

SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS

HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

“Constitutional Justice”

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of CSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

The opinions and information shared during the side events convened by participants do not necessarily reflect the policy of the OSCE/ODIHR.

Thursday, 15 May	Friday, 16 May
<p><i>Title: Launch of the ODIHR Trial Monitoring Reference Manual</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Meeting Room 1</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, Russian</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Russian Constitution: new institutional design</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Interlegal Foundation</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Meeting Room 2</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, Russian</i></p>

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organizers

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Seminar. The content for each meeting was prepared by the organization convening the events and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE, ODIHR.

Thursday, 15 May

Time: 13.00-15.00
 Venue: Meeting Room 1
 Title: **Launch of the ODIHR Trial Monitoring Reference Manual**
 Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR
 Language: English, Russian

Summary: This event will present and officially launch the ODIHR Trial Monitoring Reference Manual. The Manual synthesizes best practices and lessons-learned from trial monitoring programmes conducted by the ODIHR and 12 OSCE field operations, including experiences from monitoring war crimes trials. It provides a resource for practitioners who develop and run trial-monitoring programmes. For its users, the Manual would help enhance the quality of trial monitoring programmes, thereby contributing to better compliance with fair trial standards in the participating States

Refreshments will be served



Friday, 16 May

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: **Russian Constitution: new institutional design**
Convenor: Interlegal Foundation
Language: English, Russian

Summary: RF Constitution, adopted in 1993, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin, who is now criticized in his country to be “pro-western”, proclaimed democracy, rule of law and human rights to be its major values. According to the TEXT of the Constitution those norms and principles are guaranteed. How thoroughly are they IMPLEMENTED, particularly after year 2.000, when the new President began to use the authority, guaranteed to him by the “Yeltsin’s Constitution”? What happened to the major constitutional rights and freedoms and how the very basic democratic institutions – Parliamentarism, federalism, rule of law, freedoms of speech, assembly and association were transformed – without changing even a one word in the TEXT of the Constitution – is explored in the new book, published by State University – Higher School of Economics. Book editor and author of one of the chapters is ready to present the study, as well as to discuss with the interested audience the future transformation in the institutional design of Russian Constitution, particularly after recent changes in power balance between the office of President and Prime Minister.