Cover photo: Students get ready to search for the "hidden treasure" as part of the "United in Krusevo" seminar, a multi-ethnic initiative for high school students to enhance their media literacy, youth engagement and human rights skills. Krusevo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 19 September 2018.
(OSCE/Mihajlo Lahtov)
The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is

THE WORLD’S LARGEST REGIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION

working to ensure peace and stability for more than a billion people between Vancouver and Vladivostok.
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Over the course of 2018, it became increasingly clear to me that the OSCE is needed now more than ever. At a time when our security environment is more polarized, more unpredictable and more unstable than it has been in decades, the OSCE has great potential to help reduce tensions, rebuild trust and encourage co-operation on shared security concerns.

The past year saw plenty of worrying challenges to security in our region, including continued conflicts, deteriorating internal situations in some states, and transnational threats like terrorism, violent extremism, climate change, and trafficking in drugs, arms and people.

Unfortunately we also saw backsliding on commitments to human rights and fundamental freedoms in some OSCE participating States. This reminds us that we must always remain vigilant in defending our fundamental principles and commitments, which the Organization will continue to support participating States in their implementation.
But there were also some bright spots in 2018, including positive developments in Armenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Transdniester settlement process, and growing regional co-operation in Central Asia. Such developments also present opportunities for OSCE bilateral engagement and new openings for supporting regional approaches.

These also highlight that even after many years without progress, co-operation is still possible, and that it can produce practical outcomes that reinforce security and stability. In particular, I hope that progress on the Transdniester settlement process will encourage the sides in other conflicts to take steps to improve conditions for ordinary people, which can help lay the ground for a peaceful settlement. Security and humanitarian challenges are at the core of the Geneva International Discussions, where the OSCE remains strongly committed to our role as a Co-Chair. We hope to see progress also in the Minsk Process working towards finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Achieving a peaceful and sustainable resolution to the crisis in and around Ukraine remains the OSCE’s top priority. In 2018, the Organization continued to focus on de-escalating tensions on the ground and facilitating the political process working toward a peaceful settlement.

After almost five years of conflict, the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine has continued to deteriorate. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine – the SMM – facilitated more than 1,200 localized ceasefires in 2018 to enable repairs to critical infrastructure serving people on both sides of the line of contact. These and other SMM efforts to reduce the human cost of the conflict make a tremendous difference for people in the conflict zone, but they also reflect the failure of the sides to protect civilians. While the OSCE can help improve conditions for people living in the conflict zone and facilitate the political process, it is the responsibility of the sides to achieve sustainable peace.

Throughout 2018, I have strived to ensure that the OSCE is fully prepared to deal with today’s critical security challenges. This includes working closely with the Chairmanship and Troika to develop more coherent and co-ordinated approaches, and exploring ways to preserve and strengthen the Organization’s flexibility and responsiveness in a constrained budgetary context.

The Secretariat has continued to improve its ability to provide strategic support to the Chairmanship, Troika and participating States. We have also been looking at how we can enhance the OSCE’s impact in the field, and more effectively integrate women and youth across the three dimensions of our work. In addition, we have been studying how to reform the Organization’s cumbersome budget process; attract and retain high-quality staff; make better use of technology; and more effectively promote the OSCE and the impact of our work.

Leveraging partnerships also helps the Organization maximize its impact. In 2018, taking political directions from the participating States, the Secretariat continued to enhance co-operation with other international and regional organizations, and to further operationalize our relationship with the United Nations. Recognizing that security in the OSCE region is tightly intertwined with security in neighboring regions, we have continued to strengthen our engagement with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation.

I am grateful for the excellent co-operation we have had with the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship and with Troika members Austria and Slovakia. I would also like to thank all the women and men who work in the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations – they are the engine that powers the OSCE and its efforts to strengthen security and stability throughout our region.

Thomas Greminger
OSCE Secretary General
Vienna, 2018
The OSCE Chairmanship is selected by the OSCE Ministerial Council for a one-year term. The post of Chairperson-in-Office is held by the foreign minister of the selected participating State.
Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility

Chairperson-in-Office: Angelino Alfano (from 1 January until 31 May), Enzo Moavero Milanesi (from 1 June until 31 December)

www.osce.org/chairmanship

Italy assumed the Chairmanship of the OSCE at a critical time for European security, marked by growing distrust and antagonism among OSCE participating States. Conflicts in the OSCE area, as well as evolving international crises unfolding within and beyond its boundaries undermine the rules-based order in Europe and jeopardize attempts to foster international co-operation, ever more needed to address new multifaceted and transnational challenges to security. Along the lines of the motto “Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility”, and paying special attention to the link between European and Euro-Mediterranean security, the Italian Chairmanship focused on strengthening the multilateral approach embodied by the OSCE, consistently seeking opportunities for dialogue in order to jointly address these challenges.

“In this historic phase, the OSCE remains a key bulwark of multilateralism and an indispensable tool for constructing peace and security in Europe. To fully harness its potential and address the challenges that we are all facing together, we need to be open to dialogue, show ownership and be ready to take on our responsibilities.”

Enzo Moavero Milanesi
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy
FOSTERING COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY

Conflicts in the OSCE area remained at the top of the Organization’s agenda in 2018. The Chairmanship put the crisis in and around Ukraine at the centre of its work, with two high-level visits to Kyiv and eastern Ukraine by then-Chairperson-in-Office Angelino Alfano (30–31 January) and by Deputy Foreign Minister Guglielmo Picchi (26–28 July), both focused on the impact of the crisis on the civilian population and its destabilizing effects on the overall security situation in the OSCE region. These visits were followed by meetings with Russian Foreign Minister S. Lavrov in Moscow by then-Chairperson-in-Office A. Alfano (1 February) and Chairperson-in-Office Moavero Milanesi (8 October). Chairperson-in-Office Moavero Milanesi also met with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister P. Klimkin in New York and Milan on 26 September and 6 December. The Italian Chairmanship gathered consensus in a timely manner on the renewal of the mandates and adoption of the budgets of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk and provided both field operations with political guidance and resources to fulfil their respective mandates. The Chairmanship facilitated an agreement to extend the duration of the mandate of the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints from three to four months, contributing to strengthening its effectiveness. Reacting to ongoing developments on the ground, the Chairmanship also convened two special Permanent Council meetings to address the implications of security developments in and around Ukraine, particularly the 11 November so-called “elections” held in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions running counter to the letter and spirit of the Minsk agreements and the 25 November incidents at sea involving detention of Ukrainian vessels and sailors.

Over the course of the year, significant progress was achieved in the Transdnisterian settlement process, and a round of negotiations took place in the 5+2 format in Rome in May, which ended with the signing of the Rome Protocol. This important agreement outlines clear timelines and mechanisms to ensure the rapid finalization of the outstanding issues from the “package of eight” priorities identified by the Sides in 2017. Among other things, the Italian Chairmanship made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Joint Vehicle Registration offices in Tiraspol and Bender, as one important initiative to positively affect the lives of civilians. The Chairmanship continued to support the Geneva International Discussions (GID) dealing with the consequences of the August 2008 war in Georgia. This included co-chairing the GID and co-facilitating the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti, which resumed meetings in December 2018 after a temporary suspension. An expert meeting on environmental threats was organized in Rome, and a water infrastructure project was launched to support people living close to the administrative boundary lines. Furthermore, the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs towards a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the engagement of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference and the High-Level Planning Group, were supported by the Chairmanship. On the occasion of Italian President Sergio Mattarella’s first visit to the region, the Italian Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Moavero Milanesi held fruitful meetings with his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts, during which he highlighted the opportunity to make progress in relaunching dialogue to favour a peaceful and consensual solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. With the region high on the OSCE agenda, the Permanent Representatives of the OSCE participating States visited the South Caucasus to get acquainted with the situation on the ground and to focus on OSCE relations with national authorities. This was also reflected by new OSCE project initiatives in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia facilitated by the Chairmanship.

The Chairmanship advocated full adherence to OSCE principles and commitments in politico-military affairs by all participating States as a way to restore the European security architecture and rules-based order. The Chairmanship also promoted meaningful dialogue and exchanges within existing formats. Special attention was devoted to the process known as “Structured Dialogue on current and future challenges to European security”, in strict adherence with the Hamburg mandate, with the aim of working to create an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and confidence-and security building measures (CSBMs) in Europe. The Structured Dialogue promoted, among other things, opportunities for military-to-military contacts and factual exchanges and analyses of military postures, military incidents and mechanisms for risk reduction.

Various forms of transnational threats and particularly illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, cultural heritage, illicit drugs and hazardous waste are among the most pervasive threats to security and stability in the OSCE region. Fighting terrorism and tackling the threat of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters received particular attention, especially at the 2018 OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference held in Rome on 10–11 May and at the 2018 Ministerial Council in Milan. The Chairmanship devoted significant attention to combating illicit trafficking in cultural property and to breaking its links with the financing of terrorism and organized crime, also by organizing an
awareness-raising exhibition called “Tesori Recuperati” (“Recovered Treasures”). The Chairmanship also focused on the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technology (ICT) and involved academia and the private sector in broad multi-stakeholder discussions on cyber/ICT security, issues that were also addressed at the 2018 OSCE-wide Conference on cyber/ICT security held in Rome on 27-28 September.

**ENHANCING DIALOGUE AND TRUST**

The Chairmanship broadened the scope of work in the economic and environmental dimension, introducing new OSCE commitments related to issues where the concern of all participating States is converging, such as those stemming from increasingly digital economies. To this end, the Chairmanship devoted a broad range of events to these topics, including the three meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum, as well as three ad hoc meetings, bringing together public officials, academia and the private sector, also as a way to harness co-operation in this area to strengthen the implementation of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security.

**FOCUSBING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Building on the success of the Palermo Conference, organized by Italy in 2017 as Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, the Chairmanship focused in 2018 on strengthening co-operation with OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister Moavero Milanesi, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in August, calling for stronger OSCE engagement and co-operation in the Mediterranean, reiterating the inextricable link between security in the OSCE area and in the Euro-Mediterranean region enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. This call translated into the adoption by the Milan Ministerial Council of a declaration on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, reiterating the inextricable link between security in the OSCE area and in the Euro-Mediterranean region enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. This call translated into the adoption by the Milan Ministerial Council of a declaration on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, reiterating the inextricable link between security in the OSCE area and in the Euro-Mediterranean region enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

**IMPLEMENTING OUR COMMON COMMITMENTS**

Participating States have developed a comprehensive, consensual and valuable set of commitments. The Chairmanship focused on their implementation and on the exchange of best practices, as well as continuous dialogue with all relevant stakeholders as keys to strengthening security in the whole OSCE area. In this regard, the Chairmanship leveraged OSCE institutions and executive structures to promote informed discussion on the implementation of OSCE commitments in all three dimensions. The Annual Security Review Conference, as well as the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, together with the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), provided the basis for in-depth assessments of the current state of play. In addition, the Chairmanship convened a broad range of meetings, including three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings on, respectively, the topics of child trafficking, violence against women, and human rights and education; two meetings on, respectively, the role of women in the security sector and on their participation in the digital economy; and, in co-operation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, one meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations. The Italian Chairmanship also worked to strengthen the role and positioning of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) vis-à-vis the Vienna-based governmental segment of the Organization. Mindful of the important role played by parliamentarian diplomacy as a trust-building tool to foster rapprochement and synergies among participating States, the Italian Chairmanship invested in promoting the initiatives, activities and outputs of the PA, including its election monitoring conducted jointly with ODHR. The Italian Chairmanship devoted a great deal of attention to strengthening the OSCE’s role in combating racism.
The Ministerial Council, consisting of the ministers for foreign affairs of the participating States, is the OSCE's central governing body and an important forum for political consultations. It is traditionally held in the country holding the OSCE Chairmanship.

The Chairmanship’s efforts to reinvigorate the commitment of participating States to work together to ensure security in the OSCE region culminated at the Milan Ministerial Council, which took place against the backdrop of growing international tensions following the incidents at sea near the Kerch Strait. The Ministerial Council capitalized on discussions initiated in October in Rome among the political directors of the 57 participating States. Over the course of two days, discussions among the foreign ministers were held in a variety of formats, both formal and informal, and at varying levels. Most notably, during the Ministerial Council, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries (France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America) and the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, and the Acting Foreign Minister of Armenia, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, issued a joint statement in which the sides agreed to continue working towards a just and lasting peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and to further reduce tensions.

A series of eight side events allowed ministers and officials to discuss in a more informal setting a wide range of issues, including violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, economic connectivity and freedom of religion or belief.

In Milan, OSCE participating States adopted 11 decisions and declarations in, for the first time since 2014, all three dimensions of security. They agreed to continue their efforts in the field of norms and best practices on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. By adopting a declaration on youth and security, the Ministerial Council recognized the role young people can play in contributing to a culture of peace, dialogue, justice and peaceful coexistence, trust and reconciliation. Decisions were also adopted to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking and to prevent and combat violence against women. The Ministerial Council also approved a decision on human capital development in the digital era and a declaration on the digital economy, adding new and increasingly important topics to the portfolio of the economic and environmental dimension. Adopting a decision on the safety of journalists, the Ministerial Council strengthened, for the first time since 2014, the human dimension acquis, introducing the first commitments to protect the safety of journalists since 1994. Adopting a declaration on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, the participating States encouraged the OSCE to mainstream a Mediterranean perspective throughout the work of the Organization.

Referring to the positive developments in the Transdniestrian settlement process, the participating States adopted a statement welcoming the confidence building measures (CBMs) agreed by the Sides and called on them to seek further tangible progress. Finally, the 2018 OSCE Chairmanship Troika (Austria, Italy, Slovakia), together with Albania as the incoming Troika member, issued two so-called Quadriga declarations highlighting their concern about deepened mistrust, increased tensions and conflict and instability within and between OSCE participating States and reflecting their concern regarding the crisis in and around Ukraine.
DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2018 OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

1. Decision on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2020
2. Decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
3. Decision on the safety of journalists
4. Decision on preventing and combating violence against women
5. Decision on human capital development in the digital era
6. Decision on strengthening efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking, including of unaccompanied minors
7. Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the 5+2 format
8. Declaration on the digital economy as a driver for promoting co-operation, security and growth
9. Declaration on the role of youth in contributing to peace and security efforts
10. Declaration on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean
11. Declaration on OSCE efforts in the field of norms and best practices on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition

OTHER DECLARATIONS:

1. Milan Quadriga declaration on dialogue, ownership and responsibility for a safer Europe by the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Albania
2. Quadriga statement on the crisis in and around Ukraine by the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Albania
Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group

The Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) includes representatives from the OSCE, Ukraine and Russia, as well as agreed participants from certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The TCG is the only forum where the conflict sides meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of essential importance for the civilian population. The TCG agenda covers a wide range of topics in the political, security, economic and humanitarian spheres, ranging from measures to strengthen the ceasefire, exchange of detainees, environmental issues or ways to make it easier and safer for the population to cross the contact line, to discussions on the implementation of the political aspects of the Minsk agreements.

In 2018, the main focus of the work was the protection of civilians. Regular re-commitments to the ceasefire (“Easter ceasefire” in March, “harvest ceasefire” in June and “back-to-school ceasefire” in August), brokered at the TCG, helped contain the fighting along the contact line and significantly decreased the number of civilian casualties. The latter fell roughly by half in 2018 compared with 2017. As a result, 2018 was the year with the lowest number of civilian dead and wounded since the conflict began in 2014.

With regard to improving the overall living conditions for the population in the conflict area, the TCG, in close co-operation with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, devoted consistent attention to enabling the continued supply of water, electricity and gas, among other things, by facilitating windows of silence for repair works on civilian infrastructure or for allowing workers to access critically important civilian facilities on the contact line. Moreover, solutions were found to re-establish and improve the functioning of the mobile network across the contact line. This is of essential humanitarian importance, as it allows people living in the non-government-controlled areas to receive information on their pension payments and to reach their relatives and friends on the other side of the contact line.
Throughout 2018, the Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, and his team conducted monitoring exercises, provided a continuous review of the situation on the ground, supported the Chairperson-in-Office and the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, and continued to look for opportunities to promote further confidence building measures with the consent of the sides. The Office is the only OSCE field presence in the South Caucasus and the only international presence with access to the front lines.

The situation on the front lines has been relatively stable since the beginning of 2018, and the sides have reported fewer ceasefire violations and casualties, as well as hardly any use of more lethal weapons such as mortars and grenade launchers in ceasefire violations.

The Office conducted monitoring exercises 17 times on the Line of Contact and seven times on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The monitoring activities and logistical support also enabled representatives of the High-Level Planning Group to visit the region in May, July and November, and facilitated the Co-Chairs’ visits to the region in February, June and October. At the request of the sides, the Office was also involved in a humanitarian operation in August, supporting a search and retrieval operation to recover the remains of a civilian from a minefield located between front-line positions.

The Office provided reports and briefings for the Chairmanship and the Co-Chairs on an ongoing basis, covering all aspects of the situation on the ground, the Office’s activities, as well as key events that have an impact on the negotiations. A group of OSCE Permanent Representatives who travelled to the South Caucasus in August, supporting a search and retrieval operation to recover the remains of a civilian from a minefield located between front-line positions.

Ambassador Kasprzyk also assisted the Co-Chairs in organizing meetings at the level of foreign ministers in May, July, September and December and personally hosted a two-day meeting of the foreign ministers in Krakow, Poland, in January.

In accordance with the decision of the 1994 Budapest Summit on Intensification of CSCE action in relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) was established. The HLPG is mandated to make recommendations to the Chairperson-in-Office regarding a possible multinational OSCE peacekeeping force. In accordance with this mandate, the HLPG consistently engaged throughout 2018 with a range of organizations and actors in order to review and enhance its planning options for a possible peacekeeping mission. It continued to closely liaise with OSCE executive structures and provided focused briefings to OSCE delegations. Drawing on the experiences and valuable lessons gained by other relevant organizations and institutions to improve its planning process, the HLPG visited the Multinational Civil-Military Co-operation Group in Motta di Livenza and the UN Global Services Centre in Brindisi, both located in Italy. It also successfully re-established co-operation with the South-Eastern Europe Brigade in Tymavos, Greece.

“Awareness of the dimension of civil-military co-operation in operational planning is a real requirement and must be factored in to support the necessary co-ordination and co-operation with the range of civil actors in theatre. Intercultural awareness and gender mainstreaming are also key.”

Colonel Vladimir Minárík
Head of the OSCE High-Level Planning Group

8 / NEW YORK
Chairperson-in-Office addresses the UN Security Council

8 / VIENNA
Permanent Council meeting devoted to International Women’s Day

26 / MARCH
Chairperson-in-Office Special Representative for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process Franco Frattini holds talks in Moldova

12–13 / VIENNA
12th Annual Meeting of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Points Network discusses modern approaches to border management

16–17 / VIENNA
Conference on Promoting the Political Participation of Women with Disabilities

24 / APRIL
Italy’s Undersecretary of State, Vincenzo Amendola, opens 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Human Beings conference
The situation related to the aftermath of the August 2008 war in Georgia remained relatively calm and stable against the background of increased military activity, as well as humanitarian challenges on the ground.

Ambassador Rudolf Michalka assumed the position of Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus in September 2018, taking over from Ambassador Günther Bächler. Together with his fellow Co-Chairs from the European Union and the United Nations, Ambassador Michalka co-chaired two rounds of the Geneva International Discussions (GID); his predecessor, Ambassador Bächler, co-chaired the previous two rounds in the first half of 2018.

Discussions concerning a joint declaration on the non-use of force continued. The GID and its associated Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM) remain the only platforms for defusing tensions and address concrete issues. Participants consider the IPRM meetings – held in Ergneti and Gali – an important tool for dialogue to resolve specific issues for the local population on the ground. They took place regularly during the year until a temporary suspension in the second half of 2018, although the Ergneti IPRM resumed in December.

The Chairmanship also supported further confidence-building measures in the field of environmental threats and concerning youth in the region.

The Italian OSCE Chairmanship together with the OSCE Mission to Moldova facilitated the further implementation of the “package of eight”, thus ensuring continued progress in the results-oriented process. During his visits to the Republic of Moldova, Special Representative Frattini underscored that the Sides need to exercise leadership (bottom-up approach) and encouraged the chief negotiators in Chisinau and Tiraspol to make the best use of the working groups and 1+1 meetings. In 2018, 69 meetings were organized for the working groups and 26 more for the chief negotiators.

On 29-30 May, a conference in the 5+2 format took place in Rome. The corresponding Rome Protocol outlines clear timelines and mechanisms to ensure the rapid finalization of the outstanding issues from the priorities identified by the Sides. One particular success has been the implementation of the agreement on permission to operate Transdniestrian vehicles on international roads, following the establishment of two Joint Vehicle Registration offices in Bender and Tiraspol, with the assistance of the Mission to Moldova and financial support of the Italian OSCE Chairmanship. During the Ministerial Council in Milan on 6-7 December, a Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the 5+2 format was adopted and once again highlighted the achievements reached and the continuing progress in this context.
The Italian OSCE Chairmanship included the fight against corruption among its top priorities and decided to appoint Professor Paola Severino as the first-ever OSCE Special Representative in this area. Throughout the year, Special Representative Severino significantly enhanced the visibility of the OSCE among international agencies involved in the fight against corruption by actively promoting OSCE principles and commitments and by encouraging governments and international organizations to combine and intensify their anti-corruption efforts. She visited several OSCE countries, including Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine, where she met with both senior government officials and representatives of civil society in order to help create conditions conducive to inclusive and co-operative responses to corruption. As a follow-up to these visits, and upon request by the government of Armenia, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) developed a project to support national anti-corruption efforts. Similarly, the OCEEA designed a project to promote integrity in several municipal governments following the request of selected municipalities in Ukraine. On 12-13 November, Professor Severino organized and chaired the high-level conference Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies for the Digital Age – Recent Trends and Best Practices in the OSCE Area, a milestone activity in good governance in 2018. Attended by high-ranking state dignitaries and senior experts from numerous OSCE participating States, the conference resulted in a series of policy recommendations for strengthening anti-corruption measures. The Chairmanship also supported further confidence building measures in the field of environmental threats and concerning youth in the region.

Ambassador Melanne Verveer joined the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Azzoni, and Secretary General Greminger on International Women’s Day to address the Permanent Council. She focused on the need for the seamless integration of women’s perspectives and participation in every aspect of the OSCE’s work in order to more effectively fulfill the Organization’s mission. At an OSCE co-sponsored conference on women in peace-building focused on unresolved conflicts in the region, Ambassador Verveer noted that women’s participation can no longer be viewed as an option, but that it is rather a necessity for conflict resolution and sustainable peace. The Special Representative also spoke at the Chairmanship’s conference Women in the Security Sector organized in cooperation with the OSCE Gender Section and ODIHR. On that occasion, she noted the correlation between inclusion and operational effectiveness in policing, armed services, border patrols, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and related operations. She also addressed the event Digital Transformation – Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area jointly organized by the Italian Chairmanship and the OSCE Gender Section. In particular, she underlined the need to overcome persistent barriers to women’s participation in the digital economy.

Ambassador Verveer made a country visit to Uzbekistan, which, under its new leadership, has embarked on a series of important reforms, including a commitment to women’s equality. In addition to meetings with officials and others, she addressed the regional Conference on the Role of Women in Democratic Renewal and Modernization of the Country. Throughout the Italian Chairmanship, she was also engaged in a number of other activities, including addressing a working session of the 2018 HDIM devoted to gender equality, the United Nations on the OSCE survey on the safety of women in the region, and young women leaders from Belgrade and Pristina participating in the OSCE Dialogue Academy.
The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Professor Bülent Şenay, worked with the Italian Chairmanship in an attempt to promote the implementation of a set of recommendations for the participating States to counter intolerance against Muslims, while also paying attention to all other forms of intolerance and discrimination. In this regard, Professor Şenay continued to underline the crucial role of education in countering xenophobic stereotypes and prejudices, and the importance of enacting legislation that is designed to combat hate crime against Muslims.

Professor Salvatore Martinez, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, represented the Chairmanship at a number of events devoted to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. In his interventions, Professor Martinez stressed that the protection of freedom of religion is today a crucial foreign-policy priority. He further reiterated that combating discrimination must not be dissociated from the protection of fundamental freedoms and underlined the indivisibility of the fundamental freedoms of thought, conscience and religion. Given the forms of intolerance and xenophobia that exist throughout the OSCE area, Professor Martinez also made the case for allocating appropriate resources and expertise to protect people from discrimination.

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, Rabbi Andrew Baker, worked closely with the Italian Chairmanship in developing and organizing the Conference on the Responsibility of States, Institutions and Individuals in the Fight against Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Area held in Rome on 29 January 2018. In June, he conducted a follow-up visit to Moldova to review the progress made since his country visit in 2017. Through his visits and in presentations to OSCE meetings and the Permanent Council, Rabbi Baker highlighted the value of ODIHR’s Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism guidelines to ensure the security of Jewish communities and to combat anti-Semitism through education, as well as the need for participating States to implement the recommendations contained in the document. He also referenced the pragmatic value for state institutions of employing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of anti-Semitism in their day-to-day work.

In accordance with the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8, the Italian Chairmanship appointed three personal representatives as part of the OSCE’s efforts to combat discrimination and promote tolerance.

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The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, represented the Chairmanship at a number of events devoted to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. In his interventions, Professor Martinez stressed that the protection of freedom of religion is today a crucial foreign-policy priority. He further reiterated that combating discrimination must not be dissociated from the protection of fundamental freedoms and underlined the indivisibility of the fundamental freedoms of thought, conscience and religion. Given the forms of intolerance and xenophobia that exist throughout the OSCE area, Professor Martinez also made the case for allocating appropriate resources and expertise to protect people from discrimination.

The Personal Representatives jointly attended the Rome Conference against anti-Semitism, the OSCE’s annual HDIM and the Conference on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination, with a Focus on Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief: Towards a Comprehensive Response in the OSCE Region, held in Rome on 23 October 2018. In addition, Rabbi Baker and Professor Martinez undertook a joint visit to Canada in October 2018.
YOUTH AND SECURITY

MATTEO PUGLIESE, ANNA-KATHARINA DEININGER, RICCARDO POZZI, SAMUEL GODA

Special Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security

The youth and security agenda experienced remarkable developments in 2018, most recently through the adoption of the OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts. The Special Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security devoted their 2018 efforts to strengthening the voice of young women and men within the OSCE, promoting youth mainstreaming and meaningful youth participation, promoting the implementation of UNSCR 2250 (2015) and UNSCR 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace and Security within the OSCE region, as well as integrating youth perspectives in all three dimensions of the OSCE’s approach to comprehensive security.

On over 50 occasions, they advised the OSCE Chairmanship on youth-related issues and highlighted the views of young people on areas such as human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, mediation and conflict prevention, preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT), youth economic participation and entrepreneurship, cyber/ICT security and digitalization. The Special Representatives organized side events on the occasion of the HDIM and the Ministerial Council, supported youth-related initiatives throughout the OSCE area and co-operated closely with the network of Youth Focal Points across OSCE executive structures.

1 / VIENNA
Chairmanship Conference on Women in the Security Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for the OSCE Area and Beyond

1—5 / PODGORICA
Regional workshop identifies tools and best practices to combat illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property in South-Eastern Europe

3 / NEW YORK
Regional organizations discuss co-operation on conflict prevention at event hosted by OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

8 / ROME
Political Directors of the OSCE’s 57 Participating States meet in Rome

8—9 / VIENNA
3rd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting focuses on human rights and education

15—16 / VIENNA
Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

17—19 / PRISTINA
Chairmanship, OSCE Mission in Kosovo and Italian Embassy in Pristina train law enforcement agencies on combating corruption

22—23 / ROME
Participants discuss good practices for combating intolerance and discrimination, especially regarding religion or belief at a conference organized by the Chairmanship and ODIHR

22—23 / VIENNA
OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting discusses strategies for future policing

26 / MÁLAGA, SPAIN
Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Guglielmo Picchi addresses the 2018 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

30 / VIENNA
Chairmanship holds conference on Digital Transformation – Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area

OCTOBER

5—6 / CANBERRA
OSCE Asian Conference discusses common challenges and opportunities for Asia-Pacific and OSCE regions

12—13 / ROME
Special Representative Severino convenes conference on developing anti-corruption strategies for the digital age

6—7 / MILAN
25th OSCE Ministerial Council takes place in Milan

18 / VIENNA
Special event to mark International Migrants Day

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER
PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The OSCE maintains special relations with five Asian and six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to better address shared security challenges. In 2018, the Italian Chairmanship promoted the active involvement of the Partners in OSCE events and activities. Supported by the outgoing and incoming OSCE Chairmanship, it also ensured continued dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners in the framework of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Group.

ASIAN CONTACT GROUP

Asian Partners for Co-operation: Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand
Chairmanship: Austria

The 2018 Austrian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group worked closely with the five OSCE Asian Partners and the Italian OSCE Chairmanship to introduce new and innovative topics to the OSCE agenda with the Partners. The rolling schedule of Asian Contact Group meetings reflected the inclusive security approach that the OSCE stands for and took into consideration new opportunities arising in the Asian region as well as common global challenges in the respective regions of both the OSCE and the Asian Partners.

As links between Asia and the OSCE are becoming stronger, Austria put a particular emphasis on ensuring extensive and thematically focused dialogue with the Asian Partners. The Contact Group continued to be a vital forum for sharing views and exchanging experiences, enabling OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners to jointly look for co-operative solutions to global and regional security challenges.

The Contact Group met five times in 2018 and discussed the following topics:
- Cyber/ICT security and cyber-diplomacy;
- Economic connectivity with a particular focus on financial technology innovations: challenges to cyber/ICT security, as well as opportunities for securing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Regional co-operation and women’s economic empowerment;
- Trade facilitation; and
- The security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

A number of high-profile representatives from Partner countries and OSCE participating States, representatives of international organizations, the private sector, civil society, as well as distinguished academics and experts from the OSCE Secretariat provided insightful and engaging presentations, which enriched the discussions at Asian Contact Group meetings.

As Chairmanship of the Contact Group, Austria also continued the established practice of actively promoting practical co-operation and contributed to the OSCE Partnership Fund, which enabled adequate participation of Asian Partners in OSCE activities and events.

2018 OSCE ASIAN CONFERENCE

The 2018 OSCE Asian Conference was held in Canberra on 5 November and covered all three security dimensions, focusing on the impact of multilateral architecture on global security; on economic connectivity and sustainability, including liberalizing global trade; and on the promotion of human rights, including issues related to women and the safety of journalists. The topics discussed during the Conference working sessions complemented the 2018 thematic priorities of the Asian Contact Group and helped ensure continuity in the OSCE’s interaction with its Asian Partners on common challenges and common opportunities in today’s interconnected world.
The 2018 Slovak Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group (MCG) built on the successful work of previous Chairmanships and advanced a positive, constructive and forward-looking agenda. Topics that highlighted common opportunities and shared concerns were jointly chosen with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Overall, five MCG meetings and the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Málaga were held in 2018.

The meetings were devoted to topics such as:
- energy security, the protection of critical energy infrastructure, the development and integration of renewable energy and the best use of digitalization for energy security;
- perspectives on water management from both sides of the Mediterranean with a focus on the connections between economic, social and environmental challenges;
- cyber/ICT security and possibilities for co-operation between the OSCE and Mediterranean Partners in implementing existing confidence building measures in the area of information technology security;
- education as a means to combat radicalization and to make it a real tool for the prevention of violent extremism;
- security sector governance and reform focused on lessons learned from the Mediterranean Partners and their relevance for OSCE participating States.

The five MCG meetings held in 2018 provided a platform for informing OSCE participating States about developments, co-operation and challenges in the Mediterranean region.

2018 OSCE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE

The annual Mediterranean Conference took place in Málaga, Spain, on 25 and 26 October. The event, and in particular its high-level political segment, focused on how to leverage energy to promote economic growth and co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

Key energy experts from the public and private sector from both sides of the Mediterranean were brought together to discuss policies, develop strategies and identify business opportunities in this context. Participants engaged in an open debate on the role of energy in promoting Euro-Mediterranean security and exchanged views on how to take existing co-operation to the next level for the sake of enhancing security in the Mediterranean, and in line with OSCE principles and commitments. Participants recognized the crucial role of energy not only in terms of economic growth, but in many other aspects as well, from peoples’ daily lives to reshaping geopolitics. The importance of connectivity, sustainability and responsibility were highlighted in the discussions, as was the need for a new energy narrative - a new strategic approach among the participating States and Partners. Discussions also touched on opportunities deriving from the expansion of renewable energy sources in OSCE and Mediterranean Partner countries. The role of renewable energy sources in environmental protection and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions were also discussed.

The Conference allowed for an exchange of views on how the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation can make their partnership even more relevant, substantial and action-oriented in the years to come.

“... The challenges that we are facing are global. They are greater than Europe. Greater than the Mediterranean. Greater than Africa. We must realize that the Mediterranean does not divide us. The Mediterranean unites us. It binds us.”

Miroslav Lajčák
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
PERMANENT COUNCIL

The Permanent Council is the OSCE’s principal body for regular political dialogue and decision-making among representatives of the OSCE participating States. It meets weekly in Vienna.
During the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship, the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council were chaired by Italy’s Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni.

Throughout the year, Ambassador Azzoni welcomed distinguished guest speakers to the Permanent Council, including ministers and deputy ministers from the participating States and high-level representatives from international organizations. Guest speakers highlighted issues of special relevance to the Chairmanship, such as the humanitarian situation in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine, migration-related issues, trafficking in human beings, cyber/ICT security and security in the Mediterranean.

Besides the work of the OSCE institutions and field operations, in view of unresolved conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area, various conflict settlement efforts played an important part in many of the 34 sessions of the Permanent Council in 2018. On the crisis in and around Ukraine alone, the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, and the Chief Monitor of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, briefed the Permanent Council five times. The Chairmanship also organized ad hoc briefings with the four chairpersons of the working groups under the Trilateral Contact Group.

The meetings of the Permanent Council provided an opportunity to foster close, mutually beneficial co-operation with other international organizations active in the OSCE area through the participation of high-level representatives of the Council of Europe (CoE), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), as well as representatives from the private sector (Microsoft).

“Much has changed since its establishment in the early 90s. Yet, in today’s increasingly fragmented geopolitical environment, the OSCE Permanent Council remains as indispensable as ever to de-escalate crises and defuse tensions. It allows participating States to keep communication channels open, even when all other channels have been exhausted. This is the role of the Chair.”

Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni
Head of the Permanent Delegation of Italy to the OSCE and 2018 Chairperson of the Permanent Council

**CHAIRPERSONS OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

- **Ambassador Károly Dán**, Hungary – Chairperson of the Informal Working Group established by PC Decision No. 1039 on Development of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies
- **Ambassador Paul Huynen**, Belgium – Chairperson of the open-ended Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area pursuant to Ministerial Council Declaration No. 4 of 2016
- **Ambassador Helmut Tichy**, Austria – Chairperson of the Open-Ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE
- **Ambassador Roksanda Ninčić**, Serbia – Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on civil society participation in OSCE activities and particularly human dimension events

**CHAIRPERSONS OF THE THREE COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

- **Ambassador María Victoria González Román**, Spain – Chairperson of the Security Committee
- **Ambassador Kairat Sarybay**, Kazakhstan – Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee
- **Ambassador Sian MacLeod**, United Kingdom – Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee
HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS AT THE PERMANENT COUNCIL IN 2018

11 January

ANGELINO ALFANO
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

25 January and 11 October

GEORGE TSERETELI
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

1 February

MICHELE GALIZIA
Head of the Federal Service to Combat Racism, Federal Department of Home Affairs, Switzerland (on behalf of the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance)

12 April

DAVID DONDUA
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia

3 May

VOLKER TÜRKM
UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

3 May

MANFRED PROFAZI
IOM Senior Regional Adviser for Europe and Central Asia
14 June

MARJA PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ
Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia

12 July

JOHN FRANK
Vice President of Microsoft Corporation

19 July

LUKÁŠ PARÍZEK
State Secretary and Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic for the 2019 OSCE Chairmanship

30 August

ENZO MOAVERO MILANESI
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

3 October

VLADIMIR VORONKOV
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

20 December

DUNJA MIJATOVIĆ
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) is the OSCE’s key decision-making body on politico-military aspects of security. Its participants meet weekly in Vienna to discuss issues such as arms control, and confidence- and security building measures. The Forum Chairmanship rotates among the OSCE participating States, with each state chairing the FSC for four months. In 2018, the FSC was chaired by Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.

A display of firearms being deactivated in Podgorica. (OSCE/Marina Živaljević)
Discussions on the crisis in and around Ukraine continued to be the dominant topic at the weekly sessions of the Forum for Security Co-operation. Throughout the year, the Forum addressed key issues and developments related to confidence- and security building measures, military transparency, security sector governance and reform (SSG/R), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), military doctrine, UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000) and subregional military and defence co-operation. The Forum adopted eight decisions designed to support the implementation of existing commitments, including the adoption of the decision on the Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW. Its work also led to the adoption of the declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA by the 25th Ministerial Council.

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE

The FSC continued to provide valuable opportunities for dialogue and discussion on the most pressing security issues in the OSCE region, including political and military commitments. The three successive 2018 FSC Chairmanships – Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden – invested considerable effort in strengthening the OSCE’s focus on the politico-military dimension of security by maximizing the use of the FSC as a forum for negotiations and consultations on military security and stability in the OSCE area. A total of 24 so-called Security Dialogues were devoted to matters related to topical European security issues, including CSBMs, the Code of Conduct, SALW and SCA, military doctrine, UNSCRs 1540 (2004) and 1325 (2000) and subregional military and defence co-operation, geographically spanning the Visegrad Group, South-Eastern Europe, as well as the Nordic and Baltic Sea region.

Topics that were discussed included military transparency, the role of mine action throughout the conflict cycle and the rights and obligations of military personnel. Two FSC special sessions were held: one commemorating the centenary of the end of World War I and another commemorating the 18th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which was followed by the release of an OSCE handbook on gender in military operations and a panel discussion on the role of military commanders in preventing sexual and gender-based violence. Throughout the year, significant efforts were made to elevate the women, peace and security agenda in the FSC.

All three FSC Chairmanships co-operated closely with the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the Permanent Council on cross-dimensional issues of relevance to both bodies in line with the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive and indivisible
security. To this end, four joint meetings were held: one on SSG/R, two on the Structured Dialogue and one on the Mediterranean and the security of the OSCE’s southern region.

The 28th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in February provided an opportunity to discuss the current and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. In accordance with its mandate, the FSC contributed to the Annual Security Review Conference held in June. The Seventh Annual Discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was also held in June. Two further conferences on the Code of Conduct, in Bucharest and Berlin, provided unique opportunities to discuss the implementation and promote awareness of the Code. The heads of verification centres met in December to exchange views on technical aspects of the Vienna Document 2011.

Significant work was accomplished on SALW and SCA, including the adoption of a decision on the Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW in February. Furthermore, four security dialogues on SALW and SCA were organized, including one to launch preparations for the OSCE’s contribution to the UN’s Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action (RevCon3). In October, the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA was held in Vienna, which comprised discussions on the implications of RevCon3 outcomes on the OSCE’s work, the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, OSCE handbooks on best practices and the OSCE assistance mechanism. The efficient work on this topic stimulated the participating States to adopt the Declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA at the Ministerial Council in Milan in December.

In the course of 2018, a number of representatives from international organizations and institutions took part in the Forum’s discussions. For example, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) contributed to security dialogues on non-proliferation and UNSCR 1540. Other organizations, such as the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the Small Arms Survey contributed to discussions on SALW, which were held in the format of both security dialogues and the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. NATO shared its work on women, peace and security during a security dialogue on 9 May 2018, and later presented how NATO military personnel are trained in the Alliance’s Code of Conduct at the NATO Defence College in Rome.
The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region. It provides a forum for OSCE parliamentarians to engage in dialogue, observe elections and strengthen international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.
Throughout 2018, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) focused its attention on migration, cybersecurity, terrorism, arms control, fake news and climate change. The OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism and Ad Hoc Committee on Migration continued their active engagement through field visits, and the Assembly observed elections in eight countries, including a first-ever mission to Italy. The PA expanded relations with partner organizations, including the United Nations, the European Union, the International Organization for Migration, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Georgian parliamentarian George Tsereteli was elected President of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Berlin.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY
The PA conducted high-level diplomacy throughout the OSCE area, with President Tsereteli visiting OSCE participating States including Ukraine, the United States of America, Azerbaijan, Germany, Poland, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Spain, Albania, Moldova, Italy, Armenia, Turkey, Slovakia, Austria, the Holy See, San Marino, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Switzerland.

In two visits to Ukraine, President Tsereteli reiterated support for Ukraine’s territorial integrity and renewed calls to reach a sustained ceasefire. Leading an OSCE PA delegation to areas on the contact line in eastern Ukraine in May, Tsereteli stressed that urgent steps must be taken to alleviate the humanitarian situation of people impacted by the conflict.

In a visit to Moldova, Tsereteli lauded achievements in the Transdniestrian settlement process and encouraged Chisinau and Tiraspol to sustain the momentum to create conditions for a comprehensive resolution of the conflict.

The Assembly increased its engagement on regional and thematic issues through the work of its Special Representatives on Mediation; Human Trafficking Issues; Mediterranean Affairs; Gender Issues; Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance; South East Europe; and Central Asia. Special Representatives were active throughout the year, conducting diplomatic visits, delivering addresses at various forums and issuing reports and statements. Two new Special Representatives were appointed in 2018: Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom) as Special Representative on South East Europe and Roman Haider (Austria) as Special Representative on Central Asia.

PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AND BEST PRACTICES ON MIGRATION
The Assembly’s Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Belgian parliamentarian Nahima Lanjri, conducted working visits to Belgium, Denmark, Serbia and Sweden. Ad Hoc Committee members met with migration authorities, local officials, border police, school administrators, the international community, civil society and migrants and refugees to assess current developments and identify best practices.

Topics covered in these field visits included the policy dilemmas faced by transit and destination countries, including addressing the needs of unaccompanied and separated children and ensuring that international humanitarian obligations are fully upheld for asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers alike.

In July, the Assembly adopted the resolution “Minors on the Move: The Role of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Building an Effective Protection Framework”, which aims to improve policies and procedures that consider the specific needs of unaccompanied minors.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM
The OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism was active throughout 2018 with working visits to Belgium and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as participation in counter-terrorism conferences in Albania, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. Makis Voridis, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, addressed the OSCE Security Committee twice and held extensive bilateral meetings with counterparts from the OSCE’s executive structures in
Contribution to OSCE Election Observation

OSCE PA election observers contributed their political experience, judgement and visibility to this essential OSCE endeavour, working closely with experts from the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and other international partners. The OSCE PA deployed 485 observers to eight countries in 2018: Italy, the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the United States of America and Armenia.

Constituting Political Experience to OSCE Election Observation

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli and Vice-President Isabel Santos speak to an election official in Washington DC, 6 November 2018. (OSCEPA/Nat Parry)

Vienna, stressing the need to work together to effectively counter violent extremism, radicalization and terrorism. He visited the United States of America in December, visiting UN headquarters and meeting with the UN’s Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee.

A comprehensive resolution on counter-terrorism was adopted at the Annual Session in Berlin that endorsed a whole-society approach and emphasized the need for joint and co-ordinated efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. Following up on this resolution, the Ad Hoc Committee launched a parliamentary initiative in September to promote the implementation of international obligations on border security and information sharing through engagement of national parliaments and building on their oversight powers.

ANNUAL SESSION: BERLIN, 7-11 JULY
AUTUMN MEETING: BISHKEK, 3-6 OCTOBER
WINTER MEETING: VIENNA, 22-23 FEBRUARY
THEMATIC CONFERENCES: BERLIN, LISBON, MADRID

Hosted by the German Parliament, the Bundestag, the 27th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly brought together some 300 parliamentarians in the German capital under the theme Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments. The Session culminated in the adoption of the 2018 Berlin Declaration, which highlights priority topics by parliamentarians as input for the OSCE’s Ministerial Council.

Hosted by the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan, the Jogorku Kenesh, the Assembly’s 17th Autumn Meeting included a Parliamentary Conference called Promoting Security Dialogue in Central Asia and Beyond and a Mediterranean Forum called Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Mediterranean: Addressing Migration, Trade and Environmental Challenges.

The OSCE PA gathered for its 17th Winter Meeting on 22-23 February at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna. Some 240 parliamentarians from 53 countries participated in the event, which consisted of meetings of the Assembly’s Standing Committee and General Committees, as well as two joint sessions of the General Committees.

Hosted by the Portuguese, German and Spanish parliaments, the OSCE PA held thematic conferences throughout the year on issues such as cybersecurity, the prevention of ethnic conflicts and victims of terrorism.

“We should all work to strengthen the OSCE, including by implementing its principles and communicating its messages to our governments and the people of our home countries. We must let people know the value of this organization and why it matters.”

George Tsereteli
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The Plenary Hall at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s 27th Annual Session at the Bundestag in Berlin, 11 July 2018. (Janine Schmitz/photothek/Deutscher Bundestag)
SECRETARIAT

Led by the Secretary General and based in Vienna, the OSCE Secretariat assists the OSCE Chairmanship, supports OSCE field activities, maintains relations with international and non-governmental organizations, and provides conference, language, administrative, financial, personnel and information technology services.

The OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. (OSCE)
In 2018, the Secretariat continued its work to ensure implementation of the Organization’s political decisions and support the process of political dialogue and negotiation among the participating States and with the Partners for Co-operation. The staff of the Secretariat assisted the Italian OSCE Chairmanship in fulfilling the Organization’s goals, monitored trends, provided expert analysis and carried out projects. It further provided operational support to the participating States on a wide range of mandated activities across the three dimensions.

THE SECRETARIAT CONSISTS OF:

- Office of the Secretary General
- Conflict Prevention Centre
- Transnational Threats Department
- Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Department of Human Resources
- Department of Management and Finance
- Office of Internal Oversight

Secretary General: Thomas Greminger
Budget: €41,164,000 (Unified budget), €9,169,357 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 406 (including 20 under extrabudgetary projects)

www.osce.org/secretariat
The OSCE’s Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) is the main point of contact on all matters concerning OSCE field operations. It addresses all phases of the conflict cycle through policy and operational guidance and advice, including through early warning and support of the OSCE’s response in crisis situations, and through efforts to find lasting political settlements for existing conflicts. The CPC is also a core structure of the OSCE’s work in the politico-military dimension and provides organization-wide support for project management.

**THE ARMENIA CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME (ACP)**

At the request of the Armenian authorities, the CPC set up a programme to sustain co-ordinated programmatic activities in the absence of a field operation in the country. The ACP involves project-based collaboration with the Republic of Armenia across the OSCE agenda.

In response to Armenia’s expressed wishes, the ACP involves a number of initiatives that build on the work of the former OSCE Office in Yerevan.

The initial objectives of the ACP are to:
- Ensure continuity of reforms in the security sector;
- Maintain continuity and sustainability of the development of community policing;
- Enhance the capacities of the Aarhus Centres network;
- Improve the economic security of women; and
- Reduce the risk of wildfires through enhanced management and improved capacities for reducing the risk of wildfire disasters.

Five projects have been developed under the ACP to date, including one short-term project funding a needs assessment for security sector governance and reform and one for community policing. The remaining three projects provide 18 to 24 months of support to continue flagship environmental activities on wildfire management and the green economy, and also enable expansion of the work of Women’s Resource Centres in the promotion of entrepreneurship. The overall budget of the ACP for 2018 was €550,000.

**CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE CRISIS IN AND AROUND UKRAINE**

The CPC continued to play a key role in co-ordinating the OSCE’s response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. It promoted efforts to support stabilization on the ground and the implementation of the Minsk agreements. It also worked with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) to support implementation of its mandate throughout Ukraine; reinforce the Mission’s capacities for facilitation efforts in the conflict area; further consolidate the Mission’s reporting, internal procedures and policies; as well as strengthen its technical surveillance capabilities. The CPC provided close support for the work of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) in its conflict resolution and mediation efforts. It also assisted the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.

**ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

The CPC supported the Transdniestrian settlement process in Moldova, working closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process. It actively supported efforts by the Chairmanship and the Mission to Moldova to reach an agreement on outstanding points of the “package of eight”, a list of measures agreed upon by the Sides at the start of 2017. The CPC supported a 5+2 meeting in Rome on 30 May 2018, which resulted in the Rome Protocol, with agreements aimed at improving the lives of residents on both sides of the Dniester/Nistru River to be implemented by the end of 2018. These included the opening of the Gura Bicului Bychok Bridge, initiating the apostilization of Transdniestrian university diplomas, ensuring the functioning of Latin-script schools on the left bank, restoring access to Dubasari farmlands and launching a mechanism for the participation of Transdniestrian vehicles in international road traffic.

The CPC supported the work of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus during four rounds of the Geneva International Discussions.
(GID) which are designed to address the consequences of the August 2008 war in Georgia, and at five meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergneti (before and after their temporary suspension). The CPC arranged briefings for the new Special Representative after he took up his role in September 2018. It also participated in numerous consultations in Tbilisi, Sukhumi, Tskhinvali and Moscow, and co-moderated the GID working group dealing with humanitarian issues. In support of the GID, the CPC organized a summer school in Vienna to familiarize youth from the region and beyond with OSCE values and commitments, and to build ties among populations divided by the conflict. Other CPC projects focused on humanitarian issues such as missing persons from the 2008 war.

The CPC also supported the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA
In addition to regular activities, the CPC facilitated an open alumni meeting of the OSCE Academy in Vienna in June, the first of its kind outside the region since the Academy’s inception in 2003. The meeting, which was co-organized by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Academy, offered an opportunity for all participating States to meet and interact with selected Academy alumni.

The CPC also worked with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department to secure funding and support planning for the medium-term outlook of the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe.

In June, the CPC, together with the Programme Office in Astana, organized a side event to promote the work of the field operation to potential donor participating States and to seek extrabudgetary funds for two major projects on police and judicial reform in Kazakhstan. Representatives from the host country’s Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Supreme Court and civil society presented project concepts for

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, AMMUNITION, DEMINING AND CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN UKRAINE
The CPC, jointly with the Transnational Threats Department, produced a needs assessment for combating illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives in and across Ukraine's borders. Consequently, a project aimed at enhancing border security and management capacities in this field was initiated. Furthermore, improving emergency response capacities for clearing explosive remnants of war was also supported.

Together with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the CPC manages chemical safety and security projects in Ukraine under the auspices of UNSCR 1540 (2004). The projects aim to strengthen oversight of controlled and toxic chemicals and improve Ukraine’s regulatory system in chemical safety and security.
DURABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

In South-Eastern Europe, the CPC, together with three OSCE field operations (to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) continued to work closely with the UNHCR in support of the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), a multi-year programme aimed at providing durable housing solutions for some 27,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families (74,000 people) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. The OSCE’s strategic partnership with the UNHCR, in support of the RHP, helped enable a process that successfully addresses the legacy of the conflicts of the 1990s at the regional level. Following the commitment taken by these four participating States to close the displacement chapter in the region, the RHP has seen increasingly positive results and has helped foster regional co-operation and reconciliation. Some 4,000 housing units have been completed, with that number soon to reach almost 6,000.

EARLY WARNING

The CPC continued to promote a structured and systematic approach to early warning across the Organization, specifically through the Network of Early Warning Focal Points in OSCE field operations and other executive structures. It organized the Network’s seventh annual meeting, gathering 30 representatives for information sharing and capacity building. Recognizing the essential role of conflict analysis in early-warning reporting, the CPC facilitated conflict analysis workshops as a key capacity-building tool, alongside regional meetings and other events focused on the OSCE’s overall conflict cycle toolbox.

MEDIATION SUPPORT

The CPC’s Mediation Support Team (MST) provided mediation and dialogue facilitation support, for example, by observing the negotiations within the Transdniestrian settlement process, the GID and the TCG, and providing methodological feedback to the mediators. Through debriefings, coaching and handover retreats, the MST supported continuity between the Chairperson-in-Office’s special representatives and made that expertise available throughout their assignments. The MST facilitated strategy workshops for special representatives and field operations on mediation process design, including engaging with insider mediators. Together with the OSCE Gender Section, the MST initiated OSCE-wide research to develop a toolkit on the inclusion of women and the effectiveness of peace processes.

IMPLEMENTING POLITICO-MILITARY COMMITMENTS

The CPC’s FSC Support Section held several capacity-building, awareness-raising and outreach events on issues related to small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and other agreed CSBMs.

The Section also continued to provide technical and administrative support for the Informal Working Group on Structured Dialogue to foster a greater understanding of current and future challenges to security in the OSCE area. It continued to process exchanged military information, prepare CSBM implementation reports and provide assistance in this regard to the OSCE participating States. The Section also took several steps to improve the way the CPC reports on military information.

Assistance for project activities on SALW and SCA continued in 2018 through ten extrabudgetary projects managed by the CPC. In Belarus, all 690 tonnes of rocket

MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS 24/7

The Situation/Communications Room monitors developments affecting security and stability in the OSCE area, serving as a vital link in the security chain between the Secretariat and the OSCE’s field operations. In 2018, it issued:

- 514 daily morning and afternoon briefings composed on working days, as well as official holidays when required;
- 1,637 updates and special reports; and
- 11,461 alert messages.
fuel components, also known as mélange, were safely removed from the country and sent for environmentally sound disposal. Additionally, the technical preparations for the removal of rocket fuel components in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan were carried out. In Serbia, the physical security and safety of conventional ammunition stockpiles were improved by upgrading the firefighting system. In Georgia, a total of 461 tonnes of cluster and aviation bombs and artillery shells were destroyed. In the OSCE region, efforts to establish a baseline for the provision of technical advice and institutional support to the OSCE participating States on the SALW/SCA normative base and practical assistance projects were supported. Support for expert assessment visits under the OSCE Documents on SALW/SCA was also provided.

The CPC also ensured project supervision and advisory support, including resource mobilization, for the SALW and SCA projects directly implemented by the field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

The Section continued its support to the States Parties to the Dayton Peace Accords in their implementation of the Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement under Article IV, Annex 1-B, of the General Framework for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and assisted participating States in their implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

SHARING INFORMATION AMONG OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

The CPC facilitates the exchange of military information between and among participating States as stipulated in the Vienna Document 2011. This sharing of information is key to building confidence and trust within the OSCE area. The OSCE Communications Network, established by the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe provides participating States with a reliable, timely and secure channel for exchanging information across all dimensions.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

2018, the CPC continued to facilitate a comprehensive overview of project management portfolios and helped all OSCE executive structures develop key performance indicators. It continued to provide programme and project management support to the Secretariat and field operations, and ensured quality control and the compliance of all extrabudgetary project proposals with the OSCE Common Regulatory Management System. Expert advice was provided on 96 project proposals worth €76.5 million, as well as with respect to SMM activities funded through voluntary contributions amounting to €16.1 million. Furthermore, the CPC facilitated one training session at the Secretariat and one at a field operation on project cycle management, programme and project planning, and self-evaluation, in which over 50 OSCE staff members took part.

SUPPORT TO SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE/REFORM

The OSCE provides support and expertise to national security institutions and services on many important aspects of SSG/R, including police reform, border management and security and democratic oversight. In recent years, SSG/R has been recognized by an increasing number of OSCE participating States as playing an essential role in conflict prevention, sustaining peace and furthering development. With the aim of developing a more coherent and effective approach to SSG/R, the Secretariat published OSCE guidelines on SSG/R in April 2016, providing guidance to OSCE staff supporting nationally led SSG/R processes, with the objective of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of OSCE support. In 2018, the CPC continued to raise awareness and build capacities among OSCE staff and the participating States on SSG/R. A joint OSCE-UNODC regional workshop in Eastern Europe discussed the value of a well-governed security sector in addressing transnational threats and highlighted the complementary of the two organizations in this regard. A dedicated Group of Friends of participating States supported these efforts. Throughout 2019 and beyond, the OSCE will continue to strengthen its approach to SSG/R.
Throughout 2018, the OSCE’s Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) supported OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, upon request, in their efforts to counter transnational threats. The Department provided assistance in translating political commitments into effective and sustainable activities such as convening joint expert meetings, sharing information and best practices, and co-ordinating the implementation of projects and plans of action. TNTD consists of a Co-ordination Cell dealing with cyber/information and communication technologies security issues and three thematic units: the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Border Security and Management Unit and the Strategic Police Matters Unit.

**CYBER/ICT SECURITY**

As states continue to develop their cyber-capabilities, international peace and security depends on mechanisms that can help reduce tensions that arise in the wake of major cyber-incidents. To reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs, TNTD continued to provide support to OSCE participating States in 2018 in clarifying procedures to raise concerns with other states, e.g., via the OSCE Communications Network.

TNTD continued supporting participating States, upon their request, in implementing the OSCE’s cyber/ICT security confidence building measures. Relevant activities included an ongoing training series on the role of ICTs in the context of regional and international security and a scenario-based discussion during the Chairmanship event held in Rome. Both activities served to promote co-operation on ICT-related challenges between policymakers and technical experts, focusing on national preparedness, strategies and resilience.

Moreover, this support included the enhancement of the quality and usability of key national cyber/ICT security information through the new POLIS website.

**COMBATING TERRORISM**

Building on the results of previous years, the 2018 OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference focused on challenges posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). The event gathered more than 350 high-level participants, practitioners, academics and civil society representatives. In addition, TNTD was instrumental in organizing other high-level conferences related to combating terrorism and violent extremism in Dushanbe, Tashkent, Minsk and Seoul throughout 2018. TNTD developed a series of tools to build the capacity of policymakers and practitioners in P/CVERLT. In addition to training courses, TNTD also developed two regionally tailored guidebooks on the role of civil society in P/CVERLT and started work on publications related to pre-criminal interventions and referral mechanisms, as well as on gender awareness for security sector actors in P/CVERLT.

In support of national efforts to counter terrorist financing, a series of advanced training events and train-the-trainer courses focusing on the analysis, investigation and financial disruption of terrorist networks, as well as on UN sanctions listings, continued in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and started in Albania and Tajikistan, all in close co-operation with the Global Programme against Money Laundering of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Three additional national risk assessment and crisis management exercises on the protection of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks emanating from cyberspace were held in Ashgabat, Astana and Sarajevo.

In response to the exploitation of the Internet by violent extremists and terrorists, a national seminar in Ashgabat
and a Central Asian regional workshop for judges, prosecutors and lawmakers in Almaty were organized to exchange best practices on preventing and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

Seminars on strengthening rule-of-law-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism were organized with Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro based on the good practices listed in the Global Counterterrorism Forum’s Rabat Memorandum. TNTD continued to facilitate information exchange through the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network by issuing informative circulars as well as six editions of its newsletter.

**BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT**

Addressing the threat posed by returning FTFs and countering illicit trafficking were in the focus in 2018. The work of the OSCE mobile training team to address the cross-border movement of FTFs expanded significantly in 2018, with six training courses conducted – in Lviv and Odesa (Ukraine), Skopje, Ashgabat, Dushanbe and Astana – as well as five courses on the detection of fraudulent documents and imposters, and a regional workshop to improve passport security. These combined efforts help states detect potential FTFs before they cross borders.

TNTD also provided direct capacity-building support to establish national passenger data systems through the drafting of roadmaps, legal advice and/or independent tendering support to local authorities in eight countries. These culminated in a thematic meeting of the OSCE’s Border Security and Management National Focal Points, which was organized on 1 and 2 November in Vienna and brought together over 150 experts to examine ways to prevent the movement of FTFs by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2396.

TNTD supported the Chairmanship’s priority of countering illicit trafficking in cultural property. An exhibition at Vienna’s Kunsthistorische Museum of recovered antiquities was a highlight in this field, and it was supplemented by specialized regional workshops for Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, as well as a national event in Turkmenistan. In addition to these priority areas, TNTD continued to promote good practices in demarcation and delimitation of borders, to expand co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and to expand joint activities on gender mainstreaming in border services and on trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

**POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN RESPONDING TO TRANSNATIONAL THREATS**

The OSCE promotes professional, democratic police services that are trusted by citizens and able to effectively address transnational threats, including those emanating from terrorism and organized crime. TNTD supported the Chairmanship in organizing the 2018 OSCE-wide anti-drug conference where the participants had a chance to explore the effectiveness of drug control policies and innovative approaches to reducing the supply of, and demand for, illicit drugs.

TNTD assisted OSCE participating States in South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus in increasing their capacities to address cybercrime by providing basic and highly specialized training courses on cybercrime issues such as the dark web, online drug trafficking, cryptocurrencies and money laundering. TNTD launched a pilot project to support Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in their fight against gender-based violence. By targeting all criminal justice practitioners (police, prosecutors and judges), as well as civil society, social workers and academia, the project ensures a comprehensive approach to gender-based violence.

The OSCE Police Academies Network (PAN) was launched in Vienna in June. The PAN started an online platform that offers an overview of police education and training, thus facilitating the exchange and mutual use of existing resources, including curricula, training materials and expertise within law enforcement training institutions in the OSCE area.

In 2018, three distinct training courses for youth, women and community leaders were piloted as part of the Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism Initiative (LIVE), and a first regional train-the-trainer seminar was organized to establish a cadre of training facilitators. 

“The OSCE’s LIVE training inspired me to organize Workshops for Heroes for children at an orphanage in Warsaw. These workshops promote respect for human rights, tolerance and diversity. These are the hero qualities that we must support in order to counter the hate that is sown by violent far-right extremist networks in Poland.”

Eliza Rutynowska
participant in a LIVE course for women
Economic and environmental activities

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) continued to implement all of its mandates in the economic and environmental dimension in 2018 and embraced new topics such as digitalization, which was one of the Italian Chairmanship's priorities. The Office supported participating States in meeting their objectives set by international frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, often in close co-operation with OSCE field operations, other departments of the OSCE Secretariat and other international organizations.

CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities: Ambassador Vuk Žugić
Budget: €2,308,100 (Unified budget), € 988,184 (Extrabudgetary expenditure)
Staff: 21
www.osce.org/secretariat/economic
www.osce.org/secretariat/environmental
www.osce.org/secretariat/eeforum

GOOD ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

The Office assisted Professor Paola Severino, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, during her high-level meetings in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine. In addition, in partnership with the Anti-Corruption Network of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the OCEEA organized a regional seminar to discuss new approaches and tools to prevent corruption at the local level. Representatives from about 30 participating States shared experiences on the prevention of corruption at the local level. The OCEEA also organized training courses for government officials, civil society organizations and business representatives on anti-corruption proofing of legislation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe.

The OCEEA continued its support for participating States on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism by strengthening their capacities in this area. In Mongolia, the OCEEA trained members of law enforcement agencies on best practices in countering money laundering through offshore zones. In Belarus, the Office held a workshop for the Department of Financial Investigations on combating the misuse of the darknet and cryptocurrencies for corruption and financial crimes. Austria and other countries shared experiences with their financial investigations of corruption-related crimes.

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Migration management impacts regional security, development and growth. In 2018, the OCEEA supported Central Asian participating States in reviewing their migration policies and enhancing their effectiveness as tools for economic stability, development and growth. A workshop organized in co-operation with the IOM, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) aimed to facilitate labour mobility in the region, foster the exchange of practices and develop pilot initiatives. Furthermore, the OCEEA provided a platform to discuss migration as a driving force for social cohesion and development through seminars and an annual event to mark International Migrant Day, which focused on promoting a multi-stakeholder approach for the socio-economic integration of migrants.

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION – WOMEN AND YOUTH

The OCEEA pays special attention to the inclusion of women and young people in its activities. The successful implementation of the YDEAS project (Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups in the Western Balkans) offered an opportunity to reflect on how to improve youth employability, including through focusing on innovation and the digital economy. The long-term vision for the region is to counteract brain drain among youth, while fostering an environment for innovative start-ups.

In Central Asia, the OCEEA specifically supports women and young people working in water management, an area of critical importance for the region.

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

Transboundary water co-operation is a priority issue for the OCEEA with the increasing impacts of climate change on water resources. In 2018, in the framework of the Dniester/Nistru River project, the OCEEA, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and respective field operations, supported the establishment of the Moldova-Ukraine Dniester/Nistru River Basin Commission. The project was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The OCEEA also helped organize the project’s first high-level meeting, which brought together 70 governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from Moldova, both right and left banks, and Ukraine, as well as international and bilateral actors. The OCEEA also organized a study tour to Portugal and Spain.
DIALOGUE ON DIGITALIZATION – THE OSCE’S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM AND THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through innovation, human capital development and good public and corporate governance was the focus of the 26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF). The EEF is the major annual OSCE event dealing with security questions in the economic and environmental dimension. More than 500 participants attended the two preparatory meetings held in Vienna and Venice, as well as the concluding meeting in Prague. The discussions focused on harnessing the opportunities of the digital transition while curbing its negative security implications through human capital development.

The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, which reviews the implementation of commitments in the OSCE economic and environmental dimension, focused on OSCE commitments in the field of energy, with one session being dedicated to the energy sector in the era of digitalization.

The discussions contributed to the successful adoption of the Declaration on the Digital Economy as a Driver for Promoting Co-operation, Security and Growth and the Decision on Human Capital Development in the Digital Era by the 25th Ministerial Council meeting in Milan.

The opportunities and challenges of digitalization were also integrated into the OCEEA’s work with participating States on trade and transport connectivity, e.g., with two activities on e-commerce organized in Moldova and two national workshops on digitalization of transit and trade documents held in Kazakhstan.

where representatives from Moldova and Ukraine learned about the institutions and processes involved in the bilateral Albufeira Convention, which is dealing with co-operation for the protection and sustainable use of Spanish-Portuguese transboundary waters.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

The Office continued to closely follow global and regional developments in the area of climate diplomacy. Building on the results of its earlier activities, the Office also developed a new project to address potential security risks stemming from climate change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.
ENERGY SECURITY

The OCEEA continued to support participating States with regard to the protection of critical energy infrastructure and the promotion of renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures as elements of energy security strategies. In September 2018, the OCEEA organized a field study to Iceland on geothermal energy for energy decision makers from the public and private sectors of several participating States. Participants visited leading geothermal sites in the country and exchanged views with representatives from companies and national authorities on best practices to utilize geothermal energy for increased energy security and economic growth.

HAZARDOUS-WASTE MANAGEMENT

Abandoned uranium mining sites remain a significant risk for communities in Central Asia. The OSCE has long supported participating States in addressing these risks. In 2018, the OCEEA successfully completed a joint Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) project with the UNDP and UN Environment, which was aimed at engaging stakeholders in the remediation of uranium legacy sites in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project established four Public Environmental Information Centres to serve communities in the vicinity of high-priority uranium legacy sites – three in Kyrgyzstan and one in Uzbekistan. It provided over 50 training sessions for more than 1,000 local stakeholders, engaged over 1,300 schoolchildren in awareness-raising activities and prepared and distributed thousands of radiation safety brochures. A follow-up project is being prepared.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Disaster risk reduction remained high on the OCEEA’s agenda in 2018. The Chernobyl Wildfires Management project was successfully concluded with a table-top exercise for emergency management authorities from Belarus and Ukraine preparing for an effective joint response to wildfires in the affected areas. The OCEEA extended its engagement to South-Eastern Europe through a regional workshop to discuss wildfire management challenges and opportunities for co-operation among actors in the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD GOVERNANCE

The 2018 Aarhus Centres Annual Meeting was held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, and jointly organized by the OCEEA and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. Bringing together Aarhus Convention stakeholders from 15 OSCE participating States, the meeting focused on the Aarhus Centres’ contributions to the implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the SDGs.
Participants at the Annual Meeting of the Aarhus Centre cleaning up beaches at Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. (OSCE / Chyngyz Zhanybekov)
From policy to practice, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) assists OSCE participating States in their efforts to better prevent human trafficking, prosecute those who commit this heinous crime and protect its victims. In 2018, the Office further developed core programmes around areas of greatest need and potential impact, including trafficking in migration flows, public procurement and supply chains, technology and trafficking, and trafficking of children.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MIGRATION FLOWS**

Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in migration flows continue to face grave risks of human trafficking and exploitation. The OSR/CTHB works to help tackle these vulnerabilities through a combination of policy development and pioneering capacity-building activities. In 2018, the OSR/CTHB conducted three simulation training exercises, including one for Italian practitioners, the first-ever Russian-language exercise and an additional English-language exercise for experts from across the OSCE. This project develops powerful and practical networks across borders and disciplines, and it stands as an enduring example of collaboration between anti-trafficking professionals and participating States. Furthermore, the Office developed uniform guidelines to help improve the identification of victims of human trafficking in large movements of migrants and refugees for first responders at migration and reception centres across the OSCE region.

**ENDING LABOUR TRAFFICKING THROUGH CLEAN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

In February 2018, the OSR/CTHB published its innovative Model Guidelines on Government Measures to Prevent Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains. Building on extensive research and collaboration with leading international practitioners in this field, the publication provides practical guidance to participating States to ensure that fair labour recruitment and transparency practices are implemented in public procurement. Following the publication, the Office launched a series of practical workshops to promote useful guidance for achieving ethical public procurement, beginning with an event for Central Asian participating States hosted by Uzbekistan.

**TECHNOLOGY AND TRAFFICKING: TURNING A LIABILITY INTO AN ASSET**

From victims recruited via social media to traffickers exploiting victims on websites to illicit flows of cryptocurrency, information and communication technology is now at the heart of the human trafficking business model. The OSR/CTHB has been at the forefront of turning technology from a liability into an asset by conducting research into the connections between technology and trafficking, identifying over 200 promising digital forensics tools, facial recognition software, blockchain and mobile applications and other technology initiatives to combat human trafficking and building ground-breaking partnerships between the public and private sectors in the field of technology. Recognizing the importance of public-private partnerships, the OSR/CTHB has joined new initiatives, such as the Advisory Group of Tech Against Trafficking initiative, to fully leverage the potential of technology to fight human trafficking.

**CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING**

Children are especially vulnerable to human trafficking, be it for child labour, sexual exploitation, early (forced) marriage, organ removal, begging or forced criminality such as transporting illegal drugs. Taking stock of the 2017 Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on child trafficking, the OSR/CTHB continued its strong emphasis on combating trafficking of children in 2018 by:

- Conducting research into the sexual exploitation of children in the context of tourism;
In 2018, more than 190 law enforcement officials, lawyers, prosecutors, labour inspectors, financial and criminal investigators, journalists, public social service providers, cultural mediators and civil society representatives from 53 OSCE participating States and five Partners for Co-operation participated in three OSCE simulation-based trainings in Vicenza, Italy, and Astana. These training courses sought to improve cross-border co-operation, and the identification and protection of victims, as well as to increase the use of financial tools to investigate traffickers and compensate victims. It provided participants with a collaborative space that facilitates co-operation and exchange among practitioners. The simulations centred around cases of sexual and labour exploitation among migrants, including children, with a focus on investigation and prosecution, while maintaining a victim-centred approach.

“The project is truly unique, and the results are genuinely extraordinary. The border between reality and simulation becomes increasingly blurred for all candidates, and their learning is all the better for it.”

David Mancini
public prosecutor, Italy

- Publishing a research paper on protecting child victims of trafficking through national child protection mechanisms; and
- Ensuring a focus on child exploitation in its simulation-based training exercises.

COUNTRY VISITS
In 2018, the Office continued to conduct country visits to identify best practices, offer helpful insight and establish a constructive dialogue with governments, parliamentarians, members of the judiciary, international organizations and NGOs. It carried out country and follow-up visits to several OSCE participating States, including Austria, Cyprus and Uzbekistan. Country visit reports for Denmark, Mongolia and the Russian Federation were also published.

FOSTERING MULTILAYERED PARTNERSHIPS
Due to its complex and often transnational nature, no state can tackle human trafficking on its own. Developing partnerships both among practitioners and between states is thus a prerequisite for any viable anti-trafficking strategy. To this end, the 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference in April 2018 focused on promoting the use of innovative and inclusive collaboration between national agencies and civil society actors whose expertise can make a significant contribution in curbing the crime and assisting its victims, including financial investigators, private businesses and healthcare professionals.
Gender equality

Gender equality is an important cross-dimensional component of the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security. The Organization has continued to build internal capacities to better gender-mainstream its activities in all three dimensions of security and to support participating States in specific areas such as implementing the women, peace and security agenda, empowering women in the digital economy and combating violence against women.

THE GENDER FOCAL POINTS NETWORK
The OSCE Gender Section co-ordinates an Organization-wide network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs). Currently, there are 83 GFPs across the Organization. Their role is essential for the gender mainstreaming of OSCE programmes and activities: they provide in-house capacity to enhance knowledge and skills on gender equality and advise OSCE staff members on how to implement gender commitments in practice. The GFPs also support the Gender Section in measuring the progress made in implementing the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

“There is a need to empower women who aspire to enter the security sector. Training is a first step, but it is not enough. We must all work towards introducing measures that create enabling conditions, support diversity and challenge social and gender relations in security sector workplaces that may be discriminatory.”

Amarsanaa Darisuren
OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
Whether in public or private, at home, in the workplace or along migration routes, violence against women is a global pandemic that remains one of the most widespread human rights violations around the globe, including in the OSCE area. The OSCE participated in the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign from 25 November to 10 December 2018 to raise awareness of the importance of combating gender-based violence and supporting women. Through a comprehensive communications campaign on social media, information was shared about the OSCE’s work to combat violence against women and girls at field operations, institutions and the Secretariat, as well as on initiatives such as the OSCE MenEngage Network.

Source: UNODC, Global Study on Homicide 2018
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY
Support for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in the participating States is a priority area and a long-term commitment for the OSCE. A multi-country workshop in Vienna and a tailored workshop in Armenia were organized in 2018. These workshops increased governmental and non-governmental actors’ knowledge and technical capacities to prepare results-based action plans on UNSCR 1325 in their home countries.

Women’s low participation in the security sector continues to be a challenge in the OSCE area. To address this, the Gender Section assisted the Italian OSCE Chairmanship in organizing a one-day conference called Women in the Security Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for the OSCE Area and Beyond. The conference offered an opportunity to share the good practices that participating States and international organizations have developed to address this challenge. A list of recommendations based on discussions at the conference was distributed to all participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

ENSURING WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
Digitalization has had wide-ranging effects on social, political and economic structures, and thus on security, in the whole OSCE region. Global awareness is emerging of the relationship between gender and digital technologies, as well as of opportunities that are arising for the achievement of the SDGs. However, various barriers remain for women to equally benefit from developments in this area. To address such imbalances, a high-level international conference called Digital Transformation – Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress in the OSCE Area analysed persisting and newly arising inequalities constraining women’s meaningful participation in the economy. A list of recommendations was drafted to support participating States in developing tangible and adequate policy responses.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Work on the OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women initiated in 2015 continued through field research in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The results of the survey, which will increase the understanding of women’s experience of violence in conflict and non-conflict situations, will be launched on 6 March 2019.
The OSCE includes three institutions dedicated to specialized areas of work: the Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights promotes democratic development and human rights; the High Commissioner on National Minorities based in The Hague uses quiet diplomacy and early action to seek resolution of ethnic tensions that might endanger peace and security; and the Vienna-based Representative on Freedom of the Media monitors media developments and provides early warning on violations of freedom of expression and media freedom.
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

As the primary institution within the OSCE focusing on the human dimension of security, the Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provides support, assistance and expertise to governments and civil society in OSCE participating States to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination and Roma and Sinti issues.

“We need to pay close attention to the setbacks and negative trends we are witnessing in the human dimension. These setbacks are a cause of great concern, and we must safeguard the main principles of democracy – rule of law, strong democratic institutions and practices, free and fair elections – which all go hand in hand and are equally important to ensure respect for human rights for all in line with OSCE commitments.”

Ingibjörg Sólrun Gísladóttir
Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ELECTIONS
ODIHR continues to support democratic elections across the OSCE region. In 2018, ODIHR observed elections and referendums in 16 participating States. Over the year, the Office published some 60 election-related reports, comprehensively assessing electoral processes for consistency with OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards. Importantly, final reports provided recommendations to participating States on how their elections could be improved. In 2018, the Office supported 18 participating States in their efforts to address ODIHR’s electoral recommendations by providing technical expertise during country visits or reviewing proposed amendments to electoral legislation. ODIHR additionally supported participating States through the training of election observers, convening the first-ever meeting of national focal points to discuss good practices related to the secondment and deployment of election observers, and hosting the annual Election Seminar, with a focus on election campaigning.

DEMOCRATIZATION
Throughout 2018, ODIHR continued to support judicial independence and accountability, as well as diversity within the judiciary. The Office’s democratic governance work focused on promoting parliamentary ethics and oversight, improving frameworks regulating political parties and non-governmental organizations, strengthening the role of women in decision-making processes and promoting their political participation, as well as that of other under-represented groups, such as young people and persons with disabilities.

ODIHR assisted in ensuring the quality and effectiveness of laws related to the human dimension through expert review of 19 pieces of draft legislation from 15 different OSCE participating States, including Albania, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland and Uzbekistan, on issues spanning from freedom of association, political parties, the judiciary and freedom of religion or belief to hate crimes. ODIHR also worked
to assist states in further promoting the transparency, openness and inclusiveness of their lawmaking processes. This work was complemented by improvements to ODIHR’s online legislative database (legislationline.org), which helps participating States bring their legislation in line with international human rights standards. Throughout the year, ODIHR responded to requests for support in the field of migration, providing capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, generating policy recommendations on emerging migration-related challenges and publishing an important new resource, *Good Practices in Migrant Integration: A Trainer’s Manual.*

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

In 2018, ODIHR undertook assessments of the situation of human rights defenders in participating States and conducted country visits to examine states’ institutional and policy frameworks to combat trafficking in human beings. ODIHR continued to monitor peaceful assemblies, bringing to 30 the total number of states that have been the sites of such missions to date. ODIHR provided assistance to state and non-state actors in the form of capacity-building and expert advice, addressing issues of human rights and counter-terrorism, human rights-compliant policing of assemblies, freedom of religion or belief, torture prevention, mainstreaming gender and human rights in the security sector, combating trafficking in human beings, human rights education and the protection of human rights defenders, including national human rights institutions. Examples of new tools developed for participating States included the *Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules*, a publication that lays out the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners; a new *Guidelines for Addressing the Threats and Challenges of “Foreign Terrorist Fighters” within a Human Rights Framework*; and a report on the situation of women in the armed forces in the OSCE region. Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings during the year focused on the topics of child trafficking, violence against women and human rights and education.

**TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

ODIHR continued to work closely with participating States and civil society throughout the year to promote tolerance and non-discrimination. In November, ODIHR published data on hate crime and hate incidents on its dedicated website (hatecrime.osce.org). The Office also launched a new programme, the Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT), as part of its efforts to strengthen government collection and management of hate crime data. This was complemented by the publication of a toolkit to help participating States adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing hate crime.

The Office continued its efforts to counter racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance against Muslims and Christians, including by publishing a new factsheet on hate crimes against Christians. ODIHR and UNESCO published educational policy guidelines designed to help teachers address anti-Semitism in classrooms. ODIHR also began offering workshops to support strong and diverse civil society coalitions, accompanying the new publication *Coalition Building for Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: A Practical Guide*. Both of these publications were published as part of the Turning Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism project, funded by Germany.

**ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES**

In December, ODIHR published its third *Status Report on...*
the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, with a special focus on steps that participating States are taking to enhance Roma and Sinti participation in public and political life. During the HDIM in September, the Office organized a side event on racism, intolerance and violence against Roma and Sinti in the OSCE region. In Vienna in October, the Office organized an event on access to quality education for Roma and Sinti children and youth. Together with the Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee, ODIHR’s Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues also organized an event called Roma and Sinti: Girls Education in Vienna in April.

ODIHR SUPPORTS WOMEN LEADERS IN BELARUS

One hundred women leaders gathered to explore challenges and ways forward towards women’s empowerment at the Second International Forum of Women Leaders in Minsk in October. The Forum was part of the Office’s Promoting Democratization and Human Rights in Belarus project, funded by the European Union. Women state officials, parliamentarians, entrepreneurs, academics, civil society activists and gender experts from 21 OSCE participating States, including all member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, took part in the event. Discussions focused on topics such as women’s participation in politics and the economic sphere, combating violence against women, strengthening women’s networks and coalition-building, and equal opportunities at universities.

ODIHR IMPLEMENTS HATE CRIME JUSTICE PROJECT

Throughout 2018, ODIHR continued running the two-year project Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime to strengthen states’ legal approaches to bias-motivated violence. Working with four target countries – Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Poland – the Office published four new innovative handbooks: Joint Hate Crime Training for Police and Prosecutors, Mapping Unreported Hate Crimes Using Respondent-driven Sampling, Developing Interagency Co-operation Plans to Address Hate Crime, and Addressing Hate Crime at the Regional Level.

ODIHR delivered two four-day training courses for trainers in Poland and Slovakia on effective and human-rights-compliant policing in Roma and Sinti communities for law enforcement officers. A similar two-day course was offered in Pristina. ODIHR continued its work to enhance access to civil registration and identity documents for Roma and Sinti, and in June published a baseline study report titled Access to Personal Documents for Roma in Ukraine: More Efforts Needed. At the Second Practical OSCE-UNHCR Seminar on Sharing Good Practices on Statelessness among OSCE participating States, which was held in October, obstacles and solutions were discussed among experts at the technical level.
In response to the inter-ethnic hostilities that affected Eastern Europe in the early 1990s, the position of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) was established in 1992 as a security mechanism to prevent any future conflict involving national minorities. Today, the High Commissioner travels the length and breadth of the OSCE area to identify the first signs of acute crisis involving national minorities, as well as underlying causes that, if neglected, could potentially lead to violent conflict within or among the OSCE participating States. In 2018, High Commissioner Lamberto Zannier continued his long-term approach to conflict prevention using a combination of quiet diplomacy, high-profile initiatives and public debates.

PROMOTING INTEGRATION OVERCOMES DIVISIONS IN SOCIETY

Sound integration policies promote harmonious relations and social cohesion. Therefore, promoting integration at the policy level in areas such as education and language is paramount for the High Commissioner. In 2018, High Commissioner Zannier worked tirelessly with governments and parliaments to amend existing legislation and to draft new laws related to language and education. Throughout the year, the High Commissioner continued to be actively engaged with Ukraine, which he visited twice, including the Zakarpattia region in the west of the country. In the course of these visits, he engaged with the government, local institutions and representatives of minority groups on a number of areas key to successful integration of society. In May, a publication titled *Language Policy and Conflict Prevention* comprising 15 academic papers was launched at an event held in Oslo, marking the 20th anniversary of the HCNM’s *Oslo Recommendations regarding the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities* (1998). During the presentation, the HCNM highlighted that a carefully formulated language policy is also a conflict prevention policy.

“Identity politics and socio-political polarization are growing, resulting in the marginalization of some minority groups, a dynamic that has the potential to lead to crisis and conflict. For this reason, it is important to scale up conflict prevention efforts.”

Lamberto Zannier
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Learning the official language of a country is as vital as having access to education in one’s own language: full participation in public and political life can depend on it. To promote full civic inclusion, the HCNM supported internships in the main political parties in Georgia for young people belonging to national minorities. Preparations also began for the 20th-anniversary celebration in Lund, Sweden, next year of *The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life* (1999). *The Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age* were also finalized, ready for their launch in Tallinn on 13 February 2019.

NATIONAL MINORITIES AND INTER-STATE RELATIONS

When inter-state disputes occur, national minorities on different sides of the border are often caught in the middle, with conflicting loyalties. In June, a panel discussion to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities and Inter-State Relations* (2008) presented an opportunity for academics, practitioners and stakeholders to come together in Udine, Italy, to review these recommendations. States that find themselves in this situation can learn from good practices: when travelling in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in April, High Commissioner Zannier noted the positive impact that improved bilateral relations and newly opened border-crossing points in the Ferghana Valley are having on regional relations.
EDUCATION CAN BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES
The office of the HCNM has traditionally supported education programmes aimed at integration and diversity management. The Bujanovac Department of the Subotica Faculty of Economics at Novi Sad University is one such initiative. As the first multilingual, multi-ethnic higher education institution in southern Serbia, it offers bilingual study programmes. It is therefore a flagship for multilingual education (MLE) in the region. At the primary-school level, the illustrated Serbian-Albanian and Albanian-Serbian, as well as the Macedonian-Albanian and Albanian-Macedonian Dictionaries developed by the HCNM – another first – grew in popularity, with 81,448 website visits and over 2,088 mobile app downloads in 2018. In Serbia, the HCNM is now working with pupils to upgrade these dictionaries by including pupils’ illustrations and additional audio recordings, thereby involving children, the end users, in improving the dictionaries.

Several milestones were reached under the HCNM’s Central Asia Education Programme, including a roundtable on multilingual education in Uzbekistan (April) co-organized with the Ministries of Public and Higher Education, a roundtable and two seminars in Ulanbaatar and Ulgii (October) as a result of extending the HCNM’s co-operation on MLE to Mongolia and a five-day regional winter school in Almaty, Kazakhstan (December), which brought together MLE policymakers and practitioners from all over Central Asia and Mongolia.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND NATIONAL MINORITIES
The HCNM continued to promote awareness of the institution’s latest set of thematic advice, The Graz Recommendations on Access to Justice and National Minorities, and organized roundtables in Tbilisi (September) and Chisinau (October). Russian and Romanian translations of the Graz Recommendations were launched on both occasions, to increase their accessibility.

“My focus is on ensuring that the current HCNM guidelines and recommendations are better known and actively used by governments as guiding principles for a positive impact on minorities and the increasingly diverse societies in which we all live.”

Lamberto Zannier
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HCNM
In 2018, the office of the HCNM celebrated the 25th anniversary of the appointment of the first High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel, in combination with the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award ceremony. To mark this milestone, a public photo exhibition illustrating the HCNM’s work was displayed at the Peace Palace and The Hague City Hall; a book of photos and a publication entitled HCNM at 25: Personal Reflections of the High Commissioners were also published.

“It is worth standing alone sometimes, it is worth fighting the invisible, and it is worth being patient.”

Winner of the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award
2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 of which grants everyone the right to freedom of opinion and expression and is the basis for freedom of the media. The Representative’s mandate is to observe media-freedom developments in OSCE participating States and to advocate and promote full compliance with the Organization’s principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media.

MAJOR ISSUES

In 2018, the Representative continued previous years’ efforts and continued to make the safety of journalists his number one priority by intervening in cases of threats and intimidation against journalists, attacks, arson and physical violence, including murder. In what has become a deteriorating safety environment for media workers, the Representative’s work was dominated by the safety of journalists, including distinct risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work including through digital technologies. During the reporting period, the Representative made over 400 interventions by various means such as letters to authorities, country visits, press releases and through social media.

Through the Safety of Female Journalists Online (#SOFJO) campaign and the recent documentary film A Dark Place, general awareness of this issue was broadened. Furthermore, a large-scale research project was carried out in order to identify solutions and collect data on policies that better protect journalists.

The second-biggest issue on which the Representative intervened concerned journalists’ ability to report without fear of legal repercussions, the foremost of which is imprisonment for journalistic work, investigation or publication of critical views. As of the end of 2018, more than 150 journalists were still in prison, compared to 170 in 2017.

Another key area in which numerous interventions took place concerns media regulations in the name of national security and countering extremism, followed by disproportionate restrictions on media freedom and freedom of expression. From the blocking of websites to surveillance and forced disclosure of confidential sources, security is still too often used for sweeping restrictions on freedom of expression online. The issues of fake news, disinformation and the promotion of quality of information and media literacy were discussed at the regional conferences organized by the Representative in Struga, Tbilisi, Astana and at the conference organized in Kyiv. These thematic areas were also included in the recommendations presented after the conferences. In 2018, the Representative’s Office provided 13 legal reviews for 10 countries on draft laws that impact freedom of the...
media, online regulation, public service broadcasting and access to information. A Joint Declaration on Media Independence and Diversity in the Digital Age was issued by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information. It included a series of recommendations for states, media outlets and online platforms.

STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM AND PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN JOURNALISTS

In 2018, the Representative continued to promote the dialogue between Russian and Ukrainian journalists initiated by the Office in 2014. Representatives of the two countries' journalists' unions met for a roundtable discussion at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna to discuss the current state of affairs regarding the safety of journalists in eastern Ukraine and Crimea, promoting quality journalism in their respective countries and a number of other common projects and activities.

A group of young journalists from Russia and Ukraine, together with senior representatives of the journalists' unions, participated in a media production workshop in Vienna. The journalists worked together to complete the production of a joint documentary film that they began working on during a previous workshop in June 2017.

The Office continued a dialogue in an effort to assist in improving developments in ethical standards and self-regulation mechanisms in Cyprus. As part of the exchange programme with representatives of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot journalists that started last year, the Office organized an exhibition of work produced by young journalists in Nicosia. In close co-operation with the unions of journalists on the island, the Representative launched a trilingual (English, Greek and Turkish) glossary of sensitive words used by the media, the production of which was supported by the Office with expertise from the Ethical Journalism Network.

CONFERENCES

The Office organized annual regional media conferences for OSCE participating States in South-Eastern Europe (in Struga), the South Caucasus (in Tbilisi) and Central Asia (in Astana), bringing together media practitioners to share experiences with colleagues, government authorities and international experts.

During a study tour to Berlin that the Office organized together with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, a dozen Ukrainian media experts on media self-regulation met with key media regulators in Germany to discuss how possible solutions to address specific challenges and practices could be applied in their home country.

The expert conference Strengthening Media Freedom and Pluralism in Ukraine during Times of Conflict in and around the Country, held in Kyiv in June, brought together more than 200 media professionals, government and civil society representatives, inter-governmental officers, renowned international experts and journalists. They discussed the challenges they face with regard to the media environment in the country and suggested ways to promote freedom of expression, access to quality information and freedom of the media in Ukraine, in particular in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

The Office took part in the OSCE's HDIM in Warsaw with two side events: one called "Professional Journalism: Survival in the Age of Globalized Information" and a second on the #SOFJO project, where journalists and experts from international and civil society organizations had the chance to discuss and share experiences.

The Office organized its first Central Asia Judicial Dialogue, in Bishkek, bringing together judges representing higher and appellate courts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and international experts to discuss the balance between preserving freedom of expression and legislative measures countering violent extremism.

OBSERVING MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE COMMITMENTS

During the year, the Representative:

- intervened in 376 cases in 37 participating States;
- undertook 10 official country visits and visited 23 countries in total;
- provided 13 legal reviews for 10 participating States; and
- released a Joint Declaration on Media Independence and Diversity in the Digital Age.
FIELD OPERATIONS

In addition to its political bodies, Secretariat and institutions, the OSCE maintains a network of 15 field operations located in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Participants of a training course on ordnance disposal getting familiarized with safety precautions before entering a disposal site, Lyaur, Tajikistan, 21 April 2018. (OSCE/Nozim Kalandarov)
The OSCE’s field operations assist host countries in putting their OSCE commitments into practice and fostering local capacities through specific projects that respond to their needs. Activities vary with the context of the individual field operation and host country, and are governed by the mandate of each field operation. The field operations enable the OSCE to manage crises and to play a critical post-conflict role, helping restore trust among affected communities. A number of field operations contribute to early warning and conflict prevention, and some also monitor and report on developments on the ground.

THE OSCE HAD THE FOLLOWING FIELD OPERATIONS IN 2018:

### SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE
- Presence in Albania
- Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mission in Kosovo
- Mission to Montenegro
- Mission to Serbia
- Mission to Skopje

### EASTERN EUROPE
- Mission to Moldova
- Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
- Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
- Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

### CENTRAL ASIA
- Centre in Ashgabat
- Programme Office in Astana
- Programme Office in Bishkek
- Programme Office in Dushanbe
- Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
Among other activities, the OSCE Presence in Albania focused in 2018 on providing support to electoral and justice system reform, preventing violent extremism and fighting crime and corruption in Albania. The Presence continued contributing to the strengthening of state institutions, particularly the Parliament, while also supporting the active engagement of civil society and youth, as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective into all of its programmatic work.

ANTI-CORRUPTION
In 2018, the Presence continued its multidimensional assistance to the government in implementing Albania’s National Strategy and Action Plan against Corruption. It provided technical expertise to the Albanian School of Public Administration to train 200 local-level public officials on good governance, anti-corruption and risk management. It also assisted the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest in enabling 240 private businesses to report corruption through whistle-blower protection mechanisms.

JUSTICE REFORM
As part of the justice system reform process in Albania, the Presence provided technical expertise to the institutions carrying out the re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors, ensuring the application of good international fair-trial standards. Furthermore, the Presence assisted the re-evaluation bodies in planning for the introduction of a sustainable and efficient electronic case management system.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE)
In its continued contribution to P/CVERLT, the Presence supported the work of the Albanian Co-ordination Centre for CVE and tackled the phenomenon in various forms. It trained 210 first-line prison and probation staff based on a training module developed by the Presence specifically for this purpose. In addition to reaching out to more than 140 young people from around Albania to enhance their understanding of violent extremism, the Presence helped build the University of Tirana’s capacities by drafting a CVE curriculum at the level of a master’s programme.

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS
The Presence continued its support for the Albanian State Police (ASP) in building an integrated border management system. The Presence supported the ASP in particular in setting up an advanced passenger information (API) system and improving co-operation with neighbours for effective information exchange to tackle transnational threats. For the first time, the ASP received training on the use of the Internet and technology for the detection of trafficking in human beings, with support from the Presence.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING
Throughout 2018, the Presence supported the country’s efforts to combat trafficking and exploitation of human beings, with a particular focus on children. It made a major contribution in developing a national action plan on the protection of children from economic exploitation, as well as in co-ordinating institutional efforts to identify and protect child victims or children at risk of exploitation.

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
The Presence strengthened collaboration among Albania’s national human rights institutions, supporting the development of a Tripartite Co-operation Agreement and a Guideline for Co-operation among the People’s Advocate, the Commissioner on the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination. The Presence also facilitated...
co-ordination and dialogue between civil society and the government, which ultimately led to the approval of the first National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace and Security).

**ASSEMBLY SUPPORT**

The Presence worked with parliamentary committees to improve the Parliament’s legislative and oversight functions, organizing outreach meetings between members of parliament and local administrations, civil society and field experts on institutional accountability. The Presence and ODIHR supported the drafting of the recently adopted Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians, which is expected to produce concrete results in advancing transparency and mitigating conflicts of interest in the Albanian parliament.

**COURT EFFICIENCY**

The Presence continued to work closely with the district courts throughout Albania in the framework of its “Justice Without Delays” initiative, promoting the application of active case management techniques and strengthening cooperation between courts and local institutions to reduce unnecessary delays. This work improved productivity and shortened the length of proceedings in many of the country’s courts.

**ELECTORAL REFORM**

Focusing on addressing the ODIHR’s recommendations on elections, the Presence assisted the ad hoc Committee on Electoral Reform in holding eight technical workshops with state institutions, civil society and top-level international experts. In addition, the Presence contributed to co-ordinating stakeholders’ work on gender equality in political representation and women’s participation in decision-making in Albania, resulting in a joint draft proposal on improving the gender quota that was presented to the Committee.

**MEDIA FREEDOM**

In view of the government-sponsored legislative proposals to regulate public, commercial and online media, with potential effects on media freedom, the Presence worked with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to monitor, inform and advise local and international partners, share good international practice and preserve media freedom.

**SECURITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

The Presence continued engaging with Albanian institutions at the central and local level to encourage a closer collaboration between the citizens and the State through community engagement in addressing security concerns. The Presence contributed to the recently adopted Community Policing Document and assisted Local Safety Councils in designing security action plans that will guide their future work.

**LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE**

Throughout 2018, the Presence assisted the newly established anti-cannabis task forces of Vlora and Shkodra in organizing awareness-raising activities and presenting alternative development methods to affected communities, involving 449 participants in total.

**YOUTH IN ACTION**

In 2018, the Presence established a Youth Advisory Group (YAG), a youth mainstreaming instrument designed to incorporate youth perspectives into the Presence’s policies, plans and activities. The YAG currently works to identify the needs, challenges and priorities of young people and to support initiatives taken by the Presence to tackle them. The Presence continued its close co-operation with the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO) to promote youth exchange projects and regional youth co-operation.
The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to play a vital role in enhancing Bosnia and Herzegovina’s ability to foster a sustainable and stable security environment, to strengthen environmental governance and to encourage its consolidation as a democratic society governed by the rule of law. The Mission supported key reforms and worked to promote and protect the human rights of every citizen.

QUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATION
The Mission launched a report on the phenomenon of “two schools under one roof”, containing a set of recommendations aimed at ending this most visible form of discrimination in education, while protecting the ethnic identities of the Bosniak and Croat peoples. Moreover, the Mission engaged students and parents to reflect on positive and negative practices in education. Their consolidated recommendations and messages are being communicated to newly appointed authorities.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW
The Mission issued its first public report based on trial monitoring of 67 completed corruption cases during the period 2010-2017, providing a comprehensive assessment and key recommendations regarding issues negatively impacting corruption trials. The domestic institutions endorsed the recommendations, and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council included several in its newest action plan. The Mission also issued a short report entitled Observations on the National War Crimes Processing Strategy and its 2018 Draft Revisions, which analysed the backlog in the processing of war crimes cases, raised public awareness about successes and identified recommendations for further progress.

RESPONDING TO HATE CRIMES
With Mission support, the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBIH) was amended in 2016 to include hate crimes provisions. In 2018, following continued Mission advocacy and technical support for the prosecution of hate crimes, the first ever final verdict for a hate crime in the FBIH was issued.

SECURITY CO-OPERATION
The Mission promoted a holistic approach to security sector governance and reform through capacity building and the creation of strategic frameworks on cyber/ICT security, countering violent extremism, disaster risk reduction and integrated border management, intended for both the broader security sector and civil society. The Mission also upgraded the physical security of weapons and ammunition storage sites managed by the Armed Forces of BiH and improved ammunition life-cycle management capacities through establishing a laboratory for the chemical testing of ammunition.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY
The Mission supported women’s political participation by working with the seven main political parties to improve internal structures and processes. It also focused on combating domestic violence through building the
capacities of police officers. In collaboration with the European Institute on Gender Equality, the Mission organized a regional conference to improve data collection on domestic violence. The Mission handed over its electronic tool for administrative data collection to the FBiH Gender Centre.

**YOUTH MAINSTREAMING**
The Youth Advisory Group continued to provide meaningful participation opportunities for young people from across BiH in the Mission’s work and for the inclusion of their diverse and age-unique perspectives in the planning and implementation of our programmes.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**
The Mission supported the submission of BiH’s long-overdue Aarhus Convention National Implementation Report for 2014-2017. It also supported a project of the Aarhus Centre Sarajevo, which trains secondary school students on methods of upcycling and the principles of a circular economy. The Mission organized public clean-ups and promoted dialogue between local authorities, the private sector, citizens and environmental groups on improving waste management and tackling dangerous levels of air pollution in the city of Tuzla.

**MEDIA FREEDOM**
The Mission promoted media literacy among students, especially those who were first-time voters in the 2018 general elections. Training courses were organized for students from all public universities in BiH to help better understand how media messages shape our culture and society and to recognize bias, spin, misinformation and propaganda.

**ELECTIONS**
The Mission provided assistance to the Central Election Commission to improve the integrity of the electoral process, including by donating 10,000 translucent ballot boxes, providing training for all members of Municipal Election Commissions and supporting the supervision of training for polling station committees.

**INSPIRING YOUTH ACTIVISM**
“Segregation is a bad investment” is the motto of the group of students from Jajce who received the 2018 Max van der Stoel Award from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in recognition of their battle against further divisions in education. The students, who had been supported by the Mission in their lobbying and outreach efforts, were rewarded for their courage and tenacity. “It is an unprecedented victory which deserves to be widely promoted as a positive example of how non-formal groups with limited resources can achieve progress where formal channels fail”, said the award panel.

**#MTC: MEDIA AND TERRORISM CONFERENCE**
The Mission organized the international #MTC: Media and Terrorism Conference, bringing together lecturers and over 100 media and counter-terrorism experts from across the region. The conference featured sessions on responsible reporting on terrorism in online and print media; ethics and dealing with sources; analysis of social media in the radicalization process; and terrorism and electronic media. Participants exchanged strategies and approaches for reporting on terrorist activity, keeping in mind that media coverage of terrorism can have far-reaching social consequences.
The Mission continued offering support and expertise to Kosovo’s institutions to enhance compliance with good governance and international human rights standards. Through its extensive field monitoring, the Mission identified community rights issues and encouraged solutions in parallel to promoting confidence-building and dialogue.

COMMUNITY RIGHTS
The Ministry of Local Government Administration integrated the Module for Monitoring Community Participation Mechanism developed by the Mission in its Internal Management System, which monitors the functioning of community participation mechanisms at the local level.

In January, the Ministry for Communities and Return adopted the Regulation on Return of Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions, which introduces a clear institutional basis for the facilitation of the return process. In April, the Mission and the Ministry developed guidelines for its implementation, which were distributed to all 38 municipalities.

The Mission published two reports on language compliance: one on the implementation of legal provisions governing language rights, and one on language compliance by the Kosovo Police. In November, the Mission and the Office of the Prime Minister took the Mission’s report on bilingual legislation in Kosovo as the framework for drafting a concept document on translation procedures within the government.

SUPPORTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE POLICE
The Mission concluded its training programme on operational command duties for 14 senior Kosovo policewomen with a practical training course with the South Wales Police in Cardiff, United Kingdom. The programme, developed in co-operation with the Kosovo Police and the Association of Women in Kosovo Police, was designed to empower policewomen by improving their skills and competencies for management and leadership positions. Following the Mission’s and other stakeholders’ efforts, six policewomen were promoted to the rank of captain.

ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
To help respond to a growing number of cases of domestic violence, the Mission helped several municipalities establish Co-ordination Mechanisms against Domestic Violence, consisting of representatives of municipalities, the judiciary, the Free Legal Aid Agency and shelters for victims of domestic violence. The Mission supported the establishment of this mechanism in Prishtina/Pristina, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Lipjan/Lipljan, Obiliq/Obić and Hani i Elezit/Elez Han, and helped revive the one in Prizren. The Mission also supported the Kosovo Police in implementing an awareness-raising campaign on domestic violence in all eight police regions.

COURT MONITORING
In 2018, the Mission monitored 1,175 court cases involving 2,157 court hearings throughout Kosovo. The court monitors observed human rights compliance within the justice system, mainly in priority cases involving war crimes, terrorism, intercommunity crimes and property disputes, hate crimes, corruption and gender-based violence. The monitoring feeds into recommendations to the justice sector.

COUNTERING VERLT
As a result of the Mission’s activities in preventing and combating VERLT in 2018, Kosovo Police officers improved their skills in investigative interviewing techniques and the collection of criminal intelligence through Mission training programmes. Policewomen working in community policing...
and investigation units were provided with additional training focused on their specific role in countering VERLT. The Mission also facilitated specialized training courses in The Hague for senior Kosovo Police officers on counterterrorism and applied intelligence, on-the-job training on operational planning and management in cases of terror attacks delivered at the London Metropolitan Police and a research visit for senior officers to institutions in Paris.

COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
The Mission delivered a specialized train-the-trainers programme on countering trafficking for 25 policewomen and organized a workshop for institutional stakeholders on practical implementation of a set of indicators to identify victims of trafficking. The Mission provided relevant police officers with training on contemporary trends and best practices on cases of child pornography and online recruitment as well as with specialized training on covert measures for investigating human trafficking.

FIGHTING CORRUPTION
The Mission delivered various advanced training courses for law enforcement and the judiciary, namely on financial investigation, money laundering, intelligence management, restraint and seizure of assets and confiscation. These courses brought together various stakeholders to improve co-ordination among institutions and the efficiency of investigations, such as the Financial Intelligence Unit, Kosovo Police, judges, criminal investigators and the Special Prosecution Office.

PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS
The Mission conducted a public-awareness campaign on the safety of journalists, based on a survey with 1,420 respondents from Kosovo on the state of the media and the safety of journalists. The campaign highlighted the challenges journalists face and included billboards featuring prominent Kosovo journalists who had been subject to threats and attacks. The Mission also facilitated the process of shedding light on the fate of journalists who were murdered or went missing during or since the conflict. There are 15 such cases, 14 of which remain unresolved.

OFF THE SHELVES: MUNICIPAL PROFILES
The Mission published its Municipal Profiles, a flagship product with detailed information for every municipality in Kosovo.

An architecture student from the University of Prishtinë/Priština carrying out restoration works at the Old Mill in the ethnically mixed village of Letnicë/Letnica in the context of a youth camp on restoration and preservation of cultural heritage organized by the Mission, Letnicë/Letnica, 19 October 2018. (OSCE/Besfort Oruçi)

To improve safety and security in schools, the Mission installed surveillance cameras in 15 schools attended by students from different communities all over Kosovo. Bardhosh/Brnica, 5 December 2018. (OSCE/Besfort Oruçi)

Colonel Tabe Canoll, former head of the Association of Women in Kosovo Police (now Police Human Resources Director) and a long-term Mission partner in empowering policewomen, receives the 2018 International Leadership Award from the International Association of Women Police, 19 September 2018. (OSCE/Yllka Fetahaj)

Billboards of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo campaign to raise awareness on safety of journalists. (OSCE/ASHA Graphics)
In 2018, the Mission, in co-operation with national partners, continued to assist the host country in achieving its strategic national priorities. It supported the drafting of strategic documents, provided technical assistance to the State Election Commission, supported the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO) and strengthened the institutional capacities of the Parliament. The Mission also provided legal opinions to the Ministry of Culture on the draft laws on Media and on the National Service Broadcaster Radio Televizija Crne Gore.

ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
The Mission continued supporting the State Election Commission by providing technical assistance in building it institutional capacity and with support from some participating States, the Mission commissioned software for the transmission and projection of election day results and the upgrading of websites.

SUPPORT FOR THE PARLIAMENT
The Mission continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Parliament by working with members of parliament and service staff to implement the Action Plan for a More Gender-Sensitive Parliament. Complementary to this work were study visits for parliamentarians to Austrian state institutions and the Italian Senate. The Mission also worked with legislative committees, the political system, the judiciary and administration and with the Human Resources Unit.

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL YOUTH CO-OPERATION OFFICE
In promoting regional co-operation among young people, the Mission has been instrumental in supporting capacity-building initiatives. It facilitated the organization of regional and national conferences in close co-operation with the local RYCO branch and the Ministry of Sports and Youth to examine regional youth co-operation, share comparative practices and obstacles to youth mobility in the Western Balkans.

SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL GENDER FOCAL POINTS
Working in partnership with the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Mission supported municipal gender focal points to develop and implement local action plans on gender equality and supported the Ministry in implementing key objectives of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality, including training journalists on challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality in the media.
COUNTER-TERRORISM AND P/CVERLT
The Mission supported the drafting of a National Strategy and Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. Together with the Transnational Threats Department, national partners and civil society, it supported the development of a National Platform for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism that facilitated a shared approach between the civil society and the government to jointly develop strategies to counter and prevent violent extremism that leads to terrorism.

POLICING
The Mission, together with the Ministry of the Interior and the Norwegian Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector, supported the drafting of a Human Resources Management Strategy. The Mission donated workstations for digital evidence analysis and polygraphs.

It also championed the newly founded Association of Women Police Officers, mandated to encourage women leadership, challenge stereotypes and remove cultural barriers that inhibit women from joining the security sector.

SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT AN API SYSTEM
In close collaboration with the Transnational Threats Department, the Mission organized national training workshops on implementing the country’s API system and enhancing the legislative framework to authorize law enforcement to process passenger data at airports while fully respecting citizens’ right to privacy. They also worked with government agencies to draft a National Border Community Security Programme in order to tackle organized crime and terrorist threats with a focus on foreign terrorist fighters and to provide capacity-building training for airport law enforcement personnel. This programme activity was the first of its kind in the Western Balkans. In addition, the Transnational Threats Department and the Mission trained border and customs officers on how to detect forged documents and imposters.

SUPPORT FOR THE MEDIA
The Mission supported media self-regulatory bodies in developing the first guidelines to moderate users’ comments on online portals in the Western Balkans. They establish rules and ethical standards to combat hate speech and intolerance on the Internet.

The Mission, together with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, provided legal opinions on the draft laws on Media and the National Service Broadcaster Radio Televizija Crne Gore to the Ministry of Culture.

The Mission trained journalists on use of cameras and mobile phones for recording and editing footage for immediate release while maintaining high professional and technical quality.

The Mission, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the South East Europe Media Association, organized a regional conference to discuss media business models, best practices and success stories and created a platform for ongoing discussion to help media outlets achieve sustainability.

COMBATING ILLICIT CROSS-BORDER TRAFFICKING IN CULTURAL PROPERTY IN MONTENEGRO
The Mission, with the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and in co-ordination with the Transnational Threats Department and the Ministry of Culture, held a workshop on combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property to highlight the international legal framework and best practices in criminal justice responses. International co-operation and information exchange, as well as monitoring and protecting archaeological sites and control procedures in museums were identified as crucial prevention strategies.

Participants in an OSCE workshop on combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property visiting the Maritime Museum in Kotor, Montenegro, 4 October 2018. (OSCE/Marina Zivaljević)
In 2018, the Mission worked in partnership with Serbia’s institutions, media and civil society to foster local ownership of a rules-based democratic system accountable to its citizens. To assist Serbia on its ambitious reform path, the Mission helped strengthen the rule of law, consolidate security sector reform, increase media freedom and professionalism, fight organized crime and corruption, and promote the integration of national minorities. The Mission delivered its programmes in a cross-dimensional way, while focusing on youth and regional connectivity.

**STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**
As Serbia strives to enhance the separation of powers through constitutional reform, the Mission has been promoting a transparent and inclusive national debate on amendments to the Constitution pertaining to the judiciary. Bringing together government representatives, judicial and prosecutorial associations, legal practitioners, academics and civil society, the Mission facilitated a series of public debates on the composition and jurisdiction of the judicial and prosecutorial councils, disciplinary and dismissal proceedings against judges, entry into a judicial career, and autonomy in the selection of prosecutors.

**INVESTING IN YOUTH EDUCATION**
The Mission fosters civic education and inclusion of young people in the regional peace and security agenda. It promotes intercultural dialogue and a rule-of-law culture among young people, including those from Serbia’s national minorities.

**PROMOTING REGIONAL CO-OPERATION OF WOMEN**
With Mission support, a local civil society organization Impuls gathered women activists from the region to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security at the local level. Impuls organized 20 lectures on human security, workshops with migrant women, and inter-sector meetings on domestic violence, also reaching out to women in rural areas.

**FOSTERING MEDIA FREEDOM, PROFESSIONALISM AND JOURNALISTIC ETHICS**
Upon the government’s invitation, the Mission facilitated the development of a new Media Strategy in an inclusive and transparent process involving journalists’ and media organizations, state institutions, civil society and academia. The Mission organized training on the protection of journalists for media professionals, prosecutors and the police, and provided expert support to the Working Group for the Safety of Journalists. Jointly with the Press Council, the Mission delivered custom-made training for local media outlets to strengthen their accountability, professionalism and ethics. The Mission also invested in media literacy, providing accredited seminars to 300 teachers across Serbia and working on integrating media literacy in school curricula.
MILESTONES IN MISSION SUPPORT TO NATIONAL MINORITIES

In November 2018, 22 national minorities in Serbia elected their National Minority Councils for a four-year mandate. In the run-up to the elections, the Mission assisted Serbia’s institutions in training 400 municipal officials across the country in administering the special voters’ registry. Jointly with civil society, the Mission reached out to communities to inform them about the voting process. The multi-year cycle of Mission support to enhance the legal framework on national minorities was concluded in June 2018 when amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities and the Law on National Minority Councils were adopted following the Mission-supported revision and public consultations with national minorities country-wide.

As of the 2018/2019 school year, the new curriculum for the school subject Serbian as non-mother tongue, developed with Mission support, was adopted and introduced in schools attended by pupils from national minorities, to support their integration and equal opportunities.

COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME, CORRUPTION AND TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

The Mission enhanced the capacities of the police, prosecutors and the judiciary to combat transnational, organized and serious crime, including cybercrime, online money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as trafficking in human beings, weapons and drugs. To increase the efficiency of transnational investigations, the Mission organized specialized training and facilitated data exchange within the network of 11 organized-crime prosecutors from the region and Europe. The Mission also enhanced the capacities of the newly established intersectoral Anti-Fraud Co-ordination Service of the Ministry of Finance and the new Anti-Corruption Unit within the Ministry of Interior, as well as the latter’s Asset Recovery Office.

INNOVATIVE PRISONER REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

The Mission worked with the Serbian Prison Service on an innovative rehabilitation programme that reduces the risk of reoffending and violence and increases the offenders’ future employability. The programme started at the Sremska Mitrovica Correctional Institution, where inmates are now rehabilitated by running a stray-dog shelter and preparing dogs for adoption. It will be further cascaded to other correctional facilities.

“The OSCE’s support enabled us to earn credibility in the local community and to initiate and keep in focus the discussion on domestic violence and gender equality. It also helped us empower migrant women to become visible, active and regain their dignity.”

Dženeta Agović
Director of CSO Impuls from Tutin, OSCE Mission to Serbia’s Person of the Year 2017
In 2018, the OSCE Mission to Skopje focused on supporting the government’s ambitious reform agenda, implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, advancing inter-ethnic relations, and providing early warning on security-related developments.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW
The Mission assisted the Ministry of Justice in implementing its National Judicial Reform Strategy, participating in the preparation of amendments to the Laws on Courts and on the State Judicial Council. The Mission supported transparency of the justice system by helping equip the Skopje criminal court’s media center and develop a communications strategy. The Mission also trained over 100 judges and prosecutors on criminal procedure.

FOSTERING MEDIA FREEDOM AND STRENGTHENING THE PARLIAMENT
Responding to changes in the country, the Mission re-engaged in media activities after a break of almost a decade and started work to strengthen the parliament, including its ability to provide meaningful oversight over the executive. To help improve media sustainability and the safety of journalists, the Mission worked with journalist associations and media outlets to exchange best practices on innovative business models and produced a guidebook on journalists’ safety together with the Association of Journalists and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

EARLY WARNING
Early warning is an integral component of the Mission’s mandate. Mission staff from Tetovo and Skopje engaged

“The Mission helped us establish the Anti-Discrimination Co-ordinative Body, the first formal body comprising both state institutions and civil society.”
Mila Carovska
Minister of Labour and Social Policy
with interlocutors at all levels of society to monitor potential sources of tension, particularly in inter-ethnic relations. The Mission also monitored protests and rallies across the country.

TRIAL MONITORING
The Mission monitored 14 high-profile trials with the potential to affect the security situation, attending almost 300 court hearings, including inter-ethnic cases and 20 cases of corruption and abuse of office brought by the Special Prosecutor’s Office (SPO). To strengthen the institution’s effectiveness, the Mission published an interim report on SPO cases, providing recommendations to the SPO, the judiciary, the parliament and the government.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE POLICE
The Mission facilitated the establishment of four joint working groups with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to professionalize the police and other law enforcement agencies. In the area of democratic policing, the Mission trained more than 100 police officers across the country on police-public partnership, victim care, gender equality, transparency and accountability in a multi-ethnic environment. The Mission trained 140 officers to better respond to cases of gender-based and domestic violence.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM
In 2018, the Mission supported the government in drafting and implementing national strategies and action plans for countering violent extremism and terrorism. The Mission worked with secondary-school staff, students, and youth to increase awareness and promote early detection of violent extremism and radicalization, and with religious leaders and the police to increase co-operation on preventing violent extremism.

EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
To increase the political participation of persons with disabilities, the Mission:
- analysed the political participation of persons with disabilities in the country;
- organized two debates on the political participation of persons with disabilities for more than 120 representatives of disabled-people’s organizations, institutions and members of parliament;
- organized two training courses on discrimination on the grounds of disability in the area of political participation for 30 representatives;
- supported regional exchanges on the subject for representatives from disabled-people’s organizations in the OSCE area, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament; and
- supported the Commission for Protection from Discrimination in preparing a sign-language and easy-to-read video on its powers and competencies.

PARTNERSHIPS
The Mission worked closely with national and local authorities and agencies, political parties, civil society organizations, religious communities, media associations, diplomatic missions and international organizations. The Mission also co-operated closely with OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe, ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities in organizing joint conferences and thematic events. Furthermore, the Mission signed memoranda of understanding (MoU) outlining planned joint activities with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and Ministry of Information Society and Administration, as well as the Association of Journalists, the Agency for Community Rights Realization, the Agency for Youth and Sport, the State Election Commission, and it prepared an MoU with the parliament.
In 2018, the Transdniestrian settlement process facilitated by the OSCE Mission to Moldova saw remarkable progress. The local ownership, leadership and political will demonstrated by Chisinau and Tiraspol made it possible to find practical solutions to a number of issues that had not been addressed in decades. These solutions have improved the day-to-day life of students, teachers, farmers and entrepreneurs on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River. The structure of the six agreements in the “package of eight” that have been signed and implemented since November 2017 contains a formula for a final settlement in line with the parameters endorsed by all 57 OSCE participating States: the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for Transdniestria within Moldova. The progress achieved in 2018 was also a result of close co-operation between the Mission, consecutive OSCE Chairmanships and the co-mediators and observers in the 5+2 negotiation process.

SETTLEMENT PROGRESS ADVANCES AT ALL LEVELS
In addition to the opening of the Gura Bicului-Bychok Bridge, the Sides implemented agreements in the fields of transportation, education and access to private property. The constructive approach and dedication of the two chief negotiators and experts that make up the 13 working groups, as well as the personal engagement of the Moldovan and Transdniestrian leadership, ensured continued progress and ownership of the process.

As of 1 September 2018, vehicles from Transdniestria are being issued internationally recognized Moldovan neutral-design licence plates by two new offices in Transdniestria, staffed jointly by officials from Moldova and Transdniestria. With these licence plates and an “MD” sticker on the back, vehicles from Transdniestria can drive on international roads. By the end of the year, 1,759 neutral-design licence plates had been issued, and online registration for appointments at the Joint Vehicle Registration Offices is fully booked until September 2019.

Eight Latin-script schools in Transdniestria, with over 1,500 pupils, now operate with symbolic rent and utilities costs, guaranteed freedom of movement for students and teachers to and from the schools and unhindered delivery of goods. Since April 2018, the new mechanism for the apostilization of Transdniestrian university diplomas by Moldova has enabled over 200 students from Transdniestria to study abroad. As a result of the agreement between the Sides to reinstate a mechanism that was in place between 2006 and 2014, Moldovan farmers regained unconditional access to their lands in the Transdniestrian Dubasari district.

These developments were welcomed in the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council statement adopted on 7 December 2018. The 57 OSCE participating States commended the Sides for the major achievements on the four agreements related to:

- the use of vehicles from Transdniestria on international roads;
- the functioning of Latin-script schools in Transdniestria;
- the apostilization of Transdniestrian university diplomas;
- access on the part of Moldovan farmers to their farmlands on Transdniestrian-controlled territory;
- and the establishment of a legal framework for the implementation of a telecommunications agreement.

The Sides also launched two working sub-groups on banking and human rights.
reached since 2017 and for the substantial progress made in the implementation of a telecommunications agreement.

In addition to these successes, discussions in the framework of the expert working groups moved beyond the "package of eight" in 2018 to include areas such as banking, phytosanitary certification, human rights and civil-status documents. The Sides have also drafted agreements on the return of children without parental care into the extended family in difficult life situations and co-operation in emergency situations. The Mission’s Human Rights Programme provides key expertise to the Sides on the issues discussed within the working groups.

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES
The Mission continued supporting Moldova’s efforts to fulfil its commitments to uphold human rights and promote tolerance and inclusivity, which are important confidence building measures for the settlement process.

The Mission’s Human Rights Program promoted national minority issues, including measures to ensure the affirmation of the autonomy of Gagauzia as a way of promoting good governance throughout Moldova. In 2018, the Mission facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding among the state actors involved in the implementation of the National Strategy for Consolidation of Interethnic Relations for 2017–2027, which was developed with the joint support of the Mission and the OSCE HCNM. Program activities supported the development of an optional school course on the Holocaust in a local context and efforts aimed at establishing the Jewish History Museum in Chisinau. Both actions are foreseen in the Moldovan Holocaust Action Plan.

To bring the Sides closer in efforts to resolve shared priority issues, the Program organized no fewer than 75 capacity-building initiatives on human rights, including on gender equality and human trafficking on both banks of the Dniestr/Nistru River.

SECURITY ZONE
In 2018, the Mission, in keeping with its mandate and the 2004 Agreement on the Principles of Co-operation between the Mission and the Joint Control Commission (JCC), continued to gather information on the situation in the Security Zone. The Mission’s observations were shared with all the delegations to the JCC and all OSCE participating States, including the host country.
The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine was deployed in March 2014 and is currently the OSCE’s largest field operations. The Mission establishes facts and gathers information and reports on the security situation across Ukraine, monitors and supports respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and facilitates dialogue. With over 1,300 staff members throughout the country, the SMM aims to contribute to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability and security throughout Ukraine.

Monitoring, Verification and Facilitation
In eastern Ukraine, the Mission monitored the adherence to the ceasefire. In 2018, the SMM observed a 22 per cent decrease in ceasefire violations in comparison with the previous year. However a sustained and comprehensive ceasefire has not been reached.

The Mission continued to support and facilitate the implementation of the Minsk agreements. To that end, monitoring and reporting of compliance with the aspects of the ceasefire, including the withdrawal of weapons, the disengagement of forces and hardware, as well as relevant mine action activities, continued to form an important part of the SMM’s activities.

The SMM continued to monitor the disengagement areas and monitor and verify the withdrawal of heavy weapons. In the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, the Mission observed an increase in the

“Sometime in early June, they told us the town would be out of water over the weekend because the Donetsk filtration station had been shut down. No running water in June, when it is +30 degrees outside, seemed like a nightmare about to happen. Then, Monday came, and the water was still running. It actually kept running throughout the entire summer. Only a few weeks ago, I learned that back in June it was the OSCE that pushed everybody to reach an agreement allowing the water station to get back up and running before Yasynuvata exhausted its water reserves.”

Rita, 24
Yasynuvata
number of ceasefire violations, in addition to closer positions in Zolote. Compared with the previous year, the SMM also observed an increase in weapons in violation of withdrawal lines, some of which were observed in or near populated areas and critical civilian infrastructure sites.

The Mission’s efforts to monitor continued to be hindered as it faced repeated restrictions to its freedom of movement and other impediments to the implementation of its mandate, predominantly in non-government-controlled areas, including areas of southern Donetsk region and near the border with the Russian Federation. The use of remote observation means, such as cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), including long-range UAVs, as a supplement to the physical presence of SMM patrols, has allowed the Mission to partially mitigate this and other impediments to monitoring. An SMM long-range UAV crashed in late October, most likely due to an impact, as it was observing a convoy of trucks near the border with the Russian Federation.

The SMM continued monitoring on land any possible effects on the socio-economic situation and potential security implications in relation to reported developments at the Sea of Azov. Following the November incidents at sea involving detention of vessels and sailors, the Chief Monitor called for restraint by the parties involved.

Non-compliance with commitments to fully cease fire, withdraw weapons and complete demining activities has resulted in civilians losing their lives and being injured, and facing hardship. While the number of civilian casualties decreased compared with last year, the Mission nonetheless corroborated 236 casualties in 2018 (43 fatalities and 193 injured). Eighty-six civilian causalities were a result of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other explosive devices in 2018 (23 fatalities and 63 injuries).

During the past year, the Mission deployed over 3,200 patrols on more than 1,200 occasions to monitor SMM-facilitated localized adherence to the ceasefire (so-called windows of silence) which enabled about 100 infrastructure repair projects to be carried out and the provision of electricity, water, gas and mobile communications to thousands of civilians on both sides of the contact line. One of those repair works, on the South Donbas water pipeline, ensured access to clean drinking water for 1.2 million people. In December, the Mission issued a thematic report on SMM facilitation and monitoring of infrastructure repair in eastern Ukraine for the period from January 2017 to August 2018.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES ELSEWHERE IN UKRAINE

In line with its mandate, the Mission continued to monitor throughout Ukraine, including developments concerning the Roma community and monitored public gatherings in Kyiv, Lviv, Odessa and other cities. Following reports of an incident at the Hungarian Cultural Centre in Uzhhorod, in February 2018, the SMM intensified its patrolling in the area through overlapping patrols by the Ivano-Frankivsk monitoring team.

Relevant facts established by the monitoring officers throughout Ukraine were included in 381 public reports produced by the SMM in 2018.

SUPPORT FOR ONGOING MEDIATION EFFORTS

At meetings of the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk, the Chief Monitor, in his capacity as co-ordinator of the working group on security issues, called for the protection of civilians and the reduction of tension. Specific measures
to strengthen the ceasefire and initiatives related to mine action, disengagement of forces and hardware, and the withdrawal of heavy weapons from areas specified in the Minsk agreements were discussed on a regular basis. The Chief Monitor made repeated public statements calling for full adherence to the ceasefire. In his address to the United Nations Security Council in May, the Chief Monitor highlighted the concerns of, and humanitarian challenges facing, civilians living near the contact line.

PUBLIC OUTREACH
In 2018, the Mission’s public outreach focused primarily on generating awareness of the Mission’s activities and encouraging and facilitating public engagement in, and support for, inclusive conflict resolution. This included over 100 outreach events, including mine awareness, press statements, opinion pieces, videos, slide shows, articles and an active social media presence. As public awareness of the Mission’s activities increases, misconceptions about the nature of the Mission are dispelled, trust is enhanced, and OSCE core values are promoted. The Mission, through its support for public campaigns such as “Letters of Peace”, “Facts Matter” and “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”, also supported dialogue between civilians on both sides of the contact line and encouraged civic engagement in contributing to conflict resolution.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING
Consistent with the Mission’s commitment to gender equality, the SMM adopted a gender-equality action plan in 2018 that promotes a positive working environment. A significant increase in the hiring of female monitoring officers and senior managers already materialized during this time frame. With greater internal diversity, the Mission is better equipped to monitor and report on the diverse communities in which it operates. This has improved the SMM’s ability to highlight under-reported voices and build bridges between communities across the contact line. The Mission’s thematic report on gender dimensions of monitoring highlighted achievements and the potential for further activities in this regard.

“LETTERS OF PEACE”
In the framework of “Letters of Peace” – the Mission’s new outreach initiative – SMM monitoring officers delivered hundreds of letters from and to civilians across the contact line to foster dialogue and understanding. People throughout Ukraine warmly received the letters, conveying season’s greetings and words of support, from complete strangers who live on the other side of the contact line.
### 2018 OSCE SMM activities in figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Figures</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of patrols conducted</td>
<td>28,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of UAV flight-hours (including long-range UAV flights)</td>
<td>2,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of reports published</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of infrastructure sites the SMM facilitated repairs maintenance to</td>
<td>94</td>
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</tbody>
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**Number of beneficiaries of SMM-facilitated infrastructure repairs/maintenance:**

- Water: around 4,5mil beneficiaries in Donetsk and Luhansk regions
- Electricity: around 1,9mil beneficiaries in Donetsk and Luhansk regions
- Mobile communication: around 2,2mil beneficiaries in Donetsk and Luhansk regions
- Number of people reached through public outreach: 12,000
To better implement its mandate in helping Ukraine meet its OSCE commitments, the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) developed a three-year strategic plan with specific targets set across the three OSCE dimensions. The goals are matched by planned and pursued efforts to help the country address crisis-related challenges and implement reforms by facilitating dialogue among key stakeholders.

SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO EXPLOSIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

Ukraine’s Mine Action Law was adopted by the Parliament in December, establishing a framework for humanitarian demining and distributing responsibilities among state institutions, including the establishment of a mine-action centre. In addition, National Mine Action Standards were finalized in 2018 and are expected to be issued in 2019. Ukraine’s standards are based on International Mine Action Standards and adapted for conditions in the country. They establish requirements for all aspects of mine action, including information management, equipment, personnel, survey and clearance, quality control and risk education. The Project Co-ordinator provided international expertise and facilitated dialogues among agencies and with mine-affected communities that ensured all voices were heard.

Following an assessment of conflict-related environmental risks in eastern Ukraine conducted in 2017 and presented in 2018, the Co-ordinator focused his efforts on establishing a system of monitoring that would enable the government and citizens to better understand risks. To help track the quality of surface and ground water in the Siverskyi Donets basin, a major source of drinking water for several million people, the Co-ordinator conducted a comprehensive chemical analysis of samples drawn from throughout the basin. The analysis, the most comprehensive in the country’s history, will serve as a baseline for continuous water quality monitoring. The Co-ordinator also provided laboratory equipment to the Siverskyi Donets Basin Administration of Water Resources, developed software for information exchange with the Ministry of Economy and Natural Resources and trained personnel to use the monitoring system.

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

With new legislation passed in early 2018 and all types of domestic violence criminalized as of January 2019, the Co-ordinator assisted authorities in preparing an enhanced law enforcement response in this sphere. Three internal instructions were prepared and adopted by the authorities to protect survivors, including an emergency restrictive order used by the police to limit suspects’ communication with victims. The Co-ordinator trained 300 operators and police dispatchers from the 102 emergency hotline to better handle domestic-violence calls. To support the Ministry of Interior’s introduction of multidisciplinary response teams, called POLINA, the Co-ordinator trained the first 150 members of such units in eight regions and will continue to support this initiative in 2019. An interactive training room was equipped for the Patrol Police Academy in Kyiv, and a domestic-violence course was handed over to be a part of the Academy’s curriculum for teaching new recruits. Separately, 180 social workers and psychologists in seven regions received training on the implementation of corrective programmes for perpetrators of violence.

As crisis situations exacerbate the risk of gender-based violence, the Co-ordinator worked to improve awareness among key stakeholders. It produced two manuals titled Women. Peace. Security for use in the professional retraining of social-service providers and security sector professionals. The Co-ordinator also conducted seminars for 125 psychologists on psychological assistance to conflict-affected people.

The Co-ordinator supported the implementation of the Ministry of Interior’s equality policies by training its gender focal points and organizing an experience exchange forum.
for women in law enforcement. The Co-ordinator and the Ministry of Defence agreed that, together with the rights of military personnel and interaction with civil society, gender equality would be one of three components of a roadmap for the Ministry to strengthen democratic control of the armed forces. In addition, 150 senior and mid-ranking officers were introduced to principles of gender equality at six workshops and roundtables. Also, in co-operation with the Supreme Court of Ukraine, the Co-ordinator helped launch gender focal points in courts, where they are expected to act as change agents for fostering gender-sensitive practices in the judiciary. Eighteen judges were trained to fulfil that role.

PROMOTING E-SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE
Ukraine has been demonstrating a high rate of e-governance implementation, as demonstrated by the United Nations E-Government Survey. As the institutional capacity to continue with digitalization policies is in place, the Co-ordinator has started phasing out its multi-year efforts in assisting the country in digitalizing administrative services for the prevention of corruption and for providing better service to the people. In 2018, the Co-ordinator identified key macroeconomic factors that will impact the further development of the digital economy, and relevant recommendations were handed over to the government. E-solutions introduced with the Co-ordinator’s support at the national level in the spheres of construction, land management and industrial-waste permits are continuously being modernized by the government and are increasingly being used by Ukrainians.

E-SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE
Services introduced with OSCE support as of November 1, 2018

Construction
- More than 6,500 online declarations on the start of construction submitted.
- More than 1,000 digital declarations on completion of construction submitted.

Land management
- More than 450,000 digital certificates of land plot registration issued.
- More than 10,000,000 online requests on beneficial ownership submitted.
- More than 170,000 digital notes on valuation of land plots issued.

Environmental protection
- More than 15,000 online declarations on waste generation submitted.

OSCE-commissioned experts take water samples in conflict-affected areas to assess pollution levels resulting from armed hostilities. (OSCE/Maksym Levin)

Ukrainian police officers at a domestic-violence simulation exercise organized by the PCU. (OSCE/Yevhen Maloletka)
Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

In 2018, the Observer Mission continued to ensure an uninterrupted presence at the two Russian checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency. Through its regular reports, the Mission continued to contribute to the OSCE’s efforts in dealing with the crisis in and around Ukraine, providing the Chairmanship and the participating States with unique and reliable information on the situation at these two checkpoints, as well as on movement across the border at two checkpoints. These reports are available online in English and Russian. The Mission also issued 12 spot reports concerning Russian convoys bound for Ukraine. The OSCE Permanent Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission until 31 May 2019. As of 2018, following a decision of the Permanent Council, the usual duration of the mandate of the Mission was extended to four months instead of three.

CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE MEDIA

The Observer Mission continued to strengthen its working relationship with the authorities present at both border checkpoints, as well as with the Rostov Regional Administration and the Rostov representative office of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation, and with local authorities in Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy, including the mayor and representatives of the security and safety services.

On 16 May, a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, accompanied by representatives of the regional authorities, visited the OSCE observers at both checkpoints and the main office in Kamensk-Shakhtinskiy. The Chief Observer visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation three times during the reporting period to discuss mission-related issues at governmental level.
The Observer Mission also continued to co-operate with representatives from local and regional newspapers in order to help the local population better understand the Mission’s mandate and the role of the OSCE in addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine.

**OBSERVATION TRENDS**

In 2018, the Mission’s observers noted a 43 per cent decrease in the number of people in military-style outfits crossing at the two checkpoints compared to 2017. The number of passenger cars and other vehicles crossing the border remained steady throughout the year. The average amount of cross-border movement by people increased slightly during the summer.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

The Observer Mission and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine regularly exchange information, primarily about the movement of trains in the vicinity of Gukovo and of Russian convoys crossing at the Donetsk border-crossing point.
In 2018, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat enhanced co-operation with the host government and civil society across the OSCE’s three dimensions of security, focusing on border management, transnational threats, CSBMs, good governance, economic connectivity and environmental issues, as well as gender equality, human rights and media freedom.

**COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS**
Jointly with the Transnational Threats Department, the Centre initiated seminars on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and on CVERLT for representatives of law enforcement bodies, the Office of the Ombudsperson, civil society and the media. They also organized a national exercise on protecting critical energy infrastructure from cyber-related terrorist attacks for representatives from the energy sector and government institutions.

To prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, the Centre partnered with IOM and organized a workshop on how to set up an API system for representatives from all agencies involved in passenger processing in Turkmenistan. The OSCE Mobile Training Team delivered an interactive course on identifying foreign terrorist fighters for officers from Turkmenistan’s border and migration services.

The Centre also trained law enforcement officials in seaport security management procedures and professional integrity and ethical standards.

**CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY BUILDING MEASURES**
Throughout the year, the Centre actively supported the host government in implementing OSCE politico-military commitments. A study visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina exposed military officials to best practices in enhancing the security of ammunition stockpiles. The Centre provided assistance for the connection of the Ministry of Defence to the OSCE Communications Network and facilitated participation of arms control officials in OSCE events related to the Vienna Document 2011.

**PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE**
The Centre supported a regional seminar on combating financing of terrorism (CFT) for experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Centre also provided expert support to the Ministry of Finance and Economy in drafting the first National Risk Assessment on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and CFT and in amending the country’s AML/CFT by-laws in line with international standards.

**ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY**
The Centre organized an OSCE high-level international conference on good governance and economic connectivity, which was attended by 120 participants, including high-level officials and decision makers from 26 OSCE participating States and Afghanistan. The conference addressed enhancing regional co-
WOMEN IN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENTS
The role of women in security and development processes was the focus of a lecture series delivered by Swanee Hunt, the Eleanor Roosevelt Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the United States, for international relations students and seminars for representatives of state institutions, civil society and the media.

FIELD OPERATIONS
Centre in Ashgabat

operation, improving regional transit management and the modernization of economies. The outcomes of the conference included recommendations, developed by international experts, for improving economic good governance, facilitating trade and transport, modernizing economies and strengthening public-private partnerships in energy infrastructure and sustainable transportation projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES
The Centre organized a seminar on the development of national environmental legislation for relevant ministries, parliament and public organizations. The Aarhus Centre drafted the Law on Environmental Awareness Raising and provided recommendations for the draft Law on Environmental Auditing.

ENdERGY SECURITY AND RENEWABLES
The Centre supported the Mary State Energy Institute in developing a road map on solar energy by providing expert advice and facilitating field visits to OSCE participating States to share international standards and technologies in alternative energy projects. The Centre further organized risk management training courses to increase the capacity of Turkmenistan to protect energy infrastructure from natural hazards and to promote energy security.

SUPPORT FOR THE OMBUDSPERSON
The Centre continued supporting the Office of Turkmenistan’s Ombudsperson and organized a study visit for her to Armenia, where she shared experiences with the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS
The Centre facilitated a visit by the OSCE HCNM, who met with Turkmenistan’s President and other high-level officials, moderated a roundtable discussion on the Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies and delivered a lecture for students on the institution’s activities, and also visited the country’s north-easter region of Dashoguz, which borders Uzbekistan. The HCNM and the Centre also supported the implementation of Turkmenistan’s 2016-2020 National Human Rights Action Plan with an event on mechanisms for consultation with national minorities.

Lectures on international human rights standards during criminal proceedings and domestic violence were held for students from the Institute of the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry’s Institute of International Relations.

The Centre continued co-operation with the Keik Okara public organization, an assistance centre for victims of domestic violence, and facilitated awareness-raising seminars for high school students. Jointly with Keik Okara and Yenme, the Centre hosted an awareness-raising event in Ashgabat to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT
Following the adoption of the Law of Turkmenistan on Television and Radio Broadcasting, the Centre continued to support the country’s transition to new broadcasting models with a seminar in Ashgabat and a study visit to Germany for representatives of Turkmenistan’s State Committee for Television, Radio and Cinematography, and other relevant institutions.

To continue support for the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2016-2020, the Centre organized a train-the-trainers course on journalists’ rights and duties for judges, lawyers and media representatives, as well as a seminar on freedom of expression for journalism instructors, journalists and officials from relevant institutions.

Thirty journalists and journalism instructors attended a summer school for young reporters, and 30 journalism students at the Foreign Ministry’s Institute of International Relations participated in a course on diplomatic work with the media.

Number of training participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Area</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countering transnational threats</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence- and security-building</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>measures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border management</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental protection</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic activities</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human dimension</td>
<td>356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media development</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1740</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In 2018, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana marked the 20th year of its presence in Astana. It continued its productive co-operation with institutions from government, civil society, academia, the private sector and the international community to promote security in Kazakhstan and the Central Asia region. It forged dynamic new relationships with key partners in P/CVERLT. The Office worked to promote sustainable economic growth and the green economy, as well as to help Kazakhstan attract foreign investment. It supported Kazakhstan’s efforts in helping victims of human trafficking, promoting judicial and penitentiary reform and working to prevent torture. The Office actively engaged young people and scholars in regional security dialogue. In total, the Office implemented 153 events in all three security dimensions with over 7,200 participants nationwide.

**TRANSNATIONAL THREATS**

In supporting the country’s efforts to combat VERLT, the Office worked with civil society, young women and men, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies in developing a comprehensive strategy that incorporates best practices shared by other participating States. In total, the Office supported 14 events involving 400 high-level government officials, judges, law enforcement officers, border guards and prosecutors with a focus on combating transnational threats. Law enforcement officers from across the country were trained in human-rights complaint strategies to combat transnational organized crime, terrorism, cybercrime and trafficking in drugs and to enhance border security. Digital security and media literacy were the focus of the ninth Central Asian Internet Forum, which brought some 120 practitioners and experts from the region and beyond to Almaty. In 2018, the Office supported regional seminars on confidence-and security building measures under the Vienna Document 2011 and on the management of explosive ordnance, including improvised explosive devices, together with the OSCE Program Office in Dushanbe.

**GREEN ECONOMY**

Some 800 government, business and civil society representatives participated in events supporting the green economy and projects focused on sustainable water practices, organic agriculture and the Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Espoo Convention Protocol. The Office promoted the Aarhus Convention by supporting training for judges, a seminar on environmental monitoring and a countrywide meeting of Aarhus Centre.

**COMBATING CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

The Office promoted Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism training and special courses on asset recovery by working with over 950 public servants, members of law enforcement and the private sector. It organized training seminars on asset recovery, risk-based analysis and a training-of-trainers course. The Office held the Second Congress of Civil Initiatives against Corruption with over 200 participants and actively promoted the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multilateral initiative through which civil society
organizations and national governments develop a dialogue platform to advance transparency, accountability and civic engagement. Events were organized across the country, including a series of seminars and public discussions on how the OGP could promote efficiency and combat corruption.

**JUSTICE REFORM**

In support of the host country’s initiative to support justice reform, the Office organized activities to promote best practices in criminal and administrative law by facilitating public and expert discussions for judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers on how to apply newly adopted codes and relevant laws. Some 780 judicial officials and civil society experts discussed issues such as the role of mediation and reconciliation as well as modernization of criminal procedure and the independence of the judiciary.

The Office hosted numerous events on combating trafficking in human beings, including the first week-long simulation exercise in Russian on how to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking, organized by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings with support from the Office in Astana. The Office supported seminars on mechanisms for human rights protection, including the national preventive mechanism against torture for some 65 members of the national preventive mechanism. It continued its training seminars for over 100 police officers on handling trafficking in human beings and domestic violence cases. The Office worked with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan to develop an extrabudgetary proposal in line with the host country’s plans for police and justice reform.

**ENGAGING YOUTH**

In line with the Italian Chairmanship’s priority on fostering youth exchange and political participation of young people, the Office organized cross-dimensional activities that engaged over 300 young leaders throughout the region. The annual Central Asian Youth Network seminar for university students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia marked its 12th anniversary in Almaty with a conference called Innovating Central Asia; the Zhas (Youth) Camp, which was held in three cities, engaged over 200 participants; and the Central Asia Leadership Program supported young environmental experts from across Kazakhstan. All events were organized with support of the Office in Astana.
Programme Office in Bishkek

Head of Office: Ambassador Pierre von Arx
Budget: €6,797,400 (Unified budget) €304,773 (Extrabudgetary expenditure, including the OSCE Academy in Bishkek)
Staff: 13 international, 107 local
www.osce.org/programme-office-in-bishkek

During 2018, the Programme Office in Bishkek continued the implementation of programmatic activities in accordance with its mandate, reform priorities set out by the host country and in co-operation with partners from state institutions, international organizations and civil society. The Office focused on reform of the justice sector, implementation of election reform, continuing to build open and resilient societies, developing the country’s regions, trade facilitation, strengthening efforts to combat corruption on all levels and countering terrorism and transnational threats such as human trafficking. New initiatives on promoting youth engagement and gender equality in the host country were also supported.

SUPPORTING INCREASED GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY
In 2017, Kyrgyzstan joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which provides for countries to advance inclusive and open reform processes. In 2018, the Office supported the government in establishing a national OGP Secretariat and developing a two-year National Action Plan within the OGP framework. The Action Plan was developed through a consultative multi-stakeholder process that involved active engagement of civil society. With the assistance of the Office and in line with OSCE commitments, the country elaborated a total of 18 goals related to reform processes covering health, education, public participation in lawmaking, procurement, elections and combating corruption.

ENSURING A GENDER-SENSITIVE APPROACH TO SECURITY
The Office assisted the host country to improve the interaction between law enforcement structures and local authorities in ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to security. Focusing on juvenile delinquency, the Office supported a workshop where members of the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector, as well as representatives of the Prosecutor-General’s Office, the Ministry of Interior, the State Border Service and the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations discussed legislative amendments, shared their experience and prepared recommendations to be used by staff of the above-mentioned structures in their daily activities.

ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY
Enhancing environmental security remained one of the Office’s main priorities. The Office, together with the OCEEA, organized the first Annual Aarhus Centres Meeting ever held outside Europe. The main focus of the Annual Meeting was the contribution of Aarhus Centres in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It enabled an exchange of experiences among Aarhus Centres, facilitated a discussion on capacity-building for resource mobilization and included a study visit to a clean-up campaign site supported by the local Aarhus Centre and the Finnish Water Institute.

PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VERLT
Throughout 2018, the Office supported a number of training activities for law enforcement personnel from multiple state structures and civil society representatives aimed at enhancing capacity and identifying new ways to address various aspects of radicalization.

Public officials, members of parliament, experts and civil society take part in a presentation of the OGP National Action Plan by Kyrgyz Prime Minister Muhammedkali Abylgaziev, Bishkek, 23 October 2018. (OSCE/Chyngyz Zhanybek)

Members of the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector during a workshop focusing on juvenile delinquency, Issyk-Kul province, 16 October 2018. (OSCE/Guljamal Tokombaeva)
INTER-CONFESSIONAL DIALOGUE

As a secular state, Kyrgyzstan advances democratic principles in the sphere of religion or belief. The Office continued promoting international and national inter-confessional dialogue by assisting the State Commission on Religious Affairs in hosting platforms that bring together religious leaders from every province in the country, as well as supporting the organization of two high-level international conferences on the topic of Islam in a Modern Secular State with the aim of maintaining the established dialogue and enhancing values of tolerance, peaceful co-existence and freedom of religion or belief.

OSCE ACADEMY IN BISHKEK

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek is a well-known education and research institution that provides high-quality graduate education to young people from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. For the 2017/2018 academic year, the Academy received over 2,000 applications for two graduate programmes. Following a highly competitive selection process, 50 students were accepted. The Academy also hosted a number of events, including a summer school, specialized seminars and visits by guest lecturers.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Office further strengthened its co-operative network through collaboration with various UN agencies, other international organizations, state partners and OSCE field operations. These partnerships focused on border control, electoral reforms, gender issues, migration, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, environmental protection and regional co-operation.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH DIGITALIZATION

In co-operation with the Ministry of Economy, the Office organized an international conference on promoting economic growth and sustainability through e-business and e-commerce with over 130 participants from the OSCE area. State officials, representatives of the private sector, international organizations, academia and civil society discussed harmonizing legal frameworks to facilitate cross-border trade and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.
Throughout 2018, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe strengthened its engagement with the host country to support the implementation of OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of security. Border security, expanding economic opportunities, youth and women’s political participation were at the core of the Office’s work, through interventions such as the Network by Consensus youth initiative, the Model OSCE, a network of young Tajik gender champions and entrepreneurial Start-up Weekends. In the area of border security, the BMSC entered a new phase characterized by a more strategic focus on core offerings and continued attention paid to partnerships in Central Asia, Afghanistan and beyond.

BORDER MANAGEMENT STAFF COLLEGE

A new era for the BMSC was launched in 2018 with its four-year plan of activities. The College reinforced its training output by offering high-quality courses targeting border management and security officials from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, with particular attention paid to involving officials from Afghanistan. In January, its “Border Security and Management for Senior Leaders” course was granted postgraduate diploma accreditation by Estonia’s Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education, underlining the BMSC’s intention to become a recognized specialist in border security and management training in the OSCE area. In October, the College conducted its first staff course outside Tajikistan, in Italy, with the support of the Guardia di Finanza and the OSCE Secretariat’s Border Security and Management Unit. 2018 also marked a milestone in the BMSC’s efforts to promote female leadership in border management and security, with a record high of 58 per cent of female staff course participants.

MEN ENGAGE NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Men’s roles in championing gender equality were at the forefront of the Office’s efforts to empower women in social and political life in 2018. Prominent male politicians, police officers, rural youth and civil society representatives actively shaped a series of high-profile events aimed at preventing domestic violence and challenging gender stereotypes. Making use of the political momentum to support women’s empowerment, male politicians, including members of parliament, set out to promote women in the political sphere within their parties and in society by implementing political parties’ gender action plans, appointing gender focal points, lobbying for women’s quotas in parliament and mentoring young Tajik men to become gender champions. At the grass-roots level, the Office nurtured a network of 45 young gender champions (30 women, 15 men) that was established in 2017. The gender champions, many from remote areas, were empowered by new skills they learned in two summer camps aimed at tackling gender stereotypes through debates, role-play, poems and drawings. Many went on to enact changes in societal behaviour by organizing debate clubs, training and raising awareness in their own families, communities, and in their workplaces, often through a peer-to-peer approach.

PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Start-up Weekends were introduced in Tajikistan in 2015 as a way to develop entrepreneurship in a country heavily reliant on remittances. These unique public-private initiatives help business owners build skills to present ideas, create business plans and pitch their products and services. In 2018, the Office sponsored two Start-up Weekends in...
Dushanbe, including one focused on female entrepreneurs. In provincial areas, OSCE-supported Business Resource Centres helped open or expand 15 businesses and aided more than 1,000 existing and potential business owners with advice on taxation, licences, regulations and access to finance. Mobile consultations in major district towns enabled the Centres to conduct more outreach than ever before. The investment climate for larger companies was also a key priority. The Office has been a strong supporter of the country’s four free economic zones and promoted their development by evaluating their operations, exposing their management to best practices in other OSCE participating States and making the marketing of their services more effective.

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

The Network by Consensus is an initiative uniting over 400 alumni of the Office’s youth events from all over Tajikistan. It creates a platform for young people to share, inspire and motivate their peers. In 2018, the Office assisted young people through the Network to play an active and constructive role in civic life. An enhanced regional lens was applied to youth activities, with a special focus on engaging active young people from Afghanistan, thus promoting confidence building and collaboration between the youth of Tajikistan and Central Asian states. Workshops on public speaking, debating, negotiating and networking skills were designed to empower them to reach their aspirations in public life, business and civil society. Feeding into this expanding pool of engaged young people, the Office organized Model OSCE events for university students from across the country. In addition to raising awareness about the OSCE, the Model OSCE imbued the skills needed for active social and civic participation through lectures, workshops, interactive exercises and Permanent Council simulation sessions. Members of the Network met with the OSCE Secretary General during his visit to Tajikistan in May to discuss the challenges facing youth and ways the OSCE can support youth empowerment.

**15 YEARS OF MINE ACTION**

Since 2003, the OSCE’s mine-action programme has supported the government’s demining efforts. In the past 15 years, the OSCE has contributed to the clearance of almost 4 million square meters of mine-contaminated land and the destruction of some 19,000 landmines and unexploded ordnance.
In 2018, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz) continued to support the host country’s efforts to address transnational threats, promote transparency in governance and fight corruption, while also combating money laundering and trafficking in human beings and drugs.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS
The PCUz continued supporting activities to fight terrorism, to prevent and counter VERLT and to address the question of returning foreign terrorist fighters, with a focus on youth.

On 11-12 June, the PCUz and the Senate of Uzbekistan organized an international conference on the role of youth in P/CVERLT in Tashkent and Samarkand, which was attended by OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger. At the event, high-level government officials and representatives from civil society and international organizations held discussions and shared best practices on the subject.

Jointly with the National Centre on Drug Control, the PCUz supported the implementation of a national anti-drug programme focused on country-wide preventive measures to fight illicit trafficking of drugs and chemical precursors.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY
The PCUz facilitated the implementation of the OSCE’s confidence building measures to reduce the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communications technologies by raising awareness among key national stakeholders and government agencies. Uzbekistan established a contact point to manage ICT-related threats and developed a road map to further improve cyber/ICT security.

COMBATING CORRUPTION
The PCUz supported capacity-building for government and business representatives on combating and preventing corruption. In addition, a country-wide public awareness campaign promoting a zero-tolerance policy to corruption was organized in co-operation with national and international partners.

SUPPORTING OPEN GOVERNANCE
An open data project, implemented in co-operation with the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, provided expertise for the development of a national open data strategy and strengthened the capacities of national stakeholders through the exchange of best practices. Over 500 young people participated in a collaborative open data challenge aimed at engaging young people in the development of ICT solutions.

IMPROVING LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES
Jointly with state agencies and NGOs, the PCUz supported a country-wide gender-disaggregated survey on the situation of labour migration and emerging trends. The survey will provide a basis for recommendations for state measures to address the challenges facing migrants and their families. The PCUz also supported the establishment of a consultancy centre for labour migrants in Tashkent.

Screenshot of an animated film on anti-corruption that is part of a public awareness campaign supported by the PCUz and the Inter-agency Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (OSCE)
FIELD OPERATIONS ■ Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan

PROMOTING GREEN ECONOMY POLICIES

The PCUz supported the promotion of green economy policies through the exchange of best practices and capacity-building on waste management, renewable energy and sustainable mobility. In particular, the PCUz contributed to the establishment of a pilot site providing solar street lighting in an urban area of Tashkent. In partnership with Uzbekistan’s State Committee for Environmental Protection, the PCUz also co-organized the Central Asian Green Technologies Business Forum and the Green Ecology Technologies Central Asia/GETCA-2018 specialized exhibition.

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL RESPONSE TO COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In 2018, the PCUz launched a new series of anti-trafficking training courses for 50 police officers from seven regions of Uzbekistan. The courses were aimed at developing police attitudes and skills to help them identify victims of human trafficking and to refer them to the appropriate services for assistance. Particular attention was paid to new forms and methods of recruitment of potential victims through digital technologies. In addition, the training explored the nexus between human trafficking and terrorism.

ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF INVESTIGATIVE DIVISIONS OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY

In 2018, the PCUz conducted training on investigative interviewing for 50 law enforcement officials. Emphasis was placed on human-rights-compliant policing, including the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of torture and treating witnesses and suspects with dignity and respect at all stages of the investigative process.

SUPPORTING UZBEKISTAN IN ITS APPROACH TO COMBATING TORTURE

Throughout 2018, the PCUz, in co-operation with ODIHR, the National Human Rights Centre, Uzbekistan’s human rights Ombudsman, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol, prepared and conducted a series of capacity-building workshops to inform the ongoing national debate on ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the potential establishment of a national preventive mechanism in Uzbekistan.

PROMOTING JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORMS

In support of the 2017-2021 Action Strategy for the Further Development of Uzbekistan, the PCUz was engaged in promoting judicial and legal reforms by organizing conferences and round-table discussions on the review of institutional, criminal and criminal procedural legislation, law enforcement practices and implementation of related international standards. The PCUz facilitated ODIHR’s drafting of a legal opinion on the Law on the Higher Judicial Council with recommendations for its possible improvement.
Security in the OSCE area is inseparably linked to that of neighbouring regions and can be strengthened through dialogue and the sharing of norms, commitments and expertise. This is why the OSCE maintains privileged relations with 11 Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and continues to build on its extensive network of co-operative relationships with other international and regional organizations.
Asian and Mediterranean partners

Throughout the year, the OSCE continued to engage in political dialogue and to share experience with its five Asian and six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

The OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners continued to investigate ways to further strengthen their co-operation by cultivating an open and interactive dialogue both within the established meeting formats and beyond. The rolling schedule of the Asian Contact Group featured several innovative topics, such as cyber-diplomacy and economic connectivity, with a particular focus on financial technology innovations, exposure to cyber/ICT security risks and opportunities to support the UN’s SDGs. With events on the Korean Peninsula developing rapidly, special attention was paid to the potential of using confidence building mechanisms to strengthen inter-Korean relations as a basis for a future permanent peace. The Asian Partners continued to contribute to the OSCE’s dialogue and to provide significant financial and human resources in support of OSCE activities.

Throughout the year, the Secretary General and his team participated in high-level events organized by Asian Partners and held numerous high-level meetings with senior government representatives from all five Asian Partners, as well as various informal consultations aimed at exchanging best practices in the area of promoting comprehensive security across all three dimensions. A highlight of the year was the Secretary General’s meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, who reiterated his country’s strong interest in, and support for, the OSCE. At the high-level conference Effective Multilateralism in a Globalized World – The Case of Europe and Asia Pacific, organized by the 2018 Austrian Chair of the Asian Contact Group, the Secretary General said that he saw potential for further enhancing opportunities for engaging the Asian Partners in OSCE internal discussions and activities and for creating additional space within the OSCE for including Asian security concerns in the Organization’s overall agenda for security dialogue.

The OSCE Asian Conference in Canberra focused on common challenges and opportunities in the regions of the Asian Partners and the OSCE. The Director of the Office of the Secretary General emphasized the need to strengthen comprehensive security through dialogue. The OSCE Secretariat further supported South Korea in organizing another Inter-regional Conference, which in 2018 focused on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

OSCE partnerships in action: Two female officers from Partner countries Tunisia and Thailand taking part in the BMSC’s 21st Border Management Staff Course for Women Leaders. The course is sponsored by Japan, an Asian Partner for Co-operation. (OSCE/Shamsi Myadyeva)
2018 was an important year for the OSCE’s Mediterranean partnership, which saw a strong push by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the Slovakian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group for a more substantive and action-oriented partnership.

The Secretary General supported these efforts by calling for a more strategic approach to the partnership through better-defined priorities for dialogue, enhanced practical co-operation with the Partners, a long-term view of the partnership’s desired outcomes and revamped partnership tools, starting with renewed investment in the extrabudgetary Partnership Fund established in 2007.

An ambassadorial retreat in Trieste, Italy, on 7-9 June registered widespread interest among all stakeholders for a revival of the partnership. On that occasion, the Italian Chairmanship endorsed a more strategic approach and proposed some practical next steps. Meanwhile, the Slovak Chairmanship of the Contact Group completed a successful programme in 2018, with an emphasis on a positive agenda for Mediterranean co-operation.

Topics dealt with by the Contact Group ranged from issues such as water management and energy security to education, cyber/ICT security and security sector reform. The Mediterranean Conference in Málaga, Spain, on 25-26 October, co-organized by Slovakia and Spain, focused on the topic of energy co-operation. For the fourth year in a row, the Mediterranean Conference attracted ministerial-level participation, confirming that the Mediterranean partnership has reached a higher political profile.

On the project side, numerous initiatives were carried out with the active participation of the Mediterranean Partners, including in the areas of countering trafficking in cultural property, promoting co-operative and effective border management, combating trafficking in human beings along migration routes and empowering youth.

The Italian OSCE Chairmanship launched the OSCE GEMS award, which rewards social and green entrepreneurs under 35 years of age from Mediterranean countries. The six winners of the first-ever GEMS award, young entrepreneurs from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, invented new products and processes that help improve the environment while at the same time making a social impact. Their projects range from turning discarded dates into high-quality food and upcycling plastic waste, to greening roofs and using sunlight to supply electricity and warm water to neighbourhoods.

The GEMS award is implemented in partnership with the Switchers Fund, a grant-making entity that supports innovative green businesses in the Mediterranean, and its promoters. The first edition of the award was funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.
Co-operation with international and regional organizations

Dialogue and practical co-operation with other international and regional organizations and institutions remained an important aspect of the OSCE’s work in 2018. At the Secretariat level, the Organization held regular bilateral and multilateral consultations with partner organizations. At the operational level, the OSCE joined forces with international partners in order to draw on the strengths and comparative advantages of each organization.

Political dialogue

**UNITED NATIONS (UN)**

In 2018, the enduring partnership between the UN and the OSCE advanced in a number of strategic areas that are critically important for peace and security in the OSCE region.

OSCE Secretary General Greminger represented the OSCE at several high-level UN events, including a meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the UN Secretary-General’s interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations, and the 73rd general debate of the General Assembly (UNGA). On each occasion, the Secretary General brought the OSCE’s perspective into UN discussions on peace and security and emphasized the support of the OSCE for the implementation of the UN Secretary-General’s sustaining peace agenda.

2018 also saw the conclusion of MoUs between the OSCE, as represented by the Secretary General, and the UNDP, UN Women and the UNOTC, respectively. These agreements will strengthen the ability of the OSCE Secretariat to implement its mandate to support the participating States in co-operation with partners from the UN family of organizations.

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)**

Co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE continued to develop in the four agreed areas of co-operation: the fight against terrorism, combating human trafficking, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. The two annual meetings of the CoE-OSCE Co-ordination Group held in 2018 proved to be an effective format for sharing views on issues of mutual interest.

Regular communication between experts and co-ordination of activities, including in the field, continued to be the foundation underpinning OSCE-CoE interaction. Political contacts also intensified thanks to the well-established practice of briefings by respective Chairmanships and the meeting between the Secretaries General on the margins of the UNGA in New York.

**EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

The OSCE-EU relationship took a major step forward in 2018 with an exchange of letters, which established a framework for co-operation between the two organizations, providing, inter alia, for an annual high-level meeting between OSCE executive structures and EU institutions. At the first meeting, held on 12 December 2018, representatives of both organizations discussed how
to strengthen ongoing co-operation on conflict prevention and mediation, preventing and countering violent extremism that leads to terrorism, countering trafficking in small arms and light weapons, cyber/ICT threats, rule of law and democratic institutions, election support, the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and co-operation on uranium legacy sites.

Other consultations reinforced the growing momentum in EU-OSCE co-operation. On 5 March, the OSCE Secretary General met with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, as well as with senior representatives of the European Commission. Working level contacts pursued in Brussels and in the field included joint meetings of EU heads of mission and heads of OSCE field operations in Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

Additional political contacts included visits to the OSCE Secretariat by the EU Politico-Military Group on 24 July, the EU Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management on 1 October and the ambassadors of the Political and Security Committee on 10 September.

COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION (CSTO)

The OSCE and CSTO Secretaries General used their 2018 meeting to discuss increased co-operation and mutual understanding between the two organizations’ priorities and structures. Additionally, the CSTO Secretariat addressed a working session of the 2018 Annual Security Review Conference, sharing the CSTO’s experience in the area of countering illegal migration. At the working level, meetings were held between CSTO and OSCE staff for an exchange of views and experiences. The Deputy Secretary General of the CSTO participated in the 25th OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The OSCE Secretary General met bilaterally with the heads of several partner organizations, among them the ASEAN Secretary General, the League of Arab States and the Union for the Mediterranean, to leverage synergies and joint approaches on common interests and concerns. In this context, the OSCE Secretariat signed a technical MoU with the Union for the Mediterranean. With the League of Arab States, the OSCE Secretariat held the second exchange of experiences workshop, as well as an event to launch the Arabic version of the OSCE Guidebook on Intelligence-Led Policing. Co-operation with the Central European Initiative (CEI) advanced thanks to the implementation of joint projects financed through the CEI Donor Fund to the OSCE. Working-level interaction also took place with the Organization of American States and the ASEAN Regional Forum on cyber/ICT CBMs.
Operational Co-operation

OSCE executive structures co-operate with a broad array of specialized organizations to ensure that their complementary mandates and expertise provide coherent and integrated responses to security challenges in the OSCE area. The following section presents a few examples of the numerous practical activities jointly undertaken by the OSCE and its peers.

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION
The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) continued its long-standing close working relations with the EU and UN in the context of the Geneva International Discussions addressing the consequences of the August 2008 war in Georgia, co-chaired by the three organizations.

The CPC also further developed operational partnerships with relevant departments at UN headquarters to explore synergies that enable cost-effective and rapid access to resources for crisis prevention and response. In the area of mediation, staff from the UN Mediation Support Unit visited the CPC’s Mediation Support Team to exchange experiences and review successful practices.

The CPC continued its close co-operation with UNHCR on the Joint Protection Checklist addressing Displacement and Protection of Displaced Populations and Affected Communities along the Conflict Cycle. Three workshops on how to address displacement in a collaborative approach were held for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, the OSCE Programme Office in Tajikistan and the OSCE Mission to Skopje respectively.

To better highlight the crucial role that regional organizations play in preventive diplomacy, the OSCE’s High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Italian Permanent Representation to the United Nations convened a meeting of regional organizations in New York. The meeting included representatives from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the League of Arab States, the EU, the Organization of American States and the UN.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL THREATS
More than 90 per cent of activities carried out by the OSCE’s Transnational Threats Department are implemented in partnership with other organizations, including the UNODC, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), Europol, INTERPOL, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the CSTO and the CoE.

In 2018, the Department concluded technical MoUs with the WCO, the UNOCT and the Italian Finance Police. In addition, the Department is actively involved in the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), the leading international platform for the exchange of best practices and expertise on cyber-related capacity-building.

The OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek co-operated with the UNODC and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG) in conducting train-the-trainers courses for Kyrgyz government officials on countering the financing of terrorism. Similarly, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan joined forces with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the UNODC and the UNDP to address VERLT, illicit drug trafficking and other transnational threats. In Ashgabat, the OSCE Centre partnered with IOM in the area of preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. The Centre and IOM also co-organized a workshop to explore how to set up an API system for representatives from all agencies involved in passenger processing in Turkmenistan.

MONDEM – A JOINT DEMILITARIZATION SUCCESS STORY
The Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM), a partnership initiative of the Government of Montenegro, the OSCE and the UNDP, was successfully concluded in 2018. From 2007 through to 2018, this programme saw the destruction of 60 battle tanks and 965 heavy artillery pieces to be sold as scrap metal, provided for the safe disposal of 128 tons of melange oxidizer and rocket fuel and infrastructure upgrades for two ammunition depots, as well as the safe destruction of 1,806 tons of surplus ammunition.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AGAINST TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM
The OSCE, the UN and the EU jointly supported a high-level conference on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The strategic importance of the conference, which was held in Dushanbe on 3 and 4 May, was driven by the need to establish a common understanding of current challenges and obstacles and to strengthen regional and inter-regional partnerships.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
In 2018, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) became a full-fledged member of the UN Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons. Co-operation between the OSR/CTHB and the CoE remained strong, as the two organizations co-hosted a meeting of national anti-trafficking co-ordinators and rapporteurs, continued to exchange work plans and co-ordinated their respective country visits. The OSR/CTB hosted the 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2018, which remains a key platform for states and international organizations to organize joint activities and share information on trends and challenges in the area of counter-trafficking.
Field operations continued to work together with other international organizations to enhance the impact of their activities. For instance, the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has a multi-year partnership agreement with the IOM focused on increasing the number of national referral mechanisms in Ukraine. Furthermore, on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the Programme Office in Bishkek, the IOM and the International Labour Organization (ILO) co-organized art exhibitions and information events for migrants and young people on the risks of trafficking in the context of labour migration. In Albania, the OSCE Presence co-ordinated its anti-trafficking efforts with UNHCR, IOM and other UN agencies focusing on countering child labour exploitation in particular.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

The OSCE works closely with partner organizations to tackle a range of economic challenges to security. For example, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the UNODC jointly train staff from Ukraine’s finance intelligence unit with a view to increasing the country’s anti-money-laundering standards.

In Uzbekistan, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator partnered with the Eurasian Group to carry out joint activities in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Co-ordinator also has anti-corruption partnerships with the UNODC, the UNDP and the OECD, and implements joint projects on open governance with the Open Data Charter, the UNDP and the World Bank.

Furthering economic opportunities and facilitating Tajikistan’s economic connectivity is the objective of co-operation between the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe and the respective offices of the International Trade Centre and the UNDP. The project supports the development and expansion of Tajikistan’s trade information portal based on the UNCTAD global business facilitation platform. At a meeting held in Moscow on 2 November, the OSCE Secretary General and the Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Comission Board, Tigran Sargsyan, discussed ways to intensify co-operation between the respective Secretariats.

**PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

The OSCE partners with the UN and other organizations to forge effective responses to traditional and emerging challenges in the environmental field. The ENVSEC initiative for example, brings together the OSCE, the UNECE, the UNDP, the UNEP and the Regional Environmental Center.
LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS
Co-operation with international and regional organizations

for Central and Eastern Europe to jointly contribute to the reduction of interconnected environmental and security risks. In 2018, they reviewed their partnership agreement to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2018, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and the UK Chemical Business Association (CBA) to introduce new chemical security technical regulations. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan partnered with the UNECE on a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

ACTIVITIES IN THE HUMAN DIMENSION

In 2018, ODIHR continued its close co-operation with the CoE and the Venice Commission in the fields of legislative assistance, democratic governance and the rule of law. In election observation activities, ODIHR regularly collaborated with delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE and the European Parliament. The Office partnered with the UNHCR in its work on Roma and Sinti issues and, jointly with the HCNM, on the protection of stateless persons and prevention of statelessness. ODIHR also regularly works with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). ODIHR strengthened its co-operation with the EU in 2018, with projects focusing on supporting elections in South-Eastern Europe, promoting human rights and democratization in Belarus and building a comprehensive criminal justice response to hate crime.

In Bishkek, the OSCE Programme Office and the UNDP opened a Capacity Development Centre that will prepare staff from the Central Elections Commission and the State Registration Service for the upcoming 2020 parliamentary elections.

In Serbia, the OSCE Mission worked with the EU delegation in fostering media freedom and the professionalization of journalism through the development of a new media strategy. Other areas of co-operation with the EU included projects in support of victims and witnesses of crime and the monitoring of national war crimes trials.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission worked with the CoE office in Sarajevo to strengthen the capacities of the country’s Ombudsman for human rights and support the revision of two local Roma action plans. As the leading international organization in the area of education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission fostered a co-ordinated international approach in support of the country’s first-ever participation in the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018.

ARCHIVES AND OUTREACH: THE OSCE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE IN PRAGUE

The OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague (DCiP) is the organization’s documentation repository and hosts a researcher-in-residence programme. In 2018, the DCiP hosted and assisted 11 researchers from Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Centre also delivered 15 presentations about the OSCE to visiting student groups. The DCiP processed and published more than 2,000 documents. Additionally, more than 8,700 documents were added to the OSCE digital archive in Prague to better serve researchers and to maintain institutional memory.

Gaining a better understanding of the current perceptions and attitudes of gender roles in Kosovo was the aim of the first-ever International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) conducted by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The survey report provides important insights into men’s perspectives on gender equality and provides a better evidence base for the development of new gender-related policies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>API</td>
<td>Advance Passenger Information</td>
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<td>BMSC</td>
<td>Border Management Staff College</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBMs</td>
<td>Confidence-building measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEI</td>
<td>Central European Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEPOL</td>
<td>EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>CoE</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>COESPU</td>
<td>Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPC</td>
<td>Conflict Prevention Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSCE</td>
<td>Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSBMss</td>
<td>Confidence- and security-building measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSTO</td>
<td>Collective Security Treaty Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTHB</td>
<td>Combating Trafficking in Human Beings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCIP</td>
<td>OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEAS</td>
<td>European External Action Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVSEC</td>
<td>Environment and Security Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europol</td>
<td>European Police Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frontex</td>
<td>European Border and Coast Guard Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>Forum for Security Co-operation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTFs</td>
<td>Foreign Terrorist Fighters</td>
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<tr>
<td>GID</td>
<td>Geneva International Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFP</td>
<td>Gender Focal Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCNM</td>
<td>High Commissioner on National Minorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDIM</td>
<td>Human Dimension Implementation Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLPG</td>
<td>High-Level Planning Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAEA</td>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and communication technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICMPD</td>
<td>International Centre for Migration Policy Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPRM</td>
<td>Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>KVINFO</td>
<td>Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Ethnicity</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCG</td>
<td>Mediterranean Contact Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLE</td>
<td>Multilingual Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoU</td>
<td>Memorandum of understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>MST</td>
<td>Mediation Support Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCEEA</td>
<td>Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODIHR</td>
<td>Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>OGP</td>
<td>Open Government Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAN</td>
<td>Police Academies Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>P/CVERLT</td>
<td>Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Parliamentary Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHP</td>
<td>Regional Housing Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>RYCO</td>
<td>Regional Youth Co-operation Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALW</td>
<td>Small arms and light weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCA</td>
<td>Stockpiles of conventional ammunition</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIPRI</td>
<td>Stockholm International Peace Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMM</td>
<td>Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSG/R</td>
<td>Security sector governance and reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCG</td>
<td>Trilateral Contact Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNTD</td>
<td>Transnational Threats Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAV</td>
<td>Unmanned Aerial Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCTC</td>
<td>United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environmental Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCAP</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOCT</td>
<td>United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UXO</td>
<td>Unexploded Ordnance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YDEAS</td>
<td>Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups in the Western Balkans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Unified budget

#### THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Unified Budget</th>
<th>2018 Expenditure</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Secretariat</td>
<td>41,164.000</td>
<td>40,934.932</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights</td>
<td>16,279.300</td>
<td>16,160.736</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Commissioner on National Minorities</td>
<td>3,466.300</td>
<td>3,401.189</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative on Freedom of the Media</td>
<td>1,519.800</td>
<td>1,492.296</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for the Secretariat and Institutions</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,429.400</strong></td>
<td><strong>61,989.153</strong></td>
<td><strong>45%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS

**South-Eastern Europe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Expenditure</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission in Kosovo</td>
<td>17,414.300</td>
<td>17,071.815</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>11,647.200</td>
<td>11,624.573</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Serbia</td>
<td>6,238.000</td>
<td>6,228.043</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence in Albania</td>
<td>2,917.900</td>
<td>2,887.879</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Skopje</td>
<td>6,483.400</td>
<td>6,465.743</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Montenegro</td>
<td>2,146.200</td>
<td>1,597.780</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for South-Eastern Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,847.000</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,875.831</strong></td>
<td><strong>34%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Eastern Europe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Expenditure</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Moldova</td>
<td>2,263.900</td>
<td>2,057.281</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine</td>
<td>3,598.800</td>
<td>3,386.341</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>5,078</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Eastern Europe</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,868.200</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,448.700</strong></td>
<td><strong>4%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Caucasus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Expenditure</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-Level Planning Group</td>
<td>246.500</td>
<td>190.130</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Minsk Process</td>
<td>911.200</td>
<td>366.553</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Representative of the CI on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference</td>
<td>1,241.300</td>
<td>1,070.774</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Caucasus</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,399.000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,627.456</strong></td>
<td><strong>2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Central Asia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Expenditure</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme Office in Astana</td>
<td>2,225.600</td>
<td>2,173.699</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre in Ashgabat</td>
<td>1,655.400</td>
<td>1,648.514</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Office in Bishkek</td>
<td>6,797.400</td>
<td>6,697.391</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan</td>
<td>2,293.400</td>
<td>2,241.554</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Office in Dushanbe</td>
<td>7,285.900</td>
<td>6,876.740</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Central Asia</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,257.600</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,637.898</strong></td>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total for OSCE Field Operations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Unified Budget</th>
<th>2018 Expenditure</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>75,371.800</strong></td>
<td><strong>72,589.885</strong></td>
<td><strong>55%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Unified Budget</th>
<th>2018 Expenditure</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>137,801.200</strong></td>
<td><strong>134,579.038</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Unified budget excludes the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk.
* The 2018 OSCE Unified budget was approved by the Permanent Council Decision 1288.
## Contributions by participating States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTICIPATING STATE</th>
<th>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS 2018 UNIFIED BUDGET (€)</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>88,722</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>88,722</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>45,035</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>3,180,380</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>45,035</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>194,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>4,607,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>360,149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>7,469,258</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>198,181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>198,181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>666,139</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>2,854,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>126,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>2,652,739</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>14,268,610</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>45,035</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>15,040,261</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy See</td>
<td>88,722</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>651,794</td>
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<td>Iceland</td>
<td>182,271</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>14,268,610</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>257,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>45,035</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>130,562</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>88,722</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>130,562</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>472,662</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>92,700</td>
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<td>Moldova</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
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<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>45,035</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2,840,835</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1,621,661</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1,016,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>444,960</td>
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<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<td>San Marino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>4,599,997</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>3,800,617</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>45,035</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
<td>88,722</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,184,958</td>
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<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>45,035</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>507,470</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>14,268,610</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>17,835,928</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>243,649</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gap in scales</td>
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<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>137,801,200</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Extrabudgetary pledges and expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DONOR</th>
<th>APPROVED PLEDGE AMOUNT (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANDORRA</td>
<td>10,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRIA</td>
<td>486,970,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELARUS</td>
<td>5,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELGIUM</td>
<td>25,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CZECH REPUBLIC</td>
<td>109,780,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>604,064,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESTONIA</td>
<td>2,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPEAN UNION</td>
<td>650,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINLAND</td>
<td>543,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMANY</td>
<td>5,013,674,37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUNGARY</td>
<td>50,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICELAND</td>
<td>23,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRELAND</td>
<td>96,400,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td>5,503,008,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAPAN</td>
<td>907,180,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAZAKHSTAN</td>
<td>60,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATVIA</td>
<td>30,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIECHTENSTEIN</td>
<td>145,225,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITHUANIA</td>
<td>35,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUXEMBOURG</td>
<td>150,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONACO</td>
<td>15,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
<td>1,216,598,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>8,082,448,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>123,273,13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOVAKIA</td>
<td>348,002,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOVENIA</td>
<td>5,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH KOREA</td>
<td>89,760,72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE (SECI)</td>
<td>25,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>10,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>350,895,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWITZERLAND</td>
<td>2,941,934,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THAILAND</td>
<td>500,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td>50,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>26,400,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED KINGDOM</td>
<td>1,000,374,23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN</td>
<td>155,221,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS</td>
<td>1,288,169,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
<td>10,800,377,55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>40,858,504,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Extrabudgetary pledges to and expenditure for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine are included.
## EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Approved Pledge Amount (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>11,814,726.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat Unallocated Funds*</td>
<td>3,602,084.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODIHR</td>
<td>4,869,793.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCNM</td>
<td>1,507,751.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative on Freedom of the Media</td>
<td>958,466.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission in Kosovo</td>
<td>330,530.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>1,106,257.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Serbia</td>
<td>587,644.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence in Albania</td>
<td>3,296,240.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Skopje</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Moldova</td>
<td>763,759.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine</td>
<td>1,507,972.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Office in Astana</td>
<td>200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre in Ashgabat</td>
<td>211,309.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Office in Bishkek</td>
<td>210,196.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan</td>
<td>445,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Office in Dushanbe</td>
<td>3,124,189.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine</td>
<td>5,972,587.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,858,504.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unallocated extra-budgetary contributions are funds provided by donors to the OSCE without allocating contributions to a specific extra-budgetary project at the time of acceptance.

## EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Actual Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>9,199,357.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODIHR</td>
<td>5,488,220.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCNM</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative on Freedom of the Media</td>
<td>510,401.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission in Kosovo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>1,469,232.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Serbia</td>
<td>1,244,656.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence in Albania</td>
<td>431,747.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission to Skopje</td>
<td>414,379.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission to Montenegro</td>
<td>309,530.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission to Moldova</td>
<td>168,745.43</td>
</tr>
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<td>Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine</td>
<td>2,193,495.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre in Ashgabat</td>
<td>835,635.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Office in Bishkek</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan</td>
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<td>Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine</td>
<td>7,654,638.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,010,035.24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statistics of OSCE seconded and contracted fixed-term staff as at 31 December 2018* (including staff financed from extrabudgetary contributions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Contracted Mission in Kosovo</th>
<th>Seconded Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina</th>
<th>Contracted Mission to Skopje</th>
<th>Contracted Mission to Serbia</th>
<th>Contracted Mission to Montenegro</th>
<th>Contracted Mission to Albania</th>
<th>Contracted PR CO Minister Conference</th>
<th>Contracted Mission to Moldova</th>
<th>Contracted Pacific Co-ordinator in Phnom Penh</th>
<th>Contracted Programme Office in Bishkek</th>
<th>Contracted Centre in Ashgabat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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| Total number of staff | 457 | 327 | 149 | 137 | 31 | 82 | 17 | 50 | 87 | 27 | 29 |

*Includes staff in posts as at 31 December 2018 financed from the Unified budget and extrabudgetary contributions.
| Nationality | Contracted in Bishkek | Seconded | Contracted in Pristina | Seconded | Contracted in Skopje | Seconded | Contracted in CEC Office | Seconded | Contracted in Programme Monitoring Mission in Kosovo | Seconded | Contracted in Special Monitoring Mission in Bishkek | Seconded | Contracted in Special Monitoring Mission in Cluj-Napoca | Seconded | Contracted in Special Monitoring Mission at the UN Headquarters and in Bonn | Seconded | Contracted in Secretariat | Seconded | Contracted in ODIHR | Seconded | Totals for field operations | Contracted | Seconded | Contracted | Seconded | Contracted | Seconded | Contracted | Seconded | Contracted | Seconded | Totals for Secretariat & Institutions |
|-------------|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Uzbekistan  | 1                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| United Kingdom | 5                     | 3        | 1                       | 3        | 2                     | 1        | 1                         | 1        |                                |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Ukraine      | 1                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Turkey       | 1                      | 2        |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| the former Yugoslav Republic of | 1          |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                             |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Tajikistan   | 1                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Switzerland  |                        |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Sweden       | 3                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Spain        | 1                      | 1        | 2                       | 1        |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Romania      | 2                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Poland       | 2                      | 3        | 2                       | 1        |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Norway       | 1                      | 1        |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Montenegro   | 1                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Mongolia     |                        |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Moldova      | 2                      | 1        | 1                       | 2        | 1                     |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Lithuania    |                        |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Kyrgyzstan   | 2                      | 1        | 2                       |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Iceland      |                        |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Germany      | 7                      | 1        | 1                       | 3        | 1                     |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Georgia      | 2                      | 1        | 1                       |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| France       | 1                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Estonia      | 1                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Canada       | 2                      | 2        | 1                       | 1        |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Bulgaria     | 2                      | 1        | 1                       | 1        |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 10        | 3        | 1                       | 1        |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Austria      | 1                      | 2        | 1                       | 1        |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Albania      | 3                      |          |                         |          |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Nationality  | 1                      | 3        | 1                       | 2        |                       |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Nationality  | 10                     | 22       | 3                       | 9        | 2                     |          |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Nationality  | 75                     | 134      | 25                      | 416      | 0                     | 1.179    |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |
| Nationality  | 85                     | 156      | 28                      | 1.309    | 21                    | 2.992    |                            |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                                 |          |                               |          |                              |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |          |                               |

**ANNEXES**

**Staff**

**TOTALS**

- **HCNM**: 1.493
- **ODIR**: 3.605
Cover photo: Students get ready to search for the "Hidden Treasure" as part of the "United in Krusevo" seminar, a multi-ethnic initiative for high school students to learn media literacy, youth engagement, and human rights skills. Krusevo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 19 September 2018. (OSCE/Mihajlo Lahtov)