



2013-14 ACTIVITY REPORT

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities

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Activity Report 2013-14

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Dear reader,

My colleagues and I are pleased to present to you a new annual Activity Report. Exceptionally, it covers the period of the 2014 and the second half of 2013. Future reports will follow the calendar year pattern.

During the period of time covered by the report, my colleagues in Vienna and in the OSCE field operations, in particular the Economic and Environmental Officers, have been working hard and doing their utmost to respond to the high level of expectations of the participating States.

First and foremost, we actively supported the Ukrainian 2013 Chairmanship and the Swiss 2014 Chairmanship to facilitate a dialogue among participating States that was aimed at promoting international co-operation on economic and environmental issues and strengthening security and stability throughout the OSCE region. We did this in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Forum that focused on *Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-related Activities in the OSCE region* in 2013 and on *Responding to Environmental Challenges with a view to Promoting Co-operation and Security in the OSCE area* in 2014. As a direct result of the Forum's meetings outcomes and recommendations, two Ministerial Council decisions were adopted in Kyiv and two in Basel which contributed to the already existing mandates in the fields of energy and environment. The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meetings as well as the regular meetings of the Economic and Environmental Committee further contributed to an enhanced dialogue.

As in previous years, we continued the process to focus even closer on the OSCE's core strengths in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

We paid increased attention to promoting good governance, an area of work where we received a strong and clear mandate through the *2012 Dublin Declaration*, complemented recently by the *2014 Basel Ministerial Council Decision on Prevention of Corruption*. My Office organised both regional and national events

and training activities covering topics such as integrity standards and the role of civil society, anti-corruption strategies, asset declarations of public officials, as well as national risk assessments in the area of anti-money laundering. The *OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessment* continued to be a useful tool for practitioners in the field. Simplification of regulations to stimulate economic activities, through so-called *Guillotine projects* in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, along with supporting free economic zones and cross border markets at the Tajik-Afghan border and promotion of public-private partnerships are further examples of our commitment to good governance and of the added value the OSCE can bring.

Improving transport interconnectivity across the OSCE region as well as simplification and harmonization of border crossing procedures remained high on our agenda. We continued to co-operate with the *OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe* and organised joint training activities based on the *OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings*.

The *2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security* continued to guide us in promoting environmental co-operation within and across borders. The *2014 Basel Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction* has given a new impetus to the activities of my Office in this field. Water continued to remain high on OSCE's agenda. The Security Days Event on Water Diplomacy reinforced the OSCE's role in promoting water co-operation.

During the reporting period, we continued to build national and local capacities to address the multifaceted linkages between environment and security. We worked on a broad variety of issues such as wildfire management in the South Caucasus; water co-operation between Georgia and Azerbaijan, and in Central Asia, including between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. We addressed security implications of climate change across the OSCE region; disaster risk reduction in South Eastern Europe, in particular floods prevention and response; hazardous



*Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden,
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities*

waste management in Eastern Europe. My Office also organised an environmental assessment mission to an arsenic mining site in Georgia. Furthermore, we have continued our support for the empowerment of civil society which is crucial for the tackling of environment and security challenges, by continuing our support to the network of over 50 Aarhus Centres in 14 OSCE participating States and also running a small grants programme for NGOs named Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

The Second Participatory Workshop on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region that my Office organised in Vienna in December 2014 aimed at mapping the environment and security challenges in the region and also enabled sharing experiences of the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Let me also highlight two anniversaries, success stories of our committed engagement: In 2013 we marked ten years of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) – a partnership of six international organizations: the OSCE, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, REC, and NATO as an associated partner. We also celebrated ten years since the OSCE became actively involved in supporting the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

Last but not least, I am happy to see the new impetus the OSCE energy dialogue and energy related activities have received during the reporting period. In addition to our engagement in energy security and sustainable energy, our mandate was strengthened by two MC Decisions adopted in Kyiv, on *Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-related Activities in the OSCE Region*, and on *Protection of Energy Networks from Natural and Man-made Disasters*.

We plan to continue and consolidate our engagement in all the above-mentioned areas of work and I hope that you will find some interesting and useful information in this report. I would highly appreciate your feed-back, ideas and suggestions, so that we could be more effective in tackling our common challenges, and better respond to the needs of participating States, communities and citizens.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yigitguden".

Halil Yurdakul Yiğitgüden

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities



OSCE Flags in front of the Hofburg, Vienna

Supporting Political Dialogue

Economic and Environmental Forum process

Outcomes of the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum

Drawing upon the deliberations and recommendations of the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF), the *Kyiv Ministerial Council* adopted, in December 2013, a Decision on *Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-related Activities in the OSCE region* (MC.DEC/5/13).

This decision highlights the linkages between energy-related activities and the environment and notes the transboundary impact of energy production, transportation and consumption. It stresses that a responsible and sustainable management of natural and energy resources can improve the environment, curb climate change, boost economic growth and contribute to security and stability, and acknowledges that affordable, diversified, reliable and sustainable energy supply is an important precondition for sustainable development. Participating States are encouraged by the decision to enhance their dialogue and co-operation, *inter alia*, on good governance and transparency in the energy sector, renewable energy and energy efficiency, new technologies, technology transfer and green growth.

The decision calls for an active engagement of civil society organizations in the development of relevant policy recommendations and for strengthening public-private co-operation in these fields. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, is tasked, *inter alia*, to support awareness raising on the impact of energy-related activities on the environment, including through the Aarhus Centres and other multi-stakeholder initiatives; to promote sustainable energy solutions and foster, where appropriate, transboundary co-operation.

The 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

In July 2013, participating States decided to devote the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in 2014 to *Responding to Environmental Challenges with a view to Promoting Co-operation and Security in the OSCE area* (PC.DEC/1088). This decision built upon a number of commitments from the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension and other decisions and documents related to the environment, energy and water management.



H.E. Didier Burkhalter, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, President of the Swiss Confederation, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Throughout 2014, under the leadership of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, the OCEEA has striven to facilitate meaningful discussions among participating States, international organizations, the civil society, academia and the private sector on this topical issue. Such deliberations took place mainly during the three meetings of the 2014 Forum, which registered an overall attendance of more than 600 participants, but also in other formats such as the 2014 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) and the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC).



Rescue team drains water using water pumping equipment on Mlava river, Kostolac, Serbia, 2014

Throughout the 2014 Forum process, participants focused on a number of priorities such as: preparedness, resilience, adaptation as well as emergency response and recovery related to environmental challenges; the promotion of partnerships and initiatives covering environment and security issues; good practices in these fields; the promotion of environmental good governance.

The First Preparatory Meeting took place in Vienna on 27-28 January 2014, and the Second one on 19-21 May in Montreux, Switzerland, also featuring a full day of field visits. The Concluding Meeting was held on 10-12 September 2014 in Prague, where over 250 participants had the opportunity to build upon

BASEL MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISION NO. 6/14 – ENHANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

(...)

Emphasizing the often cross-boundary nature of environmental challenges, including disasters, Acknowledging that environmental degradation, including disasters, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict and that conflicts, poor governance, mismanagement and degradation of natural resources as well as migratory pressures can affect the vulnerability of society to disasters,

(...)

Noting the exacerbating effect climate change may have on the frequency and magnitude of disasters, (...) Encourages the participating States (...) to strive to adopt an integrated approach to disaster risk management including measures for prediction, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery at all levels; (...) to develop, co-ordinate and implement, where appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with climate change adaptation and mitigation plans (...) to promote technological development, innovation, and the transfer of technology and know-how (...) to promote good governance and transparency in the field of disaster risk reduction, to incorporate local knowledge and information into national plans, taking into consideration the capabilities of both men and women and the specific vulnerabilities of children, women, the elderly, the poor, and the disabled, and to actively engage all relevant stakeholders,

(...)

Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA, and where possible in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to support the participating States upon their request in strengthening disaster risk reduction and management at all levels, and to facilitate co-operation, where appropriate, within and across borders, including by making best use of the OSCE's partnership within the ENVSEC Initiative; (...) to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experience, (...) to promote community-based and gender/age/disability-sensitive disaster risk reduction, including, where appropriate, through Aarhus Centres, civil society organizations and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives;

(...)



Logo of the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd EEF

the recommendations issued during the preparatory process and exchange views and proposals on how to better deal with disaster risk reduction and preparedness. The Concluding Meeting also entailed a review of the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of disaster risk reduction. A report on this topic was prepared by UNDP, one of the key partners of the OSCE in its Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Starting from the Forum's conclusions and recommendations, participating States adopted at the Basel Ministerial Council in December 2014 a *Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction* (MC.DEC/06/14).

Looking ahead

Water Governance in the OSCE area – Increasing Security and Stability through Co-operation is the theme of the 2015 Economic and Environmental Forum.

Two past Forum cycles focused on water related issues in 2002 and 2007. The 2007 Madrid Ministerial Council adopted a *Decision on the Follow-up to the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum: Water Management* (MC.DEC No. 7/07).

The First Preparatory Meeting of the 23rd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum is scheduled for 26-27 January 2015, in Vienna. It will be followed by a Second Preparatory Meeting in May 2015, in Serbia, and the Concluding Meeting on 14-16 September 2015 in Prague.

Economic and Environmental Committee

On a regular basis, the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC) brings together representatives of the 57 OSCE participating States to discuss key issues of common concern and provides guidance to the work and activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Between June 2013 and December 2014, nine EEC meetings included agenda items devoted to the preparations or presentation of main outcomes of the 21st and 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum cycles and the 2013 and 2014 OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meetings. Besides, several thematic Economic and Environmental Committees have been organised:

- In September 2013, the EEC reviewed the issue of further *Strengthening Transport Dialogue* in the OSCE region. Together with representatives from the OCEEA and field operations, experts from key partner organizations such as the International Road Transport Union (IRU), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), the delegates discussed ways to harmonize cross-border transportation and customs policies, build public-private partnerships as well as support good governance and transparency in the transport field.
- In October 2013, the EEC focused on public awareness and participation in environmental decision-making. Representatives of the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, OSCE field operations, Aarhus Centres as well as the OSCE Gender Unit and other international experts discussed the importance of public awareness and participation in environmental decision-making within the context of OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, OSCE support in this respect, particularly through the Aarhus Centres and the CASE NGO Small Grants Programme and OSCE's further role in increasing security and stability through reinforcing environmental good governance.



Debates and presentations during EEC meetings

- The first thematic meeting in 2014 took place in March and was devoted to mechanisms to assess money laundering risks and to improve the capacity to recover stolen assets in the OSCE area. The OCEEA, together with an expert from Serbia, presented their views on national risks assessments as well as the results of the latest assessment carried out in the Balkan country. The experience of Switzerland in recovering stolen assets was also presented during the meeting.
- In May 2014, another thematic EEC meeting was dedicated to gender, environment and security, focusing, *inter alia*, on women empowerment in water governance and gender mainstreaming in the Aarhus Centres. Representatives from the OSCE field operations, UNDP and Women's Water Fund presented a general overview on the need to raise the capacity and leadership skills of women in the water sector and gave a general overview of the OSCE commitments in the area of gender mainstreaming.
- In July, the EEC meeting was devoted to *Public-Private Partnerships* to address economic and environmental challenges. Economic and Environmental Officers from the OSCE field operations reported on public-private partnerships

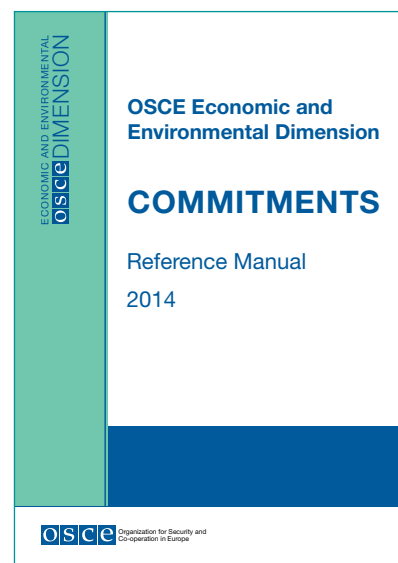
in natural resource management in Kyrgyzstan and the role of Free Economic Zones in fostering such partnership development in Tajikistan. A representative from UNDP also shared with the OSCE delegates his views on partnerships between public and private sectors for managing the environment.

- Sharing best practices on sustainable water management was the topic discussed in September. During the meeting, the outcomes of the Security Day *Enhancing Security through Water Diplomacy: The Role of the OSCE* were presented by the OSCE Secretary General. Presentations were also made on water management for a safe future, sustainable management of international water bodies - experiences from the Danube River Basin, and climate change adaptation in the Dniester river basin.
- Finally, in October 2014, participating States reviewed the implementation of the MC.DOC/5/13 on *Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy Related Activities* and of MC.DOC/6/13 on *Protection of Energy Networks from Natural and Man-made Disasters*. The Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan shared information on latest developments in his country

NEW PUBLICATION - COMPILATION OF EED COMMITMENTS

On the occasion of the 2014 EEDIM, the *Reference Manual of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Commitments* was presented by the OCEEA. This compilation, which aims at assisting delegations during their deliberations, in particular ahead of Ministerial Councils meetings, contains the text of all Second Dimension-related decisions adopted by the OSCE decision making bodies - Summits as well as Ministerial and Permanent Councils.

www.osce.org/economic-environmental-commitments



regarding sustainable energy and energy security. Other guest speakers included the Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Central European Initiative (CEI), who talked about the benefits of advanced biofuels in the CEI region, and a Senior Research Scholar at the International Institute for Applied System Analysis, who spoke about sharing best practices to protect electricity networks from natural disasters.

Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) is playing an increasingly important role in reviewing and sharing progress made by the participating States in implementing the OSCE commitments and for discussing priorities for action in response to economic and environmental threats to security. It offers an opportunity to identify existing gaps and problems, to suggest innovative ideas and showcase positive experiences. Over the last few years, the EEDIM has proven to be a good platform for further enhancing dialogue on economic and environmental issues, involving the OSCE field operations, other partner organizations, civil society and academia.

In October 2013, the EEDIM aimed at assessing the implementation of economic and environmental commitments by the OSCE participating States and to identify priorities for future work in 2014. During the event, that also marked the 10th anniversary of the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, participants analysed, *inter alia*, the opportunities and challenges existing in the OSCE's EED, as well as its strategic orientation. They also discussed the engagement of civil society and the private sector in the implementation of the OSCE commitments at national and international level.

In 2014, the EEDIM had a specific focus on the implementation of the *2012 Dublin Declaration on Good Governance* and on strengthening environmental good governance in the context of the 22nd EEF process. Participating States discussed their implementation of the *United Nations Convention against Corruption*, their commitments on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and the issue of stolen asset recovery. They also had the chance to review their engagement in fostering water co-operation and involving the civil society in supporting environmental good governance.

BASEL MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISION NO. 5/14 – PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION

(...)

Recognizing that corruption at all levels is a potential source of political tension that undermines the stability and security of participating States, (...)

Convinced that more effective prevention of corruption promotes good governance in all public sectors, (...) enhances economic growth and contributes to social stability and security, (...)

Acknowledging that efficient, accessible, accountable, and transparent public service delivery is one of the key components in building an anti-corruption environment in the public sector, (...)

Encourages the participating States to:

- Further develop and implement preventive anti-corruption legislation and policies, and establish and promote practical measures and tools to address all forms and levels of corruption for both the private and the public sectors, and for other stakeholders;
- Take measures to enhance transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration, (...)
- Adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector, (...) by establishing and strengthening asset declaration systems applicable to public officials and politically exposed persons, (...) to provide for a fair and competitive environment for recruitment in the public sector, (...)
- Contribute to strengthening awareness-raising measures with respect to corruption throughout all sectors of society, (...) with special attention being given to youth,
- (...) enhance appropriate systems of public procurement that are based on transparency, competition and objective criteria (...)
- Facilitate the recovery of stolen assets as part of national measures as well as in the framework of international and, where appropriate, regional co-operation
- Make use of available OSCE tools, guidelines and projects in combating and preventing corruption; (...)

Tasks the Economic and Environmental Committee, with input and contributions from the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE field operations, to present a report to the Permanent Council no later than 1 June 2015 providing options for strengthening the current OSCE capacity on combating and preventing corruption and for enhancing co-ordination among the OSCE executive structures in that field, taking available resources into consideration;

(...)

Strengthening Good Governance

The adoption by the 2012 OSCE Ministerial Council of the *Dublin Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism* gave a new impetus to the OSCE's efforts in this important area of its economic and environmental mandate. Promoting good governance continued to top the agenda of both OSCE participating States and Executive Structures.

In March 2014, a Thematic Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Committee focused on *Mechanisms to assess money laundering risks and improve capacity to recover stolen assets in the OSCE area*. It was underlined that good governance remains a high priority in national policies across the OSCE region, and that there are strong links between open and accountable governance, financial integrity and security. It was also stressed that the OSCE should remain engaged in promoting good governance and that the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations should continue supporting participating States in the implementation of their commitments, including those contained in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Later on, in October, the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) reverted to these issues and, *inter alia*, welcomed the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship's proposal to negotiate and adopt at the Basel Ministerial Council meeting a *Decision on Corruption Prevention*.

Combating corruption

Regional activities

In February 2014, at the premises of the OSCE Bishkek Academy, the **OCEEA**, in co-operation with the **OSCE field operations in Central Asia**, conducted a 4-day interactive *Teaching Module* devoted to the OSCE's work in the economic and environmental field. Eighteen students from Central Asia and Afghanistan, enrolled in

the Academy's *Master of Arts Programme in Economic Governance and Development*, participated. The OCEEA representative also had consultations and explored co-operation opportunities with officials of the Ministry of Economy and with the Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Forum, a coalition of 25 NGOs.

In May 2014, in Tirana, the **OCEEA** participated in and contributed to a *Regional Co-ordination Meeting between the Council of Europe and the OSCE on Local Government*, organised by the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe Centre of Expertise on Local Government Reform. The meeting gathered relevant staff from OSCE and Council of Europe field operations in South-Eastern Europe.

In June 2014, in Tirana, the **OCEEA** supported a *Regional Expert Seminar on Prevention of Corruption: Main Trends and Examples of Successful Practice in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*. The event took place in the framework of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and was co-organised by the OECD, the OCEEA and the **OSCE Presence in Albania**, the UNDP and the UNODC. It gathered around 50 senior anti-corruption officials and leading civil society representatives from countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia as well as experts from international organizations.



Plenary session of the Regional Expert Seminar on Prevention of Corruption in Tirana, June 2014



Discussion at the Corruption Prevention Seminar in Batumi, Georgia, December 2014

In December 2014, in Batumi, Georgia, the **OCEEA**, in co-operation with the UNODC and the OECD Anti-Corruption Network, organised a *Regional Seminar on Corruption Prevention*. The event, supported by the Government of Georgia, brought together officials from the South Caucasus and Eastern European countries and focused on the development of asset disclosure systems, conflict of interest regulations and principles of ethical conduct for public officials. The seminar had a strong practical component, with plenary sessions followed by break-out working groups, where participants analyzed their national asset declaration verification systems and mechanisms to strengthen their public sector “ethics infrastructure”, in light of existing international standards and good practices.

Field activities

Responding to the host country’s needs, the **OSCE Centre in Astana** prioritized corruption prevention as well as detection and suppression of corruption offences. Its activities were tailored to assist the preparation of the new *National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan for 2015 – 2025*. Specifically, the Centre facilitated the provision of international expertise and legal advice to the Government of Kazakhstan and its relevant agencies. To support national efforts towards institutional capacity building of both State agencies and civil society organizations



Participants in a Corruption Prevention Workshop, Dushanbe, March 2014

on the anti-corruption issues, a number of *Training Workshops* were conducted. They gathered over 300 representatives from the Interior Ministry, the National Security Committee, the Financial Police, the Prosecutor General’s Office and the Customs Control Committee. Experiences and best practices from countries as diverse as Sweden, Italy, the Russian Federation and Turkey were analysed. The Centre’s activities were organised in close partnership with the Financial Police of Kazakhstan and its Academy, the EU Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) and the US Embassy in Kazakhstan.

In March and May 2014, in Dushanbe, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** and the UNODC with support from the **OCEEA**, conducted *Workshops on corruption prevention measures: Progress made, future priorities and the role of civil society in the prevention of corruption in Tajikistan*. These activities brought together participants from various state structures, NGOs and international organizations and focused on key preventive anti-corruption measures required under Chapter 2 of the UNCAC and on how to integrate them into their work plans.

In June 2014, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** organised a *Seminar on Integrity Standards and the Role of Civil Society in Fighting Corruption*, developed by *Transparency International (TI)*. Two specialists from the TI Secretariat in Berlin and TI Chapter in Russia led

practical sessions on integrity standards and shared TI's methodology and concept on how civil society actors could get involved in anti-corruption work. Participants from Dushanbe and Tajikistan's regions attended and discussed the main challenges for working on anti-corruption initiatives in Tajikistan. They were also tasked to develop work plans on UNCAC corruption prevention measures. In September, the newly established *Anti-Corruption Working Group of the Development Co-ordination Council (DCC)*, a co-ordination mechanism for development partners in Tajikistan, convened for the first time at the premises of the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan**. The working group, chaired by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, had been established under the DCC Secretariat to serve as a forum for development partners and the Government of Tajikistan to exchange knowledge and co-ordinate on anti-corruption programming and policy. The main goals are to support the integration of anti-corruption measures in joint development initiatives between development partners and the Government.

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** (PCUz) continued to support the host country in meeting its obligations under the UNCAC which the country ratified in 2008. In September 2013, a *National Workshop on Integrity in the Public Sector* was organised, jointly with the Prosecutor-General's Office and the **OCEEA**. It gathered around 50 participants representing relevant government institutions and civil society organizations, among them members of the National Anti-Corruption Commission. Experts from anti-corruption authorities in Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, as well as from UNODC presented tools and mechanisms to ensure integrity in the public sector, including those applied in their countries. Later on, in October 2013, the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** organised a *High-Level Study Visit* to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for Uzbekistan's Supreme Court, Prosecutor-General's Office, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice. The main goal was to enable the public authorities of Uzbekistan to learn from other countries' experience in implementing anti-corruption measures. With the same purpose, the participation of Uzbekistan's government authorities in various other international events was also facilitated.



Workshop on Integrity in the Public Sector, Tashkent, September 2013

On 11 August 2014, in Kyiv, the **OCEEA**, in co-operation with the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** (PCU), conducted consultations with the Ministry of Justice and the State Financial Control Service of Ukraine regarding possible joint activities in the area of good governance. Parties discussed opportunities to provide training on soon-to-be-adopted *2014-2017 Anti-Corruption Strategy and Law on Corruption Prevention*, as well as specialized seminars on selected good governance/anti-corruption topics for representatives of the judicial branch of government. In addition, the State Financial Control Service expressed interest in receiving OSCE-led training in the area of AML/CFT, also citing interest to peruse the *OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in Support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessments*.

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** has long been involved in promoting good governance through *ICT-based solutions* that relate to various spheres of public administration. In 2014, one of the key focus areas of PCU activities was digitalization of selected services in the construction sphere – one of the most corruption-prone sectors of the national economy. On 17 October 2014, the **PCU** presented 5 newly-developed digital services in the construction sector that allow filling out requisite forms on-line, thus increasing efficiency of transactions and minimizing potential for corruption. In 2013 alone, authorities processed more than 130,000 transactions of this type.

The **OSCE Presence in Albania**, in co-operation with the *Central Inspectorate*, which is the main body responsible for overseeing all inspections and setting related standards in Albania, developed the *Code of Ethics for Employees of State Inspectorates in the Republic of Albania*. The Code provides a framework of ethical principles and behaviours that state inspectors must adopt in order to achieve the highest professional standards during the inspection activities. It was officially endorsed by the Central Inspectorate in April 2014, has been shared with all state inspectors, and it is now included in the induction training module for new inspectors.

The **OSCE Presence in Albania** assisted the *Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA)* in conducting an assessment of the current anti-corruption training and in proposing a new training programme framework for the public administration in Albania. The assessment provided valuable insights into the training needs on anti-corruption topics for the central and local level public administration and introduced comprehensive and integrated anti-corruption training modules for public officials of various levels and sectors. ASPA committed to include the proposed training modules in the 2015 training programme for public administration. In addition, during 2015 the Presence will support through extra-budgetary contributions the implementation of some of the recommendations of the assessment report.

The **OSCE Presence in Albania** also provided technical expertise to the *National Co-ordinator against Corruption* in drafting the *2014-2017 National Anti-corruption Strategy* and the related *Anti-corruption Action Plan*. The Strategy has identified prevention, punishment and awareness-raising as the three main pillars to channel the country's anti-corruption efforts. Within these pillars the Action Plan has introduced integrated sectorial measures to be implemented by central and local level government institutions. The Plan will allow not only the Government, but also the civil society to systematically measure the progress made in countering corruption and will serve as a tool for the corruption risk assessment and self-evaluation of public institutions. The draft strategy and draft action plan has gone through a broad consultation process, supported by the Presence, with different institutions, civil society

and business community, whose proposals have been reflected in the final documents. During 2015, the Presence will continue to support the monitoring and revision of the Action Plan and will also focus on the implementation of specific measures foreseen in the document.

The **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** contributed to countering corruption in the security sector through several initiatives in 2014. As the co-organiser of the country's official *Programme of Training on Security Policy*, the Mission dedicated a specialized *Security Policy Course* to discussing the *Strategy for the Fight against Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)*. The purpose of the course, gathering some 40 participants from 25 institutions, was to increase the knowledge of the BiH Anti-Corruption Strategy among those responsible for its implementation. During the course, the security risk that corruption poses to the country was highlighted, and representatives from several institutions and government bodies at various levels presented their strategies and activities aimed at preventing corruption. As follow-on to that event, in November, the Mission co-organised a *Workshop on Building Integrity in the Security Sector – Corruption Risk Reduction* with the local NGO Centre for Security Studies and the National Anti-Corruption Agency aimed at government officials.

As part of its democratic governance activities, the **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** has paid significant attention to strengthening parliamentary oversight as a tool to fight and prevent corruption at all levels of government. Parliamentary oversight was the main topic of the *Mission's Annual Conference of Secretaries of Committees from State, Entities and Brcko District Parliaments and Assemblies*, which gathered more than 70 participants. The conference highlighted the necessity to improve the regulatory framework, capacities, practices and the inter-governmental co-operation, as well as to support the involvement of citizens and media in parliamentary affairs. The lessons learned will be incorporated into induction training programmes supported by the Mission for the newly elected members of parliaments, following the 2014 General Elections in BiH. Oversight also continues to be a priority for the activities at municipal level. In 2014, the Mission supported over twenty municipal assemblies

and councils to address the relationship between the executive and representative branches of government. These joint efforts aimed at introducing and improving oversight mechanisms, practices and capacities. The Mission also supported efforts to increase transparency and accountability via the introduction of the participatory and open policy development methodology in six cantons.

Corruption in public procurement procedures siphons off scarce public resources, often resulting in shoddy public works, and erodes the trust of citizens and businesses in the Government. Since 2013, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** has continued to focus on creating a transparent and efficient public procurement system and training law enforcement and prosecutors on investigating alleged violations. Through OSCE moderated *Peer-to-Peer Meetings* among public procurement bodies and law enforcement and prosecutors, *Memoranda of Co-operation* were drafted among public procurement oversight bodies on enhancing co-operation to identify risks in the system as well as to share information on alleged corruption with criminal investigators. In order to help establish a track record of investigations and indictments for corruption in public procurement procedures, the Mission trained twenty prosecutors dealing with public procurement corruption through specially developed case studies based on past alleged corruption in public procurement in Serbia. The prosecutors were guided through all of the steps

of public procurement procedures in order to better understand where the risks lie and how to gather evidence. With the aim to empower civil society, in 2014 the OSCE Mission provided support to the development of a *NGO-run Public Procurement Transparency Website* that contains information on tenders, awarded contracts, procurement selection boards and bidders in order to allow citizens and journalists to track how public funds are spent and potentially identify alleged breaches of conflict of interest.

In order to improve parliamentary oversight over the work of the Anti-corruption Agency and foster public debates on anti-corruption policy and the effectiveness of legislation, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** drafted the *Report on Parliamentary Oversight as a Tool in Combatting Corruption* in 2013. The report uses as a case study the Anti-corruption Agency's annual report to the Parliamentary Finance Committee in which recommendations are provided on improving whistleblower protection, monitoring public officials' assets and income disclosures, oversight over the enforcement of the Law on Free Access to Information, auditing of the state budget, ethical rules and codes of conduct for public servants. The aim of the report is to improve the Agency's formulation of recommendations to Parliament and to encourage Parliament to utilize these reports for policy dialogue and debate on anti-corruption, and foster public debates among professionals, civil society and the general public.



Report on Parliamentary Oversight as a Tool in Combatting Corruption in Serbia

Recognizing the need to thoroughly analyse the risks and vulnerabilities for corruption in the public procurement system, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** published the *Corruption Map of Public Procurement in the Republic of Serbia* in which 21 vulnerabilities in the system are identified, that were being used by bidders and contracting entities to violate or circumvent the Law. The purpose of the publication is to educate the judiciary, law enforcement, auditors and financial oversight officials and to highlight types of alleged violations that may indicate possible *red flags* that would require further investigation or analysis. The Corruption Map should serve as a tool for the judiciary, law enforcement, auditors, public procurement professionals, bidders and contracting entities in their quest to further mitigate the risks and vulnerabilities for corruption in public procurement.

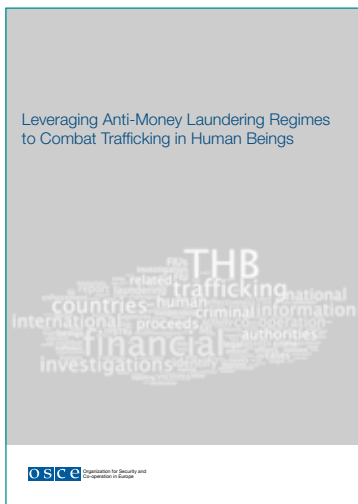


Participants of the Workshop on Cross-Border Co-operation against Corruption and Money Laundering, Vienna, October 2014

Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism

In October 2014, a workshop on *Cross-Border Co-operation against Corruption and Money Laundering*

took place in Vienna. The workshop, co-organised by the OCEEA, the UNODC and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), strengthened the capacities of national Financial Intelligence Units (FIU), anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies to successfully initiate, investigate and prosecute cases of both corruption and money laundering, in which defendants, evidence and assets are located in multiple jurisdictions.



Cover of the OSCE publication *“Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings”*

NEW PUBLICATION - ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In August 2014, the OCEEA jointly with the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and the Strategic Police Matters Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department presented a research paper on *Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings*. Much of the key issues contained in the paper had been identified during the *OSCE/UNODC Expert Seminar on Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Human Trafficking*, held in Vienna in October 2011. The paper argues that financial probes should be a part of investigations into suspected human trafficking from their inception, in order to identify and freeze or seize all criminal assets related to the case. The publication also emphasizes that financial investigations in such cases are essential, because the methods by which perpetrators attempt to launder the proceeds of trafficking are identical to those used for other types of organised crimes. The publication is available in wafer USB card format and on the OSCE website: <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/121125>.



FIUs representatives from SEE countries at the OSCE-supported Conference in Durrës, Albania. October 2013

Participants from Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Eastern Europe and expert speakers from relevant international organizations and national authorities discussed ways to counter cross-border movements of proceeds of corruption, use of legal persons and other legal arrangement to conceal criminal assets, as well as good practices in direct international information exchange between law enforcement authorities as well as domestic and foreign practices.

Field activities

In co-operation with the **OCEEA** and the Albanian General Directorate for Preventing Money Laundering, the **OSCE Presence in Albania** organised in October 2013 in Durrës, Albania, a *Regional Conference on Strengthening Co-operation on AML/CFT and Combatting Corruption in South-Eastern Europe*. Discussions focused on the financial investigation of corruption and the role of the Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) within the anti-corruption framework of the countries. About 50 participants from the FIUs in the region, Albanian law enforcement agencies and international organizations shared their experiences and best practices of regional co-operation and investigation of proceeds from corruption.

Based on the *OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessment*, and in partnership with the World Bank, the **OCEEA** carried out *Trainings on National Risk Assessment (NRA)* in **Croatia** (19-21 March 2014), **Montenegro** (24-26 March 2014) and the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** (6-10

KYRGYZSTAN REMOVED FROM FATF “NON-CO-OPERATIVE COUNTRIES” LIST WITH THE OSCE ASSISTANCE

In July 2014, the Kyrgyz Republic was removed from the Financial Actions Task Force’s (FATF) *grey list* of States deemed to have strategically inadequate systems in place for effective combating money laundering and terrorist financing. The decision was announced at the *third FATF Plenary Meeting* in June 2014 in Paris, certifying that the Kyrgyz Republic demonstrated significant progress in addressing the strategic AML/CFT deficiencies identified in the mutual evaluation reports and action plans agreed with the FATF. This significant step forward followed the removal of the Kyrgyz Republic, in November 2013, from the Eurasian Group’s monitoring of countries with strategically deficient anti-money laundering regimes.

Along the way, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek had been assisting the Kyrgyz Republic in increasing the capacity of the country’s financial bodies to adopt modern investigative and countering methods, and implement legislation that addresses the recommendations of the FATF. Moreover, in March 2013, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek opened a new Training Centre of the State Financial Intelligence Service, and held several training courses for officers from the Service. More than 400 officers from various ministries and agencies have been trained on modern methods of AML/CFT.

May 2014). NRAs are the process by which countries identify the threat of money laundering activity in their jurisdiction, the vulnerability of the country in terms of its ability to prevent and intercept specific types of illicit financial activity, and its resulting impact.

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU)** has been assisting with development of *Ukraine-specific National AML/CFT Risk Assessment Methodology (NRA)* throughout the reporting period. The PCU engaged international expertise in preparing NRA methodology to incorporate relevant approaches that could strengthen Ukraine's AML/CFT. The developed methodology will be a basis for the full-scale national risk assessment process Ukraine intends to initiate in 2016. On 25 November 2014, AML/CFT practitioners gathered in Kyiv during a workshop to discuss the peculiarities of the NRA in Ukraine and propose methodological approaches in the context of existing international experiences.

In April 2014, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the **OSCE Centre in Astana**, in co-operation with the National Bank of Kazakhstan and the US Embassy, and with the support of the **OCEEA** and the Committee of Financial Monitoring, organised a *Training Seminar on Preventing Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism in the Banking Sector*. Some 80 representatives of all national stakeholders, most notably the Kazakhstan National Bank and 38 second-level banks, reviewed and discussed the best practices and techniques related to preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Experts from the OSCE

Secretariat, National Bank of Slovenia, US financial authorities, as well as the European Union Counter-terrorism Co-ordinator were among the speakers. The event kicked off the preparation of the AML/CFT Guidelines for the representatives of the designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBP) and financial sector, which is expected to be released by the end of 2014. On that occasion, the OCEEA also attended a *Seminar on Information Exchange and Analysis* (22-25 April 2014) organised by the *Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre for Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC)*. The OCEEA presented at the *AML/CFT Training for Secondary Banks* and held, on the margins of the event, meetings with representatives of the Kazakhstan Financial Police and leading anti-corruption NGOs.

In November 2013, the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** organised a training for representatives of financial institutions to improve their awareness and understanding of updated international AML/CFT standards. The training programme equipped the participants with knowledge of particular measures, which financial institutions should put in place in order to enable their systems to detect and efficiently address threats of money laundering and terrorism financing.

In September 2014, in Tashkent, the **OCEEA** and the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan**, in partnership with the Financial Intelligence Unit of Uzbekistan and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism organised a *Workshop on a National Risk Assessment (NRA) of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing* for officials from 15 different ministries and agencies involved in the implementation of AML/CFT standards in Uzbekistan. Some 60 participants discussed best practices of the National Risk Assessment's implementation in the OSCE region and explored how FATF recommendations strengthen global safeguards and provide governments with stronger tools to take action against financial crime. Experts from Italy, Serbia, Kazakhstan and a number of international organizations shared their knowledge, views and lessons learned on the matter. Different methodologies on NRA were presented and participants were also introduced to the recently launched Russian



Workshop on a National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, Tashkent, September 2014



FIU experts and financial crime investigators from Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine meeting in Vilnius, December 2014



Cover of the Financial Crime Investigation Manual, developed with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia

version of the *OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in Support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, National Risk Assessments*. On 1- 2 December 2014, 40 bank compliance officers from banks accredited in Uzbekistan gathered in Tashkent for a *Training on Risk-based Approach in Implementation of AML/CFT Regime in Banking Institutions*. Several international experts provided information about tools which could be used in integrating a risk-based approach into the work of financial institutions to protect them against threats of money laundering and terrorism financing.

In December 2014, in Vilnius, the **OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine**, the **OCEEA** and the Financial Crime Investigation Service under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania co-organised a 5-day *Meeting on Implementation of International Standards for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing at the National Level, National Risk Assessment, as well as the Exchange Experience of Interaction between FIU and Law Enforcement Agencies* with the active participation of public officials from the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine involved in the AML/CFT and the conduct of National Risk Assessments. During the meeting, which was a follow-up activity of the Workshop on Cross-Border Co-operation against Corruption and Money Laundering held in October in Vienna, the participants presented their national AML/CFT systems and discussed a broad range of aspects including, in particular, implementation of the National

Risk Assessments, financial investigations, investigation of the corruption offences, as well as relevant good practices, legal framework and international standards. The event contributed to enhanced inter-agency interaction between FIUs and relevant law enforcement agencies.

The 2014 *Financial Crime Investigation Manual*, a joint initiative by **OSCE Mission to Serbia** and the United States Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance & Training Program, aims to provide Serbian investigators with a resource containing relevant information pertaining to conducting investigations of financial crime in Serbia, including money laundering, terrorist financing, fraud, embezzlement and bribery. The manual provides investigators with guidance on how to obtain information and evidence available from national and foreign sources, and how to gather evidence during investigations. It also includes a compendium of criminal charges in Serbia for financial crimes, examples of requests for information from relevant institutions, examples of charging documents for criminal offenses, and examples of asset seizure orders and requests. The information contained in the manual serves both as a check-list for experienced investigators as well as a guide for future police and prosecutors and will be a resource for future training of justice and law enforcement officials on processing financial crime and improving assets seizure.

GUILLOTINE'S SUCCESS STORIES IN ARMENIA

The *Guillotine Project in Armenia* has already registered a number of **success stories**, making the country's economy more business friendly, citizens' life easier, and also generating savings.

Digital world says no to papers

The country abandoned the old-fashioned, paper-based job record books – a 20-page brochure that registered information on the employing company, employee' title and dates of employment, used, *inter alia*, to calculate the pension, upon retirement. This system was time and human resource intensive and not always accurate or effective. The Regulatory Guillotine Project facilitated the introduction of new databases which are estimated to generate savings of approximately 36 million Armenian Drams (AMD) yearly.

As many parcels as one wants

A research undertaken through the Guillotine Project revealed that the costs of monitoring the limitations imposed on the frequency, value and weight of individuals' international postal consignments exceeded the profit obtained from customs clearance. Moreover, it was very easy for citizens to circumvent the regulation by asking friends or relatives to declare their own consignments, rendering this burdensome requirement useless. Therefore, the limitation on frequency of international postal consignments was eliminated. This measure is expected to save 107 million AMD annually.

Easy life for taxi services

None of everyday taxi users in Armenia could imagine what is (or should be) kept in each taxi car: stocks of driver's medical examination papers and car's technical test qualifications. In reality, such a requirement only created a ground for some groups to profit by providing the drivers with false medical and technical examination documents. The Guillotine Project suggested to eliminate this regulation.

Before providing taxi services, one has to make several visits to three agencies, handle the regular "white number plate" to the Police, and receive the "yellow numbers". This measure, meant to facilitate the identification of taxis, involved costs for both State agencies and business, related to stocking the handling the plates. The Guillotine project proposed to give stickers to drivers instead.

The reform package in taxi services, currently awaiting parliamentary approval, could save 1.4 billion AMD yearly.

Good governance underpins economic development

The Guillotine: removing unnecessary regulations

The *Regulatory Guillotine Project* has been implemented in **Armenia** since 2011, with support from the OSCE and other donors. Engaging nearly all ministries and state agencies in the country, the project would ensure an inventory and review of up to 2500 rules and regulations. Its ambitious goal is to cut the costs of doing business and of public services provided in Armenia by at least 50 per cent, thus generating more business and investment.

Half of the 17 targeted sectors and 29 sub-sectors have been reviewed to date. Moreover, recommendations in several sectors including transportation, public utilities, and public health have already come into force.

During 2014, the *Regulatory Guillotine Project* organised a number of *workshops and training activities*, conducted by consultants from USA and Austria, and involving up to 450 participants from ministries, state agencies and businesses. They got familiarized with international trends and best practices related to simplifying regulations and improving social dialogue. Ensuring



Tajik female traders selling fruits from their gardens at an OSCE-supported cross-border market



Experts review the OSCE-supported guide on local self-governance, Kokshetau, Akmola region of Kazakhstan, September 2014

active debates and a participatory approach of all stakeholders, businesses and citizens, has been and remains a priority. Starting July 2015, it is planned to introduce a *Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)* system in the country. As well, the *National Centre for Legislative Regulation* Unit will be transformed into a RIA Central Unit and will provide methodological support to the various Ministries and State Agencies concerned.

In November 2014, the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** launched the *Systematic Regulatory Review* project that will assist the Government in establishing a competitive business environment through government-wide regulatory reform. Building on previous efforts from the Government, the project will consist of (1) a systematic review of all normative acts (i.e., laws, regulations, decrees, etc.) that impact private business, identifying those that unduly impede business by imposing excessive regulatory requirements on business or that accord government actors undue discretion in interpreting and applying the law, and (2) the development of recommendations to rescind or amend the normative acts so identified. The project will target 33 State bodies. The main emphasis will be placed on the implementation of the rapid regulatory simplification mechanism known as *Regulatory Guillotine*. Regulatory Impact Assessment will be integrated into the policy making and decision making process of the Government in order to stimulate economic growth, raise living

standards and create favourable conditions for the attraction of Foreign Direct Investments to the country, and close loopholes for corruption in the legislation.

To promote Tajikistan's integration into the global economy and foster regional economic co-operation, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** supported in 2014 three *International Economic Fora* in Tajikistan's regions and in the capital, Dushanbe. The Office is also providing expert advice to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in the context of the *Post-WTO Accession Action Plan* on aligning country's legislation with international commitments and standards. At the request of the Ministry, the Office has been assisting the country's four *Free Economic Zones* two of which are located on the Afghan border, with the aim of making them effective platforms for legal, transparent and secure cross-border trade in the region. The government has identified free economic zones as a policy instrument for developing economic relations with neighbouring countries. With a similar focus, the Office has continued to support four *cross-border trade markets* between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The four cross-border markets are all located in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region.

During the reporting period, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** also assisted the Government in enhancing institutional skills and awareness of the *Rasht Consultative Council*, a platform for dialogue on economic development



Anti-money laundering case analysis during a workshop at the GGRC in Ashgabat, June 2014



College graduates visit a textile factory as part of an OSCE-supported project in Namangan, Uzbekistan, July 2014

priorities for five districts in the Rasht Valley. The cooperation with Government in this sphere is based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office and the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management. The Memorandum provides the formal framework for public-private dialogue in the area, bringing together local administrations, private-sector actors and civil society to identify common priorities for economic and social development. Moreover, the memorandum foresees a formal mechanism for linking the local dialogue in the five Rasht Valley districts with the national decision-making process on economic development.

In 2014, the **OSCE Centre in Astana** undertook considerable efforts to support and assist the implementation of the local self-governance reform in Kazakhstan. At the request of the Government of Kazakhstan, the Centre organised two *Roundtables* and five *Training Seminars* for 350 rural and small town municipalities across the country on legal, financial and economic aspects of local self-governance reform and an enhanced citizens' involvement in the decision-making processes. The trainees received a *Guidebook* developed by national experts with Centre's support, tailored to the needs of rural and small town *akims* (mayors). The events were directly implemented by the OSCE Centre in Astana, in partnership with the Ministry of National Economy, the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan and the Embassy of Poland, and featured presentations

of best practices from Hungary, Poland and the United Kingdom. A second stage of the local self-governance reform is planned for 2015.

On 1 May 2014, the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** supported the launching of the *Good Governance Resource Centre (GGRC)* on the premises of the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan. The GGRC is designed to enhance the capabilities of the Turkmen Government in fighting corruption, money laundering, the financing of terrorism, and in adherence to good governance practices. The GGRC serves as an information point for lectures, tailored trainings and *ad hoc* expert consultations for a cross-section of different governmental services. Following the request from the host country, the OSCE and the GGRC developed recommendations to a developing legislation on anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and fighting the financing of terrorism. The legislation is planned to be submitted to the Parliament in 2015 for approval. The OSCE Centre plans to continue its support to the GGRC in 2015 through organising specialized trainings for national institutions introducing practical examples of international best practices.

In recognition of the important role women play in the economic development, the **OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan** continued to support women empowerment initiatives. The assistance provided mainly centred on the development of entrepreneurial potential



Azerbaijan introduces, with OSCE support, improved services based on one-stop shop concept

of women with the final goal of facilitating women self-employment. In 2013 and 2014, the Project Co-ordinator, together with the Business Women Association and the Women Committee of Uzbekistan, organised *Seminars on Women Entrepreneurship* in 14 different regions of Uzbekistan. In 2013, the initial training programme was targeting the needs of women who had already engaged in business activities, and included elements such as strengthening business skills, exchanging experiences, discussing challenges and opportunities with relevant public authorities. In 2014, building upon the lessons learned from these workshops, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan decided to tailor trainings for recent female graduates of colleges in different regions of the country. The training programme aimed at improving women's potential to establish an enterprise and successfully carry out business activities.

Aiming at increasing the transparency of economic courts, the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** continued to support the Higher Economic Court in drafting and publishing commentaries to decisions of economic courts countrywide. As part of this initiative, a number of decisions on disputes between government authorities and businesses were selected by the team of experts to comment upon. The commentaries were published on a weekly and monthly basis in various mass media. Additionally, a compilation of all the commentaries was published in Uzbek and Russian languages and widely distributed among interested

groups. Furthermore, a number of seminars were organised in 4 regions of the country - Samarkand, Fergana, Tashkent and Nukus - to discuss ways to protect the legal rights of businesses and the role of economic courts in this respect.

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku** has been supporting the State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovation (SAPSSI) since its establishment in 2012. The Agency is responsible for providing services to the citizens based on the *one-stop shop* concept, accelerating the organisation of *e-services*, and improving their management system. To date, "ASAN Service" Centres offer around 150 services on behalf of nine State entities, namely the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Taxes, State Committee for Property Affairs, Customs Committee, Migration Service, Committee for Land and Cartography, Social Protection Fund, National Archive Department.

In 2014, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku provided technical assistance for obtaining certification and conducting trainings for 200 incoming staff for the new Centres in the regions. Moreover, it assisted the SAPSSI to increase their capacities to deliver auxiliary services to the population, and more specifically to ensure access for all citizens, including low income citizens, to high quality free legal assistance. Such legal assistance, which included verbal and written legal advice, and addressing applications of any type to State authorities and municipalities, is available in all six "ASAN Service" Centres across the country. The OSCE also facilitated the participation of the Agency in two international conferences in Albania and Austria in order to provide a platform to share their experience and good practices in the practical implementation of good governance, e-services and transparency with other OSCE participating States.

The **OSCE Office in Yerevan**, through its *Project Implementation Presence*, helps the *Syunik Region Administration* to diversify the local economy and mitigate the economic security risks of mining. The Syunik region is situated in the south of Armenia and is heavily dependent on mining. Over 60 per cent of the regional GDP and 80 per cent of national mining output is produced by mining sector in Syunik. With the support

Outreach and synergies

26-28 January 2014, Lausanne, Switzerland

The OCEEA participated in the 8th *Practitioners' Workshop on the Return of Illicit Assets of Politically Exposed Persons*, jointly organised by the Swiss Directorate of International Law, the International Centre for Asset Recovery and the World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative. The workshop produced draft guidelines for the efficient recovery of stolen assets which are intended to be introduced for endorsement at the next UNCAC Conference of States Parties.

8-12 February 2014, Paris

The OCEEA participated in the *Plenary Meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)*. The meeting provided an opportunity to raise awareness among FATF stakeholders of the OSCE most recent work, and to support several OSCE participating States currently under examination by the FATF's International Co-operation Review Group.

18-19 February 2014, Budapest,

The OCEEA participated in the *Working Group Meeting of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)*. The OCEEA is a member of the Training Working Group and participated in discussions aimed at planning capacity building events for FIUs in the OSCE region. On the margins of the event, discussions with OSCE participating States and partner organizations such as the World Bank and the International Centre for Asset Recovery provided an opportunity to co-ordinate programmatic activities.

16-18 April 2014, Paris

The OCEEA participated in the meetings of the *OECD's Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan and the Anti-Corruption Network (ACN)*. At the event, the OCEEA representative held consultations with OECD counterparts on future co-operation.

16-20 June 2014, Moscow

The OCEEA participated in the 20th *Plenary Meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG)*. The OCEEA presented some of its past and planned activities and conducted consultations with relevant parties.

24-25 September 2014, Baku

The CoEEA attended the *International Conference on Public Service Delivery* organised by the Council of Europe and Azerbaijan. He delivered a speech sharing the OSCE experience in promoting good governance, sound financial management at local level, e-government and citizen's participation in the decision-making process. He used this opportunity to discuss issues of further co-operation in the area of good governance, economic and environmental fields with representatives of Azerbaijan and the *OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku*.

of the Office, a new *Economic Diversification Plan* was prepared, aiming at promoting investment, job creation and income generation in non-mining industry sectors of Syunik province, thus contributing to socio-economic development and stability. The plan was approved by the Armenian Government in February 2014. In addition to providing economic planning assistance to the regional administration of the Syunik region, the OSCE had been supporting the preparation of an innovative evidence-based planning tool, an econometric model for the assessment of anticipated income to the State budget from public and private investments. The application of this new method is expected to improve the efficiency of economic development planning and help to assess the impact of investments on employment, income and other important socio-economic factors.

From October to December 2013, the **OSCE Presence in Albania** provided assistance to the Government to initiate public dialogue and to design the platform of the administrative-territorial reform through an inclusive and participatory approach. The initiative for the new reorganization of local government units was launched in October 2013 inviting the main stakeholders from political parties, civil society as well as international organizations. The Presence also assisted the Ministry

of State for Local Issues in the process of developing the methodology and criteria for the new administrative territorial reform. The new criteria were then sent to the newly established *Ad-hoc Assembly Commission* on the administrative-territorial reform which included them into an elaborated law that was finally approved by the Assembly on 31 July 2014. During January–July 2014 the Presence organised several informative meetings with the Ambassadors of the participating States to inform them about the progress in different stages of the administrative-territorial reform.

In parallel to the administrative-territorial reform, the **OSCE Presence in Albania** assisted the Government in drafting a new decentralization strategy. The Presence supported conducting a technical analysis to identify challenges, bottlenecks and obstacles for the implementation of decentralized functions. Based on the decentralized functions described in the *Law on Organization and Functioning of Local Government Units*, the Presence prepared four separate specific reports, which it then presented and discussed with the *Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Decentralization*, established in March 2014. The findings and recommendations served as input for the new decentralization strategy.



Fostering Economic Co-operation

Promoting dialogue on transport and border-crossing facilitation

Regional activities

On 16-20 June 2014, in Dushanbe, at the OSCE Border Management Staff College, the OCEEA jointly with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and with the support of the Swiss Customs organised a five-day *Regional workshop on organizational and operational risk management for customs trainers* for customs trainers from **Central Asia, South Caucasus and Eastern Europe**. It focused on methods in delivering learning sessions on use of intelligence-based risk management techniques in customs. The *OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective* served as one of the course materials.



Regional workshop on organizational and operational risk management for customs trainers, Dushanbe, June 2014

In July 2014, in Dushanbe, the OCEEA, the UNECE Trade Division, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the OSCE Border Management Staff College held a *Workshop on simplifying and harmonizing procedures for international*



Cart with sterilized milk from Pakistan on the Cross-Border Market in Ishkoshim, Tajikistan



Session of the Workshop on simplifying and harmonizing procedures for international trade, Dushanbe, July 2014

trade which gathered 24 participants from **Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan** representing trade and transport ministries, customs agencies, businesses and technical assistance and inspection bodies. The event aimed at supporting governments to reduce delays at border crossings and to streamline, simplify and automate customs clearance, transit, import and export

procedures. The workshop covered topics included in the *UNECE Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide* and the *OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings*. Participants were provided with guidance particularly regarding the implementation of the recent *World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement*, and on developing a strategic approach to trade facilitation.

Field activities

In September 2013, in Astana, a five-day *National Seminar on Combating Counterfeiting and Pirated Products* was organised by the **OSCE Centre in Astana** together with the World Customs Organization, the Customs Control Committee of Kazakhstan and Japan Customs. Compliance and facilitation experts from Belgium, Japan and the United Kingdom together with representatives of a number of large international companies trained over 40 staff members of regional customs divisions. The participants discussed the movement of goods

CUSTOMS TRAINING CENTRE IN BISHKEK

The **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** supported the establishment of the *Training Centre of the State Customs Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic*, which officially opened in November 2013. The Training Centre, including a dormitory building and cafeteria, was built and fully equipped by the OSCE. One of the main objectives of this project is to facilitate the delivery of capacity building activities involving, *inter alia*, Customs officers from Afghanistan. Such a training session took place from 27 May to 7 June 2014, when a group of 16 mid- and senior level Afghan Customs officers visited Bishkek and attended training course on *Afghanistan Customs Law*. They were trained on the Afghan customs legislation and procedures as well as on modern customs techniques.



Practical training sessions on vehicle search organised by OSCE Customs Training Project

infringing intellectual property rights and learned about best practices and methods for identifying counterfeit products and limiting their access at the borders. They also held practical exercises at the Astana International Airport and the Customs Clearance Centre.

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** (PCU) has been dealing with environmental security aspects

of border crossing, focusing on radiological safety control at automobile border crossing points. The project involved border guards and environmental inspectors that operate in close co-ordination to prevent radiological threats. The PCU assisted the State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine with the installation of radiological control portal monitors at the training centre of the Inspectorate. The portal monitors

HIGH-LEVEL TRANSPORT CONFERENCE IN ASHGABAT

On 3-4 September 2014, in Ashgabat, the Government of Turkmenistan together with the UNECE, UNESCAP, the OSCE Secretariat/OCEEA and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, the International Road Transport Union and the Intergovernmental Commission on Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia organised a *High-level International Conference on the Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Co-operation, Stability and Sustainable Development*.

Amb. Lamberto Zannier, the OSCE Secretary General, addressed the *Opening Session* and called upon participants, senior transport and trade officials from across the region, to make all possible efforts to further enhance the regional transport connectivity of Central Asia as a driver for more economic development and prosperity.

The CoEEA participated in a *Panel Discussion on Policy and technical obstacles to international transport and border crossing procedures* where he delivered a presentation on the OSCE's support for Trade and Transport Facilitation in Central Asia.

Outreach and synergies

21-23 May 2014, Leipzig, Germany

The OCEEA representative participated in the *2014 International Transport Forum on 'Transport for a Changing World'*. The International Transport Forum Summit is held annually in Leipzig, under the auspices of the OECD. The OCEEA used this opportunity to hold consultations with partner organizations active in the transport field to discuss issues of collaboration and joint activities.

22-23 May 2014, Astana

The OCEEA attended and contributed to the *European Regional Conference on Customs Risk Management: Enhancing Communication Strategies*, a side-event of the *2014 Astana Economic Forum*. The OCEEA representative made a presentation on OSCE activities in addressing risk management in customs.

will significantly improve environmental inspectors' ability to detect illicit radiological contaminated goods, therefore tightening border security.

In March 2014, the **OSCE Presence in Albania** successfully completed a language training programme for the Albanian border police officers of the Shkoder Regional Border and Migration Directorate. The language deficiencies of the joint patrol police officers were identified during regular regional cross-border meetings organised and facilitated by the Presence and the OSCE Mission in Montenegro. Some 22 police officers involved in joint patrolling with their Montenegrin counterparts benefited from the course, which started in April 2012. The knowledge obtained has facilitated communication between the personnel of the two border police agencies and therefore assisted in the fight against trans-border crime, while simultaneously supporting the use of best practices and international standards.

Improving migration management

Effective migration governance requires evidence-based understanding of challenges faced by countries of origin, transit and destination. The relevant OSCE commitments, that include the Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management and the 2006 Brussels Statement on Migration, call for policy

provisions that would lead to enhanced economic and social benefits of migration. Determined to assist participating States in honouring these commitments, the OCEEA has focused its activities on comprehensive labour migration management, gender aspects of labour migration policies and migration data collection and harmonisation.

In recent years, the OSCE has paid increased attention to migrant women, who represent a significant percentage – almost 50 percent – of international migrants. The OCEEA, together with its international partners, the ILO and IOM, and in close co-ordination with ODIHR, has extensively engaged in promoting a better understanding of the specific needs and expectations of female migrant workers. The Office and its partners have held a number of *Gender-sensitive labour migration workshops*, targeting experts and practitioners from governmental institutions and civil society organizations from across the OSCE region.

Field activities

In November 2014, in Astana, the **OSCE Centre in Astana** together with the OCEEA co-organised a *Workshop on Monitoring of Labour Migration Processes and Recruitment*. The event gathered some 30 government officials and civil society representatives. Its main objective was to seek a balance between a high degree of labour force mobility required by the economy and the State's need to monitor and exercise due control over migration flows. Participants examined current recruitment and employment procedures for the foreign labour force, international standards and best practices on labour migration monitoring, migration data collection and the promotion of inter-agency co-operation in this area.

In October 2014, the **OSCE Presence in Albania**, with support from ODIHR, trained 22 Albanian officials on *Best Practices in Integration of Migrants in line with OSCE Commitments*. The training programme focused on the needs of various ministries in designing policies and programmes for integration of migrants, in accordance with the 2013 *Law on Foreigners*. The Law lays out challenging tasks for state institutions in ensuring the social, economic and cultural integration of migrants in



Migrant workers at the construction site of the Olympic Park, Sochi, Russia



Workshop on monitoring labour migration processes and recruitment, Astana, November 2014

Albania. Representatives of six key ministries involved in the integration of migrants, as well as the Border Directorate of the State Police, attended the training programme, which provided information and best practices on topics such as education, employment, political participation, and gender equality.

The migration officers of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and of the Border and Migration Police requested additional technical and training support, necessary to provide effective integration opportunities to migrants, including: one-stop-shop procedures; raising effectiveness of the regional migration offices to facilitate migrants' education; and vocational training. The Presence will co-ordinate with the ODIHR and the relevant ministries to identify how the OSCE can facilitate the better implementation of migrant integration policies at both central and local level, in line with Albania's OSCE commitments and domestic legislation.

The **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** works with local partners and institutions to combat human trafficking. Its efforts focus, *inter alia*, on ensuring

greater protection and support to trafficking victims, monitoring criminal trials and the justice system's ability to effectively sanction trafficking offences, and providing expert support to local authorities in monitoring and implementing the 2013-2015 Strategy and Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). The Mission has organised numerous trainings and workshops for police officers, judges and prosecutors. Specialized tools have been developed to enhance co-operation between police and prosecutors.

An increasingly topical priority area is that of preventing and countering trafficking for labour exploitation. Notably, 2014 was marked by the commencement of the trial against 13 people accused in the so far largest case of trafficking for labour exploitation, involving over 300 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia recruited to work on construction sites abroad. The Mission will continue monitoring developments in this particular case and implement activities to achieve more proactive investigations of THB cases, especially for labour exploitation.

Outreach and synergies

16 December 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

The OCEEA participated in the 22nd Meeting of the Senior Officials Group of the Budapest Process. The Group, which serves as the monitoring and steering body of the Process, assessed the progress achieved over the past year and discussed further project ideas to fully implement the *Silk Routes Partnership for Migration*.



Strengthening Environmental Co-operation

Political level dialogue and commitments

The 2003 *Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension* and the 2007 *Madrid Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Security* along with Ministerial Council Decisions on various environmental themes continued to provide the framework for environmental activities in the Second Dimension.

The focus of the 2014 *Economic and Environmental Forum* on disaster risk reduction gave a new impetus

to the OSCE's work in this field. The deliberations throughout the year among the participating States have not only yielded in Basel a *Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction*, it also supported the launching of several projects by the OCEEA as well as OSCE field operations.

The *thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings* on public participation in environmental decision-making; gender, environment and security; public-private partnerships; and sustainable water

ENVSEC TURNED 10

On 6 November 2013, the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) celebrated its 10th anniversary. ENVSEC is a partnership of OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, REC and NATO as associated partner to jointly address environment and security challenges in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Over the last 10 years, ENVSEC partner agencies have worked hand in hand to transform shared environmental risks in the OSCE region into co-operation and joint management of natural resources.

On the occasion of the anniversary, governments, experts, and organizations gathered in Brussels for the ENVSEC Partners meeting, to celebrate and look back at a decade of fruitful work and to discuss emerging challenges and the way forward for regional co-operation in environment and security.

During the past decade ENVSEC has worked with around 30 partner countries and over 100 local and international partners. In the ENVSEC region, comprising Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the South-Eastern Europe, and South Caucasus, the Initiative has implemented more than 150 projects on environment and security.

The experience gained by the ENVSEC partners during this decade shows that shared environmental risks can be transformed into opportunities for regional and cross-regional co-operation, which lay the foundations for sustainable development. Joint monitoring and early warning systems, and international river basin agreements are all encouraging examples of progresses achieved through regional co-operation among the ENVSEC countries, assisted by the unique combination of skills, experiences, and networks of the ENVSEC partners.

The 10th Anniversary of ENVSEC also featured a High Level debate on: "*Risk Nexus - 21st century environment and security challenges*" as well as the launch of the publication: "*Transforming risks into cooperation: The Environment and Security Initiative 2003-2013*", which highlights the key results and lessons learned of the Initiative (<http://www.osce.org/eea/109428?download=true>). The meeting also featured presentations and discussions on ENVSEC in action and the sharing of best practices on environment and security for regional co-operation. The OSCE was represented by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities who also took part in the panel discussion on "*The way forward for ENVSEC*".

management contributed to an exchange of experiences among participating States and enabled to benefit from best practices of other international organizations active in these fields.

The *Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM)* in October 2014 provided the opportunity to focus on water co-operation and strengthening of civil society as essential elements of environmental good governance.

The OCEEA also reinforced its environmental work with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

The OCEEA has continued its active engagement in the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). The OCEEA also continued supporting the Initiative through the Co-ordinator's engagement in the ENVSEC

SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In recent years, climate change has been increasingly acknowledged as a risk for human, national and regional security. Climate change is not confined within political boundaries or sectorial divides in the regions, making it difficult for any country to address the implications on its own. Potential implications such as water-, food- and energy challenges, enhanced competition over shared natural resources, exposure to natural disasters, forced migration and others are often of a trans-boundary nature. Furthermore, these are not fully assessed and necessary adaptation measures are not yet a priority for decision-making in several countries.

The OCEEA has therefore continued its engagement in the area of climate change and security. A series of *National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshops on Climate Change and Security* were organised in the first half of 2014 together with UNEP, UNDP and REC in eleven countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus as part of the OSCE-led ENVSEC project *Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus*. These workshops reviewed the linkages between climate change and different sectors and helped assess security implications of climate change at national and transboundary levels. Together with stakeholders, geographic areas requiring priority action were mapped and recommendations for reducing potential security risks resulting from climate change were discussed.

As part of this project, the OCEEA, together with the UNECE, also continued to support the adaptation to climate change in the Dniester river basin as a means to address security implications of climate change within this transboundary river basin. As a result, a draft *Strategic Framework for Adaptation* was already developed and several adaptation measures to be implemented under the project in the Dniester basin were agreed on at the *Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Dniester River Basin* in July 2014, in Chisinau. The implementation of selected adaptation measures has already started.

The project is mainly funded by the EU Instrument for Stability and co-funded by the Austrian Development Agency.



National Consultation Workshop on Climate Change and Security, Azerbaijan, 2014

Outreach and synergies

31 March-1 April 2014, Podgorica

The OCEEA participated in the *ENVSEC Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the South Eastern European Region* organised by REC and presented the current and planned OSCE contribution to the ENVSEC activities in the region. The meeting was attended by ENVSEC National Focal Points and NGO representatives from the region as well as other relevant regional and international organizations.

8-9 September 2014, Minsk

The OCEEA participated at the *ENVSEC Regional Consultation Meeting for Eastern Europe*. As a result of the two-day negotiations, an Outcome Statement was produced, elaborating the main challenges in the area of environment and security and a new vision for environmental co-operation.

23-24 September 2014, Bishkek

The OCEEA participated in and contributed to a *Policy Stakeholders Conference on EU-Central Asia Science, Technology and Innovation Co-operation in Addressing Climate Change*.

17 October 2014, Brussels

The OCEEA participated in the *Civil Society Dialogue Network Funding Instruments Meeting* – a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. The meeting discussed elements of the draft 2015 Annual Action Programme, which includes a component on ‘global and trans-regional threats’, where the OCEEA has identified synergies with its own activities.

11 November 2014, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The OCEEA participated at the *ENVSEC Regional Co-ordination meeting for Central Asia* in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting brought together nearly 40 representatives from the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as representatives from the international organizations. The participants reviewed and analysed the progress to date within the ENVSEC initiative and defined new priorities for its long-term (2015-2025) and short-term (2015-2018) programme implementation in the Central Asia.

26 November 2014, Belgrade

The CoEEA participated at the *Annual Partners Meeting of the ENVSEC Initiative*, which provided another opportunity to discuss environment and security challenges in the ENVSEC’s sub-regions - Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus.

Management Board and through performing the ENVSEC Regional Desk Office function for the South Caucasus region.

Throughout the reporting period, the OCEEA worked closely with the ENVSEC partners, relevant OSCE field operations, and national stakeholders to implement joint projects on various topics ranging from transboundary water management to hazardous waste management, from disaster risk reduction and addressing the security implications of climate change to the strengthening of civil society.

Advocating disaster risk reduction

Regional activities

Fire management

In 2014, the OCEEA together with its partner - the Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC) - continued to strengthen forest fire management capacities in the South Caucasus. Main outcomes of this work in 2014 include the following: the finalization of national policy documents on wildfire management for Armenia and Georgia as a result of participatory consultation processes and roundtables, and the translation of *EuroFire training materials*^{*} in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian languages. On 15-17 October 2014, the OCEEA organised a *Regional Training Course* on forest fire management in co-operation with the Forestry Directorate of Turkey and the GFMC. Over 50 representatives of fire management authorities and fire brigades from countries of the South Caucasus and Western Balkans participated and learned about concepts and standards of wildfire management and good practices in managing large fire and fires burning on areas contaminated by radioactivity or unexploded ordnance and land mines. Cross-boundary co-operation, community fire management and advanced technologies for fire prevention and preparedness were

^{*} *EuroFire* is an international partnership led by Global Fire Monitoring Centre, funded by the EU Leonardo da Vinci Programme, that has developed a competency based training system for wildfire and prescribed fire management, based on a new learning outcomes approach. Training materials provide necessary knowledge and competencies required for operating at wildfires or carrying out prescribed burning activities. It also includes examples of good practise from Europe and around the world.



Field exercise during the regional fire management training, Antalya, Turkey

also among the focus areas of the training course. The second day was devoted to a practical exercise in the field where the participants studied fire behaviour and fire suppression techniques.

CEDRIG training for OSCE field operations

From May to October 2014, the OCEEA in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) and the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship organised the *Regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Training (with a CEDRIG Component) for Economic and Environmental Officers in the OSCE field operations*. The training sessions, which took place in May in Tbilisi, for the South Caucasus, in September 2014 in Bishkek, for Central Asia, and in October in Sarajevo, for South Eastern Europe, aimed at strengthening the capacities of the OSCE field operations in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the OSCE projects and programmes in order to enhance the overall resilience of countries and communities for strengthening capacities on climate change adaptation. Representatives from 13 field operations - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, the OCEEA and the Swiss Chairmanship as well as national counterparts from the host countries participated in the trainings. Besides the theoretical part,



Site visit during the CEDRIG training, Tbilisi, May 2014

the trainings incorporated field visits to project sites where disaster risk reduction related projects have been implemented or are in the course of implementation.

Community-based disaster risk reduction

In May 2014, with support from Switzerland and co-funding from Austria and Finland, the **OCEEA** launched a two year ENVSEC project on *Strengthening the Capacities of Aarhus Centres in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to Enhance Awareness of Local Communities*. The overall aim is providing training and financing pilot activities of Aarhus Centres in disaster-prone areas, thus strengthening the capacities and roles of communities in DRR and contributing to awareness raising using Aarhus Centres as a platform. The project covers seven countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan. The first activities implemented in 2014 were analytical assessment reports: country reports assessing the needs for DRR education in each concerned country and one survey report on respective capacities of the Aarhus Centres. These reports provided the basis for tailor-made *National Training Workshops*, organised by the OSCE field operations together with UNDP and REC. From October to December 2014, training workshops were conducted in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Tajikistan. The others are planned for February 2015.



Study-visit to Smederevska Palanka, Serbia, December 2014

For example, in **Serbia** the two-day *Training Workshop on Community-based DRR* was held in December 2014 in Belgrade. It focused, *inter alia*, on outreach skills and relevant communication and awareness-raising tools and methodologies. The workshop included a field visit to Smederevska Palanka where participants became acquainted with the strengths and shortcomings of water management practices in this municipality, affected by the floods in May 2014. Participants included local authorities in charge of water management from 7 municipalities in Serbia prone to flooding (Smederevska Palanka, Arandjelovac, Topola, Batočina, Lapovo, Svilajnac and Despotovac) and representatives of the *Aarhus Centres from Subotica, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Niš*. A similar national training workshop in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, convened with the support of the OSCE Mission in November 2014 and also included a site visit to an area affected by the May floods. In Armenia, the ENVSEC partners jointly with the National DRR Platform, and the State Crisis Management Agency organised a series of three trainings addressing also the implementation of the Local Level Risk Management (LLRM) and on Developing Capacities on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Armenia for representatives of 15 Aarhus Centres.

Also in 2014, the OCEEA **started two new projects** with funding from the Government of Switzerland:

Strengthening of Fire Management Capabilities in Mongolia and Selected Central Asia Countries and Restoring Ecosystems to Mitigate Floods and Improve Co-operation between countries in Transboundary River Basins in Eastern Europe.

Field activities

On 4-6 November 2014, a *Regional Conference on Floods in South East Europe - Lessons Learned and Way Ahead* was organised in Sarajevo by the **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the Ministry of Security of BiH, and the RACVIAC Centre for Security Co-operation in South East Europe and the UNDP Office in BiH. The purpose of the conference was to discuss a regional approach to flood prevention and preparedness, to improve water management and to highlight examples of best practices, with a focus on increased inter-agency and cross-border co-operation. The event was attended by representatives of the Serbia, Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Representatives of municipal governments from three Bosnia and Herzegovina communities heavily affected by this year's flooding also spoke about the effects that the disaster had on their municipalities and the measures that were taken. Climate change was discussed by experts from the World Meteorological Organization and UNDP, and representatives from the EU discussed the EU Flood

Directives and the harmonization of related domestic laws and regulations in SEE countries. Save the Children also contributed to the event by highlighting the needs of children and other vulnerable groups during natural disasters. A set of conclusions and recommendations from this regional conference will be distributed to the participants and shared with the public for follow-on actions.

Another *Regional Meeting on Ways to Improve Disaster Risk Reduction Practices at Local Level* took place on 26 November 2014 in Belgrade. It focused on tightening the co-operation between civil society and local authorities to better respond to natural disasters caused by floods. Participants included authorities in charge of emergency situations and water management and Aarhus Centres' representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. Mayors from Bijeljina (BiH) and Paracin (Serbia) municipalities, heavily affected by the 2014 floods, presented challenges and shortcomings in the current disaster preparedness and flood defence practices. Four international experts from Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia shared success stories of addressing flood risks through enhanced public engagement. Participants concluded that enhancing communication between local authorities, located along international rivers was necessary and that DRR-related activities offer multiple opportunities for partnership and co-operation.



Discussions during a Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Meeting, Belgrade, November 2014

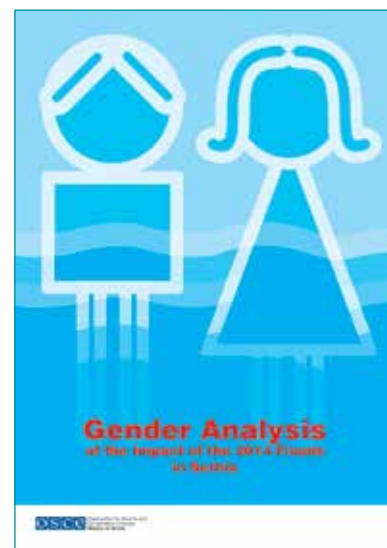
In February 2014, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** organised a *Preparatory Meeting* to introduce the concept of inclusive governance in flood risk management practices. Participants comprised representatives from the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection, State Water Directorate, Hydro Meteorological Service, Sector for Emergency Management Sector of the Ministry of Interior, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Aarhus Centre for South and East Serbia from Nis and the State Broadcasting Company (RTS). Discussions led to the agreement among participants on the necessity to establish a partnership between State and non-state actors in tackling flood risk reduction activities. The Timok river catchment area, located in Zajecar municipality, was identified as a locality to implement joint activities. They also concluded that an awareness raising campaign should be organised for the local community to increase

NEW PUBLICATION – GENDER ANALYSIS OF FLOODS, SERBIA

The *OSCE Mission to Serbia* supported the development of a publication on *Gender Analysis of the Impact of the 2014 Floods in Serbia*. It identifies and documents gender-specific differences in relation to flood risk, based on the assumption that natural disasters can have different effects on men and women. Besides its informative purpose, it formulates a set of recommendations for responsible authorities to improve gender-sensitive planning in emergency management.

The Mission engaged a gender expert to develop a questionnaire, establish a work plan and draft a report based on information collected with support of representatives from the Aarhus Centres Kragujevac and Nis. Data were gathered through interviews with a total of 78 residents from communities most severely affected by floods in May 2014, from Obrenovac, Krupanj, Svilajnac and Paracin. Information was also obtained from a *focus group* composed of female volunteers assisting beneficiaries in evacuation centres in Dobanovci and Zeleznik, as well as from data submitted by the Sector for Emergency Management.

Results show that the most vulnerable groups during natural disasters are the elderly, people with disabilities, single mothers and women who live alone in their households. Illiterate residents, mostly women and Roma, are also among the vulnerable categories. The research also revealed that the basis of community vulnerability in emergency situations lies in an undeveloped systemic approach to dissemination of information during natural disasters and the lack of community training on practices of effective reactions during floods.



The publication is available in both Serbian and English.

Outreach and synergies

11-12 October 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

The CoEEA participated in the *OSCE Focus Meeting on Creating a Security Community to Benefit of Everyone* organised by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to enable dialogue and enhance co-operation with relevant international organizations on several security issues. The CoEEA addressed the session on “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area”.

14-15 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

The Deputy Co-ordinator / Head, Environmental Activities took part in the *first session of the Preparatory Committee of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction*, which reviewed the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, and approved the programme of work of the Conference. This session provided a forum to discuss considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, including implications of disasters and disaster risk reduction for security.

17-18 November 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

The Deputy Co-ordinator / Head, Environmental Activities participated in the *second session of the Preparatory Committee of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction* in which negotiations on the draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction started.

knowledge of flood risk management and agreed that co-ordinated efforts between local and state authorities, civil society, the business sector, media and other affected parties should ensure efficient and timely implementation.

As a direct follow-up, the **OSCE Mission to Serbia** convened in April 2014 a meeting in Zajecar with the aforementioned stakeholders from state levels, the Aarhus Centre (AC) Nis, and local authorities, to establish the first *Flood Risk Action Alliance* for the Timok River, in Zajecar. Participants identified and prioritized communities which are most vulnerable to floods located along the Timok River and drafted an activity plan aimed at increasing community awareness and knowledge on flood risk reduction. The meeting also provided a unique forum for exchange of information and co-ordination among State and local authorities.

The Flood Risk Action Alliance extended full support to creating an enabling environment for the engagement of the Aarhus Centre in Nis in contributing to strengthening flood resilience and local environmental security. From July to September, the Mission supported the drafting of promotional material, including a leaflet and poster. Also, questionnaires were compiled to evaluate the awareness of public rights granted by the Aarhus Convention and practices aimed at disaster risk reduction tailored for three community groups: citizens, media and public companies. The Aarhus Centre in Nis carried out a public survey to collect information that will be utilized for tailoring future DRR activities in the area.

In November 2014, with financial and logistic support from the Mission, members of the *Flood Risk Action Alliance* convened in Zajecar at a *Public Forum* to promote good flood risk management practices before

SECURITY DAYS 2014 - WATER DIPLOMACY

The Secretary General and the Swiss Chairmanship, supported by the OCEEA, organised the Security Days event with the theme *Enhancing Security through Water Diplomacy: The Role of the OSCE*, on 8 July 2014, in Vienna. The keynote address was delivered by His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, speakers and moderators represented a wide spectrum of stakeholders including Deputy Ministers and other high level government representatives, as well as prominent representatives from international and regional organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. The OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier, addressed both the opening and closing sessions of the event while the CoEEA and DCo/Env participated in panel discussions as moderator and speaker.



The Security Day discussions reconfirmed the linkages between water and security: water can be a potential source of tensions and conflicts, but water can also be a tool for confidence-building and co-operation. The discussions highlighted the importance of water diplomacy as a new entry point for foreign policy to foster bilateral and regional co-operation among States.

almost 30 representatives of local communities including health care and educational employees, pensioners, representatives of civil protection communities residing in areas prone to flooding, located along the Timok River. The Aarhus Centre in Nis presented the results of the public survey that pointed to the need to increase environmental awareness but also to the willingness to engage in flood risk reduction efforts to increase community resilience to floods. Following the Public Forum, the Aarhus Centre organised street campaigns in affected communities, distributed leaflets to households, placed posters in busy areas and participated in local radio programs. Before the end of the year the Centre will develop a publication containing an overview of activities carried out by the Flood Risk Action Alliance and offer it to municipalities as a best practice model for co-operation among elected officials at local level, State bodies and Civil Society Organizations in enhancing community response to risk natural disasters.

Enhancing water management and co-operation

Regional activities

Transboundary water resources remained a key focus area of the **OCEEA** in the reporting period. The Office continued to promote ratification and implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

Kura River Basin

A major project, initiated in 2010 by the OSCE and UNECE within the ENVSEC framework that aims at strengthening co-operation between Azerbaijan and Georgia, was concluded in early 2014 with the main output being a negotiated *draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of Georgia on Co-operation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Use of the Water Resources of the Kura River Basin*. The 6th Round of Bilateral Consultation took place in January 2014 in Baku. Six rounds of Bilateral Consultations that took place over 4 years allowed countries to discuss the legal



Kura River is an important water resource for the South Caucasus countries

framework for bilateral co-operation on water pollution, prevention and control, conservation of biodiversity, emergency situations, information sharing and public participation. The establishment of a *Joint Commission* for the protection and rational use of water resources of the Kura River Basin is also envisaged. The OSCE and UNECE stand ready to provide further assistance with regard to finalization and endorsement of the agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia and the launching of its implementation.

Central Asia

On 4-5 November 2014, the **OCEEA** funded and co-organised a workshop at the Kazakh-German University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on the establishment of a *Regional e-journal on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Central Asia* - a bilingual (Russian and English), interdisciplinary and open access online journal. The workshop brought together the future editorial board of the e-journal, which includes academic experts from all five Central Asian States and Afghanistan. The journal aims to advance scientific knowledge on IWRM in Central Asia, to connect water experts from Central Asia and beyond, and promote their scientific exchange. The OSCE – together with UNECE, World Bank, and other donors – will be a member of the journal's advisory board in order to support its future development.

Dniester River Basin

Following the signing of the bilateral Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin by Moldova and Ukraine in November 2012, the OSCE together with UNECE continued to support both countries in preparation for the implementation of the Treaty. This was done, inter alia, within the framework of the Moldova-Ukraine Working Group on Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Dniester River Basin, which regularly convenes with the support of

an ENVSEC project addressing security implications of climate change in this transboundary river basin. Moldova has already ratified the Treaty, and Ukraine is currently undertaking necessary ratification procedures.

Co-operation with Mediterranean Partners

On 11 December 2014 in Vienna, the OSCE – with the support of the Government of Monaco - organized an expert-level workshop entitled Participatory Workshop on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region. The workshop,

Outreach and synergies

3 September 2013, Stockholm

The OCEEA took part in the *World Water Week* which focused on *Water Co-operation: Building Partnerships*, and was actively involved in two sessions addressing “agriculture and hydropower linkages” and “tools to improve co-operation and dialogue in river basins”, where transboundary river basins in Central Asia were specifically discussed.

8-9 October 2013, Budapest

An OCEEA representative accompanied the OSCE Secretary General who addressed the opening plenary of the *Budapest Water Summit*. The meeting dealt with topics reaching from integrated water resources management and the water-energy-food nexus to, the links between water, disaster risk reduction and climate change.

22-23 May 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

The OCEEA participated in the workshop *Counting our gains: Sharing experiences on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water co-operation*. Organised in the framework of the UNECE Water Convention, it provided an excellent opportunity for networking with some of the approximately 100 participants.

27-28 May 2014, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The OCEEA participated in the Regional Conference *Prospects for Water Resources Management in Central Asia: from Basin Approach to Regional Co-operation*, organised by GIZ with support of the European Union and the German MFA. The conference brought together senior level representatives from all five Central Asian countries and the relevant donor community.

16-17 June 2014 Tokyo

The Deputy Coordinator/Head, Environmental Activities, participated in the 2014 OSCE-JAPAN Conference on *Sharing experiences and lessons learned between the OSCE and Asian Partners for Co-operation in order to create a safer, more interconnected and fairer world in the face of emerging challenges* and addressed the session which focused on sharing of best practices in the promotion of sustainable water management and strengthening dialogue and co-operation as well as environmental aspects of energy supply and transportation.



Co-operative activities on the Dniester

15-17 July 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

The OCEEA participated in and contributed to a *Workshop on Triggering Co-operation: across the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in Central Asia*, organised by the East West Institute (EWI) in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Water Association (IWA).

13 August 2014, Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

The OCEEA delivered a lecture on “Water as contested resource in Central Asia” during a Summer School of the German Academic Exchange Service dedicated to Resources and Conflicts in Central Asia. The summer school gathered students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Germany.

26 September 2014, Trento, Italy

The OCEEA participated in the *5th International Conference on the Water in the Alps and Beyond* organised by the Alpine Convention and the UNECE Water Convention which aimed at creating synergies and exchanging of experiences among different mountain regions. The OCEEA representative made a presentation on the OSCE’s approach to environment and security challenges with a specific focus on disaster risk reduction, transboundary water co-operation, and climate change.

7 November 2014, in Almaty, Kazakhstan

The OCEEA participated in the *19th Meeting of the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council*, a body which consists of stakeholders from state agencies, academic institutes and the private sector, and whose activity is supported by the OSCE Centre in Astana.

10 November 2014, Bishkek

The OCEEA participated in the *18th Meeting of the Kazakh-Kyrgyz Chu-Talas Commission*, which also featured the launch of the GEF project Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins.

24-25 November 2014, Paris

The OCEEA attended the *4th Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative*, which brought together around 150 experts from national water agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, basin organizations, as well as regional and international organizations.

attended by experts and representatives of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and OSCE participating States, identified environmental issues that could impact on security as well as the environmental implications of security policies. The workshop mapped areas in the Southern Mediterranean Region where environmental issues could potentially turn into security challenges. Participants of the workshop also shared good practices in managing transboundary water resources. The workshop was a follow-up to an OSCE workshop held in Amman, Jordan in June 2012. Both workshops are part of the so-called “Valencia follow-up process” and included a special mapping exercise to help participants identify geographic areas of concern through an interactive and participatory process.

Field activities

The **OSCE Centre in Astana**, following the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding with the Executive Directorate of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), supported a series of *Roundtable Discussions* and *Training Meetings* to enhance the professional knowledge and skills of the Water Basin Council members to apply a sustainable approach for water management in the Aral Sea basin and strengthen the stakeholders’ role in decision-making. Topics covered included: integrated water resource management, effective irrigation methods in agriculture, responsible use of water resources, measures to reduce water losses and increase the efficiency of water use, conservation of natural ecosystems, including the wetlands in the new delta of Syrdarya River near the Kokaral dam. These activities were held at the *Training Centre* established with the support of the OSCE Centre in Astana at Korkyt Ata State University and brought together over 150 representatives of the Aral-Syrdarya Water Basin Council, academia, civil and business sectors.

The **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** priorities in 2014 included regional water dialogue, confidence building, water management policy development, and capacity building for Government officials and civil society representatives on the principles of integrated water resources management. In co-operation with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Office

assisted *Tajikistan’s dialogue with Afghanistan* on water management, hydrological and ecological monitoring, disaster risk management, environmental degradation and climate change, with special attention to the *Amu Darya River Basin*. In 2014, the Office supported two *expeditions* covering upper, middle and lower parts of the Pyanj River. The purpose of the expeditions was to collect and share data on the state of hydro-meteorological situations along the river and develop a set of recommendations. The Office has also organised two *Workshops* in Dushanbe in July and October 2014, involving Tajik and Afghan authorities, experts, international organizations and civil society. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan also continued its engagement in implementing awareness raising activities on efficient transboundary water use principles in the regions neighbouring the Kyrgyz Republic. In September 2014, the Office conducted an *Awareness Rising Event on efficient water use for the young people of Vorukh community*, a Tajik exclave within the territory of Kyrgyzstan.

A new drinking water supply system for Isfana city, Batken province, Kyrgyzstan, was opened on 29 September 2014. It allows over 1.400 households to have access to clean drinking water. This pipeline was constructed in the framework of the project *Addressing Conflicts over Drinking Water in Isfana*, which aimed at assisting the local authorities in mitigating inter-ethnic tensions existent amongst two adjacent villages, Tailan and Pulon. The local residents of two communities installed 10,730 meters of water pipelines and built 2 water tanks. The issue of water accessibility had plagued the two communities for years and led to inter-ethnic tension and a breakdown in friendly relations between the respective village administrations. The central objective of this project was to assist communities and local authorities in preventing and addressing conflicts over water resources. The project included training opportunities on conflict prevention mechanisms and efficient drinking water supply management for the multi-ethnic communities of Isfana city and its environs. The **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** worked jointly with GIZ, WFP and Mayor’s Office of Isfana.



Environmental assessment mission to the arsenic mining site, Tsana, Georgia



Abandoned arsenic mining site, Tsana, Georgia

Managing hazardous waste and substances

Regional activities

Environmental assessment mission

The arsenic mining site in the Tsana area in the northwest of **Georgia** is a typical example of an industrial legacy that was abandoned and poses significant risks to the surrounding environment because of the contaminated waste materials stored there. As a result of the flooding in September 2013, the wall of the container burial site was washed away, exposing the steel containers and increasing the risk of a hazardous waste leakage. In November 2013, the CoEEA received an official letter from the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia requesting assistance in the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative. In response, the OSCE and UNEP dispatched a *Technical Mission to Georgia* in May 2014 to assess the situation on the ground. The assessment resulted in practical recommendations to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia with regards to waste management options, operation procedures for safe disposal of the waste and technical design of waste containment structures along with the cost estimation of the construction and remediation. In August 2014, the OCEEA in co-operation with the Ministry organised a meeting in Tbilisi to inform representatives of national stakeholders, international organizations

and potential bilateral donors about the outcomes of the Technical Mission and to present the remediation recommendations for contaminated sites.

Border demarcation

Demarcation is a significant aspect of conflict prevention. It can also be a challenging task to accomplish if the border crosses radioactively contaminated areas. As **Ukraine and Belarus** are preparing for border demarcation, the **OCEEA** has been supporting their efforts through an assessment of environmental risks in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone where about 150 km of the border lies. This assessment will help develop safety regulations for personnel to be involved in the demarcation activities and border management operations in this area. In fall 2013, a field study was finalized on the Ukrainian side of the border with over 580 points measured for radioactive contamination. A similar study was undertaken in Belarus in 2014, jointly leading to the development of the maps of the contaminated areas and the safety regulations. Once finalized in early 2015, these products will help ensure more effective protection of lives and health of personnel in these perilous areas.

Detecting illegal trafficking of waste and hazardous material

As more and more people and goods cross borders each year, it is essential that environmentally sensitive



Dogs trained to detect endangered animals and plants, Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, October 2014



Repacked pesticides from the Transdnestrian region of Moldova are waiting for a transport to Germany for safe disposal with OSCE financial support.

items such as hazardous waste, pesticides and ozone depleting substances are effectively detected at the border to help prevent environmental crimes and protect the environment and people's health. Within the ENVSEC framework, the **OCEEA** has been implementing a project to help customs, border and environmental authorities in the countries of Eastern Europe, to strengthen their capacity to detect hazardous waste, ozone depleting substances as well as rare and endangered animals and plants illegally trafficked across borders. Three *National Training Workshops for Moldova and Ukraine* where 160 staff members of customs, border guard and environmental authorities from both countries have been trained by a group of 11 trainers established within this project. A *Computer-based Interactive Course* on detection and prevention of transboundary trafficking of environment-sensitive commodities was developed to support these activities.

This experience from **Eastern Europe**, including lessons learnt and the training materials, was shared with customs officers from countries in **Central Asia and the South Caucasus** during a *Regional Training Workshop* jointly organised with Ukraine's State Fiscal Service in the city of Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, on 30 September – 1 October 2014. The workshop was followed by an on-line training for canine experts on 2 October to discuss good practices in using dogs to detect rare and endangered animals and plants and their derivatives.

Field activities

In Moldova, in the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative, the OSCE developed a project to organise and support the disposal of obsolete pesticides. In February 2013, the **OSCE Mission to Moldova** and the Moldovan Ministry of Environment signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* to facilitate the safe international transit and disposal of this hazardous waste. In close co-operation with the OSCE and relevant authorities, a German company performed the analysis, the repacking and the transport of these pesticides. As a result, 105 tons of obsolete Soviet-era pesticides had been removed from Transdnestria and safely disposed of in Germany by February 2014 when the project was completed. According to experts' preliminary estimates, several hundreds of tons of pesticides may still have to be removed from the left bank of the Dniester/Nistru River.

Cross-border movement of radioactive or other environmentally dangerous items has serious safety and security implications, poses threat to people's health and lives and can also be an attempt to smuggle substances with criminal or even terrorism purposes. The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU)** has assisted Ukraine's border and environmental control agencies to strengthen their personnel's skills and knowledge to detect items with ionising radiation. Ukraine currently has 173 environmental check-points and 852 inspectors



Metal scrap prepared for shipment in the Odessa sea port, Ukraine

carrying out radiological control at border crossings and customs areas. The Environmental Inspectorate is establishing its own Training Centre. The PCU continued its assistance in this process through the installation of specialized equipment to be used for practical exercises - portal monitors, warning systems, etc. In 2014, the PCU also conducted needs assessment visits and recommendations were produced for future training on radiation control of metalscrap in seaports. As a result, 25 representatives of the agencies involved in controlling seaports will have the opportunity to enhance their skills and improve co-operation with local authorities in reacting to incidents of radiological contamination of cargo.

To assist the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGSU) in performing its duties in the Chernobyl exclusion zone, where there is a risk of chemical and radiological contamination, the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** provided half masks with filters to protect the SBGSU personnel against such contamination. The PCU also facilitated the process of updating the regulatory requirements designed for carrying out environmental control at the border, at the request of the State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine.

The **OSCE Office in Yerevan** through its Programme Implementation Presence (PIP) in Syunik continued to

work together with local communities and stakeholders in the Syunik region of Armenia where the mining sector is accompanied with several environmental challenges, including water pollution and soil pollution creating significant risks for human health. The Programme Implementation Presence (PIP) in Syunik has been supporting a local NGO in their efforts to mobilize community leaders and communities in preparing a clean-up plan for reconstruction of the irrigation system and in resource mobilization.

Strengthening environmental good governance

Addressing environmental and security challenges requires dialogue and consultation among a wide array of stakeholders. In 2013-2014, the OCEEA and the field operations continued to promote such dialogue at local, national and regional levels. The multilateral environmental agreements provided a solid basis for these efforts. Among them, the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) particularly provides an excellent framework for the OSCE in fostering the participation of civil society in environmental decision-making, promoting transparency and accountability, and thus contributing to environmental democracy.

Regional activities

On 3-5 July 2013, to mark the ten-year anniversary the **OCEEA** convened in Vienna the international meeting *Aarhus Centres: A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention*. The event brought together around 100 representatives from 15 OSCE countries, including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, official representatives of other OSCE participating States, staff from OSCE field operations, international organizations as well as experts from regional and non-governmental organizations. They discussed the role of the Aarhus Centres in implementing the Aarhus Convention in their countries, their achievements so far and how they can further contribute towards the implementation of the Convention. Furthermore, the participants benefited from valuable knowledge and information on topics such as recent and forthcoming developments of the Aarhus Convention, practical implementation of the Convention,



Aarhus Centres: A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention, Break-out session, Vienna, July 2013

communication tools and strategies, or the establishment of new partnerships and fund raising opportunities and strategies. Special attention was dedicated to networking tools, in particular low-budget tools, project cycle management, and gender mainstreaming in Aarhus activities. The OSCE field operations were identified as key actors in contributing to the exchange of best practices and the organization of local and regional meetings, trainings or workshops.

AARHUS CENTRES - THE FIRST DECADE

The Aarhus Centres initiative continued to be a major tool in strengthening civil society and enabling their active participation environmental policy-making. The Aarhus Centres are actively engaged in disseminating environmental information, raising public awareness, organizing public hearings on strategies and projects that have environmental implications, facilitating public participation in environmental decision-making, monitoring local environmental hotspots, and providing legal advice in environmental matters. They serve as a platform for dialogue between civil society and government and promote principles of good environmental governance. As of December 2014, there are 57 OSCE-supported Centres operating in 14 countries, including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.



Youth participating in Aarhus related activities



OSCE side event - Inside the Aarhus Centres, June 2014, Maastricht, the Netherlands

The accomplishments of the Aarhus Centres have been already acknowledged at many international fora. On 30 June 2014, in Maastricht, the Netherlands, at the Fifth Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention the **OCEEA** organised a special side event *Inside the Aarhus Centres*. The side event brought together the Aarhus Convention National Focal Points and other government representatives, Aarhus Centre Managers, NGOs, representatives of OSCE

field operations and international experts to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and to enhance networking among Aarhus Centres. Over 100 participants from 14 countries attended the event and engaged in a pro-active exchange of views and several proposals were made with regards to the future work of the OSCE-supported Aarhus Centres.

During the reporting period, the **OCEEA** closely collaborated with the Government of Belarus to further strengthen the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in this country. Together with the Ministry of Natural Resources Protection of Belarus and UNECE, the OCEEA organised a three-day *Workshop* on 29 - 31 January 2014 in Minsk. More than 40 representatives of central and local government, civil society and academia assessed the current status of implementation of the Aarhus Convention, the persisting challenges and needs. They focused on possible solutions and explored different practical measures. The Convention amendment on genetically-modified organisms and

CASE NGO SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Civic Action for Security and Environment-CASE- is a Small Grants Programme for NGOs. It aims to increase public and political awareness on the linkages between environment and security and to strengthen the technical and administrative capacity of civil society organizations in the field of environment and security. CASE grants are provided to the NGOs to support their activities on a wide range of environmental issues linked to security. These include environmental degradation problems caused by mining and industry, land degradation issues, vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters, consequences of climate change, lack of effective environmental governance and awareness problems. The CASE Programme is co-ordinated by the **OCEEA** and implemented by the respective OSCE field operations. It started in Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2009 and expanded to Tajikistan in 2010. Out of a total of 69 NGO small grant projects that have received CASE grants since the launch of the programme, 18 projects were implemented in Tajikistan, 21 in Azerbaijan and 30 in Armenia.

Capacity building for NGOs on environment and security

In March 2014, the OCEEA organised national trainings in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan for NGOs to provide them necessary knowledge and understanding of linkages between environment and security. Over 60 NGOs in total, in three countries discussed the role of international organizations and key legal documents in the area of environmental protection, as well as, the role of environmental issues in national security strategies. In addition to the theoretical part, practical group exercises were carried out to identify environment and security challenges in their countries utilizing the knowledge acquired during the workshop. As a part of the exercise, NGOs also developed project concepts in response to hypothetical environment and security challenges.

the support for public participation in decision-making on genetically-modified organisms at the local and national levels received special attention. The workshop was organised within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative.

The **OCEEA**, in close collaboration with the OSCE Office in Yerevan also supported the **Aarhus Centres in Armenia** in organising public discussions on proposed new draft environmental legislation. A legal analysis was conducted on the compliance of the draft *Law on Environmental Impact Permits* with the Aarhus Convention. Best practices related to public engagement in *Environmental Impact Assessment* processes were compiled to contribute to discussions on alternative approaches in Armenia in this field. Experts also analysed how environmental rights are adhered to in Armenia, as defined in the national legislation and in adopted international treaties. Several *Workshops* were conducted for the staff of the Aarhus Centres in Armenia, aiming at further strengthening their technical capacity in the area of Environmental Impact Assessment procedures and public participation in such processes.

On 20-23 May 2014, in Baku, the **OCEEA** supported the organisation of two targeted *National Workshops* for representatives of judiciary aiming at increasing their awareness of the obligations under the Aarhus Convention. Judges and lawyers were also familiarized with the procedural requirements for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

In 2014, the **Aarhus Centre in Georgia** gained a new status of *Legal Entity of Public Law* under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, which contributes to long term sustainability of the Centre's operation and lead to an institutionalized role of the Centre in fostering the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Georgia. During the reporting period the Centre conducted over 30 *Workshops* throughout the country for universities and schools that focused on the role of the Aarhus Convention in tackling environmental challenges Georgia is currently facing. It also facilitated public discussions on proposed new draft environmental legislation in Georgia. The Centre is building an *online database* of environmental information that will ensure

improved public access to a wide range of environmental data and information.

Field activities

The **OSCE Centre in Astana** together with the National Aarhus Centre and with the support of the Ministry of Energy organised the annual workshop of Kazakhstan's Aarhus Centre Network on 6-7 October 2014 in Borovoe. More than 30 representatives of Aarhus Centres from across the country, the Energy Ministry, the Supreme Court as well as civil society took part in a two-day workshop. The workshop discussed ways and means to improve Kazakhstan's compliance with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention. They reviewed a draft strategy and action plan for the Aarhus Centre Network based on national and international experience.

In September 2013 and 2014 respectively, more than 700 young civil society leaders and professionals from Central Asia and Afghanistan took part in the annual *Environmental and Sustainable Development Training* under the *Central Asian Leadership Programme*. The events were organised by the **OSCE Centre in Astana**, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and the United Nations Environment Programme, with support from the Government of Norway.

On 23 December 2014, the Kyrgyz State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry and the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an Aarhus Centre in Bishkek in 2015. The Aarhus Centre in Bishkek will distribute information and raise awareness on environmental matters. It will also play a central role in public awareness and access to justice on environmental issues. Kyrgyzstan ratified the Aarhus Convention in 2001. With OSCE support, the Aarhus Centre in Osh was established in 2004. The Aarhus Centre in Osh is specialized on issues such as sustainable mining; biodiversity conservation; participatory environmental assessments and action planning; compliance with environmental legislation; and the monitoring of uranium tailing sites. It also promotes youth involvement in environmental protection, promotes environmental journalism and strengthens the dialogue between government, local communities and civil society on



Meeting of the Aarhus Centres Network, Borovoe, Kazakhstan, October 2014

environmental matters. The Aarhus Centre in Bishkek will work closely with the Aarhus Centre in Osh in order to build a national dialogue on environmental issues.

A summer environmental camp *Borderline Commonwealth: Issyk-Kul 2014* organised by the **OSCE Centre in Bishkek** in co-operation with the State Border Service was opened on 25 July 2014 on the lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. More than sixty children from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation enhanced their knowledge on issues related to environment, border, culture and security. The camp was organised also as a confidence building measure and was also aimed at strengthening co-operation and understanding between the border services of the four countries. In addition, the children had the opportunity to find out more about the traditional beliefs of the Kyrgyz people, arts and crafts, participate in the traditional Kyrgyz games and had a series of workshops on *Green Pack* - information kit focused on environmental issues. The summer camp was organised under the OSCE project *Creating Conditions for Sustainable Development and Environmental Security in Kyrgyzstan*, managed by the OSCE Centre's Economic and Environmental Dimension.

As part of its efforts to support the completion of the draft text for a *National Environmental Code*, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** convened in 2014 two national *Working Groups* to compile recommendations on the policy changes necessary to stimulate the development of the green economy in Tajikistan and improve the national



Regional Youth Summer Camp, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic, July 2014

environmental monitoring system. In 2014, pursuing its mandate to promote regional co-operation, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** supported the organisation in Dushanbe of the 2nd meeting this year of the *Central Asian Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development*. It brought together Ministers and high level officials from each of the Central Asian States, as well as civil society representatives, to co-ordinate initiatives and programmes related to environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Office will present the recommendations of the working group on the green economy and facilitate a discussion on the ways and means in which the OSCE field operations in the region may contribute to promoting the green economy.

The **OSCE Office in Tajikistan** continues to assist Tajikistan in implementing the Aarhus Convention by supporting the operation of 7 Aarhus Centres that cover all regions in the country. The Aarhus Centres continue to advocate for citizens' rights regarding environmental matters, fill gaps in the public services of the municipal authorities relating to the availability of environmental information, provide consultations and organise public outreach events. In order to strengthen the Aarhus Centres' network and raise their national profile, the Office held a co-ordination meeting at which staff members from the Centres were able to share their experiences and agree on future co-operation.

Furthermore, the **OSCE Office in Tajikistan together with the OSCE field office in Osh, Kyrgyzstan** facilitated a working meeting between the *Khujand and*



Participants in an Environmental Roundtable convened in October 2014 at the Aarhus Centre in Khorog, Tajikistan

Osh Aarhus Centres, which resulted in an agreement between these two Aarhus Centres on future cross border projects.

The **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** supported the opening of the Aarhus Centre in Ashgabat in August 2012. In 2014, the OSCE Centre expanded the Aarhus network in Turkmenistan by opening two *Public Environmental Information Centres* in Turkmenbashi and Turkmenabat. In the last 18 months the Aarhus Centres network promoted all three pillars of the Aarhus Convention by disseminating two publications and four news bulletins among the public at large (Access to Information Pillar), organizing a forum for discussion by conducting 11 workshops throughout the country (Public Participation Pillar) and providing 80 Turkmen citizens with free legal consultations (Access to Justice Pillar). In 2015 the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat plans to expand the existing Aarhus network in Turkmenistan by establishing two new PEICs in Mary and Dashoguz.

During the reporting period, the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** (PCUz) continued to engage in initiatives promoting sustainable transport solutions, namely those that allow people to live normal lives without much damage to the surrounding ecosystem.

In order to attract attention to cycling as the most environmentally friendly transportation, in 2013, and again in 2014, the PCUz organised cycle rides on the streets of Tashkent with participation of Government officials, representatives of international organizations and the youth of Uzbekistan. The cycle rides gained high resonance among the public.

The PCUz continued to engage in activities aimed at improving knowledge of environmental issues by ordinary citizens of Uzbekistan by increasing the number of quality publications on the topic in different mass media. To that end, it facilitated a number of *Study Tours* to different parts of Uzbekistan, as well as to other countries, for journalists reporting on environmental matters. Furthermore, the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** continued to hold an annual national contest on the best journalistic publication and the best photo on an environmental topic.

For over a decade now, the **OSCE Office in Yerevan** has supported a network of 15 Aarhus Centres throughout the country. To increase the quality of their work by providing more scientific and research support, the Office established in 2012 the *Centre for Sustainable Development* at the Yerevan State University.



Young people reading environmental news at the Khujand Aarhus Centre, Tajikistan



Cycle-ride, Tashkent, September 2014

One of the main areas of the Centre's research activities has been the mining industry in Armenia. The Centre focused on the environmental impacts of the mining industry including on land and water resources and on appropriate mitigation measures. The work has included multiple field surveys and observations, analyses of the institutional and legal framework, and review of best practices at the global level. As a result, the Centre formulated a number of recommendations

to overcome these challenges. The Centre's legislative recommendations on mining industry, environmental and human health have already been included in the *National Strategic Plan 2015-2025* to implement the RIO+20 decisions.

The **OSCE Office in Yerevan** supported the work of the Centre in organising several *Roundtable Discussions* and *Seminars* which attracted a wide audience including

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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Industrial air pollution in the Jegunovce, Tetovo and Polog region of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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On the occasion of Earth Day, on 22 April 2014, the **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** supported the *Aarhus Centre in Sarajevo* in the organisation of a *Thematic Workshop* on the perspective of green cities – the theme of the 2014 global Earth Day. It featured presentations on greening the transport and construction sector, as well as public spaces mapping projects for Sarajevo and Banja Luka. Also, over one hundred students of elementary schools in Grbavica (Sarajevo) received lessons in horticulture and worked on the park design together with landscape architects.

From June through December 2013, the **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** implemented a project to strengthen access to justice in environmental matters. Working in partnership with judicial and prosecutorial training centres, ministries of justice and environment, law schools, and NGOs, the project ensured that:

- 38 judges and prosecutors from across Bosnia and Herzegovina were trained in Aarhus Convention and related EU law. This was a joint training

activity for both entity judicial and training centres. Judges and prosecutors assessed the training quality with a mark of 4.7 out of 5;

- The first assessment of jurisprudence in judicial review procedures and environmental crimes cases was prepared in co-operation with the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council;
- The 2nd National Implementation Report for the Aarhus Convention was prepared with record participation of 31 ministries, agencies and institutions at State, Entity and Brcko District level and 23 NGOs;
- In co-operation with the GIZ project on strengthening public administration and BiH Civil Service Agency, an online learning module on transparency in environmental governance – the first of its kind in the region - is underway.

The **OSCE Mission to Skopje** has focused on the interplay between economic and environmental factors that may have the potential to damage security at various levels. Noticing that the revitalization of the old *Sharski Vodi* hydro power project, by constructing a dam and a new artificial lake at *Lukovo Pole*, might fuel interethnic incidents or even cross-border disagreements, the Mission set up, in December 2013, an OSCE Monitoring Unit to report on the issue. Poor governance, in particular the lack of consultation with local people and lack of transparency, or the tendency to politicize the debate, led to disputes over the project that gained ethnic connotation. The region is predominantly inhabited by ethnic Albanians and ethnic Macedonians of Muslim background (Torbeshi). A feasibility and environment impact study will be released soon, with support from the World Bank. Another example is that of a company established in the 1950's. It remained the biggest producer of ferroalloys in the Balkans, but at the same time is a major source for air pollution in Jegunovce, Tetovo and Polog region. In December 2013 and January 2014 there were some peaceful protests in Tetovo against the air pollution. Finding a solution that brings cleaner air but does not affect jobs proved to be difficult and on 1 November 2014 the Government had to impose a 6 months deadline for installing filtering equipment.



Environmental education seminar related to the OSCE supported Green Pack project in Ukraine

An estimate of 250 000 cubic meters of wood were illegally cut in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2012, out of a total country-wide consumption of 850 000 cubic benefiting illegal undertakings and possibly fueling interethnic tensions. As some of the most affected areas are located along the borders, the issue holds a cross-border security dimension. To enhance the effectiveness of FYRoM's efforts to address illegal logging, the **OSCE Mission to Skopje** got involved, in 2013 and 2014, in supporting the Forestry Police of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry through various capacity-development activities, including the equipment of five *Regional Training Centres*.

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** (PCU) actively promoted environmental education and sustainable development agenda through its *Green Pack Project* (2009-2014). More than 4,500 teachers and environmentalists underwent training on environmental education from 2010 through 2014 in the framework of the project; and more than 30 per cent of Ukrainian schools actively use Green Pack materials to improve the quality of environmental education in the country. The principal project activities were concluded in 2013, however, the project momentum led to a

number of outreach activities conducted by the project experts outside of the project framework. A series of trainings and awareness events took place engaging secondary school teachers, environmentalists and civil society leaders on sustainable development issues. The PCU was invited to speak about Green Pack project achievements at the *International Forum on Social Partnership* on 30 October 2014 in Kyiv, in recognition of the social value of the project and its long-lasting impact. The Green Pack web-site: www.greenpack.in.ua

Protecting energy networks is an integral part of regional security



Enhancing Energy Dialogue

Throughout 2013, the **Ukrainian Chairmanship made energy dialogue a priority** and attached great importance to enhancing energy security and sustainability in the OSCE region. This intensified dialogue on energy and the environment led to the adoption of two Ministerial Council Decisions in Kiev, MC.DEC/5/13 on “Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region”, and MC.DEC/6/13 on “Protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters” which complement the already existing energy related commitments.*

In line with MC.DEC/5/13 and corresponding to the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All which started in 2014, the Office continued to promote sustainable energy by implementing activities in co-operation with field operations and working together with other relevant organizations such as UNECE, the Energy Charter Secretariat or the International Energy Agency.

* OSCE commitments related to energy are contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/09 on strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area, the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration as well as the Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/13 on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region (also adopted by the 2013 Kyiv Ministerial Council), and Ministerial Council Decision No.6/13 on “Protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters”.

Natural disasters received particular attention in the OSCE context under the 2014 Swiss Chairmanship and the Office developed new activities to promote the security of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure and counteract threats and challenges caused by natural and man-made disasters.

Promoting sustainable energy

On 3-4 October 2013, in Tashkent, as a direct follow-up to the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum on *Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region*, the **OCEEA** and the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** organised the *Central Asian Workshop on Sharing Best Practices to Promote Renewable Energy*. Experts and government officials from all five Central Asian countries exchanged best practices and information on relevant policies. The Uzbek State Committee for Nature Protection of Uzbekistan, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, the Central Asia Regional Economic Co-operation Programme and the newly established Central Asian Regional Centre on Renewable Energy Sources also supported the event. Experts from Norway, Spain and Sweden shared their knowledge with the participants. The workshop produced a number of recommendations on advancing regional co-operation and actions needed at national and local level.

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On 17-18 October 2013, in Ashgabat, a *High-level International Conference on Energy Security and Sustainability - the OSCE Perspective* was organised by the 2013 Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship and the Government of Turkmenistan, with support from the OCEEA and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. The Conference was opened by the President of Turkmenistan, the Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General and brought together more than 140 representatives of OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, high-level officials from relevant ministries and agencies, representatives of international, regional and non-governmental organizations including the UNECE, European Commission, Energy Community, Energy Charter Secretariat, as well as experts from business sector and academia. They discussed the development of a robust and reliable energy sector, stable transit of energy, the promotion of sustainable energy solutions and energy efficiency. The Conference resulted in the Joint Statement of the OSCE Chairmanship and the Government of Turkmenistan, highlighting the need for further enhancement of energy security dialogue and underlining the importance of effective regional energy co-operation, including sustainable energy policies.



2006 Nobel laureate in physics George Fitzgerald Smoot III speaks about future energy technologies at an OSCE-supported international conference EXPO-2017 – Energy for Sustainable Development, Astana, May 2014

In recognition of the strong causal connection between increasing demand for energy and conflicts threatening security, the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** continued to support initiatives highlighting the benefits of renewable energy sources. In August 2013, a *Study tour* to Japan was organised for relevant public authorities of Uzbekistan to demonstrate the Japanese experience related to the generation of energy from renewable sources. Furthermore, in 2013 and 2014, a number of *Training Courses* were organised, targeting farmers and entrepreneurs in rural areas. Their goal was to show the benefits of using renewable energy in local farming and other entrepreneurial activities.

To promote renewable energy development in Turkmenistan, the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** and the **OCEEA** conducted on 27 March 2014 an inception *Workshop* at the premises of the *State Energy Institute* in Mary. This was the first step towards establishing the *Centre of Excellence on Renewable Energy* which is meant to promote academic ties between the State Energy Institute in Mary and similar institutions in other OSCE participating States. The long-term target consists in integrating renewable energy related subjects in the Turkmen system. For 2015, the **OSCE Centre in Ashgabat** plans to support the development of the Centre of Excellence's knowledge base and academic capacity to educate engineers on renewable energy production and on improving the efficiency of the electricity grid. Organising a *Study tour* is also envisaged.

The **OSCE Centre in Astana** supports Kazakhstan's national reforms aiming at transition to a green

economy path. The Centre helps to bridge the gap between international standards and national policies, allowing for wider involvement of interested parties into discussions regarding green growth policies, technologies and instruments. Throughout 2013 and 2014, the OSCE Centre in Astana, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Ministry, the United Nations Development Programme, the Regional Administrations, the National Company "Expo-2017 Astana" and the non-governmental organization Coalition for Green Economy and G-Global Development, organised nine *High-level National Activities* in various regions of Kazakhstan to identify sustainable solutions to specific local needs. These meetings gathered in total some 700 representatives of the parliament, central and regional authorities, local businesses, academia and non-governmental organizations and facilitated sharing of international best practices related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, low-carbon development, environmentally-friendly industries and public participation in environmental governance. Some of the meetings were devoted to the preparation for the Kazakhstan Expo exhibition 2017.

Albania became an EITI-compliant country in May 2013. On 24 April 2014, the **OSCE Presence in Albania** and the Ministry of Energy and Industry held an inclusive discussion to promote the *Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative* (EITI) and explain its benefits for local communities. The event aimed at creating a platform for regular discussion of projects affecting natural resources. Raising awareness among authorities and businesses of the need to increase public benefits



Before the workshop at the State Energy Institute, Mary, Turkmenistan, March 2014



Head of OSCE Presence in Albania, Ambassador Florian Raunig, and high-level Albanian officials during an EITI workshop in Tirana, April 2014

and explain the processes to the public was another key objective. The Minister of Energy and Industry, the Minister of Environment, the Head of the Parliamentary

Committee on Productive Activities, Trade and Environment, and the Director of the International EITI Secretariat actively participated in the event.

PROTECTION OF ENERGY NETWORKS

The *Ministerial Decision on Protection of Energy Networks from Natural and Man-made Disasters* adds a certain integrated, cross-dimensional perspective, referring, *inter alia*, to the linkages between environmental risks and security as well as to threats emanating from terrorist attacks or the cyberspace. For the purpose of this Decision, the term ‘energy networks’ does not refer to nuclear energy installations or gas and oil infrastructure.

Inter alia, MC.DEC/6/13 underlines the need to strengthen dialogue and co-operation among the participating States on energy and environment, on an equitable, mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis, with a view to strengthening security and stability in general and ensuring an uninterrupted functioning of energy networks. It emphasizes the importance of good public and corporate governance, market transparency and regional co-operation in the energy sector.

Participating States are, *inter alia*, encouraged to consider necessary measures such as assessment of risks and other relevant procedures, at the national and local level, to co-ordinate more effectively and to make best use of the OSCE as a platform for exchange of information and sharing of best practices on strengthening the security and safety of the energy networks. Co-operation and partnerships between public and private entities should also be strengthened.

As a first activity to implement this decision, the OCEEA organised on 2 July 2014 in Vienna an Expert Workshop on Sharing Best Practices to Protect Electricity Networks from Natural Disasters. The goal of the workshop was to provide participants with insights on good practices, knowledge and experience from different countries and stakeholders. It laid the ground for the OCEEA to develop a Handbook on the Workshop topic that will serve as a reference document for government policy makers, state authorities, regulators as well as public and private owners and operators of energy networks.

Outreach and synergies

19-20 June 2013, Thessaloniki, Greece

The CoEEA participated in the “7th South East Europe Energy Dialogue, The New Regional Parameters” organised by the Institute of Energy for South-East Europe (IENE), and presented OSCE’s activities in Energy Security and Sustainable Energy.

28 June 2013, Vienna

The CoEEA participated in the first Regional Expert Round Table: The Caucasus, Caspian and Central Asia, organised by the International Peace Institute’s Task Force on Energy and Security.

9 December 2013, 23 April and 3 November 2014

The OCEEA participated in and contributed to the 9th, 10th and 11th Meetings of the Vienna Energy Club (VEC), convened on 9 December 2013, 23 April and 3 November 2014, and hosted by the International Peace Institute, the Energy Community Secretariat and the International Atomic Energy Agency respectively. The VEC brings together ten Vienna-based organizations dealing with energy, providing an informal platform for the exchange of views. The OCEEA can inform others regarding its approach towards energy security and highlight past and planned energy-related OSCE events.

16 December 2013

The Secretary General, the CoEEA and OCEEA participated in the annual debrief of the Energy Community Secretariat which was addressed by Fabrizio Barbaso, Deputy Director General for Energy at the European Commission. The event offered an opportunity for networking and discussions with representatives of member states of the Energy Community.

6 May 2014, Trieste, Italy

The CoEEA participated in the *1st Brainstorming Interagency Meeting on Advanced Biofuels* hosted by the Central European Initiative.

8-9 May 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

The OCEEA attended the *UNECE Dialogue Forum on Land Information Systems for Smart Cities* in Geneva. The event focused was on sustainable and energy efficient design for smart cities, as a way to protect the environment and reduce the risks and consequences of disasters.

3 June 2014, Vienna

The CoEEA participated in the *Annual Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Central European Initiative*. This event provided an opportunity for the OCEEA to raise awareness among participants of the close connection between economic-environmental issues and security. The CoEEA highlighted recent activities in the area of sustainable use and sound management of natural resources, including in the energy sector.

11-12 June 2014, Thessaloniki, Greece

The CoEEA participated in the *8th South East Europe Energy Dialogue - The New Energy Mix* organised by the Institute of Energy for South East Europe.

10 October 2014, Bratislava

The OCEEA actively supported the *Bratislava Energy Charter Forum -Securing Energy Supply: How to Better Protect Energy Networks from Disruptions* by organising the first session on the *Protection of energy networks from natural disasters*, by organising the Forum's first session on the "Protection of energy networks from natural disasters". The Co-ordinator chaired this session and concluding remarks were delivered by the Secretary General.

23-24 October 2014, Astana

The OCEEA participated in the *International Forum Future Energy: Reduction of CO2 Emissions*, an anchor event of the *International Specialized Exhibition EXPO-2017*. The meeting, organised by the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan and the Expo-2017 Agency, in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Astana, focused on energy supply, climate change, ecological security, investment in renewables and energy-efficiency.

12-13 November 2014, Paris

The OCEEA participated in the *International Energy Agency's Sustainable Energy Workshop*. This meeting focused on distributional impacts of energy sector reform and lessons to be learnt from efforts to assess and address implications of reform to date.

18-19 November 2014, Geneva

The OCEEA attended the UNECE Sustainable Energy Week, in particular its Committee on Sustainable Energy and Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.

25-28 November 2014, Tbilisi

The OCEEA participated in a NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure against Emerging Security Challenges, where public and private stakeholders discussed threats such as terrorism, natural disasters and cyber-attacks.

9 December 2014, Ashgabat

The CoEEA participated in the Ashgabat Energy Charter Forum which focused on the topic "Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy". The Forum was opened by H.E. President Gurbanguly Malikgulyevich Berdymukhamedov. Participants discussed the energy trade opportunities in the region and their role in diversifying the sources and routes of supply. Participants also analysed the means to facilitate investment into cross-border pipeline projects, as well as the legal and operational aspects of cross-border energy infrastructure.

10-11 December 2014, Ashgabat

The OCEEA attended the *International Meeting of Experts on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development* held in Ashgabat in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/263 of 17 May. The objective of this meeting was to discuss conceptual approaches to the process of elaborating a new international legal mechanism that would provide and sustain secure energy supplies to world markets. The meeting led to the adoption of the "Declaration of the International Meeting of Experts on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development".

Resources

Publications and web links

Relevant documents

Official Documents

Ministerial Council Decision on the Prevention of Corruption (MC.DEC/5/14)	osce.org/cio/130411
Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction (MC.DEC/6/14)	osce.org/cio/130406
Twenty Second OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area” – Compilation of Consolidated Summaries (EEF.GAL/ 0022/14)	osce.org/secretariat/133311
	osce.org/cio/40708
Twenty First OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region” – Compilation of Consolidated Summaries (EEF.GAL/18/13)	osce.org/eea/109563
OSCE Economic and Environmental Commitments – Reference Manual, 2014	osce.org/economic-environmental-commitments

AML/CFT, anti-corruption

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations	fatf-gafi.org
Factsheet “OCEEA’s Good Governance Activities”	osce.org/secretariat/98374
Guidebook on best practices in combatting corruption (an updated version is forthcoming)	osce.org/eea/13738
Handbook on Data Collection in support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessments	osce.org/eea/96398
Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings	osce.org/secretariat/121125

Transport

Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings - A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective	osce.org/secretariat/88238
2012 OSCE-UNECE Inland Transport Security Forum Proceedings	osce.org/secretariat/99852
Factsheet “OCEEA’s Transport Activities”	osce.org/eea/98372

Environment

Aarhus Centres, a Brief Introduction	osce.org/eea/89067
ENVSEC in the South Caucasus: an Overview of Projects	osce.org/eea/89301
Gender Mainstreaming in Aarhus Activities: A Guideline for Practitioners (jointly developed by the Office of the Secretary General - Gender Section and the OCEEA; published by the Gender Section)	osce.org/gender/87675
Gender and the Environment - A guide to the Integration of gender aspects in the OSCE's environmental projects (jointly developed by the Office of the Secretary General - Gender Section and the OCEEA; published by the Gender Section)	osce.org/gender/36360
Aarhus Centres - Platforms for Co-operation, Participation, Partnership	osce.org/eea/32334
The OSCE and the Aarhus Convention	osce.org/eea/15981
Aarhus Centres FOCUS: Central Asia	osce.org/eea/68495
Aarhus Centres FOCUS: South Caucasus	osce.org/eea/68494
Aarhus Centres Guidelines	osce.org/eea/40506
Independent Evaluation of the Aarhus Centres and Public Environmental Information Centres	osce.org/eea/33674
Climate Change and the Water - Energy - Agriculture Nexus in Central Asia	osce.org/eea/88202
Climate Change and Food Security in Eastern Europe	osce.org/eea/82224
Climate Change and the Water - Energy - Agriculture Nexus in Central Asia	osce.org/eea/88202
Climate Change and Food Security in Eastern Europe	osce.org/eea/82224

Migration management

Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination (May 2006 and November 2007)	The Handbook gives a comprehensive overview of labour migration policies, solutions and practical measures for more effective migration management in countries of origin and of destination. It was produced by the OCEEA in cooperation with the ILO and IOM and is available in Arabic, Albanian, English, French, and Russian.	osce.org/eea/19242 osce.org/eea/29630 (Mediterranean version)
Guide on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policies (May 2009)	The Guide presents a number of good practices and provides suggestions on how to develop more gender-sensitive labour migration policies and programmes. It was produced jointly by the OCEEA, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE Secretariat Gender Section and funded by the governments of Finland, Greece and Slovenia. It is available in English and Russian.	osce.org/eea/37228
Strengthening Migration Governance (November 2009)	The publication presents a summary of the key dynamics of migration in the OSCE region, looks at the international legal framework and reviews OSCE commitments on international migration. It was produced by the International Labour Office (ILO) in co-operation with the OCEEA and funded by the OSCE Greek Chairmanship. It is available in English.	osce.org/eea/72021
Training Modules on Labour Migration Management – Trainer’s Manual (February 2011)	The Trainer’s Manual complements the Handbook and has been developed by the IOM and the OCEEA in 2009. The project was financially supported by the OSCE Greek Chairmanship and the 1035 Facility of the IOM. The Manual is available in English and Russian.	osce.org/eea/92572
Gender and Labour Migration - Trainer’s Manual (Updated Version 2012)	The Trainer’s Manual complements the Guide and is meant as guidance for trainers on gender-sensitive labour migration policies. It was produced by the OCEEA and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights with the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency and the Governments of Greece and Finland. It is available in English and Russian.	osce.org/eea/67967
Promotional Booklet for women entrepreneurs from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan (2013)	The Booklet aims to promote the OSCE-UNDP-WFTO-KOSGEB project implemented in 2012, which strengthened the business management skills, improved the professional networks, and broadened the market possibilities of 24 women entrepreneurs from several countries. In addition to the booklet, calling cards for each of the participating entrepreneur provide essential information about their products and their contact details.	www.tradehandmade.net
Towards Evidence-based Migration Policy (published in Russian)	Contains recommendations on improving availability, quality and compatibility of migration data in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. Published by the OSCE and the International Organization for Migration	osce.org/secretariat/133131

More information and further documents can be found on osce.org/eea

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AC	Aarhus Centre	IRU	International Road Transport Union
ACN	Anti-Corruption Network	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism	IWA	International Water Association
BOMCA	Border Management Programme in Central Asia	IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre for Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors	LLRM	Local Level Risk Management
DNFBP	Designated non-financial businesses and professions	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
CASE	Civic Action for Environment and Security	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	NRA	National Risk Assessment
CoEEA	Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities	OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
CEI	Central European Initiative	ODIHR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
DCC	Development Co-ordination Council	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism	PCU	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
EEC	Economic and Environmental Committee	PCUZ	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
EEDIM	Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting	PIP	Programme Implementation Presence
EEF	Economic and Environmental Forum	REC	Regional Environmental Centre
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative	RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative	SAPSSI	State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovation
EU	European Union	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation
EWI	East-West Institute	THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
FATF	Financial Actions Task Force	TI	Transparency International
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit	UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
GEF	Global Environmental Facility	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GFMC	Global Fire Monitoring Centre	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
GGRC	Good Governance Resource Centre	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Co-operation)	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
IENE	Institute of Energy for South-East Europe	VEC	Vienna Energy Club
IFAS	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea	WCO	World Customs Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization	WFP	World Food Programme
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WTO	World Trade Organization

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