



**working together for democracy,  
human rights, rule of law and security**

## NEWSLETTER /// 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020



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Gender-Based Violence  
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for free and fair local elections  
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### Head of Mission



**Ambassador  
Henrik Villadsen**

### Staffing



**101 posts (UB and XB):**  
4 international and 97 local  
65 women / 36 men

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (the PCU) is mandated to plan, implement, and monitor projects that help Ukraine enhance its security and develop its legislation, institutions, and practices in line with democratic standards. The goal is to support the country in adapting legislation, structures, and processes to the requirements of a modern democracy built on a secure environment for its people.

This newsletter provides a brief overview of the Co-ordinator's efforts to support ongoing reforms, promote dialogue and help the country meet crisis-related challenges.

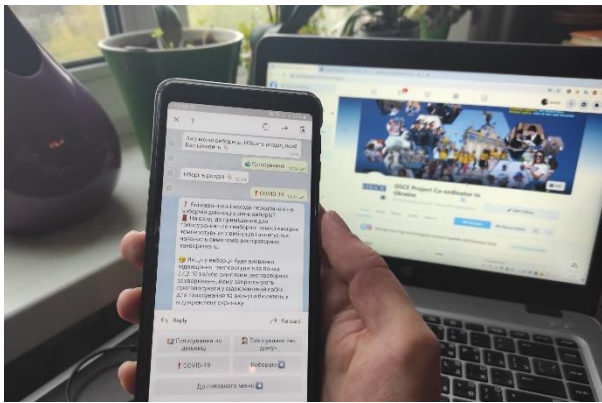
**Newsletter Source:**



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# DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

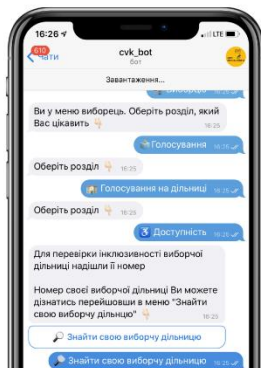


## ELECTIONS

**7 October 2020.** Where do I vote at local elections on 25 October? What are the safety measures due to COVID-19? Can I go observe elections?

As of 7 October 2020, a chatbot called “CEC about elections”, became available for election commissioners on the ground, candidates and ordinary voters who would like to get immediate information on various aspects of the upcoming local elections in Ukraine. The chatbot is an artificial intelligence-based application, developed with the support of the OSCE PCU for the country's Central Election Commission. The chatbot provides responses tailored to the users' needs on a wide range of questions and is available via Telegram with a Facebook Messenger version. [To learn more](#)

**13 October 2020.** Decentralization, new territorial division, new powers of local officials to be elected, new electoral laws – there are so many questions that could have arisen prior to voting day, 25 October 2020. The OSCE PCU supported a number of efforts, aimed at closing knowledge gaps of voters, election administration personnel, parties and candidates, notably: the PCU supported 288 information meetings held in communities across the country starting from October; Chatbot “the CEC on Elections” presented for Telegram and Facebook Messenger; print and audiovisual materials distributed and offered to media. [To learn more](#)



**13 October 2020.** Due to the decentralization reform, the elected local self-government will have more resources and more responsibilities in their communities. It is important for voters to be fully aware of all these changes. Also, recently changed electoral legislation creates need for many participants of electoral processes to upgrade their knowledge on various aspects of elections. This page accumulates materials produced with the support of the OSCE PCU to help close possible awareness gaps in advance of voting day. [To learn more](#)

**21 October 2020.** Instruments of electronic cabinet for territorial election commission (EC TEC) are illustrated by the training video on generating template of protocol for precinct election commission, developed and published by OSCE PCU. More than a third of territorial election commissions use electronic cabinet for the TEC – a digital tool developed with the support of the OSCE PCU to help facilitate administrative workload during election administration.

The published video was a training material aimed at illustrating automatization of the workload based on an example of generating one of the documents – template of precinct election commission protocol. It is only one of many other options of the TEC E-cabinet. [To learn more](#)

**4 November 2020.** As everyone was waiting impatiently to learn local elections official results, this now could be easily done through the chatbot “CEC on Elections”, developed with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator. Voters just need to press the button “Results” in the chatbot menu, select their community and learn about results for all types of elections that were held in their community on 25 October. [To learn more](#)





# DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



## CIVIL SOCIETY

**9-30 October 2020.** The OSCE PCU in partnership with the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Office of the President of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine organized a series of regional online discussions "Developing a New National Strategy to Promote the Development of Civil Society in Ukraine".

These online events enabled nation-wide discussions of the draft National Strategy document developed by the working group created for this purpose. It also helped to identify key priorities in promoting the civil society development, which should subsequently turn into action points for implementation in the nearest future. [To learn more](#)

**11 November 2020.** Public consultations help produce decisions that take into account real needs and issues of people, it's a tool to correctly identify both the problem and ways to solve it. While these approaches already legally embedded into current normative regulations but adoption of a comprehensive framework law can expand and streamline practice of use of public consultations, make it a universal instrument of policy-making.

On 23 October 2020 the Government of Ukraine approved and submitted for the Parliament's review a Draft Law on Public Consultations, that was prepared with expert support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator of Ukraine. This support included rounds of discussions with involvement of civil society and state institutions. [To learn more](#)



## DIALOGUE

**3 October 2020.** 18 communities of the government-controlled area of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts were not to elect their leaders in fall 2020, and the decision to postpone the elections required clarification and dialogue between the respective authorities and local representatives. That is why, to strengthen mutual understanding of the parties, dialogue round tables were held on 29 September in Severodonetsk and on 30 September in Kramatorsk at the request of the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development and oblast authorities. [To learn more](#)

**19 October 2020.** Dialogue is a useful tool both for resolving hot conflicts, but also for strengthening teamwork in the process of implementing reforms. On 17-18 October 2020, twenty-one representative of top management of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and subordinated organizations upgraded their skills at the training conducted by the OSCE PCU. [To learn more](#)

**12-26 November 2020.** On 11 November 2020 the OSCE PCU together with the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service and Ukrainian School of Governance launched a general short-term advanced training program for civil servants "Civil Service Culture" within the project "Facilitating Dialogue on Reforms in Ukraine". [To learn more](#)



**30 December 2020.** "It's just a must have for both reforms experts and civil servants", - commented one of the participants of the Supervisory Programme for Facilitators of Group Discussions in the Field of Education, which the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine conducted in November-December 2020 for 15 representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The training part of the programme consisted of three modules on the basics of dialogue and conflict management, communication competencies of a facilitator and skills of working with groups. [To learn more](#)

# DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



## MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

**6 October 2020.** As decentralization is changing administrative landscape of the country, local communities are getting more resources and more responsibility to take care of their own wellbeing. These new realities make it even more important to ensure that local media are economically independent and are able to inform citizens of all aspects of community life.

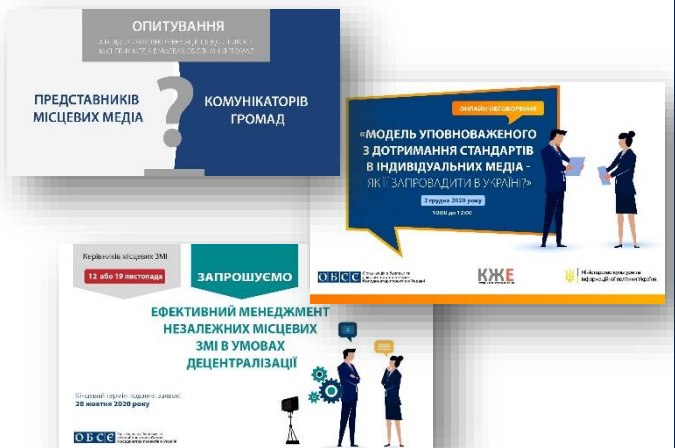
To assess impact of decentralization processes on media and propose measures to address arising issues, the OSCE PCU conducts a survey among local media of all forms of ownership and among representatives of the amalgamated communities' communications departments. The purpose of the survey is to collect and analyse data on the functioning of local media during the decentralization process, to study the specifics of their interaction with partners, especially amalgamated communities, to clarify the current situation in the local media, and to identify the most effective ways to support them. [To learn more](#)

**6 October 2020.** Ukrainian journalists have a rather critical view on how professional standards are observed by the country's media community, though they have a more positive opinion on the quality of their own work. The published infographics provide summary of their responses on what they think about how their outlets do in meeting the journalistic standards versus how they assess the situation in media in general. The respondents were asked to assess how the following professional benchmarks are met: Truthfulness; Accuracy; Completeness of information provided; Clear distinction between facts and views; Balanced coverage; and Operative coverage.

The data were part of findings of research, performed on request of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in order to identify ways of strengthening self-regulation in media as a tool of ensuring higher standards of journalism. [To learn more](#)

**12-20 November 2020.** The 3rd module of the School for Independent Regional Media, organized by OSCE PCU, was comprised of a series of four 1-day training events. It proved to be useful for representatives of regional media outlets that have recently changed the form of ownership from state or municipal to private and experience challenges related to the change of administrative-territorial organization (amalgamation of communities).

During the event, participants gained practical skills in effective management, got acquainted with the peculiarities of financial, legal, economic activities of local media in communities. [To learn more](#)



**2 December 2020.** The OSCE PCU together with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and the Commission on Journalism Ethics held an online discussion "Model of Press Ombudsperson/Media Ethics Focal Point in an Individual Media - How to Implement It in Ukraine?"

How to keep the loyalty of your audience in times of crisis? How to be a reliable source of information for the audience? These questions were discussed as well as a model of the Press Ombudsperson/Media Ethics Focal Point adapted to local realities as this approach could help strengthen communication with the audience, show real working tools of the audience's influence on the media and respond to complaints, as well as enhance audience's trust in reliability and worthiness of a media outlet. [To learn more](#)

**9-13 December 2020.** The OSCE PCU and the Aspen Institute in Kyiv organized a seminar "Media and Reality: Measurements of Responsibility" for active media community members. The event enabled to create a platform for dialogue between representatives of the media community on the importance of the media for democracy, civil society, good governance and conflict prevention practices, and the representation of community interests. [To learn more](#)

**9-13 December 2020.** OSCE PCU together with the State Committee for Television and Radio-Broadcasting of Ukraine organized an Online Presentation of Recommendations for Local and Regional Media. The event presented recommendations that were elaborated by a group of experts based on a comprehensive study of the processes taking place in newsrooms, factors influencing their work, challenges in interacting with communities in the process of decentralization. The study, performed in October-November 2020 included inter alia a survey of editors and managers of local media of all forms of ownership and all types. [To learn more](#)





# HUMAN SECURITY



## CYBERSECURITY

**1 October 2020.** According to Ukraine's Cyberpolice Department, the number of calls to their service centers has nearly doubled this year: more than 25 thousand calls have been registered between January and September as opposed to a little more than 13 thousand calls for the entire last year. Online fraud complaints are the most frequent reason (more than 16 thousand calls reported this year).

With this in mind, the Cyberpolice is preparing to transform its units into a more efficient and service-oriented entity that will be better able to take care of the protection of Ukrainian citizens from criminals in cyberspace. To facilitate this process, during the period of 14-30 September 2020 the OSCE PCU has delivered a series of 3-day trainings for Cyberpolice management aimed at strengthening their leadership and organizational skills, as well as at enhancing their ability to ensure teamwork and implement the service-oriented approach at work. [To learn more](#)



**18 December 2020.** The OSCE PCU provided 20 sets of laptops with appropriate software licenses to the Ukrainian School of Governance to enhance its capacity to provide for on-the-job trainings for civil servants. The School is an institution of postgraduate education under the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service, tasked to ensure quality trainings for officials in many spheres, but today's handover is its first outcome of partnership with the OSCE in developing and introducing educational programmes in cybersecurity and cyberhygiene. [To learn more](#)



## COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

**2 November 2020.** Training of law enforcement officers should be practical and reality-based to the extend possible. For the first time students of seven Ukrainian higher education institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs system mastered their skills in combating trafficking in human beings by passing a simulation exercise - a quest organized by the OSCE PCU in Dnipro on October 28-30, 2020. Twenty students split into three teams to compete in a detailed developed scenario based on real life cases with trained actors involved. [To learn more](#)



**2 December 2020.** On the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, commemorated today, it is worth mentioning that this year's pandemic also, unfortunately, increases the risks of trafficking in human beings. Deterioration of economic conditions, introduction of quarantine measures have led to the complete or partial loss of work for some of our citizens, forcing them to seek work abroad and sometimes accept quite risky offers. Attackers and fraudsters can use the opportunity and vulnerability of people to engage them in exploitation and trafficking through a variety of fraudulent schemes. OSCE PCU has developed an online QUIZ to understand if you are aware of the risks and dangers of employment abroad. [To learn more](#)



# HUMAN SECURITY



## GLOBAL CAMPAIGN “16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE”

The OSCE PCU joined the global campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” that runs from 25 November to 10 December every year. To support this UN initiative the PCU launched a public awareness raising campaign with the focus on domestic violence. [This page](#) accumulates resources that can be used by anyone willing to join the campaign.

**24 November 2020.** Before the actual launch of the global campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”, the PCU organized a pilot press-tour for a group of Ukrainian media representatives and influencers. The symbolic slogan of the press-tour ‘Mind the closing doors’ reflects the austerity of the problem of domestic violence in the context of the lockdowns with the increased risks that people are being left alone to deal with it. [To learn more](#)

**25 November 2020.** From the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on as part of the global campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” the OSCE PCU continued to actively raise awareness about the existing means of protection against all types of domestic violence.

According to the OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women, presented in 2019, around 67% of the interviewed Ukrainian women were subjected to psychological, physical or sexual violence at the hands of their partner or another person. [To learn more](#)

**26 November 2020.** Here are some useful contacts for getting help in Ukraine if you suffer from domestic violence or witness such incidents. [To learn more](#)

**27 November 2020.** The pandemic along with strict lockdown restrictions raise the risks of domestic violence. During the first spring wave in April and May, the National Hotline by La Strada-Ukraine recorded a significant upsurge in calls of people asking for help.

As early as in April the OSCE PCU forwarded to the Ukrainian regional social services the posters on prevention of domestic violence risks for further dissemination, this information remains highly relevant now. [To learn more](#)

**1 December 2020.** We recalled a couple of key achievements of the OSCE PCU in combating domestic violence in recent years. [To learn more](#)

**28 November 2020.** The problem of domestic violence cannot be solved solely by introducing stricter liability measures or strengthening the law enforcement response. That is the reason the OSCE PCU joined the efforts together with psychologists and experts of the social services domain to develop and introduce a Standard Corrective Programme for Perpetrators. The main goal of the programme is to correct aggressive behaviours of abusers and to assist them in forming socially accepted norms, human values and non-violent patterns.

[To learn more](#)

**29 November 2020.** Those who experience psychological or economic violence at the hand of their partner and/or other family members rarely do seek help. They call 102 Hotline only when things significantly deteriorate and turn into physical abuse, but some refrain from asking for help even in that case. Violence starts as early as at the stage of psychological pressure, that is often disregarded or not acknowledged. We gathered a list of some of the signs indicating that the person in question suffers from psychological domestic violence. [To learn more](#)

**29 November 2020.** 2020 saw Ukrainian influencers, civic activists and bloggers keep joining initiatives to combat domestic violence. Together with the OSCE PCU they are sharing their personal stories and expressing their opinions about this important topic within the framework of the global campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence”. [To learn more](#)

**30 November 2020.** As part of the global campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” OSCE PCU would like to recall the signs that might be associated with domestic violence: physical, economic, psychological and sexual violence. [To learn more](#)

**11 December 2020.** Real help starts when you have somebody to call to if you face challenging situation. Domestic violence Hotline operators know perfectly well how to talk to those in desperate need of assistance. Anybody can find themselves in a situation when a friend, relative or co-worker could turn to you for help. We have gathered a list of advice from professional hotline operators on how to properly do the talking in such instances. [To learn more](#)



# RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



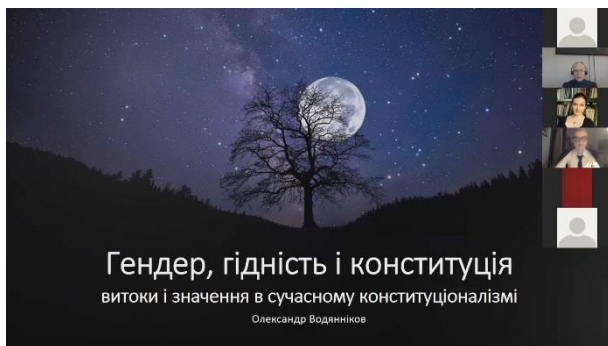
## CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

**9-11 November 2020.** 143 participants from 21 regions of Ukraine were able to study in-depth ways of practical application of the human dignity notion in the constitutional complaints argumentation and its correlation with the concept of gender equality at an online training organized by the OSCE PCU. The event was attended by representatives of legal clinics, NGOs and public authorities, lawyers, scholars and students.

It was the second one in a series of trainings on practical aspects of constitutional complaint and its gender dimension, conducted by the OSCE PCU. [To learn more](#)



**3-5 December 2020.** Participants of the advanced training on the practical aspects of drafting a constitutional complaint and its gender dimension, conducted by the OSCE PCU in the vicinity of Kyiv, had a chance to go through a number of practical case studies. The event brought together 18 participants from 10 regions of Ukraine – representatives of human rights NGOs, legal clinics, public authorities, lawyers, legal practitioners, and scientists. Next year, the OSCE PCU plans to continue conducting trainings on this topic, expanding the range of issues related to various fields of law that are raised by legal entities in constitutional complaints. [To learn more](#)



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE, ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

**16 October 2020.** There are 176 cases that are currently being reviewed by the High Anti-Corruption Court, and 20 persons already were sentenced after investigations conducted by the NABU and SAP agencies (anti-corruption bodies). These are the Court's statistics for its first year of operation. Efficiency of review of the corruption-related cases could be enhanced by forming a coherent practice, and the Court already has a portfolio of decisions on judicial control over investigations.

Furthermore, the Court can rely on existing practice of the European Court on Human Rights to make sure that its approaches are in line with international standards. To assist the Court in this, the OSCE PCU organised an event for 20 judges of the Court on 13-14 October 2020 to get insights into ECHR standards for privacy protection vs freedom of speech; access to fair justice and standards of law enforcement practice in provocation of bribe.

[To learn more](#)

**11-13 November 2020.** OSCE PCU in co-operation with the Ministry of Education of Ukraine and Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University organized Autumn School on Criminal Law "Criminal Law-Making Laboratory" for Universities' professors of Criminal Law. Prominent Ukrainian and international experts in the fields of Criminal Law were invited to conduct the School. [To learn more](#)



**17 December 2020.** OSCE PCU, jointly with the High Anticorruption Court, and V. Koretskyi Institute of State and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine held the 4th Kyiv Polilogue "Anticorruption Crisis in Ukraine: Origins, Outcomes and Lessons Learned". During the event, government officials, lawyers, academia and civil society representatives discussed the causes of the anti-corruption crisis in Ukraine, the role of constitutional justice in overcoming its consequences, and the problems of anti-corruption policy modernization. [To learn more](#)

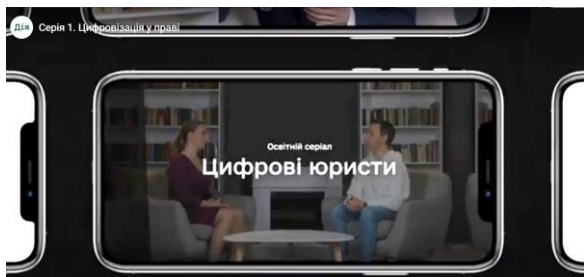
# RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



## LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

**7 November 2020.** Quality of higher education can be improved through the creation and development of internal quality assurance systems in universities. Such systems allow higher educational institutions to independently control the quality of their educational programmes, teaching and learning outcomes, as well as to focus the process of education on the real needs of students. Based on the OSCE PCU-supported survey data, the Draft Recommendations on Internal Quality Systems were developed and presented by the Project Co-ordinator to members of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance during a strategic planning session held on 28-30 October in Chernihiv oblast. [To learn more](#)

**15 December 2020.** Legal practitioners will be able to enhance understanding of possible use of technological innovations in their work thanks to an educational series of videos "Digital Lawyers", produced with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The series that is now available to viewers at "Diia.Digital Education" platform, consists of 4 episodes 5-8 minutes each. [To learn more](#)



**9-10 December 2020.** OSCE PCU jointly with the Council of Europe project "Further support for the execution by Ukraine of judgments in respect of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights" funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund, Supreme Court, the National School of Judges of Ukraine and Ivan Franko National University of Lviv held the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Forum on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The Annual Forum is a platform for all branches of state power in Ukraine, judges of the European Court of Human Rights, legal practitioners, academia, prominent think-tanks, and other experts in the field of human rights protection, to discuss important issues on the application of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and its impact on Ukraine. Since its first gathering in 2012, the Forum welcomed more than 2,000 offline and online participants. [To learn more](#)



**18 December 2020.** Law professors, law students, lawyers, management of law universities took part in the presentation of the educational course "Legal Research, Reasoning and Writing", organized by OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine jointly with the Ukrainian Catholic University.

This course is currently piloting for the first year's students of the bachelor programme in law of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Course's authors and teachers presented course's content and shared difficulties arising during development and implementation of such innovative legal discipline in Ukraine. Also, authors shared their early impressions and experience of legal argumentation teaching for the future legal professionals. [To learn more](#)





# ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



## MINE ACTION

**14 October 2020.** 736 explosive items were discovered in the area adjacent to railway station of Svitanok, Nizhyn rayon of Chernihiv oblast. Fuses and 82 mm projectiles are a remnant of a tragic World War 2 episode. On 14 October 1943 an echelon of Czech and Slovak soldiers was moving to assist in liberation of Kyiv from Nazis, but was bombed during a stop-over, 54 people died and significant amount of munitions was spilled from the train carriages. It took 5 days of intensive effort by a detachment of 6 deminers of State Special Transportation Service to find and safely remove the remnants of war that were buried in the ground near a functioning railway track, posing a potential threat to passengers of passing-by trains and local community.

The OSCE PCU assists the country's mine action agencies, including the SSTS, by providing training, demining and protective equipment, but also in developing laws and regulations needed for a comprehensive humanitarian demining system. Ambassador Henrik Villadsen attended the ceremony of commemoration of Czech and Slovak warriors on 12 October 2020 and also reviewed the outcomes of the humanitarian demining effort in Svitanok. [To learn more](#)

**26 October 2020.** As kids across Ukraine are enjoying autumn school recess these days, risks posed by explosive remnants of military action are especially acute for the conflict-affected areas of the country. In advance to vacations, in September and October the OSCE PCU delivered 22,700 colour books and 8000 diaries with mine risk education messages to Kramatorsk office of the Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories for further distribution in government-controlled areas of Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Part of these materials were donated directly by the PCU's mine action team during an explosive risks education lessons in Kramatorsk and Sloviansk schools. [To learn more](#)

**28 December 2020.** Clearing lands affected by conflict from explosive objects is an important part of ensuring safety of local residents. It is very costly and, therefore, important that mine action authorities, centres, agencies, training centres, and other relevant stakeholders do everything possible to deploy their resources and assets efficiently and effectively. The OSCE PCU jointly with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining organized an online training course on operational efficiency in mine action. [To learn more](#)



## CHEMICAL SECURITY

**2 October 2020.** The OSCE PCU started piloting of a newly developed recommended programme for rescuers dealing with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies. A group of 28 heads of regional CBRN response departments of the State Emergency Service and representatives of the National University of Civil Defence of Ukraine had a chance to improve their knowledge and skills by participating in the first part of this programme – a two-day training organized by the Co-ordinator. [To learn more](#)

**20 November 2020.** “A tragic mistake happens during reparation works on the production site. An oxygen cylinder explodes during welding works and a roof of a large warehouse of the fat plant is engulfed in flames. But what starts as a local emergency is rapidly becoming increasingly dangerous, as the plant stores sizable reserves of sulphur and ammonia – highly hazardous chemical substances used in production process”. This fictional however possible scenario was used for the table-top exercise for government agencies, organised by OSCE PCU on the platform of Lviv State University of Life Safety.

[To learn more](#)

**9 December 2020.** At a ceremony in Kyiv Ukraine's State Border Guard Service and State Customs Service received equipment and reference materials from the OSCE PCU as part of their efforts to strengthen the country's control over transboundary movement of chemicals. “No modern economy can exist now without active movement of chemical products across its borders. There are also growing risks of criminal activity in this sphere, be it a smuggling attempt or a planned terrorist activity with the use of controlled substances,” said Henrik Villadsen, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. [To learn more](#)



# ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



## CONTROL OVER SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**21 December 2020.** 570 items of weapons, both firearms and bladed weapons; 23.7 thousand ammunition items; 17.8 kilograms of explosives – these figures illustrate smuggling attempts foiled by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine in the 9 months of the current year only.

On 16-18 December 25 SBGS experts from different regions, including 6 women, attended online training on the best standards and practices used by [#OSCE](#) and EU countries to counter illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunitions and explosives (WAE). [To learn more](#)

## ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

**10-11 December 2020.** Information technology breakthroughs, growing use of crypto currencies and introduction of virtual assets – a remarkable pace of change is a challenge to financial monitoring systems tasked to prevent money laundering and counter terrorism financing. More than 250 practitioners from law-enforcement and regulatory bodies, private sector financial monitoring reporting entities joined discussions of latest trends in this sphere at a two-day event organised in Lviv by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator jointly with the State Financial Monitoring Service. [To learn more](#)



## ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

**17 October 2020.** For several years now the OSCE PCU is supporting the Ukrainian Government in strengthening water monitoring in the most vulnerable Siverskyi Donets river basin, given the fact that there is no planning effective measures for protecting water resources without a proper monitoring system in place.

To encourage young people to be more active in protecting water resources, the OSCE PCU conducted a master class on water monitoring on October 9 in the city of Sviatogirsk. The participants were selected among winners of the contest “Youth Vision for Siverskyi Donets River Basin” and “Siverskyi Donets through the eyes of youth” in the nomination for scientific research projects.

At the event participants had the opportunity to learn more about modern principles of water monitoring and the laboratory of water chemical analysis, to discuss the main problems of water resources of the river basin, as well as study the concept of a river ecological status based not only on chemical criteria, but on biological parameters and physical characteristics of the river. [To learn more](#)



**29 December 2020.** 545 tonnes of fish – that is an estimate of amounts caught by amateur fishers in Dniester every year. A comparative analysis of the total commercial catch in the Lower Dniester together with the estuary demonstrated that the amateur catch makes up about 25% of the total harvested fish resources.

This is one of a number of key findings of the Report “Assessment of the Impact of Recreational Fishing on Fish Stocks in the Lower Dniester”, produced this year under the GEF project “Enabling Transboundary Co-operation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin”, implemented with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. [To learn more](#)



# OUTREACH / COORDINATION



**27 October 2020.** The OSCE joined the world in marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325). This resolution is the first of a series of such decisions recognizing that armed conflict affects women and men differently and calls for the meaningful participation of women in peace processes. As the world's largest regional security organization covering 57 participating States and over one billion people, the OSCE is at the forefront in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. [To learn more](#)

## 10 000

ЛЮДЕЙ  
ВПОДОБАЛИ  
НАШУ  
СТОРІНКУ!

*Дякуємо, що Ви з нами!*

ОБСЄ  
Організація за безпеку та  
кооперацію в Європі  
Корисні контакти в Україні

Like



**31 October 2020.** OSCE SMM - Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine marked the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by honouring the efforts of women and girls in support of peace and security. The landmark Resolution recognizes the wide variety of roles women and girls play in support of sustainable peace and calls for their full and meaningful inclusion in these efforts.

As the Ukrainian government adopted a new National Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine pledged to continue its practical support to relevant authorities in implementing the Resolution. [To learn more](#)

**13 December 2020.** That week our page crossed the border of 10,000 likes! We expressed our gratitude to the audience for appreciating what we do and what we post! [To learn more](#)

## REAL LIVES VIDEO SERIES

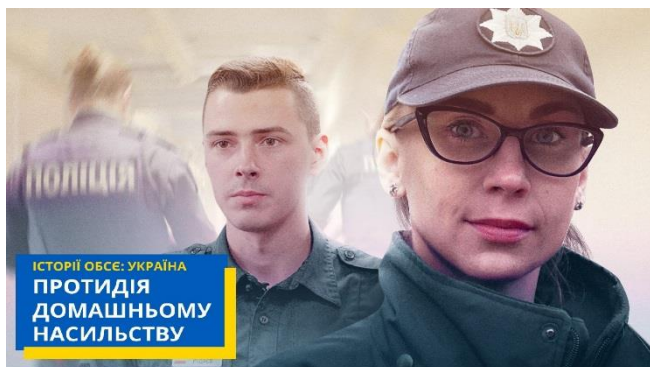
Conflicts in all forms have major impact on civilians. The OSCE, as the largest regional security organization, through its field operations works closely with governments to mitigate conflicts and crises and improve the lives of people from local communities. One such field operation is the [Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine](#).

### OSCE Stories, Real Lives: Ukraine



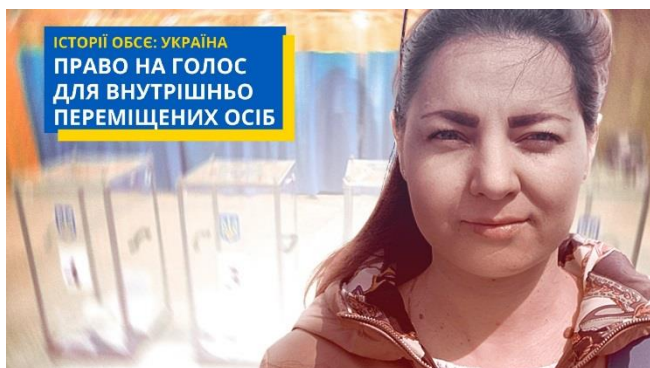
**24 October 2020.** Environmental threats need special attention in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine. Ongoing hostilities in eastern Ukraine cause numerous disruptions in Donbas, a region with a lot of heavy industry, including chemical plants. The OSCE PCU helped to take a stock of risks threats in order to provide for decision-makers information needed to work on prevention of potential disasters, other assistance includes strengthening the capacity of authorities to monitor the changing situation and work to improve emergency response. The published video refers to a number of products developed with the help of the OSCE PCU. [To learn more](#)

# OUTREACH / COORDINATION



**30 October 2020.** A recent OSCE regional survey confirmed that an armed conflict exacerbates violence against women, as economic and social turmoil, psychological traumas are contributing to spread of physical abuse at home. UN Security Council Resolution on "Women. Peace. Security", adopted 20 years ago, calls to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence. The OSCE PCU is working in close co-operation with local police in order to make law enforcement responses more citizen-oriented and effective in combating domestic violence and assisting those who suffer. The OSCE helped to develop legal regulations and instructions and provided police officers with educational training, interactive learning models and simulation exercises. [To learn more](#)

**6 November 2020.** Quality and quantity of water is a matter of concern nowadays, as climate change and industrial development affect availability of this resource everywhere. In eastern Ukraine, with its numerous enterprises, the ongoing conflict made water supply risks a matter of serious concern. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine helps the country establish monitoring system in line with international standards to ensure sustainable management of water basin, but also to raise ability to detect and respond to potential pollution threats. [To learn more](#)



**13 November 2020.** The crisis in and around Ukraine has displaced almost 1.5 million people. In a democracy, citizen's right to vote and take part in elections is an essential human right. These days everyone can now take part in local elections whether displaced or not. And all this is due to a unified digital State Voter Register that the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine helped to establish. [To learn more](#)

**20 November 2020.** Modern warfare leaves huge areas contaminated with mines, unexploded shells and bombs. This dangerous legacy is still a threat for people living in eastern Ukraine, even in the areas where the hostilities ended years ago.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine helps the country develop its mine action programme with due laws and regulations enabling co-ordinated efforts of all agencies, with locals receiving their land cleared in line with high standards. This video tells the story of impact of the OSCE assistance on lives of people in conflict-affected areas [To learn more](#)



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