

Chairmanship

The Bulgarian Chairmanship's objective for 2004 is to implement the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, the new Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, and to further implement relevant documents

"The challenge for the OSCE Chair in the coming year is to further address the threats to security and stability and to further promote the basic principles and values that unite us. The Bulgarian Chairmanship in 2004 is prepared to work together with all participating States to provide continuity in the achievement of these major goals".

From the message of Dr. SOLOMON PASSY, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and OSCE Chairmanship-Office

broader context, so as to encompass training in human rights, good governance, institution-building, and other related activities.

Political Dimension

Addressing drugs trafficking

One key priority for the OSCE and for Kazakhstan is to effectively prevent and combat drugs trafficking. In this respect, the Centre, together with the Kazakhstani Institute for Strategic Studies (KISI), held an international conference addressing the problems of drugs trafficking in Central Asia, which took place in Almaty on 19 December. During the conference, participants discussed a wide range of issues related to drug production and trafficking. Their findings will be published in journals issued by KISI and widely distributed. A follow-up conference is anticipated in spring 2004.



Civil Society and Good Governance

The Centre, together with the Centre for the Support of Democracy, implemented a project on improving **civil administrative technologies** in the Almaty region. Four trainings for more than 120 representatives of local government/representative bodies and NGOs were held in Taldykorgan, Usharal and Tekeli. Participants were provided with qualified advice on legislative issues, human rights concerns, and means of interaction between NGOs and local authorities. At the conclusion, a manual on the interaction between civil society and local government was published in both Russian and Kazakh.

Following the implementation of a **civic lobbying project** in several regions of Kazakhstan, the Centre sponsored the "Echo" NGO to hold trainings in Semey (Semipalatinsk), Karagandy and Oskemen (Ust-Kamenogorsk). The project should enable active citizens to lobby their parliamentary representatives more efficiently on a wide variety of issues.



A training of trainers in **'The Youth Vote'** was also implemented on 15-18 December by the youth NGO "Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan", with financial support from the Centre. The aim was to involve Kazakhstani youth in more active participation in the public and political life of the country. The Centre continued its activities in the field of civic education and youth training in December. A pilot project

entitled **'I Vote for the First Time'** was implemented by the Zhambyl regional public association "Elections 2000", aimed at heightening the civic involvement of young people by educating them on electoral processes and legislation.

Upcoming events of the OSCE Centre in Almaty

- "Lawyer's professional skills - practical studies" Competition announced
- Training for youth journalists in Atyrau
- Launch of the project on ecological education

Important Meetings

In December, the Centre held a number of high-level meetings with relevant Kazakhstani ministries to discuss co-operation on projects for 2004. The meetings were, on the whole, productive and it is anticipated that most new projects will be implemented with the participation of state structures in the coming year.

Human Dimension

Rule of Law

On 5-6 December, the Centre together with the ODIHR organized an international conference on criminal proceedings in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The conference, taking place in Almaty, followed an extensive public discussion on the issue of transfer of sanction of arrest from the prosecutor's office to the courts. Currently, sanction arrests in Kazakhstan is the sole responsibility of the procurator.

Penitentiary System

On 13 December, the results of an OSCE-supported sociological monitoring on the observance of human rights of pre-trial prisoners were reviewed during a round table. The monitoring was undertaken in autumn 2003 by the "Civil Society Development Public Foundation" in an Almaty pre-trial detention facility and included interviews with staff, lawyers, and family members of the detainees. Lessons learned from this pilot event, together with the recommendations of the round table, will be used to further develop public monitoring in places of detention.

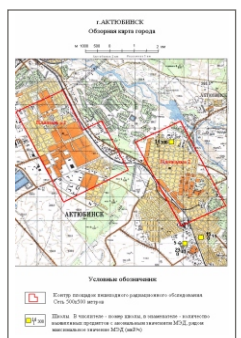
Juvenile delinquency

On December 18, the Kazakhstani Association of Criminologists, with support from the Centre and the ODIHR, organized a round table on problems related to the legal status of minors with deviant behavior. The round table gathered governmental representatives, non-government organizations, and Russian experts and discussed the role of state bodies in social work with children in need of special conditions, and the possibilities for legislative changes in the juvenile justice system of Kazakhstan.

Economic and Ecological Dimension

The Centre, together with the Forum of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan, conducted a three-day training seminar on 18-20 December for entrepreneurs to get more involved in the political decision-making process. Participants were trained on the basics of **interaction between businesses and local authorities**, public assessment of legislative acts, and the creation of coalitions of business associations. They also received a handbook in enterprise basics, specially designed for the seminar.

The Centre, together with Aktobe Regional Territorial Environmental Protection Administration under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Joint-Stock Company "Volkov Geology", commenced **radiological mapping** in the cities of Aktobe and Khromtau. As a result of the project, a serious radiological contamination was revealed, and the construction company that has built the road will be held criminally liable. The maps will be widely disseminated in order to raise general awareness on the issue and to stimulate grassroots initiatives on pollution prevention measures.



A group of 18 state officials, representatives of NGOs and businesses from Eastern-Kazakhstan oblast underwent **trainings on electronic government** and electronic democracy in the Estonian e-academy in Tallinn. The project, co-organized by the Centre, the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan, and the Estonian e-Government Academy gave participants the opportunity to see and learn how decisions are made with the use of modern IT technologies. They were also invited to the Estonian Parliament.

Upcoming Publications

- Materials of international conference "Criminal Proceedings Control in the Republic of Kazakhstan: Current Issues and Perspectives"
- Brochure "Wallet-book for convicts" (in Russian and Kazakh)
- Manual "Legal status of the suspects and defendants"