



# Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

## Factsheet

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine promotes OSCE principles and commitments through projects. It fosters co-operation and understanding with Ukrainian authorities to strengthen Ukraine's social and political integration in the OSCE area.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) is the second OSCE field operation in the country. Its predecessor, the OSCE Mission to Ukraine, worked on conflict prevention and crisis management in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea from November 1994 until 1999, when its mandate was successfully completed. That year, the OSCE and the Government of Ukraine agreed on a new form of co-operation, and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine was established. Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova of Kazakhstan took up her post as OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in June 2012.

### Mandate

The PCU is tasked with planning, implementation and monitoring of projects involving the OSCE, its institutions and the relevant Ukrainian authorities. These projects, which are approved by Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, may cover all aspects of OSCE activities and can involve Ukrainian governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The PCU's work covers three main areas: democratization and good governance; rule of law and human rights; and a cross-dimensional programme comprising economic, environmental and politico-military aspects of security. Projects aim to support Ukraine in fulfilling its OSCE commitments through the adaptation of legislation, structures and processes that are part of a modern democracy based on the rule of law.

### Democratization and good governance

The PCU assists Ukrainian authorities as they consolidate democratic institutions, develop and promote democratic governance practices and provide for wider public participation in decision-making processes.

Project activities aim to further strengthen the capabilities of Ukraine to conduct elections in accordance with OSCE

commitments, enhance voters' awareness about their rights and election procedures, promote media freedom and better dialogue between journalists and law enforcement agencies, advance civil society, promote gender equality and contribute to enhancing transparency of state authorities.

### Rule of law and human rights

The PCU manages and implements projects to enhance human rights and promote transparency and openness in citizen-state relations. It works to protect and enforce the rule of law in executive, legislative and judicial practices; assist in the development of administrative justice; enhance the legal education system and promote human rights education; train judges, lawyers, professors and students; establish a system of free legal aid; combat organized crime and develop and implement a strategy against torture and ill-treatment of people in state detention facilities.

### Combating human trafficking, cybercrime and gender-based violence

The PCU supports the drafting and implementation of anti-trafficking policy and programmes. It works closely with authorities on all levels and throughout the country on projects to prevent trafficking and improve criminal prosecution of trafficking cases. The PCU also supports the development of a National Referral Mechanism to help Ukrainian stakeholders better identify and assist victims in close co-operation with non-governmental organizations. To address the emerging impact of new technologies on criminal activities in the trafficking in human beings sphere, the PCU supports an initiative to combat cybercrime.

The PCU supports Ukrainian institutions in combating gender-based violence through the promotion of women's empowerment and support to victims of domestic violence, awareness-raising activities, police capacity-building efforts and work with perpetrators.



## Work in the economic field

The PCU supports Ukraine in its efforts to promote the use of alternative and renewable energy and create conditions that encourage sustainable socio-economic development.

The PCU also promotes the use of new technologies to increase efficiency of services provided to citizens by authorities. E-solutions introduced in two regions with PCU assistance will minimize the administrative burden for citizens and businesses, thus helping to create a favorable investment environment.

## Work in the environmental field

The PCU works closely with the Vienna-based Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in supporting Moldovan-Ukrainian co-operation in joint management of the Dniester river basin. Other work in this field includes strengthening the capacity to combat environmental crimes at the state border and supporting Ukraine's efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

To raise public awareness about environmental issues, the PCU also promotes environmental education and "green" standards in Ukraine's educational system and supports governmental institutions in allowing better public access to environmental information with the overall goal to raise public awareness about environmental issues.

## Work in the politico-military field

The PCU provides support to a major project, co-ordinated by the OSCE Secretariat, to help Ukraine safely eliminate its stockpiles of mélange, a toxic rocket-fuel additive.

It also helps eliminate unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and assists Ukraine's Emergency Ministry to effectively raise awareness of schoolchildren about the risks and threats posed by ERW. In addition, the PCU is supporting professional retraining and employment assistance for discharged military officers. The retraining is based on the demands of local labour markets and focuses on areas such as

small business management, business security, marketing, information technologies and human resources.

The PCU also assists the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service in its efforts to strengthen its capacity and improve border security.

## About the OSCE

The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The Organization comprises 56 participating States that span the globe, encompassing three continents – North America, Europe and Asia – and more than a billion people.

The OSCE views security as comprehensive and takes action in three "dimensions": the politico-military, the economic and environmental, and the human.

The Organization traces its origins to the early 1970s, to the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and the creation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which at the height of the Cold War served as an important multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 heralded the start of a new era for a "Europe whole and free", and the participating States called upon the CSCE to respond to the emerging challenges. As a result, the CSCE acquired its first permanent structures, including a Secretariat and institutions, and established the first field operations. In 1994, it was renamed into the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The complex security challenges of the 21st century – from climate change to terrorism – have made it clear that the co-operation fostered by the OSCE is needed more than ever.

For more on the OSCE, its history and its work, visit the website: [osce.org](http://osce.org)

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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

