



OSCE Mission to Moldova Factsheet

Why a field operation in Moldova?

In spring 1992, following the break-up of the Soviet Union, a conflict escalated between the Transdniestrian authorities and the central government in Chisinau. Violent clashes resulted in several hundred casualties. More than 100,000 persons were displaced temporarily. A ceasefire was agreed in July 1992 and the parties committed themselves to negotiate a settlement to the conflict.

In 1993, the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (now the OSCE) established a Mission in Moldova to support efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The OSCE Mission to Moldova is present on both sides of the Dniestr/Nistru River with its main office in Chisinau and branch offices in Tiraspol and Bender.

The OSCE Mission to Moldova aims to assist in negotiating a lasting political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict, to consolidate the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, and to reach an understanding on a special status for Transdniestria. The Mission engages in diplomacy – mostly silent – to foster dialogue and defuse tensions.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 57 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference. The OSCE's field operations are established at the invitation of the host countries and agreed by the 57 participating States.

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is a precondition for lasting security, and the Mission works to strengthen human and minority rights, democratization, rule of law and media freedom. Promoting gender equality and combating human trafficking are also vital parts of the Mission's work. The Mission assists Moldova in its efforts to fulfill its OSCE commitments and, by doing so, it helps strengthen security.

Conflict resolution and negotiation

The resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict is the most important and challenging task for the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Settlement negotiations

The Mission facilitates direct meetings between the two parties and works together with them and the mediators and observers in the multilateral settlement process. The negotiations aim to find a lasting political settlement of the conflict.

Since 1993, the Mission, together with the other mediators,

has presented proposals on a final settlement and brokered agreements on confidence-building measures. The Mission has held several conferences at which foreign, Moldovan and Transdniestrian experts discussed confidence-building in a number of areas and various approaches to a final settlement.

Official negotiations were broken off in February, 2006. After that, the Mission led efforts to ensure that 5+2 meetings



continued on an informal basis, that they were a forum for substantive negotiations despite their informal nature, and that confidence was built between the sides to allow the renewal of official negotiations. The Mission facilitated the opening of a direct channel between the political representatives of the sides and other channels to resolve real problems and build confidence. On 22 September 2011 the efforts of the Mission and other mediators and observers were rewarded with a formal decision to renew official negotiations in the 5+2 format.

Building confidence

In 2008, the Mission broadened work to build confidence between the sides with the start of meetings of expert working groups on social and economic issues of mutual concern, including issues of law enforcement and civil status. The Mission facilitates these meetings, which include representatives of both sides. The Mission is instrumental in attempts to establish a dialogue on education issues.

Arms control and disarmament

At the 1999 OSCE Summit in Istanbul, heads of state from the OSCE participating States expanded the Mission to Moldova's mandate to include ensuring transparency of the removal and destruction of Russian ammunition and armaments, and to co-ordinate financial and technical assistance to facilitate their withdrawal and destruction.

In 2000 and 2001, the Russian Federation withdrew by rail 141 self-propelled artillery and other armoured vehicles and

What is the 5+2?

Negotiations and talks held in the 5+2 format aim to find a final, comprehensive, durable settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. The format comprises the sides, mediators and observers in the negotiation process: the Republic of Moldova, Transnistria, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the OSCE, the United States and the European Union.

destroyed locally 108 T-64 tanks and 139 other pieces of military equipment limited by the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). During 2002 and 2003 Russian military officials destroyed a further 51 armoured vehicles, all of which were types not limited by the CFE Treaty.

The Mission observed and verified the withdrawal of 11 trains carrying that part of the military equipment which was withdrawn and 37 trains loaded with more than 22,000 tons of ammunition. However, no withdrawals have taken place since March 2004 and 20,000 tons of ammunition and some military equipment remain in Moldova.

Another focus of the Mission's arms control work is promoting military transparency and increasing trust between the parties to the conflict. The OSCE Mission also works closely with the Moldovan Ministry of Defense to support its efforts to use best practices in the management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, promoting regional stability and non-proliferation.

Human rights and democratization

The OSCE Mission advises authorities in Moldova on human rights and democratization issues, including measures to combat torture and ill-treatment and on electoral reform, the promotion of rule of law, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and minority and language rights. The Mission monitors Moldova's legal reforms in the field of human rights and rule of law, provides expertise on draft legislation and follows the implementation closely.



Moldovan schools in Transnistria

In 2004, a crisis erupted when Transnistrian authorities took actions against eight schools in Transnistria that are operated by central Moldovan authorities and that use a Moldovan curriculum. Since this crisis, the Mission has been monitoring the functioning of the Moldovan-administered schools and mediates between central and Transnistrian education authorities to find solutions for outstanding issues and to prevent the emergence of new crises.

Promotion of the rights of detainees

The Mission monitors efforts by the government and civil society to prevent and address torture and degrading treatment in places of detention. The Mission provides expertise and support on improving legislation and institutional practices, and conducts monitoring visits at places of detention on both banks of the Dniestr/Nistru. The Mission focuses particularly on strengthening the role and capacity of civil society to monitor places of detention. The Mission supported the government's efforts to establish and develop a National Prevention Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. The Mechanism was adopted in 2007.

The Mission manages projects to strengthen the capacity of foren-

sic and medical experts in places of detention on both banks of the Dniestr/Nistru and it organizes workshops that prepare juvenile detainees in Transnistria for social reintegration after their release. In addition, it supports free legal assistance on human rights-related issues in the region.

Judicial reform

The Mission supports the national authorities' efforts to reform the judiciary in line with international standards. It monitors the judiciary to strengthen its independence and assess compliance with fair trial standards.

As part of its contribution to the criminal justice reform process, the Mission has supported analysis of rulings against Moldova by the European Court of Human Rights to derive lessons, and it follows and reports on all such cases. The Mission also supports work to improve Moldova's prosecution system.

Electoral reform

In co-operation with OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Mission provides advice and expertise to support work to improve national and regional electoral legislation.

Freedom of the media

Freedom of expression and freedom of the media are human rights. The OSCE Mission to Moldova follows the media situation on both banks of the River Dniestr/Nistru. The Mission reports its concerns and observations regularly to the OSCE participating States and to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

The Mission monitors the broadcasting reform in Moldova to increase the transparency of the Broadcasting Regulatory Agency and to assist the transformation of the state broadcaster into a genuine public service broadcaster. The Mission also follows and reviews developments in media legislation. The Mission supports training of journalists, including at the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism, which was created in 2006 to improve professionalism in the Moldovan media.

In 2007, the Mission began financing scholarships to support journalism students from Transnistria and Gagauzia, an autonomous region in southern Moldova. The Mission and the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media jointly conduct training seminars for journalists and media managers from across Moldova to promote access to information, media self-regulation and professional and sustainable internet media.



Anti-trafficking and gender equality

The Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme is part of the Mission's work to promote democratization and human rights.

Combating trafficking in human beings and domestic violence

The OSCE Mission to Moldova conducts training seminars for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, the police and social workers to build capacity to combat human trafficking, domestic violence and the sexual abuse of children on the Internet.

The Mission provides expertise to state bodies on combating human trafficking and domestic violence. It has provided legal expertise on key legislation, including the Law to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and the Law to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence.

The Mission conducts campaigns and theatre performances to raise awareness in rural areas about the risks, causes and consequences of human trafficking and domestic violence.

The Mission has helped set up a hotline and counseling services for victims of domestic violence. It has helped the Child Ombudsperson's office set up a hotline and counseling services for child victims of sexual abuse.

The Mission is helping create a coalition of men and boys who speak out against violence against women and who provide counseling and rehabilitation services for perpetrators of domestic violence. In addition, the Mission supports the anti-trafficking and gender network website www.atnet.md and the publication of updated legislative compilations, manuals and other publications for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, children and migrating parents on anti-trafficking and gender issues.

Gender equality and non-discrimination

The OSCE promotes equal opportunities for women and men. The OSCE Mission to Moldova works to empower women and increase their participation in political life and the security sector.

The Mission co-operates with the Moldovan authorities in reviewing legislation to ensure equality between women and men, and it, together with the OSCE/ODIHR has been supporting the authorities' work to develop comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international standards.

Would you like to know more?

For further information, please visit the Mission's website at www.osce.org/moldova, where you can find official OSCE documents, including reports, declarations, reviews and press releases.

OSCE Mission to Moldova
75 Alexei Mateevici Street
MD-2009, Chisinau
Moldova

Tel: +373 22 22 34 95
Fax: +373 22 22 34 96
E-mail: moldova@osce.org

osce.org/moldova
facebook.com/OSCEMoldova

facebook.com/osce.org
youtube.com/osce
twitter.com/osce