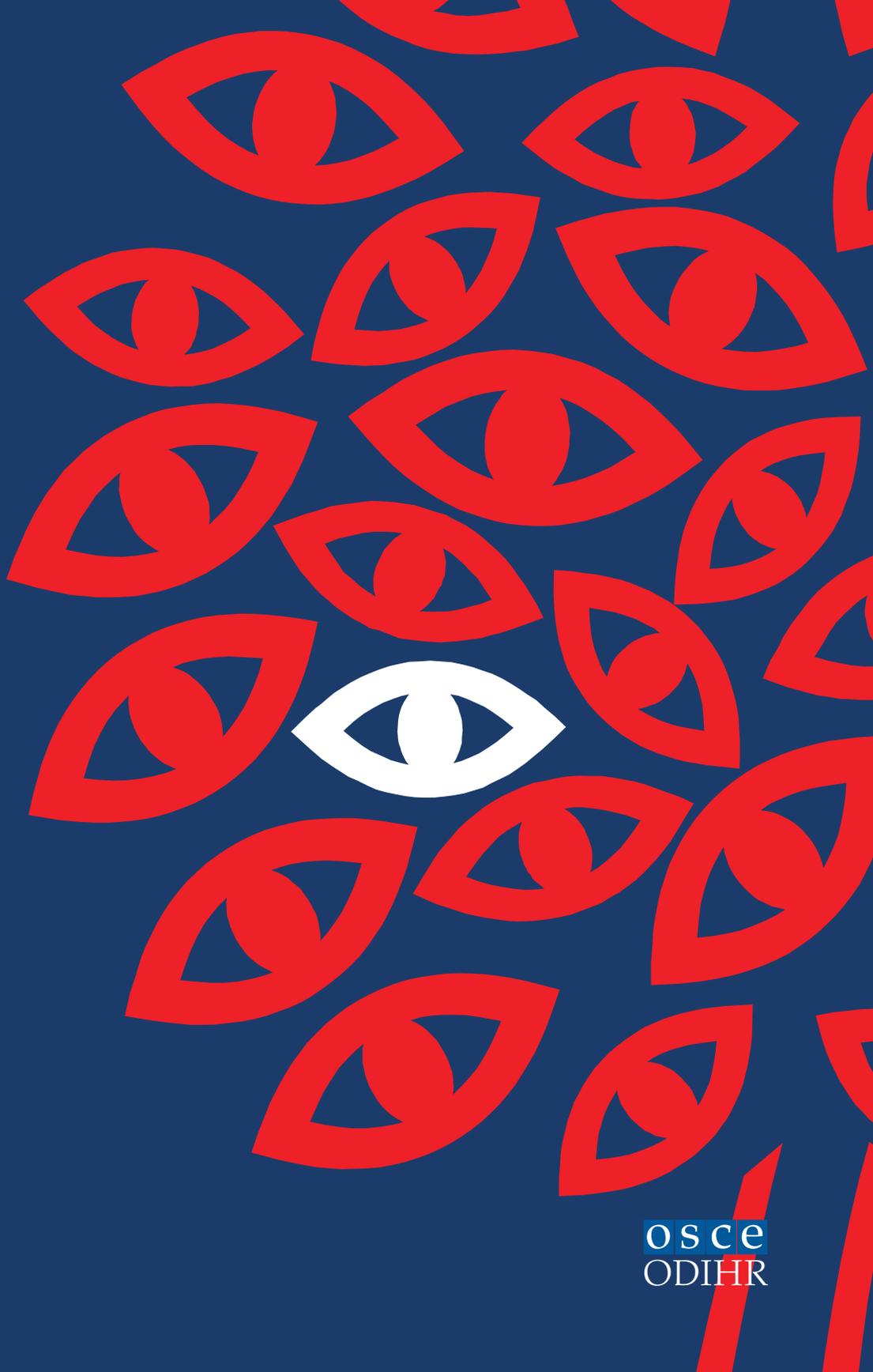


2015

# ODIHR

ANNUAL  
REPORT



osce  
ODIHR

OSCE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

# Annual Report 2015



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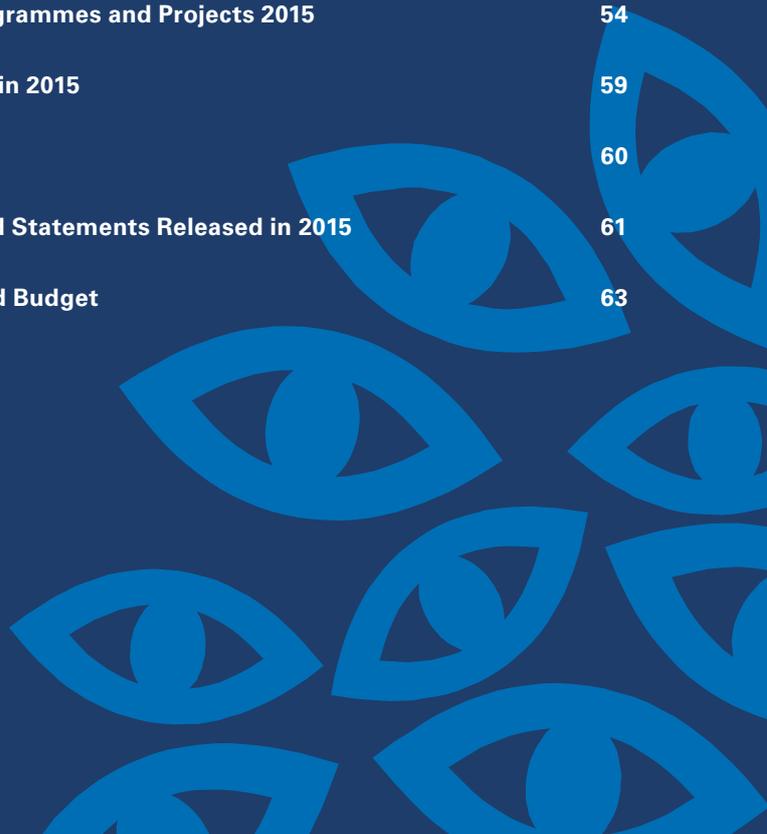
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# **Overview by the ODIHR Director**

OSCE/ODIHR  
 Director Michael  
 Georg Link,  
 speaking at the  
 Supplementary  
 Human Dimension  
 Meeting on OSCE  
 Contribution to  
 the Protection of  
 National Minorities,  
 in Vienna, 29  
 October 2015 OSCE/  
 Micky Amon-Kröll



The 57 participating States that make up the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) continued to face challenges to the implementation of their human dimension commitments in 2015. Both Europe's migration crisis and the continuing crisis in and around Ukraine shaped much of the work done by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) throughout the year. ODIHR is the largest of the OSCE's autonomous institutions and covers almost all aspects of the human dimension – not only the protections of fundamental freedoms, but also work in the areas of elections, democratic governance and rule of law, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, and improving the situation of Roma and Sinti.

Today, ODIHR works within a broad mandate of commitments in these areas, allowing us to assist OSCE

participating States whenever and wherever the rights of marginalized individuals are at stake. All participating States have recognized that their commitments to strengthen democracy and human rights safeguard against real threats to the peace and security of their societies. As such, this Annual Report looks back and highlights the Office's activities in what was a very eventful and intense year of work supporting the implementation of commitments across the human dimension throughout the OSCE region.

In ODIHR's work in response to the crisis in and around Ukraine, the Office launched a project to strengthen dialogue among civil society and with key governmental stakeholders in 2015. In its project activities, ODIHR emphasizes that peace and security are intrinsically linked with justice and co-operation, the advancement of democracy, and respect for and effective exercise

of human rights. In 2015 alone, over 500 of Ukrainian stakeholders benefited from training events on human rights monitoring and hate crime, workshops on political party financing, meetings on women's political participation and seminars on parliamentary ethics.

The crisis in and around Ukraine continued to have a very significant human dimension impact, with reported violations of human rights law. In Crimea, the freedoms of assembly, association, movement, expression and access to information were all unduly restricted by the de facto authorities as pointed out in the Office's joint report with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) that was released in September. The Office also closely monitored and reported on the situation of Roma in Ukraine during the crisis.

To help counter hate crime and foster freedom of religion or belief in the country, ODIHR delivered a series of workshops designed to strengthen the ability of Ukrainian police to identify and investigate hate crimes. In December, ODIHR adapted its *Understanding Hate Crimes* handbook to the context of Ukraine and made it available in Ukrainian, Russian and English. Following ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues continued advocacy of policies to address the challenges faced by Roma in the areas of education, employment, housing and policing in Ukraine and a major round-table in November on promoting Roma inclusion in Ukraine, the country established a working group to implement a strategy to protect and integrate the Roma national minority there.

This year, the election observation mission to Ukraine's local elections marked the 300<sup>th</sup> mission ODIHR has deployed since its creation nearly 25 years ago. Our election observation missions continue to be one of the most visible activities of the Office. The findings and recommendations of election observation reports provide a valuable resource for the Office's other programmes, and provide all OSCE participating States concrete steps to strengthening key aspects of democratic elections.

Our election observation activities covered 17 countries during 2015. In follow up to ODIHR reports, a number of states have taken welcome initiatives to hold inclusive and comprehensive electoral review events and invited ODIHR for consultations on planned

reforms or on specific electoral issues. The ultimate goal of election observation is the improvement of election legislation and practice, introduced by government authorities, as a result of observers' work and post-electoral engagement. The Office also held a roundtable on electoral dispute resolution, attended by representatives of 35 countries across the OSCE.

Restrictions on the freedom of peaceful assembly continued to be applied in some participating States. As part of its third cycle of assembly monitoring, in 2015 ODIHR observed assemblies in five participating States.

Likewise, ODIHR continued to monitor states' responses to terrorism in 2015, and the impacts on human rights, including the freedoms of expression, religion or belief, assembly and association and the right to privacy. In November, ODIHR published its report on the Human Rights Situation of Detainees at Guantanamo, a comprehensive assessment of human rights violations in the detention facility.

This year, the Office maintained its efforts to address hate crime and other forms of intolerance, particularly through close work with civil society, both building coalitions to help foster tolerance and in partnership to collect comprehensive hate crime data. ODIHR's hate crime reporting this year included information provided by 43 OSCE participating States. ODIHR also continues to work closely with law-enforcement agencies and prosecutors to assist them in identifying, investigating and successfully prosecuting hate crimes.

Michael Georg Link (r), Director of ODIHR, and Valeriya Lutkovska (l), Ukraine's Human Rights Commissioner, signing an agreement to enhance co-operation between ODIHR and Lutkovska's office in a broad range of human rights activities in Ukraine. Warsaw, 3 June 2015. OSCE/Agneszka Rembowska



Within its mandates both to support Roma and Sinti inclusion and to promote remembrance as a tool to counter intolerance and to protect, promote and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms in today's world, ODIHR published *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide*. The launch event in April brought together over 60 educators, researchers, historians, Roma and Sinti civil society to explore the link between history and present and the potential of history education for promoting non-discrimination and equality for Roma and Sinti.

OSCE participating States in Europe experienced unprecedented inflows of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, generating significant pressure on migration and asylum systems across the continent. An estimated 1 million refugees and migrants from North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia – about one-third of whom are women and children, including unaccompanied minors – crossed into OSCE region in 2015. Many of them are believed to be fleeing war, violence and persecution in their countries of origin in search of international protection. The International Organization for Migration estimated that 3,771 refugees and migrants died during their journey to Europe during the year.

As part of the OSCE's comprehensive response to the migration and refugee crisis, in November ODIHR organized an expert meeting on the migration crisis in the OSCE region about safeguarding rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need of protection. Throughout 2015, the Office held multiple

workshops to share good practices in migrant integration and meetings to discuss the impact of the crisis on relations between local communities and migrants and refugees, as well as continually monitoring the situation.

In all these endeavours, and many others, throughout 2015, ODIHR showcased its firm commitment to its mandate and role in promoting the human dimension of security, especially during times of crisis, by supporting the work of governments and civil society. The following pages present a more complete description of all we did throughout the year, with special attention to our work in response to the migrant crisis and that in and around Ukraine. I hope this annual report gives you a better understanding of the many ways this

Office worked to serve the people of the OSCE in 2015, by supporting the implementation of their governments' human dimension commitments.

*Michael Georg Link*  
**Director**  
**OSCE Office for Democratic**  
**Institutions and Human Rights**

Ivica Dačić (l), OSCE Chairperson in Office and Foreign Minister of Serbia and Michael Georg Link (c), Director of OSCE/ODIHR, listening to Grzegorz Schetyna, Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, during his opening address at 2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw, 21 September 2015 Piotr Markowski





# **Elections**

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**As a community committed to the respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, OSCE participating States have committed themselves to upholding the key principles of democratic elections — universality, equality, transparency, secrecy of the vote, accountability, fairness and freedom. In recognizing the importance of democratic elections, OSCE participating States have mandated ODIHR to assist them in the implementation of election-related commitments through the conduct of election observation. The Office’s comprehensive election observation methodology is grounded in independence, impartiality, and professionalism, and seeks to provide needs-focused and long-term analysis of electoral processes observed.**

**In 2015, ODIHR reports and recommendations continued to offer participating States a comprehensive and impartial picture of the electoral processes observed and of possible improvements. While numerous examples of commendable electoral practice were noted, a number of issues continue to pose challenges for participating States and have the potential to negatively impact citizens’ election-related rights. During the year, ODIHR increased its focus on responding to requests for post-electoral dialogue and follow-up. This included in-country presentations and discussions of final reports, expert consultations and legal reviews of drafts of or amendments to election-related legislation.**

## ACTIVITIES

Observation missions are the most visible part of ODIHR's election-related activities. The findings and recommendations of election observation reports provide a valuable resource for the Office's other programmes, as well as for the activities of other OSCE institutions and field operations. In 2015, ODIHR's election-related activities focused on observing elections; following-up on observation missions and their recommendations; strengthening the Office's election observation methodology; supporting reform of electoral legislation; and training observers.

### ELECTION OBSERVATION

ODIHR has assessed electoral processes throughout all but one of the OSCE participating States for their compliance with OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards for democratic elections.

In line with the Office's well-established election observation methodology, an election observation process begins with the deployment of a needs assessment mission (NAM). A NAM is typically deployed several months before an election to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM is tasked with recommending whether to carry out an observation activity for the elections and, if so, what type of activity best meets the needs identified. In 2015, ODIHR conducted 19 NAMs.

ODIHR deployed election-related missions to 17 elections and one

referendum in 17 participating States in 2015. As with all ODIHR missions, these were guided by two principal objectives: first, to assess whether the elections met OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards for democratic elections and were conducted in accordance with national legislation; and second, to offer concrete and concise recommendations to support participating States to improve their electoral processes.

The purpose of election observation, therefore, is to offer constructive feedback and provide concrete recommendations to remedy identified shortcomings. Over the course of 2015, ODIHR published some 50 election-related reports, including NAM and interim reports, statements of preliminary findings and conclusions, and final reports. Most reports were also translated into the relevant language or languages of the states observed.

For six of the 17 elections, ODIHR deployed full-scale election observation missions (EOMs), including long- and short-term observers, which are seconded by individual participating States, as well as core teams of experts recruited directly by ODIHR. Limited election observation missions (LEOMs) include a core team of experts and long-term observers but no short-term observers, as they do not conduct comprehensive and systematic observation of election day. These were deployed for four elections in three participating States, including both parliamentary elections in Turkey. As per ODIHR's methodology, LEOMs are deployed to participating States where long-term observers are deemed necessary to ensure comprehensive regional coverage, but election-day issues are expected to be unproblematic or where fundamental shortcomings are so significant as to render election-day observation inconsequential.

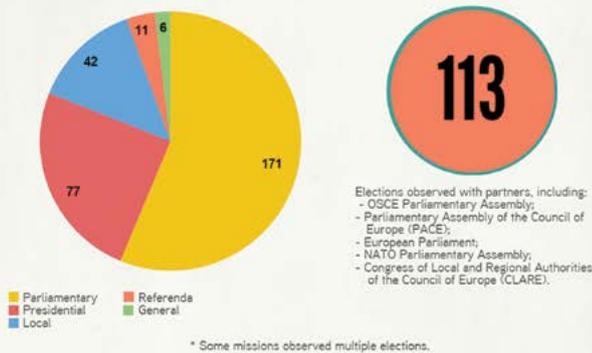
The head of a polling station board in Ankara holding up a ballot for observers and other board members to verify during counting in Turkey's early parliamentary elections, 1 November 2015. (OSCE/Thomas Rymer)



# 300 ODIHR election observation missions

The mission to observe the 25 October 2015 local elections in Ukraine is the 300th election observation mission that the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has deployed since establishing its comprehensive election observation methodology. Since 1996, ODIHR has observed a range of elections across the OSCE region through different formats.

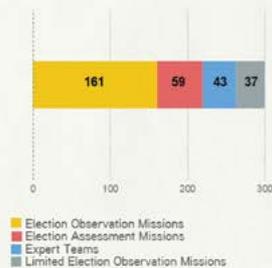
## TYPES OF ELECTIONS OBSERVED\*



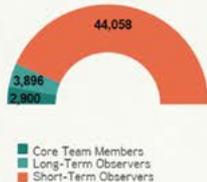
## NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHERE ELECTIONS WERE OBSERVED



## TYPES OF MISSIONS DEPLOYED



## MAKE UP OF OBSERVATION MISSIONS

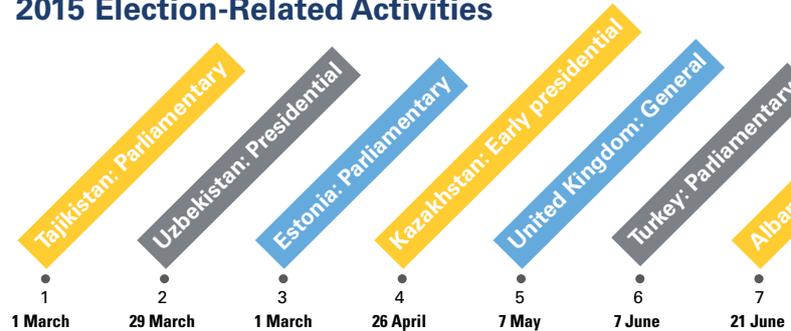


**6** EDITIONS OF THE ODIHR ELECTION OBSERVATION HANDBOOK

**9** SUPPLEMENTAL THEMATIC HANDBOOKS PUBLISHED

**MORE THAN 700** MISSION REPORTS PUBLISHED

## 2015 Election-Related Activities

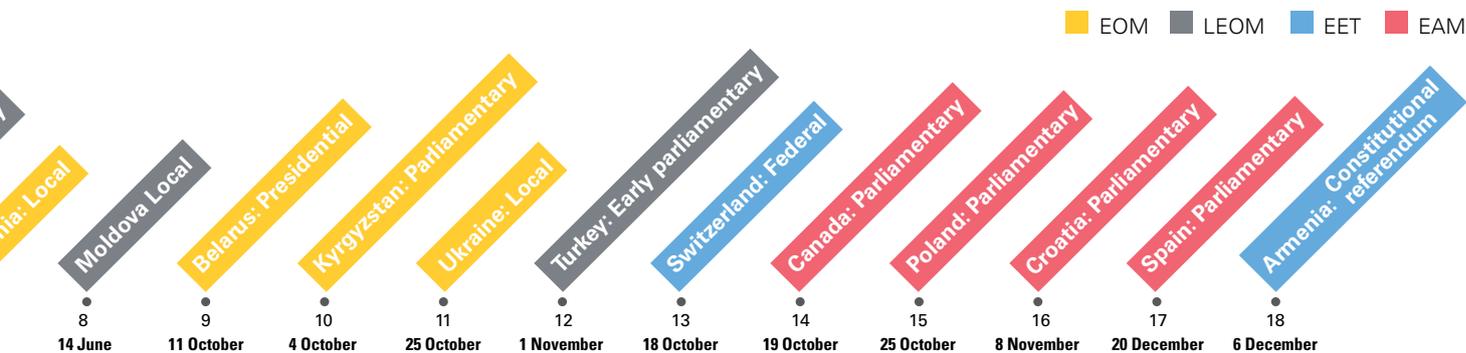


The local elections in Ukraine on 25 October 2015 was the 300th election observation mission that ODIHR had deployed since establishing its comprehensive election observation methodology.

In addition, ODIHR deployed three election assessment missions (EAM), comprising a core team of experts but no long- or short-term observers. EAMs are deployed to elections where the presence of short- and long-term observers is not considered necessary because of high levels of confidence in the conduct of elections. Conversely, an EAM can also be deployed when there is an interest in maintaining dialogue with election stakeholders in a participating State but where there is a lack of political pluralism, previous ODIHR priority recommendations have not been implemented, or an observation activity, even of a limited nature, is unlikely to add any significant value.

ODIHR also deployed four Election Expert Teams (EETs) to four OSCE participating States. Expert teams comprise a small number of experts who focus on specific electoral issues. The EETs do not make an overall assessment of the electoral process but concentrate on a limited set of issues and provide targeted recommendations for those.

Some 2,500 observers from 48 participating States took part in ODIHR observation activities in 2015. To support the participation of observers



from countries that do not generally second observers, ODIHR continues to leverage the extra-budgetary Fund for Diversification. In 2015, the Fund enabled the deployment of 14 long-term and 15 short-term observers. The continued support of OSCE participating States for this extra-budgetary programme is instrumental in ensuring broad geographical diversity in election observation missions.

In 2015, ODIHR continued to rely upon the extra-budgetary Election Observation Sustainability Fund. This fund is used by ODIHR to bridge the gap between the number of requested observers and the number of those seconded by the OSCE participating States. The recruitment and participation of professional observers covered by the Sustainability Fund complements the secondment process and the recruitment of observers covered by the Fund for Diversification. In 2015, the Sustainability Fund allowed ODIHR to send 147 additional short-term observers as part of missions deployed in connection with the two rounds of local elections held in Ukraine — 83 observers to the first and 64 to the second round, of those observers 46 per cent were women.

### Key findings

ODIHR election observation activities over the course of 2015 revealed a mixed picture of participating States' implementation of their commitments for democratic elections.

Positive practices included:

- **Strengthened legal frameworks** that are generally accessible and aspire to respect OSCE commitments and international obligations, with a number of improvements to legal frameworks resulting directly from enhanced follow-up on OSCE/ODIHR recommendations;
- **Greater attention to the issue of inclusion**, specifically with regard to women's participation, the rights of persons with disabilities and national minorities; and
- **Increased awareness of the importance of campaign finance**, including strengthened regulations and oversight mechanisms.

At the same time, several aspects continued to pose challenges. Common weaknesses include:

- **Limitations to the right to be elected** that unreasonably impede specific persons or groups, including independent candidates from running. In some cases, candidate rights were denied due to restrictive application of candidate registration procedures, particularly during the verification of support signatures;
- **Lack of a free campaign environment** and the necessary conditions to allow parties and candidates to campaign on a level playing field. Inequitable access to the media continued to be a shortcoming in many instances. The abuse of state resources in favour of incumbents caused concern in several countries, particularly when such abuse amounted to intimidation of voters;
- **Lack of confidence in the impartiality and independence of election administration bodies**, including concerns about undue influence by state institutions. At times, transparency and accountability were lacking in the counting and tabulation of votes; and
- **Shrinking space for election observers**, both citizen and international, and a persistent lack

of legislation regulating election observation and access to all aspects of the electoral process.

### **FOLLOW-UP TO OBSERVATION MISSIONS AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is increasingly recognized that election observation is not an end in itself, but rather an activity meant to assist participating States in implementing their election-related commitments and improve their electoral practices. This provides an opportunity for ODIHR to engage with participating States after an election through a range of follow-up activities based on ODIHR's comprehensive final reports.

In 2015, ODIHR visited Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bulgaria to present its reports and meet with relevant stakeholders, including representatives of state institutions, political

parties and civil society. Additionally, ODIHR provided technical advice during follow-up visits to Albania, the Czech Republic, Iceland, Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. These meetings offered important opportunities to discuss ODIHR findings and recommendations, provide clarification and learn about any plans for implementation.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTION OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY**

ODIHR continuously works to improve its election observation methodology and to increase professionalism in the observation of certain specialized aspects of elections. In 2015, ODIHR published a new *Handbook for the Observation of Campaign Finance*. In recognizing that campaign finance issues have an increasing impact on the quality of elections, this handbook

was developed to provide guidance to election observers on how to approach campaign finance within the overall observation of an election. It combines explanations of technical aspects of campaign finance with practical advice for observers on how to approach the topic. In enhancing the quality of observation and the quality of the recommendations made on campaign finance, it should also assist participating States in their efforts to improve campaign finance rules and practice.

Throughout the year, ODIHR continued using digital pens for the submission of observation information by short-term observers in observation missions, which helped streamline and enhance the collection of data provided by short-term observers.

### **REFORM OF ELECTION LEGISLATION**

ODIHR continues to assist participating States in the follow-up process, specifically through providing comments and assessments on draft electoral legislation, election laws and amendments. Following a well-established practice, legal opinions are commonly prepared in partnership with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. In 2015, ODIHR conducted a legal review related to Ukraine, which covered political party and campaign finance.



Tana de Zulueta, Head of the ODIHR election observation mission, listening to a local political party representative while observing voting at a polling station in Kyiv during Ukraine's local elections, 25 October 2015. (OSCE/Thomas Rymer)



## TRAINING OBSERVERS

While OSCE participating States assume the primary responsibility for training seconded observers deployed to election observation missions, ODIHR continues to support such efforts. Throughout 2015, ODIHR contributed to courses organized by the German Centre for International Peace Operations, the Russian Diplomatic Academy, the Solidarity Fund in Poland, the Centre for European Perspective in Slovenia and the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan.

Through continuing extra-budgetary contributions, ODIHR has been able to offer comprehensive election observation training to ensure potential observers are prepared to undertake professional election observation. In 2015, ODIHR hosted one training course for long-term observers, from 29 June to 3 July, and one for short-term observers, from 8 to 10 December, both in Belgrade. These courses served to broaden the pool of potential observers from participating States that do not regularly send election observers and, thus, are eligible under the Fund for Diversification. In total, 27 potential long-term and 29 short-term observers from 17 participating States benefitted from the training.

In 2015, ODIHR continued to offer an e-learning course for short-term observers, in English and Russian. Launched in 2012, the course remains popular with a wide-range of participants involved in elections from both government and civil society. At the end of 2015, more than 1,600 participants had completed the course. Over the four years it has been available,

more than 6,500 participants from 151 countries, including 52 OSCE participating States and 10 OSCE Partners for Co-operation have enrolled in the course.

To further expand and enhance its online resources in 2015, ODIHR has updated this e-learning course on [www.odihrobserver.org](http://www.odihrobserver.org) and added a component aimed at long-term observers.

## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Throughout its activities, ODIHR continues to realize the benefit of co-ordinating and collaborating with its international partners, as well as with citizen observer groups. This co-operation remains crucial to ensuring consistent messages and interventions.

In its election work, ODIHR often works with a range of international partners to co-ordinate activities,

share methodology and review electoral obligations, standards and good practice. ODIHR has continued to join with partners from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress for Local and Regional Authorities in the delivery of post-election statements. Co-operation has also continued with citizen observer groups and various observer networks, including the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM), the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO), the Association of World Electoral Bodies (AWEB) and the Community of Democracies. During 2015, ODIHR also regularly engaged with international partners within the framework of the Declaration of Principles Group for International Election Observation, in particular related to follow-up activities.

Tamara Otiashvili, ODIHR Election Advisor (I) with Corien Jonker, Head of ODIHR Election Observation Mission for 12 October 2014 general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (c) and Richard Lappin, ODIHR Senior Election Advisor at follow up visit on recommendations from final report, in Sarajevo, 24 June 2015. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilovic)





# DEMOCRATIZATION

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**ODIHR's democratization work aims to assist participating States in meeting their OSCE commitments related to democratic governance and lawmaking; the development of pluralistic party systems and political-party regulation; enhancing the rule of law; improving democratic institutions; ensuring freedom of movement and migrant integration; and promoting gender equality and women's political participation. ODIHR's democratization work is multi-faceted and focuses on strengthening and empowering state institutions, political parties and non-governmental organizations, with equal support to men and women, migrants, youth and other groups.**

## ACTIVITIES

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

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

### RULE OF LAW AND LEGAL REFORM

Justice systems in all participating States can benefit from assistance in improving their laws, democratic law-making procedures and performance to ensure respect for relevant international standards and OSCE commitments on rule of law and human rights. Many of the participating States where ODIHR works are undergoing legal reforms, which raise a variety of rule of law related issues and require changes to national legal frameworks. This is all the more true for countries in transition that experience low levels of trust in the judiciary, coupled with a widespread sense of inequality in the application of the law and a lack of transparency of court proceedings.

### Independence of the Judiciary

Within its efforts to assist participating States to strengthen judicial independence and accountability, ODIHR joined the OSCE Mission to Serbia in December 2015 to monitor elections for the State Prosecutorial Council and High Judicial Council of Serbia, the self-administration bodies responsible for nominating, disciplining, training and promoting judges and prosecutors. The Mission and ODIHR chose

to follow these elections in light of their importance for further consolidation of judicial reform in Serbia and in response to ongoing challenges encountered by the councils. A final report will be prepared during the first quarter of 2016 with findings and recommendations to help inform ongoing judicial reform efforts in the country.

On 12 November, ODIHR published a legal opinion on draft legislation pertaining to the independence of the judiciary, focusing on the performance evaluation of judges in Ukraine, as a continuation of its legislative support to the country's ongoing judicial reform efforts. During a follow-up event in Kyiv, where ODIHR presented the opinion's main recommendations, the stakeholders informed the Office that they will consider these suggestions when revising the respective assessment procedures.

### Trial Monitoring

OSCE participating States have acknowledged the importance of trial monitoring as a tool to ensure greater transparency in the implementation of OSCE commitments, and have agreed to allow the presence of monitors in courts as a measure to build confidence.

In fulfilling its role as the depository of the OSCE's trial-monitoring work and methodology, ODIHR supported the OSCE Mission to Serbia with the organization of a trial-monitoring training event for civil society representatives and Mission staff. Sensitive topics in relation to the trial-monitoring methodology were discussed, such as how to reconcile the need for conducting advocacy with the principle of non-intervention in the judicial process.

Responding to the high interest among Ukrainian civil society representatives to improve their skills and knowledge

Natalia Sevostyanova (c), Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine with Viktor Taran (l) Director of Center for Political Studies and Analysis and Yuriy Kliuchkovskiy (r), Former MP and the Director of Election Law Institute, at political party regulation reform workshop, co-organized by OSCE/ODIHR, in Kyiv, Ukraine, 14 July 2015. (OSCE/Olexandr Kovalenko)



of trial-monitoring methodologies and fair trial rights, ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and USAID, conducted two rounds of training workshops in July and December 2015, respectively in Kyiv. These activities gathered some 40 NGO representatives, representing more than 25 different NGOs from various regions of Ukraine.

From 29 June to 1 July in Warsaw, ODIHR, in co-operation with the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy, organized the Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting, which brought together some 30 participants from OSCE field operations and NGOs. For the first time, this annual meeting had a special thematic focus: on monitoring administrative justice.

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

In 2015, ODIHR initiated research to

examine the potential impact of criminal justice reforms that introduced more adversarial models of criminal procedure on fair-trial rights and rights of victims in six jurisdictions in South-Eastern Europe. Three field assessments – in Sarajevo, Zagreb and Podgorica – were completed between May and December 2015, with the objective of collecting statistics and the views of legal practitioners in the region concerning the new procedures. Once the field visits and desk research are completed, ODIHR will issue an assessment report to highlight the main findings and provide recommendations for improvement in guaranteeing fair-trial rights under the new criminal procedure models.

In 2015, ODIHR supported criminal justice reform efforts in Kyrgyzstan by reviewing and commenting on the country's new draft Criminal

Procedure Code and providing concrete recommendations for amendments. In addition, ODIHR, in co-operation with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, reviewed draft amendments to prosecution-related legislation in Moldova and Georgia. Throughout 2015, ODIHR also contributed to criminal justice reforms in Moldova and Serbia, by commenting on the legal framework on preventing and combating domestic violence in Moldova and draft legislation on police of Serbia.

### **Supporting the Adjudication of War Crimes**

ODIHR completed its *War Crimes Justice Project (WCJP) - Phase II* through the conduct of the last peer-to-peer meeting in May 2015 in Sarajevo, which focused on the work of war crimes investigators. Whether placed in specialized departments of

## **ODIHR ANNUAL TRIAL-MONITORING MEETINGS**

Since 2002 ODIHR has organized and supported OSCE trial-monitoring meetings to offer a platform for sharing challenges and good field practices in the area of trial monitoring. From 2002 to 2006, the Annual Trial-Monitoring Meetings were conducted only at a regional level in South-Eastern Europe, where the largest OSCE Missions conduct a variety of trial-monitoring programmes.

Since 2011, when ODIHR began including NGO participants in its Annual Trial-Monitoring Meeting, their number has tripled. While the total number of participants remained stable at around 50 over the years, the percentage of NGO participants increased from 20 per cent to approximately 65 per cent.

The meeting, with its thematic focus on monitoring administrative justice, dedicated a considerable amount of time to the issue of access to administrative justice for vulnerable persons, and in particular, for persons with disabilities. People with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination in their interaction with public administration. It is, therefore, of crucial importance that they can seek and obtain effective judicial remedies in order to uphold their rights.

the Ministry of Interior in the region or directly co-operating with war crimes prosecutors, investigators in war crimes cases face a number of practical challenges that the exchange of experiences and good practices can help mitigate.

In December, ODIHR published the *Final Report of WCJP II*, to be disseminated to stakeholders to share this experience and relevant lessons learned. Between



July 2012 and December 2015, ODIHR conducted 16 activities, including training seminars, peer-to-peer meetings and an international conference, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Events also took place Kosovo. These activities involved 409 legal actors (including 168 women) involved in war crimes cases, such as judges, prosecutors, defence attorneys, witness support providers and war crimes investigators, as well as representatives of NGOs and academia.

### Electoral Dispute Resolution

On 9 and 10 March 2015, ODIHR hosted a regional roundtable in Warsaw on existing practices in electoral dispute resolution, attended by more than 35 state representatives and members of civil society from the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe. The discussion focused on three main challenges: the availability of legal redress, respect for due process and the effectiveness of remedies. Representatives of election bodies and courts from Eastern

Europe and the South Caucasus provided information on how they dealt with complaints filed in their jurisdictions in the context of elections.

### Improving Legislative Efficiency and Transparency

To assist OSCE participating States in their efforts to improve their lawmaking processes, ODIHR has developed a methodology to conduct comprehensive assessments of the legislative process and actual practice, followed by the holding of thematic workshops and the creation of regulatory reform roadmaps, with concrete action points for national reform.

In 2015, reports on the comprehensive assessments of the legislative process

in Georgia and in Kyrgyzstan were launched in June and December 2015, respectively. These reports analyse the legislative and practical aspects of the lawmaking processes in these countries, and provide practical recommendations for reform to enhance their effectiveness, efficiency, openness, inclusiveness and transparency. Relevant stakeholders welcomed both reports as realistic depictions of the main challenges in the lawmaking systems of these countries and as excellent starting points for discussing possible reforms.

In 2015, following the launch of the *Report on the Comprehensive Assessment of the Legislative Process in the Republic of Armenia* in October 2014,

Tina Gewis (l), Chief of ODIHR's Rule of Law Unit with Richard Lappin, Senior Election Advisor from ODIHR at regional roundtable on electoral dispute resolution in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, in Warsaw, Poland, 10 March 2015. (OSCE/Murat Gungor)



### 2015 ODIHR Legal Reviews in Brief:

- Publication of 13 legal reviews, covering 8 countries (see full list in Annex);
  - **Geographical focus:** Central Asia (4 opinions) and Eastern Europe (6 opinions, including 3 for Ukraine);
  - **Main human dimension issues covered:** criminal justice and police reform, independence of the judiciary, constitutional reform, hate crimes, domestic violence, political party regulation and freedom of information;
  - **Partnership and collaboration:** Five opinions prepared and three assessment missions organized jointly with the Council of Europe and three opinions prepared and/or peer reviewed by other OSCE institutions — the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit; and
- **Follow-up:** Ten follow-up events to discuss the legal opinions and recommendations issued in 2014 and 2015 with key stakeholders in requesting states.

### Some concrete results in 2015:

- Following the *Joint ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Amendments to the Law on the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia*, completed in October 2015, the draft law was substantially amended to reflect the vast majority of ODIHR key recommendations, showing that ODIHR expertise had a very positive impact on the draft law; and
- After the completion in March 2015 of the *Joint ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Law on the Prosecution Service of the Republic of Moldova*, most recommendations were incorporated into a revised draft, which remains under discussion before the Parliament.

**“Our legislative framework already foresees the impact assessment of draft laws, and monitoring of legislation is also done in a number of cases. However, we do need to make these processes more systematic and useful, and I appreciate ODIHR’s support in these efforts.”**

David Usupashvili, Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, during a workshop organized jointly by ODIHR and the Parliament on proper impact assessment and monitoring of legislation

ODIHR organized four workshops in Armenia, namely on policy-making and legislative planning, regulatory impact assessment, public consultations and the evaluation and monitoring of implementation of legislation. An initial workshop was also organized on 20 November 2015 in Georgia on regulatory impact assessment and evaluation and monitoring of legislation.

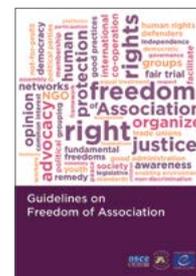
During each workshop, participants developed concrete recommendations for future reform. ODIHR will facilitate the inclusion of all recommendations from the comprehensive assessment reports and follow-up workshops into national regulatory reform roadmaps – thus encouraging greater national ownership, responsiveness and responsibility in the process. A draft

regulatory reform roadmap for Armenia will be finalized and launched in 2016, and similar documents will be developed and adopted in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

### Guidelines for Legislators

ODIHR assists participating States by preparing legislative guidelines that offer advice and expertise on how to legislate on often complex human dimension issues in compliance with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments.

In March 2015, ODIHR released joint ODIHR-Venice Commission



*Guidelines on Freedom of Association.* The guidelines provide a comprehensive and hands-on toolkit to assist lawmakers in drafting human rights-compliant legislation on freedom of association. These guidelines have already been cited as a key reference and standard-setting document by a number of international organizations and INGOs, and have been used by various NGOs and other human rights activists to support their advocacy work. Throughout 2015, ODIHR participated in various events to present the guidelines, and widely disseminated the English, Russian and French-language versions of this tool across the OSCE region.

ODIHR continued to support the activities of its Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, the Core Group of Experts on Political Parties and the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief. With these experts and the Venice Commission, the Office worked to complete revisions to a third edition of the *Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly* and a second edition of the *Guidelines on Political Party Regulation*.

### Gender and Legislative Assistance

Throughout 2015, ODIHR has continued its special efforts to ensure that gender is mainstreamed throughout its legislative assistance work, including through the increased use of legislation gender-proofing tools developed by international organizations and the systematic review of legislative guidelines to ensure that gender and diversity are taken into account in ODIHR's legal reviews. The methodology for carrying out ODIHR's



Yevgenia Avetisova (l), Legal Officer at OSCE/ODIHR with Arsen Mkrtychyan (c) First Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, during a legislative workshop in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia, on 12 May 2015. (OSCE/Kristina Aghayan)

legislative assistance work in general has also been revised accordingly. As a result, gender aspects were specifically addressed in three-quarters of all legal reviews (up from two-thirds in 2014). ODIHR also revised its methodology for conducting comprehensive legislative assessments, to ensure that gender and diversity are duly taken into account during assessment missions and final reports.

### DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND GENDER

Participating States have committed themselves to build, strengthen and protect democratic institutions as vehicles for maintaining and developing pluralistic democracies. Yet many challenges still remain, particularly in relation to transparency of

**“International treaties merely set out broad frameworks to protect our rights – and by their nature they don’t get into the everyday nuts and bolts of exactly what the rights look like on the ground [...] That’s why these guidelines are so critical. They fill in the gaps, and help flesh out exactly what the right to freedom of association entails.”**

Mr. Maina Kiai, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, speaking about the Guidelines on Freedom of Association

political party funding, accountability of parliaments and inclusive political participation. Trends such as a general decline in traditional forms of political participation and low levels of trust in democratic institutions are defining democratic societies across the OSCE region today.

In 2015, ODIHR continued its work to promote pluralistic, representative and accountable democratic institutions in its portfolio of activities related to democratic governance and gender, which focuses on three main areas: increasing political participation of women and youth; increasing

transparency and accountability of democratic institutions, and supporting multi-party political landscapes.

### **Increasing Women's Participation in Political Parties**

Even though OSCE participating States have repeatedly committed themselves to enhancing gender equality in different areas, women remain under-represented in public and political life. This slow progress demonstrates the need for more effective institutional support for gender equality, for specific measures to achieve the goal of gender balance in decision-making, building and

strengthening internal party democracy and setting up networks for female politicians. ODIHR works to increase women's participation in political and public life by identifying discriminatory laws and policies and sharing good practices for women's engagement in democratic processes.

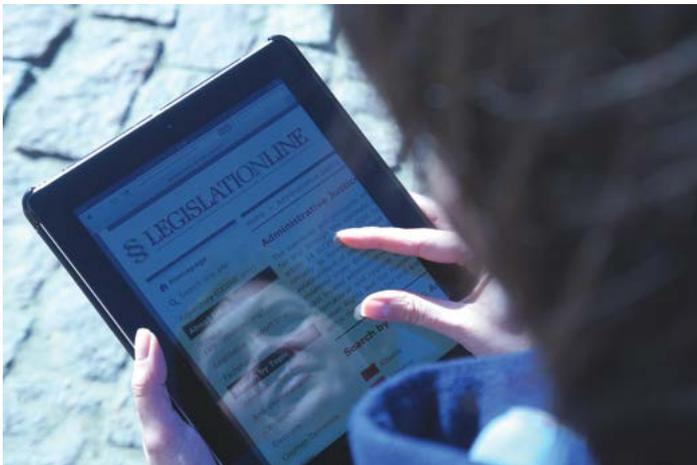
By recognizing the key role political parties can play in increasing women's political participation, both as candidates and holders of elected office, ODIHR continued to engage with political parties in Armenia and Georgia through the Office's gender audit tool. This methodology, based on ODIHR's *Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*, identifies discriminatory policies and practices in the distribution of power and resources within political parties and provides parties with tools to address gender gaps. As a result, seven political parties in Armenia and Georgia developed gender action plans, with clear measures to correct gender imbalances in party structures, practices and processes.

In 2015, ODIHR also conducted follow up visits to Armenia and Georgia to record the initial results from the implementation of the gender action plans. One party established ten local branches of women's wings where none existed before; another expressed support for discussing affirmative temporary measures in the country; and a third party established a mentoring network for women party members. Based on strong interest from stakeholders, ODIHR further promoted the gender audit methodology in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan.

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## **ACCESS TO LAW**

In 2015, the Legislationline.org database of legislation and international and regional documents was accessed 354,771 times, and almost all 18 human dimension thematic areas reflected on Legislationline were updated. Based on the feedback from an on-line, tailor-made survey for Legislationline users conducted in 2014, the website was restructured to become more user-friendly, intuitive and transparent. The new platform will be launched in 2016.



**“I believe ODIHR’s gender audit is a very important instrument for political parties to describe exactly the party’s stance on gender equality and women’s empowerment, to identify how women’s intellectual resources and capabilities are used, to illustrate equality within party management, and to measure women’s participation Georgian politics.”**

Manana Kobakhidze, the First Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia, leader of “*Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia*” party.

### Exchange of good practices of women’s engagement in democratic processes

ODIHR continued to support avenues and provide platforms for the exchange of good practices in women’s political participation. On 26 and 27 May in Warsaw, ODIHR hosted an expert meeting of leading politicians, academics and civil society representatives from the OSCE region to discuss key achievements in the area of women’s participation, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. Findings and recommendations from the meeting laid the foundation for ODIHR’s *Compendium of Good Practices for Advancing Women’s Political Participation in the OSCE Region*, set to be published in early 2016.

In co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, ODIHR supported the organization of a Regional Conference of Women Members of Parliament from South-Eastern Europe, held on 2 and 3 March in Belgrade, during which a Memorandum of Co-operation on jointly identified gender-equality issues was signed by MPs from eleven countries. In co-operation with The National Democratic Institute Regional Elections Administration

and Political Processes Strengthening Program, ODIHR organized a Forum on Women’s Leadership in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, on 16 and 17 April in Belgrade. The event sought to provide support to over 50 gender-equality advocates from 13 countries to network and identify priority areas and actions for inter-regional co-operation.

In addition, a study tour to Belgrade on 9 to 12 November, organized by

ODIHR with support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, enabled women MPs and representatives of the government of Belarus to learn from the experience of Serbia in establishing parliamentary structures for women MPs.

### Increasing Transparency and Accountability of Democratic Institutions

In 2015, ODIHR continued to promote a holistic approach in fighting political corruption and unethical behaviour, by involving political parties, parliaments, anti-corruption agencies and regulatory bodies, alongside civil society.

On 14 and 15 July in Kyiv, ODIHR assisted Ukraine in identifying concrete policy recommendations on political party financing, during the Political Party Expert Workshop, attended by more than 50 regional experts, including representatives of the Ukrainian parliament, academia and civil society



Maria Ionova (l), Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine speaking at an event, co-organized by OSCE/ODIHR in Kyiv, on role of women politicians in peace-building process in Ukraine, as Lana Ackar (r), Associate Gender Officer at ODIHR listens, 16 December 2015. (OSCE/ Jacopo Leone)

**“Empowerment of women and their participation in decision-making at all levels has a positive impact on the economy and welfare in general. Equality of women and men in all spheres of public life, promoting the involvement of men in housework and childcare, as well as combating gender based and domestic violence, are preconditions for the successful development of a country.”**

Olga Politiko, Member of the Standing Commission on Industry, Fuel-Energy Complex, Transport and Communications of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus

organizations. These recommendations informed the legal opinion provided by ODIHR, in partnership with the Venice Commission, on Draft Amendments to Some Legislative Acts Concerning Prevention of and Fight against Political Corruption in Ukraine. The draft law was later adopted by the parliament and signed by the President of Ukraine.

In 2015, ODIHR continued its work to improve the professionalism and accountability of parliaments throughout the OSCE region. With the support of ODIHR and the OSCE Presence in Albania, and responding to shortcomings previously identified by the European Union and Council of Europe’s GRECO reports, the Albanian parliament was one of a number of parliaments to successfully adopt a code of conduct for members of parliament in 2015.

On 15 and 16 April, ODIHR held a roundtable on E-democracy in Warsaw. The overall objective of the event was to provide the 30 participants from governments, OSCE field operations and international organisations from South-Eastern Europe with a platform for dialogue, exchange of experiences, good practices and challenges in the use of new technologies by governments.

To promote a strong democracy at the local level, where local institutions often suffer from declining trust and corruption, ODIHR, together with OSCE field operations and the Council of Europe, held a regional conference on public integrity at the local level in Budva, Montenegro in June, producing recommendations integral to ongoing reforms in South-Eastern Europe.



Meg Munn (I), former Member of Parliament and Minister for Women and Equality in the United Kingdom, listens as ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link delivers opening remarks at the Expert Meeting on Good Practices for Advancing Women’s Political Participation in the OSCE Region, in Warsaw, Poland, 26 May 2015. (OSCE/ Murat Gungor)



## Enhancing Youth Political Participation

ODIHR continued to address the decline in traditional forms of political participation by taking into account specific challenges to youth political participation. In May 2015, ODIHR published the report “Promoting and Increasing Youth Political Participation and Civic Engagement in the OSCE Region”, which builds on

◀ This infographic is based on the report, “Promoting and Increasing Youth Political Participation and Civic Engagement in the OSCE Region”. This Forum brought together almost 100 experts and young leaders from 37 OSCE participating States including politicians, journalists, civil servants, civil society, media representatives and online activists. The purpose of the event was to discuss how the OSCE and its institutions can better assist participating States in meeting their commitments on promoting the inclusion of youth in democratic processes. Forum participants discussed the challenges to democratic institutions and youth political participation.

recommendations from almost 100 young men and women leaders and experts.

As follow-up to this report, and in co-operation with the Serbian OSCE Chairperson and the OSCE Mission to Serbia, on 2 June ODIHR also organized a regional youth conference in Belgrade to discuss youth political participation and promote the report and its recommendations with youth leaders from South-Eastern Europe. These issues were further discussed during a side event organized by the OSCE Youth Ambassadors and ODIHR with the support of the Chairperson-in-office at the 2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Building on the Youth Leadership Forum recommendations, ODIHR continued to support young political advisors across the OSCE region through specific training events, including one held on 13 November in Budapest. The training helped political advisors to better

**“Increasing the capacities of young leaders plays a crucial role in developing democratic institutions, giving them a better understanding of the skills and competencies necessary to be successful young policy advisers.”**

Nighina Azizov, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Republic of Moldova, speaking during the 2nd Policy Advisers Course for Eastern Partnership Countries

understand their role and the tasks that are essential to deliberating, shaping and implementing policy.

## MIGRATION AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

The OSCE region remains an attractive destination for migrants. Responding to the influx of more than one million new migrants, refugees and stateless persons to the OSCE region during 2015 was a top concern for many participating States. This presented new challenges and highlighted the need to continue ongoing reforms to population-registration systems, development of efficient national migration-management mechanisms, and cross-border co-operation while safeguarding the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need of protection.

Freedom of movement within state borders and the ability to travel or

**“By drawing on ODIHR’s expertise on identity management and population registration, Ukraine developed a secure identity management system, as well as the procedures to enable its citizens visa-free travel to the Schengen Area.”**

Meri Akopyan, Head of the International Department of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Ukraine

live abroad are often pre-requisites for the exercise of many fundamental rights, such as the right to education, the right to work and the right to family life.

### **Freedom of Movement**

ODIHR provides support to OSCE participating States in conducting reforms that would simplify visa requirements for their citizens when traveling abroad. Support is also provided to ensure protection of the right to freedom of movement, including access to civil rights and services by reforming residency and civil registration systems.

In 2015, ODIHR helped strengthen the capacity of Ukrainian authorities to implement reform of identity

management processes in the issuance of travel and identification documents, in support of the agreement between Ukraine and the European Commission. ODIHR worked closely with the State Migration Service within Ukraine’s Interior Ministry to align the issuance of Ukrainian travel documents with standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization and required by the European Union for visa liberalization.

On 10 and 11 June, to promote freer and broader cross-border mobility, ODIHR assisted visa policy experts from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan in addressing legal and practical requirements for the introduction of electronic entry visas, as well as the use of online technologies for visa facilitation.

ODIHR also supported civil registration authorities from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan to improve their citizens’ access to civil and political rights by implementing relevant United Nations standards on civil registration. These standards were presented and discussed at a regional conference organized by the UN Statistical Division, ODIHR, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, the World Health Organization and TurkStat, in Istanbul from 15 to 18 September.



Andrey Butsman, National Programme Officer at the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (l), and Shorena Zakariadze, Specialist at the NATO Integration Division of International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department, discuss effective political reporting and briefing at ODIHR’s policy advisers’ training event in Budapest on 12 November 2015. (OSCE/Jacopo Leone)

## Response to the Migration and Refugee Crisis

As part of its comprehensive response to the migration and refugee crisis, ODIHR organized an expert meeting on the migration crisis in the OSCE region: safeguarding rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need of protection, on 12 and 13 November in Warsaw. This meeting provided a platform for the exchange of information on the situation of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need of protection at the borders of OSCE participating States along the Western Balkans migratory route.

## Migrant Integration

Good practices in migrant integration and the rights of migrants were the topic of multiple training courses held in Chisinau, Tallinn, Tbilisi, Vilnius, Uralsk and Petropavlovsk, both in Kazakhstan, Riga and Yerevan, gathering in total 244 participants.

ODIHR conducted an assessment of migrant-integration measures (MIPEX) in Moldova in co-operation with the NGO Migration Policy Group. The MIPEX study found that Moldova does relatively well in integration policy areas focusing on combating discrimination and promoting family reunification and labour market mobility. However, in other areas, such as the political participation of migrants, Moldova faces the same challenges as many “new” migrant destination countries in the OSCE region.

## Gender-Mainstreaming in Migration Policies

ODIHR, in co-operation with OSCE Office in Yerevan, organized a



Example of a Ukrainian biometric passport. (iStockPhoto/siaivo).

tailor-made, human rights-based training seminar on developing gender-sensitive labour-migration policies for 20 Armenian representatives of state authorities and civil society, in Yerevan from 28 to 30 October. In addition, ODIHR supported the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities by co-organizing, together with the OSCE Gender Section, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the workshop on Gender and Labour Migration:

Mr. Ohene Aboagye, International Director, Directorate of Integration and Diversity (Norway), speaks at the ODIHR/EMN regional expert workshop “Relocation of Persons in Need of Protection and Their Integration in the OSCE Region: Challenges and Good Practices”, 2 and 3 December 2015, Riga. (OSCE/ODIHR)



**“This roundtable provided an opportunity to meet with other experts and exchange methodologies on visa-facilitation practices.”**

Haldun Koc, Head of Information Technologies Department of the Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Contemporary Trends in the OSCE Area and Mediterranean Region, in Malta on 7 to 9 October, for 37 participants representing national authorities and civil society from ten OSCE participating States, five OSCE Partners for Co-operation from the Mediterranean region and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## **Human Rights**

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**The year 2015 saw persisting challenges in the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments across the OSCE region, despite having recognized that human rights are inalienable, universal and guaranteed by law. To support states in the implementation of these commitments, ODIHR provides advice and assistance, and supports individuals and civil society with targeted training and education on a broad spectrum of issues, ranging from the fundamental freedoms of religion or belief, assembly and association, to reporting on the use of the death penalty, monitoring trials and preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment. This year, the unprecedented flows of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers across OSCE borders, the continuing threat of terrorism and the human rights implications of anti-terrorism measures, and the crisis in and around Ukraine continued to have a very significant human rights impact and guided ODIHR's work.**

## ACTIVITIES

### HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

ODIHR continued to maintain an overview of human rights developments across the OSCE region, with a view to identifying trends, challenges and examples of good practices in the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments.

On 17 September, ODIHR and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) presented their joint *Report of the Human Rights Assessment Mission on Crimea*. The 100-page report, which was prepared upon request of a participating State, was based on interviews with more than 100 civil society actors, representatives of the Ukrainian authorities, Crimean residents and displaced persons, as well as people travelling between Crimea and mainland Ukraine. It presented a comprehensive examination of the human rights situation in Crimea, based on numerous credible, consistent and compelling accounts of serious human rights violations and legal irregularities on the peninsula.

On 10 November, ODIHR published its report on the *Human Rights Situation of Detainees at Guantanamo*, a comprehensive assessment of human rights in the detention facility, covering issues surrounding the detention of individuals, proceedings before military commissions, and challenges in closing the facility and ensuring accountability for human rights violations against detainees. The 280-page report is based on interviews with United

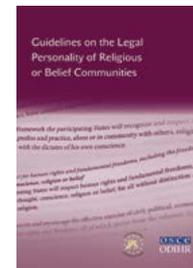
States government officials, military and civilian lawyers, NGO representatives and former detainees, as well as extensive desk research.

As part of its third cycle of assembly monitoring, in 2015 ODIHR observed assemblies in five participating States. A comprehensive report with the monitoring findings will be published in 2016.

### HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT ADVICE

ODIHR provided expert advice on the implementation of human dimension commitments to participating States and other stakeholders, and participated in expert meetings and discussions at the international and national levels.

On 4 February, at an event hosted in Brussels by the European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance, ODIHR launched its *Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities*, prepared jointly by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. The guidelines present minimum international standards in the area of recognition of religious or belief communities, delineating the legal framework that would ensure that communities wishing to do so have a fair opportunity to be granted legal personality. The Turkish-language translation of the guidelines was presented in Istanbul



Dilnoza Satarova (l), ODIHR's Associate Officer on Freedom of Religion and Belief with Ergun Ozbudun (c-l), Professor of Law at Istanbul Şehir Üniversitesi, Bulent Senay (c-r), Professor of History of Religion and Culture at Uludağ University, and Mine Yildirim(r), Director of the Freedom of Belief Initiative in Turkey at launch event of Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities in Istanbul, 19 November. (OSCE/Marharyta Zhesko)

on 19 November, at an event organized in co-operation with the Norwegian Helsinki Committee's Freedom of Belief Initiative in Turkey, Istanbul Bilgi University's Human Rights Law Research Centre, and the International Centre for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University.

From 1 to 3 June, the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE and ODIHR organized a Human Dimension Seminar on the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in promoting and protecting human rights in the OSCE area. The event provided an opportunity for the exchange of information about the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs, co-operation among NHRIs and with other actors, as well as good practices in the functioning of NHRIs (e.g., legislative issues, organizational practices, efficient frameworks for addressing human rights complaints).

On 2 and 3 July, the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE and ODIHR jointly organized a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on "Freedom of Religion or Belief: Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding". Participants took stock of relevant developments in the OSCE region since the 2010 SHDM on Freedom of Religion or Belief. They discussed conditions for meaningful and sustained interreligious dialogue to ensure stability and security in the OSCE region and to advance freedom of religion or belief.

ODIHR, jointly with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), published in July its *Mapping Study: Ombuds Institutions*



Hina Jilani, advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and former UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders, delivering the keynote address at opening of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Vienna, 16 April 2015. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

*for the Armed Forces in the OSCE Region*, a document bringing together the experiences and good practices of ombuds institutions from across the OSCE region in overseeing the armed forces and ensuring that they operate in an accountable and transparent manner. In 2015, ODIHR also published the meeting report on "The Role of Military Associations in Protecting Human Rights of Armed Forces Personnel in Central and Eastern Europe". The document is based on an event co-organized by ODIHR and the European Organisation of Military Associations, held on 10 September 2014.



ODIHR disseminated and promoted awareness of its *Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders*. In 2015 the document was translated into French, Serbian and Spanish.

**“We consider ODIHR’s Guidelines to be very important for the work of human rights defenders. Together with our partners from the region, we engage actively in their implementation.”**

Izabela Kisić, executive director of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia

## FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN UKRAINE

ODIHR delivered a series of activities as part of a project on *Promoting Security for Religious Communities and Others* in the Regions of Ukraine. The project focuses on two pilot regions of Ukraine (Vinnitsa/Cherkassy and Odessa) by building capacity of civil society, religious or belief communities and relevant state institutions on freedom of religion or belief and hate crimes, and by promoting dialogue between religious or belief communities and between these communities and the state. In 2015, ODIHR organized six seminars on freedom of religion or belief and hate crimes, two national events on freedom of religion or belief, two regional dialogue roundtables, and one study visit of Ukrainian police officers and prosecutors to Warsaw. A total of 486 participants (301 men, 185 women) took part in these activities.

**6** SEMINARS  
**2** NATIONAL EVENTS  
**2** REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES  
**1** STUDY VISIT  
**486** PARTICIPANTS

185 women

301 men

The Serbian translation of the document was presented at a meeting in Belgrade organized by ODIHR on 16 November, in collaboration with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia and with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

### HUMAN RIGHTS CAPACITY BUILDING

ODIHR provided training and capacity building to state and non-state actors, with a view to promoting full implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments.

From 29 June to 3 July, in partnership with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the University of Warsaw, ODIHR organized the second NHRI Academy. The event brought together 26 members of NHRI staffs (18 women, eight men) from across the OSCE area. It provided practical training to senior

and mid-level staff on how to address particular challenges and opportunities that NHRIs face in their work, with a focus on gender mainstreaming, human rights monitoring, and co-operation among and independence of NHRIs. The Academy also created an environment for sharing good practices between peers, and a platform to establish a common understanding for joint work and interventions by NHRIs.

As part of its activities to support civil society in Ukraine, ODIHR delivered four human rights monitoring training sessions, in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa and Lviv, respectively, for Ukrainian human rights activists. Ninety-six participants (37 men, 59 women) took part in the sessions. Of these, 42 representatives from 12 Ukrainian civil society organizations (28 women and 14 men) were further selected and trained in November to implement small human rights monitoring projects.

**“The respect of human rights in the fight against terrorism is not only a legal obligation, it is a precondition for counter-terrorism measures to be successful. These courses provided participants with an opportunity to understand the short- and long-term negative effects of human rights violations on the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures.”**

Lucile Sengler, Adviser on Anti-Terrorism Issues at ODIHR, 6 November 2015, Madrid, Spain

In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, ODIHR implemented activities as part of a project to raise awareness about OSCE commitments and international standards on freedom of religion or belief. The project also promoted the new *Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities* among government officials, representatives of religious or belief communities and civil society actors. Activities included workshops and training events for representatives of state bodies, religious or belief communities and civil society organizations, and were attended by 74 participants (46 men, 28 women). ODIHR also supported a Bishkek-based NGO to produce a practical handbook on

international standards on freedom of religion or belief and national legislation in Kyrgyzstan.

ODIHR continued to organize capacity building activities to support participating States in ensuring that human rights are respected when combating terrorism. From 6 to 10 April, 22 participants from 11 OSCE participating States and Afghanistan (17 men, five women) completed a joint ODIHR-OSCE Border Management Staff College regional training on “Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism and Border Security”. The training focused on the need to develop and implement human rights-compliant measures to successfully counter transnational

terrorist threats to border security. Between 2 and 6 November, ODIHR organized two training sessions on complying with human rights standards and effectively countering terrorism, in Madrid. The courses brought together 38 mid- and senior-level officers of the Spanish National Police, Guardia Civil, the Intelligence Centre against Terrorism and Organized Crime (CITCO), the Penitentiary Institutions and the Regional Police of Spain (29 men, nine women). Both courses adopted an operational approach and focused on the importance of respecting human rights to successfully counter terrorism.

ODIHR continued to develop training tools on the human rights compliant policing of assemblies. A first pilot training based on the draft tools was delivered on 16 and 17 July in Bishkek to 21 Kyrgyz public order police commanders (20 men, one woman) from across the country. A second pilot training was offered on 28 and 29 October in Szczytno to 25 Polish police commanders (21 men, four women) from all regions of Poland. Feedback collected during these training activities will serve in the further development and finalization of ODIHR’s training tools on the policing of assemblies.

ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link (r) listens as Ambassador Sanja Milinković, Deputy Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, speaks at the Human Dimension Seminar on the role of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights in the OSCE area. Warsaw, 1 June 2015. (OSCE/Piotr Markowski)





Engy Abdelkader, Member of ODIHR's Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief presenting the Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities, at event in Brussels, 4 February 2015 (European Parliament)

Omer Fisher, Deputy Head of ODIHR's human rights department, presenting in Warsaw at the study visit by police officers and prosecutors from Ukraine, 19 October 2015. (OSCE/Murat Gungor)





# **Tolerance and Non-Discrimination**

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**ODIHR's efforts in 2015 to promote tolerance and non-discrimination were dominated by the crisis in and around Ukraine, the refugee crisis, the entrenched problem of hate crime and responses to the threat of terrorism. Reactions to these crises highlight how divisions within societies can have direct security implications and underline the importance of fostering tolerance to promote stability. To confront these challenges, ODIHR continued to work closely with participating States and civil society groups to counter hate crime, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians and followers of other religions or beliefs.**

## ACTIVITIES

The Office maintained its efforts to address hate crime and other forms of intolerance throughout the year. In addition to close partnership with participating States, ODIHR also co-operated with religious communities, civil society and international organizations. It is by strengthening all of these actors that societies can face the challenges posed by discrimination and intolerance.

### CIVIL SOCIETY: THE ESSENTIAL PARTNER

Civil society plays a central role in promoting tolerance and supporting the victims of hate crimes. This role was underlined throughout ODIHR's efforts in 2015. For example, civil society groups from across the OSCE region were at the centre of the Conference on Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Coalition Building and Co-operation, held on 18 and 19 November in Vienna. This conference brought together participants from 16 participating States, enabling civil society groups to learn from each other's experience and develop good practices in coalition building to help foster tolerance. Held in parallel with the annual meeting of government officials responsible for submitting hate crime information to ODIHR, the conference also provided a platform for discussion between civil society groups and government officials on the issue of hate crime.

### Ukraine

The Office was active in Ukraine through 2015. Featuring workshops and events in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Vinnytsa,

Lviv and Odesa. Participants in ODIHR's activities included government officials, police officers, prosecutors, civil society groups and religious communities. As part of the "Promoting Security for Religious Communities and Others in the Regions of Ukraine" project, designed to help counter hate crime and foster freedom of religion or belief, ODIHR delivered a series of workshops designed to strengthen the Ukrainian police's ability to identify and investigate hate crimes. Ukrainian officials also met with their Polish counterparts in Warsaw to draw lessons and share good practices based on Poland's experiences.

As part of its efforts to strengthen civil society, ODIHR also organized a number of workshops on hate crime, many of which also provided platforms for dialogue with government officials and

other international organizations active in Ukraine, notably the IOM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

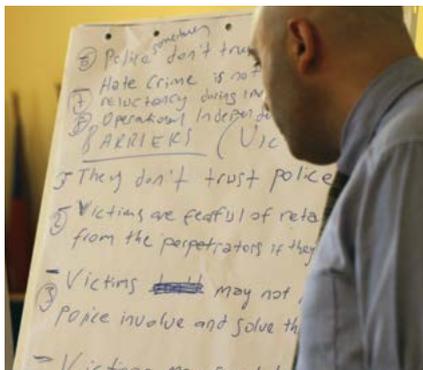
To help explain the concept of hate crime, "Understanding Hate Crimes: A Handbook for Ukraine" was published, following consultations with government officials, civil society groups and international organizations. The booklet, available in English, Ukrainian and Russian, explains the significance of hate crimes and suggests how authorities and communities can prevent and better respond to them.

### STRONGLY AND EFFECTIVELY COUNTERING HATE CRIME

Effectively countering hate crimes remains a pillar of ODIHR's work on tolerance and non-discrimination

Participants in group work at training on hate crime for Polish civil society organizations, in Warsaw, 12 February 2015. (OSCE/Murat Gungor)





A participant shares ideas at a Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) training-of-trainers seminar organized by ODIHR in Warsaw, 24 July 2015. (OSCE/Agnieszka Rembowska)

issues. The Office's approach is based on strengthening the abilities of governments and civil society to recognize and address hate crimes and on the recording and reporting of hate crime data.

### Working with law-enforcement and prosecutors

OSCE participating States acknowledge that hate crimes pose a threat to security and may give rise to conflict and violence on a wider scale. ODIHR continues to work closely with law-enforcement agencies and prosecutors to assist them in identifying, investigating and successfully prosecuting hate crimes.

Beatriz Balbin, OSCE/ODIHR First Deputy Director and Mr. Leszek Pietraszko, Director of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution in Poland, at the signing of the memorandum of understanding for the implementation of the Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT) Programme in Warsaw, 16 September 2015. (OSCE/Agnieszka Rembowska)



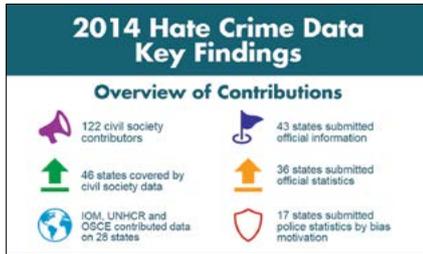
In addition to efforts in Ukraine, ODIHR continued to expand the successful Training against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme, signing a memorandum of understanding with Lithuania and delivering workshops in Skopje, Vilnius and Riga. Police forces in Turkey and Valencia, Spain are expected to begin implementing TAHCLE in early 2016, following assessments that involved government officials and civil society groups.

Following the launch of the Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT) programme, in late 2014, ODIHR increased its work with prosecutors in July. Bulgaria became the first OSCE participating State to agree to implement the programme, followed by Poland in September. A pool of uniquely qualified international instructors was created to assist in these efforts, following a first training-of-trainers workshop held in May 2015.

### Hate crime reporting and recording

As part of its reporting efforts, ODIHR published hate crime data for 2014 on 16 November. This included information provided by 43 OSCE participating States. Of these, 17 provided detailed police statistics according to ODIHR's bias motivations. ODIHR also received information from 122 civil society groups, reporting incidents in 46 countries. This information was supplemented by data submitted by seven OSCE field operations, the UNHCR and the IOM.

Despite increases in the amount of information provided to ODIHR, hate crimes remain widely under-reported.



For example, very little official or civil society data was provided on hate crimes targeting Roma and Sinti, or those targeting people with disabilities.

The National Points of Contact on Hate Crime appointed by participating States remain at the core of ODIHR's reporting efforts. The annual meeting of the National Points of Contact, was an opportunity to share information and good practices among themselves, as well as with civil society representatives.

In addition to this network, additional efforts were made to help participating States develop their ability to recognize and record hate crimes through workshops held in Zagreb and Sofia. These complemented workshops held for civil society and international organizations.

### **COUNTERING INTOLERANCE AGAINST MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS, RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-SEMITISM**

Addressing hate crimes is but one aspect of ODIHR's efforts. Working closely with affected communities is essential to identifying areas for improvement and fostering tolerance.

### **Supporting the Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination**

ODIHR continued to support the work of the Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. The three Personal Representatives began the year with a country visit to France, in the weeks following the January attacks against Charlie Hebdo and the Hyper-Kasher supermarket, from 19 to 21 January. This was followed by a country visit to the Netherlands, from 22 to 24 June 2015.

In addition to the two country visits, ODIHR Director Link and Rabbi Andrew Baker made a joint visit to Hungary on 17 and 18 June 2015, during which they met with government officials, civil society and the Jewish community in Hungary.

### **Racism and Xenophobia**

The refugee and migration crisis was closely monitored throughout 2015. A number of participating States are directly affected by the crisis, which showed the best and the worst of societies as some welcomed the refugees, but tolerance was tested in others. On 11 December, ODIHR convened a meeting of civil society representatives to discuss the impact of the migration and refugee crisis on relations between local communities and migrants and refugees. Particular attention was paid to incidents of intolerance and discrimination with racist, xenophobic or anti-Muslim motives.

**“OSCE commitments highlight the important role played by political leaders in countering anti-Semitism, but talk is not enough – what’s needed is action. ODIHR is here to discuss what more can be done to bring about positive change and establish effective, comprehensive and sustainable responses to anti-Semitism.”**

Director Michael Georg Link, speaking during a trip to Budapest to discuss measures to implement a zero-tolerance policy towards anti-Semitism in Hungary.

### **2014 Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination**

#### **Alexey Avtonomov**

Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

#### **Rabbi Andrew Baker**

Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism

#### **Talip Küçükcan**

Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims



Ethar El-Katatney, Senior Producer at Al Jazeera Plus, at OSCE/ODIHR event on news media and Muslim communities, in Warsaw, 14 September 2015. (OSCE/Murat Gungor)

Women of African descent and Muslim women face unique challenges. To address this reality, ODIHR continued its work, through a workshop held on 15 and 16 June, dedicated to discussing the issues of discrimination that they face. During the event, participants discussed barriers to equal access to employment and education, as well as measures that can be used to counter this discrimination.

### **Countering intolerance against Muslims by addressing stereotypes**

In the shadows cast by fears of religious radicalization and the refugee crisis, an informed society can play a crucial role in countering widespread stereotypes. As such, ODIHR's efforts focused on countering stereotypes that distort the image of Muslims.

ODIHR published a Greek language version of the "Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance

and Discrimination against Muslims" to provide local educators with the resources they need to challenge stereotypes in the classroom. In parallel, ODIHR has pursued work to address stereotypes against Muslims in the media. Building on recommendations and concerns voiced during workshops held in the previous years, media experts met on 14 September to examine the challenges and identify strategies to address stereotypes in reporting on issues related to Muslims.

### **Addressing intolerance against Christians**

Christian communities continue to face intolerance across the OSCE region. Finding ways to address hate crimes and discrimination against these groups was at the centre of a conference held on 18 May 2015. The 100 participants explored the challenges Christians face, particularly the exclusion and marginalization of Christians in minority settings. The resulting recommendations included better data on hate crimes targeting Christians, as well as clear guidelines on freedom of religion or belief.



Cristina Finch, Head of OSCE/ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at workshop on responses to anti-Semitic hate crime, 20 April 2015. (OSCE/Micky Kröll)

### Challenging anti-Semitism and promoting Holocaust remembrance

The success of the 10th Anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism in November 2014 was followed by terrible attacks targeting Jewish communities in Paris and Copenhagen in early 2015. In the wake of the attacks, ODIHR examined ways to improve the security of Jewish communities. On 20 April, ODIHR held a workshop to explore the impacts of anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish communities, identifying the defining features of anti-Semitic hate crime and concrete ways for governments and communities to work closer together. Building on these needs and recommendations, ODIHR began planning the implementation of an intensive three-year project that will identify and respond to the security needs of Jewish communities, promote tolerance through education and strengthen civil society through coalition-building activities.

Participants from international organizations and OSCE field missions at hate crime training event in Warsaw, 20 August. (OSCE/Murat Gungor)



In addition to actively countering contemporary anti-Semitism, ODIHR actively promoted Holocaust remembrance throughout the year. Following long-term efforts by ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the Moldovan parliament adopted 27 January as a Holocaust Memorial Day, becoming the 28th OSCE country to do so. This recognition came in a year that marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.



## **Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues**

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**The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues plays an important role in addressing discrimination, racism and hate crimes against Roma and Sinti and in promoting their inclusion. The Contact Point reviews the implementation of OSCE commitments in dialogue with OSCE institutions, international stakeholders, national authorities and Roma and Sinti civil society, including Roma and Sinti women and youth. The Contact Point monitors and reports about the human rights situation of Roma and Sinti through its field visit reports and co-operates with relevant authorities in improving their situation with the active participation and involvement of Roma and Sinti people. The programme focuses on enhancing safety and security for Roma and Sinti communities, increasing their participation in public and political life, and promoting gender equality throughout all its activities.**

## ACTIVITIES

### SECURITY OF ROMA AND SINTI COMMUNITIES

Throughout the OSCE region, Roma and Sinti suffer from poverty, insecure and dangerous housing conditions, systemic discrimination in all areas of life, and racism and violence, often due to conflict situations. Hate crimes against Roma and Sinti remain largely underreported, and the relationship between police and these communities suffers from mistrust and lack of understanding, which can lead to ineffective protection. To counter this, in 2015 ODIHR developed a draft curriculum to train police on effective and human rights-compliant policing in relation to Roma and Sinti communities at the local level.

ODIHR assessed the security concerns of Roma and Sinti, including of Roma and Sinti women and youth, in Sweden, Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania, and held meetings with police about their understanding of security issues relating to these communities. Issues raised by the communities and law-enforcement officials formed the basis for the development of the curriculum for promoting effective and human rights-compliant local policing of Roma and Sinti communities. The training curriculum was reviewed by 17 experts, including police officers and Roma and Sinti representatives, at a meeting in Warsaw on 14 and 15 October.

### ASSESSING THE HOUSING SITUATION OF ROMA AND SINTI

ODIHR assessed the housing situation of Roma in Miskolc, Hungary, with a community of some 25,000 Roma. In 2015, local authorities started issuing eviction orders to those living in the “numbered streets” settlement in Miskolc. Those living in “low-comfort” social housing with indefinite contracts were offered compensation of 6,700 euros for terminating their contracts and leaving their homes. The municipal decree further stipulated that those receiving compensation could only use the funds to purchase property outside the city. This condition was subsequently struck down by the Hungarian Supreme Court. ODIHR’s Contact Point monitored this situation throughout the year. At a press conference on 1 July in Budapest, the ODIHR Director called for ensuring sustainable,

**“Criminal cases against police representatives suspected of violence against Roma remain under investigation for very long periods of time, which blatantly violates the standards set by the European Court of Human Rights,”**

Oana Tabă from the Romanian NGO Romani Criss.

Young Roma and Sinti activists at the Participation and Advocacy Training for Roma and Sinti Youth, organized by OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw, 30 September 2015. (OSCE/ Piotr Markowski)



**“A lack of access to personal documents perpetuates the marginalization of Roma in Ukraine, as it prevents them from accessing basic services in the areas of housing, healthcare, employment and education.”**

Mirjam Karoly, Chief of ODIHR’s Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues at the event on 19 and 20 November 2015 in Kyiv.

non-discriminatory housing solutions for Roma. A report on the findings of the field assessment visit will be published in 2016.

### PROMOTING ROMA INCLUSION IN UKRAINE

On 24 November 2015 in Kyiv, some 40 participants from Ukrainian national and regional authorities, Roma civil society and the international community discussed policies implemented at the regional and local levels to address the challenges faced by Roma in the areas of education, employment, housing and policing. The round-table focused on enhancing institutional co-operation and co-ordination in the implementation of national and regional action plans on the protection and integration of Roma in Ukraine and was hosted by ODIHR, in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

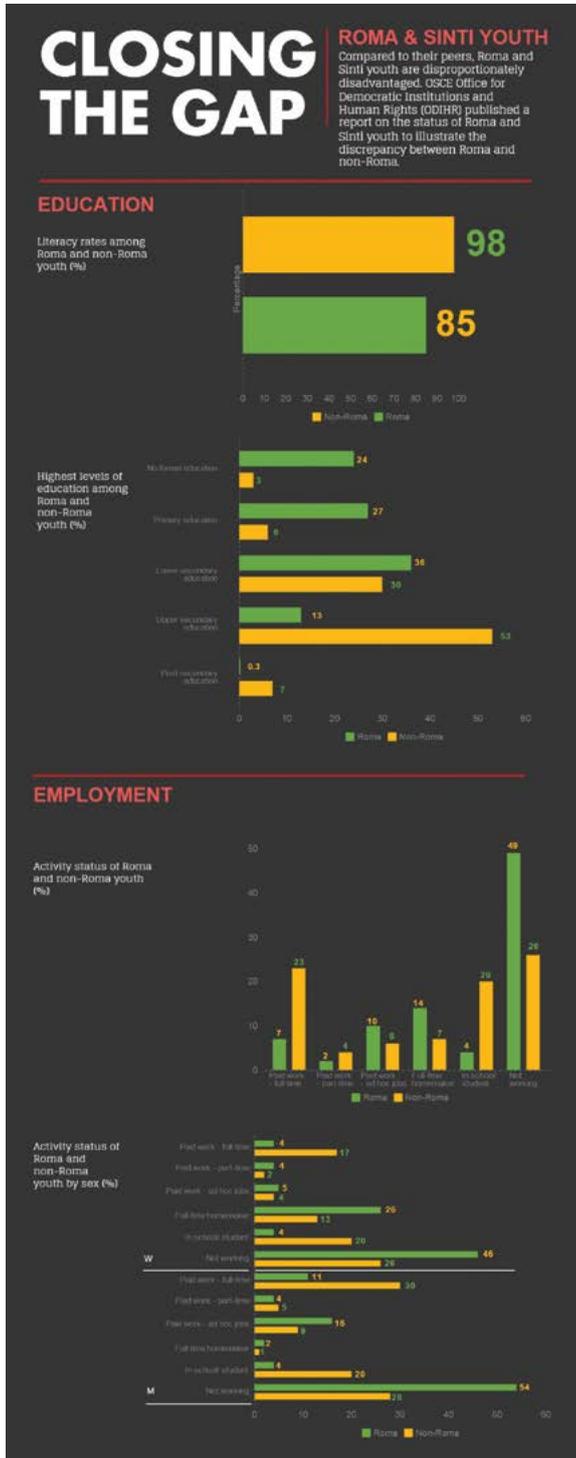
Andriy Vitrenko (l), Deputy Minister of Culture of Ukraine, speaking at a roundtable meeting on the situation of Roma in Ukraine, while Mirjam Karoly, ODIHR’s Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues listens, in Kyiv, 24 November 2015. (Andrey Krepkih)



Participants advocated for the establishment of an inter-ministerial body to work in close consultation with Roma for better co-ordination of policies for Roma integration. Following this event, on 25 November the Prime Minister signed a decree on the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group on the creation and implementation of the “Strategy on the Protection and Integration of the Roma national minority into Ukrainian Society up to 2020.” Moreover, the Action Plan to implement the Ukrainian National Human Rights Strategy, adopted in December 2015, included a revision of this strategy. Both steps are positive developments for which ODIHR has advocated.

On 19 and 20 November 2015 ODIHR, in co-operation with the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, supported an event to define solutions to address problems Roma face in accessing civil registration and personal identification documents. Thirty-five participants, representing central and regional state authorities, Roma and non-Roma civil society organizations, independent experts and UNHCR representatives from the Western Balkans region, met to ex-change their experience and share working practices to overcome obstacles to receiving personal documents. The seminar resulted in a report, with recommendations, on access to identification and civil registration documents by Roma in Ukraine, in English and Ukrainian.





## PROMOTING PARTICIPATION OF ROMA AND SINTI, INCLUDING WOMEN AND YOUTH

On 1 October 2015, ODIHR released the report *“Activism, Participation and Security among Roma and Sinti Youth”* during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. The new report, on the role of Roma and Sinti youth in enhancing participation and security for their communities, offers new statistical data on the situation of Roma youth in 12 OSCE participating States.



**Closing the Gap** The ODIHR Contact Point worked to enhance the participation of Roma and Sinti women and youth by hosting a Participation and Advocacy Training for 20 Roma and Sinti youth participants, on 30 September 2015. On 18 and 19 May in Warsaw, the Office consulted with Roma and Sinti women on enhancing gender equality throughout its activities.



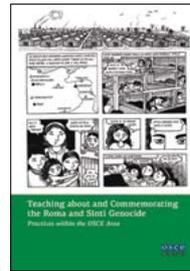
The graphs presented in this visual are from the ODIHR report *“Activism, Participation and Security among Roma and Sinti Youth”*. The Roma youth data is based on the dataset of the UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011, covering 12 countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe. For more information, please visit <http://www.osce.org/odihr/187861>.

**“We are particularly concerned that, unless they are addressed immediately, discriminatory measures being introduced by local authorities in some parts of the country could set a dangerous precedent and provide a negative example for others.”**

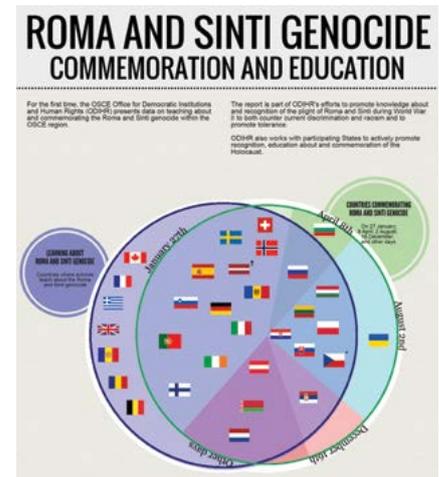
Director Link, press conference, Budapest 1 July 2015.

## TEACHING ABOUT THE ROMA AND SINTI GENOCIDE

ODIHR promoted dialogue on educating about and remembering the experience of Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust to challenge present forms of discrimination and promote equality. Together with the Living History Forum and the Swedish Ombudsman, ODIHR brought together over 60 stakeholders, including educators, researchers, historians, Roma and Sinti civil society, to explore the link between history and present and the potential of history education for promoting non-discrimination and equality for Roma and Sinti, on 23 April in Stockholm.



teach about and commemorate the Roma and Sinti genocide in the OSCE region, in the publication *Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide*. It was presented and discussed at the plenary meeting of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, on 4 November 2015 in Debrecen, Hungary.



On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, ODIHR presented an overview of practices to

OSCE/ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link speaking with a Roma resident of the Miskolc "numbered streets" neighborhood on the second day of a two-day visit to Hungary, 1 July 2015. (Turay Balázs)



# Annexes



# HUMAN DIMENSION MEETINGS 2015

**Human rights are universal – they are inherent to all human beings, no matter nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. However, people can only, really enjoy them if there are laws, institutions and structures that allow people to fully exercise their rights.**



Opening session of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2015 in Warsaw, 21 September. (OSCE/ Piotr Markowski)



Konstantin Baranov (l), Member of the Coordinating Council of the International Youth Human Rights Movement, Ambassador Maria Leissner (c-r), Secretary General of the Community of Democracies, and Melanie Sully, Head of the Go-Governance Institute, listening to Alice Thomas (c-l), Chief of ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit, giving her opening remarks, during a side event at Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, in Warsaw, 22 September. (OSCE/Murat Gungor)

To achieve that in the OSCE region, the 57 participating States promote the application of their commitments in the human dimension of security through annual meetings to discuss and review implementation and, if needed, to identify issues for political action. To this end, every year human dimension meetings are organized, including:

## **HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING (HDIM)**

The HDIM is organized in Warsaw, once a year, for all participating States to discuss implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments. In 2015, HDIM special topics included challenges to the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the age of new information and communication technologies, including the respect for privacy; independence of the judicial system, with a particular focus on accountability and integrity of judges and prosecutors; and combating hate crimes and ensuring effective protection against discrimination.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETINGS (SHDMS)**

SHDMS are informal meetings organized by the OSCE Chairmanship and ODIHR, in co-operation with other OSCE institutions and executive structures, to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous HDIM or OSCE review conferences. The three meetings last one and a half days each and usually take place in Vienna. The year's three SHDMS highlighted the issues of freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, with emphasis on freedom of association; freedom of religion or belief and fostering mutual respect and understanding; and the OSCE contribution to the protection of national minorities.

## **HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR (HDS)**

Organized by ODIHR under the guidance of the OSCE Chairmanship, the annual seminar addresses specific topics and questions of particular relevance to the human dimension and of current political concern. The 2015 HDS topic was the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in promoting and protecting human rights in the OSCE Area.

In 2015, five human dimension meetings took place, with more than 2000 participants total. Participants included representatives of participating States (official delegations), OSCE Partners for Co-operation, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), international organizations, the OSCE institutions and executive structures, civil society and nongovernmental organizations, as well as academics and media. Participants of human dimension

meetings are encouraged to organize side events on relevant human dimension issues to facilitate informal discussions between different partners. Side events provide an opportunity to present best practices, to brief participants on different projects and activities and to conduct more in-depth and focused discussions on various issues related to democracy and human rights in the OSCE area. HDIM participants actively utilized this opportunity

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### CIVIL SOCIETY AT HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2015

Civil society organizations form the largest group of participants of human dimension meetings. In 2015, there were 766 various representatives of civil society – among them big international non-governmental organizations, small citizens groups and human rights activists and defenders.

They are active contributors to sessions – during HDIM they took the floor 373 times, official delegations did so 213 times. Also, more than half of side events were organized by civil society this year.

Civil society plays a vital role in implementing and safeguarding human dimension commitments in the OSCE area. Non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders and activists serve as watchdogs for governments, not only reporting acts of corruption, injustice or human rights violations, but also helping to translate human dimension commitments into practice in the local communities. ODIHR's human dimension meetings provide a unique opportunity for these individuals and organizations to come face-to-face and have their voices heard by their own governments and the international community.



Member of civil society speaking during session on rule of law, at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, 25 September 2015 (Piotr Markowski)



Anne Gaspard, Executive Director of Equinet, moderating the session on combating hate crimes and ensuring effective protection against discrimination, during Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, 29 September 2015 (OSCE/Murat Gungor)

in 2015, organizing more than 80 side events during the two-week long meeting. Nine were organized during the three supplementary meetings.

Meetings participants provide a wide range of recommendations addressing the implementation of OSCE commitments by participating States. They also suggest issues for consideration

and follow-up by relevant OSCE structures or international organizations. These recommendations are compiled, together with summaries of discussions, in the form of reports. Participating States and the OSCE Chairmanship may use the results for further political action, including as a foundation for OSCE Ministerial Council decisions.

Meeting	Location	Date	Number of participants	Website
SHDM on Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association, with emphasis on Freedom of Association	Vienna	16- 17 April	173	<a href="http://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_1_2015">www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_1_2015</a>
HDS on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in the OSCE Area	Warsaw	1-3 June	140	<a href="http://www.osce.org/event/hds_2015">www.osce.org/event/hds_2015</a>
SHDM on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding	Vienna	2-3 July	139	<a href="http://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2015">www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2015</a>
HDIM with three special topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges to the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the age of new information and communication technologies, including the respect for privacy;</li> <li>• Independence of the judicial system, with a particular focus on accountability and integrity of judges and prosecutors; and</li> <li>• Combating hate crimes and ensuring effective protection against discrimination.</li> </ul>	Warsaw	21 September - 2 October	1387	<a href="http://www.osce.org/odihr/hdim_2015">www.osce.org/odihr/hdim_2015</a>
SHDM on the OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities	Vienna	29-30 Oct	172	<a href="http://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_3_2015">www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_3_2015</a>

# SELECTED 2015 CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

## ELECTIONS

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Expert Workshop on the Observation of Campaign Finance	Warsaw	9-10 April	14
Joint OSCE Chairperson-in-Office/ODIHR Election Seminar	Vienna	20 July	90
Heads and Deputy Heads of Missions' Review Meeting	Warsaw	14-15 December	14

## DEMOCRATIZATION

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Joint ODIHR/Council of Europe visit to Moldova to discuss the new draft Law on the Prosecution Service	Chisinau	5-7 February	45
ODIHR Presentation of the Georgia Trial Monitoring Report and Opinion on the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia	Tbilisi	16-18 February	50
Country visit to Armenia of the ODIHR Assessment Team on the Law-making Process of Armenia	Yerevan	16-21 February	60
ODIHR workshop: Policy Making and Legislative Planning	Tsaghkadzor, Armenia	23-24 February	30
ODIHR/IOM workshop: Best practices in integration of migrants in Moldova and Ukraine	Chisinau	26-27 February	34
Regional Conference of Women Members of Parliament from South-Eastern Europe: Equal and Empowered – Stronger Together	Belgrade	2-3 March	50
Launch of the Joint ODIHR-Venice Commission <i>Guidelines on Freedom of Association</i>	Geneva	5 March	80
Expert seminar on Youth Political Participation	Warsaw	5-6 March	15
Regional roundtable on Electoral Dispute Resolution	Warsaw	9-10 March	40
Annual meeting of the ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly	Warsaw	12-13 March	14
E-democracy in South-Eastern Europe	Warsaw	15 April	30
Civil society forum on Enhancing the Participation of Associations in Public Decision-making Processes	Vienna	15-16 April	35
Inter-regional Forum on Women's Leadership in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia (jointly with The National Democratic Institute)	Belgrade	16-17 April 2015	50
Regional conference on Public Integrity at the Local Level	Budva, Montenegro	5-6 May	40

ODIHR workshop: Impact Assessment as an Effective Tool for Better Legislation	Tsaghkadzor, Armenia	12-13 May	35
Expert meeting: Good Practices for Advancing Women's Political Participation in the OSCE Region	Warsaw	26-27 May	40
Regional seminar: Youth Political Participation in South-Eastern Europe	Belgrade	2 June	45
Workshop for Polish women politicians: Women Leaders in Parliament	Warsaw	5-7 June	30
ODIHR event: Comprehensive Assessment of the Legislative Procedure in Georgia: Positive Features and Challenges Still to Address	Tbilisi	9 June	45
Political Party Regulation workshop	Kyiv	14-15 July	50
Political Party Regulation training event	Kyiv	16 July	20
Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting	Warsaw	29 June-1 July	30
Regional expert roundtable: Implementation of online technologies for the facilitation of visa applications and remote visa issuance	Istanbul, Turkey	10 -11 June	17
ODIHR/European University Institute conference: Exploring Challenges to Political Participation of Migrants in the OSCE Region	Florence, Italy	18-19 June	26
ODIHR workshop: Transparency and Public Participation in Law Making	Tsaghkadzor, Armenia	14-15 July 2015	25
Workshop and training event: Political Party Regulation	Kyiv	14-16 July	72
Training event: Electoral Campaign and Political Marketing for Polish women politicians	Szwalk, Poland	6 August	70
Training event: Leadership during Election Campaigns for Polish women politicians	Szwalk, Poland	14-15 August	18
Sub-regional workshop on Applying Principles and Recommendations for Implementing the Regional Action Framework for Civil Registration in Asia	Istanbul	15-18 September	40
Seminar on the Code of Ethics for Members of Parliament in Montenegro	Podgorica	17 September	25
HDIM Women's Power Breakfast on Women's Participation in Politics: 20 Years after the Beijing Platform for Action	Warsaw	23 September	60
Training for civil society representatives in Tunisia	Hammamet, Tunisia	2-3 October	25
Annual meeting of the ODIHR Core Group of Experts on Political Parties	Warsaw	19-20 October	14
ODIHR workshop on Monitoring the Implementation and Evaluation of Legislation	Tsaghkadzor, Armenia	4-5 November	30

Policy Advisors Course for participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine	Budapest	10-13 November	20
Expert meeting on the Migration Crisis in the OSCE Region: Safeguarding the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need	Warsaw	12 – 13 November	55
Joint ODIHR/Venice Commission visit to Ukraine to discuss the Ukrainian Law “On condemnation of the Communist and Nazi totalitarian regimes in Ukraine and banning of propaganda of their symbols”	Kyiv	15-17 November	35
Joint ODIHR/Venice Commission visit to Montenegro to discuss the draft “Law on Freedom of Religion of Montenegro”	Podgorica	16-17 November	29
ODIHR roundtable on the MIPEX assessment for the Republic of Moldova	Chisinau	18 November	21
ODIHR Workshop: Certain Aspects of Improved Regulatory Impact Assessment and Monitoring of Legislation	Tbilisi	19-20 November	49
Regional expert workshop on Relocation of Persons in Need of Protection and their Integration in the OSCE Region: Challenges and Good Practices	Riga	2-3 December	54
ODIHR event: Comprehensive Assessment of the Legislative Procedure in the Kyrgyz Republic	Bishkek	10-11 December	38
Training for a group of political advisors	Tunis	11-13 December	24
Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians: Developing and Implementing a Code of Parliamentary Ethics	Kiev	17 December	50

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Training-of-trainers event on International Standards and OSCE commitments for freedom of religion or belief	Warsaw	20-22 January	10 (5 men, 5 women)
Meeting of the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief	Warsaw	26 January	18
Release of the ODIHR-Venice Commission joint <i>Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities</i>	Brussels	4 February	80
Training event on international standards on freedom of religion or belief for representatives of CSOs and religious or belief communities	Bishkek	25-26 February	20 (9 men, 11 women)
Training-of-trainers event on Complying with Human Rights Standards and Effectively Countering Terrorism	Warsaw	9-12 March	10 (9 men, 1 woman)

Expert workshop on the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters: A Human Rights Perspective	Warsaw	17-19 March	20 (10 men, 10 women)
Awareness-raising seminar on freedom of religion or belief and hate crime for civil society and religious or belief communities	Odessa, Ukraine	26-27 March	21 (17 men, 4 women)
Awareness-raising seminar on freedom of religion or belief and hate crime for civil society and religious or belief communities	Vinnytsia, Ukraine	30-31 March	15 (10 men, 5 women)
Joint ODIHR-Border Management Staff College regional training event on Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism and Border Security	Dushanbe	6-10 April	22 (17 men, 5 women)
Training workshop on international standards on freedom of religion or belief for representatives of CSOs and religious or belief communities	Dushanbe	14-15 April	19 (12 men, 7 women)
Regional launch of the ODIHR-Venice Commission joint <i>Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities</i>	Bishkek	20 April	50 (35 men, 15 women)
Awareness-raising seminar on freedom of religion or belief and hate crime for local and regional authorities	Vinnytsia, Ukraine	23-24 April	47 (15 men, 32 women)
Meeting on co-operation of state institutions responsible for implementation of policy on religion and freedom of religion or belief	Kyiv	26-27 May	49 (37 men, 12 women)
Training event on international standards on on freedom of religion or belief for representatives of state authorities	Bishkek	4 June	12 (10 men, 2 women)
Awareness-raising seminar on freedom of religion or belief and hate crimes for local and regional authorities	Odessa, Ukraine	11-12 June	32 (8 men, 24 women)
Second NHRI Academy	Warsaw	29 June-3 July	26 (8 men, 18 women)
SHDM side event: Recognition of Religious or Belief Communities in Ukraine	Vienna	3 July	60
Awareness-raising seminar on freedom of religion or belief and hate crimes for police and prosecutors	Vinnitsa, Ukraine	13-14 July	17 (9 men, 8 women)
Training event for police officers on human rights compliant policing of assemblies	Bishkek	16-17 July	21 (20 men, 1 woman)
Awareness-raising seminar on freedom of religion or belief and hate crimes for police and prosecutors	Odessa	16-17 July	11 (10 men, 1 woman)
Regional roundtable: The Role of Dialogue in Enhancing the Security of Religious and Belief Communities	Vinnitsa, Ukraine	18 August	88 (52 men, 36 women)
Meeting of the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief	Warsaw	10-11 September	16
Presentation of the report from the Human Rights Assessment Mission on Crimea	Kyiv	17 September	45 (24 men, 21 women)

HDIM side event: Implementation of the ODIHR-Venice Commission joint <i>Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities</i> , including scope, challenges and opportunities	Warsaw	29 September	40
Training for police officers on human rights-compliant policing of assemblies	Szczytno, Poland	28-29 October	25 (21 men, 4 women)
Training session on Complying with Human Rights Standards and Effectively Countering Terrorism	Madrid	2-3 November and 5-6 November	38 (29 men, 9 women)
Regional roundtable: The Role of Dialogue in Enhancing the Security of Religious and Belief Communities	Odessa, Ukraine	3 November 2015	42 (32 men, 10 women)
Presentation of ODIHR report: The Human Rights Situation of Detainees at Guantánamo	Washington D.C., Vienna	10 November and 12 November	50
Presentation of the Turkish translation of OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission <i>Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities</i>	Istanbul, Turkey	19 November	
Meeting of religious of belief communities of Ukraine	Kyiv	8-9 December	155 (106 men, 49 women)

## TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION DEPARTMENT

Name	Location	Date	Number of Participants
Workshop on combating hate crime for representatives of Polish civil society	Warsaw	11-12 February	30
Meeting on identifying gaps and opportunities in Bulgaria's hate crime recording framework	Sofia	16 April	20
Consultative meeting for civil society on responding to Anti-Semitic hate crime in the OSCE region	Vienna	20 April	39
Launch of the Greek translation of the <i>Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance against Muslims: Addressing Islamophobia through Education</i>	Athens	28 April	120
ODIHR civil society training event on hate crime during UNITED intercultural network conference	Malaga, Spain	7-10 May	34
PAHCT training-of-trainers event	Warsaw	13-15 May	17
ODIHR/CIO joint conference on enhancing efforts to prevent and combat intolerance and discrimination against Christians, focusing on hate crimes, exclusion, marginalisation and denial of rights	Vienna	18 May	101
Training event on hate crime recording with police	Pristina	25-28 May	32
TAHCLE training-of-trainers event	Riga	3- 5 June	18

Regional training event on hate crimes against people with disabilities	Zagreb	8- 9 June	16
Workshop on prosecuting hate crimes in Italy and presentation of the Italian translation of <i>Prosecuting Hate Crimes: A Practical Guide</i>	Milan, Italy	10 June	10
Workshop on promoting equal access to education and work for Muslim women and women of African descent	Warsaw	15-16 June	21
Consultation meeting on the handbook on combating hate crime	Kiev	7 August	17
Hate crime training for OSCE field operation staff, UNHCR and IOM	Warsaw	20-21 August	29
Expert roundtable on working with journalists and media professionals to address intolerance against Muslims	Warsaw	14 September	10
Workshop on hate crime for senior police officials	Riga	23 September	17
Civil society workshops on hate crime	Kharkiv/Lviv	19-23 October	39
Training event on PAHCT implementation and hate crime data collection	Sofia	26-30 October	20
Working level consultative meeting on how to respond to Anti-Semitic hate crime and address the security needs of Jewish communities in the OSCE region	Warsaw	26-27 October	13
TAHCLE awareness-raising seminar and training-of-trainers event	Vilnius	9-12 November	44
Consultation meeting: Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Coalition Building and Co-operation	Vienna	18-19 November	50
Annual meeting of National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crime	Vienna	18-19 November	36
PAHCT training event	Debe, Poland	8-9 December	50
ODIHR/IOM/UNHCR roundtable on building partnership and communication between law enforcement and minority communities	Kiev	9 December	33
Fact-finding meeting on hate-motivated incidents targeting migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in the OSCE region	Warsaw	11 December	13

**CONTACT POINT FOR ROMA AND SINTI**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Introductory seminar on police and Roma and Sinti communities: Addressing Hate Crimes and Facilitating Freedom of Peaceful Assembly	Warsaw	2 March	25
10th Regional Meeting of the Focal Points on Roma in OSCE Field Operations	Sarajevo	19 March	15
International seminar on Educating about the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Learning from the Past to Challenge Present Discrimination and Promote Equality	Stockholm	23 April	60
Consultation meeting with Roma and Sinti Women Activists	Warsaw	18-19 May	12
HDIM side event: Combatting Hate Speech, Racism and Incitement against Roma and Sinti in Election Campaigns	Warsaw	30 September	50
HDIM side event: Current Human Rights Challenges in Policing Roma and Sinti Communities in the OSCE Area	Warsaw	30 September	50
Participation and advocacy training for Roma and Sinti youth	Warsaw	30 September	20
HDIM side event: Public and Political Participation of Roma and Sinti, with a Focus on Roma and Sinti Women	Warsaw	1 October	40
HDIM side event: Roma and Sinti Youth: Activism, Participation, Security	Warsaw	1 October	50
Expert Meeting on Effective and Human Rights-Compliant Policing for Roma and Sinti Communities	Warsaw	14-15 October	15
Expert seminar: Access to Identity and Civil Registration Documents for Roma in Ukraine	Kyiv	19-20 November	35
Roundtable: Enhancing Institutional Co-operation and Co-ordination in Implementation of National and Regional Action Plans on the Protection and Integration of Roma in Ukraine	Kyiv	24 November	45

# EXTRABUDGETARY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS 2015

## ELECTIONS

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/country	Included work on:
Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deploying experts from eligible participating States<sup>1</sup> as long-term and short-term election observers within OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions in Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkey</li> </ul>
Election Observer Training	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training of short-term and long-term election observers from participating States eligible for the Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions</li> <li>Development of an e-learning course for LTOs</li> </ul>
Election Observation Development	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of <i>Handbook for the Observation of Campaign Finance</i></li> <li>Finalizing for publication in early 2016 of the <i>Handbook on the Follow-up of Electoral Recommendations</i></li> </ul>
Election Observation Sustainability Fund	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deploying 147 directly recruited professionals from participating States as short-term election observers during the two rounds of local elections in Ukraine</li> <li>Development of a new expert database to support the work of the Sustainability Fund</li> </ul>

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

## DEMOCRATIZATION

### Rule of Law

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Rule of Law	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicial Independence - monitoring of elections to the two judicial self-administering bodies in Serbia; research on the role of civil society in advocating for judicial independence</li> <li>Criminal justice reform – Publication of the report from the Fifth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia</li> <li>War crimes Justice Project - Phase II: a regional Peer-to-Peer Meeting for War Crimes Investigators in Sarajevo</li> </ul>
Strengthening Democratic Processes and Institutions in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia	Eastern Europe, South Caucasus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Roundtable on Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR), focused on current challenges and practices related to the resolution of electoral disputes in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine</li> </ul>

### Democratic Governance

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Democratic Governance	OSCE Region	Assistance to the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) of Serbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to the Parliament of Albania in developing the Code of Conduct</li> <li>• consultations on Parliamentary Ethics with the Parliament of Albania</li> <li>• Roundtable on e-democracy for the South East Europe</li> <li>• Training course for Young Policy Advisors</li> </ul>

### Gender Equality

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Increased Participation of Women in Politics	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening inter-regional co-operation of women leaders in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia</li> <li>• Capacity building for women to run for 2015 elections in Poland</li> <li>• Monitoring implementation of gender action plans of political parties in Armenia and Georgia (part of gender audit of political parties initiative)</li> <li>• Translation of the <i>OSCE/ODIHR Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties</i> into Russian</li> </ul>

### Legislative Support

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Legislation Review Fund	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission legislative reviews: "Opinion on the Draft Amendments to the Law on the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia," and "Opinion on the Law of Ukraine on the Condemnation of the Communist and National Socialist (Nazi) Regimes and Prohibition of Propaganda of their Symbols"</li> <li>• Launching the joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission <i>Guidelines on Freedom of Association</i></li> <li>• Support and maintenance of co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly and Core Group of Experts on Political Parties</li> <li>• Providing greater access to laws through ODIHR's database, including its Russian-language interface (<a href="http://www.legislationline.org">www.legislationline.org</a>)</li> </ul>

Strengthening Democratic Processes and Institutions in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia	Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission and Council of Europe (DHR) "Opinion on the Prosecution Service of the Republic of Moldova"</i></li> <li>• OSCE/ODIHR "Opinion on Draft Amendments to the Legal Framework on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence in Moldova"</li> <li>• Comprehensive assessment of legislative process and follow-up workshops on policy-making and legislative planning in Armenia, Launch of the Comprehensive Assessment Report on the Legislative Process in Georgia and completion of the Comprehensive Assessment Report on the Legislative Process in the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>• Providing greater access to laws through ODIHR's database, including its Russian-language interface (<a href="http://www.legislationline.org">www.legislationline.org</a>)</li> </ul>
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## HUMAN RIGHTS

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Human Rights Monitoring	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security and safety training for human rights defenders</li> <li>• Translation of OSCE/ ODIHR <i>Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders</i> and the <i>Handbook on Monitoring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly</i> into Ukrainian</li> </ul>
Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalizing training curriculum for police, trainers' guide and training-of-trainers' programme on "Complying with Human Rights Standards and Effectively Countering Terrorism"</li> <li>• Pilot training-of-trainers course for counter-terrorism and human rights experts</li> <li>• Training sessions for Spanish police officers on Complying with Human Rights Standards and Effectively Countering Terrorism</li> </ul>
Human Rights Education and Capacity Building	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the <i>OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders</i>, translation into <i>Serbian, French, Spanish and Turkish</i></li> <li>• Pilot training on human rights compliant policing of assemblies</li> </ul>
Freedom of Religion or Belief		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting security for religious communities and others in the regions of Ukraine</li> <li>• Promoting International Standards on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Central Asia)</li> <li>• Translated the OSCE/ODIHR – Venice Commission <i>Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities</i> into Russian</li> </ul>

## TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Programmes/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Educational and Public Awareness- Raising Activities to promote Tolerance, Respect and Mutual Understanding, and the Remembrance of the Holocaust	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting remembrance of the Holocaust during the Moldovan Holocaust Memorial Day</li> <li>Negotiations on launching an ODIHR and IHRA pilot project aimed at training teachers on the Holocaust in Moldova</li> </ul>
Combating Hate Crime	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rollout of Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (<i>PAHCT</i>) Programme in Bulgaria and Poland</li> </ul>
Training against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs assessment visits on implementation of Training of Trainers against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) in Valencia City (Spain) and Turkey.</li> <li>Negotiations on the provision of TAHCLE in Ukraine</li> <li>Implementation of TAHCLE in Latvia, Lithuania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</li> </ul>

## ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Assisting Participating States to Effectively Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area	OSCE Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up to the 2014 Roma and Sinti Conference in Belgrade: development and finalization of papers on job training for young Roma and Sinti</li> <li>Participation and Advocacy Training for Roma and Sinti Youth</li> <li>HDIM side event: Roma and Sinti Youth: Activism, Participation, Security</li> <li>Launch of the report "Activism, Participation and Security among Roma and Sinti Youth"</li> </ul>

## OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Programme on Increasing Understanding of the OSCE Human Dimension	Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training for civil society representatives, together with the Tunisian School of Politics on challenges to democratic governance and women's participation in political and public life</li> <li>Promoting OSCE/ODIHR tools related to democratic governance and gender equality</li> <li>Young policy advisors training representatives of Tunisian political parties</li> </ul>

## UKRAINE

Programme/Projects/Fund	Region/Country	Included work on:
Programme on ODIHR Support for and engagement in Ukraine	Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting dialogue and joint action between Ukrainian civil society and key state and non-state stakeholders at local, national and international levels</li> <li>• Building capacity of Ukrainian civil society to identify, monitor and report on human rights issues and to advocate for better protection of human rights</li> <li>• Monitoring of the human rights situation in Crimea and report on <i>Human Rights Assessment Mission on Crimea</i></li> <li>• Supporting civil society in Ukraine to advocate for democratic governance reforms, including parliamentary ethics, political party financing, democratic law-making and dialogue of women's political participation</li> <li>• Research and publication of the <i>Problems of Parliamentary Ethics in Public Opinion Polling</i> and <i>Understanding Hate Crimes – A Handbook for Ukraine</i></li> <li>• Capacity building for civil society in Ukraine to identify hate crimes and engage in dialogue with relevant state structures on addressing bias-motivated violence</li> <li>• Expert seminar on Access to Identification and Civil Registration Documents by Roma in Ukraine</li> <li>• Roundtable on enhancing institutional co-operation and co-ordination in implementation of national and regional action plans on the protection and integration of Roma in Ukraine</li> </ul>

# LEGISLATIVE REVIEWS IN 2015

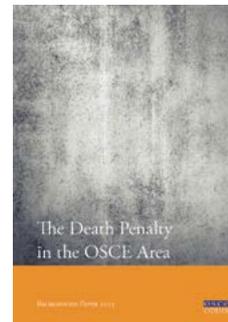
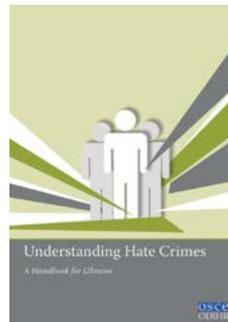
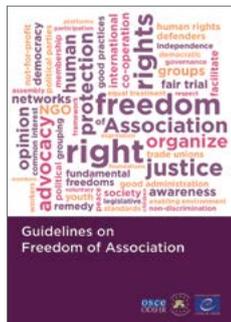
(available at [www.legislationline.org](http://www.legislationline.org), the OSCE/ODIHR free online legislative database):

Georgia	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission-Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) Opinion on the Draft Amendments to the Law on the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia	07 July 2015
Kazakhstan	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on the draft Law on Access to Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan and on related Amendments to other Legislative Acts	28 May 2015
Kyrgyz Republic	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Law "On Introduction of Changes and Amendments to the Constitution" of the Kyrgyz Republic	01 June 2015
Kyrgyz Republic	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on the Draft Criminal Procedure Code of the Kyrgyz Republic	19 June 2015
Kyrgyz Republic	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on the Draft Law on Resolution of Disputes through Mediation and Amendments to Related Legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic	05 August 2015
Moldova	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission-Directorate of Human Rights of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe Opinion on the Draft Law on the Prosecution Service of the Republic of Moldova	04 March 2015
Moldova	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on Draft Amendments to the Legal Framework on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence in Moldova	09 July 2015
Poland	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on the Draft Amendments to Certain Provisions of the Criminal Code of Poland	03 December 2015
Serbia	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on the Draft Law on Police of Serbia	07 October 2015
Ukraine	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on Draft Amendments to Some Legislative Acts Concerning Prevention of and Fight against Political Corruption in Ukraine	02 September 2015
Ukraine	OSCE/ODIHR Opinion on the Procedure for Qualification Assessment of Judges of Ukraine	12 November 2015
Ukraine	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Law of Ukraine on the Condemnation of the Communist and National Socialist (Nazi) Regimes and Prohibition of Propaganda of their Symbols	21 December 2015
Ukraine	Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Opinion on the Draft Amendments to some Legislative Acts Concerning Prevention of and Fights Against Political Corruption in Ukraine	26 October 2015
Kosovo <sup>1</sup>	OSCE/ODIHR Non-public Comments on the draft Law on the National Assembly of Kosovo and Draft Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of Kosovo	20 May 2015

<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

# 2015 PUBLICATIONS

Title	Language
1 Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region	English
2 2014 ODIHR Annual Report	English/Russian
3 Guidelines on Freedom of Association	English/Russian/Arabic
4 Teaching about and Commemorating the Roma and Sinti Genocide: Practices within the OSCE Area	English
5 Understanding Hate Crimes: A Handbook for Ukraine	English/Russian/Ukrainian
6 The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area: Background Paper 2015	English/Russian
7 Hate Crime Data Collection and Monitoring: A Practical Guide	Russian/Ukrainian
8 Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders	Ukrainian/Serbian
9 Prosecuting Hate Crimes: A Practical Guide	Russian/Ukrainian
10 Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities	Russian/Ukrainian
11 Handbook on Women's Participation in Political Parties	Russian
12 Handbook for the Observation of Campaign Finance	Russian
13 Handbook on Monitoring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly	Ukrainian
14 Preventing and responding to hate crimes: A resource guide for NGOs in the OSCE region	Ukrainian
15 Hate Crime Laws- A Practical Guide	Ukrainian
16 Guidelines for Review of Legislation Pertaining to Religion or Belief	Ukrainian



# ELECTION REPORTS AND STATEMENTS

Released in 2015

## **Early Parliamentary Elections in Bulgaria, 5 October 2014**

1. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **General Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12 October 2014**

2. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Moldova, 30 November 2014**

3. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Election in Uzbekistan, 21 December 2014**

4. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Tajikistan, 1 March 2015**

5. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
6. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
7. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Estonia, 1 March 2015**

8. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
9. OSCE/ODIHR Election Expert Team Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Andorra, 1 March 2015**

10. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

## **Presidential Election in Uzbekistan, 29 March 2015**

11. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
12. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
13. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Finland, 19 April 2015**

14. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

## **Early Presidential Election in Kazakhstan, 26 April 2015**

15. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
16. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
17. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
18. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **General Election in United Kingdom, 7 May 2015**

19. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
20. OSCE/ODIHR Election Expert Team Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Turkey, 7 June 2015**

21. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
22. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
23. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
24. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Local Elections in Moldova, 14 June 2015**

25. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
26. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
27. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement 2nd round
28. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Final Report

## **Parliamentary Elections in Denmark, 18 June 2015**

29. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission report

**Local Elections in Albania, 21 June 2015**

- 30. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
- 31. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
- 32. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
- 33. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Kyrgyz Republic, 4 October 2015**

- 34. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
- 35. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
- 36. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement

**Presidential Election in Belarus, 11 October 2015**

- 37. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
- 38. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
- 39. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement

**Federal Assembly Elections in Switzerland, 18 October 2015**

- 40. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Canada, 19 October 2015**

- 41. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission report

**Local Elections in Ukraine, 25 October 2015**

- 42. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report
- 43. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Interim Report
- 44. International Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement
- 45. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement 2nd round

**Parliamentary Elections in Poland, 25 October 2015**

- 46. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan, 1 November 2015**

- 47. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Portugal, 4 October 2015**

- 48. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Parliamentary Elections in Croatia, 8 November 2015**

- 49. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Early Parliamentary Elections in Turkey, 1 November 2015**

- 50. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Interim Report
- 51. International Election Observation Preliminary Statement

**Parliamentary Elections in Spain, 20 December 2015**

- 52. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

**Early Parliamentary Elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 2016**

- 53. OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

# ODIHR STRUCTURE AND BUDGET



## ODIHR Programmes: 2015 Unified Budget\*

*(all figures in euros)*

Direction and Policy	1,332,000
Fund Administration Unit	2,141,900
Common Operational Costs	725,700
Human Dimension Meetings	606,900
Democratization	1,535,200
Human Rights	1,252,300
Elections	6,487,200
Supplementary Budget for Elections	2,077,100
Tolerance and Non-Discrimination	1,363,300
Roma and Sinti	550,700
<b>Total ODIHR Unified Budget</b>	<b>18,072,300</b>
Augmentation	234,100
<b>Total Fund Resources</b>	<b>18,306,400</b>

In 2015, ODIHR employed **148** people on fixed term contracts, including:  
**87** females and **61** males;  
**18** seconded positions; and  
**80** international and **68** local staff.

