. It was produced by the OCEEA and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights with the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency and the Governments of Greece and Finland. It is available in English and Russian.	osce.org/eea/67967
Promotional Booklet for women entrepreneurs from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan (2013)	The Booklet aims to promote the OSCE-UNDP-WFTO-KOSGEB project implemented in 2012, which strengthened the business management skills, improved the professional networks, and broadened the market possibilities of 24 women entrepreneurs from several countries. In addition to the booklet, calling cards for each of the participating entrepreneur provide essential information about their products and their contact details. Those interested in finding out more about their businesses or purchasing their products can also access the project website.	www.tradehandmade.net

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8	Alexey Stukalo/OSCE/OCEEA	47	ENVSEC.org
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16	OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	51	OSCE Mission to Moldova
17	OSCE/OCEEA	51	OSCE Mission to Moldova
19	OSCE Centre in Astana	52	OSCE Centre in Bishkek
20	OSCE Presence in Albania	52	OSCE Office in Tajikistan
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Acronyms and abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEO	Authorized Economic Operator
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization
BMSC	Border Management Staff College
CAREC (environment)	Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre
CAREC (transport)	Central Asia Regional Economic Co-operation programme
CASE	Civic Action for Security and Environment
CoEEA	Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
CEIP	Critical Energy Infrastructures Protection
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
EATL	Euro Asian Transport Links
EEC	Economic and Environmental Committee
EEDIM	Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting
EEF	Economic and Environmental Forum
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EU	European Union
EurAsEC	Eurasian Economic Community
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FDI	Foreign Direct Investments
FEZ	Free Economic Zone
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FMS	Financial Monitoring Service
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIFCS	Group of International Financial Centre Supervisors
GIS	Geographical Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Co-operation)
GPS	Global Positioning System
IACA	International Anti-Corruption Academy
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFAS	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ITMCFM	International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
KOSGEB	Turkish SME Development Organization
LOGMOS	Logistic Processes and Motorways of the Sea

MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MONEYVAL	Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and Financing of Terrorism
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRA	National Risk Assessment
OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
ODIHR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PCU	Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
PCUz	Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
REEEP	Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEE	South-Eastern Europe
StAR	Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
TNTD/ATU	Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit
TNTD/SPMU	Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit
ToT	Training of Trainers
TRACECA	Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia
TSDECs	Transparency and Sustainable Development Expert Councils
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN-OHRLLS	UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VEC	Vienna Energy Club
WCO	World Customs Organization
WEI	Wider Europe Initiative
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTO	World Fair Trade Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WUAs	Water User Associations

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