

# Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe **Mission to Serbia**



# Who we are

The Mission to Serbia is an OSCE field operation based in Belgrade, with two outlets - in Bujanovac, south Serbia and in Novi Pazar, southwest Serbia.

The Mission was established on 11 January 2001 at the invitation of the Government of the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Its mandate sets out the Mission's key areas of activity: assisting the host country and Serbia's society in promoting and strengthening democratic institutions, fostering the rule of law, reforming the police force into a police service and supporting the

development of free media and professional journalism at the service of the citizens.

The Mission, originally named 'OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia' was first renamed 'OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro' in 2003. With the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in 2006, the Mission changed its name to the 'OSCE Mission to Serbia'.



Among the OSCE Mission's activities is publishing best practices to raise awareness about mechanisms for preventing corruption, and equipping prosecutors and investigators to effectively conduct corruption cases.



The OSCE Mission assists the host country's police in transitioning to a more effective, representative and accountable police service.



The Mission works to empower Roma communities by building their professional skills and supporting their integration into mainstream society.



Through conferences and workshops, the Mission works on advancing the freedom of expression in the digital environment.



Gender equality is a key area of the Mission's activities. The Mission supports a women's mentorship programme to help women mentees reach their potential.

# What we do

Based on the ownership and engagement of the Serbian authorities and institutions, the Mission provides assistance and expertise to Serbia towards the country's goal of further developing a fully functioning democratic system with solid accountability mechanisms, including an independent, free and responsible media. The common goals are a system governed by a well-harmonized set of rules, enforced by a fair and equitable justice system, with no space for discrimination or privilege.

## Rule of law and human rights

The Mission works to foster an independent and impartial judiciary, a human rights-based criminal justice system, an efficient civil justice system and align national legislation with international standards and norms, by:

- Building a merit-based appointment- and career-system in the judiciary and prosecution, and promoting fair and transparent accountability mechanisms;
- Encouraging constitutional

changes related to judicial independence and improving substantive and procedural legislation;

- Enhancing mechanisms for preventing and effectively tackling corruption;
- Strengthening civil society's capacity to actively participate in rule of law reforms;
- Fostering the protection of human rights of persons deprived of liberty and establishing a system of post-release care;
- Strengthening the juvenile justice system and building an overarching victim and

- witness support network;
- Enhancing the capacities of the authorities to enable citizens to effectively pursue civil claims;
- Evaluating adherence of national war crimes trials to international standards.

## Police affairs

A sustainable reform of law enforcement agencies is crucial to the rule of law in Serbia. As one of the Ministry of Interior's main partners in this endeavour, the Mission assists the host country's police in transitioning to a more effective, representative and accountable police service by:

- Improving internal control and police accountability systems;
- Embedding community policing in crime prevention through partnerships with local government and civil society;
- Bolstering external oversight by Parliament and independent institutions, as well as by civil society;
- Stimulating regional co-operation in combatting transnational and organized crime;
- Developing a holistic approach in dealing with violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism (VERLT);
- Enhancing inter-agency co-operation to increase and improve prosecutions in corruption cases;
- Supporting the development of mechanisms to protect victims of crime,

especially victims of domestic violence.

## Democratization

The Mission works to strengthen democratic practices and combat discrimination by partnering with national and local legislative and governmental institutions, national minority representatives, civil society organizations and independent institutions. The Mission's activities include:

- Fostering the legislative and oversight role of the National Assembly;
- Supporting institutions and civil society in combatting discrimination and hate crimes and furthering gender equality;
- Assisting institutions in public administration reform and administrative justice, and promoting good governance including in environmental matters;
- Strengthening accountability and respect for the rule of law by the security services;
- Empowering Serbia's minority communities to exercise their rights in culture, media, education and official use of their language;
- Ensuring the respect for the rights of refugees and displaced persons and identifying durable solutions, locally and regionally;
- Promoting increased regional co-operation among parliamentarians and youth.

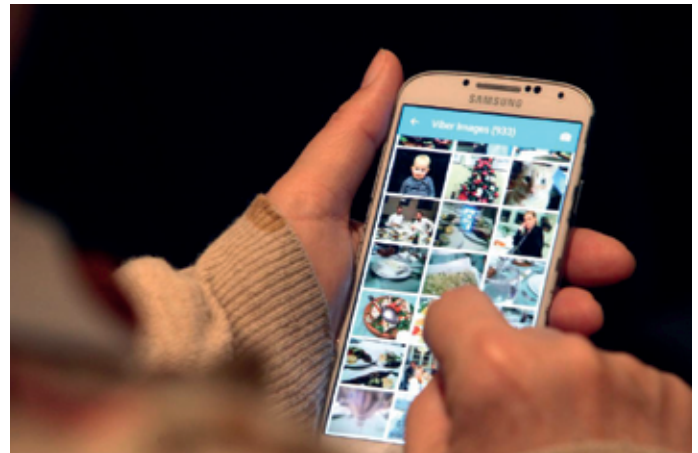
# What we do

(continued)

## Media

The Mission supports the development of a regulatory framework and media environment where media outlets can inform citizens on issues of public importance in a timely and objective manner, promoting high ethical standards, by:

- Assisting relevant institutions in adopting and implementing policies and legislation that contributes to developing independent and unbiased media;
- Strengthening of a professional, accountable and independent regulatory body for electronic media;
- Buttrressing the journalistic profession's self-regulatory efforts against hate-speech, and protecting the personal safety of journalists and their sources;
- Empowering media and civil society to deal with violations of media freedom and freedom of expression;
- Stimulating quality journalism capable of reporting objectively on issues of public interest;
- Promoting digital and media literacy;
- Fostering the right to freedom of information and media diversity in national minority languages



The Mission promotes digital and media literacy that enables citizens to be informed and to use technology to impact their communities at the local, national and global levels.

# Facts and figures

(as of December 2016)

## Head of Office



Ambassador Andrea Orizio

## Staff



The Mission has a staff of 127, of which there are 23 international and 104 national staff.

## Budget



**EUR 6,365,000**

The Mission also administers extra-budgetary funds provided by OSCE participating States for specific projects, employing, through these resources, an additional 25 staff, out of which there are 3 international staff and 22 local personnel.

## Follow OSCE



## OSCE Mission to Serbia

Španskih boraca 1  
11000 Belgrade

Serbia

Office: +381 11 3606 100

Fax: +381 11 3606 119

ppiu-serbia@osce.org