



# **DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE**

**Election Observer Training Programme (1300491)**

**FUNDED THROUGH  
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Warsaw, September 2012

# Election Observer Training Programme (1300491)

Current budget: EUR 923,890<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Background

It is the prime responsibility of OSCE participating States to provide ODIHR with trained and experienced observers. This capacity building programme assists participating States' efforts to maintain a roster of individuals with relevant skills in this field, and complements national training efforts undertaken in some participating States. These efforts are in line with Ministerial Council Decision 19/2006 which states that ODIHR "should further diversify the participation of [...] observers by supporting national training efforts," and "maintain the highest professional standards [...] by active training [...]" The programme will contribute to greater capacity amongst observers and further promote consistency and common standards for observation, including in relation to OSCE Partners for Co-operation as appropriate.

## 2. Approach

It is the strategic objective of this programme to assist OSCE participating States in training their potential election observers and further enhancing their skills, preparedness and professional standards. The programme envisages expanding and diversifying the available pool of trained election observers. As a long-term impact the effectiveness and capacity of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions (EOMs) will also be further strengthened.

### 2.1 *Planned activities for 2012-2013 (funds permitting)*

#### Training of short-term election observers (STOs)

Twice a year ODIHR will deliver training sessions for STOs from the 17 OSCE participating States eligible for ODIHR's voluntary Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions ("Diversification Fund").<sup>2</sup>

#### Training of long-term election observers (LTOs)

ODIHR will deliver one training session annually for LTOs from the same 17 OSCE participating States mentioned above.

#### Development of an e-learning course for LTOs

ODIHR will build upon the already available e-learning course for STOs (at [www.stoelearning.org](http://www.stoelearning.org)) and will make a distance learning course covering LTOs' duties and responsibilities in an election observation mission, publicly available in English and Russian. The course will be open to LTOs from all OSCE participating States and will complement face-to-face training offered by ODIHR or national authorities.

### 2.2 *Indicators of achievement (examples)*

---

<sup>1</sup> For the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013.

<sup>2</sup> This voluntary fund was created in 2001 to support wide geographical diversity within ODIHR EOMs. Seventeen OSCE participating States (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine) are currently eligible. Through the Fund ODIHR finances the deployment of LTOs and STOs in OSCE EOMs from these 17 states. See also IRMA number 1300536.

- Numbers of (i) training events held, (ii) trained participants/potential future STOs and LTOs, (iii) participants who have completed and received a certificate from the LTO e-learning course;
- Positive evaluation ratings for training events, materials provided and the LTO e-learning course;
- Number of persons trained by this programme who have subsequently participated and observed in an OSCE/ODIHR EOM.

### 2.3 *Strategy/methodology*

ODIHR's involvement in training observers is threefold: (i) ODIHR supports participating States' national training centres through its core activities; (ii) this programme specifically targets OSCE participating States eligible for the Diversification Fund, i.e. States which do not regularly second election observers and may not provide any observer training at all; (iii) ODIHR will provide an e-learning course that allows it to reach (potential) LTOs from all OSCE participating States. These three elements reinforce and complement each other.

Training participants are drawn from national election administrations and other official bodies involved in elections, and from civil society organizations, including non-party domestic observer groups. Those who have undergone ODIHR's observer training will have a higher priority for selection as observers through the Diversification Fund. ODIHR maintains a database which tracks whether or how frequently ODIHR observer trainees are ultimately seconded or sent through the Diversification Fund to OSCE/ODIHR EOMs.

### 2.4 *Assumptions and risks*

Successful implementation depends on the degree OSCE participating States consider training as a necessary condition for credible and professional election observation. It depends on the political will and professionalism of participating States to submit applications also from civil society, especially non-party domestic observers, and to nominate female candidates. The programme's objective could be compromised if trained observers are not put forward by participating States for secondment to OSCE/ODIHR EOMs.

### 2.5 *Quality factors*

Training curricula are based on ODIHR's recognized methodology. They combine theory, practice and interaction and are updated with the latest relevant experience. ODIHR cooperates with and invites the Training Section in the OSCE Secretariat in order to benefit from their experience and know-how. The involvement of civil society builds on ODIHR's work since 2001 to develop domestic election observers' capacity and enhance their professionalism.<sup>3</sup> In addition to ODIHR staff, trainers with extensive knowledge and practical experience are engaged for each STO and LTO course and for the preparation of materials, including the LTO e-learning course.

---

<sup>3</sup> Through its Election Observation Development Programme, see IRMA number 1300383.