



# ANNUAL REPORT 2001

OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS



WARSAW, DECEMBER 2001

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# INTRODUCTION

The year 2001 marked the ODIHR's tenth anniversary and provided an opportunity for the Office to evaluate what has been achieved over the past decade and readjust its election, democratization and human rights programmes accordingly.

A decade after its opening, the ODIHR has become an important actor in the international efforts to promote democracy and human rights in the OSCE region. In the field of elections, the Office is the leading agency in Europe and Central Asia with a unique methodology and thousands of observers deployed every year.

Nevertheless, the Office's comparative advantage – its flexible and rapid response capabilities – was again tested in 2001.

The ODIHR's 2001 **election observation** schedule included two high profile elections with particular political significance, namely the parliamentary election in Albania and the presidential election in Belarus. Despite unprecedented difficulties in these countries – a protracted election process in Albania and government obstruction in Belarus – the ODIHR managed to produce credible final reports which earned the respect of both Governments and oppositions. In total, the ODIHR monitored seven elections in 2001, deploying some 1,500 short-term and long-term observers.

In May, the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar, dedicated this year to Election Processes, endorsed the ODIHR's work in this field and provided a valuable opportunity to discuss new initiatives. These included the creation of a fund to support the participation of observers from Central and Eastern Europe in monitoring missions, or the better support and protection of domestic observers.

In the area of **democratization**, the ODIHR carried out close to 100 assistance projects in over 20 countries across the OSCE region in 2001. The ODIHR further fine-tuned its existing programmes and increasingly focused on follow-up measures aimed at ensuring the development of in-country capacities eventually leading to self-sustainability. For example, in the field of gender issues, with innovative training-of-trainers programmes, the ODIHR has reached thousands of highly motivated people who are now implementing what they have learned through grassroots work in their communities. Another example is the highly successful programme aimed at training human rights defenders in Central Asia and the Caucasus in effective human rights monitoring and reporting.

**Institution-building** was again high on the ODIHR's agenda in 2001. Several assistance programmes focused on the reform of state institutions with particular relevance to human rights, such as prisons, border services, police, or Ombudsman institutions. In early 2001, the ODIHR contributed to the establishment of the new Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) by preparing a comprehensive report setting the agenda for future OSCE human dimension assistance in the FRY. The ODIHR also launched a number of reform initiatives together with the Mission and relevant authorities in areas such as election legislation, judicial reform and law enforcement.

Another top priority for the ODIHR's work in 2001 remained the fight against **trafficking in human beings**. While much effort was put into promoting national action plans in countries of origin and the co-ordination of international anti-traf-

ficking efforts, including within the ODIHR-chaired Stability Pact Anti-Trafficking Task Force, increased attention was paid to mostly-Western destination countries. An international conference in Berlin, organized by the ODIHR together with the German Foreign Ministry in October, put the spotlight on what destination countries could do to stop trafficking.



ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Mircea Geoana and German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (from right) at the opening of the Conference “Europe Against Trafficking in Persons”

The ODIHR continued its role of **monitoring human dimension issues** throughout the OSCE area. It provided information, analyses and early warning to the Chairman-in-Office. The ODIHR itself intervened with governments on particular human rights issues or cases, and offered its assistance for improving adherence to OSCE human dimension commitments.

In the field of **Roma and Sinti issues**, the ODIHR Contact Point launched a large-scale assistance programme on Roma in South Eastern Europe. The EU-sponsored programme has been implemented jointly with the Council of Europe under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. In addition, the Contact Point was active in bringing governments and Roma NGOs together by helping these organizations develop into credible partners for co-operation.

In addition to its project and election observation activities, the ODIHR prepared and organized a number of OSCE **human dimension meetings**, including the three-day seminar on election processes in May, and the ten-day OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September.

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# ELECTIONS

The ODIHR deploys election observation missions to OSCE participating States to assess the implementation of OSCE commitments relating to elections. Its carefully developed methodology provides a unique, in-depth insight into all elements of an electoral process. To do this, the ODIHR fields extensive teams of experts to observe the entire electoral process before, during and after election day.

The 1990 Copenhagen Document commits OSCE participating States to invite other States to observe their elections and the ODIHR provides a co-ordination framework for such observation. Long-term observers, seconded by participating States, are deployed throughout the country for a period of six to eight weeks to assess the legal and regulatory framework, the election administration, the media environment and conditions surrounding the election campaign. Short-term observers arrive to monitor election day procedures, including the voting and counting process. Shortly after election day, a preliminary statement is issued, often jointly with other international organizations present for the observation. The ODIHR publishes a final election report within 30 days after the election. The 1999 OSCE Charter for European Security commits the States concerned to follow-up ODIHR's recommendations on elections. The ODIHR can provide assistance to implement the recommendations made in the final reports. In its election-related activities, the ODIHR co-operates closely with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and other election monitoring organizations.

## ELECTION OBSERVATION

### Repeat parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (7 January)

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, in co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, concluded that the 7 January 2001 repeat parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan marked some improvement compared to the 5 November 2000 ballot, but still did not meet a number of international standards for democratic elections. While the authorities undertook a number of measures to address the significant shortcomings of the 5 November ballot, these measures were insufficient to restore full confidence in the electoral process. Thus the repeat elections took place in an atmosphere of mistrust and were marked by the boycott of several opposition parties.

As an improvement over the previous election, the Central Election Commission this time showed more flexibility during the candidate registration process and addressed most complaints adequately. However, serious concerns remained, in particular with regard to the independence of local election commissions, which again were in some cases subject to interference, pressure and intimidation from local authorities.

On election day, polling took place in a calm and orderly manner, and in contrast to the previous election, observers were generally able to conduct their work unhindered. However, observers again noted a number of irregularities, including some cases of ballot stuffing and a flawed counting and tabulation process.

The ODIHR long-term observation mission was deployed on 18 December and was headed by Ambassador Charles Magee (USA). On election day, more than 100 short-term observers were deployed, including five parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and 13 from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

### Parliamentary elections in Moldova (25 February)

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, in co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, concluded that the 25 February parliamentary elections in Moldova complied with international standards. The Central Election Commission administered the elections in a non-partisan, transparent, efficient and timely manner. The Electoral Code provided an adequate framework for the conduct of democratic elections and ensured that political parties and electoral blocs could

enter the political arena on an equal basis. State-owned media strictly followed the provisions of the Electoral Code.

The international observers noted, however, that the election process could be further improved by addressing some shortcomings such as the inaccuracy and incompleteness of voter lists and the excessively restrictive media provisions in the Electoral Code.

The parliamentary elections did not take place in Transnistria due to lack of co-operation of the de facto authorities in the territory. Eight special polling stations were set up on the right bank of the Nistru River for Transnistrian residents to vote. Voting at these stations was conducted in a proper manner. However, only a very small percentage of the eligible voters from Transnistria managed to exercise their right to vote.

Election commission members sealing a ballot box during the parliamentary elections in Montenegro

Regional Authorities of Europe, concluded that the 22 April parliamentary election in Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was generally in line with international commitments for democratic elections.

The international observers noted that the election was marked by the participation of a broad spectrum of political parties, a pluralistic media landscape and exceptional transparency regarding public access to voter registers and the publication of detailed voting results at all levels. The legislative framework provided a largely adequate basis for democratic elections.



An ODIHR long-term observation mission was deployed on 26 January and was headed by Ambassador Charles Magee (USA). On election day, more than 140 short-term observers were deployed, including 35 parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and eight from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

#### [Parliamentary election in the Republic of Cyprus \(27 May\)](#)

The ODIHR undertook a Technical Mission to the Republic of Cyprus between 13-16 March to assess the environment for the 27 May parliamentary elections in light of OSCE commitments. Considering the legislative, administrative, political and human rights framework in place and the high level of trust and confidence in the electoral process, the ODIHR saw no need for, and did not deploy, an election observation mission for the parliamentary elections.

#### [Parliamentary election in Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia \(22 April\)](#)

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, together with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and

The positive assessment confirms the progress observed during the 2000 local by-elections, though some shortcomings remain. Problems noted by the international observers include the control of election mandates by political parties and a small number of errors in the voter register, as well as few instances of political pressure on state employees, police involvement in campaign activities and inflammatory rhetoric. Also, print media failed to observe the pre-election campaign silence. The Mission stressed that, given the overall strength of the electoral framework, the few remaining problems could not impact significantly on the results of the election.

An ODIHR long-term observation mission, headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria), was established on 28 March. On election day, 174 short-term observers were deployed, including 40 parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

#### [Local elections in Croatia \(20 May\)](#)

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, in co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, concluded that the 20 May local government elec-

tions in Croatia were conducted generally in accordance with international standards for democratic elections.

The international observers noted that the new Election Law generally provides for democratic elections, though the late adoption of the law contributed to some confusion regarding its implementation. The elections were contested by tens of thousands of candidates at the municipal, town and county levels, representing a broad spectrum of political parties, coalitions and independent lists. The campaign was generally well conducted, focusing on socio-economic and national issues. Media coverage of the campaign was mostly balanced.



The overall positive assessment of these elections confirms the improvement the ODIHR noted during last year's parliamentary and presidential elections. However, several shortcomings were observed in the field of national minority participation and representation. These include stipulations in the new Election Law which provide for by-elections to ensure proportional minority representation, but fail to establish clear procedures on how to implement these provisions. Three other concerns, already highlighted during previous elections, remain: voter registers continue to identify the ethnicity of voters, the 1991 Law on Citizenship disadvantages persons who are not ethnic Croats, and ethnic Croat and Serb displaced persons are afforded unequal voting rights.

An ODIHR long-term observation mission was deployed on 18 April and was headed by Mark Stevens (UK). On election day, 136 short-term observers were deployed throughout the country. The observers reported from more than 830 polling stations covering 18 counties and the capital Zagreb.

### Parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (17 June)

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, in co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, concluded that the 17 June parliamentary elections in Bulgaria met the country's OSCE commitments for democratic elections, as outlined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document.

These parliamentary elections were the fifth held since the establishment of a multi-party system, while the outgoing Parliament was the first to complete its full four-year term after the adoption of the current Constitution in 1991. The legislative framework for these elections included an adequate and clear Election Law. Election commissions at all levels performed their duties in a professional, unbiased, and transparent manner. Voting took place in a calm and orderly atmosphere, and was carried out in accordance with the law.

Election commission members check the identity of a voter during the Albanian parliamentary elections

A large number of broadcasting media, both public and private, and print media gave the public broad access to information and a variety of opinions. However, provisions in the Election Law regulating campaign coverage in the public media proved overly restrictive. In addition, election contestants had to pay for all appearances in the public broadcasting media, including debates. These features effectively limited campaign coverage in the media.

An ODIHR long-term observation mission was deployed on 19 May and was headed by Amb. Charles Magee (USA). On election day, 132 short-term observers, including four parliamentarians from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, were deployed. The observers reported from 752 polling stations throughout Bulgaria.

### Parliamentary elections in Albania (24 June - 19 August)

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission, in co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, concluded that the 2001 parliamentary elections in Albania marked progress over past elections in terms of the conduct of the campaign, media and election administration.



A new, improved Electoral Code was adopted in 2000, and the 2001 parliamentary elections provided an opportunity for further consolidation of democratic standards after the local government elections in October 2000 which marked significant progress towards meeting the standards for democratic elections.



An ODIHR long-term election observation mission was established on 22 May and was headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria). For election day on 24 June, some 250 short-term observers from 30 countries were deployed, including 39 from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 17 from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and seven from the European Parliament. The Election Observation Mission for the second and third round of voting was a joint undertaking of the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

A young Belarusian voter who participates in an election for the first time

A number of positive elements characterized the election process compared to previous elections, in particular up to the first round of voting on 24 June. However, the election process was protracted, litigious, uncertain and fragmented. Five rounds of voting, on 24 June, 8 July, 22 July, 29 July and 19 August were required to complete the process. In each round, the number of contested areas diminished, but the problems there became increasingly serious. Notwithstanding these concerns, the victory of the Socialist Party in these elections was not disputed, only the extent of its victory came under question.

In a welcome development, and unlike in previous elections, political parties sought legal redress to their grievances. However, the administrative and judicial processes did not always provide an effective means of redress.

Despite a more positive initial assessment after the first round of voting, the protracted electoral process, as well as the repeated and increasingly serious violations during subsequent rounds of voting, in particular in Zone 60, convinced the ODIHR to modify its overall assessment of these elections.

#### Presidential election in Belarus (9 September)

Due to a delayed invitation by the authorities of Belarus, the ODIHR regrettably had to limit its observation of the 9 September parliamentary election in Belarus to the last three weeks of the electoral process only. The delay was in contravention of OSCE commitments formulated *inter alia* in the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration and the 1990 Copenhagen Document.

The post-election statement issued on 10 September by the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Troika composed of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, concluded that the election process failed to meet OSCE commitments for democratic elections.

Although election day procedures were generally well conducted, the obstruction by the authorities of the work of domestic observers and, in some cases, international observers raised questions about the integrity of the process. Lack of transparency during the overly permissive early voting process, the mobile vote, and the critical tabulation of the results added to these concerns.

Already during the months leading up to 9 September, conditions in Belarus were such that the election could not meet the OSCE commitments for free, fair, equal, transparent and accountable elections. In a political culture unaccustomed to opposition and pluralistic political debate, with vertical state

structures in control of not only all levels of government but also industry, agriculture, education and social services, and the great majority of the population dependent on these vertical structures for its livelihood, the environment, far from being conducive to a democratic election, did not provide an equal opportunity for contestants nor the possibility for the public to be informed about the choices available.

This legacy of pervasive control and intolerance must be overcome before remedies to the technical aspects of the electoral process can bear genuine results. Such fundamental changes cannot be promoted and fostered in a country in isolation. As such, the isolation of Belarus is not in the best interest of its people and is not conducive to strengthening democratic development.

Together with the OSCE Assistance and Monitoring Group in Belarus, the ODIHR stands ready to assist the authorities and civil society of Belarus in order to:

- promote a constructive dialogue across the political and social spectrum of civil society, and between the government and civil society;
- facilitate the parallel processes of promoting the democratic transition of Belarus and its integration in European structures; and
- eventually remedy the technical shortcomings and to build on the strengths identified in this report.

The ODIHR Limited Observation Mission, headed by Hrair Balian (USA), was established in Minsk on 17 August with 27 experts and long-term observers deployed in the capital and seven regional centres. On election day, 293 short-term observers were deployed, including 57 from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 12 from the Parliamentary Assembly

of the Council of Europe, and 10 from the European Parliament, representing the political spectrum. Thanks to generous voluntary contributions from participating States, the ODIHR was able to recruit core team members and observers from a broader range of participating States, including those in transition, to take part in both the long- and short-term phases of the observation.

#### Municipal elections in Georgia

An ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission to Georgia in September 2001 recommended to deploy a small advance team of experts, to be followed by additional experts to monitor the conduct of the local elections. The advance team headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria) was deployed in Tbilisi in the first week of October. However, it soon appeared that the elections would not be held as scheduled on 4 November and that the competing political forces and the state institutions would not agree on an early alternative date. The ODIHR therefore decided to withdraw the advance team from Georgia and close the mission on 17 October.

#### Municipal by-elections in Serbia/FRY (4 November)

ODIHR seconded two election experts to assist the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to monitor the 4 November municipal by-elections held in 18 municipalities in the Republic of Serbia/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

#### Election Observation Reports

All ODIHR election reports issued in 2001 are available on the ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr>

### ODIHR ELECTION OBSERVATION SCHEDULE 2001

COUNTRY	TYPE OF ELECTION	DATE
Azerbaijan	Partial Re-run/ Parliamentary	7 January 2001
Moldova	Parliamentary	25 February 2001
Republic of Montenegro/FRY	Parliamentary	22 April 2001
Croatia	Municipal/Chamber of Counties	20 May 2001
Bulgaria	Parliamentary	17 June 2001
Albania	Parliamentary	24 June 2001
Belarus	Presidential	9 September 2001

## TECHNICAL ELECTION ASSISTANCE

### Round tables on elections in Kazakhstan

The ODIHR, in collaboration with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) and the OSCE Centre in Almaty, has been involved in organizing round-table discussions in Kazakhstan on election-related issues since 2000. All political parties and civil society organizations have been invited to take part in these discussions.

At the second round table held in Astana on 25 January the participants agreed that the existing election law must be amended to promote independent election commissions and a fully transparent process during the vote count and the tabulation of results. The second round table was attended by members of Parliament from both chambers, representatives of the presidential administration, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Central Election Commission (CEC), members of civil society, the major political parties, and the international community, including the ODIHR, the OSCE PA and the OSCE Centre in Almaty. In the interest of making the debate more known to the general public, the meeting was open to the media.

The ODIHR presented three documents to facilitate and focus the debate: a review of existing election legislation and CEC regulations, general guidelines on developing an election legislative framework, and a paper on more effective participation of minorities in electoral processes, based on the High Commissioner on National Minorities' Lund Recommendations.

The third round table was held in Astana on 11 June. The discussion primarily concentrated on the drafting process and the presentation of election law amendments to Parliament. The ODIHR presented a review of the existing legal framework on election disputes, appeals and penalties, and an analysis of amendments proposed by the political parties. The goal of the second document was to point out the areas of consensus on certain issues (transparency, election commission formation, interference from executive bodies) among participants of different political affiliation. The round tables were supported by extra-budgetary contributions from the United Kingdom.

### Round table on amendments to Armenian Electoral Code

The ODIHR took part in a round table on amendments to the Electoral Code of Armenia in Yerevan on 14 February. The round table was co-organized by the Parliamentary Commission for Legal and State Affairs, the Central Election Com-

mission, the OSCE (ODIHR and Office in Yerevan) and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. The objective of the meeting was to provide a forum to discuss amendments to the 1999 Electoral Code with the authorities and representatives of political parties and civil society. The round table was a useful step in a process that has involved detailed discussion with key actors and the production of comments and recommendations. There appears to be general agreement about the major changes to be made to the Code. The round table was made possible through a contribution from Norway.

### Expert meeting on reform of Serbia's election laws

The ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia met with representatives from the Serbian election administration, NGOs, and international experts in Belgrade on 8 May to launch a discussion in Serbia about the reform of the election legislation.

In its report on the December 2000 Serbian parliamentary election, the ODIHR stated that the election was largely in line with OSCE commitments, but also noted a number of shortcomings in the electoral framework. The report's list of recommendations for improvements served as a basis for the discussions in Belgrade. The ODIHR welcomed the political will demonstrated by the Serbian authorities to address the shortcomings identified by the OSCE and to bring the electoral framework fully into compliance with international commitments for democratic elections. The meeting was supported by a contribution from Canada.

### Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes

The 2001 Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes was held in Warsaw on 29-31 May. More than 200 election experts, government representatives and NGOs attended the three-day meeting.

Participants reviewed existing and new challenges for democratic development in the OSCE region. They assessed the lessons learned during the past decade's experience, including OSCE's involvement in the promotion of democratic governance in the OSCE region through technical assistance and electoral observation. The seminar also focused on the correlation of democratic elections, the rule of law, and good governance with economic development; electoral events and stability; and elections and the fundamental freedoms of expression, association and assembly.

Participants generally recognized the inseparable link between stability and democratic development, which

includes the regular holding of democratic elections. It was underlined that timely elections organized in accordance with international standards can foster stability.

The important role of non-partisan domestic observation organizations was widely acknowledged at the seminar. At the same time, concern was expressed about the increasing level of difficulties these organizations face in some participating States. Participants also noted the erosion of the human rights situation in a number of participating States, in particular in the areas of freedom of expression, association and assembly, with direct consequences for election processes. There was wide support for the call to improve the political follow-up to the reports and recommendations issued by ODIHR election observation missions. It was also concluded that there is a need to strengthen the links between the ODIHR and international financial institutions as well as the multi-national business community. The ODIHR observation methodology was generally endorsed at the seminar. Participants also welcomed the ODIHR's efforts to monitor the gender aspects of election processes. The report of the meeting is available on the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr).

### Workshop on conflict management for electoral officials

The ODIHR organized a workshop in Warsaw on 9-10 October to discuss how the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) conflict management training course for electoral officials can be applied in line with OSCE requirements. It was agreed that the course should improve the conflict management skills of election officials when interacting with colleagues, members of political parties and the electorate at large. The course will particularly target senior election officials in OSCE countries that have made progress in developing democratic institutions, but where the political culture is not yet fully developed accordingly. A pilot project will be launched in one of the OSCE participating States in 2002. The workshop was made possible through an extra-budgetary contribution from Canada.

### Development of guidelines for domestic observers

The development of guidelines for domestic observers in the OSCE region was discussed at an ODIHR-sponsored working meeting attended by representatives of five domestic observation organizations, as well as the National Democratic Institute and Electoral Reform International Services, in Slovakia on 13-14 May. Following the meeting, a first draft of the guidelines was produced. The draft guidelines were discussed at a subsequent ODIHR conference in Warsaw on 28-29 May, the first of its kind, attended by 23 domestic

observation organizations from across the OSCE region. After more consultations, the guidelines are expected to be finalized soon. The project was supported by contributions from the United Kingdom.

### New ODIHR publications on elections

In March the ODIHR published two election-related handbooks: "Guidelines for Reviewing a Legal Framework for Elections", developed in collaboration with the International IDEA, and "Guidelines to Assist National Minority Participation in the Electoral Process", developed in co-operation with International IDEA and the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The publication of the handbooks was supported by extra-budgetary contributions from Canada.

Both publications are available, in English, Russian and Serbian languages, as hard copies as well as electronically on the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odihr/library.htm](http://www.osce.org/odihr/library.htm).

### ODIHR law reviews

The ODIHR provided reviews of the following election laws:

- Electoral Code of Armenia
- Election Code and regulations issued by the Central Election Commission for parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan
- Election legislation for election disputes, appeals and penalties in Kazakhstan
- Presidential decree on pilot local elections in Kazakhstan
- Legal framework for the media coverage of elections in Kazakhstan
- Referendum law of Montenegro/FRY
- Laws on parliamentary and presidential elections in the Republic of Serbia/FRY
- Law on elections of Ukraine
- Draft amendments to the electoral code of Kyrgyzstan
- Draft law on election of Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The law reviews are available on the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr).



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# DEMOCRATIZATION

The ODIHR conducts a wide range of democratization projects designed to build and enhance capacity in transition countries. These projects promote a comprehensive view of security which includes the human dimension, and the implementation of OSCE commitments. ODIHR democracy projects seek to develop self-sustainability and to strategically address difficult issues by using the added value and credibility of the OSCE name.

The ODIHR's democratization activities are primarily conducted across six thematic fields of work: rule of law, civil society and non-governmental organizations, equality between men and women, trafficking in human beings, freedom of movement and migration, and freedom of religion. A special grassroots programme initiative provides rapid assistance to micro-projects in the field.

ODIHR democratization projects have been very successful, reflecting a high measure of continuity and commitment to both governmental and non-governmental partners. Many projects have successfully evolved over several years of implementation to address new and developing issues of concern to governments and civil society in a number of different countries. Some target groups and project activities have already progressed towards self-sustainability and began to work independently which has been one of the ultimate goals of ODIHR – to develop and foster indigenous capacities.

In implementing its projects, the ODIHR seeks to target specific audiences in its work such as the next generation of leaders, vulnerable and at-risk groups, or specific governmental partners. But the ODIHR also tries to link and build co-operation between its work and that of other, related developmental projects and international organizations.

This form of strategic co-operation and co-ordination has created and amplified a “multiplier effect”, increasing programme impact, as well as overall programme cost efficiency.

During 2001, the ODIHR Democratization Section worked in more than 20 countries, implementing more than 100 projects, which included a large number of projects directly implemented and/or administered by ODIHR through the Anti-Trafficking Projects Fund, the Anti-Torture Programme, and the Grassroots Democracy Programme. Projects were conducted in co-ordination with OSCE field operations, with local partners and NGOs, as well as with a number of other international actors. The ODIHR conducted many projects at the national and regional levels, in the Balkans, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and other areas of the OSCE region, providing a unique set of inter-related democratization activities which targeted specific developmental needs.

## Central Asia: ODIHR and European Commission launch second joint programme

In late April, the European Commission and the ODIHR launched a second joint programme for advancing human rights and democratization in Central Asia.

This new programme builds on the first joint programme, a pioneering co-operation endeavour between the European Commission and the ODIHR, which was successfully concluded in June 2000. The new two-year programme includes projects in Central Asian countries with which the ODIHR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The programme is implemented in close co-operation with OSCE presences in the respective countries.

Based on the achievements of the previous programme, the new projects cover two main themes: strengthening the rule of law by providing assistance to the reform of the region's penitentiary system, human rights bodies and relevant legislation, and building capacity within civil society through human rights monitoring training and other assistance projects. The programme has a regional focus on one hand and on the other hand is also taking account the particular needs of individual countries.

The projects are implemented over the period 2001-2003. The total cost of the programme is EUR 844.000 (59 per cent of which are covered by the European Commission, 41 per cent by the ODIHR). A number of OSCE participating States

are supporting this programme by providing extra-budgetary contributions to the ODIHR's share of costs.

#### Central Asia: ODIHR-Danish strategic partnership programme

In 2001, the ODIHR and the Danish Government launched a long-term "Strategic Partnership Co-operation Programme for Central Asia". The programme aims at building civil society capacity and strengthening local NGOs in order to prevent potential conflicts in this volatile region. Currently, the programme targets four Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The funds are provided by the Danish Government's Peace and Stability Fund – FRESTA.

The Central Asia Human Rights Monitoring Training project, the Central Asia Women's Rights Monitoring Training project, a project on Cross-Border Co-operation on Migration Issues, and the Grassroots Democracy Programme are partly funded under the programme.

#### Belarus: Joint ODIHR-European Commission democratization programme

The first three projects under the joint European Commission-OSCE democratization programme for Belarus were completed successfully by early autumn. Four other projects are still being implemented by the ODIHR and the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Minsk and are planned for completion by the end of 2001.

The three completed projects, which resulted in the strengthening of different sectors of the Belarusian civil society, include a training programme for political parties, linking the European Humanistic University to international research and a project on prison/pre-trial detention and tuberculosis management.

The training project aimed at preparing political parties for the recent electoral processes in the country – the parliamentary elections in 2000 and the September 2001 presidential election. The project included workshops for opposition and government parties on how to prepare and conduct election campaigns.

The project with the European Humanistic University enabled the only non-state university in Belarus to join a number of on-line facilities and libraries worldwide in order to provide its students with 24-hour access to publications and journals. This facility is also open free of charge for stu-

dents from other universities. It will contribute to broadening the knowledge of young people of a number of political, social and cultural issues, which are not covered by hardcopy publications available in Belarus.

The project on prison/pre-trial detention and tuberculosis management was extremely successful in achieving multiple goals. Despite initial caution, it was very positively received by the Belarus Punishment Committee authorities, which offered access to detention centres for the OSCE project personnel, the Red Cross and international penitentiary reform experts who work together with Belarusian experts on the revision of prison management guidelines on the treatment of prisoners, the medical aspects of human rights observance and proposals for legislative improvements for the penal code. A visit to the penitentiary system of Poland, assisted by Polish penitentiary reform experts, presented a working model of a successfully implemented prison reform and helped to establish direct contacts between the two institutions. The project concluded with a large conference with participants from all over the CIS region in Minsk on penitentiary medicine as a part of the rights of prisoners and preventive work in prisons.

#### Internship programmes for young foreign service officials from the Caucasus and Central Asia

Since 1998, the ODIHR has been involved in specially designed capacity-building internship programmes for young foreign service officials from the Caucasus and Central Asia. The interns, mostly officials working at the OSCE desk in their respective Ministry for Foreign Affairs, usually stay between one and four weeks in Warsaw in order to get acquainted with the OSCE's human dimension concept and the ODIHR's work and expertise in this field.

For the Caucasus, the programme was launched as a part of the Memoranda of Understanding signed with the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In 2001, the ODIHR hosted a senior officer from Armenia, Ms. Karine Soudjan, and a junior gender specialist from Azerbaijan, Ms. Farah Adjalova. The internship programme for Central Asia, organized by the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, this year brought foreign service officials from all five Central Asian countries to Warsaw.

The programme proved to be very useful as a mechanism to strengthen direct co-operation between the ODIHR and respective governments in Central Asia.

### RULE OF LAW

The concept of Rule of Law forms a cornerstone in the OSCE human rights framework. The notion of Rule of Law, as enshrined in major OSCE documents such as the 1990 Copenhagen Document, does not merely describe a formal legality, but also aims at justice based on the full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and human rights. Rule of Law seeks to establish and entrench an institutional framework for democracy in participating States.

The ODIHR is engaged in a variety of technical assistance projects designed to foster respect for human rights within the context of the promotion of the rule of law. Projects in 2001 focused on the following areas: legal reform and legislative review projects in order to bring domestic laws into line with OSCE commitments and other recognized international standards; rendering support to the enhancement of legal education in the field of human rights by supporting law schools and legal clinics; providing support and advice to national human rights institutions; training for legal professionals; and prison reform. In each of these areas the ODIHR seeks to co-operate and co-ordinate with other international organizations active in the field.

Following the creation of the OSCE Advisory Panel on the Prevention of Torture in 1998, the ODIHR has given particular focus to anti-torture projects.

#### Central Asia: Legislative alert project activities

Within the framework of its legislative alert project in Central Asia – a project aimed at providing ad hoc expertise on draft laws with particular relevance for the human dimension – the ODIHR prepared expert comments on several pieces of draft legislation. These included the draft Law on Nationwide Discussion of Draft Legislation in Uzbekistan, the draft Law on the Judiciary in Kazakhstan, the draft Law on Registration of Natural Persons in Tajikistan and the draft Laws on Religion in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In addition, a round table on the draft Law on Religion was held in Kyrgyzstan with the participation of NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians. In Tajikistan a working group was established on the draft Criminal Procedure Code, which included an ODIHR expert who also reviewed the law for compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Government of the United Kingdom financially supported this project. It will continue in 2002 and be expanded to cover the three Southern Caucasian states.

#### Central Asia: Assistance to reform of penitentiary system

Following a training visit of Kazakhstani prison authorities to Poland last year, an ODIHR expert and two experts from Penal Reform International/International Centre for Prison Studies conducted an assessment of the Prison Training College in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan, particularly with regard to the implementation of the new training techniques and curriculum currently under development. The experts observed teaching methods and met with teachers and students at the training centre.

As a follow-up to the assessment visit, three ODIHR experts held a training on teaching methodology and prison management with the staff of the College in November. The ODIHR presented a syllabus for a human rights course to be taught at the College, and supplied support including books in Russian for the library. The visit also included a two-day roundtable meeting with the heads of the pre-trial detention centres of Kazakhstan.

Following the decision of the Ministry of Interior of Uzbekistan to grant the ODIHR access to prisons, an ODIHR expert will conduct an assessment of the needs of the prison system in late 2001 or at the beginning of 2002.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek has been approached by the Ministry of Justice of Kyrgyzstan and the prison administration concerning the anticipated transfer of the penitentiary



system from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. The ODIHR has agreed to provide an expert for a round-table discussion on the issues involved in the transfer. The round table is expected to take place in December 2001.

These activities formed part of the joint European Commission-ODIHR programme on Central Asia. They were also funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the United Kingdom. The project will continue in 2002.

Participants in the ODIHR workshop on legal reform in Tajikistan

should have the authority to obtain all necessary information for the preparation of such a report.

The meeting was part of a broader legislative reform project agreed between the Government of Tajikistan and the ODIHR in a Memorandum of Understanding. It was preceded by a two-day workshop on the new draft Criminal Procedural Code with the working group on the elaboration of this new law. Two ODIHR experts, Prof. Bill Bowring and Prof. Stefan Trechsel, participated in these discussions and informed about the requirements under the ICCPR.



In late 2001, four two-day seminars were held in prisons in Dushanbe and Kujhand, Tajikistan, in co-operation with the Department of the Constitutional Guarantees of the Citizen's Rights of the Executive Apparatus of the President of Tajikistan. The seminars concentrated on human rights training and was attended by 240 prison administration officials. This project was funded through extra-budgetary contributions from the United Kingdom and Canada.

#### Central Asia: Legislative review project

In April, the ODIHR held a round-table meeting on reporting by Tajikistan to the UN Human Rights Committee, organized together with the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan and the OSCE Mission in Tajikistan. Upon ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1993, Tajikistan committed itself to prepare a state report on its compliance to this main UN human rights treaty.

The participants from a number of ministries, the Supreme and the Constitutional Courts as well as representatives from non-governmental and international organizations stressed the need to create an open and transparent reporting process. It was pointed out by the ODIHR expert, Prof. Bill Bowring, that a proper reporting process should be used to identify existing shortcomings in compliance with the treaty. The reporting process should also help to develop policies to improve the human rights situation in Tajikistan.

The meeting concluded with a recommendation to the Government to create an inter-ministerial co-ordination commission for the preparation of the state report. This commission

In Uzbekistan, an ODIHR expert started to conduct a review of the Criminal Procedure Code to determine if it complies with the obligations under the ICCPR. This will be followed by the expert visiting Uzbekistan to meet with relevant government officials and NGOs before finalizing the review. In 2002, round-table meetings will be organized with all relevant actors to discuss the expert's findings and make recommendations for changes in the law.

The legislative review project is funded as part of the joint European Commission-ODIHR programme on Central Asia and an extra-budgetary contribution from Canada. It will continue in 2002.

#### Kazakhstan: Assistance to the Judiciary Training Centre

Following an agreement between the World Bank and the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan on establishing a Judicial Training Centre, the ODIHR was requested to provide technical assistance and training for the start-up phase. Assisted by the ODIHR, several judges and administrators who will be responsible for running the Centre visited a judicial training facility in Sofia, Bulgaria, to study issues involved in setting up such an institution. The participants learned how to establish the administration of a judicial training centre and how to develop a curriculum. The ODIHR will also co-spon-

sor two training seminars on the enforcement of court judgments and the new Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes, organized by the Supreme Court

This project is funded through an extra-budgetary contribution from Germany and will continue in 2002.

### [Kyrgyzstan: Osh student legal aid initiative on criminal law](#)

The ODIHR signed an agreement with Osh State University, the Human Rights and Democracy Centre, the American Bar Association - Central and East European Law Initiative and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek to open a Criminal Law Clinic at Osh State University. Osh State University is supplying the space for the clinic, and the Human Rights and Democracy Centre is acting as the local implementing partner. The Clinic will employ local lawyers to supervise students and provide free representation to the local population. The supervisors will also conduct classes on the practical aspects of client representation along with substantive criminal law topics. The classes will be conducted using interactive teaching techniques. The clinic will also work with the Ministry of Education to have the Clinic integrated into the regular curriculum.

Eighty students applied for the first semester of the clinic, 20 of whom were chosen. The first group of students was representative of the many ethnic groups represented in the Osh area and included six female students. The group was also drawn from the four Universities with law faculties in Osh. The Clinic opened on 10 October. The project was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution from Canada.

### [Tajikistan: Legal clinic programme for women](#)

In 2001 the ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, concluded an agreement with the Russian Slavic Tajik University in Dushanbe on establishing a legal clinic with a focus on gender equality and women's rights. In April, ODIHR experts conducted a training workshop during which they provided the clinic's directors and key students with training on curriculum development and clinic operation while assisting them with elaborating working plans and timetables for the clinical programme.

The training was followed by a training visit of the clinic's supervisors to Poland where they observed the work of the legal clinics operating at the Law Faculties of Warsaw and Cracow universities. They also received further training on curriculum development and co-operation with NGOs. During the summer, the clinic members were trained specifical-

ly on gender issues by the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan and the UN Development Fund for Women.

As a next step, the ODIHR will provide further technical assistance and training and will organize a round-table meeting for all local and international actors involved in legal clinical programmes in Tajikistan. This project is funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the Swiss Government. It will continue in 2002.

### [Tajikistan: Human rights training for law enforcement personnel](#)

Ten training seminars for low- and middle-rank law enforcement personnel in the Sughd Province were conducted in late 2001. The goal of the seminars was to raise the awareness and level of knowledge of law enforcement personnel regarding international human rights norms and relevant domestic legislation on the rights of citizens during arrest and pre-trial investigation. This project was funded through an extra-budgetary contribution from the United Kingdom.

### [Uzbekistan: Regional human rights workshops for members of judicial system](#)

The ODIHR held four training workshops on international legal standards in several regions of Uzbekistan. The workshops were conducted in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, the Uzbek National Human Rights Centre and the American Bar Association - Central and East European Law Initiative.

The training programme examined in detail the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as OSCE commitments. Two ODIHR experts conducted the interactive training which led to elaborate discussions of how these standards are implemented in Uzbekistan. The workshops, which were attended by regional and national representatives of the judiciary, the procurator's office, the advocates' association, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Security Service, served as a basis for instituting a review of legislation in the criminal field for compliance with international commitments and will result in an assessment report.

This project was funded by extra-budgetary contributions from Germany and Sweden.

### Central Asia/South Caucasus: Assistance to national human rights institutions

The ODIHR continued to work with NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to ensure the passing of Ombudsman legislation that meets international standards for these institutions. The Office also worked with the Ombudsperson in Uzbekistan by providing technical assistance to her office. With assistance from ODIHR, several of her staff visited Poland to learn from the experience of the Polish Commission for Civil Rights Protection. This project is funded as part of the joint European Commission-ODIHR programme on Central Asia and an extra-budgetary contribution from Germany. It will continue through 2002.

Upon request of the new Public Defender in Georgia, an ODIHR expert will conduct an assessment of her office in December. The ODIHR is sponsoring a pilot project, proposed by the Public Defender, to monitor the pre-trial detention facilities at two police stations in Tbilisi. Staff of the Public Defender will conduct unannounced inspection visits to the police stations to check on the condition of detainees, how long they have been in detention and whether the police have followed the law. This project is funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from Canada.

### South Caucasus: Prison reform projects in Armenia and Azerbaijan

A one-week human rights training programme for ten cross-section prison and pre-trial detention directors from Azerbaijan was organized by the ODIHR at the Polish Central Prison Administration training facility in Kalisz. The participants were chosen on the basis of a preliminary training in Azerbaijan and pre-selected by ODIHR and Council of Europe experts as a part of a joint programme. The next step in this project, which was funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the United Kingdom, will be a training in Baku in 2002 on interactive teaching methodology.

In Armenia, the ODIHR participated in a meeting of the Prison Reform Steering Committee on the imminent transfer of the prison system from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. The meeting took place in May in conjunction with a round table on alternative sentencing. Together with the Council of Europe, the ODIHR was also involved in finalizing the drafts of legislation that will be needed to accomplish the transfer.

This project was funded through extra-budgetary contributions from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

### Ukraine: Comprehensive review of human rights legislation

As part of a major, multi-year project carried out by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the ODIHR reviewed Ukrainian legislation related to trafficking in human beings and organized a training for prosecutors on this subject. These activities were part of a larger project by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The ODIHR also reviewed the draft law on the judiciary. In this context, a round table was held in March in co-operation with the Legal Reform Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament and the Council of Europe. The round table was devoted to the reform of the judicial system in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine and international standards Ukraine has committed to implement. Main issues of the discussion were the status of judges, the appointment of judges, the court administration and the structure of the court system.

The round table attracted the attention of representatives of state bodies, mass media and the international community concerned with the issue. The discussion showed good prospects of adopting modern legislation on judiciary, compatible with the standards of a democratic state governed by the rule of law. The draft has not been adopted yet, and work will continue in co-operation with the relevant parliamentary committee.

A new draft of the law on data protection was submitted to the Council of Europe for review and a seminar held jointly with the Project Co-ordinator's Office. The ODIHR is also working with the Parliament and the Ministry of Justice in drafting new legislation on registration of citizens. Within the framework of the Project Co-ordinator's assistance to improving the existing legislation on administrative reform, the ODIHR will review legislation on local self-government.

A comprehensive review of the legislation on freedom of movement was conducted and the results are being used for the implementation of an ODIHR project aimed at reforming the Ukrainian *propiska* system (see Chapter on Freedom of Movement/Migration). Following the adoption of amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code by Parliament, the ODIHR organized training courses for prosecutors and lawyers on these amendments in five regions of Ukraine. All activities under this project, which was funded by extra-budgetary contributions from the United Kingdom, are carried out on close co-operation with the Council of Europe.

## ODIHR ADVISORY PANEL FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE

The ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture was created in 1998 following a recommendation emerging from the 1997 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The Panel provides advice and guidance to the ODIHR on developing programmes and activities to combat torture in the OSCE area without duplicating the work of other organizations. The Panel consists of five of the world's leading anti-torture authorities, each of whom serves on the Panel in his or her personal capacity:

- **Ms. Anne Burley**, Director of the Europe Regional Programme at Amnesty International;
- **Ms. Danielle Coquoz**, Head of the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- **Mr. Douglas Johnson**, Executive Director for the Centre for Victims of Torture, United States of America;
- **Mr. Claude Nicolay**, Deputy Prosecutor General of Luxembourg and former Chairman of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture;
- **Sir Nigel Rodley**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Professor of Law at the University of Essex.

The Panel serves as an institutional “think tank” for the ODIHR. It assumes the functions of an internal control mechanism, helping to ensure that the ODIHR's overall approach is soundly conceived, that its project proposals have benefited from expert input and that its resources are directed at high priorities. The Panel helps to keep anti-torture activities high on the agenda of the OSCE. The Panel's fifth meeting will be held in Warsaw in early 2002. The creation of the Panel and its subsequent meetings have been supported by extra-budgetary contributions from the United Kingdom.

## ODIHR ANTI-TORTURE PROGRAMME 2001

A follow-up roundtable meeting to the UN Convention Against Torture report filed by the Government of Kazakhstan was held in Astana in October. The participants included relevant government officials, NGOs and members of the Presidential Human Rights Commission.

In October, the ODIHR conducted a training on international human rights norms at the Prosecutors Training School of Kazakhstan. This was the first time that prosecutors from Kazakhstan had approached ODIHR for training and it is hoped that follow-up training can be conducted next year.

The ODIHR, along with Penal Reform International, Open Society Foundation-Romania and the Department for International Development sponsored an international conference on alternatives to imprisonment on 10-11 September in Bucharest, Romania. The conference brought together representatives of governments and NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus to discuss the different approaches to alternatives to imprisonment. The conference highlighted regional models on alternatives including probation in the Czech Republic and Romania, community service in Latvia and mediation in Poland. Working groups discussed ways to bring about legislative and policy reform, build public and interest group support, and enhance the implementation of alternatives with NGO, religious and community organizations. The ODIHR integrates approaches to alternatives to imprisonment into its existing prison reform projects.

In Azerbaijan, the ODIHR sponsored a project implemented by the Institute on Human Rights of the National Academy of Sciences entitled “Society Without Torture”. The project includes a competition for the creation of an anti-torture poster to be displayed in Azerbaijan and a seminar on the prevention of torture for prisoners and prison officials held in a prison.

The ODIHR provided support to the Centre for Psychological and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims in Georgia for a needs-assessment and awareness-raising project on torture prevention. The project prepared the ground for future torture-prevention work in Georgia. It aims at elaborating proposals for an effective strategy on torture prevention targeting law enforcement, human rights defenders, mass media and lawyers.

The ODIHR contributed to worldwide anti-torture efforts on the occasion of the UN International Day in Support for the Victims of Torture on 26 June by organizing a variety of activities aimed at raising awareness of the problem, as set out below.

Background information on torture was made available to the general public through a special page on the ODIHR website. The ODIHR also provided assistance to field operations by providing anti-torture material and sponsoring torture prevention activities:

- In Ukraine, a joint press conference was held with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and Ukraine's Ombudsperson, which included a presentation by a victim of torture.

- In Armenia, a well attended, two-day round-table meeting on torture prevention for government representatives and NGOs was held in July. The meeting was organized by the ODIHR, the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss reporting to the Committee Against Torture, improving follow-up to recommendations made by the Committee, and introducing safeguards to prevent torture. The participants identified a number of issues for follow-up.
- In Azerbaijan, a joint statement was issued by the OSCE and the Azerbaijani National Human Rights Institute, which was covered by a number of national newspapers.
- In Tajikistan, the Head of the OSCE Mission gave an interview on torture, and anti-torture advertisements were run in several national newspapers.
- In addition, the ODIHR supported the translation of material from the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims from English into Russian for broad distribution in the OSCE region.

The ODIHR's anti-torture activities and projects in 2001 were funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the United Kingdom.

## COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

**T**rafficking in human beings is one of the most pressing and complex human rights issues in the OSCE region. It reaches across borders to affect nearly every OSCE country as either country of origin, country of transit or country of destination.

In the 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision, the OSCE welcomed the definition of trafficking as put forth in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

Trafficking is distinct from cases of smuggling and illegal migration in several significant ways. A person can be trafficked within national borders. In some cases trafficked persons may cross national borders legally. Finally, in cases of trafficking, there is an element of threat or use of force, deception or coercion.

ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann (centre), OSCE Chairman-in-Office Mircea Geoana (second from right) and German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (second from left) at the opening of the Berlin Anti-Trafficking Conference

### Conference “Europe against Trafficking in Persons”

The international conference “Europe against Trafficking in Persons”, which was organized by the ODIHR and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin on 15-16 October, focused on responses to trafficking in countries of destination. In six working group sessions, experts discussed the rights of victims and responsibilities of state authorities, including what referral mechanisms are in place to respond to the many urgent needs of trafficked persons.

The recommendations also suggest how countries of destination can increase their bilateral and international efforts to address the root causes of trafficking, to investigate and prosecute cases, as well as to ensure safe, voluntary repatriation and necessary rehabilitation programmes. The conference participants expressed determination to work together in the future to address trafficking, with a special priority given to the rights and needs of victims. More information on the results of the conference is available at [www.osce.org/europe-against-trafficking](http://www.osce.org/europe-against-trafficking).

### Reference Guide for Legislative Review and Reform

As a project under the framework of the Stability Pact, the ODIHR commissioned the “Reference Guide for Legislative Review and Reform for the Region of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe” from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights. The guide, which was presented at a side meeting of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September 2001, outlines which areas of law are the most relevant for legislative reform efforts aimed at prosecuting traffickers and protecting victims. It sets benchmarks reflecting what should be considered and assessed when reviewing such laws and showcases good practice from various countries. The guide, financially supported by the



United States and Switzerland, is a tool to determine what should be addressed when proposing legislative reform and seeking to implement anti-trafficking laws effectively.

#### Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings

The Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, chaired by Minister Helga Konrad (ODIHR), held its second meeting in Vienna on 27 April. In his opening remarks, ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann pointed out that human trafficking is not only an abhorrent human rights violation, but negatively affects the rule of law, democratic institutions and stability in the Balkan region.

The Task Force presented a Multiyear Anti-Trafficking Action Plan for South Eastern Europe aimed at combating this fastest growing form of organized trans-border crime in a comprehensive and internationally concerted way. It covers identified needs and gaps and addresses all the elements required for a co-ordinated development of an effective and sustainable anti-trafficking structure throughout the region. The Multiyear Action Plan will promote the implementation of the Palermo Anti-Trafficking Declaration which was signed by the countries of South Eastern Europe in December 2000. The impact of voluntary contributions to specific projects will be maximized by the exchange of information, lessons learned and experiences. The responsibility for the implementation of the anti-trafficking structure lies with the respective governments. To date, a number of important initiatives and projects have been developed and brought forward within the Task Force. They aim at victim protection and assistance; raising awareness of the complexity of the problem and of preventive measures; legislative reform; and training and capacity building.

During the reporting year, the Chair has travelled intensively throughout the region and met with all key actors to engage them in the fight against trafficking in human beings. All countries of the region have taken action during the past months: they have set up national working groups and nominated national or governmental co-ordinators. Most of the countries are currently in the process of finalizing their National Plan of Action along the guidelines suggested by the Task Force. These National Plans of Action will be presented at the next Task Force meeting, scheduled to take place in December 2001, along with specific requests for funds in order to support the anti-trafficking policies of the countries of the Balkan region.

The Task Force will focus its future activities on preventive measures and on encouraging the collaboration between coun-

tries of origin, transit and destination in order to achieve effective prosecution of traffickers and thorough protection of trafficking victims. At the second Regional Ministerial Forum in Zagreb on 27 November 2001, the countries of South Eastern Europe will commit themselves to develop an information exchange mechanism in the field of law enforcement and security, channelling it through the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative's Regional Centre in Bucharest by taking into account Interpol and Europol procedures.

Regularly updated information on the activities of the Task Force is available online on the Task Force website at [www.stabilitypact.org/antitraffickingtaskforce](http://www.stabilitypact.org/antitraffickingtaskforce). The Task Force's activities were supported by contributions from the Governments of Austria, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as by secondments from Austria, the Czech Republic and Switzerland.

#### Regional seminar for anti-trafficking focal points in the Balkans

In response to the Vienna Ministerial Council Decision on combating trafficking in human beings and other more recent OSCE documents such as the Anti-Trafficking Guidelines, the ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, organized a seminar for anti-trafficking focal points from OSCE field operations in the Balkans. The main objective of the seminar, which was held in Pristina on 13-14 September, was to raise awareness and evaluate the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, as well as to exchange examples of good practice and materials from on-going projects in the field.

The first day of the training focused on how the OSCE can transform words into action, including assessing the actual implications of breaching the revised Code of Conduct. Participants recommended that seconding states acknowledge their responsibility to educate those they send into the field and to investigate, and, if necessary, prosecute allegations raised against their secondees. Other recommendations were related to improving co-operation between OSCE bodies and field operations. The Secretariat of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking also discussed future proposals for closer collaboration with OSCE field operations, including monitoring of projects and joint political approaches to host governments.

On the second day of the seminar, participants presented their anti-trafficking projects and analysed their co-operation with other international organizations, NGOs and host governments. Strategies were exchanged for improving commu-

nication and avoiding duplication of efforts. Attention was given to national pilot projects that may serve as models for initiatives in other OSCE countries.

### [Inventory of anti-trafficking activities in the Balkans](#)

In August 2000, UNICEF presented an “Inventory of the Current Situation and Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. Within the context of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, the report is a key reference tool summarizing the situation in the region and highlighting gaps and needs. In 2001, with additional support from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and ODIHR, the inventory was updated and expanded to cover Bulgaria, Moldova, and Romania. It includes analytical research on the background of victims of trafficking, as well as an outline of key issues and recommendations for programmatic interventions. Furthermore, to enhance co-operation and avoid duplication of efforts, the inventory provides an overview of initiatives and a contact list of those working to address trafficking in each country.

### [FRY: Round table on trafficking in human beings](#)

A round-table discussion assessing the situation of trafficking in human beings in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was initiated and organized by the ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to the FRY in Belgrade on 19-20 April. High-level officials from both national and federal levels opened the event, at which key government and NGO actors involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings met for the first time to begin a dialogue on developing a national anti-trafficking strategy.

The participants convened in working groups on prevention, protection and prosecution where they identified needs and set priorities for taking further measures. The Government in particular, but also non-governmental and international representatives showed strong commitment for the development of a co-ordinated anti-trafficking strategy. It was agreed that the OSCE Mission would take on the lead co-ordinating role for national anti-trafficking activities. The round table was made possible by an extra-budgetary contribution by the German Government.

### [Kosovo/FRY: Legal assistance to victims of trafficking](#)

In 2001, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, with support from the ODIHR, implemented a legal assistance project helping

victims of trafficking in Kosovo. The project ensures immediate legal representation for trafficked persons in the case of arrest. Once a trafficked victim is arrested and/or detained by law enforcement authorities, these authorities immediately contact the designated contact person and/or attorney to ensure effective legal representation.

The OSCE, in co-operation with other partners, has provided on-going training of NGOs and lawyers assisting victims regarding trafficking-related legal, social, and victims’ assistance issues. These training courses aim at improving the understanding of the issues involved and, thus, improving the lawyers’ performance in dealing with such cases, raising awareness about the question and preparing the lawyers to advocate in the courts so that these victims are not criminalized and punished for trafficking-related offences. The training also aims at identifying other, non-legal needs of victims. As a result of the project, a contact person will be responsible for initiating the necessary procedures for language assistance, emotional and psychological support and assistance, safe housing, and repatriation. The project was supported by extra-budgetary contributions from the United States.

### [Moldova: Assistance for legislative review and reform](#)

In autumn 2001, the OSCE Mission to Moldova, assisted by an ODIHR expert and in close co-operation with the American Bar Association’s Central and East European Law Initiative, provided the Moldovan authorities with a legislative review and recommendations for reforming its Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes. The Moldovan expert working group, appointed by the Parliament, plans to convene a round table with the OSCE Mission and an ODIHR expert to discuss the proposed amendments. It is hoped that the proposed anti-trafficking amendments will be incorporated into the revised Codes. The Government of the United States supported this project.

### [Romania: Anti-trafficking network created](#)

In April, the Romanian Government established an inter-ministerial working group against trafficking in human beings and also invited non-governmental and international organizations to participate in the discussion. From 4-7 April in Sinaia, supported by the ODIHR, selected NGOs working on anti-trafficking issues gathered for a training on networking, policy and strategy building in preparation for their work with the government. The event was financed by an extra-budgetary contribution from the United States.



#### Belarus: Awareness-raising seminars and materials

As part of the Ariadne project implemented by the Belarusian Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and La Strada Poland, the ODIHR supported five regional awareness-raising seminars in major cities throughout Belarus. The seminars brought together relevant local NGOs and state authorities to educate them about the situation of trafficking in human beings in the region and ways to co-operate to combat it and assist its victims. During the course of the project, several awareness-raising materials were produced. Some of the materials target professionals such as border guards and law enforcement officials in neighbouring Poland, while other materials target at-risk groups in Belarus. A "passport" brochure providing information on legislation and the rights of foreigners in various key countries of destination, as well as contact details in those countries of Belarusian embassies, international organizations and NGOs which may assist those stranded abroad was also developed and distributed.

#### Belarus: Anti-trafficking infoline established in Minsk

Supported by the ODIHR, an anti-trafficking infoline was established in Minsk by the Belarusian YWCA as part of its joint project with La Strada Poland. In its first three months of operation, the infoline received 437 calls and responded to questions about migration, work and marriage abroad. While the infoline has been set up specifically as a counselling service to raise awareness and prevent trafficking, its providers also knew that they would eventually receive calls asking for assistance for victims of trafficking.

By way of illustration, the infoline received such a call from the boyfriend of a Belarusian woman who had been trafficked to Bosnia and Herzegovina and forced into prostitution. She had managed to use a client's mobile phone to call her boyfriend in Belarus and to give him information about her situation and location in Bosnia. Her boyfriend turned to the infoline for help and the YWCA took steps to follow up on the case. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Minsk was informed and shared the information with IOM in Bosnia who co-ordinated with local actors to find the victim and three other women trafficked from Belarus. In early April all four women were voluntarily repatriated to Belarus.

#### Russian Federation: Awareness-raising through anti-trafficking radio programmes

The Russian Foundation for Independent Radio Broadcasting (FNR) and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) designed a series of five awareness raising radio pro-

grammes in consultation with the ODIHR and experts in the field. The series highlights the risks of trafficking and practical steps one should take before moving for work or other opportunities. In addition to illustrating the methods used by traffickers and providing advice on what to do in a crisis situation, the programmes also present valuable information about the legal framework in the Russian Federation and how one may verify whether a job offer is legitimate. The programmes were produced and aired by FNR in summer 2001 and subsequently distributed on compact disc to other local radio stations throughout the Russian Federation. Additional awareness raising materials, complementing the radio campaign, were distributed in booklet form and on the Internet. The project was made possible by extra-budgetary contributions from the United Kingdom.

#### Russian Federation: Establishment of information centres and promotion of NGO-Government co-operation

With support from the ODIHR, information centres to raise awareness about the risks of trafficking and to promote an appropriate response to the needs of trafficked victims were established in the city of Perm and neighbouring towns. The centres are managed by the Perm Centre against Violence and Human Trafficking and local volunteers in space provided by the Perm State Regional Universal Library and its branches. A variety of awareness-raising and training efforts were supported by the project and resulted in enhanced co-operation between NGOs and state authorities, as well as between NGOs and the media. These activities were supported by financial contributions from the Government of Finland.

#### Ukraine: Anti-trafficking hotline network created

The ODIHR and the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine have supported La Strada Ukraine in establishing a nation-wide anti-trafficking hotline network in Ukraine. The network currently consists of seven NGOs: La Strada Ukraine in Kyiv and six grassroots NGOs in Kharkiv, Lugansk, Odessa, Sevastopol, Ternopil and Uzhorod. After receiving training from La Strada, the regional NGOs now provide hotline consultations, collect data on trafficking in human beings, conduct public awareness-raising activities and co-ordinate with state authorities and other local NGOs to provide direct social, medical and legal assistance for trafficked women.

#### Poland: Direct assistance to victims

The ODIHR supported the Polish NGO La Strada in providing direct assistance services to Polish and foreign victims of trafficking. The assistance includes shelter, assistance with

replacing missing documents and the repatriation process, as well as referrals for legal aid and psychological counselling. In the first half of 2001, La Strada provided assistance to 17 foreign nationals from Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. Seven Polish citizens were assisted, of which four were trafficked within Poland. The above mentioned foreigners were able to return to their countries of origin. Only two of the victims decided to file complaints against their perpetrators.

### Kazakhstan: Training and regional conference “Information as Prevention”

On 4-5 June in Almaty, the ODIHR carried out several awareness-raising trainings for NGOs, students and journalists from Kazakhstan. The trainings and a regional conference “Trafficking in Persons: Information as Prevention” were organized and supported by the Embassy of the United States of America in Almaty together with USAID. Participants in the conference included representatives from all five Central Asian countries. The ODIHR gave a keynote speech and facilitated a working group on information campaigns in which participants strategized about how NGOs and journalists could more closely co-operate to raise awareness about the risks of trafficking. The project was made possible through financial support from the United States.

### Tajikistan: Groundbreaking research

In August, IOM published a report on trafficking in Tajikistan. The report reflects eight months of research by a local NGO with support and feedback from IOM, ODIHR, the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, UNICEF, the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan. The report details the process of trafficking in Tajikistan including patterns of recruitment, transport and exploitation. It also provides a socio-economic profile of victims and potential at-risk groups. Finally, the report includes a set of recommendations for the Government of Tajikistan, NGOs and international organization on developing appropriate anti-trafficking initiatives.

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECT FUND

In February, the ODIHR officially launched its new Anti-Trafficking Project Fund. The initiative to create the Fund was supported by a generous contribution from the United Kingdom. In addition, Cyprus, Monaco and Sweden have contributed to the Fund. Thus far, funds have been committed to support ODIHR anti-trafficking activities in Belarus, Montenegro/FRY, Poland, Ukraine and the Stability Pact region, as well as OSCE field operation projects in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia/FRY, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The projects mainly focus on prevention of trafficking and victim protection. In several instances, these efforts further aim to enhance co-operation between state authorities, international agencies and NGOs. In 2001, the following projects were supported through the Anti-Trafficking Fund:

### ALBANIA

**Training of trainers “Policing the Rights of Women”:** To contribute to combating trafficking and violence against women while ensuring witness protection and maintaining effective police procedures by training the teaching staff at the Tirana Police Academy.

### BELARUS

**Prevention campaign and establishment of infoline services:** To establish an infoline that provides counselling and information services. To create a network of already identified NGOs working together to combat trafficking. To carry out five regional awareness-raising seminars for volunteers and relevant professionals.

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Enhancing legal protection for trafficked victims:** To establish a group of defence lawyers specialized in trafficking issues, a list of whom will be distributed to all courts for *ex-officio* appointments of lawyers. To develop guidelines for the protection of trafficked persons that will be distributed to all courts and prosecutor’s offices.

**Capacity-building project for the Anti-Trafficking Network:** To build the capacity of the RING Network of NGOs. To facilitate the establishment of a secretariat for the RING Network and empower it to take on anti-trafficking advocacy work. To promote regional co-operation and approach.

### KAZAKHSTAN

**Educational programme on trafficking in women:** To disseminate the “Educational Programme on Trafficking in Women in Kazakhstan and Central Asia” and to conduct a

training-of-trainers for NGOs from Kazakhstan. To develop the educational legal programme on prevention of trafficking in women and children for law enforcement officials, border guards and judges from Kazakhstan. To conduct pilot trainings using the newly developed programme and to publish the programme in two languages (Kazakh and Russian).

#### KYRGYZSTAN

##### **Public service announcement on trafficking in women:**

To raise public awareness. To foster preventive measures via electronic mass media outlets. To provide relevant instructions and information to at-risk groups.

#### MONTENEGRO / FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

**Establishment of SOS hotline and referral system:** This project is part of a comprehensive Victim Protection Programme designed by NGOs, state authorities and international agencies. The SOS hotline is the basis of a referral system that ensures that all relevant actors will be involved to protect victims' rights and provide them with services. The Women's Lobby of Montenegro will implement the project in close co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Women's Safe House.

#### POLAND

**Direct assistance for return and reintegration:** Provision of direct services and material aid to victims of trafficking, reintegration and return assistance to victims returning to Poland or in transit to their country of origin.

#### TAJKISTAN

**Training for law enforcement and judicial bodies:** To increase awareness on trafficking in human beings, including its causes and consequences, among law enforcement officials and the judiciary. To increase their capacity to investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes while protecting the human rights of the victims. To enhance NGO-government co-operation.

#### UKRAINE

**Support for regional NGO hotlines network:** To provide effective support to victims of trafficking and their families. To collect reliable data on working and travelling abroad for dissemination. To increase public awareness about the problem of trafficking in Ukraine.

**Establishing a witness protection programme for trafficked persons:** To elaborate a draft witness protection programme for trafficked persons in Ukraine. To enhance co-operation between law enforcement, prosecutors and NGOs. To conduct a training seminar for officials dealing with trafficking.

#### SERBIA / FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

**Strengthening the co-operation of police and NGOs to enhance victim protection:** To promote co-ordinated co-operation between NGOs and law enforcement. To establish the foundation for a system of victim protection including referrals for shelter and other services, as well as the elaboration of a witness protection programme.

#### STABILITY PACT

**Responses to trafficking in human beings in South Eastern Europe:** To up-date and expand the UNICEF inventory from August 2000 covering Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (including Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as to map out the current situation, key actors, responses and anti-trafficking activities in Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania.

**Activities of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings:** To design and to better co-ordinate activities to combat trafficking in human beings in the Stability Pact countries, and to facilitate communication among all relevant institutions and bodies to combat trafficking in human beings in South Eastern Europe.

### GENDER EQUALITY

Increased attention has been paid to gender issues as an integral part of the ODIHR's work over the last few years, recognizing that representative democracy requires the equal status and contribution of women. The ODIHR works to implement specific gender projects and to ensure that all its activities take into account the need for greater equality.

Transition has frequently had a negative impact for women. Participation of women in government and politics has declined in many countries, while social and economic pressures are considered by many NGOs to have brought increased domestic violence. The post communist era has seen sexual violence directed at women during conflicts and the emergence of trafficking. Economic transition has often brought discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace.

NGOs addressing these issues are now at the forefront of civil society development in many former communist countries. The ODIHR has an essential role to play in working with NGO and government partners on a long-term strategy for empowerment of women and developing frameworks for equal opportunities and protection of women's rights.

The ODIHR Gender Unit works to mainstream a gender perspective into all the work of the ODIHR.

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Following the adoption of the OSCE Gender Action Plan, the ODIHR has expanded its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all its programmes. Each of the ODIHR's sections and units has developed or adapted its projects and other activities with this priority in mind. The ODIHR's Election Section has developed, tested and begun to implement a methodology for including gender issues in its election observation missions. The Monitoring Unit has worked to keep the human rights of women on the OSCE's political agenda, by making gender an explicit issue in human dimension meetings, and by including gender concerns in talking points for high-level bilateral consultations by the OSCE Chairmanship. The ODIHR's Democratization Section has mainstreamed a gender component into a broad range of project activities, including in the fields of prison reform, assistance to national human rights institutions, legislative review and legal aid programmes, human rights training, projects on internally displaced persons, grassroots democracy projects, and anti-trafficking projects aiming at prevention and protection.

These efforts have ensured that gender issues and advancing equal rights are integral elements of the ODIHR's programmes throughout the OSCE area. In September, the ODIHR issued a detailed report on its mainstreaming efforts ([www.osce.org/odihr/documents/gender\\_ap2001](http://www.osce.org/odihr/documents/gender_ap2001)).

### PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Most of the newly independent states have only recently acceded to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As a result compliance with CEDAW is also lagging behind, not only with regard to legal development but also policy.

Many people, women and men, in the new democracies are still unaware of internationally accepted principles of women's rights. They often are unfamiliar with the areas covered by international conventions and treaties as well as recent developments concerning national legislation on gender equality. As a result many women do not claim their rights, including in the private sphere. At the same time, law enforcement bodies such as the police or the judicial system also need to build an understanding of contemporary human rights concepts and the implications for their work.

#### **Kazakhstan: Training trainers in leadership skills**

In view of the lack of awareness among Kazakhstani women about their human rights, and how to enforce these rights, the

ODIHR initiated a training-of-trainers programme in 2000. The project was continued in 2001 with a focus on developing leadership skills of women, particularly NGO representatives.

Twenty-four future trainers from women's NGOs across Kazakhstan were trained in fields such as democratic leadership of NGOs and mobilization of power by building constituencies, sharing responsibilities, co-operating with others and exchanging information. The training also included strategic planning skills based on strengths-weaknesses analysis and opinion surveys. In addition, the participants learned practical skills such as giving press conferences and TV interviews.

Based on this training, and with support from the ODIHR and OSCE Centre in Almaty, the participants identified actual and potential women leaders in the regions of Kazakhstan, and conducted a series of 130 training events for them on women's leadership in 13 regions of Kazakhstan. The project was made possible through extra-budgetary contributions from the Netherlands.

#### **Uzbekistan: Monitoring women's human rights**

As part of the ODIHR's women's human rights monitoring and reporting programme, 25 NGO representatives and government bodies from Uzbekistan were trained on women's human rights and how to monitor and document cases of discrimination. As a second phase of the programme, the participants developed proposals for concrete monitoring projects, some of which will be implemented with support of consultants from the Polish Helsinki Foundation. The project was funded by Denmark.

#### **Armenia: Gender equality and women's rights education for students**

In Armenia, the ODIHR supported the development of gender equality and women's rights education for university students. In co-operation with local gender experts, a curriculum for a university course on gender equality and women's rights was designed. This included a basic introduction on gender equality and women's rights issues and an additional programme for specific faculties, including the faculties of law, history, culture, and social affairs.

As part of the programme, 20 professors from different universities received training on gender issues, including on methodology for conducting gender courses. The training of professors was organized in the form of a summer school and was the first special education programme for university professors on teaching gender issues in Armenia.

The project, which was financially supported by the Netherlands, met great interest and received much positive feedback from the students as well as the professors. It succeeded in building local training capacity on gender issues and raising awareness on gender equality and women's rights among young people in Armenia.

#### **Albania: Awareness-raising about women's rights and trafficking**

In Albania, the ODIHR trained a team of training experts to promote information on women's rights in areas particularly affected by trafficking in human beings. The trainers then provided comprehensive education to targeted groups on gender equality and women's rights including domestic violence and trafficking. The project also addressed women's economic inequality and developed practical advocacy and other solutions to abuses of women's rights. Among the target groups were students, teachers, nurses, lawyers, police, doctors, social workers, NGO representatives, housewives and rural women.

As a result of the project, which was financially supported by the Swiss Government, 16 women have become professional trainers on women's rights and the issue of trafficking so far. The trainers form a highly committed and motivated team which has managed to reach out to some 900 persons across Albania.

#### **Albania: Training police on women's rights**

Following an ODIHR project on the development of a new police training course on policing domestic violence, prostitution and trafficking, this curriculum was used in June 2001 for a training programme at the Police Academy in Tirana, supported by the ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Fund. As next steps, it is planned to integrate the curriculum in the regular training package, and to train police officers across Albania.

## **PROMOTING WOMEN'S ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING**

Due to various factors women's representation in the economic and political arena has declined steeply in many of the new democracies. Women's organizations in transition states are increasingly taking action to promote the participation of women in leadership positions and politics. The ODIHR is committed to support these efforts through its leadership development projects in the Caucasus and Central Asia, and through support to the Stability Pact Gender Task Force.

Gender integration in election observation is another strategic tool that will be used for planning of future technical assistance programmes.

The projects mentioned below are part of the ODIHR's long-term strategic approach to support civil society movements advocating for women's rights and gender equality, increasing the number of women at decision-making level, and developing comprehensive policies on gender issues.

### **Kyrgyzstan: Women's leadership and advocacy**

With a project widely considered as a milestone in the development of the women's movement in Kyrgyzstan, the ODIHR helped local women NGOs to create the basis for effective lobbying and networking on gender issues.

Participants at an ODIHR training workshop for future women's rights trainers in Georgia

The project focused on creating local training capacity on women's rights and gender equality by conducting a training-of-trainers programme for a group of 25 women from all regions of Kyrgyzstan. The participants were trained in networking and capacity-building as well as gender equality and women's leadership skills. A special training was offered for young women generally excluded from work on gender issues.

As a result of the project, more than 2400 women from all regions of Kyrgyzstan were trained over the past two years. The project succeeded in creating concrete procedures for networking and co-operation and brought about considerable progress towards the development of a democratic civil society movement on gender issues which will be able to address discrimination and inequality faced by women in Kyrgyzstan. As a direct result of the ODIHR training, many women have established NGOs or community groups at local level and are now advocating women's rights with the local authorities. The project, which was financially supported by Germany, was seen by many participants as a major breakthrough that motivated and inspired them to be more actively involved in public life.

### **Azerbaijan: Women's leadership and political participation**

In Azerbaijan, the ODIHR carried out a project focusing on building local training capacity on gender issues and promoting women's participation in society, women's rights and gender equality outside the capital.

Twenty-two women from 11 regions of Azerbaijan were trained to raise awareness among women throughout Azerbaijan by conducting follow-up seminars in their home regions. The project thus reached more than 1,500 women throughout Azerbaijan and was the only international initiative on gender issues outside the capital. It met great interest throughout the country, and it had significant impact on the participants' motivation to be active in the society, learn about their rights and promote gender equality. Under the project, the ODIHR also launched a gender education programme for women from government structures, which also includes support for the development of a national gender policy. The project received funding from the Netherlands.



### **Georgia: Women's rights awareness raising training, creation of first women's NGO coalition**

In Georgia, an ODIHR training project led to the creation of the first coalition of women's NGOs in the country and helped identify common goals among women NGO leaders. The interactive training methodology equipped the NGO leaders with useful knowledge on leadership skills, introduced the idea of women's movement, and highlighted the importance of co-operation among women NGO representatives. The ODIHR assisted with the creation of the NGO coalition and helped with developing a common strategy.

The newly created coalition then actively contributed to the second element of the ODIHR's gender project in Georgia: the education of women on the importance of women's participation in society, women's rights and gender equality in 11 regions of Georgia reaching more than 1,500 women. The

project, funded by the Netherlands, significantly raised awareness on women's rights across the country and created local training capacity for advocacy and lobbying on gender equality and women's participation in public life.

#### [Southern Caucasus: Confidence building for women leaders](#)

In an attempt to make experience from the Baltic and the Balkans states available to women leaders from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ODIHR organized a meeting in Tallinn, Estonia which served to exchange experiences, highlight common issues relevant to the transition context, and analyse successful strategies on increasing women's leadership and advocating women's role in peace building. During the meeting, which brought together women from the Southern Caucasus, the Baltic states and the Balkans, the participants developed plans for co-operation and established networks, including by use of Internet and e-mail. The meeting was made possible through an extra-budgetary contribution from Canada.

## PREVENTING AND COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

#### [Azerbaijan: Project on combating domestic violence](#)

In Azerbaijan, the ODIHR continued its co-operation with Government and NGOs on prevention of domestic violence against women. Following the recommendations from the 2000 ODIHR conference "Say No To Violence", the first public forum for discussing domestic violence against women between NGOs and the Government in Azerbaijan, the ODIHR project this year focused on awareness-raising training for police, legal analysis of the current legislation, and the development of information material for law enforcement bodies on domestic violence. The project was funded by extra-budgetary contributions from the Netherlands.

#### [Publication on best practises](#)

Following an OSCE meeting on gender-based violence initiated by the so-called Informal Group in Vienna, the ODIHR initiated the compilation of a brochure describing best practices on combating gender-based violence. It is hoped that this brochure, to be published soon, will support the work of participating States to develop integrated approaches on this issue.

## FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT/MIGRATION

Recent conflicts in the OSCE region have resulted in the displacement of some 7.5 million people. Their plight is a major human dimension concern. Many more have moved due to reasons associated with economic transition.

The ODIHR's work in this field is based on the premise that weak legal systems and deficiencies in democratic governance especially adversely affect all categories of migrants and, in particular, those who had to flee places of their previous residence.

The ODIHR seeks to enhance respect for human rights of migrants by improving human rights standards among border service officers, by providing training on international standards and by advising on appropriate organizational structures. The Office also assists participating States in improving their population registration systems to ensure non-discrimination against all categories of migrants.

### Southern Caucasus: ODIHR project on IDPs

Credible estimates indicate that there are over 3.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the OSCE region. IDPs often find themselves living in very challenging conditions, and there is a need to ensure that the IDPs enjoy the same spectrum of rights as other citizens. IDPs often flee places of their habitual residence due to the same reasons as refugees. However, unlike refugees, who cross internationally recognized borders and fall under the mandate of the UNHCR, IDPs remain on the territory and under the protection of their state. Since there is no international agency responsible for the protection of IDPs, the plight of IDPs has frequently escaped the attention of the international community. Therefore, the ODIHR started projects to fill this gap. Building on previous work in the Southern Caucasus, the ODIHR focused its attention on the three countries of this region, where various conflicts led to internal displacement of some one million persons.

As a follow-up to the Southern Caucasus Regional Workshop on Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, conducted in May 2000 in Tbilisi, the ODIHR, jointly with the Brookings Institution and the City University of New York, has initiated a project to study the legal situation of IDPs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The goal of the project is to develop recommendations for legislation that ensures that IDPs are not discriminated against.

A first study analysing the legal status of IDPs in Armenia was prepared by two local lawyers supervised by Prof. Walter Kaelin of University of Berne, a leading international expert on IDPs. The results of the study, which found that IDPs were not clearly defined in the Armenian legislation, were discussed at a round table with local NGOs, government officials, international experts and NGOs, organized with assistance of the OSCE Centre in Yerevan. The controversial question of whether such a definition should be introduced was discussed. There was general agreement that while simply introducing a legal status for IDPs in itself was not sufficient, such a step could help in focusing protective measures and assistance programmes. International organizations and their Armenian counterparts agreed to continue the dialogue, including on conducting a mapping of the needs of IDPs on the ground.

As a next step, the ODIHR and its project partners will organize similar round tables on the situation of IDPs in Georgia and Azerbaijan. The ODIHR's participation in this project has been made possible due to an extra-budgetary contribution by the Government of Canada.



### Reform of population registration systems in the CIS

For the last few years the ODIHR has been assisting a number of CIS countries to move away from the Soviet-era *propiska* system to population registration systems that guarantee freedom of movement and choice of place of residence. Given that in the Soviet period the *propiska* system served as an instrument for state control over internal migration and tied a number of political, social, and economic rights to a particular state-approved place of residence, the transition to democracy requires a reform of this system.

Refugees and IDPs have been particularly affected by the *propiska* system. Having been compelled to move to places other than where they had *propiska*, refugees and IDPs found themselves cut off from a whole range of rights previously available to them, including employment, education, medical care, etc. Therefore, the reform of the *propiska* system is also urgently needed to provide adequate protection of refugees and IDPs.

In view of the enormous complexity of this problem in the post-Soviet region, the ODIHR initiated and carried out round-table discussions on the subject of registration in the CIS countries (Kyiv, 1998), in Kazakhstan (Almaty, 1999), and Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, 1999). The round tables have created a favourable public opinion, primarily in the human rights community and the media, and kicked off a dialogue on the issue with government officials and parliamentarians. Currently, the ODIHR is carrying out projects on reform of the *propiska* system in Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and Ukraine.

As a follow-up to a study on the impact of the *propiska* system on human rights in Kyrgyzstan prepared in 2000 by the ODIHR and the Bishkek Migration Management Centre (BMMC), a round-table meeting with government officials was held in Bishkek to develop recommendations for improving the respect for the right to freedom of movement and choice of residence. It was recommended to draft and pass a Law on Internal Migration, which would establish a comprehensive legal framework for internal migration issues. In view of the increasing number of internal migrants in Kyrgyzstan, the adoption of such a Law was seen as a priority.

As a next step, an expert team consisting of representatives from various ministries, NGOs and the Parliament was set up to draft the Law. The head of the Kazakhstani Bureau for Human Rights was invited to take part in the drafting process, taking into account the evident similarities in the problems of both countries. The ODIHR also contributed to the drafting process. After a final round table, the draft Law

was forwarded to Parliament where it now awaits its first reading. The project was funded by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America

In Armenia, a working group was established to draft three relevant laws: a Law on the State Register, a Law on the National ID Number and a Law on Protection of Personal Data. The working group included independent lawyers as well as representatives of relevant ministries and the Parliament. The UNHCR contributed its expertise on registration of refugees.

The three drafts were completed by mid-2001 and, following a final round table, sent to Parliament for discussion. Following the adoption of the Laws, the ODIHR plans to assist the Armenian authorities, both on national and local levels, with introducing practical measures to implement the new legislation. The work on this project has been funded by contributions from the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom.

### Ukraine: Onerous registration requirements for foreigners abolished

As a direct result of the ODIHR's project on the reform of the registration system of Ukraine, registration with the Ministry of Interior of foreign nationals staying in Ukraine for less than three months was formally abolished by presidential decree in June, and a number of draft laws relating to freedom of movement and choice of place of residence have been developed.

As a first step leading to these first positive results, a working group composed of representatives of the Presidential Administration and relevant ministries was created to develop the legislative framework for a new registration system. At the same time a local NGO, the Migration Problems Research Centre, conducted a study of the existing legislation on civil registration in Ukraine with a view to elaborate proposals for its reform.

In order for the working group members to get acquainted with international standards and best practices, a training programme was organized by the ODIHR and its partners. The programme included training in Denmark, which has a highly efficient system of population registration, and Moldova, a front-runner in reforming the Soviet-era *propiska* system. In both countries the working group members met with officials from key institutions dealing with civil registration and identified elements which could serve as models for the reform efforts in Ukraine.

Following the completion of the draft Laws, a round table with participants from all relevant governmental agencies and NGOs was organized by the ODIHR and Presidential Administration on 27-28 September in Odessa with assistance from the Office of OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The round table covered main issues related to the reform of the registration system in Ukraine, such as international standards on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence, main deficiencies of the existing *propiska* system, latest legislative developments, and practical experiences of the local Visa and Registration Offices of the Ministry of Interior which currently are responsible for registration. Special focus was put on the analyses of various draft laws on registration of citizens of Ukraine which were under discussion in Parliament. The seminar has drawn a concrete framework for future co-operation, including regular meetings of informal working groups, training activities for government officials and ODIHR legal assistance. The project was funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the United Kingdom.

Participants of the ODIHR workshop on cross-border co-operation on migration issues

An example of the ODIHR's work in this field is the training programme for border guards from Azerbaijan, which was implemented in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration and funded by the United States.

In June a group of border officials from Azerbaijan, including representatives of the Border Inspection Training Centre, visited Poland for a training programme. The participants were provided with first-hand insight into Polish policies and practices of border control and training methods. The programme included meetings at the Training and Personnel Department of the Border Guard Headquarters in Warsaw, visits to Warsaw airport and one of the checkpoints on the border with the Russian Federation, as well as training courses at the Polish Border Guard Centre in Ketrzyn.



### South Caucasus: Reform of border service training systems

Following their independence, the former Soviet republics have been faced with the emergence of new borders and the need to create effective border services. Illegal migration, organized criminal activities, the difficult political and social-economic situation as well as the results of frozen conflicts, civil wars or external threats have resulted in national security being a main concern for the governments of the region. In view of the difficult security situation, it is of primary importance to preserve the balance between respect for human rights and protection of national security.

Therefore, the ODIHR continued its programme of assistance to the development of effective training systems for border services in the CIS, particularly by introducing human rights issues into the training curricula. The projects were implemented in co-operation with the Polish Border Service, which itself had undergone the transformation from a military structure under the Ministry of Defence to a "border police" under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In July-August, a senior expert in curriculum development from the Polish Border Guard Training Centre in Koszalin went to Baku for a month to assist with developing training programmes for the newly opened Border Inspection Training Centre in Baku. A comprehensive report covering the current training needs of the Azerbaijani Border Service together with recommendations on training materials and programmes for the Border Inspection Training Centre have been officially presented to Azerbaijani authorities. Similar activities are under preparation for Georgia and Armenia.

### Cross-border co-operation through improvement of migration legislation

The emergence of new borders in the CIS region has created a number of difficulties for the ordinary people in these countries. While strengthening border controls is paramount to the national security of the newly independent states, the interest of citizens with cross-border family or commercial ties should not be ignored.

The difficult balance between introducing new migration and border control policies and safeguarding human rights was examined at a workshop organized by the ODIHR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Almaty in October. The participants in the workshop examined the experiences in the sphere of migration policy and legislation made by the Czech and Slovak republics, Lithuania, Canada, the United States, and the countries of the Schengen area, and discussed the implications of these experiences for the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Among the participants in the meeting were the Adviser on migration issues to the President of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Ministers of Justice of Georgia and Kazakhstan, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, and parliamentarians from Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine. In addition, the meeting was attended by other high-level officials, parliamentarians and NGO representatives from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as by government officials from Central and Western Europe and international experts.

The discussions resulted in the development of concrete recommendations for follow-up action. The workshop, which was held within the framework of the follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues, was made possible by contributions from the Governments of Germany and Denmark.

### STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

The strengthening of civil society in countries in transition is a main focus of the ODIHR's democratization activities. Through a number of assistance projects, it seeks to establish constructive dialogue between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government or state representatives on legislation affecting the civil society and on important human rights issues.

In post-conflict areas, the ODIHR brings together actors from the different parties involved in order to support reconciliation efforts. In addition, it builds public awareness of national human rights provisions through support for the production of educational TV and radio programmes. Finally, the ODIHR enhances the capacity of NGOs and facilitates their participation in major OSCE events such as Summits, Review Conferences or Human Dimension Meetings and Seminars.

#### Central Asia and South Caucasus: Training on human rights monitoring and reporting

Following a successful pilot project in Uzbekistan in 2000, the ODIHR expanded the training programme to include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan in addition to continuing the programme in Uzbekistan. The aim of the programme is to develop practical skills in monitoring and reporting, as well as increasing contacts and networking among local human rights activists.

The training was conducted by expert trainers from the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and implemented in close co-operation with OSCE field presences. The training programme consisted of two five-day training sessions in each country for up to twenty-five persons from NGOs and government institutions, which was then followed by the elaboration of proposals for monitoring exercises of which four to five in each country were supported with small funding. The trainers then assisted the NGOs in refining their monitoring exercises before they were carried out. The monitoring exercises supported range from monitoring detainees' rights to access to correspondence and family visits in prisons in Armenia to reporting on the situation of children's rights in Uzbekistan. The programme has proven to be very popular and ODIHR hopes to continue and expand it in 2002 to include Georgia and Tajikistan.

The Central Asian part of the training programme forms part of the joint ODIHR-European Commission programme on Central Asia and the Danish-ODIHR Strategic Partnership Co-operation Programme for Central Asia. The programme in Armenia is funded by extra-budgetary contributions from Norway and Sweden while in Azerbaijan funding is provided by an extra-budgetary contribution from Germany.

#### Central Asia: Civil society assistance project

In Kazakhstan, the ODIHR, jointly with the OSCE Centre in Almaty and the media monitoring NGO "Adil Soz", organized a seminar in Astana on 26-27 January on strengthening professional relations and co-operation between the mass media, law enforcement bodies, and the court system in Kazakhstan.

The seminar, which sought to underline the importance of transparency, objectivity, and mutual respect as the basis of relations between journalists and government structures, focused upon how to best construct relations between the press and law enforcement bodies and the court system. The participants also discussed in great detail proposed amendments to the Law on the Mass Media then under consideration by the Parliament.

The second NGO-Government meeting in Kazakhstan took place in Almaty on 19-20 October. It focused on the contribution of civil society in the discussion on import and storage of radioactive waste in Kazakhstan. Delegates from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan, the Parliamentary Committee on Ecology, political parties, scientists, NGOs and international organizations participated in the event.

In Tajikistan, the ODIHR, jointly with the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, UNICEF and the Government of Tajikistan, conducted a conference on the protection of children's rights on 10-13 July in Dushanbe to follow up recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Government of Tajikistan. The event was attended by more than 150 participants, including representatives from the President's office, Parliament, courts, the prosecutor's office, relevant ministries, local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, as well as youth and children's organizations and the media.



#### Armenia: Public awareness TV programmes on human rights

The ODIHR, jointly with the OSCE Office in Yerevan, has continued the production and broadcast of a series of public awareness TV programmes, each devoted to a specific human rights issue. In addition to the production of documentary films the project included in-depth discussions of human rights issues on TV following a talk show format, which were later adapted for radio broadcast. This year, the following issues were covered: membership in the Council of Europe and its impact on human rights protection in Armenia, the independence of the judiciary, rights of detainees and arrested persons, and rights of prisoners. In addition, the production of programmes on the following themes were started: the office of the Ombudsman, traffic police and citizens' rights, the rights of national minorities, trafficking in human beings. The project was funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from Germany.

Participants at the ODIHR human rights training workshop in Armenia

As a result of the conference, the participants agreed on key elements of a National Plan of Action for Children, which reflected the main problems of children in Tajikistan and outlined concrete measures aimed at solving these problems. The Action Plan will be completed and submitted to the Tajik Government for final adoption by a National Commission on Child Protection which was to be established shortly after the conference.

The civil society assistance project forms part of the joint European Commission-ODIHR programme on Central Asia and receives additional funding for activities in Tajikistan from an extra-budgetary contribution from the United States. Activities in Kazakhstan are co-funded with an extra-budgetary contribution from Canada.

## TOLERANCE AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Commitments on freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief were first enshrined as OSCE commitments in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, making them among the most long-standing OSCE human dimension commitments. These initial commitments have been repeatedly reaffirmed and were expanded substantially in subsequent OSCE documents, notably the Vienna Concluding Document of 1989.

In order to foster the implementation of these commitments, a newly restructured Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief was established under the auspices of the ODIHR at the beginning of 2000. The Panel serves primarily as an advisory and consultative body, highlighting issues or trends that deserve attention and suggesting constructive approaches that might be undertaken by the ODIHR to advance religious freedom. The ODIHR makes the Panel's expertise available to participating States and to OSCE field operations.

The Panel consists of 30 eminent experts from different backgrounds and of various faiths from throughout the OSCE region. Members serve in their personal capacities as experts, and do not represent any organization or confession. On occasion, Panel members are requested to represent the ODIHR at international meetings or seminars.

Experts of the Panel are ready to give advice and to mediate, if invited, by any participating State via the ODIHR. Though first and foremost an Advisory Panel for the ODIHR, the Panel also undertakes concrete activities and projects, often in close co-operation with OSCE field operations, as part of its efforts to advance religious freedom in the OSCE region.

The Panel is divided into three working groups, each with two co-chairs. The six co-chairs constitute a Contact Group, which serves as the principal liaison between the Panel and ODIHR. The three working groups reflect the Panel's three priority areas of activity: conflict prevention and dialogue, legislative issues and education/awareness for tolerance.

The current composition of the Contact Group of the Panel is as follows:

**Working Group 1: Conflict Prevention and Dialogue**

Co-Chairs: **Reverend Rüdiger Noll**  
Moderator of the Contact Group,  
Conference of European Churches  
**Dr. Bahja Tahzib-Lie**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands

**Working Group 2: Legislative Issues**

Co-Chairs: **Professor W. Cole Durham**  
Brigham Young University, USA  
**Professor Sophie van Bijsterveld**  
Katholieke Universiteit Brabant,  
Netherlands

**Working Group 3: Education/Awareness for Tolerance**

Co-Chairs: **Professor Emmanuel Agius**  
University of Malta  
**Professor Jolanta J. Ambrosewicz**  
Jagiellonian University, Poland

The Contact Group of the Panel convened on 20-21 June in The Hague, Netherlands, in the margins of a seminar on "Freedom of Religion or Belief: Challenges to Law and Practice", organized by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian OSCE Chairmanship. The seminar, which was attended by experts on the issue from across the OSCE region, was addressed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mircea Geoana, and the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jozias van Aartsen. Both Ministers stressed the importance of tolerance and freedom of religion.

As well as discussing strategies to implement the recommendations made at the seminar, the Advisory Panel reviewed its activities and related ODIHR project implementation since the previous meeting in October 2000, and discussed trends in state practice on religious freedom across the OSCE region.

During 2001, the Panel was involved in a number of projects in co-operation with governments and other groups across the OSCE region.

#### Tolerance package for education system of Armenia

Following the recommendations of an ODIHR-sponsored expert round table on tolerance for ethnic and religious Groups in Armenia in May 2000, it was decided to incorporate tolerance education into the secondary school curriculum. Together with the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science and the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the Advisory Panel is assisting with the development of a brochure for eighth grade students and a manual for teachers.

This project was made possible by a contribution from Norway.

#### Law on status of religious communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A draft law on the Status of Religious Associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina was prepared by experts of the Advisory Panel and discussed with representatives of the major religious denominations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, members of the Inter-religious Council, as well as other national and international agencies. After its acceptance by the Inter-religious Council, regional presentations of the law are being held in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, and Tuzla to explain it to the public before submitting it to the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina for consideration. This project was made possible by a contribution from Norway.

#### Legislation database

ODIHR Advisory Panel experts are working on the expansion of a website ([www.religlaw.org](http://www.religlaw.org)), which will eventually contain the legal provisions of all OSCE participating States in order to identify best practices. The website has been developed by Brigham Young University International Centre for Law and Religion Studies in co-operation with a number of partners, including the ODIHR, academic institutions, international organizations and government bodies. A Norwegian contribution made possible the ODIHR participation in this project.

#### Legislative reviews in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

At the beginning of 2001 the Panel was invited to review the draft religion laws of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Professor Cole Durham travelled to Kazakhstan and prepared a commentary on the draft Law on Religion, which was presented to the relevant Kazakh authorities. This was followed by a round table, held in the Parliament in April, which was attended by deputies from both Chambers of the Parliament, representatives of the Council on Religion, the Security Council, Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the OSCE Centre in Almaty and experts from the ODIHR Advisory Panel, Dr. Jeremy Gunn, of Emory University, USA, and Professor Roman Podoprighora, of Higher Law School Adilet.

Dr. Gunn and Professor Podoprighora also travelled to Kyrgyzstan for a number of meetings with government and parliament officials, as well as some NGOs to discuss the Kyrgyz draft Law on Religion. A review of the law was subsequently presented to the authorities by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. A number of consultations have taken place in anticipation of a final draft which is currently being prepared.

Both projects were carried out as part of the ODIHR's Legislative Alert and Assistance programme, which is funded by a contribution from the United Kingdom.

#### Meetings with Turkmen Authorities

Following a request to the ODIHR from the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad, ODIHR Panel member Professor Silvio Ferrari, of the Università Degli Studi di Milano, travelled to Turkmenistan in April for meetings with representatives of the state agencies that deal with religious matters. A frank and open discussion of the topic of religious liberty in the country took place and it is hoped to continue the dialogue in the future.

This project was carried out under the ODIHR grassroots programme, funded by a contribution from Denmark.

### FOCUS ON SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Within the framework of its regional focus on South Eastern Europe, the ODIHR follows political and human dimension developments throughout the Balkans, facilitates the operation of, and assistance to, the ODIHR Office in Podgorica, identifies, implements and monitors democratization projects in the region, and co-ordinates with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, other regional initiatives and implementation partners.

During the year, ODIHR closely examined and advised on political and other developments throughout the region, assessing significant political processes, which resulted in important political decisions and projects being implemented by the ODIHR and other partners, particularly in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In close consultation with, and upon requests from, OSCE field operations, the ODIHR has agreed to play a co-ordinating role in the region regarding issues within its mandated areas, in order to serve as an institutional memory for the OSCE and its field operations. During autumn 2001, the initial planning for regional co-ordination meetings, to be conducted through 2002 and 2003, was finalized. Representatives from each field operation will participate in these meetings, which are aimed at sharing information, and identifying priorities and strategies.

As OSCE field operations throughout the region are being restructured or scaled back, the ODIHR has sought to assess areas where it will be required to shoulder more political, human dimension and monitoring responsibilities at the national and regional level. In the long term, this will likely require more co-ordination and a further focused approach for the region.

#### South Eastern Europe: Prison reform programme

The ODIHR assists countries in South Eastern Europe with the reform of prisons, with an emphasis on management and training of prison staff. An important element is to build links between prison services of countries of the region in order to allow exchange of best practices and experiences.

Under this programme, the ODIHR conducted a prison assessment in Serbia/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in June in order to evaluate the living conditions as well as staff and prisoner needs, and to develop recommendations for future reform action. The results of this assessment were presented in October to the Government at a seminar on prison reform and human rights, organized by the ODIHR, the OSCE Mission to the FRY, the Serbian Ministry of Justice and the Council of Europe. The seminar offered prison governors the opportunity to discuss issues of concern and provided the OSCE, the Ministry and the Council of Europe with some guidance from the working level on what the governors saw as priorities for prison reform in the near future. In addition, the seminar was attended by prison officials and government representatives, the President of the Serbian Association of Judges, and representatives of local and international human rights organizations.

The ODIHR also organized expert visits on prison reform to other countries in South Eastern Europe, including Albania and Montenegro/FRY, as well as regional seminars in Croatia.

The prison reform programme is financed by contributions from the Governments of Austria and Norway.

#### FRY: Round table on law enforcement

Following the publication of an OSCE report on the situation of law enforcement in Yugoslavia, the ODIHR supported a round table aimed at gathering national and international actors in the field in order to agree on priorities and action on the structural reform of law enforcement agencies.

#### FRY: Assistance to legal reform

The ODIHR, together with the OSCE Mission to the FRY and the Council of Europe, held a workshop on judicial reform on 9 April in Belgrade. Government representatives, judges, prosecutors, NGOs and international experts participating in the workshop reviewed reform efforts and plans regarding the judiciary and prosecutors, and discussed priorities for the future.



#### FRY: Support for OSCE Mission build-up

The ODIHR dispatched two experts to Belgrade for six weeks to participate in the activities of the advance OSCE team before the opening of the OSCE Mission to the FRY in early 2001. The experts prepared a comprehensive report with suggestions for ODIHR and Mission human dimension activities in Serbia and advised on the Mission structure in the field of democratization and the rule of law. They also prepared a broad list of contacts of NGOs and their activities.

The team co-organized, with the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, a brainstorming session on the human dimension situation in Serbia. The meeting was attended by a wide range of participants, including artists, journalists, business people and the military.

#### Kosovo/FRY: Training of Ombudsman institution staff

The ODIHR supported the visit of an expert to the Ombudsman institution in Kosovo. The visit took place in July and was focused on KFOR or UNMIK cases covered by immunity, and on advising the office on the elaboration of a strategy to guarantee access of complainants to the Ombudsman institution.

Later in the year, the ODIHR provided the Ombudsman institution with training on non-discrimination and equal protection as well as international human rights standards.

#### Kosovo/FRY: ODIHR assists OSCE Mission with supporting judicial system

As part of its institution-building mandate and to re-establish a judicial system based on democratic principles and international human rights standards, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK), in co-operation with the domestic legal community, created in 1999 the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI). The main goal of the KJI is to enhance the legal education of judges and prosecutors in Kosovo. The ODIHR contributed by supporting the KJI Legal Education Programme, which trained 40 magistrates on criminal procedures for magistrates, ethics and disciplinary measures, family law and extradition in autumn 2001.

In June 2000, OMIK established the Kosovo Law Centre (KLC) to cultivate the professional skills of local lawyers and to establish a professionally, locally run, independent and sustainable NGO that embodies and promotes democratic principles, multiculturalism, high ethical standards, the rule of law and the respect for human rights. The ODIHR

assisted in the strengthening of this process by supporting the KLC's six-month legal education programme. A pilot project with some 25 participants was launched in Gji-lane/Gjilan in autumn. The courses include subjects such as civil law, penal law and administrative law.

The ODIHR also assisted OMIK with training the trial monitors the Mission employs to observe court proceedings throughout Kosovo from a human rights perspective. The training sessions, held in late 2001, included lessons on human rights standards and domestic legislation, particularly the FRY Code of Criminal Procedures, as well as an in-depth analysis of trial observations.

To promote the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and their participation in public life in Kosovo, the ODIHR provided training for individuals from these communities in the autumn to empower them as community advocates. The goal of the training courses was to establish community advocates within these communities who will be able to liaise between their communities, representatives of state institutions and civil society.

The ODIHR also supported the OMIK's victim advocacy programme which seeks to promote and raise awareness of the concept of victim advocacy and to ensure capacity-building in advocacy skills as well as the establishment of a framework for further training in this field.

#### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Assistance to reform of police academy

Three international police trainers visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in May in order to support the reform of the Police Academy training curriculum. In collaboration with a working group of the Academy, a new basic structure for the training of police cadets was developed. The trainers stressed the need to integrate human rights issues into all lectures rather than teach it only as one specialized course.

The visit was part of a support programme for the police of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which is implemented jointly by the ODIHR, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, Budapest and the Open Society Institute Macedonia. The project was supported by extra-budgetary contributions from the United Kingdom.

### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Crisis management workshops

In reaction to the lack of communication and confidence-building mechanisms between security forces and local mayors which became apparent during the police reform activities, a series of workshops aimed at improving trust and cooperation between police, army and mayors in crisis situations was developed and implemented during the summer.



The workshops, which form part of the ODIHR's police reform programme, provided a forum for discussing possibilities of crisis operations under the broad notion of security, encompassing better communication and information sharing. Experiences of other countries and regions were made available, and applicable international standards and the role and mandate of international organizations in a crisis were discussed by the participants.

The workshops, which took place in the Debar, Gostivar, Kicevo, Tetovo, Skopje, Kumanovo, Ohrid/Struga, Krushevo/Prilip and Bitola regions, were addressed by two officers from the police service of Northern Ireland and representatives from the ODIHR, the OSCE Mission to Skopje, KFOR and representatives of other international organizations. Each of the workshops was attended by mayors and police commanders from a conflict area as well as by army representatives.

The police reform project and the crisis management workshops have been funded by the British and Norwegian Governments.

### Fair Trials Manual published in Albanian

In order to address the shortage of legal material in the Albanian language, the ODIHR supported the publication of an Albanian-language version of the Amnesty International

Fair Trials Manual. The Manual is intended to support capacity-building of the legal profession in Kosovo and elsewhere.

### Translation and publication of "As Seen, As Told"

In order to facilitate access to the OSCE publication "As Seen, As Told", volumes I and II, for Serbian speakers, the ODIHR has supported the translation and publication of both volumes by the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade. The translated publication, a major report on human rights violations before, during, and after the conflict in Kosovo in 1998/1999, will be provided to OSCE missions and their partners in the region.

Participants at the July 2001 crisis management workshop in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### Regional legislative website for South Eastern Europe launched

In May, the ODIHR launched a pilot version of "Legislationline" ([www.legislationline.org](http://www.legislationline.org)), a free-of-charge online database designed to assisting legislators in South Eastern Europe with bringing domestic legislation in line with international human rights standards. The project was initiated in 2000 with financial support of the Government of Austria as a contribution to the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. It was continued in 2001 with the additional support of the Government of Norway

The added value of this database is to provide direct links to international and domestic human dimension legislation in force in the OSCE region. It is not a search engine, which scans the Internet for relevant information on law, but a self-contained database which offers a compilation of legislation structured by topics (13 human dimension topics are listed on the homepage) and countries (in principle, all OSCE countries, but only legislation for a limited number of countries has so far been collected).

The purpose is to provide a tool for exposing trends and patterns on how the same issue is addressed in different countries. Legislators are provided with a set of legislative options on specific problem areas. They are directed to the very provisions they may need to look at, instead of lists of laws that would be unlikely to serve as a source of inspira-

tion for their work. Furthermore, law and country summaries contain background information explaining the variety of legal systems, processes and terminology.

So far three topics are covered by the database: citizenship, trafficking in human beings, and elections. It is planned to expand the database to cover ten new topics (NGOs, gender issues, fair trial, independence of the judiciary, migration, minorities, police, property rights, prison service, Roma and Sinti) over a period of two years starting in 2002.

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# ODIHR OFFICE IN MONTENEGRO/FRY

**D**uring 2001 the ODIHR Office in Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) has been staffed with five international personnel, supported by four local staff. It is headed by Mr. Julian Peel Yates. The role of the Office was set out in a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Government of Montenegro in November 1999 to provide co-operation and assistance to Montenegro in all fields of the ODIHR mandate, particularly the process of democratization, including inter alia the development of the rule of law and the strengthening of civil society. Additionally, the Office has continued to seek to fulfil wherever possible its unstated but underlying responsibilities in the field of conflict prevention. The Office was, and remains, funded entirely by voluntary contributions.

The political environment in the reporting period has been dominated by inconclusive early parliamentary elections in late April (observed by ODIHR). During the year the Office played a central role in assisting the process of electoral reform, and review of referendum law. Throughout the period the Office provided for a wide range of recipients regular weekly and, as necessary, spot reporting on political and other developments affecting stability and the democratization process, and on its activities.

Following the democratic changes in Serbia/FRY and the opening of an OSCE Mission to the FRY, the ODIHR is contemplating the closure of the Office in Montenegro. Instead, the ODIHR would continue its democratization and human rights work from Warsaw and through any new OSCE office in Montenegro.

In the field of democratization, the Office pursued numerous activities during 2001, notably in the fields of:

## Legal reform

The Office continued to provide extensive assistance and support for the on-going process of reform of the legal system in Montenegro. It contributed to the process of ensuring that the drafting of new legislation meets European standards.

The Office prepared the framework for a trial monitoring programme, continued to support the prison reform programme, and provided assistance to the Human Rights Centre and expertise on the legal and technical requirements for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution. In addition the ODIHR Office continued to offer a legal education programme for a group of selected lawyers working as legal practitioners.

## Gender issues

The ODIHR Office continued its “Women in Politics” programme in 2001. The Office implemented an additional programme, including special lectures on media, election law and on legal aspects of equal treatment to strengthen the overall outcome of the project and to offer a possible follow-up after the training programme.

## Trafficking in human beings

Following the anti-trafficking activities of the previous year, the Office took on the co-ordinating role in elaborating a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy, entitled the “Victim’s Protection Programme”. A project board, which consists of the National Co-ordinators on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and on Gender Issues, as well as of representatives of non-governmental and international organizations, has implemented this strategy through a number of projects covering prevention, protection and prosecution. The Office continued to closely co-operate with the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings.

## Civil society

The Office worked on a variety of areas in the field of support to civil society, including media, capacity-building of local women’s NGOs, co-ordination and capacity-building with local Roma NGOs, and local environmental and municipal workshops aimed at supporting local administrations and municipalities in their efforts.

The Office and its projects were supported by Austria, Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as through secondments by Austria, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

# GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY PROJECTS

The ODIHR grassroots programme was established in 1999 to encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democracy through low-cost, high-impact micro-projects. Through this programme, the ODIHR provides support and funding to specific projects across the human dimension, highlighting co-operation between OSCE field offices and local actors.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democratization as a conflict-prevention and -resolution tool;
- To support and expand the human rights and democratization work of OSCE missions and field offices, in co-operation with the ODIHR;
- To provide a regular source of support for grassroots human rights and democracy initiatives developed by OSCE missions and field offices in their local areas.

In 2001, the programme's success led to a further expansion which was made possible through generous contributions from the Canadian International Development Agency and Denmark. Thanks to the latter, a special fund for grassroots activities in Central Asia could be established in the framework of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the ODIHR and the Government of Denmark. All together more than 30 grassroots projects were implemented in co-operation with sixteen OSCE presences and their field offices.

The following grassroots projects were implemented in 2001:

## ALBANIA

**ANDA debating preparatory;** To assist the Albanian National Debate Association (ANDA) in preparation of the materials to organize local debate competitions for university students and high school students on matters affecting their lives, such as the electoral process, democratic freedoms and decision-making processes in six local debate centres: Tirana, Shkodra, Elbasan, Vlora, Korca, Gjirokastra.

## BULGARIA

**Roma participation in the parliamentary elections;** To raise awareness among various Roma communities about political models of participation in the parliamentary elections 2001 and to enhance broad participation in the electoral process by publishing and disseminating voter guidelines among Roma communities and initiating meetings among Christian Orthodox and Muslim Roma in the Rudari parliamentary constituency.

## ESTONIA

**Publication of a reference book on constitutional law;** Translation into Estonian and publication of the "Practical Guide on Constitutional Studies" to support the Centre for the Study of Constitutional Law.

## GEORGIA

**Caucasus Women's Resource Centre;** To support a conference on establishment of a multipartite resource and service centre for Women NGOs from Georgia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan as a conflict prevention measure and NGO networking for the strengthening of civil society and women's rights in the Caucasus.

**Standards and techniques of human rights teaching in secondary schools;** To train 210 human rights teachers for implementation of a curriculum programme on human rights.

**Training for trainers programme;** To improve skills of ten leading training organizations of Georgia on the development of local government.

## KAZAKHSTAN

**Regional NGO public forums on mass media advocacy campaign;** To encourage civil society participation in the decision-making process on adopting legislation of crucial importance to society, in this case on mass media, by conducting debate forums in nine regions of Kazakhstan, with the aim to make the government aware of the public voice.

**Publication of materials for women's rights awareness seminars;** To publish three types of brochures with information on labour legislation, family/marriage legislation and marriage agreement.

**Preparation of a training manual for youth gender seminars;** To provide support for the publication and distribution of a training manual in the Russian and Kazakh languages.

**Monitoring of the children's right to information in orphanages;** To provide objective information about children's rights in two orphanages of Kazakhstan and to serve as a pilot monitoring activity in and around Karaganda in co-operation with the governmental National Commission on Women and Family Affairs. The monitors were trained by ODIHR.

### KYRGYZSTAN

**Translation and distribution of the OSCE Copenhagen Document in the Kyrgyz and Russian languages;** To widely distribute the OSCE Copenhagen document in order to familiarize the population of Kyrgyzstan with OSCE standards on human rights protection and to encourage the country to meet its international obligations.

**Assistance to the "Sixth Regional Summer Course for Law Students on International Legal and Human Rights";** To support a regional summer course on international law and human rights for 26 participants from all Central Asian countries.

### LATVIA

**Expert review of the National Human Rights Office;** To review the functions, mandate and capacity of the Latvian National Human Rights Office in order to provide recommendations in relation to the establishment of an Ombudsman institution and best international practices on promotion and protection of human rights in Latvia.

**Publication of "Aspects of Minority Integration in Latvia";** To publish a study on the status of minorities and relevant international and domestic legal documents to be used as teaching material by law students, policy makers and interested public.

### MOLDOVA

**Artists as bridge-builders in the Transnistrian Conflict;** To engage Moldovan and Transnistrian artists and NGOs in confidence-building measures between Moldova and Transnistria, to give an artistic impetus to the negotiation process for the political solution of the Transnistrian conflict.

### MOLDOVA

**Manual for school debates on both banks of Dniestr River;** To support the compilation and distribution of a debate manual for schools in Moldova and Transnistria as a follow-up to the school debate project supported earlier by ODIHR.

### POLAND

**Europe 2021: Beyond Visible and Invisible Borders;** To support the debate on the concept of borders and how to improve cross border co-operation, in co-operation with The British Council of Poland, in a series of pan-European meetings on multinational Europe and the rights of people in that context.

**Democracy and human rights for youth in rural environment;** To support awareness raising among young people in the fields of democracy, human rights and tolerance.

**International consultation on refugee protection in Central Europe;** To support participants from Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine.

### ROMANIA

**Participation of Roma Contact Group in the OSCE Conference "Roma in the OSCE Region";** To bring together members of the informal Roma Contact Group at the OSCE conference on "Equal Opportunities for Roma and Sinti: Translating Words into Facts" in order to increase the level of Roma participation in decision-making processes and to facilitate the co-operation among Romani NGOs.

### RUSSIAN FEDERATION (CHECHNYA)

**Assistance to Youth Centre;** To establish more structured conditions for youth in the district of Znamenskoye and two IDP tent camps of the Nadterechny district of twelve villages, including sports facilities as integration and preventive measure against potential conflict, illegal activities and drug abuse.

### SLOVAKIA

**Co-operation of Slovak and Czech Roma NGOs;** To organize a three-day conference for Roma NGOs of the Czech and Slovak republics on co-operation towards recognition of the problems and potentials of the Roma minority in both countries.

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**Information campaign on Slovak census for Roma;** To assist Roma communities and organizations in achieving better recognition of the Roma minority in the country and to mobilize Romani residents for political and other public participation.

**Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya basic education on human rights and peace;** To support local school boards in introducing human rights education and peace maintenance in two socially and ethnically volatile regions.

## TAJKISTAN

**Khujand Institute for Human Rights;** To activate local human rights organization to be able to provide free of charge legal advice and engage in human rights monitoring activities.

**Round table on freedom of conscience;** To assist in convening a round table on freedom of conscience and relevant legislation, taking a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional approach.

**Civic education classes;** To continue support for civic education in rural areas of Tajikistan civil rights as a follow-up activity to the review of human rights legislation conducted by the ODIHR.

## TURKMENISTAN

**International Human Rights Legislation Course;** To support a joint OSCE Centre in Ashgabad and UNHCR Turkmenistan five-day course on international human rights legislation for fifty participants from all Turkmenistan, including officials and legislators.

**Assistance to the review of religion legislation;** To provide assistance to review local legislation on religion and religious communities in light of difficulties encountered by various religious communities.

**Assistance to the Legal Resource Centre at Ashgabad Maghtumkuli University;** To support establishment of a legal resource centre on human rights at the Faculty of Law in co-operation with ABA/CEELI.

## UZBEKISTAN

**Pilot education programme in basic human rights and peace maintenance in Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya districts;** To promote basic knowledge of human rights among schoolteachers and students of the two multiethnic districts on the border to Afghanistan in two series of courses.

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# ROMA AND SINTI

The Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues was established at the ODIHR following a decision by the 1994 Budapest Summit. It was tasked to act as a clearing-house for the exchange of information on Roma and Sinti issues, including information on the implementation of commitments on Roma and Sinti, and to develop, maintain and facilitate contacts on Roma and Sinti issues among participating States, OSCE institutions, other international organizations and NGOs.

In December 1998, the OSCE Ministerial Council decided to strengthen the Contact Point and to broaden its mandate. Subsequently, an adviser solely devoted to Roma and Sinti Issues was appointed by the ODIHR in May 1999. The Istanbul Summit further broadened the mandate of the Contact Point.

On the basis of its broadened mandate, the Contact Point implements a broad work programme which in 2001 included a variety of projects aimed at providing advice to governments on policy-making on Roma and Sinti, promoting the participation of Roma in public life, and building capacity at grassroots, national, and international level. Co-ordination meetings between Roma NGOs and other groups were aimed at promoting better co-operation, synergies and common approaches designed to combat prejudice and discrimination and foster full participation and equal opportunities for Roma and Sinti in the societies in which they live. South Eastern Europe was a main regional focus for the Contact Point in 2001.

## Joint ODIHR and Council of Europe programme on Roma in South Eastern Europe

In the first half of 2001, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe started the implementation of a large-scale programme on “Roma under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe”. Under the joint programme, which is largely financed by the European Commission but also receives support from the United States, the ODIHR focuses on three main objectives: (1) to address the difficulties of Roma in crisis or post-crisis situations, (2) to generate a “Roma-to-Roma” process of self-organization, sustainable community development and participation in civic societies, and (3) to train and empower Roma, women and men, as activists and community workers.

A first regional meeting under the programme was held in Bucharest on 28-30 April. The meeting, organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romani Centre for Social Intervention and Studies (CRISS), brought together participants from governments and international organizations as well as a large number of elected Roma representatives and NGO activists from all across South Eastern Europe.

A work plan was discussed at the meeting which included a series of round tables with Roma representatives, local authorities, and representatives of the majority population to promote confidence and reconciliation; training courses to prepare community mediators to be employed as “Roma contact points” at local levels; networking meetings between Roma and Roma-related groups aimed at managing the internal multi-culturalism of Roma populations and supporting the development of joint initiatives on certain key issues such as the respect for the human rights of Roma or their representation in elected bodies; and finally training courses for Roma women, a particularly vulnerable group in crisis and transition situations.

The Bucharest meeting also set up the basis for a “Roma-to-Roma” process of self-organization at regional level: Roma NGOs experienced in Roma rights advocacy will assist the establishment of Roma civic associations in communities which are particularly affected by crisis or post-crisis situations.

During the project’s first phase target groups included Roma in the Presovo Valley (Serbia/FRY), young Roma and Roma women in Prizren (Kosovo/FRY), Roma refugees from Kosovo in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, internally displaced persons in the FRY, and Roma refugees who have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



### Round tables in Skopje on Roma in crisis situations

As one of the first initiatives under the new programme, round tables on Roma in crisis/conflict situations were held in Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 26 March and 6 June. Each of the round-table meetings was attended by some 40 participants, including Roma NGOs and political parties, government representatives, and international organizations.

Against the background of increasing ethnic tensions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia earlier in 2001 and the devastating effects past conflicts in the region have had on Roma, the discussions were dominated by the appeal of Roma representatives to maintain peace, to promote inter-ethnic confidence and to support the country's democratic institutions. The Roma participants reaffirmed their will to maintain good relations with all ethnic groups living in the country.

There was consensus among the Roma participants that better self-organization of the Roma community is crucial for a coherent and more effective involvement in the country's political debates on constitutional reform and improved inter-ethnic relations. As a quick follow-up three Roma political parties agreed on the formation of a coalition in order to develop and present a joint platform for a political dialogue on strengthening the multi-ethnic and democratic structures of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The decentralization of public administration, like in the case of Shuto Orizari, a large Roma municipality which was granted local autonomy, was highlighted as good practice in organizing local communities with a multi-ethnic population. It was also suggested to create an office or inter-ministerial commission on Roma issues within the governmental structure of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, possibly modelled after the example of similar institutions established in a number of OSCE countries, especially those in process of accession to the EU. Other recommendations included the proposal to appoint contact points within Roma associations in order to improve the exchange of information among the NGO community as well as with the OSCE and other international organizations.

### Roma refugees from Kosovo

Another focus of the ODIHR's activities under the joint programme was the situation of Roma refugees from Kosovo, especially those who have been under temporary international protection in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Contact Point regularly reviewed the progress

made in the implementation of the Action Plan for Roma Refugees and IDPs of the Balkans, adopted in September 2000 under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

Within the co-operation framework agreed with other international organizations, the ODIHR contributed to the development of civic associations among refugees and IDPs in order to promote a more active and direct participation and involvement of these groups in dealing with their particular problems. A number of newly formed refugee associations were already represented at the above-mentioned meetings in Bucharest and Skopje. They were encouraged to be more effectively involved in schooling and other educational activities at all levels, as provided by the authorities of their host country and with the assistance of the international agencies.

### Montenegro/FRY: Roma NGOs established

As part of its activities in the field of democratization, the ODIHR Office in Montenegro organized monthly meetings with representatives of Montenegrin minorities, including Roma. The meetings were aimed at providing assistance to Roma representatives in establishing priorities for activities and projects, in the drafting and implementation of projects, and in raising public awareness. Also, they encourage Roma representatives to co-operate to defend their common interests.

The Roma community in Montenegro showed great interest in these activities and was eager to move ahead on these issues. First tangible results have been achieved with the establishment of Roma NGOs, one in the coastal town of Boka Kotorska, and another in the town of Niksic, where the largest Roma population in Montenegro resides. A third Roma NGO has been set up in Cetinje. The NGOs already play an important role within the respective Roma communities and have been recognized and positively received by the municipal authorities.

### Romania: Non-discriminatory access of Roma to health institutions

In the context of its efforts to promote the implementation of non-discriminatory government policies, the ODIHR supported a number of activities aimed at ensuring equal access of Roma to the health institutions and services in Romania, including a round-table discussion on Roma health issues organized with the NGO Romani CRISS and the Romanian Ministry of Health and Family in Bucharest in February and a parliamentary hearing in September.

As a result, the ODIHR Contact Point concluded a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Health and the Romani CRISS on future co-operation on the training of health community workers. These community workers, or mediators, will be employed within the administration of communities with Roma population as well as in hospitals in order to, inter alia, facilitate access of Roma to public health services. The ODIHR will assist the Ministry and Romani CRISS with training the newly appointed health workers. Based on the experience in Romania, the ODIHR will promote this initiative in other OSCE countries as well.

### Moldova: Assistance for self-organization

Through field visits, round tables and training workshops, the ODIHR Contact Point, together with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the Romani CRISS and the Open Society Institute, launched a series of activities to help Roma associations in Moldova to better organize themselves as credible partners of the authorities. These activities included assistance with the development of a joint strategy for improving the situation of Roma in Moldova, the establishment of a working group which will be tasked with conducting the dialogue with the government on implementing this strategy, and training courses in advocacy for combating discrimination with regard to access to public services, including health services.

### Croatia: National strategy on Roma

Romani NGOs from Croatia continued the process of contributing to the development of a national strategy on Roma at a meeting in Zagreb on 29-30 July, co-sponsored by the ODIHR and the Council of Europe within the framework of their programme on Roma under the Stability Pact.

This process was initiated in order to involve Roma NGOs from the beginning in the elaboration of a national strategy on Roma issues. Sixty participants representing 36 Roma NGOs and representatives of various international organizations discussed in working groups the six main themes identified so far in the draft outline of the national strategy: citizenship and residence regulations, health, housing, employment, education, and social welfare. A number of recommendations were adopted by consensus in the working groups. The recommendations have been forwarded to the Croatian authorities.

As a next step, an expert from Romani CRISS (Romania) met Roma NGOs, governmental authorities and the OSCE Mission in Croatia in October to share relevant experience on building partnership between the authorities and NGOs. A large-scale follow-up meeting was planned for the end of

2001 to discuss the appropriate institutional arrangement for the future involvement of Romani NGOs and experts in the process of elaboration, implementation and evaluation of Roma-related policies in Croatia.

### FRY: Joint platform of Roma NGOs

The development of a political platform of Yugoslav Roma was the goal of a series of meetings at regional and federal level, organized in early 2001 by the ODIHR with the participation of Roma political parties and NGOs as well as Serbian and Yugoslav authorities in Kovacica/Vojvodina, Belgrade, and Nis. The ODIHR Contact Point facilitated the drafting of the platform document and, as a next step, the creation of a working group of Roma experts, which was to contribute to the preparation of the new Yugoslav and Serbian Laws on National Minorities.

In their platform Roma political parties and NGOs called for the acknowledgement of Roma as a “national minority” in the future Laws on National and Ethnic Minorities in Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the former Yugoslavia, Roma were referred to as an “ethnic minority”, a concept criticized by Roma representatives as discriminatory in relation to the status of other groups in the country and contradictory to recently developed international standards on protection of national and linguistic minorities.

For many of the Roma participants – representing political parties, human rights groups, humanitarian organizations and independent experts – these meetings provided a first opportunity to express openly their views. The process leading to the adoption of new policies and legislation affecting Roma makes it necessary for the Roma community to structure dialogue and co-operation among themselves and with other political actors in Yugoslavia. This would also contribute to the overall process of defining and articulating Roma interests within the democratization process in the country, and to overcome the fragmentation of the political landscape that has characterized the Roma community since the previous regime. The project, implemented with the Project of Ethnic Relations (USA), was funded by an extra-budgetary contribution from the United States.

### FRY: Round table on linguistic diversity and multiconfessionalism

On 13 July, a round table on linguistic diversity and multiconfessionalism of Roma in the Vojvodina was held in Novi Sad, Serbia/FRY, as part of the ODIHR programme on Roma and Stability Pact in South Eastern Europe. The meeting was

part of a series of activities in South Eastern Europe developed by the Contact Point to raise public awareness of the religious and linguistic diversity of groups commonly referred to as “gypsies” or “Roma”. Among the participants were various Roma and Roma-related groups living in the Vojvodina such as the Ashkalie, Egyptians, Beias, Arlie, Gurbet, and Sinti, each of these usually belonging to one of the main religious denominations in the region. Representatives of the regional government of the Vojvodina, Roma women’s organizations, and Roma refugees and IDPs also participated in the round table.

The round table served to bring the cultural complexity of the Roma population in the region on to the agenda, a precondition for effectively combating prejudice, preventing discrimination and increasing networking within Roma and Sinti populations.

Similar meetings were organized by the ODIHR throughout the year in Bulgaria and Albania. The ODIHR also sponsored the production and publication of a booklet on “Identity formation in the Balkans: the case of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians in Kosovo”.

#### Promoting participation of Roma in elections

In continuation of a programme launched in 2000, the ODIHR supported a variety of activities aimed increasing the participation of Roma in the various phases of electoral processes.

On 21 May, the ODIHR and the Project on Ethnic Relations jointly organized a meeting of representatives of Roma political parties and representatives of the mainstream parties competing in the Bulgarian parliamentary elections of 17 June. The participants discussed the prospects for the recently established coalition of six predominantly Romani political parties, and other strategies to ensure proper representation of Roma in elected bodies.

As a follow-up to this meeting, the ODIHR launched a long-term education programme for Roma voters, together with the NGO Human Rights Project (Sofia). The programme included the publication and distribution of voter guidelines in Bulgarian and Romanes, training workshops for Roma voters in six electoral districts, promoting the participation of Roma in the network of domestic election observers, and the development of post-election activities with Roma voters and elected members of parliament.

The Contact Point also facilitated the participation of a group of young Roma from Bulgaria in the ODIHR Seminar

on Electoral Processes in Warsaw on 29-31 May. The group at the time attended a regional Open Society Institute training programme for future Roma politicians and officials.

The Contact Point seconded Roma election observers to the ODIHR observation missions for the elections in Moldova, Croatia, Bulgaria and Albania. The observers were asked to assess the participation of Roma in the elections in the respective countries, both as voters and, where relevant, as candidates.

#### Involving Roma associations in the European integration process

An international conference of Roma organizations from the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, co-sponsored by the ODIHR and the Council of Europe, was held in Samorin, Slovakia, on 2-3 June. The participants adopted a declaration calling for an enhanced participation of Roma representatives in the political process leading to the integration of their countries into the European Union (EU), including in the national institutional structures for negotiations between the EU and the candidate countries and in the EU’s PHARE programmes on the improvement of living conditions of Roma in candidate countries

#### Consultation meeting on Roma issues in Warsaw

As part of the series of regular consultations with Roma NGOs and experts, the ODIHR Contact Point organized a consultation and information meeting on 8-9 February in Warsaw with the participation of representatives of the two leading international Roma organizations, elected Roma representatives, officials from international organizations, and independent experts on Roma and Sinti issues. Principal areas of discussion included the situation in Kosovo, the need to enhance the co-operation between Roma organizations, and the implementation of the ODIHR programmes on Roma for 2001.

It was acknowledged that the two leading Roma associations, the International Romani Union (IRU) and the Roma National Congress (RNC), have managed to build a good working relationship in quite a short time and, as a result, have also reached an understanding on some essential issues, such as the assessment of the situation of Roma refugees from Kosovo, and prospects of Roma in EU candidate countries. The Warsaw consultation resulted in the formation of an “International Roma Contact Group”, which consists of representatives of the IRU and RNC, as well as other NGOs willing to co-ordinate their platforms and strategies.

The ODIHR facilitated the involvement of the International Roma Contact Group in OSCE meetings and Roma-related activities of other international organizations and individual governments.

### [OSCE conference on Roma and Sinti in Bucharest](#)

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues provided substantial input and technical assistance to a conference on “Equal Opportunities for Roma and Sinti: Translating Words into Facts”, organized by the Romanian OSCE Chairmanship in Bucharest on 10-13 September. One of the main objectives of the conference was to launch a political process for developing an OSCE Action Plan for Roma and Sinti, as recommended by the OSCE Summit in Istanbul in 1999. The ODIHR Contact Point is involved in drafting the Action Plan. During the Conference, a round table was held in co-operation with the European Commission’s PHARE programme on improving the situation of Roma in the EU candidate countries

### [Slovakia: NGO campaign for participation of Roma in census](#)

The ODIHR, jointly with the Open Society Institute Budapest, supported a campaign advocating for the participation of Roma in the census in Slovakia. The campaign, carried out by the Romani Legal Defense Agency (based in Kosice) in May and June, was aimed at raising awareness among Roma of their right to freely identify their ethnic background in the census. A team of Roma activists visited 200 out of 600 settlements with large Roma populations and distributed some 140,000 posters and other information material in three languages (Slovak, Hungarian and Romanes). The campaign had been developed against the background of widespread reluctance of Roma to identify their ethnicity or nationality as a reaction to experiences of persecution, discrimination and forced assimilation.

# MONITORING AND SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Monitoring Unit within the ODIHR follows and analyses human rights developments and compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments by participating States. As an early warning function, it alerts the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to serious deteriorations in human rights that could merit his attention. The Monitoring Unit also prepares background briefings and provides advice on human rights issues for the ODIHR Director and the Chairman-in-Office. Another focus of the ODIHR's work in this field is preparing and organizing OSCE meetings on the implementation of human dimension commitments by participating States such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the annual Human Dimension Seminar and Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings. The Monitoring Unit also implements some projects to advance human rights.

## HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

Chechnya human rights envoy visited ODIHR, as project concluded successfully

Mr. Vladimir Kalamanov, the Russian President's Special Representative for Human Rights in Chechnya, visited Warsaw on 13-16 March at the invitation of the ODIHR.

An extended meeting between Mr. Kalamanov and ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann included a review of the co-operation projects undertaken between the two institutions in the field of technical assistance and training for Mr. Kalamanov's staff, and an exchange of views about measures to improve the human rights situation in Chechnya. It was agreed to plan an evaluation visit to Chechnya by the ODIHR Director and an expert team, which took place in June.

Later in his Warsaw visit, Mr. Kalamanov opened a training course in human rights standards and case management for members of his staff working in Chechnya. Twelve staff members had been brought to Warsaw for the course, the last in a series of three, which was run for the ODIHR by the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights.

All three training sessions were conducted within the framework of the ODIHR's 2001 project focusing on assisting Mr. Kalamanov's Office by training his staff on human rights monitoring and case management. The aim of the project was to contribute to the effective working of the office of the Special Representative by improving the professional capacities of his staff in the areas of basic human rights interviewing, reporting and individual case management skills.

The project was made possible by an extra-budgetary contribution from Norway.

### ODIHR delegation visited Chechnya

A delegation headed by ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann visited Chechnya on 13 and 14 June on a fact-finding mission to assess the human rights and humanitarian situation in the republic.

A primary focus of the visit was to evaluate the impact of ODIHR projects undertaken over the past year to support the office of the Presidential Human Rights Special Representative in Chechnya, Vladimir Kalamanov, who had arranged the visit. The ODIHR delegation was able to assess how Mr. Kalamanov's staff in Chechnya were working with a case-

load management database designed by ODIHR to log and track individual human rights complaints. They also observed interviews with complainants, and met two Council of Europe experts attached to Mr. Kalamenov's staff at the main office in Znamenskoe.

At Znamenskoe, the delegation visited a camp for internally displaced persons, and met with the head of the local administration. In Grozny the delegation met the Head of the Administration of the Chechen Republic, Mr. Ahmad Kadyrov, and Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov. A separate meeting with judges and prosecutors focused on the ongoing efforts to restore a functioning judiciary, and on the need to fully investigate human rights violations and bring perpetrators to justice. Also in Grozny the delegation met Mr. Kalamenov's local staff at one of three branch offices in the city, and visited a pre-trial detention facility.

The delegation's findings were presented to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Permanent Council, and to the Russian authorities. The ODIHR plans to follow up on the visit with project activities in the area of legal training, and further support to the office of the Special Representative.



### ODIHR contributes to worldwide focus on children's rights

As part of the OSCE's contribution to the promotion of children's rights, the ODIHR co-sponsored the "Young Voices" opinion poll, a survey of the views of children and adolescents in 35 countries in Europe and Central Asia about basic issues of politics, human rights and society. The results of the poll, which was developed and co-ordinated by UNICEF, were presented in Berlin on 16 May at a Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia. OSCE Missions have been encouraged to follow up by developing projects based on the poll's results. ODIHR participation in the project was made possible by a contribution from Norway.

On 27 September, at a side meeting of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, UNICEF presented the poll in order to raise awareness of the views of children and young people among participating States, OSCE officials and other actors in the field. The importance of taking these views into account in OSCE programmes and advocacy efforts was also discussed, as was the OSCE's willingness to be a partner in the Global Movement for Children initiative.

### New publication: "OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: A Reference Guide"

The ODIHR launched a major new publication in September, a thematic and chronological compilation of OSCE human dimension commitments. The publication, titled "OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: A Reference Guide", contains not only an update of a chronological compilation first published in 1995, but also, for the first time ever, a thematic part listing all relevant human dimension commitments topic-by-topic. The book represents a much-needed, user-friendly and practical tool for governments, OSCE personnel and the general public to easily access OSCE commitments.

ODIHR Director Amb. Stoudmann visits an IDP camp in Znamenskoe, Chechnya

The Reference Guide can be ordered free of charge from the ODIHR (please see the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr) for details on book orders). It is also available in electronic form on the ODIHR website.

### OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Over 400 government representatives and human rights experts from non-governmental and international organizations met in Warsaw on 17-27 September for the sixth OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The participants reviewed the progress made by OSCE countries in implementing their human dimension commitments in 16 working sessions covering key human rights and democracy issues.

Overshadowed by the terrorist attacks in the United States, the threat of terrorism and the link between security and respect for human rights was addressed by many speakers at the opening as well as during working session discussions.

In a message to the opening of the annual human rights conference, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, announced that the OSCE will make the fight against terrorism a top priority and do more to cut off what he called the “venomous tentacles of terrorism”.

“This issue has been on and off our agenda for some time. We haven’t paid enough attention to the concerns of our friends in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, the statement read. “It’s time to change that [...] with a new sense of urgency.”

“There is a worrying trend of backtracking on human rights in some OSCE countries, often justified as reaction to security threats”, said Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). “But last week’s terror attacks should motivate us to redouble our efforts to build democratic societies in which human rights are fully respected. We are convinced that the OSCE countries and all other civilized nations share the same basic values, notwithstanding cultural and religious differences – that’s the bottom line.”

In reaction to reports about anti-Muslim violence in several countries following the terrorist attacks, the ODIHR Director asked the Permanent Council, on behalf of the participants in the meeting, to adopt a declaration condemning these incidents. The Permanent Council welcomed this initiative and expressed its concern about anti-Muslim incidents and violence during a special session on terrorism on 21 September.

A whole range of recommendations on how the OSCE states can improve the implementation of their human dimension commitments emerged from the working sessions. All recommendations are included in the final report of the meeting, which is available on the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odihhr](http://www.osce.org/odihhr).

A number of side events organized by the ODIHR, government delegations and NGOs highlighted particularly topical human rights issues, specific country situations, and existing human rights and democratization programmes. Among this year’s side events were meetings on unsolved disappearances and murders in Belarus and Ukraine, internal displacement in the OSCE area, trafficking in human beings, the UNICEF

Young Voices Poll, and policing in multicultural communities. For the first time, the meeting, including all working sessions, was broadcast live via the Internet so that it could be followed directly from all over the world. At the meeting, the ODIHR launched a number of new publications, including “OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: A Reference Guide”, an updated report on the death penalty in the OSCE region and a “Reference Guide for Anti-Trafficking Legislative Review”.

## SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETINGS

### Freedom of expression: new and existing challenges

Freedom of expression, one of the basic tenets of the OSCE, was in the spotlight at the first OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2001 in Vienna on 12-13 March, organized jointly by the Romanian Chairmanship of the OSCE in co-operation with the ODIHR. “The situation in the OSCE region regarding freedom of expression has not improved over the past years”, said Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, at the opening of the meeting. “On the contrary, in some participating States we have seen renewed attacks on free journalism with certain governments believing that independent journalism poses a threat to them.”

Some 200 participants representing governments, international organizations and NGOs from all over the OSCE region met in Vienna to discuss three blocs of issues: Legal and non-legal frameworks, including criminal defamation laws, the role of free speech in advancing the objectives of the OSCE, and broadening access to new information technologies.

“Censorship by killing” and other forms of censorship, the chilling effects of criminal defamation laws in certain countries and questions concerning the regulation of, and limited access to, the Internet were among the many issues discussed during the meeting. Participants also highlighted best practices which could be used by other countries. There was broad consensus that the OSCE could play a more active role in promoting freedom of expression, including through legislative and technical assistance to governments, by providing training and by promoting better access to new information technologies. It was also suggested to enhance the OSCE’s early warning capacity in the field of freedom of expression.

### Promoting tolerance and non-discrimination

Delegations from OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field operations, and international and non-governmental organizations gathered on 18-19 June in Vienna for the second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2001 to discuss how better to promote tolerance and non-discrimination in the OSCE area.

The meeting provided a valuable forum to consider experiences in the OSCE region in the run-up to the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which took place in Durban, South Africa, in September.

Opening the meeting, State Secretary Mihnea Motoc of Romania noted that it presented an opportunity “to assess the extent to which OSCE member states have mainstreamed anti-discrimination commitments into their national policies, programmes and legislation”. Recognizing the complex and multifaceted nature of the issue, the meeting looked at intolerance and discrimination based on the experiences of national minorities, Roma, religious communities, as well as discrimination faced by women. Intolerance and discrimination faced by refugees, migrant workers, homosexuals and the disabled were also touched upon.

Three blocks of issues were discussed in working sessions: education including school materials and textbooks, legal and administrative means, and multicultural relations. In each working group the participants highlighted key obstacles to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, shared knowledge of best practices that could be used by other countries, and suggested ways to remedy current problems.

The discussions in the working sessions resulted in a number of recommendations directed to the participating States, the OSCE institutions and field operations.

### Human rights: advocacy and defenders

More than 160 participants from 55 OSCE participating States gathered on 22-23 October in Vienna for the third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to discuss the issue of human rights advocacy and defenders in the OSCE area. Delegations from OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field operations, international and non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders were present at the meeting. The event was characterized by a particularly significant number of participating NGOs; over 60 attended including many from Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The meeting discussed the numerous challenges human rights defenders continue to face in their countries. “While human rights defenders receive more and more words of praise by international institutions [...], governments continue to thwart their activities”, said Aaron Rhodes, Executive Director of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, who gave the key note speech at the opening. “Some of our colleagues have even been murdered at the hands of state institutions, their organizations have been threatened, denied official registration and obstructed from receiving support.”

The meeting focused on three areas of discussion: specific challenges faced by NGOs in their relations with governmental institutions and intergovernmental organizations, major challenges posed by the defence and advocacy of human rights to both NGOs and governmental institutions in the context of armed conflict or internal tensions, and human rights training for officials and human rights advocates themselves.

Constructive discussions in the three working sessions resulted in a number of recommendations directed to the participating States, the OSCE institutions and field operations, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.

The reports of all meetings are available on the ODIHR website ([www.osce.org/odihhr](http://www.osce.org/odihhr)).



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## PRIORITIES FOR 2002

In 2002, the ODIHR will continue to build on the achievements and experiences of the previous decade of its work, while retaining its ability to react flexibly and rapidly to newly emerging needs and challenges such as terrorism.

In the field of elections, the ODIHR will seek to improve follow-up to election observation missions, both technically as well as at the political level within the OSCE framework and directly with the participating States concerned. In this context, more attention will be paid to developing creative tools for the political follow-up in countries hosting observation missions. The ODIHR will try to further increase the national diversity of election observation missions by facilitating the participation of observers and experts from across the whole OSCE region. Another focus will be the refinement of its methodology in a number of key areas such as media monitoring, as well as the observation of women's and minorities' participation in elections. Finally, the ODIHR will launch an ambitious project aimed at analysing existing international standards and case law with a view to making proposals for further developing OSCE commitments for democratic elections. In this context, a senior legal adviser, seconded by the United Kingdom, will join the election section.

In its democratization work, the ODIHR will continue to prioritize and consolidate its overall project portfolio in 2002, in order to maintain the capacity to focus on key strategic areas and respond flexibly to new issues and priorities for the OSCE.

Institution-building and support for civil society through a variety of assistance projects targeting key groups, such as the young generation, and institutions, particularly those relevant for the establishment of the rule of law, will remain on the top of the ODIHR's agenda in 2002. The fight against trafficking in human beings will also continue to be a priority. As a follow-up to the successful October 2001 Berlin Conference, a joint initiative with the German Foreign Ministry, the ODIHR will seek to organize additional, more focused meetings on what mostly-Western destination countries can do to prevent trafficking. The Berlin format will also serve as a model for meetings in other areas.

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti issues will concentrate its work on increasing the participation of Roma in public and political life, with a focus on election processes. The Contact Point will also strengthen its monitoring role and develop a regional strategy for addressing Roma issues in the Balkans.

Another focus in 2002 will be the fight against terrorism. With its programmes aimed at promoting tolerance and building inclusive democratic structures, as well as its projects to build cross-border co-operation, the ODIHR will endeavour – within the scope of the human dimension – to make an important contribution to international efforts in this field. In addition, the ODIHR can support the strengthening of national anti-terrorism legislation by offering technical assistance and advice on the implementation of relevant international instruments. It will also stand ready to facilitate the development of model bilateral and multilateral agreements for the implementation of anti-terrorism obligations, as well as contacts between national experts to promote the exchange of information and best practices on counter-terrorism legislation, always keeping in mind the necessary balance between concerns over national security and fundamental freedoms. The ODIHR will reinforce its efforts to support law enforcement and fight organized crime, in particular by providing advice on the strengthening of domestic legal frameworks and institutions that uphold the rule of law, such as law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and prosecuting authorities.

In the coming year, the ODIHR will continue to develop its co-operation with other international organizations, including with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on developing national human rights action plans. The ODIHR will also build and improve partnerships with non-governmental organizations, and support OSCE field operations in their human dimension work.

## CAUCASUS

## ARMENIA

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Prison Service Training	To assist the government of Armenia in upgrading the operational functioning of the prison system in relation to the “best practices” of OSCE participating States. <b>Timeframe:</b> May 2001 – second meeting of Council of Europe working group on transfer of prison system to Minister of Justice; Mid 2001 – evaluation reports prepared by the expert and Rule of Law unit; Late 2001 – continue roundtables with key prison personnel to help with the establishment of a training system within the Ministry of Justice based on international standards.
Registration of Permanent Residents	To assist authorities of Armenia with developing a conceptual and legal basis for a population registration system, and to train the relevant governmental officials in implementation of new laws. <b>Timeframe:</b> Spring 2001 – development of legislation on civil registration and data protection with assistance of ODIHR experts; Autumn 2001 – roundtable on concept of civil registration and personal data protection legislation; Discussion of draft laws in the Parliament.
Human Rights Monitoring Training Programme	To train human rights activists in preparing accurate and comprehensive reports on the human rights situation in Armenia, and to develop co-operation among local human rights monitors. <b>Timeframe:</b> February - March 2001 – identification of participants; 24 - 28 March 2001 – first training session; 16 - 20 May 2001 – second training session; 1 - 8 July 2001 – expert visit to finalise monitoring plans; July - November 2001 – implementation of monitoring exercises.
Public Awareness on Human Rights in Armenia: Television Programmes on Human Rights	To promote awareness on human rights among the Armenian public through the production and broadcasting of talk shows and television programmes on selected human rights topics. <b>Timeframe:</b> March 2001 – independence of judicial system; May 2001 – accession to Council of Europe; June 2001 – detainees rights; September - December 2001 – production and broadcast of up to eight additional TV talk shows and programmes.
Women’s Rights Education for Young Women	To raise awareness of women’s rights to political, social and economic participation and to provide support to a university curriculum on women’s rights. <b>Timeframe:</b> 1 - 12 October 2001 – training of trainers course for university teachers on gender issues; October 2001 - January 2002 – gender courses in five universities in Yerevan; February 2002 – training workshop for students on gender equality.
Tolerance Package for Armenian Education System	To assist the authorities of Armenia with the conceptual development and introduction of tolerance education in the country’s education system. <b>Timeframe:</b> Implementation suspended pending further consultations.

## Name of project

## AZERBAIJAN

Name of project
Prison Service Training
Women’s Leadership and Political Participation
Prevention of Violence Against Women
Human Rights Monitoring Training Programme

## GEORGIA

### Status/plan of implementation

To assist the government of Azerbaijan in upgrading the operational functioning of the prison system in relation to the "best practices" of OSCE participating States, and to design and implement a training program for prison staff on European and international standards relating to prison conditions and administration. Conducted in co-operation with Council of Europe. **Timeframe:** June 2001 – training for prison officers in Poland; Late 2001 – evaluation report and follow-up training for trainers.

To increase the number of women in government and promote the development of gender sensitive policies, and to provide education on women's rights and gender equality to women in the different regions.

**Timeframe:** 30 April - 4 May 2001 – training of trainers; 3 - 5 July 2001 – follow up training of trainers; June - September 2001 – training seminars in 11 administrative regions of Azerbaijan; 29 - 31 August 2001 – training on gender policy development for the women from governmental structures; November 2001 – evaluation seminar.

Awareness raising and training the law enforcement officers on prevention of domestic violence and support to the development of mechanisms on combating violence against women. **Timeframe:** August - September 2001 – legal analysis on the current legislation on domestic violence; October 2001 – awareness raising training for law enforcement officers; October 2001 - January 2002 – development of relevant informative materials on domestic violence with links to the medical services and crisis centres for law enforcement – follow on training sessions for the police departments.

To train human rights activists in preparing accurate and comprehensive reports on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan, and to develop co-operation among local human rights monitors. **Timeframe:** February - March 2001 – identification of participants; 25 - 29 March 2001 – first training session; 20 - 24 May 2001 – second training session; 6 - 13 July 2001 – expert visit to finalise monitoring plans; July - November 2001 – implementation of monitoring exercises.

### Name of project

### Status/plan of implementation

Women's Leadership Training and NGO Coalition Building

To facilitate NGO lobbying for increasing the role of women in public life and gender equality, and to conduct civic education for women in regions including voter education for upcoming municipal elections.  
**Timeframe:** 7 - 11 May 2001 – training of trainers; 28 - 30 June 2001 – strategy session for the NGO coalition; June - September 2001 – training seminars in 11 administrative regions of Georgia; 29 June - 1 July 2001 – follow-up training of trainers; November 2001 – evaluation seminar.

Assistance to Public Defender

To conduct an assessment of the functioning of the ombudsperson of Georgia and assist in upgrading the capacity of her office to handle individual complaints and in particular how to deal with difficult complaints.  
**Timeframe:** Fall 2001 – expert visit to the Public Defender. The aim is to consult on developing a human rights strategy for the office and to develop structures for legislative reviews as regards compliance of Georgian laws to international standards; September 2001 – visit by the Georgian Public Defender to the Polish Ombudsman Office to discuss the resolution of difficult complaints.

## REGIONAL

Review of Compliance of National Legislation with Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

To review the compliance of national legislation of the states of the Southern Caucasus with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement with a view to producing recommendations to relevant governments.  
**Timeframe:** February - June 2001 – analysis/meetings of experts on national level; October 2001 – workshops (in each of the countries) on findings and recommendations.

Assistance to the Border Services of Southern Caucasus

To further the organisational reform of border services of countries of Southern Caucasus and to introduce human rights into the training curriculum of border services.  
**Timeframe:** June 2001 – training visit of Azeri border officials to Poland; August 2001 – three-week on-site assistance to the new border guard training centre in Baku; Fall 2001 – training visit of Armenian and Georgian border officials to Poland.

Confidence Building for Women Leaders

To exchange good practice on women's leadership strategy and peace building in transition countries, and to increase links between leaders in the Caucasus and develop confidence building across conflict lines.  
**Timeframe:** October - December 2001.

## CENTRAL ASIA

## KAZAKHSTAN

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Women's Rights Awareness	To combat discrimination and inequality between women and men through education and advocacy campaigns at local and national level. <b>Timeframe:</b> 10 - 15 June 2001 – strategy meeting; 23 - 28 July 2001 – training of trainers (advocacy); July - December 2001 – regional seminars and advocacy campaigns; December 2001 – strategy/planning meeting.
Assistance to the Training Center for the Judiciary	To enhance the quality of the judicial process in Kazakhstan by providing assistance to a permanent and self-sustainable training structure for judges with a focus on criminal justice issues and other matters of concern in the Human Dimension. <b>Timeframe:</b> October 2001 – visit by Kazakh officials to the Bulgarian Magistrate Training School to discuss opening and operating a JTC; October - December 2001 – continued advice on curriculum design and planning and on conducting a specific training component on international standards in the administration of justice. Conduct first train the trainers workshop for judges.
Roundtable on Election Legislation	To examine Kazakhstan's current legislative framework, to propose amendments in order to build on strengths and remedy weaknesses, and to promote a dialogue between the Authorities, all political forces in Kazakhstan and civil society. <b>Timeframe:</b> January 2001 – focus: the independence of election commissions, the transparency of vote count and tabulation procedures at all election commission levels and all other election procedures; June 2001 – focus: sanctions/remedies for violations of election legislation, and electoral disputes complaints/appeals procedures; October 2001 – focus: the Media in an election process, including a code of conduct.

## KYRGYZSTAN

Student Legal Aid Initiative on Criminal Law – University of Osh	To train law students in criminal law and related international standards and in advocating criminal cases in Courts, and to provide legal assistance to the population. <b>Timeframe:</b> August 2001 – sign agreement and workplan for the operation of the first year of the clinic with Osh State University, ABA/CEELI, Human Rights Democracy Center and the OSCE Mission. Clinic scheduled to accept first students in September. August 2001 - August 2002 – implementation of workplan.
Registration of Permanent Residents	To assist the government of the Kyrgyz Republic with developing a conceptual and legal basis for a population registration system that conforms to international standards on the basis of equality and non-discrimination. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 – working group to amend existing and draft new legislation continues with its drafting work and an on-site training session of working group members from the Kyrgyz Republic in one of the Newly Independent States where the registration system is in the process of reform (tentatively in Moldova); Late 2001 – discussion in the Parliament on Draft Law on Internal Migration.

## Name of project

Women's Leadership and Advocacy Training

## TAJIKISTAN (MOU PR

Prison Service Training

Legal Support Centre for Women

Legislative Reform Assistance

Status/plan of implementation	Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
<p>Capacity building on gender issues for local trainers, raising gender awareness in the regions of Kyrgyzstan and creation cross-regional networks and co-operation links between experienced and newly established women's organisations and initiatives groups.</p> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> 13 - 14 April 2001 – conference “Women on the eve of a new centuries” on implementation of national action plan on gender issues (organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and supported by the ODIHR and OSCE Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with other international agencies);</p> <p>15 - 19 June 2001 – training of trainers on women's rights, participation in society and network building;</p> <p>June - September 2001 – follow on training seminars in all regions;</p> <p>26 - 28 August 2001 – training of trainers on women's leadership and political participation;</p> <p>September - December 2001 – skill building and lobbying training for women leaders; – advocacy and networking training for women from all regions of Kyrgyzstan.</p>	<p>Training on Human Rights for Law Enforcement Personnel</p>	<p>To provide human rights training for Militia and KGB in southern Tajikistan, and to lay the foundation for the incorporation of human rights concerns by law enforcement personnel in their daily work.</p> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 – identify an expert qualified to conduct the trainings and begin discussions with local field offices and local authorities on the agenda;</p> <p>– conduct three trainings for local law enforcement in Kurgan-Tube, Shartuz and Dusti.</p>
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>		
<p>To assist the government of Tajikistan in upgrading the operational functioning of the prison system in relation to the “best practices” of OSCE participating States by enhancing the standard of the administration of prison services and strengthening training for prison service employees in meeting human rights standards, improving prisoner treatment and security. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 – implementation of long-term assistance based on assessment visit and co-ordinating with Swiss Development Agency.</p>	<p>Assistance for the Development of Models of Alternative Sentencing</p>	<p>To discuss with Uzbek authorities models of sanctions that are an alternative to prison sentences which demonstrate that respect for human rights is in the interest of the crime control organs in a democratic society. To assist the authorities in implementing a system of alternative sentences. Managed jointly with the Constitutional and Legislative Policy Institute (COLPI). ODIHR's implementation activities are pending successful completion of a report on Uzbekistan's current situation on Alternative Sentencing commissioned by COLPI.</p> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> November 2001 – publication of training manual on implementation of alternative sentences based on report of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior;</p> <p>March 2002 – training of prosecutors, defence lawyers and judges based on the training manual developed in conjunction with the COLPI and officials of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior;</p> <p>June 2002 – both the materials and the training will be evaluated and measured for their impact as to how the system of the alternative sentences is implemented and how it can be used as an example for other CIS countries.</p>
<p>To assist in the establishment of a Legal Support Centre for Women in Tajikistan in order to provide an accessible mechanism for the protection of women's rights, and to continue providing free legal advice to women in the regions through the Women's Lawyers Association.</p> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> Winter 2000 - 2001 – establishment of a program for legal advice for women in the regions in conjunction with the League of Women Lawyers;</p> <p>Spring 2001 – identify those on the Law Faculty who will be involved in the setting up of the clinical programme; expert visit to Dushanbe to begin to work on a curriculum and to elaborate a detailed plan and timetable for the clinical programme; Autumn 2001 – begin Clinical Programme at the University.</p>	<p>International Legal Standards Training for Prosecutors, Lawyers, Judges and Investigators</p>	<p>To train prosecutors, lawyers, judges and investigators in the practical application of international fair trial standards, to familiarize prosecutors and judges with these standards, and encourage defense lawyers to cite them in their arguments, and to provide lawyers with knowledge of the standards necessary to draft effective communications to the UN Human Rights Committee or other appropriate bodies. Conducted in co-operation with ABA/CEELI. <b>Timeframe:</b> May - June 2001 – two seminars took place in the regions; August 2001 – two more seminars took place in different regions.</p> <p><b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>
<p>Assistance in reviewing domestic legislation's compliance with international standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; laying foundations for mechanisms to monitor implementation of domestic laws. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 – participation in working group on draft Criminal Procedure Code;</p> <p>April 2001 – Roundtable Conference on criminal justice issues under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); November 2001 – Conference on criminal justice provisions under the ICCPR.</p>		

## REGIONAL

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation	Name of project
Monitoring of Women's Rights	To support monitoring and advocacy of women's rights in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and to increase awareness of international obligations and standards related to women's rights and gender equality. <b>Timeframe:</b> June 2001 – project formulation; September 2001 – training by Polish Helsinki Foundation; October 2001 – training by Polish Helsinki Foundation.	Human Rights Monitoring Training Programme
Legislation Alert and Assistance Program	Monitor and review draft / new legislation in relation to human dimension commitments of the OSCE, discuss new laws in public meetings for strengthening of public consultation and input into elaboration of legislation. Findings of review to be presented at NGO-government meetings, public roundtables. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001.	
Legislative Reform Assistance	To assist the governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in reviewing their domestic laws and bringing such laws into conformity with international standards, as contained in human rights instruments ratified by the government, and OSCE commitments. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 - 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– identify experts qualified to assist in the review of domestic laws and their compatibility with international treaties;</li> <li>– consult with officials of the Central Asian countries and obtain, and if necessary translate, relevant laws for compliance review;</li> <li>– complete preliminary compliance review;</li> <li>– consult with the authorities regarding the findings and recommendations of the ODIHR expert's review and provide recommendations for the monitoring of compliance and practical steps to improve the implementation of legislation.</li> </ul>	Civil Society Assistance Project
Prison Service Training	To assist the government of Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) in upgrading the operational functioning of their prison systems in relation to the "best practices" of OSCE participating States. This includes developing and improving training for prison service employees in human rights standards, improving prisoner treatment and security. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 - 2002.	Follow-up on Elections
Assistance for National Human Rights Institutions such as Ombudsman	To assist the Kazakh and Kyrgyz authorities in developing a national human rights institution once the relevant laws have been passed. To assist the Uzbek Ombudsman Office in up-grading operational capacities in the Central Office and the regional offices in order to achieve a better performance of the Ombudsman institution. To co-operate with the Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Uzbek authorities, other IGOs and NGOs to promote a professionally sound development of the institutions and a complementary and comprehensive development programme. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 - 2002. January - December 2001 – depending on when the laws are passed and the Ombudspersons are elected, the ODIHR will assist in establishing the operational capacities.	

## SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

### Status/plan of implementation

To contribute to the improvement and understanding of the human rights situation in the countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), and to strengthen local human rights monitoring capacities, including monitoring and reporting on human rights of women. **Timeframe:** February - March 2001 – identifying participants and experts; Through 2001 – workshops led by international experts: Uzbekistan – 19 - 23 April 2001 – first training session; 9 - 13 June 2001 – second training session; 20 - 28 September 2001 – expert visit to finalise monitoring plans; Kyrgyzstan – 20 - 24 April 2001 – first training session; 20 - 24 June 2001 – second training session; September 2001 – expert visit to finalise monitoring plans; Kazakhstan – 26 - 30 April 2001 – first training session; 27 June - 1 July 2001 – second training session; September 2001 – expert visit to finalise monitoring plans.

To establish and expand dialogue between Government officials and representatives of civil society in Central Asian countries on human rights issues. **Timeframe:** Through 2001 - 2002. 26 - 27 January 2001 – NGO-Government meeting in Astana (Kazakhstan) on mass media; 10 - 12 July 2001 – NGO-Government meeting (Tajikistan) on child protection; September - December 2001 – meetings with participation of international moderators.

To promote sustainable development of electoral systems in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan through follow up activities to the Final Reports on election observation-conducted during past 18 months. **Timeframe:** October - December 2001 – organise field visits; – assess needs and identify election assistance projects in 2001.

### Name of project

### Status/plan of implementation

#### ALBANIA

Assistance to Albanian People's Advocate

To continue the assistance to the newly elected national ombudsman ("People's Advocate") in upgrading its capacity to handle individual and difficult complaints. **Timeframe:** January - November 2001 – regular working consultations; December 2001 – impact assessment.

Women's Rights and Anti-Trafficking Education Project

To increase knowledge of women's rights and the risks of trafficking among key groups in local communities, and to build NGO training capacity on trafficking and women's rights. **Timeframe:** 17 - 22 April 2001 – training of trainers; May - November 2001 – training in the regions; December 2001 – evaluation.

Law on Religious Associations

To assist the Government of Albania with legislative reform and efforts to bring its national legislation into line with OSCE commitments in the area of freedom of religion or belief. **Timeframe:** February 2001 – expert roundtable on the legal aspects of the new law; Autumn 2001 – the first draft law circulated for discussion and the final version of the draft law will be submitted to the Parliament.

Improving the Administrative Framework for the 2001 Parliamentary Elections

To improve the administrative framework for the 2001 parliamentary elections in line with OSCE standards for democratic elections and following up on recommendations contained in OSCE/ODIHR Reports from past observation missions or technical assistance projects. **Timeframe:** January 2001 – liaise with all authorities and organizations involved in elections in Albania; – produce a report with the main recommendations addressed to the Central Election Commission; February 2001 – multiparty roundtable to further develop and endorse the recommendations, and recommend their incorporation in Central Election Commission instructions; – ODIHR experts to work closely with the Central Election Commission to draft instructions. **PROJECT COMPLETED.**

## THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Roundtable on Election Legislation	To produce guidelines on reform of election legislation based on international standards and OSCE commitments, and to initiate discussion within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on election legislation leading to the preparation of a draft comprehensive electoral code. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001 – implementation suspended pending political developments.
Assistance to the Police Service	Upgrade operational functioning of the police forces in relation to OSCE “best practices”, by improving training of police in human rights standards, de-escalation tactics and community policing, review / assistance in curriculum of Police Academy. Joint project with OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, Constitutional and Legislative Policy Institute (COLPI), and Federation Open Society Institute Macedonia. <b>Timeframe:</b> Regular visits of experts to develop curriculum of police academy.
Workshop on Crisis Management	Workshops with senior representatives of the police, the army and mayors of villages and towns, in order to discuss the respective roles, channels of contact and lines of authorities in crisis situations. <b>Timeframe:</b> June - September 2001.

## KOSOVO / FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Fair Trials Manual	To remedy the shortage of legal materials in the Albanian language by translating Amnesty International’s “Fair Trial Manual” into Albanian and publishing it. <b>Timeframe:</b> January - April 2001 – revision of translation; October 2001 – printing.
Assistance to Ombudsman Institution	To assist in the establishment of the Kosovo Ombudsman Institution and the training of its personnel. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001. July 2001 – expert visit to advise on organizational issues and competency for international presence in Kosovo.
Legal Aid for Trafficking Victims	Training of victims’ lawyers on effective advocacy, appeals, legal argumentation and defence. This will result in co-ordinated and immediate legal representation in cases of arrest and/or deportation. (In co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo). <b>Timeframe:</b> January - December 2001.
Action Plan on Montenegro	Various projects in the field of legal reform, gender, anti-trafficking, civil society, media, Roma, environmental issues, elections and support for municipalities. Implemented by the ODIHR Office in Montenegro. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001.

Name of project
Expert Meeting on Reform of Election Legislation
ODIHR Assessment Team to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
Roundtable on Judicial Reform
Roundtable on Trafficking Issues
Roundtable on Law Enforcement
Prison Assessment
Roma in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia



Status/plan of implementation	Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
PUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA	REGIONAL	
<p>To initiate discussion on shortcomings in electoral legislative framework leading to reform of election, and to produce guidelines on changes and amendments in election legislation based on international standards and OSCE commitments. <b>Timeframe:</b> April 2001 – publishing of analysis of election legislation; – ODIHR visit to discuss modalities of the project and invite participants; May 2001 – publishing of guidelines for improvement of electoral framework. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>	<p>Assistance to Prison Service Reform in Countries and Regions of South Eastern Europe</p>	<p>To continue assistance to prison service reform in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Croatia and Montenegro, with an emphasis on regional co-operation. Joint project with the Council of Europe in the framework of the Stability Pact.* <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001. *extended to Serbia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia</p>
<p>To assess the human dimension situation in the country, recommended action for the OSCE and make suggestions for the staffing of the OSCE Mission in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The findings are presented in a report (distributed), which has informed the human dimension agenda of the ODIHR and the OSCE Mission. <b>Timeframe:</b> January-February 2001. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>	<p>Legislative Website</p>	<p>To develop a website providing texts of and comments on national legislation and international human rights standards on topics in ODIHR's core areas of expertise. The website is intended to serve as a source of information for legislators and others in the region of SEE (and other regions). <b>Timeframe:</b> October 2000 - March 2002 – launch of the website, promotion and assessment.</p>
<p>To initiate dialogue on reform of the judicial system in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to co-ordinate the efforts of the international community in this regard, and to develop recommendations for engagement of the OSCE Mission to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. <b>Timeframe:</b> March 2001. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>	<p>Anti-Trafficking Legislative Review Project for the Balkans</p>	<p>To determine which legal materials (areas of law) are the most relevant for legislative reform efforts aimed at prosecuting traffickers and protecting victims, to set benchmarks reflecting what should be considered and assessed when reviewing such laws, and to draft guidelines outlining what should be addressed when proposing legislative reform. <b>Timeframe:</b> December 2000 - July 2001. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>
<p>To initiate dialogue on trafficking issues in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to introduce the concept of a national referral system and the work of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, to develop recommendations for engagement of the OSCE Mission to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. <b>Timeframe:</b> April 2001. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>	<p>Applied Research and Data Collection on Trafficking To, Through and From the Balkan Region</p>	<p>To provide a comprehensive picture of the scope of trafficking in human beings to, through and from the Balkan region, and to contribute to the reduction of trafficking in human beings in the Balkan region through a better mapping and understanding of the phenomenon. <b>Timeframe:</b> December 2000 - September 2001.</p>
<p>To gather national and international actors in the field in order to agree on priorities and action in the field of structural reform of law enforcement agencies. <b>Timeframe:</b> to be determined.</p>	<p>Activities of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings</p>	<p>To design and to better co-ordinate activities to combat trafficking in human beings in the Stability Pact countries, and to facilitate communication among all relevant institutions and bodies to combat trafficking in human beings in the Balkans. In partnership with the International Organization for Migration. <b>Timeframe:</b> January - December 2001.</p>
<p>To visit prison establishments in Serbia / Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with a view to assessing the living conditions in Serbian prisons, the needs of staff and prisoners, and to develop recommendations for the future. <b>Timeframe:</b> end May 2001. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>	<p>Roma under the Stability Pact</p>	<p>To build co-operative structures (International agencies and local Roma NGOs) for managing the particular difficulties of Roma in crises and post-crisis situations; to support mediation services at local or national level for reconciliation, confidence building, and lasting tolerance between Roma and the majority population and other ethnic groups. <b>Timeframe:</b> January - December 2001 – a series of three roundtables on crises prevention in Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia;</p>
<p>To better integrate Roma concerns into decision-making of municipalities and mediate possible conflicts, three persons (preferably Roma) will be placed in three municipal administrations in areas with high percentage of Roma population. The project would be implemented on a trial basis for one year. Further, a roundtable would be held to identify and discuss typical difficulties for Roma with municipal administrations and to seek solutions. <b>Timeframe:</b> to be determined</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a training of local mediators;</li> <li>– hands-on support for Romani women NGOs;</li> <li>– training-of-trainers of Romani women;</li> <li>– two roundtables on intra-Roma relations, establishing taskforces along lines of common interest.</li> </ul>

## OTHER REGIONS

## BELARUS

## Name of project

## Status/plan of implementation

Establishment of a "Center for European and Transatlantic Studies" at the European Humanistic University

To develop a program of postgraduate studies on European Integration and Transatlantic Relations (Masters degree), and to provide capacity for organizing nation-wide and international conferences on European questions and Transatlantic issues. **Timeframe:** Through 2001 – planning for Seminars and a Quarterly.

Lecture Series on Public Institutions

To develop democratic awareness through academic and political multipliers, and to open a dialogue on key questions of pluralistic society, rule of law and democratic institutions. **Timeframe:** Through 2001 – five one-week lecture series.

Prison/Pre-trial Detention Management and Pilot Tuberculosis Control Project

To review existing prison and pre-trial detention management guidelines and give advice so that such guidelines conform with OSCE, UN and Council of Europe standards, as well as to improve sanitary conditions in some prisons, especially concerning control of communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis. **Timeframe:** January - March 2001 – review of existing prison management guidelines; May 2001 – seminar and presentation of recommendations; June 2001 – training visit to Polish prison management; September 2001 – selection of pilot prison/pre-trial detention facility; October - December 2001 – assistance to prisons and evaluation.

Program on Dispute Resolution

To develop awareness of constructive dispute resolution, and to introduce the theory and experience of successful dispute resolution through dialogue and negotiation. **Timeframe:** January 2001 – preparatory phase; September - December 2001 – workshops in Minsk and Grodno, and follow-up research phase.

Support to the Independent Legal Sector: Training of Public Defenders and Support for Human Rights Cases

To provide free legal advice for political and other cases using lawyers who were not accepted into the state-appointed lawyers collegium, and to provide legal aid support for families of human rights cases. **Timeframe:** Through 2001.

Training for Political Parties

To provide guidance to political and other organizations within civil society about the function of political parties and movements in pluralistic democracies. **Timeframe:** July 2000 - Spring 2001 – follow-up consultations with parties and movements on implementation of programs for the build up of party structures, information and publications systems as well as information networks with Europe. **PROJECT COMPLETED.**

Anti-Trafficking Prevention Campaign and Establishment of Hotline Services

To establish a hotline that provides counselling and information services, to create a network of already identified NGOs working together to combat trafficking, and to carry out six regional awareness raising seminars for volunteers and relevant professionals. **Timeframe:** November 2000 - October 2001.

## Name of project

## MOLDOVA

Civic Diplomacy Project

Legislative Review and Reform

## POLAND

Direct Assistance for Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking

## ROMANIA

NGO-Government Anti-Trafficking Network

Status/plan of implementation	Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
<b>RUSSIAN FEDERATION</b>		
<p>To increase human contacts of the population in conflict areas of Moldova and to foster a sustained dialogue between civic groups from the conflict areas and their counterparts in the rest of Moldova on issues of common concern. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001.</p>	<p>Grassroots Training and Hotline Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings</p>	<p>To open and support anti-trafficking information centers in 5 cities in the Perm Region, the Republic of Udmurtia and the Komi-Permiak Autonomous District, to educate and train local non-governmental organisations and local government authorities including social and health care workers, law enforcement officers and administrators, to establish hotlines that provide counselling and information services, and to publish and disseminate public awareness-raising materials. <b>Timeframe:</b> January - December 2001.</p>
<p>To improve the legislative basis for combating trafficking in human beings by supporting Moldovan authorities in drafting amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedural Code. This project will create the legislative foundation for training other anti-trafficking activities. <b>Timeframe:</b> June - October 2001.</p>	<p>Assistance to the President's Special Representative for Upholding Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic: Staff training in Human Rights Monitoring and Case Management</p>	<p>To contribute to the effective working of the office of the Special Representative by improving the professional capacities of his staff in the areas of basic human rights interviewing, reporting and individual case management skills. <b>Timeframe:</b> Early 2001 – staff of the Special Representative will attend a one-week bespoke human rights training course in Warsaw. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b></p>
<p>Provision of direct services and material aid to victims of trafficking, reintegration and return assistance to victims returning to Poland or in transit to their country of origin. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001.</p>	<b>UKRAINE</b>	
<p>To encourage better co-operation between non-governmental organisations active in the fight against trafficking and relevant governmental authorities, and to promote the protection of trafficked victims and prosecution of traffickers in Romania. <b>Timeframe:</b> January - December 2001.</p>	<p>Reform of the Registration System</p>	<p>To assist with the reform of the civil registration system in Ukraine by assisting the Government of Ukraine to develop a legal basis for a registration system that conforms to international human rights standards. <b>Timeframe:</b> First half of 2001 – on-site training of Ukrainian officials in one Western European state with an established registration system and one Newly Independent State where the registration system is in the process of reform (in Denmark and Moldova, respectively); Second half of 2001 – roundtable in Ukraine to discuss further practical steps in the reform of the registration system on the basis of the past legislative review and the experience gained during stage 1.</p>
	<p>Support for Regional NGO Hotlines Network</p>	<p>To provide effective support to victims of trafficking and their families, to collect reliable data for dissemination about working and travelling abroad, and to increase public awareness about the problem of trafficking in Ukraine. Support to six regional hotlines in Kharkiv, Odessa, Termopil, Sevastopol, Lugansk and Uzhorod. <b>Timeframe:</b> January - December 2001.</p>
	<p>Comprehensive Review of Legislation in the Field of Human Rights</p>	<p>To review Ukraine's legislation in the field of human rights, and to assist the government of Ukraine in bringing the current legislation into line with international and European standards. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001.</p>

## GENERAL PROJECTS

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation	Name of project
Grassroots Democracy Projects	To encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democratization, and to support and expand the human rights and democratization work of OSCE missions and field offices, in co-operation with the ODIHR. Currently 25 grassroots projects were funded of which 11 are implemented in all Central Asian and 14 in Caucasus, Balkans, Chechnya, Moldova and the Baltics. Three projects are targeting Roma issues in different countries. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001.	Electoral Legislation Alert and Assistance Programme
Workshop on Models of Cross-border Co-operation	To share best practices in cross-border co-operation in the countries of the former Soviet Union to ensure implementation of OSCE commitments on freedom of movement and human contacts and to foster sub-regional cross-border human and economic contacts. <b>Timeframe:</b> Early 2001 – preparatory mission; 29 - 31 October 2001 – workshop in Kazakhstan	Anti-Trafficking Project Fund
Fund for NGO Participation in OSCE Human Dimension Events	To increase the involvement of NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe and NIS in OSCE Human Dimension events. <b>Timeframe:</b> Through 2001.	Advancing the Political Rights of Roma and Sinti
Young Voices: First Regional Survey of Children and Youth	A regional survey in Europe and Central Asia to study the opinion of children and adolescents on basic issues of politics, human rights and society. The results will contribute to needs assessment and give a basis for designing future OSCE activities. Joint project with UNICEF. <b>Timeframe:</b> November 2000 - April 2001. <b>PROJECT COMPLETED.</b>	Publication: <i>OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: A Reference Guide</i>
Conflict Management for Electoral Officials	To impart conflict management skills to election administration bodies with a focus on negotiation and facilitation in the electoral context. <b>Timeframe:</b> March - April 2001 – collect background information and identify experts; May - June 2001 – draft a conflict management training programme; July - August 2001 – review of draft by international experts; September - October 2001 – workshop to finalise the training programme; – test the programme by organising training for electoral officials in a participating state to be determined.	Torture Prevention Programme
Domestic Observation Capacity Building Project	Production of guidelines for use by domestic observer organisations in the OSCE region, and identification of further areas where ODIHR can provide assistance to domestic observation organisations in the OSCE region. <b>Timeframe:</b> January - March 2001 – collection of background information and production of draft guidelines; April - May 2001 – conference of domestic observation organisations to agree guidelines and improve co-ordination; June - November 2001 – testing of guidelines in OSCE region; – adaptation of guidelines for use inside and outside the OSCE region in association with International IDEA and the EU.	

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**Status/plan of implementation**

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To monitor and assist the development of election-related legislation in relation to the Human Dimension of the OSCE, in particular commitments contained in the Copenhagen Document of 1990, and to discuss draft legislation and regulations in public meetings and roundtables, to increase consultation and participation by political forces and civil society in the elaboration of election legislation. **Timeframe:** Through 2001.

In order to encourage and assist OSCE field operations to meet their responsibilities under the OSCE Vienna Ministerial Decision on Enhancing the OSCE's Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the ODIHR has established an Anti-Trafficking Project Fund to support anti-trafficking projects and activities initiated by OSCE field missions, as well as those of the ODIHR. **Timeframe:** Through 2001.

To advance the political rights of Roma and Sinti by facilitating access to key roles in policy making on Roma and Sinti, and to develop mechanisms to improve national policy making on Roma and Sinti. To organize debates/workshops on possible models of representation of Roma and Sinti at national/pan-european level.

**Timeframe:** February 2001 – preparatory meetings;  
May - August 2001 – country visits; September 2001 – Workshop in OSCE Conference on Roma and Sinti in Bucharest.

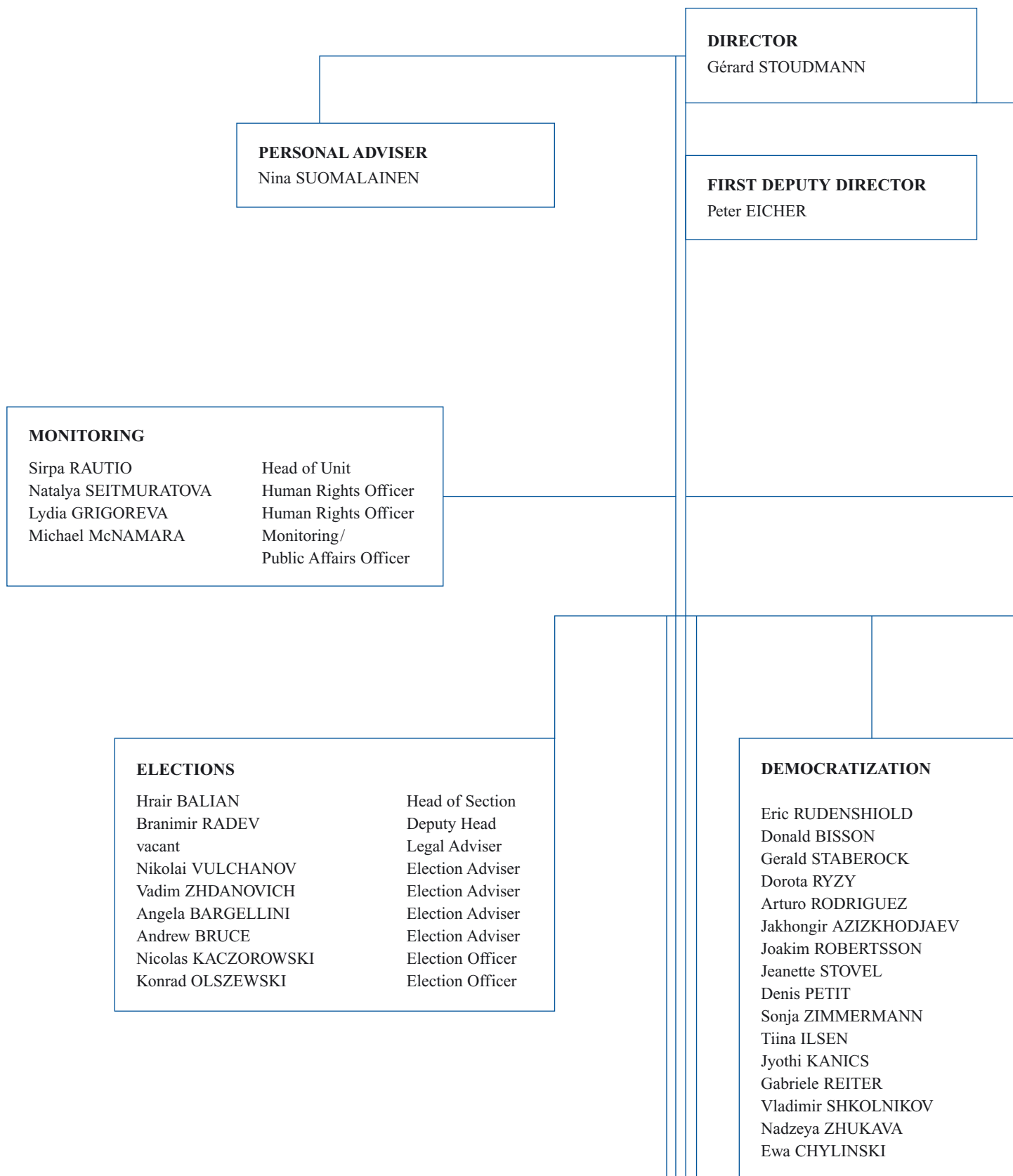
Develop a comprehensive and user-friendly compilation of OSCE human dimension commitments, structured in chronological order and by topics, for OSCE institutions and missions, and the general public.

**Timeframe:** Text completed. Internet version launched in February 2001. Publication of printed version planned for 2001. Russian version also planned for 2001.

To encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives focusing on the prevention of torture. To support and expand the torture prevention work of OSCE missions and field offices in co-operation with the ODIHR.

**Timeframe:** Through 2001.

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**SECOND DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Jacek PALISZEWSKI

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Adviser on Gender Issues  
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