



ODIHR e-newsletter

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights September/October 2009

Upcoming events

[Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Gender Equality, Vienna, 5-6 November](#)

Latest reports

[Presidential election in the Kyrgyz Republic - final report](#)
[Presidential election in Romania - needs assessment mission report](#)

[Early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova - final report](#)

[Presidential election in Ukraine - needs assessment mission report](#)

[Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Bulgaria - final report](#)

[Supporting the Transition Process: Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Knowledge Transfer](#)

[Elections to the European Parliament - expert group report](#)

[Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Albania - final report](#)

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Russian version

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Well-attended HDIM reviews human rights progress



This year's [Human Dimension Implementation Meeting](#) (HDIM) drew over 1,000 attendees.

Around half came from governments of participating States, while a further 500 represented almost 400 NGOs at the ODIHR-organized annual event, which reviews the progress participating States have made in putting their international commitments into practice.

Staff from international organizations and OSCE institutions and field operations also attended the 28 September - 9 October Warsaw gathering.

[Conference website](#)

[Consolidated summary](#)

Lenarčič visits capitals to confer on co-operation, upcoming Ministerial Council

The ODIHR director, Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, has been travelling to a number of capital cities to discuss future co-operation on human dimension issues, as well as preparations for the December Ministerial Council meeting in Athens.



In September, Lenarčič met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Moscow and Uzbekistan's foreign minister Vladimir Norov in Tashkent.

In October, the ODIHR head sat down with representatives of the Swedish EU presidency in Stockholm and high-level State Department officials in Washington DC. During a visit to Strasbourg, Lenarčič held talks with the new President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek (pictured, on left, with Lenarčič).

Balkans war crimes trials report launched

September saw the publication of a long-awaited [report](#) on the needs of local judiciaries in dealing with war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

The report is the fruit of a joint project between ODIHR, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Supporting the Transition Process: Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Knowledge Transfer presents the findings of a research initiative launched last year by the three organizations.

The document makes concrete recommendations for bolstering the

capacity of the region to continue bringing to justice those responsible for war crimes committed during the armed conflicts in the region during the 1990s.

[Feature story](#)

Freedom of association in Central Asia - regional roundtable looks to the future

Some 65 government officials, parliamentarians and civil society representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan gathered in Bishkek on 21 October to discuss ways to enhance freedom of association in the region.

The two-day meeting was organized by ODIHR and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, together with the Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan and the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law.

The roundtable aimed to share international good practices in respect of guaranteeing the right to freedom of association and to foster a consultative law-making process between States and civil society organizations.



"It also explored the role of the OSCE/ODIHR and international organizations in assisting States to bring their legislation into compliance with international standards and identified the next steps to strengthen and further improve freedom of association in Central Asia," added Denis Petit (pictured, speaking), Deputy Head of ODIHR's Democratization Department.

[More](#)

Busy season for elections department

ODIHR's Elections Department has faced a busy observation schedule, deploying Election Assessment Missions to parliamentary elections in [Norway](#), [Greece](#), [Germany](#) and [Portugal](#).

In [Afghanistan](#), meanwhile, ODIHR has remained on the ground in the run-up to the second round of presidential elections scheduled for 7 November.

Following the provincial council elections and the first round of the presidential election on 20 August, the Office kept a small presence in Afghanistan to follow developments after the release of preliminary results.

"Our team of experts will provide recommendations to help improve future elections in Afghanistan," explained Drew Hyslop, ODIHR Election Adviser.

"With the next election for the National Assembly less than a year away, such support has been welcomed by both the local authorities and the international community in Kabul."

Anti-semitism teaching tools on tour



ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department is currently taking its [teaching tools to combat anti-Semitism](#) on the road across Ukraine, Croatia and Lithuania.

Since mid-September, the department has been conducting seminars in the three countries for teachers and educators - including trainers from pedagogical institutes - on how to combat anti-

Semitism by using the tools.

Full schedules for the seminars can be found on ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination System ([TANDIS](#)), which also carries links to the [teaching tools](#) (see "key documents").

Criminal justice experts gather in Kyrgyzstan

Around 60 officials and experts from all five Central Asian states convened for the fourth annual ODIHR [Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia](#) on 15 October 2009.

This year, the Forum was held at Lake Issuk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

There was no shortage of discussion material at the three-day event - from the new criminal procedure laws of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan to the recent introduction of judicial authorization of pre-trial detention in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

Reform of legislation governing "administrative offences" was the subject of lively debate, while Kazakhstan's experiences with jury trials (Kazakhstan is the only Central Asian state to have introduced trial by jury) also sparked interest. Speakers from the Russian Federation, Germany, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom also contributed to discussions.

The Expert Forum was organized with support from OSCE field operations in Central Asia, as well as the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, the Open Society Institute's Assistance Foundation in Tajikistan and the Kazakh Legal Policy Research Centre.

Appropriate funding for political parties essential to healthy democracy

Across the OSCE region there is a need for legislation that would create a balance between public and private donations as the source for political party funding.

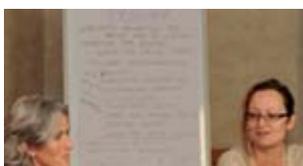
That was the key message at a roundtable organized in Athens by ODIHR's Democratization Department on 17-18 September and attended by experts in political party financing from across the OSCE region.

"Political parties constitute a foundation upon which democracy is built, as they are the conduit for political participation and organized competition," noted Robert Adams, Head of the Democratization Department.

"In order to ensure that they are able to perform these functions properly, they must be properly funded and should derive such funds from appropriate sources."

The meeting on "Public Funding and Abuse of State Resources" was part of a drive by Adams and his colleagues to compile material for guidelines on political party legislation for the use of legislators engaged in framing new legislation or amending existing laws, as well as for those overseeing the implementation of such legislation.

OSCE anti-trafficking focal points meet in Warsaw



Anti-trafficking experts from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia convened in Warsaw at the end of September.

Points on the [agenda](#) included: migrants'

rights and outreach work; trafficked persons' access to justice and compensation; and human rights protection in the return of trafficked persons to their countries of origin.

The 1½-day meeting was held in Warsaw from September 29-30 and organized by the ODIHR Anti-trafficking Programme.

In attendance were representatives from the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as staffers from the OSCE field missions in Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

"These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to keep the OSCE up to speed with the latest in anti-trafficking work," noted Shivaun Scanlan, ODIHR's Senior Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues (pictured, on left, with ODIHR Anti-trafficking Project Officer Aleksandra Vidojevic).

"Our aim is to keep one step ahead of the human rights issues that demand attention - for instance, the importance of speaking out for migrants' rights as part of our anti-trafficking efforts was key to this year's meeting."

Lenarčič presents ODIHR perspective on "Corfu Process"

The latest session of the "Corfu Process", initiated by the OSCE's Greek Chairmanship as a means of discussing the future of Europe's security architecture, was devoted to common challenges in the fields of human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination, and freedom of the media.

In his presentation to OSCE Ambassadors in Vienna on 27 October, Ambassador Lenarčič stressed the inseparable connection between security issues and the OSCE's human dimension.

He added that the peer review procedure within the OSCE's Permanent Council needed to be made more effective, which could involve a possible enhancement of the Human Dimension Mechanisms in order to make them more efficient, "user-friendly" and flexible.

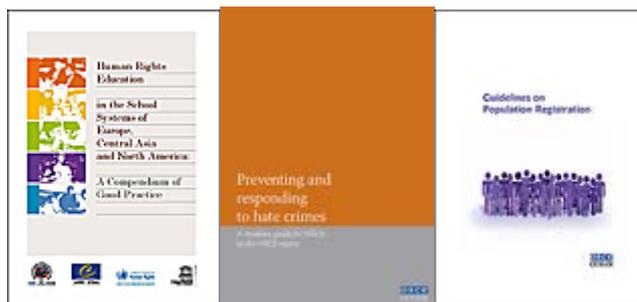
Read the full [speech](#)

New publications

Two new ODIHR publications were unveiled at side events during this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

The first - *Human Rights Education in the School Systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America: A Compendium of Good Practice* - is a joint effort with the Council of Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the US-based Human Rights Education Associates.

The second - *Guidelines on Population Registration* - was produced by ODIHR's Democratization Department in response to the growing number of requests from participating States for expertise and policy advice in this area.



- [Guidelines on Population Registration \(English\)](#)
- [Human rights education in the school systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America: A compendium of good practice \(English\)](#)
- [Preventing and responding to hate crimes - A resource guide for NGOs in the OSCE region \(English\)](#)
- [The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area: Background Paper 2009 \(English\)](#)

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