

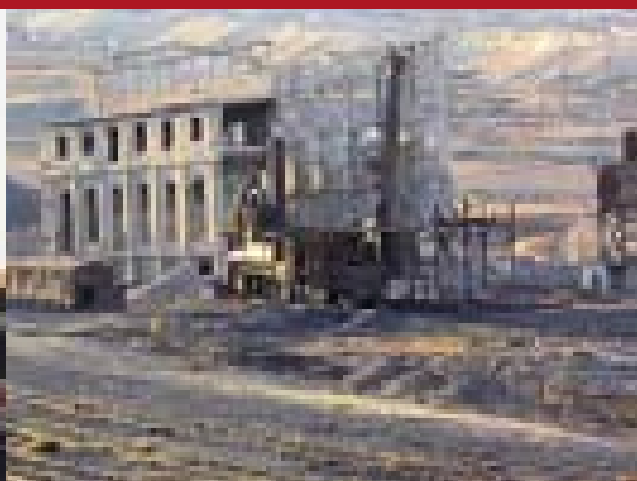
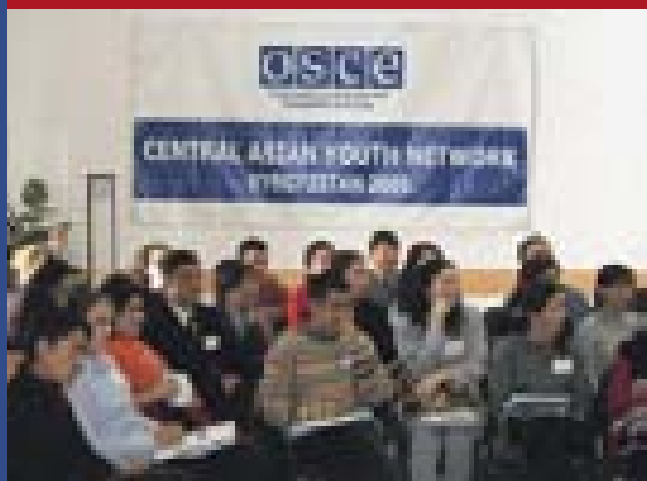
OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat

OCEEA Activity Report

June 2004 – May 2005

*Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities*



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Introduction by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Dear readers,



I have the honour and pleasure to present to you the latest annual report on OSCE activities in the economic and environmental dimension. Over the past year, there have been a number of interesting and encouraging developments in the economic and environmental sphere and one could not

fail to notice that the 55 OSCE participating States have gradually been enhancing the role of the OSCE's second dimension whose mission consists in preventing conflicts, encouraging dialogue and co-operation and stimulating post-conflict rehabilitation through economic and environmental activities. The present report reflects these trends, not least in the increasingly programmatic approach of the second dimension.

In the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, which was adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Maastricht in December 2003, the OSCE participating States tasked the organisation's Secretary General to conclude an arrangement with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on closer co-operation between the two organisations. Throughout 2004, the two Secretariats negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding that was signed at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia in December 2004 by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE and the General Secretary of the OSCE. As a first result of this co-operation, the review session at the 13th Economic Forum in May 2005 on commitments taken by the Participating States within the Economic and Environmental Dimension, received a new format: it was extended to an entire day and thus provided an opportunity to review in-depth the implementation of commitments within the selected cluster on integration, trade and transport.

Another area of close co-operation with the UNECE, developing an early warning mechanism for the economic and environmental dimension, resulted in a project proposal for a possible system, which intends to point out to OSCE participating States threats stemming from economic and environmental factors at an early stage with suggestions for possible action.

Co-operation with the UNECE also continued in other areas, e.g. on the environment, by focusing on the promotion of the Aarhus Convention and other environmental agreements. It is the OSCE field presences whose achievements in this context deserve particular praise.

Projects and activities are a relatively recent addition to the work of the OSCE in the second dimension. Moreover, only a few years ago, programmatic activity would have almost been anathema in this area. Since then, two multi-annual programmes have been developed by the OCEEA in co-operation with field missions and partner organisations, while numerous smaller projects have been successfully implemented at the same time. I would like to give a few examples of recent developments:

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), launched in 2003, in co-operation with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has advanced significantly in all three regions of activity: in Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and the Western Balkans. The in-depth assessment of environment-related security issues in the Ferghana Valley in Central Asia resulted in the development of concrete follow up activities addressing several environmental hot spots. In the Southern Caucasus, hot spots were identified and described, as well as inter-institutional co-operation advanced. In South Eastern Europe, the work on specific hot spots has meanwhile continued.

My office has also continued to implement the Anti-Trafficking Programme (ATP) presented to OSCE participating States and potential donors at the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee and the 12th Economic Forum in 2004. The ATP places particular emphasis on mobilising the private sector's participation in helping combat trafficking. For example, the OCEEA has launched pilot projects that aim at providing professional experience for vulnerable population groups in Ukraine (notably for orphans) and in Romania. We also have promoted the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism among companies that operate in South-Eastern Europe. In this context, the OCEEA supports the Austrian NGO "ECPAT" (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) in their awareness rising campaign of sexual exploitation in destination countries.

The OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia in December 2004 adopted a Decision on Combating Corruption which reiterated the importance of good governance and of the fight against corruption. Over the past few years, the OCEEA has developed a range of projects which address the issue. Among them is the OSCE Handbook on "Best Practices in Combating Corruption" which was published in 2004 and has been met with very strong demand from across the entire OSCE area. The initial English and Russian editions were soon followed by Albanian, Serbian and Uzbek versions, with Georgian, Croatian and several other translations either already underway or under consideration, such as a Polish version. The handbook has been widely distributed to government officials, NGOs, academics, as well as the media and has been used in a number of workshops organized by OSCE field presences and other international organizations.

Furthermore, OSCE field presences are closely cooperating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in promoting the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption signed in 2003.

Also in the area of good governance, the OCEEA has deepened its co-operation with UNODC by continuing to support participating States in their efforts to strengthen their ability to fight money laundering, to prevent and suppress terrorist financing. One of the states in which the OCEEA organised a workshop in 2004 was Georgia.

In the environmental area, besides the ongoing Environment and Security Initiative, the OCEEA has continued a number of water management projects as a follow up to the 10th Economic Forum. The South Caucasus river monitoring project has entered its third year of implementation while the Commission on the rivers Chu and Tallas has finally been set up.

I do not intend to elaborate on the other regular activities of the OCEEA, with which most readers are familiar, such as organizing preparatory seminars and the Annual Economic Forum under the leadership of the OSCE Chairmanship, supporting the Chairmanship in preparing meetings of the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee to the Permanent Council and more.

Altogether there were more than two hundred seminars, training, conferences, workshops on economic and environmental issues organized by OSCE field presences and/or the OCEEA between May 2004 and April 2005. Not all of them will be mentioned in this report, but I believe that all of them contributed to an increased international dialogue, awareness rising and institutional capacity building on economic and environmental issues at the heart of the OSCE's second dimension.

More information on my Office's work can be obtained at www.osce.org/eea



Marcin Świącicki
Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental
Activities

2. Current Issues and Recent Developments in the Economic and Environmental Dimension

Upon invitation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Foreign Ministers of the 55 OSCE participating States met in Sofia on 6-7 December 2004. With regard to the Economic and Environmental Dimension, it was inter alia decided by MC.DEC/10/04 to task the Permanent Council, through its Economic and Environmental Sub-committee and with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), to continue its work on the enhancement of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension and to periodically review the progress achieved. In particular, focus should be placed on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum.

2.1 Main Issues addressed during the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee Meetings since June 2004

The Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee (EESC) continued to be a valuable tool for ensuring continuity and consistency in the activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension by providing a forum for regular reporting on the work done, enabling discussions of priorities and activities as well as identifying potential threats to security and stability. The Sub-Committee also provided a link to other International Organisations and relevant actors which were invited to share their views and to contribute to the work in the second Dimension.

Over the reporting period, from June 2004 to May 2005, fourteen meetings (30th to 43rd) of the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee were held: eight under the Bulgarian Chairmanship and six under the Slovenian Chairmanship.

According to its mandate, the OCEEA continued to provide working support to the activity of the EESC and its Chairperson.

The following are the main issues discussed by the Sub-Committee between June 2004 and May 2005:

Follow-up to the 12th Economic Forum

The Consolidated Summary of the Twelfth Economic Forum (EF.GAL/28/04) was presented by the CoEEA at the 30th meeting of the EESC on 2 July 2004. The discussion in the Sub-Committee was instrumental for identifying the most appropriate follow-up actions. Based on the input and guidelines provided by the Sub-Committee, the OCEEA continued its planning of activities and contacts with potential partners and prepared a document including concrete follow-up proposals (SEC.GAL/168/04) which was presented and discussed at the 32nd EESC on 28 July 2004.

On 17 September 2004, a more focused discussion on activities related to human capacity building, as a follow-up to the 12th Economic Forum was included on

the EESC's agenda. The OCEEA presented the proposed activities in this field. Ms. Sonja Stiegelbauer-Starrach, former Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was invited to share her expert views on this topic.

On 17 December 2004, the OCEEA presented a project proposal regarding an OSCE Guide on Best Conditions for Enhancing the Business and Investment Climate.

Preparation for the 13th OSCE Economic Forum

With regard to the 13th Economic Forum, the EESC was instrumental in the adoption, by the Permanent Council, of the two decisions on the place, date and theme (PC.DEC/624) and main subjects and organisational modalities for the 13th Economic Forum.

The meetings on 15 April, 29 April and 13 May 2005 provided the opportunity for comprehensive and substantial discussions on the preparation of the 13th Economic Forum and the priority issues to be addressed at the Forum, following the suggestions from the three preparatory seminars and based on the introductory note prepared by the OCEEA in co-ordination with the Slovenian Chairmanship.

With regard to the preparatory process for the Economic Forum, the OCEEA - in close co-operation with the Chairmanship - organized three preparatory seminars in Trieste, Almaty and Kyiv. With regard to the Kyiv seminar, the HCNM prepared the background paper in co-ordination with the OCEEA. The EESC was continuously informed on the progress of the three preparatory seminars in Trieste, Almaty and Kyiv, and the Consolidated Summaries of the three seminars were discussed in the EESC.

Supporting the implementation of OSCE decisions and the work of OSCE decision making bodies

The Economic and Environmental Subcommittee was tasked by the decision PC.DEC/624 on the place, date and theme of the 13th Economic Forum to continue its work on further improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum. Following this decision, this issue was included on the EESC's agenda during the second half of 2004. Informal consultations were also held. OCEEA was actively involved and supported the process. This negotiation process led to the adoption by

the Ministerial Council in Sofia of the Decision No. 10/04 on Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Economic Forum. Following the Ministerial Council decision, an Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Enhancement of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension (EED) was established at the beginning of 2005. The group's task was to support the EESC to continue its work on enhancement of the EED and to periodically review the progress achieved. The Chairman of the Group reported regularly to the Sub-Committee.

The Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht in December 2003, tasked the Secretary General to conclude an arrangement with the UNECE focused on the review of economic and environmental situation in the OSCE area. The negotiation process was initiated at the beginning of 2004 and continued over the year. The Sub-Committee was regularly informed on the developments and progress achieved.

The EESC was also instrumental in discussing and preparing, in autumn 2004, the Sofia Ministerial Council decision on combating corruption (MC.DEC/11/04).

During the second half of 2004 and the first half of 2005, the EESC discussed the proposal for holding a Conference on strengthening energy security in the OSCE region. The OCEEA provided a substantial support to these deliberations by preparing a food for thought paper. Mr. Andrei Konoplyanik, Deputy Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat, was invited to the 36th meeting of the EESC, on 26 November 2004, to present his expert opinion on the topic.

Reporting and discussing EED activities

Activity reports by the Co-ordinator were presented and discussed in each meeting of the EESC. Activity reports included references and updated information on ongoing activities in various areas, including by the OSCE field presences, OCEEA staff participation in relevant international meetings, co-operation with other international organizations etc. The 33rd EESC meeting benefited from the presence in Vienna of the Economic and Environmental Officers, on the occasion of the Annual Co-ordination meeting. Participants in the Sub-Committee had the opportunity to listen to presentations by a number

of EEOs and engage in a dialogue on current activities and priorities with the EEOs during a Q&A session. A report from the Annual Co-ordination meeting was also presented.

Strengthening good governance is one of the main OSCE commitments, reiterated in the Strategy Document. A presentation of OSCE activities in implementing the provisions of the Strategy Document related to good governance was included on the agenda of the 32nd meeting of the EESC, on 28 July 2004. Mr. James Anderson, Senior Economist, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, Europe and Central Asia, from the World Bank also participated in the meeting and presented the WB good governance indicators.

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), developed in co-operation with UNDP and UNEP, is one of the most successful OSCE activities. The Sub-Committee was constantly informed on the programme's implementation. A progress report on the ENVSEC in South Eastern Europe was presented to the 34th meeting of the EESC, on 22 October 2004, by Mr. Harald Egerer, UNEP office in Vienna. A presentation of the ENVSEC Southern Caucasus Assessment Report and introduction to the follow up work programme was included on the agenda of the 37th Meeting of the EESC on 17 December 2004. Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe and Mr. Ben Slay, Director, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre also participated and addressed the meeting. On 18 March 2005, the ENVSEC Ferghana Assessment Report and introduction to the follow-up work programme was presented and discussed in the Sub-Committee.

On 26 November 2004, the agenda of the 36th meeting of EESC included a presentation and discussion of the outcome of the project Creation of a Commission on the Chu and Talas rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Nurtaza Kudaibergenov, Head of the Chu-Talas Basin Water Authority, Kazakhstan, Mr. Kydykbek Beishekeev, Deputy Director of Water Industry Department, Kyrgyzstan, and Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Convention on the Protection and the Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE, participated as guest speakers.

On 18 February 2005 (39th meeting of the EESC), the OCEEA invited Mr. Andrew Wilson, Regional Vice President for Central Asia of the Eurasia Foundation, to present joint activities between OSCE and the Eurasia Foundation, with a particular focus on the recently launched Central Asia Applied Research Network which supports the research capacity of economic faculties in Central Asia.

2.2 Co-operation between the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

The UNECE and the OSCE have a longstanding working relationship which dates back many years and has involved a range of activities, such as the transboundary water commission on the rivers Chu and Talas and the joint project on sustainable water management of the Dniestr river between Moldova and Ukraine.

Ties between the two organizations were further strengthened as a result of the Strategy Document, which underlined the fact that the UNECE is an important partner for the OCEEA, especially with regard to the annual session on the review of commitments held within the framework of the Economic Forum, as well as in the field of Early Warning.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE and the OSCE at the Ministerial Council in Sofia by the UNECE's Executive Secretary, Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová and OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Ján Kubiš, constituted another step towards closer co-operation between the two organizations.

2.3 Economic and Environmental Early Warning

The OCEEA held two workshops (5 November 2004, 26 April 2005) in co-operation with the UNECE and other partners to explore possibilities for an Early Warning Mechanism (EWM) in the economic and environmental dimension. Given the existence of an EWM under the Environment and Security Initiative, special attention at these events was devoted to the economic sphere.

The workshop participants evaluated existing mechanisms and assessed the OSCE's possibilities to react to identified threats. It was also discussed how to operationalize a possible EWM.

2.4 Annual Co-ordination Meeting for Economic and Environmental Officers, Vienna and Kranichberg, 16-19 September 2004

The annual Co-ordination Meeting for Economic and Environmental Officers (EEOs) took place in Vienna and Kranichberg from 16 to 19 September 2004. It was for the fifth time that such a meeting was organized and it represented a unique opportunity for both the EEOs and the OCEEA to interact and exchange views, present their current activities and priorities, seeking thus a better co-ordination and greater efficacy in implementing their mandate. This year's meeting was progressive in terms of participation – 28 participants representing 16 field presences attended the meeting; many EEOs were accompanied by their assistants; all OCEEA staff were present.

The meeting consisted of both plenary sessions and regional working groups. Discussions focused in particular on the implementation of the provisions of the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the follow-up process to the 12th Economic Forum, preparations for the 13th Economic Forum, environmental activities, programmatic activities implemented at local level, programme management etc.

Among the topics discussed were:

- A Workshop on Income Generation via Tourism in Central Asia and envisaged follow-up activities;
- Co-operation with the International Network for SMEs in the framework of the Bologna Process for SMEs;
- Investment Development through supporting the development of Business Advisory Councils and Investment Promotion Agencies;
- Field Experience with the private sector: Corporate Social Identity;
- Human Capacity Building: Public Sector Training, the Central Asia Research Network and Youth Camps ;
- Good Governance: Municipal Infrastructure and Finance Programme, Good Governance Workshops etc.;
- The ENVSEC Initiative and other environmental activities.

The EEOs had the opportunity to meet their counterparts from CPC/Mission Programme Section and to discuss, in regional groups, the future priorities for each region. Issues related to Programme management as well as budgetary issues were also discussed.

The EEOs had the opportunity to meet, individually or in groups, representatives of OSCE participating States and discuss with them various issues of interest. Three EEOs were invited to make presentations in the Sub-Committee meeting on 17 September. They presented their priorities and activities and responded to questions from delegations.

3. Follow-up to the 12th Economic Forum

New Challenges for Building up Institutional and Human Capacity for Economic Development and Co-operation

The 12th meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum - New Challenges for Building up Institutional and Human Capacity for Economic Development and Co-operation – was held in Prague, from 31 May to 4 June 2004. The Forum highlighted the importance of SME development, foreign investment as well as human capital for the effective functioning of a market economy. The Forum also emphasized the importance of the public-private dialogue and of the partnership with the business community for institutional and human capacity-building. A plenary session on this topic clearly showed that the business community has a role to play in conflict prevention and that the OSCE can promote the principles of corporate social responsibility and engage the private sector in its efforts.

The Consolidated Summary of the 12th OSCE Economic Forum was distributed to delegations under EFGAL/28/04.

Based on the Forum's recommendations, building upon its previous involvement and expertise, and following the guidance received through the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities has identified a number of follow-up activities and tried to promote a more programmatic approach with regard to SME development, foreign and domestic investment and human capacity building.

3.1 Supporting the Development of SMEs

The First Preparatory Seminar for the Twelfth OSCE Economic Forum “Supporting the Development of SMEs”, held in Yerevan, Armenia, 17-18 November 2003, underscored the importance of creating a business friendly environment that fosters economic opportunities and entrepreneurship as a means to growth and sustainability in countries of transitions. Some key recommendations included:

- Participating States should improve the operating environment for SMEs;
- Participating States should recognize the role and facilitate the establishment of independent business associations and Chambers of Commerce;
- Participating States should adopt measures to develop human capital.

In addition, the OCEEA was asked to:

- intensify its work with government authorities and policy makers;
- provide support to SMEs and entrepreneurs, including training, and play a role in institutional capacity building in the private sector;
- promote public-private dialogue and partnership;
- focus on groups and regions having specific needs;
- consider environmental aspects when promoting SME sector development.

3.2 Foreign and Domestic Investment

Following the discussions of the Economic Forum and the Preparatory Seminars in Yerevan and Dublin (2nd preparatory Seminar) regarding the need to support the development of small and medium enterprises and stimulate investment in the entire OSCE region, the OCEEA prepared a project proposing to develop an OSCE Guide on Best Conditions for Enhancing the Business and Investment Climate. The Guide should serve as a reference document for discussion and drafting of policies and strat-

egies conducive to investment and business, and assist in developing supportive institutional structures and business development instruments. The Guide will be designed so that it may serve a broad audience, including public officials and policy makers, investment promotion agencies, the business community and civil society.

Investment facilitation – Ukraine

The aim of the Investment Facilitation Programme, which is supported by the OSCE, consists in assisting Ukrainian Oblast (Regional) Administrations in attracting foreign direct investments to the regions.

In the city of Rivne, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator has assisted the oblast administration, city administration and local Chamber of Commerce to establish a regional Investment Promotion Agency (IPA), “InvestInRivne”. The Agency will serve as a “one-stop-shop” for investors and will facilitate and expedite the process of setting up a business. It will in particular be responsible for:

- Investment Promotion and Image Building;
- Investor Assistance and Servicing;
- Policy Advocacy on the investment and business climate.

In 2004, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator carried out research in the area of investment promotion activities and operations of Investment Promotion Agencies in other countries and regions, in order to determine the functions of the InvestInRivne agency. A visit to the Wroclaw Regional Development Agency, Poland (WARR) was organized and a co-operation agreement was signed between WARR and the Rivne Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A comprehensive analysis of Ukrainian legislation was carried out in order to identify the legal form for the establishment of the Rivne IPA. In October 2004, the Rivne Agency for Investment Attraction and Investor Services “InvestInRivne” were officially registered. The official opening of the InvestInRivne Agency was held in March 2005.

The Investment Facilitation Programme has also supported the development of a website for the Agency www.InvestInRivne.org. The web site targets foreign investors and will provide relevant information about the region, investment opportunities, business climate, legislation, taxation issues and services provided by the Agency. The website will be

accessible to the international community in five languages – English, German, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine will be a member of the Supervisory Council, whose role is to ensure good governance, transparency, increase credibility and effectiveness of the Agency operations.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine will continue to support the operation of and provide guidance to the InvestInRivne Agency. Among the major activities to be supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in 2005 will be an International Investment Forum, facilitating investment promotion activities of the Agency, including organization of investment promotion trips abroad and production of promotional materials; organizing an investment study tour to Wroclaw for local and regional government officials, representatives of business associations and for the employees of InvestInRivne. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine will also support a special training programme on investment promotion, investor servicing and after-care services to investors for the employees of the Agency.

Investment Promotion – Kyrgyzstan

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek has supported a number of activities aimed at facilitating the investment climate in Kyrgyzstan. The Centre contributes to the “investment round table” which works under the supervision of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Centre is also a member of the working group established by Presidential decree to advise the Kyrgyz authorities on establishing an Investment Promotion Agency.

3.3 Human Capacity Building

The Third Preparatory Seminar in Bishkek (29-30 March 2004) discussed the needs for strengthening professional skills for developing strong market economies, thus preparing the ground for the 12th Economic Forum, where the challenges of building institutional and human capacity for sustainable development in the OSCE area were addressed. One of the challenges identified was the need for well-trained professionals to contribute to economic transition and policy-making processes, including the reform of legal



Training in applied economic research at the International Business School “Kelajak Ilmi” in Tashkent

Central Asia Applied Research Network

The OCEEA in co-operation with the Eurasia Foundation and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek launched the Central Asia Applied Research Network in early 2005. The OSCE field presences in Central Asia have also announced their support to the project. The objective of the project is to build both institutional and human capacity in applied economic research at leading universities in the Central Asian region to the benefit of economic and social development. In particular, the project aims at increasing the capacity of regional universities in Central Asia to conduct applied research for the needs of the local business community and the government by honing the professional skills of junior researchers, improving their access to current international periodicals and providing expert peer reviews on their research projects as well as mentors from Central Asia and other Newly Independent States. In addition, the project will contribute to the reform of economics education by introducing research into the classroom and building business and policy concerns into regular business and economics curricula.

Central Asia Youth Network

The five OSCE Centres in Central Asia in co-operation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the OSCE Secretariat, including the OCEEA, launched the OSCE Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) in 2004. More than 50 students from all over Central Asia attended the two seminars and engaged in joint research in the three OSCE dimensions. Guest speakers from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Central Asia, the OSCE Secretariat and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs conducted sessions on the general security situation, the fight against terrorism, drugs and crime, as well

and structural frameworks and the strengthening of good governance to stimulate economic development. Based on the recommendations made at the Economic Forum, the OCEEA has actively promoted specific activities in the areas of applied economic research, training of municipality staff in public financial management and training of young adults and school children in sustainable development. These initiatives are being developed in co-operation with local institutions, field missions and expert organizations.



Fifty-four students from Central Asia took part each year in the Central Asia Youth Network in 2004 and 2005.

The Central Asia Applied Research Network brings the research needs of the private and public sectors to the economics curricula of universities in Central Asia.

as economic and environmental issues. CAYN is part of the OSCE Centres' Education for Young People Programme in Central Asia. Its aim is to contribute to international co-operation, conflict prevention and democratiza-

tion by promoting good relations and friendly cross-border contacts among students in the region. CAYN went into a second year in February 2005 with a launching seminar for 54 new students near lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. More information about CAYN can be obtained from the web site of the Network at www.cayn.net

Summer Camps

The aim of the Summer Camps will be to promote overall sustainable development, focusing on current economic and environmental issues, such as waste and water management, land degradation, ethics and corruption, small business development and entrepreneurship. Current risks facing young people, e.g. unemployment, trafficking and drugs will also be part of the training. The principle beneficiaries will be young people from secondary schools, specialised education institutions, vocational training institutions, organizations representing minorities and universities.

The Green Pack

Together with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), the OCEEA is adapting the Green Pack programme, a tool box for Education for Sustainable development, to the conditions and needs in the CIS and the Balkans. This activity is described in more detail in chapter 8.4.1.



Based on OSCE experience in successfully organizing summer camps for young people to promote greater understanding and awareness of subjects relevant to OSCE commitments, the OCEEA will actively be promoting the idea of Summer Camps among its field missions in the summer of 2005.

4. The 13th Economic Forum: “Demographic Trends, Migration and Integrating Persons belonging to National Minorities: Ensuring Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE area”, Prague, 23-27 May 2005

Three Preparatory Seminars were organized before the 13th OSCE Economic Forum on “Demographic Trends, Migration and Integrating Persons belonging to National Minorities: Ensuring Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE area”.

The meetings allowed experts from the participating States and various international organizations, the business community, academia and non governmental organizations to analyze and discuss issues related to the three main topics of the Forum. The preparatory seminars achieved their main objective of elaborating suggestions for the Economic Forum. Furthermore, discussions in the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee based on the suggestions from the seminars contributed to streamlining the preparatory process.

The three Preparatory Seminars were organized by OCEEA in close co-operation with the Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Altogether, the three Preparatory Seminars attracted more than 500 participants from OSCE participating States, OSCE Partners for Co-operation, OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, OSCE Field Presences, OSCE Institutions, as well as numerous representatives of relevant international organizations, the business community, NGOs and research institutions. Numerous background documents and speakers’ presentations have been circulated during the three seminars. These documents were compiled on a CD-ROM and can be provided upon request by the OCEEA.

4.1 First Preparatory Seminar for the 13th Economic Forum: “Demographic Prospects in the OSCE area: Economic and Security Implications, Trieste, Italy”, 8-9 November 2004

The first preparatory seminar was held in Trieste, Italy, on 8-9 November 2004. Over 120 participants, official

representatives from 36 OSCE participating States and Mediterranean partners for co-operation, UNECE, UNDP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), representatives from NGOs and the Academic Community, as well as nine OSCE Field Offices attended the seminar and engaged in discussions. A Background Note (SEC. GAL/241/04) on demographic trends was prepared and circulated in advance by OCEEA to introduce the topic of the seminar. Among others, participants discussed matters related to demographic shifts and long-term prospects in the OSCE region and the OSCE neighbourhood, regional demographic developments affecting security and stability, the impact of ageing, fertility, family dynamics and policy responses, health hazards and communicable diseases and the link between demographic developments and environmental issues. The seminar sought to define the role of the OSCE and its participating States in addressing such issues and in bringing added value to international efforts.



Kilian Strauss

Trieste was chosen as the venue for the First Preparatory Seminar for the 13th Economic Forum

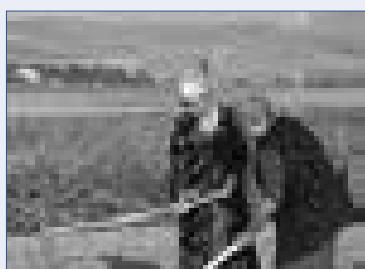
4.2 Second Preparatory Seminar for the 13th Economic Forum: “Migration from an Economic, Environmental and Security Perspective, Almaty, Kazakhstan”, 24–25 January 2005

The second preparatory seminar was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 24-25 January 2005. Over 200 people

participated in this seminar which focused on the linkages between migration and security, both from an environmental and economic perspective. A Background Paper (SEC.GAL/10/05/Rev. 3) on migration in the OSCE area was circulated in advance. Over the last few decades, the phenomenon of migration has had a rising impact on political developments and international relations in the OSCE area. A growing number of people migrate on a temporary

or permanent basis, seeking better economic opportunities, trying to escape poverty or the consequences of environmental problems such as drought, soil degradation or desertification. The seminar closely looked into issues such as labour migration, environmentally induced migration, the impact of migration on economies, remittances, gender and the integration of migrants.

Information Centre for Labour Migrants - Tajikistan



Soren W. Nissen

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Tajiks go abroad in search of employment to enable them to support their families. Most go to Russia, while some look for jobs in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Few are aware of the legal requirements for foreign jobseekers in their chosen country of destination and every year many are deported back to Tajikistan as illegal migrants. In 2004, the OSCE Centre, jointly with the Dushanbe office of the International Organization for Migration, opened an advice centre in the Tajik capital for persons planning to go abroad to work. The centre provides a one-stop information point on important rules and regulations governing labour migration as well as on transit routes and advises potential migrants on how to interact with people, particularly officials, once they reach their destination.

information point on important rules and regulations governing labour migration as well as on transit routes and advises potential migrants on how to interact with people, particularly officials, once they reach their destination.

4.3 Third Preparatory Seminar for the 13th Economic Forum: "Integrating Persons belonging to National Minorities: Economic and other perspectives, Kyiv, Ukraine", 10-11 March 2005

The third preparatory seminar - Integrating Persons belonging to National Minorities: Economic and other Perspectives - was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 10-11 March 2005. Over 160 participants, official representatives from OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for co-operation, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and the academic community, as well as OSCE Field Offices attended the seminar and engaged in discussions. The Office of the OSCE HCNM provided a substantial contribution by preparing a Background paper (SEC.GAL/55/05) and also participated actively in the seminar. Among others, participants discussed matters related to social and economic aspects of integration, adequate access to education, full participation in public life and ultimately good governance at State and local level. To be effective, integration demands a comprehensive approach. Policies for integration should also address areas such as employment, investment, entrepreneurship, education and public participation. The seminar's key objective was to formulate suggestions on how the OSCE and its participating States in co-operation with other

actors, including international organizations, civil society and the business community, can better facilitate and promote the integration of persons belonging to national minorities by identifying the right incentives and creating a more conducive framework for their economic and social development.

National Minorities in Civil Society Building in Osijek-Baranja County – Croatia

The aim of the project is to provide education to citizens on minority rights and multiculturalism in the Osijek-Baranja County. It promotes European as well as Croatian minority standards according to the existing institutional framework, inter-ethnic tolerance and education for members of 35 Councils of National Minorities, members of local self-governments of five cities and ten municipalities, individual minority representatives, forty NGO representatives and media.

5. Good Governance

Public confidence and trust in government is only achieved when state institutions and legislation are strengthened in such a way that they can effectively combat corruption. The OCEEA focuses its attention on the promotion and implementation of international standards and conventions against corruption, the strengthening of public administration systems, development of transparent budgetary processes and the establishment of well-functioning public institutions.

Moreover, the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (MC(11)JOUR/2, Annex 1) calls under paragraph 2.1.11 for a continuation of activities aimed at developing, implementing and enforcing financial legislation and regulations on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Towards this end, the OCEEA has formed partnerships with those international organizations that are active in the fight against corruption. The Council of Europe, the OECD, UNDP and UNODC are working in co-operation with the OCEEA on a number of overlapping issues; together we are finding new synergies to ensure that a well co-ordinated approach to anti-corruption strategies and technical assistance project development can be achieved in the OSCE region.

5.1 Promoting transparency and combating corruption

The OCEEA continued to work with the OECD Anti-corruption Network for Transition Economies, established in 1998 to support a regional anti-corruption forum for transition economies. Last year, seven OSCE participating states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine) participated in the reporting and evaluation process of their anti-corruption legislation and institutions. These countries are now in the process of implementing recommendations made by their peer countries and international experts. The OSCE has supported the “Istanbul Action Plan” by ensuring the involvement of civil society in the review process. Kazakhstan recently announced its plans to join the initiative and will undergo the review process in 2005. Besides the information gathering and review process the goal of the initiative is to share and spread best practices in combating corruption. In February 2005, the Ukrainian government hosted a conference on international standards in combating corruption to assist the “Istanbul Action Plan” countries in gaining a deeper knowledge of the legal terminology contained in international anti-corruption legal instruments and the technical issues related to bringing domestic legislation into compliance with those standards.

Introducing business ethics to local universities – Albania

The Project aimed at introducing to students at Albanian universities the concept of business ethics from the theoretical and practical point of view to prevent corrupt behaviour in the business environment. The project was a follow up to a previous project on “Introducing business ethics to Albanian Universities”. In addition to open lessons, joint meetings of students and business representatives were organized in all Universities of Albania to encourage dialogue and exchange of ideas on this matter.

Ten meetings with students and business representatives were organized on two consecutive days in five Universities. Participants considered the topic very important and supported the idea of its inclusion in the economic faculty curricula. The students and potential teachers of the subject in the universities of Elbasani and Shkodra appreciated the

efforts of the working group which was prepared a book and considered it as a critical tool for preparing the respective subject curricula for the coming academic year.

Strategy and Capacity Building for Sustainable Refugee Return, Social Development and Economic Revitalisation – Croatia



Students interested in Business Ethics, as part of their future curricula, listening to lecturers in the auditorium of Gjirokastra University “Eqerem Cabej”.

The OSCE together with the local NGO Centre for Peace Studies in Zagreb, is implementing a project in Gospic with the overall goal to improve local institutional capacity building and citizen participation in the decision making process. This should help stimulate social development and initiate economic revitalisation conducive towards the sustainable return process in the Lika and Dalmatian hinterland.

Through a series of workshops, trainings, publication activities, open forums and public discussions, engaging both Municipality and County institutions and community members, from multi-ethnic citizen groups, the project represents a constructive way to overcome past and present hurdles and to foster refugee return vis-à-vis economic revitalisation of the Areas of Special State concern (war affected/return areas) in Croatia. Gospic stands as a pilot municipality in the Lika-Senj County.

Support to the Kyrgyz Government in the area of Good Governance and Strengthening the Institutional Basis on Fighting Corruption – Kyrgyzstan

The Centre in Bishkek supported initiatives in guiding the National Council on Good Governance and its related bodies in identifying key priorities and in developing an Action Plan on Good Governance/Corruption by deploying a joint international expert mission to formulate two-three basic decisions regarding anti-corruption measures that need to be taken as priorities. In line with these recommendations, the National Council on Good Governance was abolished by a decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on 25 October 2004 and the working body of the National Council for Good Governance - Secretariat of the National Council on Good Governance, was converted into the Secretariat to the Consultative Council for Good Governance.

In accordance with recommendations of the joint anti-corruption mission, the Centre in Bishkek is supporting initiatives in replacing the current complex policy structure with a new independent Anti-Corruption Commission to develop an anti-corruption policy and monitor its implementation. The first draft of the concept document on establishing the Anti Corruption Commission was presented in mid February 2005 for discussion with the Kyrgyz authorities, civil society and international donor agencies. Moreover, the Centre in Bishkek organized an anticorruption study tour to Lithuania, FYR of Macedonia and Slovenia for the Kyrgyz authorities to study best practices on combating corruption, in particular to get acquainted with activities of State Anti Corruption Commissions.

The Centre in Bishkek provided technical equipments to the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on Good Governance within the framework of the project aimed at creating a website facilitating public access to information on measures taken for fighting corruption, good governance and governmental reforms in both public and private sectors.

5.1.1 Strengthening of Legislation, Institutions and Promoting International Standards

Anti-Corruption – Azerbaijan

The Office has undertaken several projects to support Azerbaijan's commitments to combat corruption. In light of a newly adopted State Programme on Combating Corruption which took effect on 1 January 2005, the Office has begun an ambitious project to support Government and civil society in its efforts to implement this legislation into practice. The Office is currently supporting the Azerbaijani Young Lawyers Union to conduct a series of roundtables and a public awareness campaign involving government officials, NGOs and the media. The Office will continue to support initiatives to promote Co-operation between the government and civil society in the implementation of measures to reduce corruption.

Implementation of the Public Administration Reform Programme – Bosnia and Herzegovina

The majority of public funds in Bosnia and Herzegovina is used to maintain huge administrations, with some municipalities spending as much as ninety per cent of their budget on administrative costs. At the same time, public investment to support the development of the infrastructure and the economy are lacking. Recognizing that public sector reform must be one of the key priorities for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Mission has assisted nearly 100 local governments in modernizing their administrations. In particular, the Mission has advised municipalities on improving procedures and policies to achieve sound and strategic budget planning, transparent financial management, efficient human resource management and systemic internal control. Advice and on-the-job coaching are tailored to the specific circumstances of every municipality. A signed agreement combined with a concrete action plan ensures that municipalities take ownership of the process.

Training seminars for judges and prosecutors on economic and environmental legislation – Kazakhstan

Four two-day training seminars – two for each of the two target groups, judges and prosecutors – were conducted in October-November 2004. The topics of the seminars were: implementation of international environmental conventions in Kazakhstan, including the Aarhus Convention and other legal instruments ratified by Kazakhstan; anti-monopoly and fair competition promotion issues, including acquaintance with the European Union competition



Training session for judges of regional courts

law and legislative framework for protection of economic competition in Kazakhstan.

International and local experts carried out the main training courses; recent developments in the legislation were presented by representatives of state agencies that co-organized the project: the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Agency on the regulation of natural monopolies and protection of fair competition.

Judges and prosecutors from different regions of Kazakhstan also took part in the event.

The seminars received a positive assessment from the participants. The Centre currently considers continuing this capacity-building exercise by covering other important topics in the economic and environmental spheres.

Working Group on Migration Issues – Uzbekistan

The Centre in Tashkent organized a "Working Group on Migration Issues" to facilitate the development of draft legislation that would address the issue of migration for Uzbekistan. The Working Group's task included conducting research about Uzbekistan's migration flows, identifying objectives and priorities of migration policy applicable to Uzbekistan, studying the official migration policies in other CIS countries and analysing the main international documents regulating international migration processes. As a result of this research, a concept paper on migration was prepared that outlines domestic and external migration, labour migration, transit migration and possible mechanisms for the development of a national concept on

migration policy, as well as a draft “Law on Migration”.

On 14 September 2004, representatives from the Oliy Majlis (Parliament), the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Economy, academia and non-governmental organizations discussed the draft concept paper on Uzbekistan’s migration policy. Comments on the concept paper were due to be presented in the Oliy Majlis shortly thereafter.

Promoting OECD Principles of Corporate Governance – Serbia and Montenegro

The OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro (SaM) in co-operation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce organized a public presentation of the recently published book on “OECD Principles of Corporate Governance 2004”.

The principles, endorsed by OECD Ministers in 1999, have since become an international benchmark for policy makers, investors, corporations and other stakeholders world-wide. They have advanced the corporate governance agenda and provided specific guidance for legislative and regulatory initiatives in both OECD and non OECD countries.

Therefore, the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance 2004 are not only intended to become a significant part of education for corporate governance, but the guidelines for the legislation development too, both being in line with the OSCE Mission to SaM’s programmatic activities.

When providing a Serbian version of “OECD Principles of Corporate Governance 2004” to SaM authorities and the business community, the OSCE Mission to SaM was limited by the fact that the Serbian stock exchange does not have a long history. The need to introduce this issue to small shareholders to which privatization of socially-owned companies opened opportunities to participate in the stock exchange was obvious, as they lack both personal experience and knowledge related to corporate governance.

5.1.2 Promoting the UN Convention against Corruption

National Workshops on Anti-Corruption, National and International Legal Instruments and Best Practices – Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

Two workshops were held in Kazakhstan (11-12 October 2004) and Kyrgyzstan (14-15 October 2004). The events

were aimed at supporting the Kyrgyz and Kazakh Governments in their efforts in this area. In co-operation with UNODC and the Council of Europe, both workshops focused on signing, ratifying and nationally implementing international conventions, such as the UN Convention against Corruption, the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, the Council of Europe Civil and Criminal Law Conventions and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of Proceeds from Crime (CETS 141).

The recommendations of the events ask the governments to consider adopting regulations to allow specialized agencies to have access to bank information; to consider establishing criminal, civil and administrative liability of legal persons for participation in corruption offences and to consider, with the assistance of international organizations, the enhancement of professional qualifications through training of national authorities, lawmakers and their staff who are responsible for combating corruption, especially in the area of drafting anti-corruption legislation and in training financial investigators and other law enforcement officials who must trace assets of criminal origin.

Supporting the UN Convention against Corruption – Uzbekistan

On 17 December 2004, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent in partnership with the Regional Office for Central Asia of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime organized a workshop that focused on Uzbekistan’s current national anti-corruption legislation, the UN Convention against Corruption, as well as international co-operation in strengthening good governance and the rule of law.

Thirty five participants from the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Tax Committee, the National Security Service, NGOs, media, as well as international organizations, engaged in open discussion on issues related to national and international efforts to combat corruption, the various legal instruments and implementing practices that aid government’s address this issue.

A number of recommendations were made during the workshop to co-operate with local agencies and to further encourage the OSCE and other international organizations to increase their activities in promoting good governance in Uzbekistan.

5.1.3 OSCE Handbook on Best Practices in Combating Corruption

In 2004, the OCEEA developed a manual on Best Practices in Combating Corruption. The manual is a resource tool for legislators, public officials, media organizations, NGOs and all those concerned about corruption and wish to know more about measures other countries have taken to fight corruption.

English and Russian versions were published in 2004, followed by Albanian, Russian, Serbian and Uzbek versions in 2005. The Polish Ministry of Interior is currently considering a translation into Polish.

The Handbook was widely distributed to government officials, NGOs, academics and the media and has been used in a number of workshops organized by the OCEEA and other international Organizations.

5.2 Improving the management of public resources

Public Expenditure Trends and Budget Planning Transparency – Albania

The main aim of the project was to develop a full set of indicators that will be able to indicate the trends of public expenditures in Albania over the last 10 years, efficiency of public expenditure planning and comparison of public expenditure in Albania with other European countries undergoing similar developments as Albania.

The project was implemented in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance and served at increasing the constructive dialogue among Members of Parliament at Parliamentary Commissions, as well as increasing the participation of other stakeholders, e.g. civic groups, business communities and media representatives, into the debate about budget planning for 2005. It provided the background for different stakeholders to lobby on shifting public expenditures to priority sectors such as education and health. It increased the understanding about the importance of a transparent budgetary process and efficient planning as the preconditions towards better implementation.



Providing technical assistance to inspectorate institutions – Albania

The project supported the High Inspectorate of Assets Declaration and Auditing to accomplish its duties in the framework of the fight against corruption and aimed at introducing the law inspectorates at the local level with the legal framework and working methodology for law implementation of public official's wealth declaration and auditing.

It consisted in organising training workshops with law inspectorates in co-operation with the High Inspectorate of Assets Declaration and Auditing, where the new declaration form was introduced to law inspectorate experts.

Councillors' training in Western Slavonia – Croatia



The pilot project “Councillors’ Training” was aimed at providing municipal councillors with additional knowledge and skills to improve their leadership and thus improve their efficiency in the decision making process. SMART, one of the top Croatian training organizations, was chosen to deliver the training to the municipalities of Dvor, Gvozd, Grubisno Polje and Plaski. Through specifically selected topics, councillors were trained on how to use the necessary instruments to effectively negotiate, facilitate activities and initiate positive developments within their respective communities.

Only a few days after the training, the Municipality of Plaski came up with a specific proposal for the long-lasting and ongoing problem of the municipality’s water supply to regional authorities.

Establishing internal control to decrease corruption and improve the accountability of local administrations – Bosnia and Herzegovina

The majority of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s municipalities have no formalized internal control procedures, which would allow for errors, fraud, procurement irregularities and other misuse of public funds to be made public.

In autumn 2004, with support from the Mission and the Supreme Audit Offices, twenty municipalities developed a “Best Practices Rulebook on Internal Control”. This resource combines legal requirements, international standards, best practices and self-assessment tools, and is ready-made for country-wide adoption. The Rulebook’s implementation was a field work priority during the spring of 2005. Following a risk assessment of select municipalities, the Mission provided advice on the type of control mechanism that should be established to mitigate against predominant risks and will continue to assist in developing the appropriate procedures.

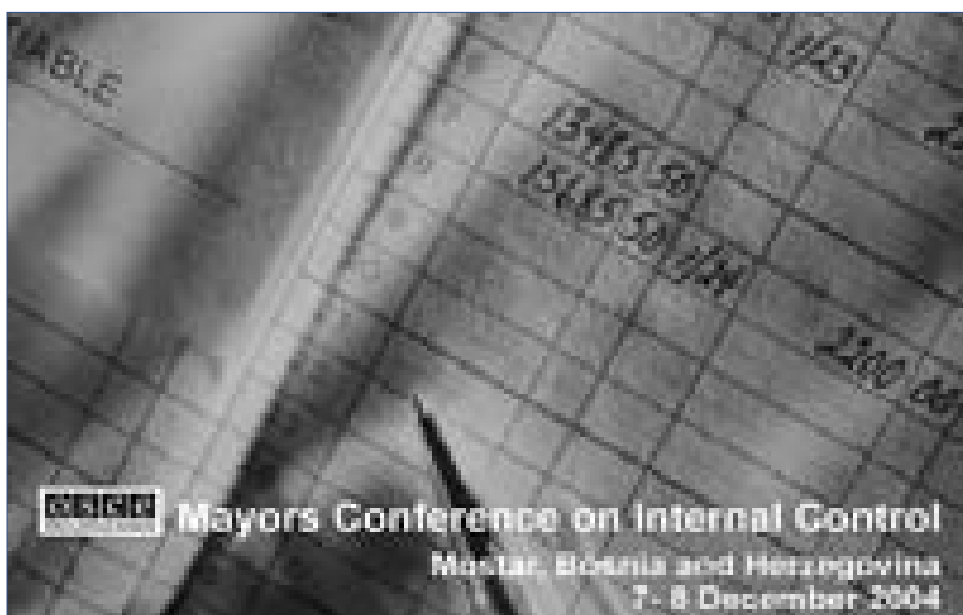
Tax collection Improvement – Turkmenistan

The OSCE Centre in Ashgabat has been cooperating with the Turkmen State Tax Service since 2003. Specifically, the Centre has supported a project that developed a computerised tax declaration and collection

system. The aims of the project were to improve the way taxes are collected in Turkmenistan and increase transparency in the Tax Service.

Under the project, the OSCE Centre supported the development and installation of software specifically for the Turkmen Tax authorities and provided computer hardware for the project. The project also provided specialised training (from Moscow) for Tax officials in Ashgabat. Following this, the trainees from Ashgabat provided training for their colleagues in the regions of Turkmenistan.

Possible future developments could include support to the rolling out of the software and know-how to commercial and individual tax payers in Turkmenistan.



Best Practices of Internal Control were discussed by sixty municipalities at a conference in Mostar.

OSCE Mission to BiH/Press and Information Office

5.3 Activities related to the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

Workshop on preventing Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism – Armenia

The Office continued to support activities focused on “Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism” based on an official request of the host country underlining that these endeavours are a key element in the fight against international terrorism. A Working Group, composed of national experts, has been established and professional expertise provided through the assistance of the Office.

The Workshop held by the Office on 7 July 2004 gathered national stakeholders and provided information on international standards in the field of “Combating Money Laundering and Suppressing Financing of Terrorism” as well as on the outcomes of the “Report of the UNODC Fact Finding Mission to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia” addressing organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption in the Southern Caucasus in June 2004.

Assisting the Creation of an Armenian Financial Intelligence Unit – Armenia

A delegation of Armenian officials and experts were in Vienna from 13 to 17 December 2004 on a study tour designed to help them create a financial intelligence unit. The trip was organized by the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the OCEEA. In Vienna, the delegation met international crime-fighting experts as well as experts from the Austrian National Bank, the Ministry of Finance and the Austrian financial intelligence unit.

It also held consultations with representatives of the UNODC and a number of delegations of OSCE-participating States. As a follow-up, a workshop on setting up a Financial Intelligence Unit was held in Yerevan in May 2005 in co-operation with UNODC and the OCEEA. Future training courses for members of the Armenian financial intelligence unit will be facilitated by the OSCE Office in Yerevan to help implement a recently adopted Armenian law on combating money-laundering and financing of terrorism.

Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism – Georgia

A National Workshop on “Combating Money Laundering and Suppressing the Financing of Terrorism” was organized in Tbilisi by the OCEEA, the OSCE Mission to Georgia and UNODC, in co-operation with the Georgian Government, the World Bank, the Council of Europe and Interpol on 25-26 November 2004. International crime-fighting experts worked with Georgian officials to develop tougher measures to combat money-laundering and shared their experiences with representatives of 14 Georgian governmental and financial agencies, in particular the National Bank of Georgia, the Georgian Financial Management Service, the General Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia and the Ministries of Interior and Justice.

The workshop resulted in an action plan for fortifying the current system and for training current Georgian anti-money laundering officials in methods for combating money laundering.

An additional workshop assisting the Financial Intelligence Unit was held in Tbilisi in May 2005 in co-operation with UNODC and the OCEEA.

NATO Conference on Financial and Economic Aspects of the Fight against Terrorism – Italy

Upon invitation, the Deputy Co-ordinator participated and chaired a working session at a NATO Euro Atlantic Partnership Council / Partnership for Peace Conference on “Financial And Economic Aspects of the Fight Against Terrorism”, which was held at the NATO Defense College in Rome on 14 and 15 October 2004, in co-operation with the NATO Regional Economics and Security Affairs Directorate.

6. Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Trafficking in human beings is an abhorrent violation of human rights. It is a crime against women and girls who are coerced into prostitution, against children who are forced to beg for money and against men who are exploited under slavery-like conditions. The business of trafficking in human beings generates huge profits for the traffickers. It fuels corruption and criminal activities. Thereby trafficking contributes to undermining a sound business environment and poses a threat to security, stability and prosperity.

Lack of economic opportunities, unemployment and the loss of social cohesion are the main factors that contribute to women's and children's vulnerability to trafficking. In the context of increased East-West economic ties, trafficking occurs to meet the demand for sex and cheap labour in sectors such as agriculture and construction.

OSCE participating states have recognized the need for better addressing the economic root causes of demand and supply of trafficking. They also have underscored the necessity to give a more prominent role to the private sector in the fight against trafficking.

In this regard, the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted by OSCE participating States at their Ministerial Council Meeting in December 2003, tasks the OCEEA to "mobilize and strengthen the private sector's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings by raising awareness and by identifying and disseminating best practices, such as self-regulation, policy guidelines and codes of conduct".

In line with these and other provisions, the OSCE has developed a comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Programme on Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Being (ATP). This programme aims at mobilizing the private sector's contribution to combating trafficking and encouraging co-operation between the business community, civil society and public authorities in the fight against trafficking.

6.1 Anti-Trafficking Programme on Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings (ATP)

The OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (PC.DEC/557, 24 July 2003), which was endorsed by the Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision No. 2, tasked the OCEEA to:

- "continue to promote SMEs training and to target it in particular at high-risk groups";
- "develop programmes to tackle economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women and minorities to trafficking, including discrimination in the workplace and lack of access to credit";
- "mobilize and strengthen the private sector's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings by raising awareness, and by identifying and disseminating best practices, such as self-regulation, policy guidelines and codes of conduct";
- "facilitate contacts between public and private actors with a view to encouraging the business community to offer job opportunities to victims of trafficking".

Following this guidance and in line with the recommendations stemming from the 11th OSCE Economic Forum on Trafficking, the OCEEA has launched a three year Anti-Trafficking Programme on Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings (ATP) (EF/GAL/16/04, 2 June 2004).

The ATP builds upon identified best practices and aims at extending them in a comprehensive manner. The objective of the ATP is to implement preventive measures that discourage the demand and ameliorate those conditions that make women and children particularly vulnerable to trafficking in human beings. In this regard, the ATP strives to mobilize the private sector's contribution to combating trafficking by establishing private-public partnerships among the business community, NGOs and governments with a view to

- promoting self-regulation within industry;
- raising the awareness of trafficking in countries of destination, in particular in EU Countries;

- creating economic opportunities for potential victims of trafficking.

The three ATP Sub-Programmes correspond to these objectives.

6.2 Promoting Self-Regulation of the Private Industry (ATP Sub-Programme I)

The business community can play a crucial role in tackling the demand side of trafficking, such as the demand for sex.

In particular, the hospitality, travel and tourism industry can help to increase the awareness of tourists and business travellers of trafficking and contribute to creating an environment that does not accept trafficking in human beings and in particular sexual exploitation of minors.

In this regard, the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (Code of Conduct) – a self-commitment of the travel and tourism industry – is a valuable preventive and awareness raising tool in the fight against sexual exploitation of minors. The OSCE has identified the Code of Conduct as an existing best practice which has already been adopted and implemented by the travel and tourism industry in various countries.

Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Travel and Tourism Industry

The Office of the Co-ordinator (OCEEA) supports the extension of the Code of Conduct to travel and tourism companies which operate in South-Eastern Europe with a view to:

- enhancing the commitment of companies operating in the travel and tourism industry to support and join counter-trafficking efforts;
- increasing the awareness of sexual exploitation among the general public and in particular among tourists and travellers to, from and within the region;
- creating a sustainable structure that involves stakeholders from government, NGOs and the private sector in order to fight permanently the sexual exploitation of minors.

In Bulgaria and Romania, the OCEEA in close co-operation with stakeholders from public authorities, civil society and the business community launched a two year project in order to encourage the travel and tourism sectors operat-

ing in these countries to adopt and implement the Code of Conduct.

For this purpose, the OCEEA has facilitated close co-operation between relevant stakeholders in order to establish a permanent structure to adapt the Code of Conduct to respective national context, elaborate awareness raising and training material.

In addition, a series of roundtables and workshops was held in both countries. These events were organized in close co-operation with State Agency for Child Protection, the NGO Animus Association, the Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum and the Bulgarian Visitors and Convention Bureau (BCVB) in Bulgaria as well as with the Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Victim's Protection Monitoring, the NGO "Save the Children" and the Federation of the Romanian Hotel Industry.

Similarly, the OCEEA in close co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro, as well as GTZ and USAID, has launched the implementation of the Code of Conduct in Albania and Montenegro.

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism aims

1. To establish a corporate ethical policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children.
2. To train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations.
3. To introduce clauses in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of sexual exploitation of children.
4. To provide information to travellers through catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticketslips, websites etc.
5. To provide information to local "key persons" at destinations.
6. To report annually.

6.3 Raising Awareness of Trafficking in Countries of Destination, particularly in Western Countries (ATP Sub-Programme II)

The crime of trafficking is a global problem that affects all OSCE participating States as countries of origin, transit or destination. It is fuelled by regional disparities within and between countries. Trafficking also occurs to meet the market demand in western countries for cheap labour in various sectors and the sex industry. The general public in Western countries is both part of the problem by creating the demand for certain cheap services and, in turn, part of the solution. In this respect, raising awareness among the general public is a crucial component in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Travelling Exhibition on Sexual Exploitation of Children

The OCEEA supported ECPAT Austria (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) in creating a travelling exhibition which serves to raise the awareness of sexual exploitation among the general public.

Advocating action against trafficking under the motto “Look! Children need Protection worldwide”, the exhibition highlights the crime of sexual exploitation of children in tourism sector and measures taken by the tourism industry to fight this horrendous crime. It shows the complex causes and effects and raises the issue of supply and demand.

Before the exhibition started travelling all over Austria, it had been shown for the first time at Vienna Airport. The OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participated as a keynote speaker at the opening.

In addition, the Office continued promoting and facilitating the screening of the film “Lilja 4-ever” on various occasions. The film depicts the misery endured by an Eastern European teenager who is lured and sold into sexual slavery in a Western country.

Awareness Raising Campaign in Western Countries

The campaign aims at fighting trafficking in human beings by raising awareness of trafficking among the general public, business community and policy makers in Western countries in order to create an environment in these coun-

tries that does not accept any form of trafficking. Therefore, the campaign strives to:

- enhance the understanding of and sensitize the society(s) to the various types of trafficking;
- encourage the general public to take action against trafficking by reporting to police and proper authorities;
- mobilize political decision makers to increase their efforts to more effectively address trafficking and strength policies to prevent, protect and prosecute trafficking;
- encourage private sector participation in the fight against trafficking.

The campaign is being tailored to the specific situation and needs of the target countries and is being prepared by an assessment phase and a workshop scheduled for June/July 2005 in Vienna. The campaign will be launched in autumn 2005.

6.4 Creating Economic Empowerment Opportunities for Potential Victims of Trafficking (ATP Sub-Programme III)

Lack of economic opportunities, unemployment and loss of social cohesion are among the main push factors that contribute to women’s and girls’ but also men’s and boys’ vulnerability to trafficking. Facing misery and destitution, promises of lucrative jobs in the country or abroad become attractive. However, such offers are often traps set by traffickers and other criminal groups. In this context, economic empowerment through internships, vocational training and support to small business start-up is a crucial component in mitigating the factors that fuel the supply side of trafficking.

Economic Empowerment for Ukrainian Orphans

The objective of this project is to provide economic empowerment opportunities to orphans graduating from state orphanages and trade schools in the Kharkiv and Kiev regions of Ukraine. Orphans are considered to run a particular risk of falling victim to human trafficking. Therefore, the pilot programme seeks to:

- increase awareness among relevant public actors about the situation;
- provide orphan graduates with relevant vocational and social skills coupled with internship opportunities;

- strengthen national institutional and human capacity among relevant public authorities and non-governmental organizations to carry on the work started by the pilot programme, thus increasing its sustainability.

The private sector will be one of the key partners for the Programme as a provider of internships and on-the-job training. By establishing this private-public partnership aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings through economic empowerment, the project aims at establishing a successful model that could be extended to other regions and vulnerable groups.

Public-Private Co-operation in Economic Empowerment for Potential Victims of Trafficking through Vocational Training

The Office of the Co-ordinator has facilitated the launch of IBLF's (International Business Leader Forum) Youth Career Initiative in Bulgarian and Romania. The Youth Career Initiative aims at empowering young people who are at risk of being trafficked. Therefore in Bulgaria and Romania, the projects target young people from a disadvantaged background including those who belong to minorities groups such as the Roma community.

In close co-operation with five star hotels, the project provides a six-month vocational and life skills training programme to a selected number of young people.

Additionally, by promoting a best practice of Corporate Social Responsibility policy, the projects strive to set up a role model and encourage other business sectors to get engaged in the fight against trafficking by supporting economic empowerment activities.

Supporting Business and Employment Opportunities for Young Women in Albania

Targeting young unemployed women who live in rural areas and/or belong to the Roma minority as well as victims of trafficking, the overall objective of the project is to mitigate their vulnerability to trafficking and stimulate their integration into society.



Economic destitution and lack of social cohesion fuel trafficking.

With a view to empowering this group, the project aims at creating new economic opportunities by facilitating the establishment of small businesses run by women. Therefore, the project consists of start-up support via a business plan competition to a selected number of participants. Direct assistance is provided by GTZ business consultants during the preparations of business plans and after the provision of the start-up support to ensure proper implementation of the business plan.

The project follows up on the Youth Entrepreneurship Seminars (YES), which the OSCE Presence in Albania conducted in co-operation with International Finance

Corporation's Southeast Europe Enterprise Development (SEED) Initiative. These seminars aimed at promoting the concept of entrepreneurship to young people and supporting business and employment opportunities for vulnerable women.

Women Entrepreneurship Training and Business Plan Competition in Azerbaijan

The OCEEA and the OSCE Office in Baku have launched a project that aims at supporting the anti-trafficking efforts and the development of Azerbaijan's National Action Plan for anti-trafficking in Azerbaijan by providing more economic opportunities for young women in the field of business and promoting SME development.

The project consists of several series of four-day workshops. The workshops cover the main principles of women entrepreneurship and are held in different regions of Azerbaijan including Tovuz, Gadabay, Gazakh/Agstafa, Devechi and Siyazan.

The workshops aim, in particular, at motivating women to start their own business, to provide basic knowledge on entrepreneurship and promote in the long-term the improvement of competencies of local women entrepreneurs and their interest in starting-up business. Following the training programme, the OSCE Office in Baku and GTZ have supported the development of women entrepreneurship with a business plan competition and awards of start-up capital.

“We recognize the need to address root causes of trafficking and to reduce economic and social inequalities and disadvantages which also provoke illegal migration and which may be exploited by organized criminal networks for their profit.”

OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings, Porto, December 2002.

Municipal Gender Equality – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Economic and political empowerment of women is a key issue when addressing the root causes of trafficking. The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Unit for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the NGO Union for Macedonian Women (UWOM), has launched a project on Municipal Gender Equality Commissions (GEC). This project aims to enhance the capacity, mandate and profile of Gender Equality Commissions (GEC) as effective and sustainable bodies of local government on the municipal level. The GEC Project coincides with the current governance reform process within the framework of the Law on Local Self-Governance and is a logical progression along the continuum of OSCE's accomplishments in the area of gender empowerment, moving from national level initiatives to municipal capacity development. It is also anticipated that the project will improve economic opportunities for women through skills training, small grants, cooperative formation and access to municipal resources.

Primary target group and beneficiaries of the GEC Project will be the members of the existing ten Gender Equality Commissions, community residents, municipal officials, political parties, trade unions, NGOs and media.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Meeting

The Co-ordinator participated in the OSCE PA Fall Meeting: Trafficking in Human Beings (Rhodes September 29-30) and made a presentation on the “Demand and Supply of Trafficking in Humans Beings”, which included an overview of its Anti-Trafficking Programme (ATP): Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings. OCEEA, in co-operation with the organizers of the meeting, also facilitated the screening of the movie Lilia 4-ever, as part of the awareness raising campaign.

7. Further Economic Activities

The availability of economic opportunities is a key factor for the stability and growth of transition economies. Moreover, the development of human capital and the creation of employment and business opportunities for young people are of particular importance if transition countries are to retain their future generations and successfully implement socio-economic reforms.

The OCEEA supports the economic development of transition economies by working with OSCE Field Presences and stakeholders in drawing attention to local areas of opportunities as well as local needs. Particular emphasis is placed on promoting the empowerment of young people and encouraging the development of SMEs as a means to build a sustainable and secure living environment.



7.1 Promoting Entrepreneurship and the Youth Entrepreneurship Seminar Programme (YES)

Traditionally, the YES Programme has been a training activity that targets young people (aged 15 to 25) and provides them with the fundamental elements of starting a business. The YES Programme aims not only at promoting entrepreneurship among the young but also to stimulate youth participation in the political and economic reforms process in their countries.

Over the years, the YES training has evolved to become more targeted and in-depth to meet local needs for entrepreneurial education. Currently, the following types of trainings are being implemented:

- YES I and YES II provide a general and more in-depth understanding of entrepreneurship ranging from one day to four day training sessions.
- WES (Women Entrepreneurship Seminars), specifically designed for women, including consideration for their availability and gender perspective.
- TOT (Training of Trainers): this training aims at preparing local trainers for the target group as well encouraging sustainability through ensuring a qualified pool of local trainers.

In addition, in some OSCE mission areas, business plan competitions have complemented the entrepreneurial trainings and additional advisory services have been offered for their preparation.

The OCEEA continues to support the replication of the entrepreneurial trainings throughout the OSCE mission areas as an economic empowerment activity and as a means to cultivate private sector development in transition economies. Efforts are being made to incorporate entrepreneurship education into the local institutional structures to provide access to a broader segment of the local population. Moreover, the OCEEA is seeking, in co-operation with OSCE field presences and some of its traditional implementation partners, including the Southeast Economic

Enterprise Development (SEED) in Southeast Europe and German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) in the Caucasus, to go beyond training and facilitate access to the resources needed by aspiring businesses to start operations.

In **Albania**, four two-day seminars on “Starting a business- an alternative for development” (YES 3) with rural women and young girls in Shkodra region, (North of Albania), young Roma people in Fieri and Tirana and young girls victims of trafficking in Vlora (South of Albania) were organized from December 2004 to January 2005.

The participation was considered successful for reaching the targeted number of thirty participants overall for each seminar and for raising participants’ interests and knowledge on entrepreneurship issues.

The follow up of the project is a joint effort with GTZ and the Ministry of Economy to enhance business competition and employment policies to young women and vulnerable groups in North Albania.

In **Azerbaijan**, the OSCE continued to support entrepreneurship training courses to assist in regional economic development particularly among vulnerable population groups in the regions outside the capital Baku. In 2004, the YES Programme reached twenty new regions and trained over 250 young people on business fundamentals. The Office also continued its entrepreneurial training programmes, designed specifically for women in twenty regions providing information on legal registration, taxes, business plan development and micro-credit opportunities.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the aim of the Mission’s Young Entrepreneurial Spirit (YES) programme is to increase the opportunities for, and capacity of, young people to participate in economic life. In the reporting period, thirty YES seminars were conducted, which focused on long-term impact by targeting recent high-school graduates and, in some cases, young entrepreneurs who had already started their own business. In the forthcoming period, the Mission will implement a project entitled the “3-in-1 Project”, which is aimed at encouraging young people in 35 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina who want to start up new businesses, to work with cantonal and municipal authorities, development agencies, employment bureaus, experts and business people to develop a more business-friendly environment in their municipali-

ties. The Mission will assist young people to conduct an evaluation of the current business environment, including the business application procedure in government, which will then be used as the basis for proposed reforms targeted at encouraging new business development.

In **Georgia**, the Mission conducted a Seminar in the Marneuli/Gardabani region bordering both Armenia and Azerbaijan. These areas are economically depressed and have large minority populations.

Five three-day training seminars followed in the Marneuli and Gardabani districts to introduce basic entrepreneurial skills to provide trainings in marketing, business planning, credit receipt rules etc. After the training concluded, the participants were able to get practical assistance with registration and other legal documents necessary for the establishment and growth of youth-led businesses.

Sixty-nine people participated in the seminars. During the training, participants received copies of legal documents, sample forms of agreements, manuals and other handouts.

In **Serbia and Montenegro**, twelve Youth Entrepreneurship Seminars for young people, each with 20 to 30 participants between the ages of 15 and 34, were implemented in South Serbia (Medvedja, Presevo, Bujanovac, Novi Pazar and Vranje), Central Serbia (Kraljevo) and Montenegro (Podgorica).

By the end of June 2004, 188 young people completed the YES Programme – 54 in Albanian and 134 in Serbian. Out of 188 YES participants, there were 83 women and 105 men. The majority of participants (95%) were unemployed.

In order to further promote youth entrepreneurship in **Uzbekistan**, the Centre in Tashkent, in conjunction with the Republican Youth Social Movement “Kamolot”, organized a series of five-day YES II trainings.

Participants had an opportunity to learn about the current legislation regulating private business, institutions of market infrastructure (banks, stock exchanges, associations etc.), developing marketing and business plans, financial management, how to attract investment and the taxation of small businesses. Each participant developed his/her entre-

preneurial ideas into a business plan, which was evaluated by the workshop trainers. The Centre and the National Youth Social Movement Kamolot submitted the two best business plans from each province to the local commercial bank “Hamkorbank” which expressed a will to issue credits at lower interest to encourage youth entrepreneurship.

New Module of the YES Programme in Serbia and Montenegro

The second round of the YES Programme in 2004, predominantly targeting young women, was held in three SaM municipalities: Bor, Nis and Bijelo Polje. Beside the focus on entrepreneurial skills, part of the training programme was dedicated to awareness rising on human trafficking in SaM.

This round of the YES Programme, combined with the one-hour presentation of the activities of the Center for the Protection of the Victims of Human Trafficking and other relevant human trafficking issues, was realized in co-operation with the Democratization Department. The implementing partners on the local level were the OSCE gender/equality focal points in all three municipalities.

Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship in War Affected and Refugee Return Regions of Croatia

Croatian Educational Institutions (Pucko Otvoreno Ucilite Libar) developed a programme with technical and financial assistance from the OCEEA that encourages the promotion of entrepreneurship amongst youth through local institutional structures of Sibenik-Knin County. No other institution in Sibenik-Knin County is addressing the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by offering entrepreneurial education to the school-aged population. The training will be made available on a voluntary basis for secondary school students and include class room education (workshops) on entrepreneurship from various perspectives by introducing students to the basics of entrepreneurship, teaching entrepreneurial skills and informing on the types of employment within SMEs and how they relate to overall economic development. In addition, a web portal is to be created to serve as a follow-up informational resource for young people intending to start a business.

The programme aims to inspire young people to take up entrepreneurial activities as well as to consider working for a small or medium enterprise.

Promotion of the implementation of the new Land Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Farmers at the workshop on implementation of the Land Code.

The new land code, adopted in 2003, introduced private ownership of land and new conditions for farming in Kazakhstan. Since then, a key task for the country has been to ensure its effective implementation. Especially important were transitional provisions which expired at the end of 2004.

Activities on the project started with the elaboration of recommendations on the implementation of transitional provisions of the Code. They were discussed and finalized at a workshop that took place in April 2004 with the participation of representatives of all stakeholder sectors – farmers, national and local authorities, agricultural researcher institutions, international and non-governmental organizations. At the workshop further steps were proposed and discussed. They were then implemented throughout the year. The finalized recommendations were published in Kazakh and Russian and disseminated at during the information campaign conducted in 7 oblasts and 85 districts of the country. Other activities within the project included opening of a specialized web-site on Land Code issues (www.zher.kz) and conducting of a two-day telephone hot-line.



A micro-credit of \$100 can be enough to start up a small business. Valamat Kishkorova (shown) started a bread bakery in Khorog, the administrative center of the remote Gorno-Badakhshon Autonomous Region, with that amount from a business training and micro-credit project implemented by the NGO Madina.



A small group of women in Khorog, the capital of the Gorno-Badakhshon Autonomous Region, started a small sewing workshop with a micro-credit they received through a business training and micro-credit project implemented by the NGO Madina.

Micro-credits and Training in Income Generation – Tajikistan

Several projects, implemented primarily by local NGOs in various parts of the country, provided training in business skills that helped vulnerable groups, especially women and young people, to launch their own small businesses. In some projects micro-credits were offered after the training was completed. In Badakhshon, one income generation project provided start-up loans—some as small as \$100—for a variety of small businesses. Favourite types of business were mini-bakeries and sewing and knitting workshops providing employment for destitute women. In addition to basic marketing techniques, farm families in several remote mountain villages learned how to make pesticides for their fruit orchards from natural vegetation, how to improve the productivity of their livestock and how to dry fruit for market.

Developing Business Incubator Centres – Serbia and Montenegro

Three municipalities were selected to set up Business Incubators Centres (BIC) in Serbia and Montenegro. In Knjazevac (Eastern Serbia), the Project was implemented by the NGO Timok Club and was co-financed by the European Agency for Reconstruction, the IMT factory, Canada (CIDA), the Open Society Institute, the local government and the OSCE.

The envisaged objectives of the Project were to create new jobs and promote coalitions among business organizations, local governments and civil society.

Caspian Sea Youth programme – Turkmenistan

The OSCE Centre in Ashgabat has supported the Centre for Social Partnership, a Turkmenbashi-based organization that aims to improve the employment prospects of the youth of the Caspian Sea region. Although the Turkmen oil and gas industry is focused on the Caspian region, employment prospects for locals have not greatly benefited from the investment in the region. Under the OSCE-sponsored



Training session for young Turkmen women.

project, the Centre for Social Partnership has conducted training for local teachers and officials to enable them to help counsel the region's youth to enhance their chances of finding employment.

The project has also set up six offices in villages in the region to conduct outreach work with the rural youth population.

Empowering Vulnerable Population Groups – Uzbekistan

In partnership with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan (WCU), the OSCE continued to implement the project entitled "Women and Business in Uzbekistan", which focuses on conducting a series of training seminars to assist women entrepreneurs and establish an Information

Centre devoted to promotion of women entrepreneurship. Within the framework of this project, the OSCE and the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan carried out two workshops entitled "Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan" to further increase the knowledge and improve the skills of twenty-five business women in Andijan, Bukhara, Samarkand, Syrdarya, Kashkadarya, Tashkent and Khorezm provinces and in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Thirty female entrepreneurs, in each province, who participated in Phase I took part in Phase II of these trainings, which focused on how to work with foreign companies, how to efficiently manage production processes, how to comply with tax laws and how to improve contractual relations between businesses.

In addition, the Information Centre, which was established by the WCU in 2003 with CiT's support, continued to respond to visitors' needs by maintaining up-to-date legislative documents and literature related to entrepreneurship, as well as preparing and publishing Information Bulletins with entrepreneurial news.

7.2 SME Development

Tourism – Azerbaijan

In the field of tourism, the Azerbaijani Government recently adopted the State Programme for the Development of Tourism 2004-2008 to encourage economic development in remote regions of Azerbaijan. The Office sponsored the US-based Citizen Development Corps to provide an assessment and recommendations for tourism development in Azerbaijan. Furthermore, the Office, in coordination with the British Council, organized a conference to encourage inter-agency co-operation and best practices in sustainable economic development in tourism.

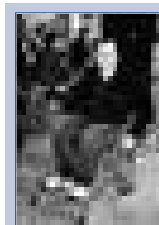
Strengthening Economic Development – Belarus

In conjunction with a number of partners, the Office held several working sessions to assess and advocate the reform of legislation on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Partners included the International Education Centre, the National Law Drafting Centre, the Ministry of Economy, the Financial Investment Advisory Council, the IFC and the EBRD.

In conjunction with the project, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities visited Minsk to chair a two-day session on SME legislation reform. The debate focused on issues such as micro-lending opportuni-

ties and the minimizing of administrative restrictions. With the assistance of a number of legal experts the session concluded in the adoption of recommendations for a new draft law regulating state support for SMEs. During his visit, the Co-ordinator also delivered a lecture on "Economic Co-operation in OSCE area after EU enlargement" to the students of the International Relations Faculty at the Belarus State University, and discussed with Belarusian government officials further projects in the field of combating money laundering and the fight against corruption and the Environment and Security Initiative.

SME/Supporting Vulnerable Population Groups – Georgia



A man in Gori, Georgia, trying out a model wheelchair. The OSCE supported an assessment trip by Whirlwind Wheelchair International and the World Institute on Disability to assess wheelchair production and repair facilities in Georgia.

The Mission supported the development of a Wheelchair Assessment Report. The assessment took place in Tbilisi and Sokhumi in association with the international NGO Whirlwind Wheelchairs, a local NGO called the Disabled Activists Team and with a Russian wheelchair manufacturing firm from Novosibirsk called SibMedDesign. The project analyzed the capability and resources for the development of production facilities of wheelchairs. The project determined that wheelchairs can be produced efficiently locally. This project may offer employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and it will provide well designed wheelchairs that will increase the mobility of this population group and will allow them to better participate in society. The NGOs are now working to establish the production facility.

Developing rural tourism in Belarus

Throughout the year, the Office in Minsk supported a project that helps develop rural tourism in Belarus. Launched by a local NGO, Agro&Eco Tourism, the initiative produced a catalogue of more than 45 houses that offer bed and breakfast facilities in rural Belarus. The catalogue was presented at a three-day exhibition on the tourist business in Belarus, held in Minsk in November. The presentation produced a lively public response by tourist companies and information agencies and immediately increased the demand for information about such activities. The idea of Agro&Eco Tourism is simple and effective: "Inform

people about tourism opportunities in Belarus and then respond to their requirements.” The initiative presents an opportunity to revive the Belarusian countryside and to bring employment to areas that otherwise enjoy little economic development. The Office contributed to the idea by providing financial assistance for the inspection of houses, assessment of their quality and categorization. Several workshops sponsored by the Office were organized for hosts, focusing on improving the quality of services.

Social Entrepreneurship Training (SET) – Croatia

The goal of the project being implemented in the area of Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Sirmium Counties is to promote inter-sector co-operation between public, private and civil sector through education, by facilitating the establishment and functioning of local inter-sector teams. It is to provide support to partners active in the field of economic development and social entrepreneurship in Areas of Special State Concern (war affected/return areas) through different activities such as training of trainers, training workshops for NGOs, seminars on inter-sector co-operation for representatives from public, business and civil sector, technical assistance etc. The target group were forty NGO leaders and programme Co-ordinators; ten public institutions, three local governments, twelve businesses and 6-10 trainers/consultants.

Third National Business Opinion Survey in the Kyrgyz Republic

Between April and November 2004, the Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with a national partner, the PROMA Agency, carried out a comprehensive survey among local companies on the operational environment of small and medium businesses in the country. The survey findings, which were based on perceptions and opinions of businesses about the current business environment and changes required, were thoroughly analysed. Moreover, a number of recommendations with regard to improving the legal framework for improving the business environment for SME development was developed and presented to the Kyrgyz Government, local business community and international donor agencies. In particular, specific recommendations were proposed to improve the enforcement of certain regulations in the area of business licensing, which would help spur a robust growth of the SME sector. Finally, the Kyrgyz Government made good use of the survey findings and took them into account when

formulating and implementing the Investment Matrix for 2005, the country’s action plan on attraction of foreign direct investments.

Promoting Quality Education System for the Tourism Sector – Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz Community-Based Tourism Association (KCBTA) “Hospitality Kyrgyzstan” is a membership-based association of family-run tourism enterprises in rural Kyrgyzstan. The ultimate goal is to improve the living conditions of people in remote mountain regions, by developing rural tourism without harming the environment and culture of local people. The Association provides support to its member-organizations through marketing and promotion of their services and products, training in tourism and business and support in organizational development and represents its members’ interests in policy development at the national level and in negotiations with the tourism industry. Enhancing the capacity of tourist guides through training workshops is one example of their activities.

Enhancing Gender Participation in Economic and Social Development in Rural Areas – Kyrgyzstan

The Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with two NGOs, the “Congress of Women” and the “Centre for Small Business Support and Employment Promotion of Unemployed People”, conducted a series of five-day workshops to encourage women to start small businesses in rural areas, which aimed at promoting and fostering women entrepreneurs and assisting the process of economic revitalization and job creation in rural regions. The workshop introduced basic elements of entrepreneurial thinking, key theoretical knowledge and practical skills on business plan development, information about business opportunities, access to the laws and regulations affecting business in the Kyrgyz Republic and business ethics. Moreover, information on the availability of credit resources from both international and Kyrgyz institutions engaged in micro-finance activities for entrepreneurs, particularly in the regions, accessible credits, mechanisms to distribute and collateralize loans. Business support services were also provided at the workshop.

LEaD (Local Economic Development Project) – Ukraine

This project builds on the success of the project initiated by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine in 2004 in

three regions: Dipropetrovsk, Rivne and Chernihiv. The project's overarching goal is to stimulate local economic development and reduce poverty in the economically depressed regions via micro, small and medium-size enterprise development at the local and regional level, business skills training of start-up entrepreneurs, improved business support infrastructure and active public-private dialogue. The project objectives are:

1. To prioritize regional economic development needs and develop respective programs that would target these needs;
2. To stimulate the development of micro, small and medium-size enterprises at the rayon level;
3. To increase the job generation rate and reduce labour migration necessitated by poverty and lack of employment opportunities;
4. To improve business skills of start-up entrepreneurs;
5. To make access to credit resources more affordable to entrepreneurs;
6. To provide local Employment Centres with modern business training materials;
7. To increase institutional capacity of the local business service providers by instituting Advisory and Information Centres for entrepreneurs.

To date, more than 500 entrepreneurs started their own business as a result of the project activities. More than 2000 business start-up benefited from the advisory and information services provided by the business service providers.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine jointly with the Eurasia Foundation plans to kick-start the programme in five additional regions: Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Lutsk and Odesa.

SME Development in Uzbekistan: Access to Information on Entrepreneurship

In order to enhance entrepreneurs' access to information about the legal and practical aspects of running a business, the OSCE and the Chamber of Trade and Industry began work on a handbook entitled "Modern Trends of Entrepreneurial Development in Uzbekistan" and developed a series of television shows in co-operation with the Supreme Economic Court of Uzbekistan entitled "Entrepreneurs and the Law".

Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Central Asia

The OCEEA recognizes the value and potential of developing new economic opportunities for the benefit of local communities through the promotion of sustainable tourism in Central Asia. In an effort to encourage the development of the tourism sector in the region, the OCEEA organized the following events to foster action on the national and regional levels:

- **Central Asia Workshop on Income Generation through the Promotion of SMEs in the Tourism Sector (21-23 July 2004, Almaty)**
- **Roundtable on Tourism Development in Central Asia (20 October 2004, Tashkent)**

Key Recommendations put forth included:

- to support introduction of a unified tourist visa "Silk Road" (Asian Schengen), which would significantly facilitate tourism in all states of Central Asia;
- to promote introduction of "Green Corridors" at border and customs control points;
- to conduct a thorough analysis of the region's tourism market to draw the attention of relevant government bodies to the possibilities of tourism and SME development.

Tourism in Uzbekistan

To add momentum to OSCE initiatives to promote regional tourism in Central Asia, the Centre in Tashkent held a follow-up meeting to the July 2004 Almaty "Central Asia Workshop on Income Generation through the Promotion of SME Development in the Tourism Sector". The meeting focused on a discussion of the challenges and the opportunities for developing tourism in the region.

Promoting Economic Growth in Rural Areas – Uzbekistan

In partnership with the office of the Uzbek Association of Dekhkan and Farmers, the Mission trained 450 farmers with the goal of improving their legal knowledge and professional skills, addressing practical issues such as contractual relations, tax and insurance issues, leasing issues, the interaction of farmers with suppliers and issues related to irrigation, land use and soil productivity.

In each province the participants included one experienced farmer, one novice farmer, one individual interested in farming and one representative of the Association of Dekhkan and farmers from each district in the province. This composition of workshop participants was meant to encourage a lively discussion about various issues related to the development of farming in Uzbekistan.

7.3 Capacity Building for Decision-Makers

Local Economic Development – Armenia

The Office supported the elaboration of a strategic document on the socio-economic development of the region Syunik Marz. The document was prepared by a national consultancy group hired by the Office after a tender procedure. Local authorities and public stakeholders within the working group established in Syunik Marz at the Economic Development Forum organized by the Office in October 2003, took an active part in the discussion and clarification of the priority issues of the document. A series of official and public presentations of the final document as well as of the local “Yellow Pages”, issued with the support of the Office, took place in Syunik and in Yerevan, including international donor organizations. The Office continues to provide assistance to local stakeholders for the implementation of recommended priority projects by promoting private-public partnership, attracting foreign and domestic investments, raising awareness of Armenian Diaspora business circles, donor organizations for the business opportunities in one of the country’s remotest border provinces.

South Caucasus Trade Facilitation – Joint OSCE-Eurasia Foundation project – Armenia

The Office established close co-operation on the basis of an agreement with the Eurasia Foundation aimed at trade facilitation in the South Caucasus. A comprehensive assessment of the current situation has to be delivered by

the end of 2005. The aim of the project, which started in February 2004, is to initiate the dialog among the relevant national authorities and to achieve harmonization of customs regulations and policies of the countries concerned in order to facilitate cross border trade flows. The Armenian component of the regional project is implemented by Transparency International Armenia. The Office intends to continue the project with the Eurasia Foundation based on the findings of the diagnostic assessment.

Civic Political/Economic Education and Civic Participation in Four Towns – Croatia

The OSCE in co-operation with the local NGO “GONG” are conducting a number of educational activities in Sisak which are to enhance communication between citizens (from Dvor, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Topusko and Vojnic –altogether some 17,200 citizens) and their elected representatives in order to increase the level of political participation and strengthen the role of civil society in the Areas of Special State concern (war affected/return areas). Fostering economic development at local level by introducing existing “success stories” to both local entrepreneurs and representatives of local self governments, additionally helps in creating a cooperative atmosphere of combining synergies to the benefit of the entire community.

OSCE Support to Land Reform – Tajikistan

In 2004 the Dushanbe Centre launched an ambitious Economic Dimension project in support of the ongoing process of land reform in Tajikistan. The multiyear project, undertaken in co-operation with the French development NGO ACTED and Tajikistan’s State Land Committee, focuses on active assistance to state and collective farms as they are broken up and either leased to individual farmers or reorganized into cooperatives. The Tajik government requested the intervention of the OSCE and other international organizations to ensure that all participants in the process—local land officials as well as farmers—understand their rights and obligations under the law. Farmers are also learning how to defend their rights, in court if necessary. A pilot project in a handful of farms was carried out in 2004. In 2005 approximately 40 farms, primarily in the cotton-growing regions of the country, have been selected for intensive study and help.

Cluster-building project – Ukraine

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine assisted in the development of the “Roadmap to cluster-building in

Ukraine”. The goal of this study was to carry out an in-depth analysis of various regional economic development models. The study provided a broad overview of conceptual approaches to cluster development and described their applicability to Ukrainian conditions. The study has been sent to Ukrainian authorities and NGOs involved in economic development.

As a follow-up activity, in 2005 the proposed cluster-building models will be applied to two selected regions in Ukraine. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine will assist in identifying high growth potential clusters and provide recommendations to local authorities on how to better address the issues of cluster-building.

WTO accession preparation – Ukraine

The ultimate goal of the project was to prepare Ukraine’s regions for WTO accession, familiarizing local policy-makers with potential benefits and risks associated with WTO membership.

Ukraine’s bid to become a member of the WTO is not yet well advanced inasmuch as the country is not yet ready to fully integrate into the organization.

Currently, there are numerous gaps that preclude Ukraine from WTO membership. In view of this, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine assisted the International Centre for European Integration in conducting a series of workshops for local authorities that aimed at raising policy-makers’ awareness of WTO rules and procedures.

In 2005 more activities will be carried out by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in order to assist Ukraine on the way to WTO membership.

Arbitration – Uzbekistan

In order to promote arbitration in Uzbekistan, the Centre in Tashkent supported the creation of a training centre for arbitrators by the local NGO “Legal Problems Research Centre” (LPRC) in Tashkent. As result, the implementing partner of this project, LPRC, held a series of training seminars on alternative mechanisms for commercial dispute resolution for potential arbitrators, conducted practice arbitration sessions for participants and developed a guide-book related to arbitration principles.

The Centre in Tashkent hopes that by promoting the development of arbitration, Uzbekistan may have the opportunity to ease the workload of its Economic Courts and thus ensure the efficient and timely review of commercial disputes between entrepreneurs, promote the development of small businesses and increase the confidence of foreign investors.

7.4 Promoting Access to Finance and Investment

Support for Leasing Sector Development – Azerbaijan

The Office supported the implementation of commercial legislation to encourage regional economic development and employment creation in Azerbaijan. Early in 2004, the Azerbaijani government modified legislation to encourage the development of the leasing industry to make capital equipment more accessible to Azerbaijani entrepreneurs. In an attempt to support this nascent leasing industry in Azerbaijan, the Office, in coordination with the International Financial Corporation (IFC), sponsored an international conference to promote financial leasing to government, banking and commercial leaders.

Privatization Review – Georgia

The Mission undertook a project on developing policy recommendations to the National Security Council (NSC) of Georgia with intention to support NSC in its effort to underline the security aspects of Georgian Government’s privatization policy.

The project was implemented in two phases. Phase one (November-December 2004) involved collection of data and information on the government’s proposed activities and identified those issues that could potentially hamper the economic and political security interests of the country. This entailed development of the conceptual basis for analysis of the issues of the National Security and particularly Economic Security dimension of the privatization policy. These findings were submitted to the NSC and all other major stakeholders.

The second stage of the project (February-March 2005) involved revision of the draft paper and its distribution among key stakeholders. A meeting followed, at which the paper was discussed and suggestions incorporated into the final version of the paper. Accordingly, the policy recommendations to the Government of Georgia were developed and presented to the NSC and other stakeholders.

Privatisation of Agriculture – Turkmenistan

Privatisation of agriculture is a stated objective of the Government of Turkmenistan. In collaboration with TACIS, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat has helped set up a number of Voluntary Farmers Associations among the leaseholders to promote co-operation and sharing of equipment and services. The associations have their own Credit Committees who receive loan applications and award loans following training provided by TACIS experts. The loans are being used to create and expand businesses in meat and milk production, vegetable and fruit production and machinery repair. A small interest charge is added to each loan so that when final repayment is received the fund available for reinvestment will have grown. The fund will then be reinvested in a new cycle of loans among members.

Simple credit schemes such as these can contribute to development in rural areas. Once they have been set up and personnel have been trained, they are self-managed in a democratic way by the Voluntary Farmers Association and only a small amount of outside monitoring is required.

8. Activities in the Environmental Dimension

By enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources, fostering the sound management of hazardous waste and promoting environmental awareness, participation in decision making and public access to information, the OSCE aims at securing peace and stability



8.1 The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is a partnership of three organizations – the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the OSCE. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has also associated itself to the Initiative. The Initiative aims at providing a framework for co-operation on environmental issues across borders and promoting peace and stability through environmental co-operation and sustainable development. The Initiative currently operates in three regions: Central Asia, the Caucasus and South Eastern Europe. Expansion to the Western CIS is planned for 2005.

ENVSEC Rationale

Environmental degradation, resource scarcity, the uneven distribution of natural resources or resource abundance are emerging as potential triggers or accelerating factors of tensions within and among nations. Environmental decline and resource scarcity are one strand within a complex web of causalities, in which a series of socio-economic problems – such as population pressure, poverty, migration, refugee movements, political instability and ethno-political tensions – are intertwined. Environmental degradation and natural resource scarcity are both causes and outcomes of these socio-economic problems or are intensified by them.

Measures that reduce environmental stress guarantee access to vital resources and remove economic incentives for conflict, present opportunities for enhancing regional co-operation, human security and building sustainable peace. Environmental co-operation can strengthen mutual trust and be a basis for deeper peace-building and sustainable human development.

ENVSEC Progress to date

In 2004, the ENVSEC Initiative had significantly advanced in most of the regions covered, South Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as with cross-cutting work. The Initiative achieved concrete results in networking with key partners, participatory identification

Activities in the Environmental Dimension

of specific environment and security priorities and hot-spots on the ground and raising awareness of the links between natural environment and human security. Progress of the year 2004 included the following highlights:

- In-depth assessment of environment-security issues in the Ferghana valley in Central Asia. The assessment included a field study and regional consultations in Osh in December 2004 and the development of a USD 2.5 million follow-up work programme addressing risks from industrial pollution, Uranium mining and abandoned waste sites, natural disasters as well as promoting sound management of small river basins in upper Syr-Darya. The Osh activities will also be followed by a series of regular meetings of Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek provincial environmental authorities from the Ferghana valley.
- 1st phase assessment of environment-security issues and hot-spots in the South Caucasus, launched with significant resonance at the ‘Environment for Europe’ Ministerial Meeting for the EECCA countries in Tbilisi in October 2004, as well as on-the ground activities such as the application of strategic environmental assessment to incorporate related concerns into practical decision-making (Yerevan city and Batumi port development plans), strengthening Kura-Araks co-operation (water monitoring and assessment), catalysing support to cleaning up abandoned military bases in Armenia and increasing awareness of environment and security locally (Marneuli – Gazakh – Tavoush transboundary area).
- Regional consultation in Skopje in September 2004, to further the ENVSEC work programme for South Eastern Europe including an assessment and management of environment and security risks associated with mining practices, biodiversity conservation as a peace-building instrument and management of shared water basins.
- Support to the 3rd Central Asian Festival of Environmental Journalism with a special nomination on ‘Environment and Security’, a special edition of a transboundary CENN magazine for the Southern Caucasus, workshops in investigative environmental reporting in Yerevan and Tashkent and setting up an new ‘Aarhus

centre’ in Osh (Kyrgyz Republic) to promote access to information and public participation on the local level.

- Extensive presence of ENVSEC and environment-security issues in international publications and various media, including State of the World 2005 report, BBC, The Guardian, UNEP’s Poverty and Environment Times, documents and resolutions of OSCE bodies and not least local mass media in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Thanks to funds provided by Austria, Belgium, Canada, Italy, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands, over USD 2 million have been made available for activities in 2004 -2005. In addition, UNDP is mobilising USD 3 million for regional projects through the Global Environmental Facility. Finland has provided staff secondment for the programme’s Project Management Unit in Geneva.

A highly important result of the year is the association of NATO through its “Public Diplomacy” division, which has already lead to a better integration of relevant NATO-supported research activities in the countries with ENVSEC priorities and work programme. NATO is also contributing to the ENVSEC core budget as well as to specific projects (the first joint project to address risks associated with Uranium mining waste in the Ferghana valley is under preparation).

A meeting with donors and international organizations who expressed interest in closer collaboration with ENVSEC took place back-to-back with the September 2004 ENVSEC board meeting in Geneva, resulting in a revived dialogue with the broader international community.

Co-operation with UNECE is being strengthened, both through concrete activities (e.g. in Central Asia and the Dniester river basin), through discussing longer-term cooperative frameworks including an MoU signed by UNECE and OSCE in December 2004 and harmonising the work programme with the secretariats of UNECE-hosted conventions (in particular the Aarhus Convention, and the two Helsinki Conventions: Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and Protection and the Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes).

With 2004 being the first year of ENVSEC’s full-scale operation, 2005 will see further developments such as:

Activities in the Environmental Dimension

- Implementation of the Ferghana valley programme in Central Asia, as well as exploration of needs in other parts of the region (the Caspian coast, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan);
- Further development of projects in the Southern Caucasus, possibly starting in-depth assessments in areas of frozen conflict;
- Implementation of the South-Eastern European work programme including a high-level meeting on the environment, security and mining to take place in Romania, work on specific hotspots such as Lojane mine in FYR of Macedonia, Tisza, Prespa and Sava basins;
- Start-up of 1st phase assessments in Eastern Europe (Belarus – Moldova – Ukraine) as well as in the Arctic (in co-operation with UNEP's Polar Programme);
- Continuously strengthened publicity dimension including the ENVSEC website which will be launched in March 2005.

Local ownership of the approach and results is and will remain the guiding principle. This is being achieved through a broad use of local expertise, involvement of local groups and organizations in planning, evaluation and selecting areas of intervention. (To date, ENVSEC national focal points have been nominated by the majority of countries.)

It is the intention of the ENVSEC partners to further strengthen the international cooperative network involving political, donor and research organizations. ENVSEC will continue contributing to 'globalising' the agenda of linking environment, peace and security, as well as to develop further methodologies for assessment and interventions in this field.

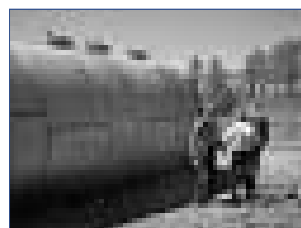
8.2 Managing Hazardous Waste

Some parts of the OSCE region are heavily industrialised but lack adequate environmental safeguards, resulting in serious environmental degradation and impacting negatively on health.

Major industrial "hotspots" close to urban areas pose severe threats to health. Land degradation through over-use of pesticides and fertilisers, radio-active or chemical

waste leads to loss of livelihoods and migration. Direct legacies of previous conflicts, such as land mines and unexploded ordinances cause death, injuries and foreclosure of land. All these issues are among the many problems that the OCEEA and OSCE field presences deal with.

Recycling/Disposal of Rocket Fuel Component (Melange) – Armenia



The OSCE Office in Yerevan has helped to complete a study on the environmentally sound recycling of 872 tons of melange (a component of rocket fuel).

Following a request of the Armenian Government of 22 April 2004, the OSCE Office in Yerevan started a project on the Elimination of Rocket Fuel Component Stocks (Melange) by implementing a Phase by Phase approach. Phase I involved the elaboration of an independent scoping study by an international group of experts as a result of an on site fact finding Mission which was successfully completed at the end of August 2004.

The study identified the quantity (872 tons) and characteristics of the melange, an environmentally sound processing technology applicable under the given conditions (adopted Georgian model), the human and technical resources available in-country and provided a cost and time frame as well as recommendations on the potential project implementation, anticipating two further phases: Phase II – Planning and Phase III – Recycling. The Office is now in the process of implementing Phase II – the elaboration of technical project documents, including an environmental impact assessment; contracting and final management structure as well as a budget break down, thus creating all necessary preconditions for starting Phase III – the recycling of the Melange itself.

The method of neutralization chosen by the OSCE will result in a liquid fertilizer for use by Armenian farmers.

The project is financed by the Governments of the United States, Germany, Finland, as well as Canada, which contributes through the ENVSEC Initiative to the initial stage of the project.

The Melange Project is an example of a cross dimensional activity of a field mission. It serves the goal of improving

both the environmental and security status of the population and meets national and international security requirements.

Supporting Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected Areas – Belarus

In May, the Office organized a small grants competition to promote the implementation of the CORE Programme, a rehabilitation project for areas in Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The Programme aims at improving the living conditions of people living in the Bragin, Cherkhorsk, Slavgorod and Stolin regions. It focuses on health care, education, socio-economic development, radiological quality and the involvement of local initiatives. More than 40 project proposals were submitted to the competition, five of which were selected to represent each of the four regions. These included assistance for people with disabilities and for a children's health centre, as well as a project to restore a fruit orchard. All the projects were adopted by the CORE Project Assessment Committee and the Approval Board and project activity started immediately. The concept was envisaged as a pilot project for the CORE programme. Given the success of the OSCE small projects programme, a new procedure has been worked out within the CORE programme whereby the concept and approach may be replicated by international donors and applicants from the four affected districts.

Environmental mapping of residential and public premises and information campaign on radiological safety in towns adjacent to the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site – Kazakhstan

The Semipalatinsk test site was closed in 1991. Over 500 devices had been exploded on it for more than 40 years preceding the closure. The explosions profoundly damaged the communities in the Semipalatinsk region. Since the closure, various research, foreign, international and non-governmental organizations conducted examinations at the testing ground and the surrounding territories. However, these activities were not co-ordinated and usually were targeted at narrow aims; the information obtained, as a rule, was not shared with local inhabitants.



Measuring radioactivity in Ferghana valley

The OSCE Centre in Almaty together with an implementing partner, the National Forum For Radiological Protection And Ecology, conducted an environmental mapping and information campaign project on the territory surrounding the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site in April-December 2004.

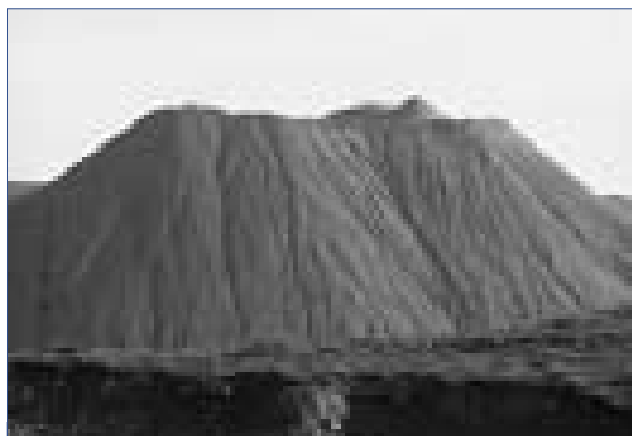
Project activities covered the territory of 28 villages and winter shepherd camps and included several components: radiological examination and mapping of the villages; compiling of a catalogue on projects and measurements conducted in the area by other organizations; development of brochures and posters in Kazakh and Russian on basic rules of behaviour in contaminated territories; a video in Kazakh, Russian and English on the history of the testing site, on the state of the area and rules of behaviour; sixty



Ambassador Ivar Vikki at a lecture on radiological safety in the village of Sarzhal.

lectures for the population of the villages as well as winter camps on radiological safety.

The project is currently being considered for possible extension under the Environment and Security Initiative.



A 300 metres high radioactive waste hill rises above Taboshar City (Tajikistan). The waste is spread and washed out by wind and rain, posing a threat to the environment and human health.

Hazardous Waste Monitoring – Tajikistan

From June until November 2004, the OSCE implemented the project “Monitoring, Analysis, Risk Evaluation, Hot Spots Mapping and Awareness Raising on Radio Ecological Situation in Sughd”.

The implementing NGO “Ecology and Scientific Progress” monitored complex systems of radiation in Northern Tajikistan in order to determine the influence of winds on the dispersal of radioactive waste and the presence of radio nuclides in food products and the biosphere. Furthermore, radiation warning signs in places of high radiation were

“It is unfortunate that many of the dangerous radioactive waste tailing-dams, open caste mining sites and edits are located near the urban populations of Khujand, Chkalovsk, Gafurov, Taboshar and Adrasman. The sites are especially dangerous during seasons of high rainfall (typically October, November, March and April) which are characterised by mudslides, earth movements, storms and avalanches.”

Dr. Khatam Murtazaev, professor at Khujand State University

established and a radiation map from the Sughd Region was produced.

These actions help minimise both anxiety and risk of exposure to harmful levels of radiation among populations living near radioactive sites such as tailing-dams, mines and edits.

8.3 Promoting Sound Water Management and Fostering Dialogue

Among environmental factors, water resources – including their scarcity, distribution and quality aspects – have been recognised as a potential factor that can lead to political pressures. OSCE participating States concerned by the potential threats posed by unsustainable water uses, yet aware of the opportunities offered by water management for building confidence and fostering greater co-operation, decided to choose the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water as topic of the Tenth OSCE Economic Forum held in May 2002.

Following the recommendations of the Economic Forum, the OCEEA developed a series of activities in the Chu-Talas (Central Asia), Kura-Araks (Southern Caucasus), Dniestr (Eastern Europe) and Sava (South Eastern Europe) river basins.

Chu and Talas Rivers Commission

In 2000, the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic signed an Agreement on the Utilization of the Water Facilities of Interstate Use on the Chu and Talas rivers that are shared by both countries. Under the agreement, Kazakhstan has an obligation to reimburse a part of Kyrgyzstan’s expenses for operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of a number of dams and reservoirs located on the territory of Kyrgyzstan, but supplying water to Kazakhstan. The Agreement was ratified by the parliaments of both countries and came into force in February 2002. According to the Agreement, a permanent bilateral commission is to be established in order to operate the water facilities of interstate use and define and share the costs for their exploitation and maintenance.

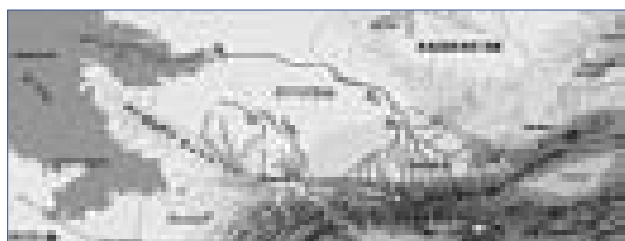
Under these conditions, the OCEEA has developed a project on the “Creation of a Bilateral Kazakhstani-Kyrgyztani Commission on Interstate Use of Water Facilities on the Chu and Talas Rivers”, implemented by the OSCE Centre in Almaty in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agricul-

ture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Agricultural and Water Management and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic as well as with the UN Agencies UNECE and UNESCAP and the Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Co-operation in Estonia since the end of 2002.

The main objectives of the project are the following: development of the statute and regulations for the Bilateral Commission on the Chu and Talas rivers; elaboration of the allocation costs for operation, management and rehabilitation of selected water control projects, promotion of public participation; dissemination of information about the project via a web page and publications.

Presently the first phase of the project is finished, with an achievement of objectives, such as the establishment of an intergovernmental transboundary water commission between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the rivers Chu and Talas and the developed and approved Statute of the Bilateral Commission. More follow up activities on the project are foreseen in the near future.

The OSCE Centre in Almaty hopes that this positive experience of the co-operation on the rivers Chu and Talas gained during the project will become a model for establishing co-operation on other shared rivers in Central Asia.



Map of Chu and Talas Rivers.

South Caucasus River Monitoring

The project is now entering its third year of implementation. It is aimed at assessing water quality and quantity in the Araks and Kura rivers basin. The OSCE Offices continue to support the national component of this complex cross border initiative in the light of capacity and confidence building as well as the impact, which the vital problem of water resources has on security and stability in the region. Significant outcomes for the region are: the application of unified sampling and water sample analysis methods, obtaining compatible data that are not disputed by the parties, close collaboration of researchers, joint training of young specialists and creating criteria for further co-operation.



OSCE supports the monitoring of the Kura River. Here samples are being taken from the Kura River in Rustavi, Georgia. Scientists use state of the art equipment to analyze the samples which are creating baseline environmental data.

Supporting the Sava Initiative

The OSCE continued its support to the Framework agreement on the Sava Basin that entered into force on 29th December 2004, by supporting the Permanent Secretariat of the International Sava Commission and offering office equipment for its establishment in Zagreb.

The OCEEA, in co-operation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) started the development of a network of local actors on water resource management in the Sava River.



Meeting of the Network of Local Actors in the Sava River Basin.

An national workshop was organized in Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the participation of local stakeholders. During the three-day event, participants assessed the situation of their municipality and shared their experiences with other local actors. Water experts presented their experiences and ongoing projects to the audience.

Similar workshops were held in Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro in May 2005. Trans-boundary aspects on water management will also be discussed at a regional meeting at the end of 2005.

The workshops intend to create a network of local actors that will share their knowledge in tackling common problems such as access to fresh water and pollution prevention. Another aspect of the workshops deal with raising awareness of the Sava process and other projects related to water management in the region.

Neman River – Belarus

Transboundary water issues featured high on the Office's agenda of the OSCE Office in Minsk. To help harmonize the procedures for monitoring the water quality of the Neman River, which flows through Belarus and Lithuania, the Office organized a working session with the Belarusian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the Lithuanian Environment Ministry. Building on an existing analysis by experts from Belarus, Lithuania, and the European Union, the session resulted in a detailed action plan that provides for the development of co-ordinated water quality monitoring standards in both countries.

Improving Community Relations via Stronger Water Co-operation in Border Areas – Kyrgyzstan

The formalisation of international boundaries in southern Kyrgyzstan creates particular challenges for agricultural communities in border areas. Once common water systems are now divided with canals snaking in and out of the Kyrgyz territory. The situation creates great difficulties for regulating water usage by farmers, and maintaining pumps and equipment now located across the border. The OSCE

Development of a Network of Local Actors in the Sava River Basin

Berta Pesti, Trainer responsible at UNITAR.

"Through the creation of a global network of training centres targeting local actors, UNITAR and its partners dispose of a unique tool for exchanging knowledge amongst local decision-makers and provide them with solutions adaptable to their problems and taken from the experience of their peers. We are convinced that the present initiative will yield similar results."

Raul Daussa, Associate Programme Officer, OCEEA.

"Closer co-operation between local authorities and civil society should help establish a cross-country mechanism to oversee the exchange of information, co-operation and joint projects and share best practices."

Mr. Branko Damjanac, Mayor of Brcko

"The Brcko district is particularly pleased with the fact that the workshop, which begins the process of cross-country and hopefully cross-boundary co-operation in water management and the environment in general, is taking place in Brcko, where the negotiations on Sava River International Framework Agreement and an Action Plan were held."

Participant's comments

"I learned about methods of successful water fee collection in Doboje. I learned about the methodology of graphic analysis of development and planning and dedicated time to talk about problems on environment in my municipality."

"I learned that it is possible to work together on some important issues."

"We could use our differences in a good way and it is sometimes good to connect our different disciplines."

has successfully implemented small scale projects with local authorities and NGOs to promote improved community relations and water sharing agreements.

One such example is the Aravan district in Osh province where a Kyrgyz community based organization, in collaboration with the local authorities, organized a series of training events promoting fairer water distribution and improved border area relations. Participants were water technicians, local authority officials, farmers, women and youth. Topics included local water laws and problem/solution analysis. Sessions were also held that examined each community's perspective of the other. Joint events such as quizzes and games encouraged stronger relations still further.

The output of the project has been improved community relations, a signed Agreement at District level on a commitment to water sharing and the establishment of water use monitoring groups.

Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River

The project has been launched to enhance regional cooperation between the Dniester riparian states, Ukraine, and Moldova, including its Transdnestrian region, on the integrated management of the Dniester river basin. The project also aims to draw international attention to the problems in the river basin.

The project is implemented by the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Within the framework of this project the OCEEA and UNECE Environmental and Human Settlements Division work in partnership with the Moldovan and Ukrainian Ministries of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Moldovan Water Concern 'Apele Moldovei', the State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management, the State Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Moldova, Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Ecological Problems, representatives of local authorities, environmental experts from the Tiraspol State University, and representatives from the NGOs Mama-86 and Eco-Tiras International Environmental Association of River Keepers.

Participant's comments

C.Turgunov, Head of Aravan District Administration

"The conducted project activities - training, round-table meetings, cultural events - had positive impacts in changing the situation in the districts: people are now well informed about existing laws and deeds on water usage...the main impact is that the project taught local people to mobilize their efforts to solve their problems."

OSCE EEO Assistant Kalys Hasanova, Osh Field Office

"To me one of the main impacts of this project was that people of bordering villages of two countries realized that they have a right to be involved in decision making processes and by coordinating their efforts and resources they were able to solve their issues and differences."

Jumagul Bolponova, leader of NGO "Too-Moiun Aymdary

"Partner NGOs learnt to work with communities and government structures to relieve water related tensions. This project improved relationships between bordering area water stations. Local people recognized that the other side has the same problems, that they shouldn't blame each other, but to work in collaboration to resolve their general situation."

M. Abdumatov, Manager of a local farm

"I took part in joint seminars between farmers of both communities. While participating in these seminars we improved our knowledge on laws and regulations on water use and we learnt to solve problems/conflicts peacefully by negotiation."



Representatives of bordering pump stations sign a water-sharing cooperation agreement aimed at resolving long-running tensions.

8.4 Promoting Environmental Awareness

Education and raising awareness are viewed as fundamental tools in changing patterns of social and economic behaviour as it affects the environment.

The OSCE is committed to further promote environmental awareness among the public and government officials, to facilitate citizens access to information about environmental matters and to support their participation in environmental decision making.

Education for sustainable development (ESD)

The OCEEA arranged the 12th Economic Forum on the topic of human capacity building, which included sessions dealing specifically with ESD. OCEEA and OSCE field offices have actively supported the development of the UNECE strategy for ESD by assisting local experts to prepare their positions and by funding their participation in relevant regional and international meetings. OCEEA and the OSCE field presences aim to continue supporting the implementation of the UNECE strategy and the upcoming UN Decade for ESD, which commences in 2005.

The OSCE's Aarhus activities

The OSCE has advocated the ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention by its participating States since 1999, organizing awareness raising campaigns, national and regional seminars and supporting the establishment, registration and operation of environmental NGOs. By establishing Aarhus Centres in various OSCE

participating countries, designed to provide a bridge between governments and civil society, the OCEEA complements existing official establishments.

8.4.1 Raising Awareness and Environmental Education

Green Pack

As a follow up to the 12th Economic Forum and in anticipation of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the adoption of the UNECE Strategy for ESD, the OCEEA and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) are adapting the Green Pack programme, already successfully implemented by the REC in several Central European countries, to the conditions and needs in the CIS and the Balkans.

The Green Pack is an educational tool box, specifically developed for each country in collaboration with local partners, with materials on global, regional and national issues. The materials cover 20-25 topics related to sustainable development.

The goal is to encourage children to become empowered citizens ready to act as drivers for sustainable development. Given the mandate of the OSCE, specific emphasis will be put on the environment as a tool for co-operation and peace building.

Green Pack implementation has already commenced in Azerbaijan and programs for Central Asia, Belarus and Serbia and Montenegro are under development.

Promoting Environmental Legislative Knowledge to Local Government – Albania

The OSCE Presence in Albania provides support to the Ministry of Environment in its efforts to raise public awareness on environmental issues and to increase institutional capacities on the implementation of the existing environmental legal framework. A training programme was undertaken with experts of the Ministry of Environment and the Regional Environment Centre (REC) office in Albania during the period from November 2004 to March 2005.

A series of workshops was organized in ten municipalities of Albania, with the participation of local government experts and other related stakeholders such as business representatives, NGOs and students. During the meetings

the participants addressed several environmental concerns through a constructive dialogue among the local government experts, the Ministry of Environment and business representatives.

The workshops intended to introduce the newly drafted and approved laws to environmentally related local stakeholders.

Environmental Education for schools – Armenia

The OSCE Office in Yerevan has supported the NGO “Khazir” and the Ministry of Education to develop a special programme on environmental education and awareness raising for school children. The programme addresses ten environmental issues ranging from the preservation of biodiversity, climate change to genetically healthy and sustainable agriculture. A set of brochures and posters describing each topic to pedagogy students and school teachers has been published.

Security in Earthquake Regions – Armenia

The OSCE Office in Yerevan via the Public Environmental Information Centre supported the ‘Workshop on Environmental Risks and Security in Earthquake Prone Areas and a Symposium Session on Public Awareness, Education and Training: Social Aspects of Strong Earthquakes’. In highlighting the direct link between public awareness, timely information, good governance and the number of victims of natural disasters, the Office contributed to the General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission held in October 2004 in Yerevan. The General Assembly has been dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of the Devastating Armenian (Spitak) Earthquake and was declared a pre-event to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005 in Kobe, Japan.

Energy Bus – Azerbaijan



Related to issues of environmental sustainability, the OSCE Office in Baku has highlighted the importance of promoting renewable energy resources in Azerbaijan. While rich in traditional energy resources such as oil and gas, the regions outside of the capital of Baku still experience significant energy deficiencies. The lack of energy resources in these regions not only threatens the environment as local populations resort to non-sustainable cutting of forests, but also prevents the economic development of these regions. Recognizing the need

to address this issue, the Office, in coordination with British Petroleum and the International Finance Corporation, has begun a unique renewable energy promotion project known as the “Energy Bus.” Equipped with models and information on energy technologies, this mobile educational vehicle will show local populations how to affordably adapt these technologies to local conditions. During 2005, the Energy Bus will demonstrate and implement energy conservation and renewable energy solutions to over 150 villages in Azerbaijan.

Building partnerships between the community and the Brcko District authorities to protect the environment – Bosnia and Herzegovina

The adoption of five environmental laws on environmental protection by the Brcko District Assembly in May 2004 inspired civil society actors to launch several new initiatives.

The Student Councils of 15 primary schools prepared and completed an action plan on the revitalization of the River Zovica – a body of water that passes through the territories of many local communities and plays an important role in the water management of the area. The project, implemented with support from the Mission, the authorities and community organizations established youth ecological watch and patrol groups to bring a halt to the contamination of the river. These youth groups also lobbied for a river protection system to be included in the budget.



“The future is in the youth’s hands. Young people should not keep the knowledge received in the camp for themselves, they should share it with friends, neighbours and relatives. This way you will contribute to the reserve protection.”

Saulius Smalys, Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Dushanbe.

The successful implementation of this project, as well as similar projects on the protection of wild birds and forests and improved garbage collection, created the basis for the drafting of a youth environmental plan for 2004/2005. The plan focuses on issues like supplying drinking water to schools, collecting and recycling communal waste, managing the two rivers that pass through the District and re-evaluating the River Sava tourist and recreation activities. Additional initiatives include the development of a joint community and authority policy for dealing with homeless animals, the establishment of a shelter and the provision of veterinary assistance. The plan also includes the promotion and community-based implementation of environmental laws.

All projects are expected to be implemented throughout 2005 with assistance from the Mission and the local authorities, based on the premise of active youth and community participation.

Ecological Summer Camp – Tajikistan

Over 125 young people from the remote southern areas of Tajikistan came together at a summer camp focusing on environmental issues and identified the reasons for a local nature reserve’s deterioration and the ways to protect it.

Young people were widely involved in the decision-making process, and produced a document on the principal causes of the deterioration of the reserve and the main concerns of the local population. This document was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Promoting environmental awareness in local communities – Uzbekistan

In conjunction with local authorities and Mahalla associations (local community organizations), the OSCE continues conducting roundtables on enhancing the role of mahallas in environmental protection activities, including legal education and social development.

Uzbekistan’s mahalla associations are traditional structures of Uzbek society, located in every mahalla and intricately involved in the activities and needs of the community. Uzbekistan’s approximately 10,000 mahallas are in a good position to play a leading role in helping to resolve the country’s environmental problems. To do so, they need more information about environmental matters and increased contacts with appropriate Government agencies.

In this context, the Centre in Tashkent and the National Mahalla Foundation organized ten workshops in the provinces and Tashkent city from the series entitled “Mahallas: Promoting Entrepreneurship and Environmental Protection”. In each workshop, forty mahalla leaders were briefed on Uzbekistan’s business and environmental laws and the basics of entrepreneurial activity. Discussions also focused on how mahallas can be more involved in fostering a favourable atmosphere for entrepreneurship and environmental protection in the region.



The OSCE in conjunction with the Mahalla Foundation has conducted a series of training seminars for the mahalla (local self governance communities) leaders in various provinces of Uzbekistan.

8.4.2 Implementing the Aarhus Convention

The OSCE has advocated the ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention by its participating States since 1999. Since 2002, the OCEEA and OSCE field offices have been supporting the development of Aarhus Centres in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The role of the Aarhus Centre is essentially to provide a meeting place and link between the government and civil society. It is important that the Centres do not become facilities with dusty book shelves, but that they are dynamic, innovative and engage in active outreach to the citizens and civil society.

Aarhus Centre – Armenia

The new location for the Public Environmental Information Centre (Aarhus Centre) was announced to the public in October 2004. Despite the fact that the Centre had no permanent premises, during most of 2004, the Board of Experts continued to work and to implement projects with the help of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. Special attention has been paid to environmental education and raising professional knowledge of journalists on environmental issues, as well as to create a new website for the Centre.

Aarhus Centre – Azerbaijan

The OSCE Office in Baku has continued to support the operations of the Aarhus Public Environmental Information Centre jointly with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. The Aarhus Centre provides free and open access for all members of society to an environmental library, internet and conference room facilities for environmental activities. During 2004, over 200 visitors a month used the library and internet resources and over 60 public meetings were held in the conference room on a wide range of environmental topics. The Office has also sponsored several of its own projects in the Aarhus Centre including public hearings on draft laws such as Biodiversity Protection and environmental education programs for children.



The Aarhus center in Baku holds a public meeting.

Aarhus Convention Implementation – Belarus

The OCEEA together with the OSCE Office in Minsk met with government officials and NGO representatives on 1–3 December 2004 to advise on the OSCE model for the establishment and support of Aarhus Centres. The Office in Minsk together with the Ministry of Environment and relevant NGO representatives aims at establishing an Aarhus Centre in Minsk in 2005.

Aarhus Implementation – Georgia

The Mission conducted three seminars and trained 54 governmental officials on their responsibilities under the Aarhus Convention. Holding of interactive trainings aimed on increasing of their awareness of environmental issues and proper understanding of respective rights and obligations deriving from national legislation and Aarhus convention in the local authorities. In this regard, the representatives of Tbilisi municipality, the President’s regional representatives’ office’s and local executives were chosen as a target group.



Flooded lands around the Arnasay lake, Jizzah province, 18 March 2004. The level of underground water has risen due to mismanagement of water and energy demands of the riparian countries Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan in the winter season.

The training provided the participants with knowledge about obligations under the Aarhus convention; methods of collecting and processing environmental information; methods for distributing selected information; methods to encourage public participation in decision-making processes concerning the environmental issues. Respective cases were discussed with active participation of the attendees.

The seminars aimed at promoting implementation of the responsibilities assumed under Aarhus convention ratified by Georgia in 2001. This will also support the planned development of the Aarhus centre in Tbilisi in the remainder for the year.

Guidelines on Handling Public Requests for Environmental Information – Kazakhstan

The Aarhus Convention on the assessment of environmental information necessitates readiness and ability of the authorities to provide information to citizens submitting enquiries. To enable a better provision of this service by the authorities, especially environmental protection departments in local administrations, as well as to inform civil society and the general public on what they can obtain by submitting requests, the OSCE Centre in Almaty, conducted a project on the elaboration and publication of guidelines on handling public requests for environmental information.

The idea of this publication was proposed at a round table on a draft law on ecological information conducted by the Centre at the beginning of 2004 and elaborated at the follow-up seminar on mechanisms of implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Kazakhstan conducted by the Centre in June 2004.

Legal environmental experts prepared the guidelines in close co-operation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and other relevant state agencies.

The guidelines were published in Kazakh, Russian and English. They were distributed to all relevant Ministries and state agencies, as well as among the non-governmental sector. The Ministry of Environmental Protection distributed them to local environmental protection authorities throughout the country.

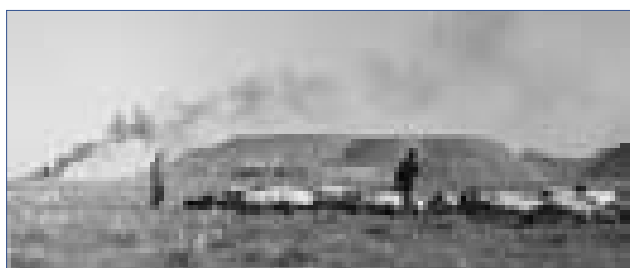
Implementing the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic – Kyrgyzstan

To address environmental security risks, the Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with the Ministry of Ecology and Emergencies of the Kyrgyz Republic (MEEKR), the Central Asian Regional Ecology Centre (CAREC) and the Youth Ecology Movement “Biom”, organized a series of regional workshops that encourage government and non-government environmental bodies to exploit the Aarhus Convention for pursuing specific environmental issues both in-country and regionally and to exchange information on best practices.

The National Progress Report on Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic prepared by the MEEKR was presented and discussed by representatives of the Government, Judiciary as well as non-governmental ecological NGOs and mass media at the last workshop on 20 January 2005. The participants of the workshop had adopted a resolution approving the Report, which was presented at the Second Meeting of the Parties on 25-27 May 2005 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Environmental Information Centre – Uzbekistan

The Centre in Tashkent continues to work to promote public participation in environmental decision making. As a follow-up to its previous activities, the Centre in Tashkent in co-operation with UNDP, supported the establishment of an “Environmental Information Centre” within the premises of the State Committee for Nature Protection. It is envisaged that this Centre will act as a useful environmental information support centre to the governmental and public sectors, by maintaining up-to-date documents and literature related to environmental management and protection issues.



Open and unsecured dumping place of radioactive waste near Koytash village, Jizzah Province, Uzbekistan.

8.5 Capacity Building for Decision-Makers

Seminar on Environmental Legislation – Albania

In co-operation with the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) and the Ministry of Environment, the Presence organized the sixth regional seminar on environmental legislation in Berat on 25 February. The main issue of concern for the local stakeholders was the management of industrial waste from the former state factories that are no longer in use, urban waste and hospital waste from the municipal hospital. Throughout the series of seminars, a common theme emerged with respect to the lack of co-operation among local government structures. This concern has been repeatedly raised, as the responsibility for environmental issues has been largely decentralized.

Environmental Law and Lawyers – Armenia

In the framework of a project on “Environmental Legislation of the Republic of Armenia”, the OSCE Office in Yerevan facilitates the publication of a manual entitled “Collection of environmental legislation”. The publication aims at increasing awareness of the public, decision makers, mass media, the local governing bodies and institutes of higher education of Armenia.

The Office cooperated with the “Association of Young Environmental Lawyers and Economists” in organizing round-tables in Armenian regions on the “Law on purposeful use of Nature Protection fees paid by organizations”. The outcome was that five municipalities from different regions for the first time submitted requests and received funds for environmental projects from the State Budget. The Office facilitated the publishing of a manual that contains instructions enabling them to make use of the existing law.



Twenty thousand tons of agricultural pesticides and other toxic wastes buried in the area of Egizbulok village, Jizzah Province, Uzbekistan. Many of these storages have been disclosed and are unsecured, constituting a real threat to local settlements.

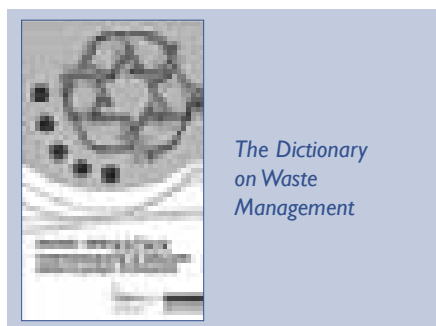
Environmental Legislation – Belarus

In view of the country’s need for laws that adequately protect the environment, the Office supported a team of lawyers from the Belarusian State University and the local NGO, EcoPrava, who prepared a detailed analysis of the gaps in the law and a commentary on the existing legislation. The commentary was reviewed by the National Law Drafting Centre and presented for discussion at a public forum in November. The initiative marked the first step by Belarus to harmonize its legislation in the area of environmental protection. The law is available on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection www.minpriroda.by.

Raising Awareness in Local Communities – Bosnia and Herzegovina

In response to the degraded environment of Brataunac and Zenica Dobož Canton municipalities, the Mission in co-operation with several NGOs initiated a number of initiatives with local environmental NGOs to create mechanisms to promote the participation of local stakeholders and improve co-ordination among NGOs. In addition the Mission worked in Derventa municipality with the NGO “Ekologika” and other members of the Derventa NGO “Forum” to boost public interest in developing a Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAP). The project consisted of an initial assessment of the state of environmental protection in Derventa, followed by educational workshops and awareness raising activities on environmental protection, citizens’ participation and the LEAP process. Following the assessment, a report with findings and proposed solutions was submitted for consideration by the Derventa Municipal Assembly with a decision in support of the LEAP initiative anticipated.

Dictionary on Waste Management – Serbia and Montenegro



As part of its efforts to help harmonize Serbia and Montenegro’s legislation with European standards, the Mission published a Dictionary on Waste Management, which is complementary to the previously published Environmental Glossary. The aim of this dictionary is to solve existing problems in translating and rationalizing the terms related to international protocols, contracts and conventions in the field of waste management. The Dictionary is a useful tool for all local stakeholders involved in assessing and improving Serbia and Montenegro’s environmental legislation as well as everyone involved in the field of waste management.

The dictionary on waste management was published in 1000 hardcopies as well as in electronic format.

Environmental Seminars - Uzbekistan

The OSCE Center in Tashkent supported the activities of the local environmental NGO “Armon”, which focuses on providing seminars about environmental issues, identifying potential local leaders for grassroots environmental initiatives, creating a database on environmental information, conducting a mass-media campaign to increase public participation in environmental protection matters and providing free legal consultations.

In co-operation with the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission for Central Asia, the OSCE supported this group’s work to develop a draft curriculum on environmental education (water conservation issues) for secondary schools and to organize workshops on water conservation topics for secondary schools.

9. List of Acronyms

ATP: Anti Trafficking Programme

CPC: OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

CAYN: Central Asian Youth Network

COEEA: Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities

CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency

EBRD: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

EED: Economic and Environmental Dimension

EEO: Economic and Environmental Officer

EESC: OSCE Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee

ENVSEC: Environment and Security Initiative

HCNM: High Commissioner on National Minorities

IOM: International Organisation for Migration

IMF: International Monetary Fund

LEAD: Local Economic Development Programme

LEAP: Local Environmental Action Plan

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

OCEEA: Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities

ODIHR: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE)

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

REC: Regional Environment Centre

SME: Small and Medium Enterprises

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

TOT: Training of Trainers

WES: Women Entrepreneurship Seminars

YES: Youth Entrepreneurship Seminars

Notes



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