

Annual Activity Report

June 2009 – May 2010

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

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On the road from Lake Sevan to Yerevan (OSCE).

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Introduction by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Dear readers,

Throughout the period of June 2009 – May 2010, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) has strived to continue its work, together with the Greek Chairmanship for 2009 and the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2010, to promote economic and environmental co-operation among OSCE participating States, as well as with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners, thus contributing to peace, prosperity and stability in our region.

The reporting period has been marked by intensified political dialogue among participating States as well as by a stronger focus on economic and environmental dimension (EED) issues. The Athens Ministerial Council in December 2009 adopted three decisions pertaining to the Second Dimension. The Corfu Process, launched as well through an Athens MC Decision, also touched upon EED issues and reemphasized its importance as part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, in tackling the full conflict cycle - early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation - and in addressing transnational threats. Delegations put forward ideas and food-for-thought papers on various thematic priority areas including the role of the EED in early warning, energy security, the security implications of climate change.

Drawing on deliberations in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee (ECC) in Vienna, and with the support of the Economic and Environmental Officers in the OSCE's field presences, my Office has pursued its mandate of identifying, monitoring and countering threats and challenges to security and stability caused by economic and environmental factors.

Aiming at defining priorities under this overarching objective, OCEEA elaborated Action Plans for 2009 and 2010 (SEC.GAL/23/09/Rev.2 and SEC.GAL/29/10/Rev.1) which helped us focus on those areas of activity where the OSCE can bring real added value.

Building upon the conclusions of the informal Group of Friends established in the first half of 2009, the Greek Chairmanship presented a *Report on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE* (CIO.GAL/97/09), setting out a number of concrete objectives and recommendations. Following the Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/09 on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension, my



**Goran Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities.
(OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)**

Office has supported the process of identifying, adopting and implementing appropriate measures to bring to life the recommendations contained in the Report.

Under the Greek Chairmanship in 2009, migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies received special attention, as reflected in the theme selected for the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum - *“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”*. The focus on migration management also resulted in the adoption at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens in December 2009 of the *MC Decision on Follow-up to the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum on Migration Management (MC.DEC/5/09)*.

As a follow-up to the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum, OCEEA, together with the International Organization for Migration, organised a regional conference on *“Migrant Investment, Return and Economic Reintegration for Development in the South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions”* on 10-11 December 2009 in Vienna. Some 100 participants including policymakers and experts, as well as migrants’ associations and representatives of commercial and central banks, governments and international organizations, discussed the concrete measures needed to facilitate the use of migrant savings that are kept in countries of destination to support economic development in the countries of origin. Moreover, in response to requests raised in the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum process, my Office has developed a series of capacity building and training tools for effective labour migration management to be used by trainers and migration experts, such as the *Trainer’s Manual on Gender and Labour Migration*, which was published in April 2010.

In the field of energy security, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) supported the organisation of a Conference on *“Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE area”*, held in Bratislava, on 6 - 7 July 2009. This meeting provided substantial input for the drafting and negotiation process leading to the adoption of the Athens MC Decision on *Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area (MC.DEC/6/09)*. Later on, the OCEEA continued to support dialogue among participating States on energy-related issues, in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee meetings, or by contributing to events such as the Conference *“Strengthening regional co-operation in Central Asia for promoting stable and reliable energy within Eurasia”* held in Ashgabat on 3-4 May 2010. Energy security will continue to remain a constant focus for my Office.

The OCEEA’s participation in the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) underwent a significant expansion in 2009 and 2010. The ENVSEC, which aims at providing a framework for co-operation on environmental issues across borders and promoting peace and stability through environmental co-operation and sustainable development, is currently implementing around 45 projects in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

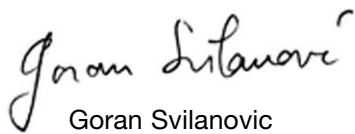
In 2009 and 2010, OCEEA furthered its involvement in transport-related activities and provided support to the Kazakh Chairmanship throughout the entire 18th Economic and Environmental Forum process on *“Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region”*.

During the preparatory Conferences in Astana (October 2009) and Minsk (March 2010) and in the Forum meetings in Vienna (February 2010) and Prague (May 2010), participants discussed issues such as the challenges posed to the transport sector by the global economic downturn, promoting transparency and enhancing co-ordination between customs and other border agencies to improve governance at border crossings, facilitating transport connections in Central Asia and with Afghanistan, increasing the security of land transportation, promoting environmentally sustainable transportation choices, the transit needs of landlocked developing countries, public-

private partnerships. The follow-up to the Forum, based on the ideas expressed in the Food-for-Thought paper (EEF.GAL/6/10), is already ongoing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have, in one way or another, contributed to the success of our activities: the Chairmanship teams, the Chairpersons and the members of the EEC, our generous donors, the economic and environmental officers in the field presences and the staff of my Office.

I hope this Activity Report will provide you with a valuable insight into the activities that the OCEEA has been carrying out. For more information and the latest updates on our work, please visit www.osce.org/eea.



Goran Svilanovic

Current issues and recent developments in the Economic and Environmental Dimension

The OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension (EED) has continued to promote security and co-operation in the OSCE region relying on close co-operation and co-ordination between its constituent pillars: the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC), the Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) process, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the Economic and Environmental Officers (EEOs) from the OSCE field operations.

2.1. Recent Ministerial Decisions on Issues of Relevance to the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension

As a result of the discussions held by the Informal Group of Friends on the future orientation of the EED, established in February 2009, the 2009 Greek OSCE

Chairmanship presented in July 2009 a Report (CIO.GAL/97/09) embodying the vision that had been collectively developed within the group on the need for change and on the direction in which the Second Dimension should develop.

Subsequently, in Athens, on 1-2 December 2009, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/09 on the *"Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension"* (MC.DEC/4/09) was adopted. Stressing the need to continue to streamline and improve the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in the EED, it tasked the Permanent Council, through its relevant informal subsidiary body and with the support of the OCEEA, with identifying and adopting, by the end of 2010, appropriate measures to implement the recommendations contained in the Report.

Two other Decisions adopted by the Athens Ministerial Council are of particular importance for the EED:



Opening session of the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council, Athens, 1 December 2009. (OSCE/Susanna Löff)

Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 on migration management

The MC Decision encouraged the participating States to:

1. Continue working on migration management by *inter alia*:

- Paying particular attention to addressing the root causes of migration;
- Ensuring that their national migration practices comply with their respective international obligations and OSCE commitments;
- Further elaborating and enhancing implementation of comprehensive and effective national migration policies and action plans as appropriate;
- Improving the collection of comparable data on migration;
- Fostering co-operation and partnerships between countries of origin and destination;
- Respecting the human rights of migrants and increasing efforts to combat discrimination,

intolerance and xenophobia towards migrants and their families;

2. Incorporate gender aspects in their migration policies;

3. Enhance migration management by improved policy coherence between migration and economic, social, environmental and security policies, through consultation, partnership and co-operation among governments at bilateral, regional and interregional levels, as appropriate;

4. Take necessary measures to minimize negative impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on migrants by intensifying economic co-operation, creating attractive conditions for investment and business development and facilitating the flow of remittances.

Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/09 on strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area

The MC Decision contained the following key recommendations:

1. Encouraged the participating States to promote awareness of the G8 St. Petersburg principles and objectives on strengthening global energy security, namely:

- Increasing transparency, predictability and stability of global energy markets;
- Improving the investment climate in the energy sector;
- Enhancing energy efficiency and energy saving;
- Diversifying energy mix;
- Ensuring physical security of critical energy infrastructure;
- Reducing energy poverty;
- Addressing climate change and sustainable development;

2. Encouraged participating States to continue to use the OSCE as a platform for energy security dialogue in order to:

- Contribute to security and stability in the OSCE area;
- Strengthen co-operation among the participating States in the energy field, including at regional and subregional level, as appropriate;

3. Tasked the Permanent Council, supported by the OSCE Secretariat, with organizing in 2010 an OSCE special expert meeting with the aim of assessing OSCE's future contribution to international energy security co-operation;

4. Tasked the OSCE Secretary General to submit in 2010 a report, for consideration by the Permanent Council, based on the outcomes of and recommendations formulated at the above event as well as on his consultations with participating States and relevant international and regional organizations and agencies, concerning the complementary role of the OSCE in the field of energy security;

5. Tasked the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, in co-operation with other OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and available resources, to continue providing assistance to participating States, at their request, to support the exchange of best practices and build capacity in the areas related to energy security, *inter alia* energy efficiency, energy savings and the development of and investment in renewable sources of energy.

Other decisions that also have a direct bearing on the activities in the OSCE's Second Dimension are:

- **Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/09 on furthering the Corfu process** which included economic and environmental challenges among the issues of special focus of the Corfu process future dialogue;
- **Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability.**

The OCEEA strives to integrate the mandate provided by the Foreign Ministers into its annual work plan and to continue to co-ordinate activities in these areas with the OSCE field presences.

2.2. Main issues addressed during Economic and Environmental Committee meetings since June 2009

The work of the above-mentioned informal and open-ended Group of Friends on the future orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE and the subsequent report may indeed represent an important development. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, together with the OSCE Kazakh Chairmanship and the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC), have reviewed the ideas contained in the Report and strived to identify appropriate measures to implement them in order to contribute to the efficiency of the Second Dimension.

The EEC, while continuing to serve as a platform for the facilitation of political dialogue and the building of consensus among the 56 participating States, the implementation of the agreements reached, the prioritization of future activities, and the identification of potential threats to security and stability, has also discussed the recommendations included in the Report.

Also, the EEC has focused its efforts throughout the reporting period on preparing as well as ensuring an adequate follow-up to the above-mentioned Ministerial Decisions.



Conference on Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE area, Bratislava 6-7 July 2009.

“Migration management” has been a high topic on the EEC's agenda, both in support of the 17th EEF preparatory and follow-up process on *“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”*, under the Greek Chairmanship. Also, a special thematic EEC meeting on this topic was organised on 19 May 2010 featuring presentations by Ms. Kathleen Ferrier, Special Representative on Migration from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Andreas Halbach, Head of Special Liaison Mission in Vienna, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Mr. Andrei Muntean, Senior Economic and Environmental Officer of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

In line with the 2006 Ministerial Council Decision on Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE, the Greek Chairmanship organised a Conference on **“Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE area”** in Bratislava on 6-7 July 2009. Its conclusions were presented to and discussed in the EEC. In view of the Athens Ministerial Council, the EEC was instrumental in negotiating and building consensus towards the adoption of the MC Decision on *Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area* (MC.DEC/6/09). Further on, it contributed to its implementation, consisting, *inter alia*, of preparing a PC Decision (PC.DEC/942 of 8 July 2010) regarding the organization of the OSCE Special Expert Meeting on Assessing the OSCE's Future Contribution to International Energy Security Co-operation, due to take place on 13 and 14 September 2010 in Vilnius. Moreover, the topic of energy security was addressed by Dr. Dirk Buschle, from the Legal Counsel of the Energy Community Secretariat, and Dr. Fuad Siala, Senior Alternative Sources of Energy Analyst, from the Research Division of OPEC during the EEC meeting on 24 March 2010.

The EEC also provided impetus to the initiative “**Greening the OSCE**” (CIO.GAL/92/09 of 13 July 2009) aimed at upgrading and improving the OSCE’s commitments towards environmentally friendly policies.

“**The security implications of the financial crisis in the fields of migration, energy and environment**” was the subject of a specific EEC meeting, which took place on 23 September 2009 and was addressed by Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski, Labour Migration Specialist, Migration Policy and Research Department at the IOM, Ms. Karin Kneissl, Energy Analyst, Professor, Department of International Relations at Webster University, Vienna, and Saint-Joseph University in Beirut, and Mr. Nicolas Bertrand, Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Geneva.

“**The OSCE’s role in reducing security threats related to climate change**” was the theme of a Chairmanship Conference that took place on 5-6 October 2009 in Bucharest. The EEC discussed the conclusions reached during the conference as well as possible follow-up actions and later on engaged in consultations regarding a proposed Draft MC Decision on the Role of the OSCE in Addressing the Security Implications of Climate Change.

The EEC was actively involved in the preparation of the Corfu meeting on economic and environmental challenges (23 March 2010).

A recurrent topic dealt with by the EEC has been the preparation of the **18th EEF on “Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region”**. In this connection, the CiO Personal Representative on Transport issues, Ambassador Vytautas Naudužas, addressed the EEC on 25 February 2010.

Another area of focus of the Committee over the reporting period has been “**Environment and Security**”. During a thematic EEC held on 12 May 2010 Mr. Struan Stevenson, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Environmental issues, gave a presentation on the environmental challenges existing in Central Asia such as land degradation, water management infrastructure, and unsustainable use of natural resources. Ms. Laura Rio, ENVSEC Senior Programme Manager made a presentation on the work of the Initiative.

2.3. Annual Co-ordination meeting of Economic and Environmental Officers, Vienna, 3 February 2010

Seeking to enhance the co-ordination and co-operation between the headquarters and the field presences, as essential elements for the effectiveness of the EED activities, the OCEEA has continued to promote information exchange with the EEOs throughout the reporting period.

As part of this effort, an annual Co-ordination Meeting with the EEOs took place on 3 February 2010, in Vienna, back-to-back with the First Part of the 18th EEF (1-2 February). The meeting was opened by Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin, Deputy Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship for 2010, and Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. It was also attended by representatives of the Delegations to the OSCE in Vienna.

Two speakers were invited to address the meeting: Ms. Anita Pirc-Velkavrh, from the European Environment Agency, and Mr. Achim Maas, of Adelphi Research. Both delivered presentations on the security implications of climate change in the OSCE region.

Discussions during the meeting also focused on the planned activities in the EED in 2010, allowing the EEOs to put forward their priorities, new ideas and future projects. The key EED priorities for 2010 discussed in the meeting were: migration management (follow-up to the 17th EEF and the MC Decision No. 5/09), strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area (follow-up to the MC Decision No. 6/09), good governance (anti-corruption and anti-money laundering) and environment and security. The Kazakh Chairmanship also presented its priorities for the 18th EEF process devoted to “Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region”. The ideas exposed during the meeting were further utilized along the Forum’s preparatory process. The “future orientation of the EED” (follow-up to the MC Decision No. 4/09), focusing in particular on improving the co-ordination between Vienna and the field, was also among the topics discussed.

Follow-up to the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum

3.1. Migration Activities

The size and composition of migration flows within and into the OSCE area have changed considerably in recent years. In 2005, the countries of the OSCE were home to about 115 million migrants, representing 9.5 percent of the population of OSCE countries. In absolute numbers the Russian Federation, in 2003, had the second largest immigrant population in the world, after the United States, while Ukraine was fourth and Kazakhstan ninth. Intra-OSCE migration has been very significant in CIS and South-Eastern European countries. Thus, OSCE countries play an important role as hosts to international migrants.¹

The increase in migration is mainly due to “pull” factors such as labour market needs and aging populations in countries of destination and “push” factors such as widening gap of wage differences and unemployment in countries of origin. As long as these factors remain in a globalized world, migration and in particular labour migration will continue to increase.

With increased migration flows, its complexity and transnational character it has become important for countries to deepen their dialogue and co-operation at all levels within and between states as well as with other relevant actors to find more effective and comprehensive responses to migration management. This need has also been acknowledged by the OSCE participating States which discussed the opportunities and challenges related to migration management as a priority theme in 2005 and 2009.

The Ministerial Council Decision on Migration Management of 2009 has firmly placed migration on the agenda of the OSCE. It has confirmed that exchange of good practices, dialogue and co-operation on migration management issues remain an important component of the OSCE’s comprehensive concept of security. It has identified important migration management areas that it encourages the OSCE participating States to continue to work on such as addressing the root causes of migration; improving data collection; fostering co-operation and partnerships for effective legal migration solutions; incorporating gender aspects; enhancing policy coherence, and; minimizing the negative impacts of the global financial crisis on migrants.

The participating States also consider that the OSCE can provide a broad regional platform for OSCE participating States and its Partners for Co-operation where they can discuss migration management more comprehensively, using the three dimensional character of the Organization. Furthermore, the participating States have clearly tasked the Organization, in co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations, to support work in the areas of migration legislation and national policy frameworks, effective migration management including gender aspects of migration, fighting illegal migration, assessing possible impact of environmental degradation on migratory pressures, and providing advice and training.

The concrete activities undertaken by the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations in the area of migration are firmly based on the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security and guided by the Ministerial Decisions on Migration Management (MC.DEC/5/09) and on Migration (MC.DEC/2/05).

¹ Review of the Implementation of OSCE Commitments related to migration by OSCE participating States, ILO, 2009.

3.1.1. International and Regional Co-operation in the Area of Migration Management

Since 2005 the Economic and Environmental Dimension has promoted a comprehensive, co-operative and coherent approach to effectively manage (labour) migration and reduce irregular migration. It has facilitated regional information exchange, dialogue, co-operation and capacity building in areas related to economic and environmental migration among the OSCE participating States and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

Regional Co-operation on Labour Migration

On 24-25 June 2009, an international conference on “*Strengthening Regional and Inter-State Partnership in Social Labour and Migration for Development, Stability and Security*” was organised by the Kazakh Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in co-operation with the IOM, ILO, the OSCE Centre in Astana and the OCEEA. This was the first event after the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum where the new OSCE Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies was presented and the issues raised in the Guide were discussed. As a result of these discussions, it was agreed to continue to raise awareness of the importance of including a gender dimension in labour migration policies by developing concrete training programmes in the Central Asia and South Caucasus countries.

Co-operation with the Global Forum on Migration and Development

On 4-5 November 2009, the OCEEA participated in the *Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)* held in Athens. The theme of the GFMD was “*Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All*”. The OCEEA presented the new Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies to the participants of the GFMD and contributed to the inclusion of gender aspects in the final recommendations of this Forum.

Discussion with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on Migration

On 14-15 December 2009, the OCEEA participated in the “*OSCE 2009 Mediterranean Conference on the Mediterranean Partners and the OSCE: Co-operation*

towards enhanced security and stability” held in Cairo. Among issues discussed at the conference were the implications of the global financial and economic crisis on migration. The new MC.DEC/5/09 on Migration Management received particular attention, especially the tasking that the OSCE should continue to provide a wide regional platform for dialogue on migration and security issues between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Supporting the Fight against Human Trafficking

As a result of the OSCE Mission’s monitoring of cases of human trafficking and enticement into prostitution, a report was released in 2009 pointing out shortcomings in relation to the prosecution and sentencing of this category of crimes. The Mission also funded the production of a documentary on the rise of internal trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The documentary focused on the re-enactment of a real-life, high-profile case involving local victims, whose prosecution was monitored by the Mission. The Mission also initiated activities on the resolution of the large-scale transnational case of exploitation of construction workers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

3.1.2. Capacity Building and Training

In response to requests raised in the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum process to provide trainers and migration experts with interactive, practical, and flexible capacity building and training tools for effective labour migration management useful for both countries of origin and of destination, the OCEEA has developed a Guide and Trainer’s Manuals.

Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies

On 18 May 2009, the *Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies* was launched in Athens. It aims to raise awareness of the important contributions female migrant workers make to economic development and of the particular challenges they face throughout the migration process. It suggests a number of measures and possible solutions and provides examples of good practices that may be considered by policy-makers,



parliamentarians and social partners in the OSCE countries and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation. Since its launch, the Guide has been distributed to all OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, OSCE field operations and a large number of international and

non-governmental organizations. The OCEEA has also been working on two Trainer's Manuals. The aim of the manuals is to assist policy-makers and practitioners to design, revise and implement more effective labour migration policies and programmes.

IOM-OCEEA: Trainer's Manual on Labour Migration Management

A comprehensive *Trainer's Manual on Labour Migration Management* has been developed together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It is a complement to the OSCE-IOM-ILO Handbooks on Effective Labour Migration Policies. To test the training methodology and content of the Trainer's Manual, the two organizations organised three regional Training-of-Trainers Seminars:

- On 29 September – 1 October 2009 in Bishkek for representatives from CIS countries;
- On 13-15 October 2009 in Tunis (organised by the IOM and attended by the OCEEA) for representatives from Northern Africa and the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation;



Training of the Trainers Seminar in Bishkek, on 29 September – 1 October 2009. (OSCE/Joomart Ormonbekov)

- From 3-4 December 2009 in Tirana for participants from South-Eastern Europe.

The seminars targeted trainers and persons familiar with labour migration issues from government authorities, employers' and workers' organizations, recruitment agencies and non-governmental organizations. The feedback received on the trainings was used for adjusting and finalising the Trainer's Manual on Labour Migration Management.

OCEEA-ODIHR: Trainer's Manual on Gender and Labour Migration

A more specific *Trainer's Manual on Gender and Labour Migration* has also been developed by the OCEEA together with ODIHR as a complement to the Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies. To review the draft Manual an Expert Meeting was organised on 19-20 October 2009 by ODIHR and OCEEA in Warsaw. The Manual was then finalised and published in April 2010.

First Training Seminar on Gender and Labour Migration

The first regional *Training Seminar on Gender and Labour Migration* was organised on 15-16 April 2010 in Helsinki by the OCEEA in co-operation with the Finnish Government, the IOM, ILO, ODIHR and the Council of Europe. The training materials used for the seminar were the OSCE *Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies*, and the new *Trainer's Manual on Gender and Labour Migration*. The training was attended by mid-level government officials, representatives of labour unions and employers' organizations from the Nordic, Baltic and Western CIS countries. The training was built around group discussions



Regional Training Seminar on Gender and Labour Migration, on 15-16 April 2010 in Helsinki. (OSCE/Amaia Sotes)

and case studies to allow for maximum participation and interaction. Further similar training seminars are planned in other OSCE countries during 2010.

Armenia – Creating Better Opportunities for Vulnerable Population

With the aim of safeguarding the rights of children and improving their integration and well-being, the OSCE Programme Implementation Presence in the Syunik region used the contributions of the OSCE participating States at the annual OSCE Charity Ball to open an extracurricular education centre for children from socially and economically disadvantaged families in Kapan.

Kyrgyz Republic – Survey on Kyrgyz Migrants` Behaviour in the Context of the Global Financial Crisis

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek supported the survey, which focused on Kyrgyz labour migrants in Russia, with an emphasis on the migrant return and remittance dynamic. It was conducted by CASE-Kyrgyzstan, an independent research think-tank, across the country and in Russia. The local office of ACTED, a French non-governmental organization, carried out the survey in the southern provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic. The survey found that remittances had fallen by half during the April-September 2009 period compared with the same period in 2008. Although Kyrgyz labour migrants were sending home less money, less often, they were not returning home in large numbers, as some experts had predicted. The results were presented at a conference, entitled “*The behaviour of Kyrgyz labour migrants in the context of the global financial crisis*”, which gathered more than 70 national policy-makers, local and international experts and civil society representatives. The participants discussed the use of remittances and reintegration of

returning migrants, and developed recommendations to improve labour migration management in the Kyrgyz Republic, including the establishment of a working group comprising of national and international experts.

Tajikistan – Information Centres for Labour Migrants

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan supported the Tajik migrants in collaboration with the Tajik Ministry of Labor and Social Protection. The four information centres supported by the Office in Tajikistan continued to provide information on the legal aspects of migration to potential migrants. In 2010, in collaboration with the OSCE and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the centres will expand their services and offer vocational training courses in welding and construction. Targeting the increasing number of female migrants, the centres will offer courses in food service.

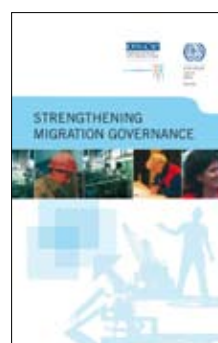
3.1.3. Sharing of Best Practices and Information

Regional Conference on Migrant Investment, Return and Economic Reintegration for Development

To share information on how to strengthen the links between migration and development, the OCEEA and the IOM organised with the support of the Austrian Government a *Regional Conference on Migrant Investment, Return and Economic Reintegration for Development in the South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions* in Vienna on 10-11 December 2009. The aim of the conference was to discuss new research findings on the potential of migrants’ savings for



Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, presenting a survey on remittances from abroad and labour migration management in Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, 26 November 2009. (OSCE/Joomart Ormonbekov)



OSCE-ILO Publication on migration “Strengthening migration governance”.

investment and development in countries of origin. Participants discussed how governments, in co-operation with the financial sector, could put in place incentives and measures that would encourage migrants to invest part of these savings in the countries of origin, thus better capturing the potential of migrants' savings and remittances for socio-economic development. They also exchanged information and experience

on initiatives and programmes aimed at alleviating the negative effects of the global economic crisis on migration and development, including economic reintegration programmes. The event brought together around 100 participants from the OSCE participating States, including representatives of governments, commercial and central banks, migrants' associations and international organizations.

Publications on 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 co-operation with the OCEEA and funded by the OSCE Greek Chairmanship. It is available in English.

Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination (May 2006 and November 2007 editions)

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 co-operation with the ILO and IOM and is available in Arabic, Albanian, English, French, and Russian.

Training Modules on Labour Migration Management – Trainer's Manual (August 2010)

The Trainer's Manual complements the Handbook and has been developed by the IOM and the OCEEA in 2010. The project has been financially supported by the OSCE Greek Chairmanship and the IOM. The Manual will be available in English and Russian.

Guide on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration (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.

Gender and Labour Migration - Trainer's Manual (April 2010)

The Trainer's Manual complements the Guide and is meant as guidance for trainers on gender-sensitive labour migration policies. It has been 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.

Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Labour Migration from Kyrgyzstan to Russia (2009)

The labour migration survey was produced by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, ACTED Country Office and the European Commission. The survey is available in English and Russian.

The publications can also be found on the OSCE website <http://www.osce.org/eea/29017.html>

The 18th Economic and Environmental Forum

On 30 July 2009, the Permanent Council Decision PC.DEC/898 defined “*Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region*” as the theme of the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum.

Following the adoption of this decision, the OCEEA and the Kazakh Chairmanship for 2010 have closely co-operated along the Forum process, which included the following meetings:

- The first preparatory Conference held in Astana on 12-13 October 2009;
- The first meeting of the Forum held in Vienna on 1-2 February 2010;
- The second preparatory Conference held in Minsk on 15-16 March 2010;
- The second meeting of the Forum held in Prague on 24-26 May 2010.

Experts and policy makers from OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international and regional organizations, the business community, academia and non-governmental organizations, as well as the OSCE field presences, took part in the meetings and engaged in dialogue.

The Forum process provided an opportunity for exchanging views and best practices and contributed to the elaboration of key recommendations and specific follow-up activities to address border crossing and transport-related challenges. The debates as well as the outcome of each meeting are reflected in the Consolidated Summaries (SEC.GAL/189/09 for the Astana first preparatory Conference; EEF.GAL/4/10 for the Vienna Forum; SEC.GAL/68/10 for the Minsk second preparatory Conference; and EEF.GAL/10/10/Cor.1 for the Prague Forum).

The first preparatory Conference in Astana

The first preparatory Conference for the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum was held in **Astana, on 12-13 October 2009**, and brought together over 170 delegates from 38 different countries. Discussions focused, *inter alia*, on road transport facilitation and the specific challenges of landlocked developing countries, combating trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings at border-crossing points, streamlining and simplifying customs and border regulations and procedures, and strengthening public-private partnerships in the area of international road transport.

The first part of the Forum in Vienna

Building upon the outcome of the Astana preparatory conference, the first part of the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum held in **Vienna on 1-2 February 2010** gave a strong political impetus to the OSCE’s engagement in the field of transport and border crossings. The Vienna Forum brought together over 300 participants and highlighted the importance of the theme of transport, especially in the current context of the global economic downturn, as a key factor for the stimulation of trade, the creation of jobs and the recovery and development of the economy. Discussions addressed vital issues such as: good governance in customs and at border crossings; access to sea ports for landlocked countries; improvement of security and efficiency of transport connections in Central Asia and with Afghanistan; and the promotion of international road transport.



OSCE Congress Centre, Vienna.
(OSCE/Martina Gadotti)

The second preparatory Conference in Minsk

Complementing the previous meetings of the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum process the second preparatory Conference took place on **15-16 March 2010 in Minsk** and put a stronger emphasis on another pillar of the Forum's theme, namely the security of the international transport circuit, railways transportation, and the links between transport and the environment. The Minsk Conference gathered over 170 participants and emphasized essential aspects such as: the need to tailor security measures to specific situations given the open, multi-modal and complex nature of inland transportation; the role of multilateral instruments in increasing transport security; the importance of effective implementation of facilitation measures such as simplifying and harmonizing customs procedures; the need to share information between public and private stakeholders and to develop partnerships between them.

The second part of the Forum in Prague

Concluding the Forum cycle, the second meeting of the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum held in **Prague on 24-26 May 2010** brought together over 300 high-level representatives from the governments of OSCE participating States, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Prague Forum aimed at addressing the multiple facets of transport from a holistic approach, identifying new avenues for co-operation and proposing concrete follow-up activities to tackle existing and future challenges.

The main issues discussed were: the development of efficient and secure transit transportation between Asia and Europe; the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension; the role of the OSCE in promoting good governance in international transportation and at border crossings; transport facilitation and security in Central Asia and with Afghanistan; the impact of transportation on environment and security; and specific transport security aspects and the role of the OSCE.

Seeking to channel the debates towards concrete and viable recommendations for the OSCE, the OCEEA



Czernin Palace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. (Lubomir Kotek)

prepared a Food-for-Thought Paper on Follow-up Ideas (EEF.GAL/6/10), which was circulated among the participants of the Forum.

Follow-up to the 18th EEF

The main follow-up activities proposed, currently in different stages of elaboration and/or implementation, are:

1. Aiming at **fighting corruption** and promoting transparency and **integrity in customs and border services**, as essential tools for the stimulation of economic growth and the prevention of threats to security, the OSCE could consider a medium to long term engagement in this area. To launch such an involvement, a regional seminar gathering Central Asian and South Caucasus countries and Afghanistan is planned on 12-13 July 2010 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It will be conducted in co-operation with the World Customs Organization (WCO). Later on, national follow-up activities of a policy design / capacity building nature could be organised upon request.
2. The OSCE should continue to advocate and promote the **ratification and effective implementation of UNECE legal instruments**, in particular the *UNECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods* as well as the "TIR Convention", through conducting awareness-raising and capacity-building workshops and seminars at different levels. The OCEEA, together with UNCITRAL, should raise awareness regarding the *UN Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea*, known as the "Rotterdam

- Rules” and, if required, provide appropriate capacity building assistance.
3. The OSCE should provide technical support in developing legislation **aimed at simplifying customs and other border regulations and procedures**, as well as in building institutional capacities to effectively apply them. The **“Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings”** elaborated by the OCEEA, together with UNECE, to assist OSCE participating States in developing more efficient transit transport, customs and border policies, should be published by the end of 2010. Moreover, the OSCE should consider promoting the implementation across its region of ASYCUDA, a computerised customs management system which handles manifests and customs declarations, transit procedures, and generates trade data that can be used for statistical economic analysis. Finally, as a way to facilitate international railway traffic, the OSCE, in co-operation with international transport organizations, could assist participating States to create a uniform railway law, to harmonize conventions and other tools and to start using the CIM/SMGS2 common consignment note.
 4. The OSCE should adopt a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** approach in dealing with transport and border crossing issues. More specifically, transport and trade facilitation **Users’ Groups** could be created in order to ensure good governance and transparency at border crossings.
 5. With the goal to boost economic development, the OSCE should advocate the creation of **integrated transport networks** in the OSCE area and the formation of a unified transport space. In particular, the OSCE could strengthen its interaction with the UNECE regarding the implementation of the **Euro-Asian Transport links Project (EATL) - Phase II** and the **Trans-European Motorways (TEM)** and **Trans European Railways (TER) Projects**.
 6. The OSCE could contribute to economic development in **Central Asia** and stability in **Afghanistan** while paying due attention to border security and management. In order to facilitate regional trade and transport links, the OSCE should continue to provide tailor-made training to both law enforcement and customs officials, as well as to promote dialogue and co-operation among stakeholders from the region.
 7. Bearing in mind that **land transport security** is often referred to as the weakest link in the global supply chain, the OSCE should serve as a platform for the promotion of dialogue and the examination of adequate responses to such challenges. A joint UNECE-OSCE **Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum** could be envisaged.
 8. Considering the transportation of **dangerous goods** and **hazardous waste** and their potential negative effects on the environment, the OSCE should conduct awareness raising on and supporting the implementation of relevant international instruments such as the *European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road* and the *Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail*. In order to prevent and detect illegal transboundary waste movement, regional training workshops on *the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal* could be organised by the OSCE.
 9. Regarding intra-OSCE co-operation, the OCEEA will continue to develop its concrete co-operation with the **OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe** and facilitate expert and other partner organizations’ input to future BMSC activities and capacity building. The OCEEA and the **OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU)** should enhance their co-operation in addressing supply chain security issues.
 10. Acknowledging the importance of a strategic vision of transport development that takes into account environmental considerations, the OSCE stands ready to assist participating States, upon request, in the process of shaping comprehensive and integrated national policies that promote **environmentally friendly transportation choices**.

Promoting Good Governance

Weak governance represents one of the biggest hurdles for sustainable economic development. It deters domestic and foreign investment and causes the mismanagement of public resources. Promoting good governance is therefore an essential contribution towards economic growth, reducing poverty and inequality and increasing social integration. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities has received a strong mandate from OSCE participating States to get involved in the promotion of good governance. Based on OSCE Ministerial and PC Decisions as well as on the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the OCEEA focuses its activities in the area of good governance on the fight against corruption, the laundering of the illegal proceeds of crime and the financing of terrorism. This focus has also been supported by the OSCE participating States in the interactive dialogue of the Corfu Process. All activities in the area of good governance take place in close co-operation with partner organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, the Council of Europe and others.

5.1. Activities aimed at Promoting Transparency and Combating Corruption

The OCEEA has been actively involved in the fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency. Activities aim at increasing the capacity of national actors and enhancing democratic practices at local, municipal and regional level.

In the spotlight: Azerbaijan Advocacy and Support to Address Citizens' Corruption Complaints

The OSCE Office in Baku has supported the Government's anti-corruption efforts since 2007. In particular, it has contributed to the achievement of the goals enumerated in the National Strategy on Increasing Transparency and Combating Corruption for 2007-2011, by supporting operations of the Anti-Corruption Centres (ALACs) of Transparency Azerbaijan in Guba and Sheki. As a result of the meas-

ures undertaken by the Government for the improvement of the relevant legal and institutional framework and joint efforts of the civil society, Azerbaijan improved its ranking in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index by fifteen positions in 2009.

Within the ongoing Support to the ALAC Project, the centres conduct mobile-outreach workshops in

remote regions, operate toll-free telephone hotlines, provide legal advice on corruption complaints filed by the public, undertake advocacy actions to address specific legal and institutional weaknesses, conduct information sessions for Government officials on how to address corruption complaints, and train targeted audiences on citizens' rights with regard to corruption.

In the spotlight: Albania Combating Corruption

Progress in economic and social development is undermined by the prevalence of corruption. Dealing with this issue is now a top Government priority, not least in light of the country's EU integration aspirations. State anti-corruption institutions have continued to be assisted by the OSCE through a range of measures. In a joint project with the High Inspectorate in charge of examining the declared assets of public officials, some 540 public officials, working in key state institutions, have received training

regarding their roles in recently introduced anti-corruption legislation. Specialized trainers have familiarized participants with the concept of Conflict of Interest and provided examples on how to avoid its occurrence, and confidential reporting mechanisms for highlighting incidents at work. Support has been provided in the implementation of new anti-money laundering legislation through the training of 80 officials in partnership with the national Financial Intelligence Unit. At a local level, the implementation of

the Government's decentralisation strategy to embrace participatory approaches for financial planning in order to enhance transparency in decision making has been supported by assisting municipalities. Work has continued with civil society to encourage more effective public engagement in local government in order to boost accountability. In combination, it is anticipated that these measures will provide valuable tools to tackle corruption and help restore public trust in state institutions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Strengthening Municipal Management, Planning, and Oversight Capacities

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina is providing capacity building, training and technical assistance to 13 municipalities. The assistance focuses on the introduction of transparent budget processes and the strengthening of internal capacities for financial oversight and long-term planning. With the Mission's assistance, eight municipal councils established Budget and Finance Commissions with the capacity to review and provide expert comments on all financial documents considered by the municipal councils. Also, in eleven municipalities the Mission has initiated or finalized the process of establishing Municipal Development Teams that would lead the process of developing Strategic Plans in consultation with citizens.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Good Governance in Education: School Boards as Advocates for Change and Accountability in Education

Last year the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina expanded the Good Governance in Education project, that was first piloted in Zenica-Doboj Canton, to the West Herzegovina Canton and Republika Srpska. The Mission supported the respective Ministries of Education

in developing a school board training programme that promotes basic principles of school-based good governance and further elaborates the roles and responsibilities of these bodies. After the pilot in Zenica-Doboj Canton, which trained 25 trainers to develop the sustainable capacity of school boards in the community, as well as further training of 200 school board members, this year's project in West Herzegovina and Republika Srpska will result in around 40 trainers and more than 400 school board members being trained.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – The Financial Guide for School Directors

School directors play a significant role in setting the tone of a school - in terms of its quality, learning environment and community atmosphere. However, while school directors should generally be aware of their school's current and future needs, they often receive little or no training or guidance regarding management of school finances. In this regard, and after discussions with school directors, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supported and established a working group consisting of representatives of education ministries and directors of primary and secondary schools tasked to develop a Financial Guide for School Directors. Completed and launched in March 2010, the Guide is intended to become an effective tool for school directors, particularly

those just starting their work, to better understand the key financial principles for the daily functioning of the school. Components include strategic planning, basic budgetary terms, budgetary principles, budget planning liabilities, internal audit and other activities related to financial operations. The text is guided by international financial and accounting standards. Representing the first document of its kind for school directors in South-Eastern Europe, the Financial Guide has so far been presented to 250 school directors.

Tajikistan – Recommendations to the Tajik Anti-corruption Agency on the Development of a Prevention Programme

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan has provided technical assistance to the Agency for State Financial Control and the Fight Against Corruption of Tajikistan for the development of its activities on corruption prevention. Capacities of all staff and units within the Agency have been enhanced to endorse and implement a comprehensive anti-corruption programme. The Office has developed detailed and tailored recommendations along with a concrete action plan to implement them. They have been discussed at a workshop gathering the Agency, key governmental agencies and representatives of the Parliament. In parallel, a series of public lectures and discussions have been delivered, in coordination with other international partners involved in anti-corruption, open to the participation of civil society.



Corruption is a stumbling block on the way to democracy and progress. It can jeopardize the success of long-term initiatives in any area of development.

5.2. Activities aimed at assisting legislative development and promoting the implementation of international standards

The OCEEA has continued to assist participating States in adopting and/or implementing relevant legal anti-corruption instruments. Efforts have focused mainly on the adjustment of national legislations to international standards, especially in relation to the UN Convention against Corruption, as well as on capacity and institution building. Activities have been organised with the substantial involvement and co-operation of partner organizations, such as, the UNODC, the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the World Bank and the Council of Europe.

Regional Seminar on Asset Declarations for Public Officials

In October 2009, the OSCE in co-operation with the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) organised a regional seminar on “Asset declarations for public officials as a tool against corruption” in Belgrade. The seminar built further on the discussions and recommendations of the 7th ACN General Meeting, held in Tbilisi, in 2008, where participants agreed on the importance of asset declarations and the need to continue working in this area. The key issues discussed were: the need to put in place a sound legal and institutional basis for asset declaration systems, categories of officials who are subject to disclosure requirements, possible introduction sanctions in case of failing to comply with existing requirements, the type of information to be disclosed, and ways and methods of verification.

Regional Workshop on Seizing and Recovering the Illegal Proceeds of Crime

In July 2009, a regional workshop on “*Seizing and recovering the illegal proceeds of crime*” was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The workshop was a follow-up to the 2008 workshop for legal experts in Central Asia as it was felt that additional training on asset seizure and recovery was needed. The event brought together high level experts from the criminal justice sector to discuss how Central Asian law enforcement agencies could deepen their knowledge and improve co-operation in seizing and recovering illegal proceeds of organized crime, corruption and money laundering. It was attended by officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia as well as by experts from the World Bank, the Basel Institute on Governance and the Irish Garda Siochana. The workshop was organised by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, the OCEEA, the OSCE Centre in Astana, the World Bank and the UNODC.

Azerbaijan – Contributing to the Introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards

The OSCE Office in Baku has conducted a training programme on National Accounting Standards for Commercial Organizations (NASCO) for one hundred participants in Baku, Shaki and Barda. The Azerbaijani government has recently adopted National Accounting Standards for Commercial Organizations in order to introduce International Financial Reporting Standards. The training programme has been carried out as a series of three six-day workshops, one in each of the three regions. The vast majority of participants (77%) have been either chief accountants or accountants in the small and medium sized enterprises they represented. The remaining 23 participants have been financial officers, directors, and teachers.

In the spotlight: Uzbekistan Commentary to the First Part of the Civil Code

The Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan entered into force on 1 March 1997 and has since then not been revised or commented upon. A commentary is a necessary prerequisite to apply and use the Civil Code, which has an important influence on the economic life of the country since it regulates property issues, mortgages and deposits, state contracts, intellectual property rights and other items that are necessary in a proper functioning market economy. In 2009, the OSCE Project Co-

ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) started a corresponding project by creating a working group, in which experts from both governmental institutions and civil society did research and elaborated the commentary to the first part of the Civil Code. Their progress was discussed during two international conferences held in Tashkent, one in June 2009 on *Enhancement of legal entities legislation*, and one in October 2009 on *Liability Law: Application Issues of Theory and Practice*. Both offered ample opportunities for fruitful

discussions among national and international experts and facilitated the drafting process. The project ensured broad public participation through putting all materials on the website of one of the project partners, the NGO Legal Problems Research Centre (<http://www.lprc.uz/gk.html>). In April 2010, the Commentary was published both in Uzbek and Russian. It is also available on the PCUz website. This project continues in 2010 by commenting the second part of the Civil Code.

Kazakhstan – Promoting a Transparent and Efficient Economic Environment

The OSCE Centre in Astana has remained focused on the fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism and provided its support through capacity building trainings for the General Prosecutor’s Office, Financial Police, Customs Committee, non-governmental organization activists and mass media representatives, increasing the number of partners involved in this domain.

Support has been rendered to enhance the host country’s legal and institutional framework in accordance with international standards. Another priority of the Centre has been to promote the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the participation of civil society in this Initiative. The activities have been implemented in co-operation with IMF/World Bank, UNODC, UNECE, WCO, OECD, SOROS Kazakhstan, etc.



Ambassador Alexandre Keltchewsky, Head of OSCE Centre in Astana (l) and Kozy-Korpesh Karbuzov (r), Chairman of the Customs Committee of Kazakhstan, at a two-day seminar for customs officials on combating corruption, Astana, 6 May 2009.



Jeannette Kloetzer, Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, speaks at an OSCE-organised training course on best practices in combating corruption, Astana, 26 June 2009. (OSCE/Madina Ibrasheva)

In the spotlight: Ukraine Introducing E-governance Initiatives in the System of Administrative Services

The provision of high quality administrative services on an equal basis to all citizens is a primary task of a modern public administration. An effective way to improve the system of administrative services provision is through the introduction of e-Governance. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) piloted a project in Dnipropetrovsk region to demonstrate how local authorities could improve their services to citizens using modern digital technologies. The project

was integrated into the regional development programme aimed at the improvement of the functioning of local self-government bodies. As a result of the project, 334 village councils have been connected to the Internet and integrated into the regional network. It has enabled more than 800,000 rural area residents to gain access to e-services and thus benefit from the higher quality of administrative services. 668 representatives of village councils have undergone training in

the ABCs of e-Governance as well. The main challenges faced by the e-Governance initiatives in Ukraine are the technological readiness for e-Governance solutions and the mental readiness of local authorities to embrace its benefits. The OSCE PCU is planning to expand the Dnipropetrovsk model to other regions in Ukraine, keeping in mind the need to aim at both the technological readiness and changing perceptions and mindsets of public servants.

5.3. Activities aimed at combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism

The OCEEA has also been actively involved over the years in strengthening the ability of participating States to combat money laundering and suppress the financing of terrorism. In particular it has provided assistance to participating States to help them in the implementation of the 40+9 Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the UN Convention on Suppressing Terrorist Financing, the 3rd EU Directive on Combating Money Laundering and the relevant Council of Europe Conventions. Furthermore, the OCEEA has supported activities aimed at the adoption and implementation of adequate national legislation and the creation of relevant institutions, in particular Financial Intelligence Units.

Public-Private Expert Workshop on Preventing the Abuse of Non-Profit Organizations for Terrorist Financing

In September 2009, a Public-Private Expert Workshop on “*Preventing the Abuse of Non-Profit Organizations for Terrorist Financing*” was organised in Vienna by the Action against Terrorism Unit with the support of the OCEEA. Building on previous OSCE efforts to promote public-private partnerships in countering terrorism (MC.DEC.5/07), the workshop focused on the Financial Action Task Force Special Recommendation (FATF SR) VIII on non-profit organizations. The proceedings emphasized that there remained significant compliance issues with respect to FATF SR VIII, notably in terms of risk assessment, inadequate oversight of the non-profit sector and lack of outreach and awareness raising efforts by state authorities. The workshop was attended by 155 participants from 39 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation countries as well as by experts from other international organizations and representatives of civil society and business organizations.

International Seminar on Combating Terrorist Financing

In December 2009, the OCEEA supported the Basel Institute of Governance, the EBRD and the IMF in organizing an international seminar on “*Countering the*

Financing of Terrorism – the next decade”. The event was held in Switzerland and was a follow-up to the Giessbach (2007) and Davos (2008) international seminars on the challenges of combating terrorist financing and cybercrime. This time the seminar discussions focused on recent trends in international terrorism, the role of financial institutions in combating terrorist financing, the challenges of international lists of terrorist suspects, terrorist financing typologies, and the use of Internet by terrorists. It also involved practical case work for seminar participants on investigations and prosecutions of terrorist financing cases. The seminar was attended by financial sector officials, investigators, prosecutors and experts from Financial Intelligence Units.

Strengthening Relations with Regional and International Organizations and Bodies

The OCEEA has continued its co-operation with partner international bodies and organizations in the fields of Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, such as the UNODC, World Bank, the Council of Europe and the FATF. Working ties have been enhanced through consultations, mutual participation in workshops and exchange of information. Its co-operation with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) has also been enhanced since the OSCE was granted observer status in 2006 in the EAG Plenary Meetings. On the occasion of the 10th Plenary in 2009, held in St. Petersburg, the two organizations discussed how to further intensify the exchange of information between the two bodies and deepen co-operation in the area of technical assistance.

Azerbaijan – Enhancing Anti-money Laundering Measures

In 2009, Azerbaijan achieved considerable progress in aligning the anti-money laundering framework with the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations and the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime of 1990. It adopted legislation to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism and established the Financial Monitoring Service under the Central Bank, to monitor suspicious transactions. The OSCE Office in Baku contributed to the implementation of the newly

adopted Law on Preventing Legalization of Money and Property Obtained in Criminal Ways and Financing of Terrorism by publishing the first comprehensive reference guidebook to explain its essential provisions. The book, which was written by a Senior Specialist of the Financial Monitoring Service, was designed to help the commercial banks and law enforcement bodies of Azerbaijan apply the provisions of the Law to their operations. The book also contributed to raising the general awareness of the anti-money laundering issues among the relevant institutions dealing with legal and economic issues.

The OSCE Office in Baku has offered further assistance to the newly established Financial Monitoring Service, in organizing its work.

Uzbekistan – Supporting the Fight Against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism

In 2009, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) initiated a two-year project to help build the operational capacities of the relevant Uzbek anti-money laundering/countering financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) structures, namely the Financial Intelligence Unit within the Office of the General Prosecutor and the Central Bank. The PCUz provided expert advice to the drafting of internal rules and regulations for the banking sector concerning the detection of suspicious transactions. Moreover, it organised a visit of nine Uzbek AML specialists to meet with German AML institutions and to



Debates during 3 day training course at the Bank Academy on AML in Beilngries/Bavaria. (OSCE/Caroline Milow)

be trained in the Bank Academy of the Corporate Banks of Bavaria. In October, with the support of a German Extra Budgetary (EB) contribution, the PCUz organised training for nearly 100 staff from commercial and State banks, the FIU and other regulators. Furthermore, an expert drafted the Terms of Reference (ToR) for developing suspicious transaction detecting software for banks. The trainees were acquainted with the international legal framework on AML/CFT such as the 40+9 FATF Recommendations and the Third Directive of the European Commission. In addition, the PCUz sponsored Uzbek representatives to attend the FIU training seminars organised in Kazakhstan by the OSCE in co-operation with UNODC and the World Bank. In 2010, the PCUz continues the successful work on this topic: it provides tailor made capacity building and, through a German EB contribution, supports software development for banks to detect suspicious transactions.

Economic Activities

6.1. Investment and business development

Ministerial Conference on Policies for Competitiveness in Central Asia

The global financial and economic crisis re-emphasized the importance of supporting the development of well governed, transparent and robust economies that can maintain and attract investment and withstand economic shocks and instability. Therefore, the OCEEA continued its co-operation with the OECD and supported preparations for the OECD's Central Asia Initiative Ministerial Conference "*Beyond the Crisis: Supporting Policies for Competitiveness in Central Asia*", to be held in Paris on 17-18 June 2010.

Albania – Enhancing Women's Economic Empowerment

The OSCE Presence in Albania (PiA) has implemented a Women Economic Empowerment project focused on building institutional capacity in northern Albania for improving income generation opportunities for vulnerable groups. The Presence has partnered with a local microfinance institution to provide business support, advisory services and access to micro-loans to some 40 vulnerable women in three regions. Providing women access to the micro-loans is widely seen as a successful strategy in alleviating poverty. The loans have targeted both rural and urban areas and



Used clothing market opened by micro-loan recipient in Puke in northern Albania. (PiA photo September 2009)

have been used either to start business or to expand an existing one. Results of the project indicate an increase in women's self-confidence and status within their families, as well as higher income for the improvement of their families' well-being through enhanced health and nutrition. The provision of training in marketing has provided 150 women with relevant skills to develop successful small businesses.

Armenia – Enabling Regional Socio-Economic Development

By promoting public-private partnerships with the state business support agencies, the OSCE Office has convinced large mining companies to do work aimed at improving the socio-economic development of the region in which they are based. This initiative has been substantially reinforced with the opening of a new office providing state support to small and medium entrepreneurship.



The Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Sergey Kapinos (I) and the Prime Minister of Armenia, Tigran Sargsyan at the opening of an office of the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Centre in Kapan, Armenia, 26 June 2009.

In the spotlight: Armenia Facilitating Reforms in Difficult Times

During the reporting period, the OSCE Office in Yerevan, in partnership with the Government, the donor community and the private sector, has co-organised a series of international conferences, expert workshops and roundtables. The purpose of these meetings has been to discuss the impact of the global financial crisis on emerging and developing economies and suggest effective policies to provide

for economic recovery in Armenia. The key pillars of the long-term strategies include reforms aimed at creating a business friendly environment in order to diversify the economy. They also aim at providing the legislative and administrative conditions necessary to curb existing monopolies and to achieve improvements in tax and customs administrations to clamp down on the shadow economy.



Raul de Luzenberger, Head of the EC Delegation to Armenia, Aristomene Varoudakis, Head of the World Bank Office in Armenia and Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, at a conference on the global economy, Yerevan, 7 July 2009.

Azerbaijan – Contributing to Diversification and Non-oil Sector Development

Despite the global financial crisis and the drop in oil prices, Azerbaijan's gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 9.3% in 2009. One contributing factor to this increase was that the Government had undertaken a policy to diversify the economic basis of the country and promote the non-oil sector.

The OSCE Office in Baku, in its turn, has contributed to the implementation of the State Programme of Socio-Economic Development of Regions for 2009-2013, by conducting a series of training programmes on entrepreneurship in several regions of Azerbaijan. 200 potential and existing small and medium entrepreneurs in non-oil sectors have received training and counselling on how to start or further develop their businesses.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship

The OSCE Mission has continued to organise intensive three-day youth entrepreneurship training seminars across Bosnia and Herzegovina in partnership with regional development agencies, municipalities, local

businesses, employment bureaus and youth NGOs interested to learn about the practical issues involved in developing business plans and starting new businesses. Over the past year, 350 young people have participated in 28 seminars, leading to the establishment of 30 new businesses and 35 young persons have been placed in companies in different municipalities. Out of the 28 training workshops, 6 have been organised and implemented entirely by local partners without OSCE financial support. This has been a positive development in which the municipalities



In the municipality of Sekovici in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina young people participate in entrepreneurship training. (OSCE/Danica Pelemis-Subotic)

In the spotlight: Kyrgyz Republic Entrepreneurship Training for Young People in Rural Regions

In July 2009, the OSCE Centre supported a two-week training course for young people from Kyrgyz Republic's rural regions on entrepreneurial skills, which was given by top students from Bishkek-based economic universities who had received extensive training on teaching business issues before being deployed to the regions. The course, which was held simultaneously in ten locations across the country, was organised in partnership with the Bishkek Business Club. Through this initiative, rural youth had an

opportunity to collaborate with urban youth to develop their skills in preparing small scale business plans. This exercise was mutually supportive since it was able to both help diversify the rural economy and to improve the understanding of urban entrepreneurs in doing business in the regions. The project had a positive impact in many ways by encouraging new leaders, fostering the social and economic development of remote rural areas and enhancing interregional understanding.



Young people from a rural region of Kyrgyz Republic at a training course on entrepreneurial skills, Karabak, Batken region, 15 July 2009. (OSCE/Zamir Aldashev)

(all of whom had worked with the Mission in previous years) have recognized the value of the trainings and financially supported the costs on their own. For the remainder of 2010 and beyond, the transfer of funding responsibilities from the OSCE to local partners will continue to be promoted as a means to further sustain this initiative.

Kyrgyz Republic – Entrepreneurship Development in the Former Uranium Mining Village Min-Kush

In co-operation with the local branch of French non-governmental organization ACTED, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek supported the population of Min Kush, a former uranium mining village in Naryn oblast, in establishing and developing small businesses, which have brought a wide range of needed services, including hairdressing and catering. Drawing on ACTED's experience in other countries, the project has created more than 20 new local business groups aimed at helping the most marginalized households in Min-Kush. The groups have also received vocational training in sewing, wool processing, vehicle repair and computer literacy. Business training was an important component of the project.

Tajikistan – Supporting Investment and Business Development in the Tajik Agricultural Sector

Ten Small Business and Agricultural Resource Centres (SBARCs), supported by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, continued to function throughout 2009 providing training on how to start a business. In 2009, almost 9,000 men and women benefited from services provided by SBARCs, including over 5,000 participants in training courses and 3,805 in individual consultations.

Beginning in 2009, the Office in Tajikistan focused its support on the most efficient centres and established a novel result-oriented service agreement with the selected centres that will help to cope with the challenges of Tajikistan's agricultural sector.

In 2009, the Office initiated the transformation of centres into fee-based service facilities and established partnership with the EBRD. This has demonstrated positive results in the Rasht Valley, allowing for the emergence of a local market for customer-oriented, fee-based rural extension services. As a result, farmers are now ready to pay 50% of the consultants' professional

fees thus providing a basis for long-term sustainability and local ownership.

Uzbekistan – Drafting a Law on the Establishment of an International Arbitration Court

Aiming at obtaining legal security for Uzbek entrepreneurs in the world market and for foreign entrepreneurs in the Uzbek economic system, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) created an expert working group to analyse international standards and agreements on international commercial arbitration and identify gaps and contradictions in the legislation of Uzbekistan. As a result, a new law on international arbitration court was developed. To insure public participation, a series of round tables, seminars and conferences for judges and entrepreneurs on international commercial trials were organised and generated positive public opinion on international arbitration courts in Uzbekistan. On 28 October, the PCUz organised an international conference entitled “International commercial arbitration in the context of judiciary–legal reform”, in which arbitration experts from the Russian Federation and Germany participated and discussed with the Uzbek experts the text of their draft law. The Law is supposed to be adopted in early summer 2010.



The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador Istvan Venczel (centre), listens to an arbitration case at the OSCE-supported Arbitration Centre in Tashkent. (OSCE/Oleg Zaichenko)

Uzbekistan – Drafting a new Law on Agricultural Business

Uzbekistan currently has a variety of laws concerning agricultural business, but there is no overarching and

comprehensive law on agriculture, which would support the diversification of agriculture and help Uzbekistan enter the international market. Thus, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz), together with the Committee on Agriculture and Water Management of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management, started a two-year project aimed at drafting a new law on agriculture based on research on best practices in the OSCE region. As a result, the working group elaborated a concept for the future law. On 26 November, the PCUz organised a national conference to present the intermediate results of the project. The working group members discussed the law concept with the representatives of ministries, committees, and associations, as well as with universities, different research institutes and individual farmers. This initiative, which received positive feedback from all sides, continued in January 2010 through the participation of working group members in the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture and the visit to the annual fair for food and agriculture products *Green Week* in Berlin. The working group is currently working on the law text itself.

Uzbekistan – Agriculture Development and Establishment of Information Centres for Farmers

In continuation of its efforts during the last three years, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) together with its partner, the Farmers' Association of Uzbekistan, opened three pilot information centres in Karshi, Urgench and Ferghana in order to provide training and information for farmers through seminars, advice, reference library and internet connection. The three centre managers had the opportunity to receive training through the Agro Information Centre



Training on sustainable development provided for the farmers in Urgench Information Centre. (OSCE/Caroline Milow)

of Azerbaijan. Training support was rendered through the Mashav Center for International Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. The project also created links with the German Farmers' Association by a study visit to Bavaria aimed at acquainting the Uzbek farming sector with modern developments in stock breeding and milk production as well as in alternative sources of income for farmers. In co-operation with TIKKA, the PCUz supported further training measures for Karshi farmers in Turkey. Throughout the year, a series of two-day training seminars were held in seven regions of the country.

6.2. Transport and security, border crossing facilitation

6.2.1. Regional co-operation in the area of transport security and border crossing facilitation

Kazakhstan – Supporting Research on Progress in Transit Transportation

The OSCE Centre in Astana assisted the Research

Institute for Transport and Communications in preparing a strategic analysis and recommendations for the Kazakh Ministry of Transport and Communications to improve the transit transport potential of the country. These activities have continued throughout 2010 and have been reflected in the work of the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum as a priority for the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship. The topic will remain in the focus of attention of the Centre because of its key significance for security and economic development of Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region.

Uzbekistan – Supporting Transport Sector Development

In 2009, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) implemented a project to support Uzbekistan in operating a more efficient regional transport programme. The PCUz established a working group consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade, the State Customs Committee, Uzvneshtans State Company, State Joint Stock Company “O‘zbekiston Temir Yo‘llari”, Uzbek Agency of Automobile and River Transport, Association of International Road Carriers Forwarders and other independent national experts. The

In the spotlight: Turkmenistan Promoting Co-operation at Railway Border Crossings in Central Asia

The role of international legal instruments in promoting passenger and freight conveyance by rail, harmonizing railway documentation and applying international best practices to enhance the transit of goods in Central Asia were among the themes addressed by the regional conference on “Strengthening Co-operation at Railway Border Crossings in Central Asia”, which was held on 1-2 July 2009 in the city of Balkanabat, Turkmenistan.

Organised by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat in partnership with

the OCEEA, the conference brought together representatives from the trade, transport and customs agencies of the Central Asian countries, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT).

The conference was a part of ongoing efforts to promote trade and transport security in the region.



A freight train in Turkmenistan, 2 July 2009. Turkmenistan is an important country along the trans-Caspian railway routes. (OSCE/Roel Janssens)

working group elaborated a concise study on priorities and development of automobile and railway transport and their integration into the trans-regional transport system as well as on possible safety improvements in cargo transportation. It also touched upon priorities and development possibilities of logistic centres in Uzbekistan.

These documents were discussed during a two-day regional round table in Tashkent on 10-11 December 2009 with representatives from Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic and international experts from the UNECE, the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and OTIF. The meeting was preceded by a training course on customs procedures, focusing in particular on the *UNECE International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods* (and its annexes 1-8). The training gathered around 100 officers of the Uzbek Customs Committee and was made possible through an ExB contribution of the United States.



Training for 100 customs officers at the Uzbek State Customs Committee in Tashkent, December 2009. (OSCE/Caroline Milow)

6.2.2. Capacity building and training

Georgia – Promoting Good Governance in the Area of Transport Infrastructure Development in the South Caucasus

On 5-6 November 2009, the OCEEA organised, with the support of the Government of Georgia and financial contributions from Belgium and France, a regional seminar in Batumi, Georgia, on the promotion of good governance and fighting corruption in the area



Participants of an OSCE seminar on a study visit to the port of Batumi, which is undergoing reconstruction, 6 November 2009. (OSCE/Alexey Stukalo)

of transport infrastructure development in the South Caucasus. The seminar gathered over 40 officials from the Ministries of Transport, Finance and Justice and anti-corruption agencies in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as researchers, international experts and representatives of international organizations. Participants exchanged information on their national policy mechanisms and legal frameworks in the fight against corruption and discussed ways of raising transparency and accountability in public tendering and bidding processes.

Tajikistan – Facilitating Cross-border Trade Activities and Implementation of Good Governance Practices at Border Crossings

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan continued to implement activities aimed at facilitating cross-border trade and promote good governance practices by supporting four cross-border trade resource centres in 2009 on the Tajik-Afghan border. These centres continue to provide Tajik and Afghan trading entrepreneurs with free consultations on cross-border trade taxation, customs dues and responsibilities of border guards and customs services. In 2009, approximately 1,800 entrepreneurs benefited from these services, including 360 entrepreneurs receiving in-depth consultations.

In addition, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan supported the creation of local users groups, gathering all actors involved in cross-border trade at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border

and at the Tajik-Afghan border. The Office supports policy dialogue among local actors and national authorities targeted to develop partnership with the State Committee for Investment and State Property.

Turkmenistan – Discussing Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation

With the support of the OCEEA, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organised a two-day seminar on legal aspects of international transport, harmonizing customs controls of goods and easing border crossings for legitimate trade in November 2009 in Ashgabat. The seminar was a national follow-up to a regional seminar on increasing co-operation at railway border crossings in Central Asia, held in Balkanabat, Turkmenistan, in July 2009.

Experts from the OSCE, the UNECE and the IRU presented and discussed measures and techniques to better co-ordinate the work of domestic border agencies, enhance trans-border co-operation between agencies and further strengthen the partnership between public and private sectors.

Among the participants were representatives of various transport ministries and agencies, the State Customs and Border Services. The seminar was organised with an overall goal to share best practices, notably on the accession to and the implementation of legal instruments related to the facilitation of border crossing for legitimate trade, international transport and harmonization of customs controls of goods. The



Participants in the two-day seminar on legal aspects of international transport, harmonizing customs controls on goods and easing border crossings, Turkmenistan.

seminar contributed to addressing the causes of delays at border crossings in order to maintain the benefits of the TIR transit system.

The workshop reaffirmed the OSCE's commitment to support the host country's efforts in strengthening its transport infrastructure and facilitating trade with its neighbours. Acceding to and implementing more effectively the UNECE legal instruments in the area of international transport by Turkmenistan and other countries of the region can significantly increase the transit potential of Central Asia and make border crossings more efficient for businesses and more secure for governments.

6.2.3. Sharing of best practices and information

Tajikistan – Developing Partnerships with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to enhance Free Economic Zones

In 2009, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan provided significant expertise and technical contributions to the enhancement of the Free Economic Zones (FEZs), assisting the Government in producing a new draft law on FEZs that incorporates internationally recognized good practices. Moreover, the Office contributed to improving key officials' managerial and technical skills for the operational management of FEZs. These activities also contributed to developing a closer partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. As a result, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Tajik Minister for Economic Development and Trade and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan on 29 March, 2010. On 27 April, the Office in Tajikistan supported the Ministry in organising the first National Coordination Council on Free Economic Zones.

6.3. Energy security dialogue

On 6-7 July 2009, the Greek Chairmanship in co-operation with the Government of Slovakia and with support from the OCEEA, organised in Bratislava a *Conference on Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE Area*. The conference opened the path for the preparation of a new decision on energy security, which,

after negotiations in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee, was finally adopted by the Athens Ministerial Council in December 2009 (MC DEC/6/09).

In co-operation with the OSCE Office in Minsk and the International Sakharov Environmental University, the OCEEA contributed to the Eastern Europe *Experts Workshop on Policies and Tariffs for Alternative Energies*, which took place in October 2009 in Minsk. The meeting emphasized the importance of adapted tariffs policies in the promotion of the development of alternative energies. Experts from Austria, Germany and Sweden provided essential input and background information, and shared positive experiences.

Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, in December 2009, the OCEEA organised an *Expert Workshop on the Security of Energy*

Infrastructure. The meeting gathered representatives from Central and Eastern Europe and addressed ways and means to secure the delivery of energy. Furthermore, the event aimed at discussing the capacity of resilience facing a possible disruption.

In March 2010, the OCEEA contributed to the 9th *Georgian International Oil, Gas, Energy and Infrastructure Conference*, which was organised in Tbilisi. The conference assessed the potential for the development of energy infrastructure in the South Caucasus region.

Armenia – Increasing Energy Security

The OSCE Office in Yerevan supported the development of renewable sources of energy by promoting the application of the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanisms in the Syunik region. The project focused on a group of small-scale hydropower plants and aimed at securing further green investment.

In the spotlight: Central Asia International Energy Security Conference: Strengthening regional co-operation in Central Asia for promoting stable and reliable energy within Eurasia

Energy co-operation in Central Asia and the design of a legal framework for reliable and stable energy flows in the region was the focus of a two-day OSCE-supported conference convened on 3-4 May 2010 in Ashgabat.

The conference, co-hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan and the OSCE, brought together 120 participants from 26 OSCE participating States and two OSCE Partners for Co-operation. The participants included representatives of international organizations and major energy companies, as well as energy experts and they discussed opportunities for regional energy co-operation, in particular the development of a legal energy

framework acceptable to producer, transit and consumer countries.

The importance of developing stronger international governance for global energy supply on the basis of clearly identified legal norms and mechanisms was highlighted in the course of the conference. It was underlined that balanced and fair rules in the energy sector were as vital as they were in any other part of the economy. Equally, energy co-operation should be driven by a balanced approach - taking into account the interests of production and development, transportation and consumption. Turkmenistan's contribution to these goals, embodied in the form of a resolution at the 63rd UN General Assembly Session 2008



Conference participants at the International Energy Security Conference on 3-4 May 2010 in Ashgabat.

that called for a stable and reliable transit of energy to the world markets, was hailed.

Azerbaijan – Promoting Renewable Energy

Azerbaijan is well-known for its richness in oil resources, but there is also significant potential for developing renewable sources of energy (solar, wind, biogas). Since 2009 the OSCE Office in Baku has been active in supporting the efforts of the Azerbaijani Government in developing renewable energy. In the light of efforts to combat global climate change and highly volatile prices for fossil fuels, renewable sources of energy have received a great deal of attention from policy makers across the OSCE region and on a global scale. In many countries, the development of renewable energies has created a new industry with new job opportunities. The Office's main objective is to contribute to the improvement of the legal and regulatory framework of renewable energy in Azerbaijan as a crucial precondition for the successful development of the sector.

Several activities have been conducted to raise the awareness of the benefits of renewable energy sources among policy makers. The OSCE Office has also facilitated the creation of networks between Government agencies, industry associations, and the private sector. In December 2009, the Office conducted a five-day training course on international best practices for the legal and regulatory framework for renewable energy. The training course was designed for representatives of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Industry and Energy, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Tariff (Price) Council,

AzerEnergy, the State Oil Company SOCAR, as well as research institutions and private sector representatives. In October 2009, the Office and the Ministry of Industry and Energy organised one of the first conferences in Azerbaijan dedicated solely to renewable energy. The conference provided a comprehensive overview on the current state of renewable energy in the country and international experts contributed to the discussion on the legal frameworks for renewable energy development.

In April 2010, a one-week study tour to Spain was organised for ten representatives from Azerbaijan focusing on the Spanish experience with the legal framework for renewable energy. The study tour included site visits to photovoltaic and solar-thermal power plants. The OSCE Office in Baku plans to continue its activities in promoting renewable energy in Azerbaijan in 2010 and envisages co-operation with authorities to make concrete proposals for a comprehensive renewable energy law.

Belarus – Pursuing the Dialogue on the Security of Energy Infrastructures at the Regional Level

In December 2009, the OSCE Office in Minsk, in coordination with the OCEEA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised an Eastern Europe Experts' Seminar on the Security of Critical Energy Infrastructures. The event brought together experts from specialized organizations,



Participants of the Study tour to Spain.

In the spotlight: Belarus

Promoting most Efficient Policies for Renewable Energies in Eastern Europe

In October# 2009, the OSCE Office in Minsk, jointly with the International Sakharov Environmental University and the National Department for Energy Efficiency, organised an Eastern Europe Experts' workshop on *Policies and Tariffs for Alternative Energies*. The event gathered experts,

country representatives from the region as well as the key national institutions. The event allowed for the exchange of best practices in terms of policies to reach the most efficient energy mix based on national assets. Facing severe challenges with the rise of prices for imported fossil

fuels, Belarus has taken an early start in the region in terms of policies for energy efficiency and the promotion of alternative energies based on local resources.

energy-related institutions, companies, representatives of OSCE participating States' Embassies and think-tanks. Assessing the reliability, safety and the resilience of energy infrastructures linking suppliers and consumers for oil and gas is part of the dialogue on energy security in the OSCE region.

Serbia – First Regional Conference: “Corporate Social Responsibility and Energy Efficiency”

The project aimed at promoting energy efficiency through awareness rising which targeted various stakeholders, business sector and civil society organizations. South-Eastern Europe represents a challenging market place where economic and social performances are not always followed by relevant technological developments. These conditions lead to the deterioration of the regional environmental situation, but also to an increase of inefficient use of energy sources.

Recognizing the problem of energy efficiency in Serbia, the Centre for Monitoring and Evaluation (CME), organised the First Regional Conference on 11 – 13 April, 2009 in Belgrade, entitled “*Social Corporate Responsibility and Energy Efficiency*”. The Conference focused on the role and responsibility of companies in South-Eastern Europe in relation to energy efficiency.

The OSCE Mission in Belgrade supported the production of six video lessons, which emerged from the Conference. The lessons are available at the website of the implementing partner on this project, CME - http://www.cme.rs/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=137&Itemid=294.

Turkmenistan – Solar and Wind Sustainability, Creation of a Renewable Energy Market

Organised by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat in September 2009, the three-day Solar and Wind Systems Sustainability seminar aimed at sharing best practices in the areas of technology development, renewable energy market creation, management and policy in other OSCE participating States.

The seminar focused on topics such as new developments in solar technology, the impact of renewable energy policy on climate change, wind power development in Europe and European energy security. Special emphasis was put on discussions, group work and case studies.

Turkmenistan has a very high potential for developing renewable energy resources, especially solar and wind. The seminar was the very first of its kind to be organised by the OSCE in Turkmenistan.

Environmental Activities

7.1. The Environment and Security Initiative

7.1.1. ENVSEC progress to date

The OCEEA has continued its involvement in the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, in co-operation with other international partners including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), and associate partner NATO (Science for Peace and Security Programme).

Confronting environmental threats to build security and confidence between states is the main objective of the ENVSEC Initiative. ENVSEC is dedicated to finding solutions for environmental hazards before they cross national borders and cause tensions or instability. With a budget of approximately € 30 million, the ENVSEC Initiative is currently implementing around 45 projects in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

2009 marked a transformative year for the ENVSEC Initiative. Bolstered by a new contribution of € 6.5 million from the Finnish government for the period of 2009-2012, ENVSEC partners have recently fortified its Secretariat based at UNEP's Regional Office for Europe in Geneva. The ENVSEC Initiative intends to integrate new reporting and evaluation capabilities to enable more effective work programmes in coordination with participating States.

7.1.2. Highlights from Central Asia

ENVSEC work in Central Asia, comprising Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, started in 2002 with the identification of geographic hotspots and major linkages between environment and security issues. Since then the OCEEA, together with ENVSEC partners, has undertaken detailed assessments and implemented a number of projects in the region.

Amu Darya Assessment

The UNEP has provided an updated version of the draft ENVSEC Amu Darya assessment which has been circulated to OSCE field offices as well as UNDP field offices. The report is set to be published by end of 2010.

Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context: Pilot Implementation Project in Central Asia

The OCEEA finalised the report for the project in both English and Russian. It is available on the OCEEA and on UNECE websites. Furthermore, the project results were presented to the 5 Central Asian Ministers of Environment, through the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development as well as to ENVSEC National Focal Points in Central Asia.

7.1.3. Highlights from Eastern Europe

The ENVSEC Eastern Europe work programme, in the reporting year, focused on supporting co-operation and preventing tensions on transboundary water basins by organising a series of meetings for the countries sharing the Pripyat River, the Dniester River, the Danube Delta and the Drisviaty Lake. Moreover, preparations for an ENVSEC project to analyze the environmental dimension of energy strategies in Eastern Europe and to explore modern approaches to long-term scenario analysis and planning, took place in Lund and Copenhagen on 12-15 October 2009.

In the spotlight: Moldova Promoting Confidence building in the Dniestr/Nistru region

The OSCE Mission to Moldova has no Economic and Environmental dimension to its mandate, but promotes cross-dimensional activities contributing to confidence building between the communities on both sides of the River Dniestr/Nistru in support of the Transnistrian

settlement process. This includes support for the joint Moldovan and Transnistrian Confidence Building Measures (CBM) working groups, in particular the one on Agriculture and Economy. In this context the Mission is continuing to assist with the development of a project for the

disposal of dangerous pesticides from the Transnistrian region. It is envisaged that such a project would be implemented through the CBM working group within the framework of the joint Environment and Security Initiative for Eastern Europe.

Belarus – Applying the Espoo Convention between Belarus and Lithuania

In June 2009, the OSCE Office in Minsk jointly with the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection organised a seminar on conducting transboundary impact assessments in the context of a new hydro-power station to be built on the Neman River near to the Lithuanian border. The discussions focused on the necessary consultations and exchange of information foreseen under the Espoo Convention on environmental impact assessment. Government experts from Belarus and Lithuania (both countries are party to the Convention) as well as representatives of the Espoo Convention Secretariat, civil society and academia took part in the event. The meeting proves that supporting countries in fulfilling their duties in accordance with international conventions in the field of environmental security remains a critical task for the OSCE.

7.1.4. Highlights from South-Eastern Europe

ENVSEC in South-Eastern Europe has continued its work on mining hot spots, illegal logging and environmental governance. The Regional ENVSEC Meeting hosted by REC in May 2010 brought together government representatives from the region and the ENVSEC partners reinforced the validity of the ENVSEC priorities for the region and called for increased dialogue and co-operation on environmental matters among the participating countries.

7.1.5. Highlights from South Caucasus

ENVSEC is currently implementing several projects to assist the countries of the South Caucasus in jointly managing the transboundary water resources of the Kura-Araks river basin. The OCEEA, in co-operation with the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat, is assisting Georgia in a step-by-step process of ratifying the UNECE Water Convention, an important legal instrument for regulating the use of transboundary water resources. Moreover, a first of a series of consultations between Azerbaijan and Georgia were organised by the OCEEA and UNECE to facilitate the preparation of a bi-lateral water agreement.



Forest fire management training in Antalya, Turkey.

Another critical transboundary environmental issue in recent years has been the problem of uncontrolled wildfires which can quickly jump national borders and threaten neighbouring countries. In this regard, ENVSEC facilitated co-operation between neighbouring states in the field of forest fire management by sponsoring a number of regional trainings and seminars on the forest fire management. On 1-4 March 2010, the OCEEA, in co-operation with the Antalya Regional Forestry Directorate of Turkey, organised an Advanced Training for fire fighting specialists from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia and the Russian Federation in Antalya, Turkey. Additional national trainings and assessments in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are planned for later in 2010.

In March 2010, the ENVSEC Initiative responded to an urgent request received by the OSCE Office in Yerevan from the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations regarding a pesticides burial site near Yerevan, which according to old records, contains over 500 tons of dangerous and banned organ-chlorine pesticides such as DDT. The OCEEA hired an international expert to travel to Yerevan to assess the burial site and found an emergency situation with pesticides uncovered and exposing an imminent health risk to nearby village populations. As a result of the ENVSEC assessment, the Armenian government has committed financial resources to implement emergency measures and several international organizations are currently discussing long-term remediation of the site in co-ordination with the OSCE Office in Yerevan.



Pesticides burial site near Yerevan.

7.2. Co-operation on combating land degradation and managing water resources

7.2.1. Land degradation and waste management, including radioactive waste in Central Asia



Waste Watch Cards. (OSCE/Raul Dausa)

Following the implementation of the project “Building Capacity for Combating Illegal Transboundary Transportation of Hazardous Waste in Eastern Europe”, the OSCE Secretariat translated and published into Russian a collection of Waste(s) Watch Cards (a quick reference for border management authorities) for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Co-operation with the IAEA on Radioactive Waste Issues

During the past year, the OCEEA has been collaborating closely with the IAEA and other partners on finalising the IAEA publication on Assessment and Proposals for Uranium Productions Legacy Sites in Central Asia: An International Approach. The document serves as a baseline for activities related to radioactive waste, to take place in Central Asia and includes a risk assessment on specific sites. In parallel, the OCEEA

has supported the Office in Tajikistan and the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan in identifying concrete missions and project ideas stemming from the Assessment document.

Belarus – Sustainable Development based on Local Agro-resources for Chernobyl-affected Districts

The OSCE Office in Minsk, in partnership with the International Foundation for Rural Development and the local association of small farmers, has been supporting



Participants of the project “technology-based growth for greenhouses” in Stolín district affected by Chernobyl, 25 June 2009.

projects in the Stolín district for technology-based economic growth on farms producing cucumbers and strawberries, a main export earner for the district. In addition, with the support of Belgian funding, the Office has supported a programme in the Slavgorod district to promote rural youth entrepreneurship based on local resources and capabilities.

Kyrgyz Republic – Prevention of Environmental Threats through Improvement of Waste Management

The number of environmental problems associated with waste and lack of proper waste management has increased in the Kyrgyz Republic since the disintegration of the Soviet Union. These problems include air pollution due to burning of waste, pollution of ground and surface waters due to illegal and poorly prepared waste dumps, the spread of infectious diseases, etc. In addressing these serious environmental threats, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek has supported improvement of municipal services in Talas, Naryn in the north and Osh, Uzgen in the southern part of the Kyrgyz Republic. The project has also promoted recycling initiatives in schools and universities in the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic and helped to mobilize local NGOs and the population to improve the ecological situation near Son-Kul Lake in Naryn oblast.

**In the spotlight: Tajikistan
Collaborating with International Organizations on Waste Management**

In 2009, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan began close collaboration with the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Supported by the GTZ and the Committee on Environmental Protection, the Office has facilitated consultations between interested parties on designing a business plan for a state-of-the-art waste

management complex in Tajikistan.

The Office in Tajikistan has also brought national and international attention to the radioactive waste challenges in northern Tajikistan. In particular, the Office has supported the host government’s appeal to the senior management of the IAEA to work more closely with Tajikistan. Moreover, in partnership with the

IAEA, the Office supported a mission of IAEA-endorsed experts to assess the level of the radioactive waste threat in the Taboshar and Degmai areas. This will contribute to the preparation of a comprehensive documentation for rehabilitation and remediation cost estimates and a full scale Environmental Impact Assessment.

Uzbekistan – National Action Plan on Waste Management

The objective of this project was to support government policies and strategies in Uzbekistan to protect the environment and natural resources by using them in a sustainable way. The first component of the project analyzed modern normative and legal best practices of nature protection in the field of waste management, such as analysis of statistical data and its improvement. Landfills are no longer a valid and secure possibility to deal with waste, thus it became necessary to elaborate a business plan for a waste incineration plant. In co-operation with the Federal Environment Agency of Germany, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) organised a study tour to Hamburg for Goskompriroda experts to study in detail German waste incineration plants and their management. The project's second component looked into possibilities concerning nature protection and waste management. Here, the PCUz co-operated closely with the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan. In addition, a photo competition for children of different age groups and adults was organised in Tashkent. In October, the PCUz conducted a round table with extensive media coverage during which the winners of the competition received their prizes and experts and project partners discussed the results of the studies done with the media, trying to raise public awareness on the waste issue in the country.



Winners of the photo and painting contest for young people in Tashkent and participants of the round table held in November 2009. (OSCE/Zafar Saydaliev)



Handing over the first prize of the painting contest – category 8 to 10 year old. (OSCE/Zafar Saydaliev)

7.2.2. Strengthening the dialogue and co-operation on water management

Eastern Europe – Promoting Co-operation in the Dniester River Basin

The project aiming at improvement of transboundary co-operation and sustainable management in the Dniester River basin continued in 2010 with the support of Finland. During the reporting period, the draft bilateral Dniester River basin Agreement was prepared for the second round of comments by the relevant authorities. Moldovan and Ukrainian health authorities conducted three joint water sampling, agreed upon joint future activities and approved a study “Assessment and evaluation of the transboundary monitoring of the Dniester River”. A pilot geographic information system (GIS) of the river basin has been developed and a number of public awareness campaigns have been organised throughout the entire Dniester River basin.

Seminar on International Water Law and Cross-Border Water Management for Kyrgyz And Tajik Experts

As a follow-up to MC.DEC 7/07, Austria supported a seminar and study tour for Kyrgyz and Tajik nationals on International Water Law and Cross-Border Water Management which took place in Vienna on 4-6 May 2009. The seminar focused on some of the similarities between Austria and the Central Asian countries of

Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan and how issues were resolved for Austria. Presentations and discussions on topics related to Austrian water law, climate change, mountain regions and glacial melting, legal frameworks for international co-operation in water affairs as well as hydropower in Austria, including economic and environmental framework conditions. The group also visited the Economic and Environmental Committee Meeting on 5 May 2009, the Austrian Parliament, the hydropower station Kraftwerk Freudenau and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

Chu Talas II – Development of Co-operation on the Chu and Talas Rivers

Since the first project meeting, which took place in Bishkek on 6-7 February 2009, the project has supported two further meetings of the Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic on the use of Water Management Facilities of Intergovernmental Status on the Rivers Chu and Talas, one in Bishkek on 6-7 October 2009 and one in Taraz, Kazakhstan on 7-8 April 2010.

Thanks to continued support from the Government of Finland, amendments and additions to the bilateral agreement were approved at the October meeting while a draft Statute on an International river basin council for the Chu and Talas Rivers was prepared and reviewed at the April meeting. A new website of the Commission was put in place (www.chutalascommission.org) and a note on co-financing and maintenance costs of water facilities of interstate use was prepared based on recommendations by national experts from both countries.

Collaboration with EC-IFAS

The OCEEA has strengthened working contacts with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS). The OSCE Centre in Astana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its Kazakh branch and engaged in joint projects.

Collaboration with the UNECE Helsinki Convention

On 10-12 November 2009, the OCEEA participated in the Fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Helsinki Convention. Several points of collaboration between the OSCE and the UNECE Helsinki Convention were noted and are included in the Convention's Workplan for 2010-2012. Publications that the OCEEA has contributed to, such as the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, and River Basin Commissions and other Institutions for Transboundary Water Co-operation were presented.

The OCEEA will continue its collaboration with OSCE field offices in contributing to the sub-regional workshops leading to the Second Assessment of the Status of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters to be presented at the Environment for Europe meeting in Astana in 2011. This year the OSCE has participated and contributed, through the OCEEA and its field presences, to the Workshop on the Caucasus held on 8-10 December 2009 in Tbilisi and the Workshop on Eastern and Northern Europe, which took place on 27-29 April 2010 in Kyiv.

Kazakhstan – Promoting Integrated Water Resource Principles and Practice

The OSCE Centre in Astana, jointly with the Water Resources Committee and local administrations, launched a pilot training module on integrated water resource management. The aim is to optimize the use



Deputy Akim of Almaty Oblast Bolat Takenov (l) and Anara Tieulesova (r), Chair of the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council, signing a three-party Basin Agreement at the OSCE-sponsored meeting in Taldykorgan, 19 November 2009. (OSCE/William Metzger)

of water and spread the respective mechanisms and practices throughout the country. In this context, the Centre has enlarged the framework of co-operation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), and the Regional Executive Directorate of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with its Kazakh branch. The initiative is aimed at revitalizing dialogue and supporting activities, which could help to address environmental and socio-economic issues of the Aral Sea region. In this domain, the Centre's partners are among others UNDP, the European Commission and the German Development Co-operation.

Kyrgyz Republic – Water Conflict Management in Cross-border Areas

The rural population in the Kyrgyz Republic depends on land, water and other natural resources to support their agriculture and livestock. Their degradation due to overuse and ineffective management leads to tension and conflicts within local communities, and more seriously between neighboring villages near the borders. Understanding of the strong need to prevent such conflicts in the future, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek has continued its project "Natural Resource Conflict Mitigation" which began in early 2008.

The project aim is to raise awareness on the potential for conflict over natural resources in Orto-Boz village, Ak-Tatyr aiyl okmotu, Batken oblast. As a result of the trainings, local villages can now mediate and prevent natural resource based conflicts. Furthermore, agreements between local population and local institutions (Aiyl okmotu and others) were developed, approved and documented. The project contributes to the OSCE mission in Central Asia in the field of conflict

prevention for economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security and stability.

Tajikistan – Supporting the Establishment of a Water Information System

In December 2009, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan handed over to the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources a special software package developed for the establishment of an Electronic Water Code to improve the collection of data necessary for effective water resource management. This will assist Tajikistan in establishing a standardized system of water data collection, analysis and transfer to better address water resource management challenges. It streamlines information flows on water management between the Ministry's units and facilitates the negotiations on the distribution of water and energy resources between suppliers and consumers.

Tajikistan – Supporting the Development of the Tajikistan Water Sector Development Programme 2010-2025

In 2009, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan supported an inter-ministerial expert working group in developing the Tajikistan Water Sector Development Programme 2010-2025. This document provides practical recommendations for the enhancement of the 2006 Tajikistan Water Sector Development Strategy. The Programme includes a comprehensive analysis of the current conditions in the Tajik water sector, identifying key challenges constraining the effective development of the sector and listing concrete activities for addressing them.

The final draft of the Water Sector Development Programme was handed over to the Ministry of Land



Beneficiaries of the Water Conflict Management project in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Reclamation and Water Resources in March 2010. The Office will further assist the Ministry in advocating the Programme's endorsement.

Uzbekistan – Drafting Rules and Regulations on Industrial Waste Water

The goal of the two-year project is to support the enhancement of environmental security in the Republic of Uzbekistan. To this end the project supported the State Nature Protection Committee (Goskompriroda) and several other agencies under the Committee to establish rules and regulations, which would set up ways of controlling industrial waste water inflow into surface waters, create a cadastre of hazardous substances and organise the waste water billing system between relevant Uzbek institutions. In 2009, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) in co-operation with the Goskompriroda organised three workshops to discuss with local government units concerned with water treatment and sewage systems the way forward and the crucial points in the future rules and regulations. In close co-operation with the German Federal Environmental Agency, the PCUz supported the work of an international expert to render advice to the Goskompriroda on best available techniques of the OSCE region concerning integrated pollution prevention and control. Additionally, selected representatives of the Goskompriroda and its agencies visited several waste water treatment plants in Germany. The visit was organised by the Federal Environmental Agency.

7.2.3. Protecting the environment in maritime and inland waterways

Kazakhstan – Workshop on Oil Spills Response and Clean-up

Experts from Caspian littoral states, international organizations, the private sector and civil society discussed oil spills remediation issues at a workshop in Atyrau, Kazakhstan on 14 October 2009.

The three-day training workshop was organised by the OSCE Centre in Astana, the OCEEA and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kazakhstan with financial support from the Government of Finland. The Workshop aimed at promoting discussions and clarifying the key

areas related to oil spill preparedness, response and co-operation with a view to further strengthening and development of the national response system of the participating countries and their interaction with the agreed Regional Framework for the Caspian Sea.

Turkmenistan – Workshop on International Maritime Law and Interstate Co-operation

The OSCE Centre in Ashgabat convened a workshop on international maritime law and interstate co-operation in November 2009 in Ashgabat. The workshop brought together representatives of Turkmenistan's maritime transport agencies, including the Department of Sea and Inland Waterways, the State Enterprise for the Caspian Sea under the President of Turkmenistan "CaspEcoControl", the Nature Protection Ministry, and representatives of the Turkmen State Institute of Transport and Communications.

International experts from Austria, Denmark, Spain and Ukraine delivered presentations on international maritime law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the Marine Pollution Regulation (MARPOL). The presentations also addressed related topics such as ballast water management, the role of waste management facilities, ecological monitoring and risk assessment in the maritime ecosystems, and regional mechanisms for response and remediation. Case studies from the Caspian, Black, Azov, Mediterranean and Baltic Seas and the Danube region were presented. Moreover, the participants discussed successful models of co-operation in the maritime sphere in other OSCE participating States and regions.



Turkmenbashi sea port.

The workshop demonstrated that OSCE-facilitated multilateral dialogue on maritime security can provide Turkmenistan with best practices from other regions, such as the Baltic and Black Seas areas, in order to address the region's maritime challenges. It was noted that the challenges faced by the Caspian Sea were not different from those, for instance, in the Baltic region. The experience of the HELCOM in ensuring maritime safety and the model it has developed for inter-state co-operation in responding to oil pollution incidents was found to be useful for the Caspian region. The same can be said of the experience of implementing international conventions in protecting marine resources in the Azov and the Black Sea regions. In particular, it can be applied for the work on safeguarding the Caspian region's biodiversity and sustainable maritime transport system.

Ukraine – Improving Maritime Navigation and Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea Basin

The cost of environmental and economic damage resulting from accidents at sea in the Black Sea basin is increasing year after year, which is causing considerable concern in the international community and the Black Sea littoral states. Responsible maritime navigation and regular environmental monitoring are two key environmental safety elements which are to be introduced in the Black Sea basin. The Odessa Conference on the "Safety of Navigation and Environmental Security in a Transboundary Context in the Black Sea Basin" (June 2008) stressed the need for a modern navigation monitoring system to spot environmental changes resulting from navigation accidents.

To address these challenges, the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine (PCU) conducted research to evaluate the current state of maritime navigation in the Black Sea basin and proposed recommendations on possible measures to reduce environmental risks of maritime navigation. Recommendations are being prepared for possible measures to reduce environmental risks in the Black Sea basin. These recommendations can contribute to the creation of a system of environmental monitoring that would allow constant observation of the Black Sea environmental condition, speed up the decision-making process

in case of accidents at sea and minimize potential damage to the environment. The OSCE PCU plans to test-run the monitoring system in 2010 and incorporate international best practices to create Ukraine-specific monitoring tool by June 2011.

7.3. Addressing the security implications of climate change

The OCEEA provided support in organising the Chairmanship's Conference on Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE region, which took place in Bucharest, on 5 and 6 October 2009. The conference concluded that the OSCE has a role to play in addressing the security implications of climate change, by monitoring and examining how climate change may act as a threat multiplier across the OSCE area, in specific sub-regions and in disputes over critical natural resources.

Moreover, the OCEEA hosted consultations with the EU regarding the report on "Climate Change and International Security" presented by the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy in March 2008, and provided input to the UN Secretary General's report to the General Assembly on Climate change and its possible security implications.

On 3 February 2010, back-to-back to the second part of the Economic and Environmental Forum in Vienna, the extra budgetary project "*Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE region*" was launched with a kick off seminar that brought together experts, OSCE field presences representatives and OSCE delegations. The project intends to develop a comprehensive analysis of the security implications of climate change in the OSCE region, with the aim of raising awareness, provide early warning and recommend measures for ensuring security and promoting co-operation among OSCE participating States.

Armenia – Raising Public Awareness on Climate Change

The OSCE Office in Yerevan supported the National Conference on "*Security Implication of Climate Change*" organised by the Ministry of Nature Protection

and the NGO Coalition, as well as a series of round-table discussions on the issue. It sought to raise public awareness on climate change, clarify the latter's impact upon Armenian land, and provide an opportunity to inform the public of programmes implemented in Armenia to address climate change.

Azerbaijan – Training Journalists in Climate Change Reporting

In November 2009, the OSCE Office in Baku and the Azerbaijan Media Center organised a five-day training course for fifteen media professionals on climate change reporting. The purpose of the training was to support and boost professional reporting on climate change in Azerbaijani media and thereby increase public

awareness about the implications of climate change as well as of the importance of national and international efforts to mitigate it. The training course brought together fifteen professional Azerbaijani journalists who were encouraged to apply their acquired knowledge and practical skills to increase publicity of potential impacts of climate change and of the possible measures to tackle them.

The training was conducted on the eve of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, in order to highlight the issue of climate change on a national level at the same time as it was featured high on the international agenda.

In the spotlight: Serbia Institutional Capacity Building: “Towards the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen“

Together with the Serbian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the OSCE Mission to Serbia organised on 23 November 2009, in Belgrade a seminar entitled “Towards the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen”.

The agenda of the seminar laid out the obligations at the national level and presented the information relevant for the participation of the Serbian delegation at the UN Conference on Climate Change, which was held from 7 to 18 December 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

More than 50 participants from governmental institutions, especially those of units responsible for international co-operation and EU integration, journalists and representatives of local authorities shared their views on the implications of climate change for security and sustainable development.



Daiana Falloni (right), Head of Democratization Department of the OSCE Mission, talks at the seminar. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



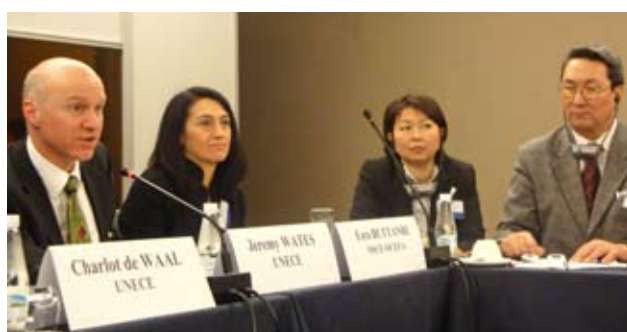
Participants of the seminar on climate change implications. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

7.4. Raising awareness, strengthening capacity and improving participatory mechanisms in environmental affairs

7.4.1. Aarhus Centres

The OCEEA, in close co-operation with the UNECE has continued its support to the implementation of the UNECE Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. In 2009-2010 three new Aarhus Centres have joined the network which currently includes thirty Centres in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Serbia and Tajikistan. Based on the results of the 2008 Independent Evaluation, two key policy documents - the Aarhus Centre Roadmap and the Aarhus Centre Guidelines - which shape the future direction of the Aarhus Centre initiative, have been developed. The Roadmap is a short- to medium-term instrument designed to identify relevant activities by the Aarhus Centres to support the Aarhus Convention Strategic Plan (2009-14) and to improve the performance of the Centres. The Aarhus Centre Guidelines provide guidance on the long-term strategic orientation, institutional set-up and desired activities for Aarhus Centres, and are designed to ensure a common understanding about the Centres' role among all stakeholders.

In January 2010, the OSCE convened the second Aarhus Centres Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey (the first had been held in January 2009 in Vienna) which brought together government and Aarhus Centre representatives from South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, the UNECE, the OSCE



Aarhus Centres Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.

field operations as well as experts to discuss issues and developments relevant to the Convention and the Aarhus Centre Initiative. The meeting highlighted the capacity-building needs of the Aarhus Centres, called for increased networking and co-operation among them, and for mainstreaming the Aarhus Centres initiative into relevant environmental programmes and projects of the governments, OSCE field operations, and ENVSEC.

Albania – Strengthening Environmental Governance

Assistance to the Government with regard to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention has continued to be provided. Key to this support has been the network of Aarhus Information Centres, which present an interface between state structures and the public to facilitate dialogue on matters of local concern relating to environmental protection and community health. These Centres have been supported to conduct public outreach activities in remote communities in three regions aimed at promoting public awareness of the Convention's provisions with respect to locally identified problems including solid waste pollution, over fishing and illegal forestry. The Centres have also organised workshops aimed at highlighting public officials' legal obligations to routinely provide citizens with information, and to consult with the public in planning processes. Tailored trainings have been organised for the private sector to highlight their responsibilities regarding legal compliance with public consultation obligations during Environmental Impact Assessment for proposed investments. The Aarhus website has attracted 1,638 visitors and 1,360 students have visited the Centres.



Regional Environment Agency representative explains the challenges of ensuring public consultation in Albania to a visiting OSCE-sponsored delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina, February 2010.

Armenia – Supporting the Establishment of New Centres

The OSCE Office in Yerevan has continued to support the Armenian Government in its efforts to set up and operate Aarhus Centres, and to thereby contribute to the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Currently, a network of fourteen Aarhus Centres operates throughout the country. This wide network (www.aarhus.am) coordinates the efforts at regional, national and local levels and has proved to be an effective instrument in addressing environment and security challenges. It also offers a unique platform for the exchange of information between governments and representatives of civil society.

The activities of the Aarhus and Environmental Rights Centres have registered a significant increase. The Centres have provided services to about 20,000 visitors and conducted 2,700 seminars and consultations. The activities have included raising awareness on the International Environmental resolutions and legislation.

The Centres contribute to the development of an open administrative culture, which supports public participation and transparency in environmental matters and values them as positive contributions to



Workshop in one of the Aarhus Centres in Armenia.

democratic, effective and good governance.

To promote the third pillar of the Convention – Access to Justice - a ‘Centre on Environmental Rights’ has been established. Through its regular activities the Centre fosters respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, while linking environmental issues to sustainable economic development, poverty reduction and social cohesion. The Office also supports the Armenian Ombudsman’s Office in issues related to the enforcement of environmental rights through developing a survey on environmental rights implementation.

Numerous publications, such as the “Collection of Environmental Law”, the “Second National Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of Aarhus Convention”, the “Environment and Urban Development Manual”, and the Armenian translation of the Aarhus Convention have been published by the OSCE Office.

Armenia – Celebrating International Environmental Days

The OSCE Office in Yerevan, in partnership with the fourteen Aarhus Centres and International



Publications of the Armenian Aarhus Centres.



Network of Aarhus Centres in Armenia.



Celebration of the Earth Day in Armenia.

Environmental organizations, has celebrated all International Environmental days, as well as the 40th anniversary of the Earth Day. A series of awareness-raising activities aimed to focus public attention on ecological issues playing at the global and local levels have been organised.

Tajikistan – Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Authorities of Tajikistan

In the area of activities dedicated to enhancing the environmental security of Tajikistan, the OSCE Office has negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the host government transferring the Aarhus Centre in Dushanbe under the management of the Committee on Environmental Protection. The MoU was signed on 21 August 2009. The signing of another MoU on 1 April 2009 among all three Aarhus Centers, in Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tyube and Khujand, to share information and jointly achieve programmed results, together with the Committee on Environmental Protection represented a cornerstone in the institutionalization of state management of the Aarhus Centre. Enhanced by the new Aarhus Centre opened in Kurgan-Tyube in April 2009, more than 1,500 people have benefited from the services and trainings

provided by the Aarhus Centres, received assistance and help in understanding Aarhus principles by learning from the dedicated website and attending seminars and workshops. Moreover, over 13,000 young citizens of the country have participated in the national ecological youth movement “Green Patrols,” which has actively engaged youth in numerous environmental activities. These were expanded to the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in 2009 for the first time with the support of the Government of Germany.



Jeannette Kloetzer, Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana (l) and Alexander Bragin of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (r) at a workshop on promotion of the PRTR Protocol, Astana, 5 May 2010. (OSCE/Aiman Smagulova)

In the spotlight: Kazakhstan Implementing International Environmental Instruments

The OSCE Centre in Astana supported the establishment of the regional Aarhus centre in Atyrau in September 2009. The latter is expected to enhance public participation in decision making on environmental issues and activities in the Caspian Sea area of Kazakhstan. Successful trainings for governmental officials and civil society activists on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, including the International Maritime Organization conventions, have been carried out. The launch of a pilot pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR), supported by the Centre, is effective since 2009. The Centre, jointly with the UNECE, has helped to overcome obstacles on the way to the ratification of the PRTR by Kazakhstan. Thus, the final administrative stage of the process is in sight.



Saltanat Rakhimbekova, Director of the International Co-operation and Transit Policy of the Kazakh Transport Ministry with Alexandre Keltchewsky, Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, at a workshop on oil spill preparedness, Astana, 13 November 2009. (OSCE/Aiman Smagulova)

7.4.2. CASE-Civic Action for Security and Environment

CASE (Civic Action for Security and Environment) is a small grants programme by the OSCE that supports civil society organizations through providing small grants for projects that address environment and security challenges. Projects supported under CASE demonstrate co-operation with local stakeholders, including the government, the private sector, and NGOs, and hence contribute to creating an enabling environment for a civil society response to environment and security challenges. CASE stands out due to its decentralized structure that ensures local priorities are addressed, while enabling the OSCE to exert strategic guidance.

CASE is currently implemented in three countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan. In each country, CASE brings together representatives of government, civil society, and donor organizations to determine individual thematic priorities for CASE small grants, and to select the most promising projects for support. The CASE Country Strategy determines thematic country priorities, while a National Screening Board selects individual projects. Both are established by a participatory process that ensures national ownership of CASE. Strong local ownership, and a broad focus that addresses cross-cutting issues like gender and youth make CASE successful in attracting civil society organizations even beyond the traditional environmental field.

In Armenia, CASE has been supporting fifteen projects that are currently being implemented. CASE Azerbaijan currently supports three projects. CASE Tajikistan commenced in late 2009, is finalizing its institutional set-up, and will begin selecting projects shortly.

7.4.3. Partnerships with civil society and stakeholders in environmental matters

In the reporting year, activities aimed at raising awareness and improving capacities and participatory mechanism in environmental affairs have been further strengthened through the diversification of partnerships with civil society and stakeholders. OSCE field operations have assisted local governments in the

engagement with citizens and NGOs in order to facilitate co-operation in environmental matters. This approach was successfully given shape in a variety of activities, such as the implementation of a local environmental action plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the organisation of workshops on energy efficiency in Serbia or the adoption of innovative educational tools in Ukraine.

Albania – Promoting Public Consultation in Planning Processes

Despite the global economic downturn, Albania has continued to witness relatively high levels of private and public investment. However, local communities often remain poorly informed about proposed developments and are sometimes only aware of plans when they are about to begin. Where such investment takes the form of a large power plant, for example, citizens may experience major inconvenience during the project's construction and derive scant tangible benefits upon its completion. In this context, the OSCE Presence in Albania continues its efforts to encourage public participation in line with international standards under the Aarhus Convention and the EU directive on Environmental Impact Assessment. The Presence has supported central and local governments to embrace EU standards in planning processes based upon the routine provision of public information, consultation and other systems that enhance transparency. Activities that bring together the public and private sector and civil society in order to highlight their respective rights and responsibilities under the EU Directives and international conventions that Albania has ratified continued to be facilitated.

Belarus – Promoting Legislative Improvement for Citizens' Information and Access to Legal Justice

The OSCE Office in Minsk has supported an expert's analysis of the Belarusian legislation with reference to article 9 on the Aarhus Convention on information and access for citizens to justice in relation to critical ecological issues. It is envisaged to organise in the course of 2010, jointly with the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, a seminar to share results with national stakeholders and representatives of the civil society. The event will also provide an occasion to discuss best practices for public hearings according to the Aarhus Convention, with the participation of foreign experts.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Supporting the Implementation of a ‘Local Environmental Action Plan’

The OSCE Office to Bosnia and Herzegovina is enabling citizens to take action to solve community problems while fostering co-operation that cuts across ethnic, gender, age and social boundaries and promoting partnership between citizens and local governments.

Fazlagića Kula, a Bosniak community in the municipality of Gacko, had a population of approximately 1,200 inhabitants before the war. Although estimates vary significantly regarding the number of Bosniaks who have since returned, no more than 30 Bosniak returnees permanently reside in the municipality today. Two settlements in the community are almost always inaccessible due to roads being covered by waste from the nearby thermo-electric plant. Moreover, intense pollution from a coal mine creates additional environmental hazards. In order to help address these serious issues affecting the returnee population, the Mission is supporting the development and implementation of a Local Environmental Action Plan – a project for which local authorities and citizens were encouraged to take full ownership.

The Mission also facilitated a similar process in the municipality of Posušje where citizens and local government worked together to develop a Local



“My Town - Clean Town” project from Orasje. A group of young people collect garbage along the Sava River. (local NGO/Admir Nurkic)



Secondary school students debate water protection issues at the state level competition in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Centre for Cultivating Dialogue.)

In the spotlight: Bosnia and Herzegovina Launching of the Awareness Campaign “Green Mission”

In 2008, the Mission launched its internal awareness campaign *Green Mission*, seeking to inform its staff of the existing environmental challenges and to introduce environmentally-friendly practices in their daily work. As part of the campaign, the Mission has set up paper-recycling schemes in the Head Office and in almost all of its 14 field offices. As

of May 2010, collection of waste PET packaging has also been made possible in the Head Office. A dedicated Intranet page informs staff of relevant environmental news in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond. The campaign has been extended and now it is reaching out to the young generation with a number of initiatives. To mark 40 years of Earth

Day, the Mission launched a series of school debates in September 2009, with the participation of over 120 students from all corners of the country. The students discussed water protection issues in their communities and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Mission also awarded three project grants for the most successful school project ideas.

Environmental Action Plan which was subsequently adopted in February 2010. The development process generated significant interest among citizens who now take charge of proposing solutions to various environmental problems identified in their communities.

In the municipality of Orašje in northern part of the country, a youth NGO trained by the Mission in project cycle management submitted a project proposal to the municipality and obtained funds for cleaning of Sava river bank in April 2010. The project “*My Town – Clean Town*” gathered the municipal administration of Orašje, a local utility company, and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Local business owners supported the action through donations as well.

As part of a community engagement project in Brčko, the Mission is assisting local communities and the Brčko District government to reduce pollution of two local rivers, the Tinja and Brka. As environmental protection is institutionally weak, the first step taken was to conduct a survey, which was recently finished, on mechanisms for environmental protection. The next step is the organisation of a conference where Brčko district officials and representatives of local communities will discuss the findings of the survey and propose a plan for reduction of pollution from the Tinja and Brka rivers.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Supporting the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention

In February 2010, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina launched a small project to support the authorities with the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. To date, a delegation composed of government representatives and interested NGOs has visited Albania, where the delegation met with the National Focal Point and visited the National Aarhus Information Centre, as well as the Regional Aarhus Centre in Vlora. This visit was organised with the support of the OSCE Presence in Albania. As part of the project, the Mission also organised, in cooperation with its implementing partner, the Regional Environment Centre, a workshop on the Aarhus Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which identified immediate priorities and recommendations for future action.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Raising Awareness on Energy, Industry and Environmental Concerns

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the country’s Council of Ministers’ Inter-ministerial Working Group for the implementation of the national Security Policy have dedicated 2010 to promoting awareness about the importance of exploring how energy, industry, and environmental concerns affect the State’s policy for securing its citizens, territory and interests. The Group and the Mission conducted on 17 April a special course to explore how energy, environmental and industrial factors are incorporated into the national Security Policy. Moreover, the course explored how experts from these fields play a vital role ensuring that the Security Policy adequately represents the State’s resources and capabilities to secure the people from risks and threats associated with, for example, environmental contamination caused by oil refineries.

The specialized course assembled representatives of state and local governmental agencies, private industry, journalists, NGOs and international organizations dealing with energy and environmental issues. The participants benefited from comprehensive and informative presentations given by representatives of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, the OCEEA and the Manager at the Emergency Management and Preparedness Advisory Group. Given the high interest in this topic, a second course will be organised in late 2010.

Moldova – Summer School in the Transdnistria Region

In July 2009, in order to support contacts between



Participants in the summer school cooling off in the River Dniestr/Nistru.

the communities on both sides of the River Dniestr/ Nistru, the Mission gave financial support to a summer school in the Transdnestr region organised jointly by environmental NGOs from the left and right banks. A total of 80 young people, 40 from each side of the river, took part. The activities included field trips, discussions on environmental issues and excursions to places of interest in the area. The summer school served to establish dialogue and good relations between the participants thus contributing to the confidence building process.

Serbia – Civil Society Support: “Green Info Network”

The overarching and long-term objective of the Green Info Network project was to provide a mechanism for more democratic, more effective and faster exchange of information among various stakeholders on the state of the environment in Serbia, fostering in this way free access to information, which is one of the main pillars of the Aarhus Convention. The website, which accompanied the workshops, is available at <http://www.ekoforum.org/gin/>.

In the spotlight: Serbia Eco-documentary: “Heritage for the future”

In support to the country’s environmental awareness raising efforts, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, together with the Embassy of the Netherlands and “Victoria group”, supported the NGO “Ekolibri” in the production of an eco-documentary entitled “Heritage for the future”, which was promoted in Belgrade, on 4 November 2009.

The movie targeted the youth and presented picturesque footage of different environmental sites throughout Serbia affected by industrial development. The movie sent out an underlying message of the need to reduce environmental pressures, to engage actively in environmental initiatives, and to adopt environmentally-friendly behaviour.

The objective of the film was to promote environmental responsibility in an appealing and educational manner to school-age students. The film was disseminated through schools, youth centres and other educational facilities and exposed to large numbers of viewers. It is also available on the YouTube OSCE Channel <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swYFhb4POt0>.



Filming on the Danube. (Aleksandar Vlajic)



Heritage for the Future, eco-documentary. (Aleksandar Vlajic)



The first scene of the eco-documentary Heritage for the Future. (Aleksandar Vlajic)

Serbia – Enhancing Local Environmental Security

Supported through an extra budgetary contribution by the Italian Development Co-operation, the project assessed the environmental insecurities in seven towns in South Serbia. Using the questionnaires developed by the implementing partner in this project, NGO Environmental Ambassadors, the representatives of the local authorities evaluated both objective and subjective perspectives of environmental threats in their immediate surroundings. The project wrap-up and presentation of the findings was supported by the OSCE Mission and facilitated by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.



Debate on environmental priorities in the region. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



Mihajlo Maricic, OSCE expert, lectures on PR skills for good environmental governance. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

The objective of the project was to raise awareness of the environmental insecurity issues among citizens in the south Serbian towns, familiarize them with possible solutions and enable their dialogue with local authorities and media for joint co-operation. The project manager,

Prof. Dr. Andjelka Mihajlov of the Environmental Ambassadors, presented the project findings at the World Congress on Waste Management in Portugal.

Serbia – Raising Awareness Among Schoolchildren: “How to Recycle”

“How to Recycle” was an awareness raising project launched for 750 primary school children in five schools in the City of Novi Sad and its surrounding villages.

Supported by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and co-implemented by the Novi Sad City Administration for Environmental Protection and the NGO “Nature Conservation Movement of Novi Sad”, the project was two-phased. In the first phase, the children were instructed on the waste management principle “Reduce-Reuse-Recycle”, benefits of primary selection and the fact that waste is not trash. The second phase was a creative workshop in which they produced “recycled” ornaments for Christmas trees in their school halls, showing that materials such as paper, tins, plastic bags and bottles can be re-used for creative ideas.

Apart from the awareness raising element, the project also aimed at fostering good governance at an early age.

Serbia – “Communal Waste: from Problem to Solution”

Conceived with an aim to familiarize both school children and the general public with the “Reduce-Reuse-Recycle” principle, this reference book lays out, in a very simple and understandable way, how to manage waste. The author of the book is a young environmentalist from one of the most polluted cities in Serbia, Pancevo, who was inspired by the lack of environmental culture of the youth.

The OSCE Mission to Serbia supported the publication of the book with the aim to enhance environmental education and affect the change of habits. Having in mind that books remain a precious possession of the user, 1,000 copies were disseminated Serbia-wide and presented to environmentally-oriented journalists, teachers and local counterparts. The book is available at the OSCE Mission to Serbia website: http://www.osce.org/serbia/item_11_42295.html.

Serbia – Workshops for Talented Highschoolers: “Energy for the Future”

The Petnica Science Centre, one of the largest extra-curricular centres in South- Eastern Europe, developed a comprehensive series of workshops for talented high-school students. Covering a plethora of scientific themes, they generated new projects and provided opportunities for students to share their ideas with their peers and tutors. Among other interesting issues, the workshop focused on energy efficiency, responsible energy consumption, energy saving and alternative energy resources. This workshop was a unique opportunity for students to combine elements of physics, biology, geography and technology, and compete at the national level for the best “Energy for the Future” project idea.

The OSCE Mission supported the workshops on energy efficiency by providing fees for the tutors, working material for the students, and awarding ceremony and prizes for the best “Energy for the Future” projects.

The overall goal of the project was to familiarize high school students with a better understanding of energy-related problems and raise their awareness of renewable

energy sources, environmental impact of production and consumption of energy, responsible energy policy and concept of rational energy management. More information about the project phases is available at the Petnica Science Centre website: <http://energija.petnica.rs/>.

Serbia – Sustainable Use of Resources: “Together Towards Energy Efficiency in Serbia”

The OSCE-supported project, which aimed to raise the awareness of energy savings and sustainable use of energy resources in urban areas, gathered representatives from industry, educational institutions, media and civil organizations in five cities across Serbia: Nis, Kragujevac, Gornji Milanovac, Kruševac and Sremska Mitrovica.



Project: Communal Waste – From Problem to Solution, in Serbia.



Workshop on recycling with the primary schoolchildren. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

Having in mind the importance of co-operation among local, district and provincial bodies, and civil society, the project searched to provide a platform which would encourage a dialogue among the key stakeholders in order to resolve the burning energy issues and affect the change of habits of the consumers.

The project was carried out by the NGO Environment Engineering Group with a strong scientific argument laid out in a simple and understandable way. Experts and representatives from institutions that work in the field of energy efficiency, as well as local environmental non-governmental organizations with prior experience in sustainable development and the media were also partners at the local level.

Serbia – Promoting Environmental Values: EXIT Festival

One of the most-visited music festivals in Europe – EXIT – was a place for the OSCE Mission to Serbia to promote environmental values to the visitors.

The environmental campaign was targeted at young people from all parts of Europe, who gathered in the Novi Sad fortress in July 2009. They had an opportunity to browse through the photo exhibition by Dragoljub Zamurovic, who captured the moments of the Vojvodina plain with his camera. The photos displayed the natural beauties of Northern Serbia, the wildlife of the Danube river and the Vojvodinian people as agents of change.



Photos of Vojvodina. (Dragoljub Zamurovic)

Environmental issues were also brought closer to the visitors of the festival through a public debate “Change bad habits, think of the planet” with a distinguished panel of guests from the media, theatre, government and environmentalist movement. The Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Goran Svilanovic, also took part in the debate and contributed to better understanding of environmental values.

On the margins of the event, the Mission organised a workshop for 20 journalists aimed at enhancing their capacities to understand environmental concerns and report on it.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has invited EXIT to join the global campaign “Music and Environment”, which aims to improve the music industry’s relationship with the environment. Having this in mind, the Mission will support the environmental



Head of Media Department, OSCE Mission, Dragana Solomon (left), Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Goran Svilanovic (middle) and famous actress, Mirjana Karanovic (right) take part in the public debate on environmental concerns in Serbia. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

activities during the EXIT 2010. For more information about the EXIT festival, please visit the official homepage at <http://www.exitfest.org/>.

Serbia – Training for Judges and Environmental Inspectors

The OSCE - supported project on environmental capacity building of the judiciary and the inspectorate gathered more than 400 participants in the second year of trainings entitled: “Support to the Implementation of Environmental Laws”. The purpose of this training was to raise awareness, improve enforcement of environmental legislation, as well as ensure a timely response of the judiciary file inspection and their processing. The training was focused on minor offences authorities (magistrates) and was an important step in establishing a positive and functional co-



Assistant Minister of Environment, Ljiljana Stanojevic, addresses the participants of the training. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



More than 400 judges and environmental inspectors took part in the seminars on environmental laws. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

operation between the judiciary and the Environmental Inspectorate. The training was of a regional character and was held in five modules across Serbia in Zlatibor, Palic, Kladovo, Prolom Banja and Divcibare.

Following completion of the 2009 training, statistical surveys conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning demonstrated that the number of cases filed by environmental inspectors had increased as well as the number of proceedings for environmental violations before the misdemeanour courts.

The third cycle of five regional training seminars was launched in April 2010 with a focus on the implementation of new environmental laws, adopted in May 2009.

Serbia – Training for Prosecutors on Environmental Legislation

A specialized training for prosecutors was organised based on EU *acquis* and the role of public prosecutors in environmental protection. The training focused on strengthening the capacities of prosecutors who deal with environmental crimes. More than 80 prosecutors participated in the regionally organised training sessions in south Serbia.

The follow-up of the training continued in 2010 with the aim to train all prosecutors in Serbia. As part of the OSCE efforts to support the efficiency of the criminal justice system, a Manual on best practices in prosecuting environmental crimes will be published at the end of the training cycle.

Serbia – Judicial Manual on Environmental Violations

After a series of workshops for misdemeanour judges and environmental inspectors, the OSCE Mission engaged experts from judicial and prosecutorial associations to support the development of a manual dubbed: “Procedures on Environmental Violations before Misdemeanour Courts”, aimed at facilitating the implementation of the newly adopted “Green Pack” laws. The manual features case studies on misdemeanour file processing as well as best practice examples collected during the training seminars. Given the fact that the environmental legislation was adopted in May 2009, the



Zoran Pasalic, President of Misdemeanour Judges’ Association (left), Oliver Dulic, Serbian Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning (middle), and Ambassador Dimitrios Kypreos (right), talk at the press conference on the Judicial Manual. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



Manual on Procedures on Environmental Violations before Misdemeanour Courts.

manual should provide a useful tool for easier reference to environmental laws and thus support implementation of environmental policies. The manual is available at the OSCE Mission to Serbia website http://www.osce.org/serbia/item_11_42296.html.

Tajikistan – Supporting the Creation of a ‘Short Term National Environmental Action Plan’

In 2009, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan supported the Government of Tajikistan in drafting a Short Term National Environmental Action Plan (STNEAP) that provides policy directions and instructions to implement the Environmental Concept of 2008. The Office also assisted the Parliament of Tajikistan in amending the Waste Management Law. On 1 March, 2010, President Rahmon signed STNEAP into the law of the land. The STNEAP is a key policy instrument for all environmental activities in Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan – Organizing the First Environmental Film Festival

Ten films featuring environmental issues such as the energy crisis in North America, Cuba’s green revolution in agriculture and the impact of the fishing industry on East Africa’s marine environment were screened during a five-day environmental film festival organised by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture, Television and Radio Broadcasting of Turkmenistan in November-December 2009 in Ashgabat.

The festival, which was the first of its kind in Turkmenistan, was open to the general public and was well attended by students from various university faculties, government officials and the scientific community. The underlying theme of all the films was the increasing awareness and growing concern about modern civilization harming our environment and the need to preserve nature for generations to come. The status of the environment, combined with security implications, will have a direct and imminent impact on future generations. The film festival formed part of the Centre’s efforts to raise awareness on prevailing global environmental threats and showing ways to solve problems of environmental security.

Ukraine – Raising Environmental Awareness through an Innovative Educational Tool

The concept of sustainable development is at the forefront of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine’s (PCU) economic and environmental activities. With the view to raise environmental awareness of school students and promote the concept of sustainable development, the PCU began development of an innovative educational resource tool – Green Pack – following successful implementation of Green Pack initiatives in fourteen other countries. The feasibility study was conducted in July 2009 and the adaptation of the Green Pack teachers’ handbook was carried out in late 2009 – early 2010. 6500 copies of the teacher’s handbook have been published and are being disseminated to Ukraine’s schools. In addition, the PCU has engaged with environmental NGOs active in the promotion of a positive environmental attitude. The PCU also struck partnerships with a number of international organizations present in Ukraine to cultivate environment-friendly practices. Plans for 2010 and 2011 are to increase the network of Green Pack partners, to develop the Green Pack CD and DVD of short documentaries on environmental subjects, to create Green Pack Junior targeted at primary school students, to produce an additional five to seven thousand copies of the Green Pack sets and to distribute them to Ukraine’s schools and NGOs promoting environmentally friendly attitudes.



Spectators in the cinema hall, Turkmenistan.

In the spotlight: Uzbekistan

Environmental Monitoring in Tashkent Oblast

“Civil society plays a decisive role in environmental protection and needs to unite forces to contribute to all efforts in saving the environment in Uzbekistan”, said Dilbar Zaynutdinova, Director of ARMON environmental NGO at a round table held in August 2009 in Tashkent.

With its project on environmental monitoring in Tashkent Oblast, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator brought together civil society representatives with the State Nature Protection Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan to examine the state of the environment and to stimulate further co-operation.



How to increase the public's influence in the decision-making process?
Photo: NGO Armon/Rustam Murzakhanov

The project also contributed to the draft law “On environmental control”, which is currently under preparation by the State Nature Protection Committee and will regulate public participation in the decision-making on environmental issues. Recommendations gathered at the round table in August 2009 were forwarded and taken into consideration by the relevant state institutions.

Right from the beginning the project not only aimed at uniting civil society and government structures to find

synergies and develop a common approach in environmental protection, but it also meant to integrate a gender approach.

The working group, which was established in the framework of the project, reflected a gender balance and collected gender desegregated data on people's thoughts on environmental issues and their solution by governmental structures. An opinion poll was organised in eight towns of Tashkent Oblast: Almalyk, Angren, Bekabad, Buk, Chirchik, Khumsan and Yangjul, where altogether 349 persons were interviewed, 238 of them women and 111 men. The poll showed that women and men are mainly disturbed by the same environmental problems; primarily, by distorted water supply and bad potable water quality. Men, however, seem to be much more disturbed by land degradation (83% to 52%) and showed more concern about industrial waste (79% to 33%) and toxic substances use (49% to 19%). Issues like the illegal cutting of trees were raised by both sexes equally.

The majority of men, however, is also much more skeptical towards governmental measures aimed at protecting nature: 63% of men answered that for them these measures are more of a “tick in the box” than actually designed to influence the environment in a positive way, whereas only 36% of women shared this opinion. This skepticism of men corresponds to their feeling of not being sufficiently informed and that their opinions are not taken into account in the decision-making processes.

When it comes to possible solutions of actual environmental problems, both men and women think very much alike again. They equally believe that it is necessary to raise the level of material wealth of the population and also to increase their knowledge on environmental protection and the applicable legal framework. Men, however, would also prefer to increase the liability when it comes to violations of the environment and to increase the rights of local government authorities and societal environmental inspectors. Interestingly enough more men (13%) seem to think that civil society organizations could play a positive role in solving environmental problems than women (11%).

However, what the project showed in abundance is that both genders are equally concerned about the overall state of the environment, that civil society is ready and willing to take part in the decision making process and that there is an overwhelming need for more information.



Threats to the natural environment.

List of Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development (Agence de Co-operation Technique et de Development), France	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
BMSC	OSCE Border Management Staff College	OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
EEC	Economic and Environmental Committee	OTIF	Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail
EED	OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension	PC.DEC.	OSCE Permanent Council Decision
EEF	OSCE's Economic and Environmental Forum	PCU	OSCE's Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
EEOs	Economic and Environmental Officers	PCUz	OSCE's Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative	PPP	Public-Private Partnership
ExB	Extra-budgetary	REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
FATF	Financial Action Task Force	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit	UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Co-operation	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ILO	International Labour Organization	SOROS	Open Society Institute & Soros Foundations Network
IMF	International Monetary Fund	TIKA	Turkish International Co-operation Agency
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WCO	World Customs Organization
IRU	International Road Transport Union		
MC.DEC	OSCE Ministerial Council Decision		
MONEYVAL	Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism		
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding		

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