

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
22 September to 3 October 2014
Warsaw, Poland

Rapporteur's report
Friday, 3 October 2014

Working session 18: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work)

Rapporteur: Mr. Robert Hull, Delegation of the European Union to the OSCE

No. of statements:

Delegations: 2

Civil Society: 3

OSCE Inst./Int'l Org: 0

Rights of Reply: 2

ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link opened the session by highlighting the increased expectations for increased accountability and quality control of OSCE projects by participating States, and how this is already being addressed by OSCE officials, including through the evaluation network. Evaluation efforts must not simply be directed towards simply reviewing what has been done, but should also focus on future work. Director Link reiterated the strengths for the OSCE of the complementary mandates of the different Executive Structures – a point supported in subsequent interventions by participating States.

Ms. Sebnem Lust, Acting Head of the OSCE's Programming and Evaluation Support Unit in OSCE Secretariat introduced the discussion. She stressed how the OSCE is not a project delivery organisation. Rather its projects need to be run in parallel with diplomatic activities and synchronised with political monitoring and reporting. Lust noted that a lively debate is ongoing within the OSCE on the results and accountability of OSCE projects. Central to this is the issue of key performance indicators. Whilst these are important, she remarked that results can be difficult to measure, because the OSCE is engaged in processes that are influenced by wider geo-political issues. This in turn makes political reporting key. The timely approval of the Unified Budget and the provision of sufficient resources for projects, both through the Unified Budget and through extra-budgetary funding, was identified as crucial if participating States want the OSCE to continue to deliver on its mandate in a sustainable and meaningful manner. Typically the OSCE only receives half the funds it seeks for projects and the amount of extra-budgetary funding donated by participating States is drastically shrinking. In concluding, Lust said the OSCE needs to strategize, prioritise and coordinate to the extent possible, conduct assessments and analyses to ensure that projects respond to real needs, set operational outcomes for accountability reasons, monitor and evaluate projects, report but also communicate regularly with participating States on challenges and accomplishments.

Four presentations then followed from other Executive Structures. Mr. *Andrii Dziubenko, National Program Coordinator of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine* provided an overview of recent work by the PCU, including on elections, combatting trafficking in human beings, promoting rule of law, and gender equality. Mr. *Oliver Schuett, Chief of Public Participation Section, OSCE Mission in Kosovo*, presented a number of activities OMiK had undertaken with youth in Kosovo. He also provided an overview of a number of other activities including on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, engagement on inter-faith dialogue and addressing hate speech. The presentation by Mr. *Max Mattias, Legal Adviser on War Crimes and Transitional Justice, OSCE Mission to Bosnia Herzegovina* highlighted how the Mission was using modern technologies to support its engagement on war crimes justice and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. A number of online tools have been developed to provide data on hate crimes (Hate Monitor) and to develop strategies to prevent them. Mr. *Frane Maroevic, Senior Adviser, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media* made the final presentation. He outlined a series of different initiatives by the office of the RFoM that are bringing key stakeholders together to identify solutions to media freedom challenges. These range from the regular regional media conferences that often address issues such as safety of journalists and reform to public broadcasters, to the current series of meetings on Open Journalism, and a specific initiative bringing together journalists from Ukraine and the Russian Federation to address challenges to media freedom posed by the crisis in Ukraine.

Five interventions were delivered, including three by NGOs and two by participating States (one of which was on behalf of 38 participating States). In addition, two participating States exercised their right of reply.

In the discussion that followed, there was broad support for the existing work of the OSCE. Interventions encouraged further OSCE activity to support participating States in implementing all their human dimension commitments. Some highlighted areas of existing work such as on election observation, protecting human rights defenders, human rights education, safety of journalists, and protection of IDPs. Others encouraged the OSCE to address emerging threats, and also to be guided further by the needs for assistance that participating States are presenting. One intervention suggested that some commitments as well as areas of the OSCE region are currently overlooked in current programmatic activities of the OSCE. The value of engaging civil society in OSCE projects, and working more with them, including further training for civil society, was emphasised. There was also strong support signalled for the mandates of the OSCE autonomous institutions.

There were also a number of proposals related to the processes surrounding project activities. Some encouraged earlier discussions with participating States on programme planning. An open and inclusive approach to the preparation of OSCE Guidelines on thematic issues is also very welcome. Finally, the Helsinki+40 process was identified as offering an opportunity to strengthen the effectiveness of the implementation of human dimension commitments by all OSCE participating States.

Recommendations to OSCE participating States

- Ensure timely approval of the annual OSCE Unified Budget and also of funding for Extra-Budgetary Projects;

- Participating States should take full advantage of the range of services offered by the OSCE in enhancing the implementation of commitments;
- Participating States should take account of and follow up on recommendations made by the OSCE Institutions and field operations;
- Participating States should ensure that civil society is given the necessary space to make their contribution to OSCE activities.

Recommendations to OSCE institutions and field operations

- Project activities need to be synchronised with political monitoring and reporting;
- Monitor and evaluate projects regularly, including whilst the projects are ongoing;
- Enhance cooperation and coordination to maximise the impact of their activities. As part of this, field operations should redouble their efforts to work closely with other field missions in their region;
- Continue to work closely with other relevant international and regional organisations, such as the Council of Europe and the UN, in order to learn from each other's experiences, bolster their impact, and improve implementation of OSCE commitments;
- Foster close collaboration with civil society when designing projects and activities;
- Operationalise the ODIHR Guidelines on Protection of Human Rights Defenders;
- ODIHR should provide a forum for exchange and learning on internal displacement, also for the benefit of Ukraine, with other organisations;
- Protection checklist developed by OSCE and UNHCR and launched in Ukraine should be rolled out, translated into national languages, staff at FOs should be trained.