



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office in Tajikistan**

**OSCE BMSC Cross-Border Research Conference
“The Dilemma of Migration”**

24-27 January 2017

Conference Objectives

Movement of people across international borders, or within the territory of states, as refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, or economic migrants, either in search of work, favourable social opportunities or fleeing armed conflict, famine and natural disasters, has taken place throughout the history, however, the unprecedented scope and associated humanitarian catastrophe made the contemporary international migration qualify both as a humanitarian and security issue.

In 2015, over one million migrants and asylum seekers migrated to the European Union through the Mediterranean Sea. More than 3,700 people died or went missing in the same period while making the journey¹. As of June 2016, 229 963 migrants arrived in Europe (222 291 by sea, 7672 by land) with 2 888 persons counted as dead or missing².

Crisis of migrants and refugees and efforts to strengthen the collective response is being discussed on different levels both within the academic circles, international community and national governments. On the occasion of World Refugee Day, June 20, 2016, Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), emphasized that any solutions to the refugee crisis must ensure the dignified treatment and protection of the human rights of all refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and migrants.

International Cross-Border Research Conference entitled “The Dilemma of Migration” aims to facilitate an open and constructive dialogue between researchers and practitioners based on research works and practical experiences which foster a better understanding of the world best practices in resolving the border-related issues.

Prospective researchers and practitioners from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation who would like to be considered to present their work achievements and research findings at the conference are encouraged to assess the relevance of their work to the following sub-topics:

- Securitization of migration and its consequences;
- Mainstreaming human rights into migration and border management policies;
- Gender aspects of contemporary migration processes;
- Moral dilemma of migration and refugees’ crisis;
- Foreign fighters: a new type of migration?

¹ Human Rights Watch, Europe’s Migration Crisis, 2016 <https://www.hrw.org/tag/europes-migration-crisis>
[Accessed on June 29, 2016]

² International Organization for Migration (IOM), Statistics on Europe (June 2016) <http://migration.iom.int/europe/>

- Labour migration and remittances inflicted “Dutch disease”;
- Combating smugglers in migrants and human traffickers;
- Role of state and civil society in migrants and refugees’ integration;
- Environmental degradation and human mobility, and etc.

Candidates for participation are requested to submit the results of their work in a timely manner (*please, see supporting documents for a detailed description*). Both the research papers and the practitioner presentations must have relevance to the main theme of the conference.

Promoting and developing a demand-driven and practice-oriented research work on border security and management issues is one of the College’s core objectives. This conference aims to benefit all participants as follows:

- Researchers from various countries will have a unique opportunity to present research findings to an exclusive audience comprised of border officials and international experts;
- The conference will facilitate constructive exchange of information, ideas, research findings, best practices, and lessons identified between the researchers and practitioners;
- Practitioners will receive different perspectives on current and emerging border-related issues, which will enable them to modify actions based on research findings;
- The conference will create a unique environment for participants to establish professional networks in their respective fields, particularly with representatives from academia;
- Participants will be offered a study visit to the Tajik-Afghan border;
- Research papers presented at the conference will be compiled into a publication.



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Practitioner's Presentation

The OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) is pleased to invite mid to senior ranking border security and management officials to participate as practitioner guest speakers in its Cross-Border Research Conference. The purpose of the Conference is to facilitate a constructive exchange of expertise, research findings, and experience between border security and management practitioners and researchers specialized in security sector.

Practitioner guest speakers are requested to submit *presentations*. The **PowerPoint presentation** must highlight the results, best practices, concerns, and lessons identified. It should also address the concrete experience and input helping to address issues at the borders and focus on specific examples of effective impact on border security.

Practitioners who were involved in successful accomplishment of institutional reforms, new security policies, innovations, breakthroughs, and other remarkable initiatives in the security sector of their respective countries, especially in border security, are highly desired to participate at the conference. Please, also provide a **short bio (150 words)** as a Word document together with your PowerPoint presentation.

Practitioners are kindly requested to follow the above requirements for structuring their presentations. Please, note that you will be given 30 minutes to deliver your presentation which should not exceed 20 slides. As a guest speaker, you will engage in a Questions & Answers session and other discussions on related topics.

Please, submit via email the registration form, passport copy, Power Point presentation, and your short bio to *Mr. Amri Sherzamonov, Programme Officer, (Amri.Sherzamonov@osce.org, phone +992 98 105 06 26) by January 5, 2017.*



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Research Paper Requirements

All nominated researchers from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation are required to submit their research findings and relevant PowerPoint presentations to be delivered at the conference **by January 5, 2017**. Please, note that the working languages of the conference will be English and Russian.

The research papers must reflect a completed research work relevant to the topic of “The Dilemma of Migration” **and should be written in English and/or Russian. It should be between 6000-8000 words** and must be structured as follows:

- Short bio (150 words)
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Analysis and Findings
- Conclusion

Please, submit via email the registration form, copies of the passport as well as your research paper and presentation to *Mr. Amri Sherzamonov, Programme Officer*, (Amri.Sherzamonov@osce.org, phone +992 98 105 06 26) **by January 5, 2017**.

***Note:** After completion of the conference, researchers will be contacted regarding any proposed grammatical and stylistic editing of their respective full research papers which will be compiled into an after conference publication.*