



## OSCE Border Management Staff College Factsheet

# What is the BMSC?

As a part of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Border Management Staff College works to enhance the knowledge of senior border security and management officials while promoting greater co-operation and exchange of information among them. The College, located in the heart of Central Asia, services the 56 participating States, and their Partners for Co-operation.

### An OSCE Centre of Excellence – A Vehicle for Best Practices Exchange

Security touches on many aspects of the way we live and are governed. The OSCE views security as comprehensive and takes action in three “dimensions”: the politico-military; the economic and environmental; and the human.

This approach has been a guiding tenet for the OSCE work on border security and management. To effectively tackle multiple border-related threats of increasingly transnational nature that all OSCE participating States face, such as terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking of human beings, weapons and narcotics, difficult and long trade and transit routes and procedures, disputes that give rise to unresolved border delimitation and demarcation, challenges related to migration, asylum seekers and refugees – sound border and security management is required.

In recognition of these challenges and within the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (2005) to strengthen co-operation and capacities by ensuring and promoting open and secure borders across the OSCE area, the OSCE Border Management Staff College was established in 2009 to serve as a centre of excellence and a vehicle for delivery of expertise and best practices in border management and security for the whole of the OSCE.

The College was inaugurated on 27 May 2009 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. It falls within the programmes of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and is located at the OSCE compound.

Designed as a comprehensive training centre, the BMSC aims to enhance the knowledge of present and prospective senior managers of border security and management agencies of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation and to promote greater co-operation and information exchange among them.

The College brings together knowledge and experience from across the OSCE region and beyond. Utilizing the OSCE network to collect and disseminate best practices and lessons learned, it offers opportunities for in-depth analysis of international standards in border management, as well as the challenges of modernization in a world much focused on security.

### Comprehensive Border Security and Management – The Dialogue of the College

Since 2009, the College has conducted over thirty specialised training courses and thematic events for more than 650 officials from border guards, border police, customs, drug control agencies and transnational crime agencies from twenty-five participating States, three Partners for Co-operation, and four non-OSCE countries.

The core activity of the College is a one-month intensive BMSC Staff Course offered three times per year for current and future senior border security managers. Now in its second full year of sessions, the course has been attended by more than a hundred commanders and managers of the captain to colonel ranks, or civilian equivalent. By focusing on senior officials, this course fills an existing gap, complementing work of other organizations which typically train junior-level staff.



The course curriculum is based upon the three dimensions of security - politico-military, economic and environmental, as well as human dimension. Its aim is to consolidate the participants' knowledge about border-related challenges across the OSCE area; the global impact of transnational threats, middle and senior management techniques, operational planning, organizational modernization, the difficulties and critical roles of human capital development as well as intra-agency, inter-agency and international co-operation. The course includes study visits to the nearby borders with Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

Thematic seminars and outreach events focus on national border management strategies, false travel documents, hazardous waste movement, terrorism and human rights issues, regional cross-border interdiction, anti-corruption and border conflict management. These events promote and support cross-border dialogue and inter-agency co-operation through the exchange of information and lessons learned, as well as through the identification and development of best practices.

The College intends to continue to offer up to eight seminars annually, in addition to seminars organized and delivered by partners of the BMSC and hosted by the College. This helps partners and OSCE participating States meet their staff training needs and are in line with the OSCE Border Security Management Concept.

Participating States and Partners for Co-operation also provide materials for the reference and training library of the College, which is rapidly growing. The development of the library, the outreach work of the network of alumni and friends of the College, as well as enhanced research opportunities for the course participants and interested researchers, completes the comprehensive offering.

## The Wisdom of Others – Our Affiliates

The BMSC has a number of affiliated organizations and institutions sharing their expertise during the College Staff Course and thematic seminars and also serving as an Academic Advisory Board. The affiliates include the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies; the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD); the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL; the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC); the Border Troops Commanders' Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (SKPW); the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); the Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

## The Generosity of Others – Our Donors

The College works under an extra-budgetary project implemented with financial support from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

## How Do I Contact the BMSC?

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