

OSCE/ODIHR Short-Term Observer E-learning Course

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Purpose of this e-learning course:

- to assist OSCE participating States in training their potential election observers;
- to further enhance the preparation and the professionalism of election observers;
- to explain the OSCE/ODIHR election observation methodology to anyone interested.

Language of the Course:

The e-learning course for OSCE/ODIHR Short-Term Observers (STO) is available in two languages: English and Russian.

Since English is the working language of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions, the Russian-language course is available primarily for the purposes of familiarization with the OSCE/ODIHR methodology.

Contents of both language versions are identical, with spoken text dubbed in both languages. The main differences between two language version include:

- Quizzes are only available in the English-language course.
- In the Russian-language version of the course, participants are able to browse any module and lesson without a requirement to pass preceding modules.
- As there is no knowledge control of the participants' progress, students of the Russian-language version of the course will not receive a Certificate of Completion.

Course Structure:

The course contains four modules that cover both broad methodological issues and practical aspects of the work of STOs. Each module contains three to eight thematic lessons:

- Module 1: Introductory Framework
 - o Lesson 1: OSCE and ODIHR
 - o Lesson 2: Democracy and Human Rights: OSCE and Other International Standards Related to Elections
 - o Lesson 3: Elections – Introduction to Basic Election Concepts (Electoral Cycle and Stakeholders)
- Module 2: Election Observation
 - o Lesson 1: Definition and Principles of Election Observation
 - o Lesson 2: The Purpose of Election Observation: Credibility, Transparency, Accountability, Confidence-building, Democracy Promotion

- Lesson 3: Types of Election Observers: International and Domestic Organizations
- Lesson 4: Declaration of Principles for International Electoral Observation
- Lesson 5: The Election Observation Mission: Structure, Functions, Phases of an EOM, Information Flow, LTO Preparation for STOs
- Lesson 6: The Role of the STO: Observation and Reporting, Direct vs. Indirect Observation
- Module 3: The Work of an STO
 - Lesson 1: STO Day-to-Day Activities, from Pre-mission Preparations to End of Mission
 - Lesson 2: Observing and Reporting Tools
 - Lesson 3: Polling Station Set-up and People Present
 - Lesson 4: Opening Procedures
 - Lesson 5: Voting Procedures
 - Lesson 6: Closing and Counting Procedures
 - Lesson 7: Tabulation Procedures
 - Lesson 8: Final Steps for an STO in the Host Country
- Module 4: Code of Conduct
 - Lesson 1: Practical Implications of the Code of Conduct
 - Lesson 2: Contacts with the Media
 - Lesson 3: Safety Awareness and Responsibilities
 - Lesson 4: The STO Team: Working with Driver and Interpreter

Knowledge Control and Quizzes:

- Each module and lesson is opened and closed with summaries of the learning objectives and lessons learned. While learning objectives are formulated in a more general way with the purpose of guiding the learner through the process, lessons learned reiterate the main points of each lesson or module.
- Participants are asked to pass a 10-question quiz at the end of each module. Quiz questions address each lesson and are based on the information contained in the lessons of a corresponding module.
- Quiz questions are drawn randomly from a large pool of questions and repetition of questions is minimized for each attempt to pass a module quiz.
- The final quiz is based on the module quizzes and is structured to reflect all subject areas covered in the course.
- The final quiz can only be taken after a participant passes all four module quizzes.
- Each participant can try to pass the quiz an unlimited number of times.

Certificate:

- Each learner who passes the final quiz will receive a Certificate of Completion.
- As there is no knowledge control of the participants' progress, students of the Russian-language version of the course will not receive a Certificate of Completion.

Technical requirements:

In order to use the OSCE/ODIHR STO E-learning Course, please make sure your technical equipment is compatible with the following requirements:

- your internet browser is one of the following:
 - o Internet Explorer 7 or greater;
 - o Mozilla Firefox 1.5 or greater;
 - o Opera 10 or greater; or
 - o Safari 5

- You have the most recent flash version installed from Adobe - see [here](#) for more information

- - you run the internet browser on one of the following operating systems:
 - o Windows XP SP2 or greater
 - o Mac OS X 10.4 or greater, or
 - o Linux-based system