



Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretariat

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

Vienna, 29 January 2004

**12th OSCE Economic Forum
“New Challenges for Building up Institutional and Human Capacity for Economic
Development and Cooperation”**

**Third Preparatory Seminar
“Human Resources for Developing a Market Economy”**

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 29-30 March 2004

Introductory Note

Successful economic reform and structural adjustment are two of the key contributors to security and stability, requiring functioning economic institutions, good public and corporate governance and adequate human resources. Given the need for skilled and well-trained professionals who can participate in and contribute to the economic transition and policy-making process, the OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 558 of 31 July 2003 stipulated that the theme of the Twelfth OSCE Economic Forum (Prague, Czech Republic 31 May to 4 June 2004) will be: “New Challenges for Building [up] Institutional and Human Capacity for Economic Development and Co-operation”.

The OSCE, as an organisation committed to a comprehensive approach to security, recognises the importance to support activities aimed at strengthening economic institutions and human capital necessary for successful economic transition.

In the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Bonn Document, mention is made of “Co-operation and Exchanges in the Field of Education” and that the “participating States recognise the importance, for the economic process, of the development of human potential”. This is further supported in the new OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial Council on 2 December 2003, which considers “human resources an essential factor for economic growth and development, which require knowledge and skills in economic, business, administrative, legal, and scientific matters”. To attain these skills, the Strategy states that the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the OSCE’s institutions and field presences in Cupertino with other relevant international institutions, should develop, inter alia, programmes and projects facilitating training for national, regional, and local administrations, academics, business communities and NGOs.

The seminar in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, on 29 and 30 March 2004, will focus on the development of human capacity. The seminar is the final one in a series of three preparatory seminars leading up to the 12th Economic Forum. Previous seminars dealt with issues related to economic and institutional development, i.e. developing the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector, stimulating investment and touched upon issues related to the development of human capacity. The Bishkek seminar will be instrumental in obtaining insight into the requirements of developing strong market economies based

on adequately trained people. High quality human capital contributes to sound public and private institutions, and a healthy and diversified private sector. One of the focal points for the discussions at the seminar will be to identify actions in the field of training and education that the OSCE can undertake to foster economic development and stability.

Yet the transition to a market economy is a complex process and its mismanagement can have serious negative consequences for a country and its citizens. One of the challenges many states are facing in their transition to market economies is the need for well-trained professionals, who can participate in and contribute to the economic transition and policy-making processes, including the reform of the legal and structural frameworks and the strengthening of good governance at all levels necessary to stimulate economic development, attract foreign investment and facilitate external trade relations. In particular there is a need for highly skilled economic policymakers, market economists and commercial lawyers working in ministries, regulatory agencies, stock exchanges, local administrations, tax revenue services, commercial judiciaries, and notary bureaux. The same can be said about the need for skilled business leaders familiar with market principles and modern financial and information technology as well as university lecturers prepared to teach modern economics or commercial law. Finally the youth as well as economic and business graduates need support for their career development and employment so as to avoid the “brain drain” affecting many countries of the OSCE region.

Economic and business education is also an important tool to promote entrepreneurship values in democratic societies as well as to empower all population categories to fully reap the benefits a market economy can provide. Particular attention should be given to the need for economic and business education and training of vulnerable population groups, such as women, ethnic minorities, refugees, young people and people living in disadvantaged areas, where widespread unemployment or lack of economic opportunities could lead to potential conflicts and destabilisation.

The seminar will therefore focus on gaps and required skills needed for economic transition. Particular attention will be paid to the current situation in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Participants from other OSCE regions will also be invited to share experience on already completed or ongoing professional capacity building initiatives in the economic and business field.

The seminar will start with an Opening Plenary Session, during which the state of education and human capacity building and the challenges ahead will be addressed. The Opening Plenary will be followed by five working plenary sessions during which the specific gaps and needs of the region’s public administration, academic institutions, business communities, the young and newly graduated will be discussed.

Working Session I Training of public administration staff

Working Session I will examine the need for strengthening and developing the professional skills of civil servants dealing with economic, financial, legal and fiscal issues in ministries and other public institutions. The Session will also look into the requirements at the municipal level and in remote regions away from the capital and main cities. Existing technical and financial assistance programmes will be analysed and discussed to learn from experiences and mistakes. In identifying the requirements for training and other support, consideration will also be given to the feasibility of inter-governmental twinning programmes.

Working Session II Training of academic professionals and students

Working Session II will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the education systems and structures in transition economies, especially in economic and business related disciplines at the central, regional and local level. The issues to be discussed include gaps and requirements of the higher education system and administration; quality and importance of the recognition of degrees; retainment of academic staff and professional development opportunities; and international co-operation of higher learning institutions focussed on business schools, economic universities, and

economic and commercial law departments. Measures to initiate and widen access to training and research institutions through increased fellowship and international exchange programmes will also be discussed. In addition, the Session will discuss the need for private sector involvement in shaping and developing education curricula and training programmes to ensure that both secondary and higher education meet the demands of the labour market. Achievements of existing donor funded programmes and projects will also be reviewed.

Working Session III Business related training

Working Session III will discuss specific training activities required to improve corporate governance in the field of corporate finance and auditing practises, business ethics and codes of conduct. This Session will also examine the training and educational needs of entrepreneurs and SMEs in areas such as improvement of managerial skills and capacities, techniques and methods. In particular, business related training needs of vulnerable population groups living in regions with high unemployment and few economic opportunities will be discussed. The contribution the business sector itself, both foreign and domestic, can bring to the development of human capacity will also be one of the focal points of the session.

Working Session IV Education for Sustainable Development

When promoting economic development it is important to ensure it is environmentally sustainable. Well informed citizens who are actively involved in decision making processes are a powerful and necessary driver to achieve sustainable development. This session will focus on regional efforts to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), identified as a top priority at the Fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Kiev, May 2003. Issues to be discussed will include ways and means to help the public to understand the connections between environmental, social, economic, safety and security concerns; the use of the Aarhus convention to strengthen citizens’ rights to have access to information about environmental issues and to influence decision making; and ways in which the OSCE could be involved in and support the member states’ work (under the UNECE frame work) on a regional strategy for ESD.

Working Session V Employment related training and development of the youth and successor generation

Working Session IV will discuss ways to support the young generation with regard to the requirements of and entrance into the labour market: summer schools in entrepreneurship activities and skills training, career development services, mentoring schemes, and widening access to national and international private and public sector internship programmes. The Session will also discuss possible incentive schemes to counter the ‘brain drain’ of trained young professionals, such as placement facilitation schemes and national fellowships encouraging graduates in economics, commercial law and business administration to join the civil administrations.

All Working Sessions are expected to lead to a set of concrete activities and recommendations.

In the **Closing Plenary Session** the reports and conclusions from the different working groups will be presented, as well as their recommendations for further action. The recommendations will be compiled and presented to the OSCE Participating States for further discussion in the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee and at the Twelfth Economic Forum in Prague from 31 May to 4 June 2004.

National and international organisations and institutions active in the field of higher education and human capacity building, particularly in the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as representatives of business community and civil society will be invited to the seminar to share their experiences and know-how. This will ensure that any OSCE human capacity building initiative being developed in co-operation with other organisations will complement or build on work already being carried out in these regions and thus will avoid duplication.

OSCE field presences and the OSCE Bishkek Academy will also be invited to actively participate in the different Working Sessions of the seminar.

Participants are expected to present concrete proposals on how the OSCE/OCEEA could be instrumental in contributing to human capacity building.

Please find attached a draft agenda and the organisational modalities of the seminar. Further updates of the agenda and organisational modalities will be circulated to the delegations and participants in due time.

Information on the seminar – including registration forms, a regularly-updated programme and organisational modalities – are also available on the OSCE web site at <http://www.osce.org/eea>

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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

T h e S e c r e t a r i a t

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

Vienna, 29 January 2004

**Twelfth OSCE Economic Forum
“New Challenges for Building up Institutional and Human Capacity for Economic
Development and Co-operation”**

**Third Preparatory Seminar
“Human Resources for Developing a Market Economy”
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 29-30 March 2004**

DRAFT AGENDA

Sunday, 28 March 2004

19.30 Welcoming Reception hosted by the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities

Monday, 29 March 2004

08.00 Registration of participants

09.30 – 11.00 Opening Plenary Session: Welcoming Addresses and Introductory
Speeches (open to Press)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 Working Session I Training of public administration staff

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break

Working sessions II, III and IV meet in parallel

14.30 – 16.00 Working Session II Training of academic professionals and
students

Working Session III Business related training

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00 Working Session II (continued) Training of academic professionals
and students

Working Session IV Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

19.00 - Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan

Tuesday, 30 March 2004

09.30 - 11.00 Working Session V Employment related training and development
of the youth and successor generation

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 Closing Plenary Session: Reports and Recommendations

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch



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Vienna, 29 January 2004

Third Preparatory Seminar for the Twelfth OSCE Economic Forum

“Human Resources for Developing a Market Economy”

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 29-30 March 2004

Organisational Modalities

Conference Venue:
Pinara-Bishkek Hotel - Conference Hall
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Tel: (00-996-312) 54 01 43 / 44 / 45 / 52,

Fax: (00-996-312) 54 24 08

(<http://www.pinara.com>)

Participants will have at their disposal conference rooms for plenary sessions and the working group sessions.

A conference secretariat will facilitate the access to PCs and Internet. Printing and copying facilities for the display and distribution of relevant publications, documents, and information materials will be available.

Technical equipment for presentation of audio-visual materials will be provided upon advance request (power point, overhead, flip chart).

PARTICIPATION

Representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field presences, representatives of International Organizations and representatives of business community, Non-Governmental Organizations and academic community will participate in the Seminar. The Partners for co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for co-operation are invited to attend the seminar.

The seminar should stimulate a free-flowing discussion out of which recommendations to the OSCE and its participating States should emerge. *To this end, no formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are envisaged.* However, written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the OSCE Secretariat. **No fee for participation is requested.**

ACCREDITATION (REGISTRATION): Deadline: 15 March 2004

Please return the attached seminar “registration form” (Annex 2) to the OSCE Secretariat (Contact: Ms. Andrea Gredler: andrea.gredler@osce.org, Fax. 00 43 1 514 36 6251), *completed with your precise arrival and departure time.*

At their arrival, participants are kindly requested to contact the **registration desk at the Conference Hall / Pinara Hotel**, where on-site registration, distribution of meeting badges and circulation of documents will start on **Sunday 28 March 2004 (17.00 - 19.00)** and on **Monday, 29 March 2004 (8.00 – 17.00).**

Please note that conference badges are required for access to all the Seminar Events. They will be issued on presentation of the participants’ passport or ID.

Press will have access to the Opening and Closing plenaries only.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Participants, if required under the Kyrgyz law (see Annex 1 “Entrance Regime for Foreign Nationals Arriving to the Kyrgyz Republic”), are requested to make their own arrangements for securing a visa well in advance for entry into Kyrgyzstan, to the respective Kyrgyz Embassies.

A visa free of charge will be issued upon submission of a Letter of Invitation (issued by the OSCE Secretariat or the OSCE Centre in Bishkek -see contact below) to the Seminar with the visa request. The Embassies of Kyrgyzstan will be informed about the seminar and handle the visas with priority.

For those countries where there is no Kyrgyz embassies or consulate, the participants may approach to nearest Kyrgyz embassies in neighbouring countries, or to the Kyrgyz delegation to the OSCE in Vienna,

OR

they may get their visa at the AIRPORT in Bishkek upon arrival. (*participants should be sure that they are allowed to get on board of the plane; some airways don't allow people to get on board without visa on their passports*).

In this case, passport information (type of passport, name, nationality, dates of issue & expiry, length of visa request) and travel schedule (date, flight number and time of arrival) have to be sent to the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (Contact Ms. Svetlana Raphaelovich, email: sr@osce.elcat.kg Fax: +996 312 66 31 69, Phone: + 996 312 66 41 80).

HOTEL RESERVATION

Block reservations with special group rates have been made at the following hotel:

Pinara-Bishkek Hotel****

720044, Prospect Mira 93, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Tel: (00-996-312) 54 01 43 / 44 / 45 / 52,

Fax: (00-996-312) 54 24 08,

e-mail: pinara@elcat.kg

web-site: <http://www.pinara.com>

The special rate for a standard room is \$65.00 single occupancy & \$90.00 double occupancy per night (incl. buffet breakfast, service charge, and VAT).

Rooms should be booked by participants directly through Pinara-Bishkek Hotel.

Please quote ‘participant to the OSCE Seminar’ when booking the room.

Contact Hotel Reservation desk at
tel: (00-996-312) 54 01 43 / 44 / 45 / 52,
fax: (00-996-312) 54 24 08,
or e-mail: pinara@elcat.kg

Deadline for bookings: 5 March 2004. The special rate is only valid for reservations made till that date. After that date the rooms cannot be guaranteed.

TRANSPORTATION

Free-of -charge transfers upon arrival and departure from the airport to Pinara-Bishkek Hotel will be provided. Information about the transfers to the hotel will be provided upon arrival at the airport in Bishkek. **Please note that this transport can only be provided to participants who have registered and clearly indicated their time of arrival and the hotel booked on the registration form attached.**

SOCIAL EVENTS

Sunday, 28 March 2004, 7:30 p.m.: Welcoming Reception hosted by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (place tbc).

Monday 29 March 2004 – 7:00 p.m.: State Reception hosted by the host Country (tbc).

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the seminar in English and Russian.

CONTACT: OSCE SECRETARIAT, VIENNA

For substantial issues: Mr. Gabriel Leonte, Tel: +43 514 36 776, Fax:+43 1 514 36 6251, email: gabriel.leonte@osce.org

For logistical queries: Ms. Andrea Gredler, Tel: +43 1 514 36 575, Fax:+43 1 51436 6251, e-mail: andrea.gredler@osce.org

Information are also available on the OSCE web site: <http://www.osce.org/eea>

Entrance Regime for Foreign Nationals Arriving to the Kyrgyz Republic (information notice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic)

Guidelines for foreign nationals and stateless individuals arriving to the Kyrgyz Republic

The list the countries enjoying non-visa/ partly non-visa regime is attached as Annex 1.

Foreign nationals indicated in the list (Annex 2) may obtain a one-month visa in the overseas diplomatic missions of the Kyrgyz Republic or consular posts in the country without visa advice on the basis of their personal or written application.

At the first stage, Kyrgyz visa may be obtained from the diplomatic missions of the Kyrgyz Republic abroad. In case of non-availability of the foreign mission of the Kyrgyz Republic in that particular country, visa to the Kyrgyz Republic may be obtained from the diplomatic mission the Republic of Kazakhstan subject on the basis of the bilateral agreements.

Annex 1

I. Nationals holding any type of passport of the following countries are exempted from visa requirement to enter Kyrgyz Republic for the whole period of their stay in the country:

1. Azerbaijan Republic, 2. Albania, 3. Republic of Armenia, 4. Republic of Byelorussia, 5. Bulgaria, 6. Bosnia and 7. Herzegovina, 8. Georgia, 9. Republic of Kazakhstan, 10. Korean Democratic People`s Republic, 11. Republic of Cuba, 12. Macedonia, 13. Malaysia (with official and tourist purpose up to one month), 14. Republic of Moldova, 15. Mongolia (up to three months), 16. Poland, 17. Russian Federation, 18. Romania, 19. Slovakia, 20. Slovenia, 21. Socialistic Republic of Vietnam, 22. Republic of Tajikistan, 23. Turkish Republic (up to one month), 24. Ukraine, 25. Croatia, 26. Czech Republic, 27. Serbia and Montenegro, and 28. Japan.

II. Nationals holding diplomatic and official passports of the following countries are exempted from visa requirement to enter Kyrgyz Republic for the period up to one month:

1. Hungarian Republic, 2. Chinese People`s Republic (also for holders of general civil passports for official use), 3. Turkmenistan, 4. Republic of Uzbekistan.

III. Nationals holding diplomatic passports of following countries are exempted from visa requirement to enter Kyrgyz Republic:

(1) Austrian Republic; (2) Kingdom of Belgium; (3) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (4) Greek Republic; (5) Kingdom of Denmark; (6) Republic of Island; (7) Kingdom of Spain; (8) Islamic Republic of Iran (up to one month); (9) Italian Republic; (10) Canada; (11) Great Duchy of Luxembourg; (12) Kingdom of Netherlands; (13) Kingdom of Norway; (14) Portugal Republic; (15) United States of America; (16) Federative Republic of Germany; (17) Finish Republic; (18) French Republic; (19) Swiss Confederation; (20) Kingdom of Sweden.

Annex 2

Nationals holding all types of passports of the following countries may obtain Kyrgyz Visas in the overseas missions and consular offices within the Republic on their personal request for the period up to one month, and are exempted from registration with the law enforcement agencies:

(1) Australia; (2) Austrian Republic; (3) Kingdom of Belgium; (4) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (5) Federative Republic of Germany; (6) Greek Republic; (7) Kingdom of Denmark; (8) State of Israel; (9) Ireland Republic; (10) Republic of Iceland;

(11) Kingdom of Spain; (12) Italian Republic; (13) Canada; (14) Republic of Cyprus; (15) Republic of Korea; (16) Duchy of Liechtenstein; (17) Great Duchy of Luxembourg; (18) Republic of Malta; (19) Duchy of Monaco; (20) Kingdom of Netherlands; (21) Kingdom of Norway; (22) New Zealand; (23) Portugal Republic; (24) United States of America; (25) Finland Republic; (26) French Republic; (27) Swiss Confederation; (28) Kingdom of Sweden.



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Vienna, 29 January 2004

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REGISTRATION FORM

Please return the Registration form (**deadline: 15 March 2004**) to Ms. Andrea Gredler
OSCE Secretariat: Fax: +43 1 514 36 6251; Tel: +43 1 514 36 575;
E-Mail: andrea.gredler@osce.org

State/Delegation/Institution:		
Title (Amb, Mr, Ms, Dr)	First Name	Family Name
Position:		Department:
Mailing Address:		
Phone (with country code)	Fax:	E-Mail:
Participant:	Title of presentation:	
Speaker:		
Arrival Date:	by plane (Nr.&Time)	by train: Time:
Departure Date:	by plane (Nr.&Time)	by train: Time:
Hotel in Bishkek:		

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- **Visa Information:** Participants are requested to make their own arrangements for securing a visa .
- **Venue:** Pinara-Bishkek Hotel, Conference Hall, Bishkek Tel: (00-996-312) 54 01 43 ,
<http://www.pinara.com>
- **Travel and Accommodation:** Participants are kindly requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, which will not be paid for by the OSCE.

- **Shuttle transfer from Airport to Hotel/Conference venue:** will be provided free of charge upon registration (see item transportation in Organizational Modalities). Signs at your arrival at the airport will inform you about the departure of the shuttle busses.