



ODIHR e-newsletter

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights July/August 2006

Project news: Anti-trafficking

A new 18-month project was launched in July to enhance identification and assistance to victims of trafficking in Georgia, with a focus on the Adjara region.

The report from the 7th meeting of OSCE anti-trafficking focal points, hosted by the ODIHR in Warsaw in May, is also now available.

Report: meeting of anti-trafficking focal points

Upcoming election observation missions

Montenegro parliamentary elections: mission opens 8 August

Bosnia and Herzegovina general elections: mission opens 14 August

Latest reports

- [Needs assessment mission report for](#)

- **Roma political participation**

The 3-year joint ODIHR-European Commission project "Roma, use your ballot wisely!" aimed at increasing the political participation of Roma communities in South-Eastern Europe concluded at the end of June.



Further information

- **Meeting on freedom of the media**

A conference on the *Protection of Journalists and Access to Information* was held in Vienna, 13-14 July. Speeches and other documents are available on the conference website.

Conference website

- **OSCE meeting on tolerance**

The first OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on *Promoting Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Understanding* took place in Almaty, 12-13 June.

The event was preceded by an NGO preparatory meeting on 11 June organized by the ODIHR and attended by 150 civil society representatives. Recommendations produced at this meeting were presented in a keynote speech during the opening plenary of the Tolerance Implementation Meeting by Ms. Ninel Fokina, Chair of the Almaty Helsinki Committee.

Recommendations from the NGO preparatory meeting

- **Hate crime police training programme launched in Croatia**

Croatia has become the first country in South-Eastern Europe to join the ODIHR's Law Enforcement Officer Programme on Combating Hate Crime. The programme was piloted last year in Hungary and Spain.



[the parliamentary elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

- [Preliminary findings on the parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)
- [US mid-term elections: needs assessment mission report](#)
- [Final report on the Ukrainian parliamentary elections](#)
- [Final report on the Italian parliamentary elections](#)
- [Final report on the partial repeat parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan](#)

Quick links

- [ODIHR homepage](#)
- [Elections homepage](#)
- [Legislationline](#)

[More about the project](#)

• [Women's NGO Coalition meets in Georgia](#)

A conference on the *Increased Participation of Women in Democratic Processes* was held on 22-23 June jointly by the Women's NGO Coalition of Georgia and the ODIHR Democratization Department.

The conference marked five years of the Coalition's work in promoting greater opportunities for women to participate in decision-making processes at local and national levels. Representatives of the Georgian government attended, as well as members of the ODIHR NGO Expert Panel on Gender Equality from Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

Members of the Coalition's Working Group on Media also organized the fourth annual International Journalists' Conference in Tbilisi, 1-3 July, with the support of the ODIHR.

• [Roundtable on freedom of assembly](#)

A roundtable on *Legislation Regulating or Affecting the Freedom of Assembly in Selected European States* took place in Belgrade on 28 June, followed on 29 June by the third working session of the Expert Panel on the Freedom of Assembly.



The roundtable brought together civil servants, government officials, lawyers, and human rights activists from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia.

In addition to spontaneous demonstrations and counter-demonstrations, a recurrent concern across the OSCE region, participants highlighted stewarding services and related liability issues, formalization of definitions of organizers and participants, blanket prohibition of assemblies in designated areas, and the transparency of the decision-making process.

• [Report on Human Dimension Seminar now available](#)

In line with the priorities of the 2006 OSCE Belgian Chairmanship, the theme of the ODIHR's annual Human Dimension Seminar in May was *Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in Criminal Justice Systems*. The consolidated summary of this meeting is now available.

During the seminar, the ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking Unit hosted a side event on *Criminal Justice and the Trafficking Victim*. The [final report](#) of this event is also available.

[Consolidated Summary](#)

- **Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

The ODIHR's annual two-week conference, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, which brings together OSCE delegations and NGOs from across the OSCE region, will take place on 2-13 October in Warsaw. The agenda and registration information are available on the conference website.

[Conference website](#)

- **New translations**

- Election observation booklet (Dutch and French)
- 2005 Annual Report (Russian)



[Download publications](#)

- **New Special Advisor to the ODIHR Director**

Dr. Bernhard Knoll (Austria) joined the ODIHR in July as a Special Advisor to Ambassador Strohal. He has previously worked for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and for the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

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