

OVERVIEW

The recent history of the Kyrgyz Republic has revealed a great political and social need for local police reform and the vital role of good policing in a democratic society.

At the request of both the Kyrgyz authorities and civil society, *The Police Assistance Programme for Kyrgyzstan (PAP)* was launched on August 7th, 2003 with a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the Kyrgyz Government.

This is the first police assistance programme in Central Asia developed with a detailed needs assessment conducted in 2002.

The mission of the Programme is to assist the Kyrgyz counterparts in preparing the ground for a comprehensive transformation of the Kyrgyz Police force into a modern organization serving the needs and protecting the rights of the Kyrgyz people.

The implementation of the PAP began on August 2003 and has been extended till September 2006. The activities implemented under the PAP have improved the operational efficiency of the Kyrgyz Police in the selected fields, built a strong basis for further cooperation between the OSCE and the Ministry of the Interior, and created a basis for continued police assistance through *the Interim Police Assistance Programme (IPAP)*.

The IPAP represents the second phase of the Programme and builds on the assets and lessons learnt during the implementation of the PAP. The IPAP began on June 2005 and will continue until December 2006. The main goals of the IPAP are to address the immediate public security needs and to continue developing the legal and institutional framework for substantive police reform.

The ongoing Programme activities comprise the implementation of the Police Assistance Programme and the Interim Police Assistance Programme and lay a strong foundation for initiating *comprehensive police reform* by the Kyrgyz authorities through the provision of technical assistance and managerial support from the OSCE and donor-countries.

The goal of the reform is to create a Kyrgyz Police service, which meets standards for democratic policing and human rights, is accountable to the society and responsive to the needs of the population.



PREPARING POLICE REFORM

At a workshop held in Bishkek on February 15, 2006 attended by the OSCE, countries-donors and local NGOs, the Minister of the Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic Murat Sutalinov presented his vision of the police reform (based on the Concept of Police Reform signed by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2005).

Along with the vision of the reform to be implemented from 2007 to 2010, the Minister Sutalinov spoke of ***Human Rights, Improving Legislation, Training and Education, the Police Management System, and Fighting Organized Crime as priority reform directions for the year 2006.***

These directions will be discussed in more detail during the second round of the workshop in July 2006. At present, a group of international experts is advising the Ministry of the Interior about the police reform process which will be facilitated through continuous cooperation of the Kyrgyz Government with the civil society, the OSCE and other stakeholders.

