



**Working together for democracy,
human rights, rule of law and security**

NEWSLETTER /// 2nd QUARTER 2021



Environmental security, see p. 8 :

- Dniester Strategic Action Plan approved by Moldova and Ukraine,
- First-responders trained to address chemical emergencies



Co-ordination and outreach; see p.11

- OSCE Secretary General visits Kyiv, meets team, project partners and stakeholders,
- Co-ordinator's team promotes sustainability and dialogue,



Promoting Rule of Law:

- Constitutional Weeks events, see p.5
- Trial Monitoring: Report on children rights in criminal justice presented see p.7

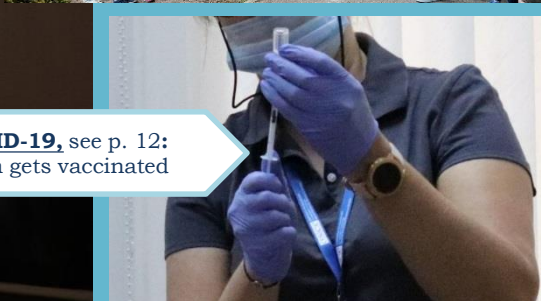


Humanitarian Demining, see p. 9-10

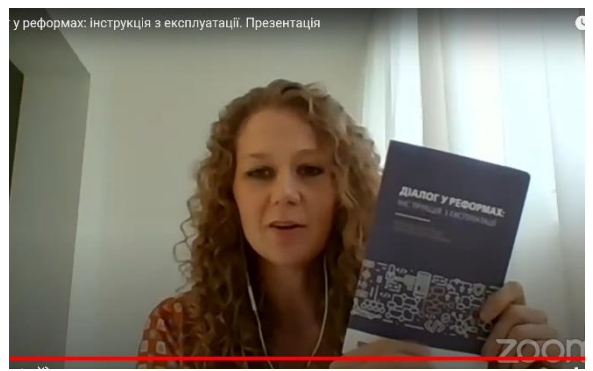
- International Mine Action Day
- Co-hosting International Symposium "Mine Action-2021" in Croatia
- Trainings for mine action agencies



COVID-19, see p. 12:
Team gets vaccinated

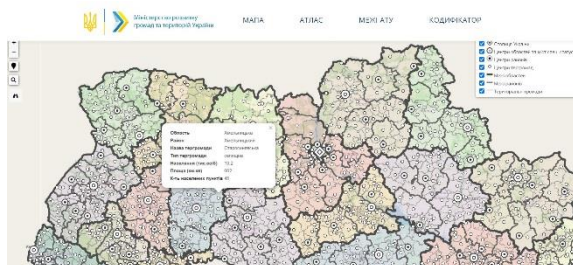


DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



ELECTIONS AND DECENTRALISATION

1 April 2021. As of last year, Ukraine's new administrative and territorial arrangement consists of 136 districts instead of 490, as was before. The next stages of the decentralization reform envisage, inter alia, creation of new subdivisions of central executive bodies, a new system of relations between them and newly established local communities, a new network of communities' common property and many other needed efforts. To support this process, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator of Ukraine helped the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine to develop the second expanded version of the Atlas of the new administrative and territorial arrangement of Ukraine, available now [online](#). [To learn more](#)



29 April 2021. Success of the decentralization reform will be assessed by how the reform helps each territorial community to succeed in developing, providing better services and improving people's quality of life.

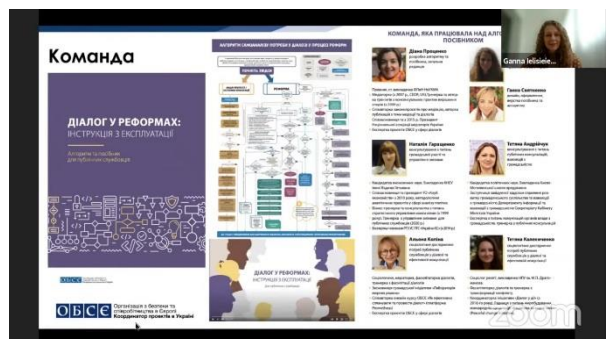
A new web-portal, developed by the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, enables visualization of capacity of each territorial community. Local self-government institutions can use the portal to make well-informed decisions based on data and set targets to achieve better development results. It will also be a valuable source of information for state administrations, mass media and general public. [To learn more](#)



5 May 2021. This year Nationwide contest "Reform of local governance and territorial organization" can serve as an additional inspiration for work for the journalists, covering decentralization reforms. Stories published by regional (oblast, rayon and local) press from 1 January to 30 September 2021 can be submitted.

The contest is organized by the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine in partnership with Council of Europe Programme "Decentralisation and reform of public administration", Internews – Ukraine and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. [To learn more](#)

DIALOGUE



13 April 2021. It will be easier for Ukraine's public servants to select the right approach to communication when they anticipate difficult arguments or already experience conflicts in implementing reforms. A set of new handy materials, developed with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, were presented at an online event: Instruction Manual on Dialogue in Reforms; Handbook for public servants (in Ukrainian) and the Algorithm for self-assessment of the need for dialogue in reforms process (in Ukrainian), accompanied by the Instruction cartoon about algorithm and handbook. [To learn more](#)



DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

23 April 2021. This year the OSCE Project Co-ordinator will support Ukraine's efforts in implementation of the nationwide media literacy project by running an information campaign, production of content for online platforms, and piloting of training programmes on media literacy and media standards for local communities. The launch of the project was announced at the presentation, organised by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy organised on 20 April 2021.

«We see the challenge for democratic societies in sustaining a sound balance when enjoying free access to information while minimizing the perils that may come with it. The role of education in this process is to enable everyone to learn, analyse and become critical to information consumption» said Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, during the presentation. [To learn more](#)

4 May 2021. Discrimination at working place, domestic violence, biased attitudes and lost opportunities – a number of social evils

originates from gender stereotypes, some of them dating back to stone ages. Media can either prolong their life and reinforce them, or help to debunk and replace with modern, equality-based attitudes and ideas. So, journalists can now switch to the Light Side with the help of a new handbook that contains a number of useful examples.

The publication “How to bring your editorial and content closer to gender sensitivity” is available for download online. [To learn more](#)

30 May 2021. In a fast lane communication world where headlines consumption push aside meaningful information, a pause for reflection is precious! Twenty four professionals in media and communications completed today four days of immersion into moderated dialogues organised by The Aspen Institute Kyiv with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in Odesa. In-depth discussion of role and impact of media on societal developments, review of works of classical and modern thinkers, experts, authors, arguments and exchange of views and experiences will empower participants to reflect on own professional development and measure values against real life challenges. [To learn more](#)

HUMAN SECURITY



phishing; basic online safety rules; email security tips; privacy and security settings of social networks and many other useful explanations are now available online. [To learn more](#)

21 May 2021. Active civic participation and readiness to contribute to problem solving definitely deserves praise and reward. 62 participants of educational online hackathon “Tsyfrogram-Bot. Reward for Questions” submitted over 400 questions and answers to strengthen a chat-bot, created to inform people of cyber hygiene rules! (The rewards to winners of the hackathon were already sent out!)

The online competition took place on 21 April – 5 May and was organized by the working group of experts from Vodafone Ukraine, Ministry of Digital Transformations, IFES Ukraine and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. [To learn more](#)

CYBERSECURITY

26 April 2021. As decentralization shifts powers from center to local level, value of cybersecurity in local authorities has increased significantly. An educational video course “Cyber Hygiene Essentials”, developed with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, is getting more accessible to public servants in newly formed communities and rayons! Now it is also available at [DESPRO's](#) online platform Community of Practices for Sustainable Development. Importance of the human factor in the security system; types of hacker attacks, malware and

2 June 2021. The first group of Ukrainian civil servants completed cyber hygiene course, developed with the support of the Project Co-ordinator. 19 participants had to pass an online course and then take a 2-days in-person training in Kyiv. This education will be included into their job history as public service qualification upgrade, with 1 ECTS of professional re-training system awarded. The event was also an occasion for the first two trainers prepared by the OSCE to receive their graduation certificates, as in addition to completion of their classroom preparation to teach civil servants, they had to confirm their ability to deliver trainings. So far, in March and May, the Co-ordinator prepared 14 trainers, who will have to teach civil servants by end of August. [To learn more](#)

HUMAN SECURITY



COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

31 May 2021. Interactive practices are very instrumental in ensuring effective joint efforts of various agencies. This is especially important for combating trafficking of human beings, where prevention or investigation of the crime and assistance to victims require co-operation of law enforcers, social workers, psychologists and civil society activists.

A three-day simulation based on scenarios of labor and sexual exploitations, organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Vinnytsia on 26-28 May 2021, opened a series of six such practical exercises that within the next two months will help build the necessary skills of officials, experts and practitioners from 10 regions of Ukraine. [To learn more](#)



REHABILITATION OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE

15 June 2021. Round Table on Psycho-social Assistance to Veterans and Families in the Territorial Communities was organised as part of a series of discussions supported by the Ministry of Veteran Affairs and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator to help communities learn about ways and opportunities of establishing mechanisms of due support to veterans and their families at local level. The purpose of the events was to help participants to learn about standards for providing such services and discuss issues of regulatory and legal support for their organization, as well as to share their experience and learn the best practices from colleagues. [To learn more](#)



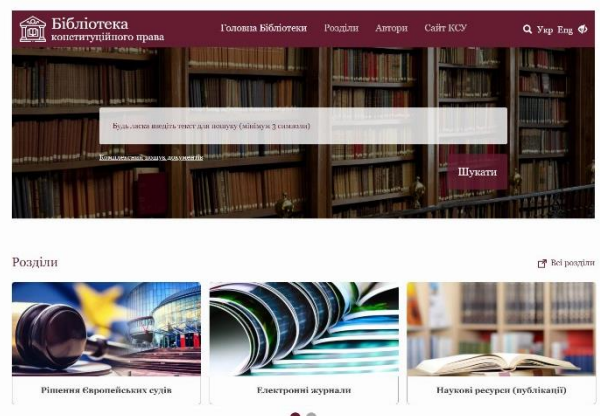
RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

29 April 2021. When and under what conditions shall women be given preference in employment if male and female candidates have equal qualifications? / How to protect the rights of a person who cannot define his / her gender identity and identify himself / herself on a permanent basis as a man or a woman? / How to ensure the right for equal remuneration for all genders in the private sector?

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine has not yet considered these and many other issues, but worldwide there have already been examples of interesting and very valuable cases for lawyers. International experience in applying constitutional mechanisms to protect social rights and ensure conditions for gender equality is now available in Ukrainian! Decisions of the bodies of constitutional jurisdiction of Belgium, Germany, the USA, France

and the Czech Republic are available at the Constitutional Law Library, created by the Project Co-ordinator for the website of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. [To learn more](#)



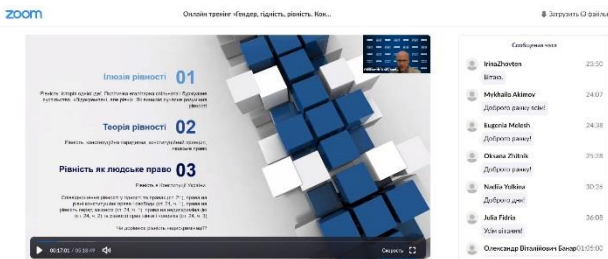
RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

14 -28 червня 2021р.

Конституційні тижні з ОБСЄ

CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

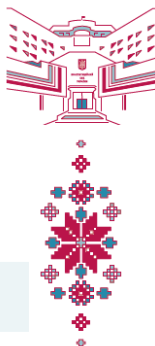
14 June 2021. On the eve of Ukraine's Constitution Day, marked on 28 June 2021, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator launched Constitutional Weeks – 2021 supporting a number of events that enable legal professionals, academia, civil society discuss practical ways of how constitutional justice can better serve as a tool to protect human rights. [To learn more](#)



22 June 2021. Prominent legal professionals, Ukrainian and international, gathered on Tuesday, 22 June 2021, for the International Conference “Constitutional Democracy in Context of the Territorial Integrity and National Security Threats”, organized by OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Law Faculty of Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Ukrainian Magazine on Constitutional Justice. [To learn more](#)

КОНСТИТУЦІЯ 1996 РОКУ: УКРАЇНА В СИСТЕМІ КООРДИНАТ ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОГО КОНСТИТУЦІОНАЛІЗМУ

Київ | 24 червня 2021 року



25 June 2021. Decentralization reforms reshuffles powers and relations in the country's system of governance. Will the current version of the Constitution of Ukraine and the proposed changes to it provide for all the necessary checks and balances to be in place in the end of these important transformations? This topic was covered during a traditional Constitutional Café Discussion that took part on 25 June 2021. [To learn more](#)



Серія подій до Дня Конституції
ZOOM / YouTube / Наживо

ОБСЄ Організація за безпеку та співробітництво в Європі
Координатор проєктів в Україні



20 June 2021. Do you feel you are being discriminated and your constitutional rights are violated? Constitutional complaint can be an effective tool for combating discrimination and protecting one's dignity.

66 human rights activists from 13 regions of Ukraine gained knowledge on the practical and gender aspects of the constitutional complaint during the online training “Gender, Dignity, Equality. Constitutional Complaint as a Tool for Protection against Discrimination”, which took place on June 9-11. [To learn more](#)



24 June 2021. Approaching 25th anniversary of Ukraine's Constitution is a good occasion to review the impact of the Basic Law on the country's democratic institutions, rule of law system, state of human rights protection. The international conference “Constitution of 1996: Ukraine in the Datum of the European Constitutionalism” that started on 24 June 2021 provided discussion grounds for Ukrainian and international officials and legal professionals to revisit the history of the Constitution and brainstorm of ways to enhance tools and mechanisms of constitutional justice. [To learn more](#)



RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



LEGAL & HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

7 April 2021. More than 12,000 educators already received certificates of completion of the online course "Human Rights in Education Environment", launched by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine jointly with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine two years ago. These certificates are recognised by the Ministry as professional retraining. [To learn more](#)

15 April 2021. With the rapid growth of online and distance education, children and youth tend to spend more time on the Internet studying, learning and socializing. Development of competencies for safe behaviour on the Internet, protection of child's rights and human rights in today's digital world becomes crucial as never before.

To help educators design and conduct training and awareness-raising activities on online safety and security, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine supported the development of a new education guide "Online". The guide contains training materials and exercises for children and youth focused on respecting and protecting human rights online, maintaining health when working with digital devices, participating in social and public life online, etc. [To learn more](#)

16 April 2021. In the modern world, humanity is facing new global challenges that affect everyone's life. These include the threat of global warming and environmental degradation, wars and armed conflicts, social and economic barriers that stand in the way of sustainable development. In response to these complex challenges, researchers are more frequently trying to justify the need to protect the rights not only of individuals, communities, and minorities but also the rights of humanity as a united entity.

To help Ukrainian law students learn more about these current trends in human rights theory development, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator supported the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" to publish the monograph "Rights of Humanity." It is one of the first studies on this topic in Ukraine and the world.

The study will benefit researchers, law professors, law students, and anyone interested in the international context of human rights theory and law philosophy. [To learn more](#)

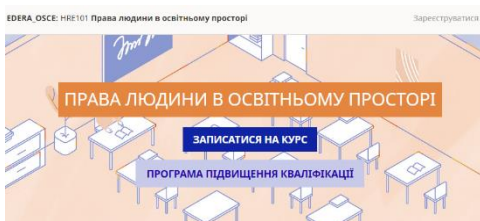
6 April 2021. Human rights sensitivity is the new trendsetter for business! Businesses around the world are increasingly focusing on the impact they have on individuals, communities, and the environment.

A number of useful recommendations in this context were elaborated as an outcome of "Business and Human Rights in the Central and Eastern Europe" discussion organized last year by Yaroslav Mudryi University with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine within the IV Kharkiv International Legal Forum. [To learn more](#)



11 May 2021. In January 2021, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) recognized the existence of human rights violations in the so-called "Maidan cases" (Shmorgunov and others v. Ukraine, Lutsenko and Verbytsky v. Ukraine, Kadura and Smaliy v. Ukraine, Dubovtsev and others v. Ukraine, Vorontsov and others v. Ukraine). In these judgments, the Strasbourg Court reemphasized the importance of respect for freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly.

These and other ECtHR decisions in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of association were studied by participants of the Sixth Inter-University School of Human Rights, organized by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine and the Council of Europe Project "Legal Education in the Field of Freedom of Expression in Ukraine" which was held from April 12 to May 18. [To learn more](#)



RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



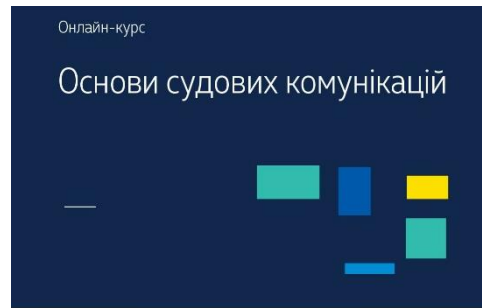
LEGAL & HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

18 May 2021. Ukraine's justice system is in the process of much needed transformations, and these changes are extremely important for gaining wider public trust to courts. Transparency of the judiciary and ability of judges to communicate are key factor of success in that. A new online educational course "The Basics of Judicial Communication", developed with the support of the Project Co-ordinator in partnership with the Supreme Court and placed at [EdEra](#) platform, will support legal professionals in gaining communication skills. [To learn more](#)

19 May 2021. To consolidate efforts aimed at introduction of the modern international standards in the higher education quality assurance area and advancing human-rights-based approach in higher education institutions is the main purpose of the Memorandum on Understanding and Co-operation signed today in Kyiv by Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and Serhiy Kvit, Head of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance. The document builds upon existing fruitful co-operation and defines strategic directions and areas for future joint activities of the Co-ordinator and the National Agency. [To learn more](#)

20 May 2021. Legal clinics are a good tool to give students of law practical experience by giving free consultations to people who cannot afford practicing lawyers. That is why the Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine with the Project Co-ordinator's support performs regular monitoring of their work to raise quality standards of providing consultations, legal educational events and other activities. For example on the outcomes of the monitoring, performed this month a legal clinic of Sumy National University received a set of useful recommendations on how to improve its work, notably, to include Legal Clinical Education course into curricula in order for students to gain step-by-step guidance for legal consulting, drafting legal documents, etc. [To learn more](#)

17 June 2021. The Project Co-ordinator in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Science and leading Ukrainian law schools will present Constitutional Law textbook. Six prominent national experts in the area of Constitutional law developed the textbook with the PCU's support. It covers constitutionalism, human rights, democracy, constitutional implementation and other important topics. [To learn more](#)



TRIAL MONITORING

27 April 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has created considerable challenges for the functioning of courts during states of emergency, curfews and lockdowns. The rapid growth of videoconferencing and the use of other IT solutions in courts, ensuring fair trial rights while conducting remote hearings, ensuring health and safety of judges, court staff and users of judicial procedures – these are just some of the highlights of the new [OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights \(ODIHR\)](#) report "The functioning of courts in the COVID-19 pandemic". With the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the report is now available in Ukrainian, and can be of use for Ukraine's justice sector stakeholders. [To learn more](#)



20 May 2021. To strengthen the capacity of civil society to conduct trial monitoring of cases concerning minor's rights in line with international practices, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in co-operation with the Ombudsperson conducted a training with the special focus on advocacy component for policies or practices that can yield a more human rights compliant and effective justice system. [To learn more](#)



1 June 2021. On average, in Ukraine the judicial review of a criminal case involving a minor takes 4,5 to 5 years, or even longer, to complete. Multiple interrogations, lack of psychological support, lengthy proceedings, these are just a few of the problems children face in Ukraine's criminal justice system according to a new OSCE-supported report presented on 1 June 2021. The report comprises the results of civil society research conducted upon the initiative of Ukraine's Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and with support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. [To learn more](#)

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



CHEMICAL SECURITY

17 April 2021. 15 specialists of the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Donetsk Oblast received knowledge and skills needed to use equipment of the mobile chemical identification laboratory previously donated to the Service by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

The training, including the intensive 3-day theoretical and practical course, together with provided equipment will raise preparedness of the region's first responders to rapidly identify potentially hazardous substances on emergency site. [To learn more](#)

30 June 2021. Accidents with hazardous substances are fast-paced and difficult to control, they can have far-reaching and dramatic consequences for people and the environment. High professional qualities of the first-responders are critical to avoid environmental damage and save lives.

36 professionals of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine enhanced knowledge and skills to respond efficiently to chemical incidents in an intensive 3-day training organized by the OSCE-Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine on 22-24 June at the Interregional Center for Humanitarian Demining and Rapid Response in Vatutine, Kharkiv oblast. [To learn more](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

9 April 2021. On 31 March 2021, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine signed a statement on the approval of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to ensure 8 million inhabitants of the Dniester river basin between the two countries will benefit from the countries' joint efforts to improve and ensure environmentally sound use of water and other natural resources and ecosystems in the region.

The SAP for the Dniester River Basin for 2021-2035 was developed through a project by the Global Environmental Facility and the United Nations Development Programme, which was implemented by the OSCE in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. [To learn more](#)



22 April 2021. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis to identify main problems of the Dniester River Basin; continuous dialogue with the Dniester Commission — an intergovernmental body for the sustainable use and protection of the Dniester River; impact analysis of recreational fishing on the river's resources; identified areas prone to flood risks; and approved by the two countries Strategic Action Programme from 2021 to 2035 — these are some of the outcomes of the Global Environment Facility project 'Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester river basin' implemented with OSCE and UN support. They were officially presented at an online meeting of representatives of the governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, international organizations, academia, business and NGOs. [To learn more](#)

30 April 2021. As the world commemorates the 35th anniversary of Chernobyl disaster this week, Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, and Mark Etherington, Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission visited the Exclusion Zone on 29 April 2021. They learnt about challenges and efforts of 2792 people working nowadays to ensure safety of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, including those related to maintenance of its New Safe Confinement, and paid tribute to the memory of disaster responders.

In previous years the OSCE was providing project assistance to emergency personnel, working in the Exclusion Zone, notably by helping to map dangerous forest zones for the work of firefighters, assisting in improvement of the cross-border cooperation of emergency agencies in dealing with forest fires. [To learn more](#)

13 May 2021. Situation analysis and realistic plans of response are extremely important for prevention of disasters that can cause long-term harm to people's health and environment. In 2020 the OSCE Project Co-ordinator helped to perform in-depth analysis of state of storages of industrial waste of four enterprises in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Authorities and businesses received detailed reports with modelling of various scenarios, as well as recommendations for actions to minimize risks and plan operations should those risks materialize. A brief summary of these reports is now available at our website in Ukrainian [here](#). [To learn more](#)



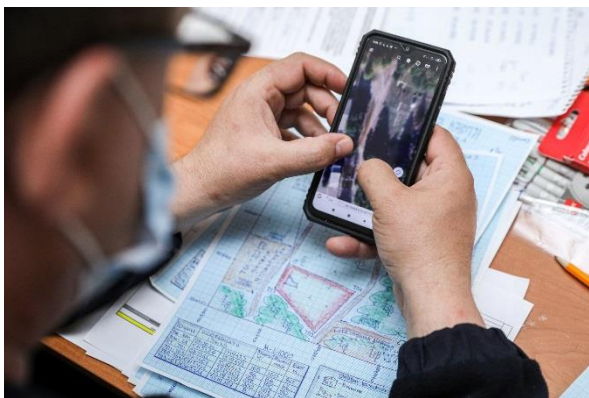
ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



MINE ACTION

2 April 2021. OSCE's assistance to Ukraine is multi-layered and comprehensive: the [OSCE SMM - Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine](#) monitors the security situation and facilitates dialogue to resolve humanitarian issues on the ground, the Project Co-ordinator provides practical support to institutions in resolving challenges, the Organization's Chair-in-Office co-ordinates efforts and manages discussions on how to resolve the current crisis. With different tasks and different tools, the three entities are unanimous in highlighting the need to diminish mine and explosive ordnance risks, posed to people in conflict-affected areas. Watch the joint video statement by Tobias Tyberg, Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine on behalf of this year's Chairpersonship, Yaşar Halit Çevik, OSCE SMM Chief Monitor and Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator issued on the eve of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. [To learn more](#)

3 April 2021. For two million Ukrainians in the East of the country life is dangerous and a death roulette because of explosive remnants of war. Support efforts of mine action agencies, governmental and non-governmental, international community in highlighting the need to act against mines and UXOs. Share information about urgency of work in this sphere on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, marked tomorrow, on the 4th of April. [To learn more](#)



4 April 2021. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator helps the country's mine action agencies to prepare a regulatory system enabling large-scale humanitarian demining, offers trainings, delivers equipment and supports risk education efforts. The published video story describes the work of many Ukrainian and international organisations to help the country diminish risks, posed by unexploded remnants of war. [To learn more](#)

25 May 2021. While recently amended legislation defines the structure of mine action system in Ukraine with roles and responsibilities of all the key actors, Ukrainian mine action authorities still need to develop relevant policies, refine standards and protocols to ensure that the legislation is implemented effectively and properly. For this purpose, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) organized a National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) Revision Workshop in Zagreb, Croatia, on 17-20 May 2021. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine were able to review and discuss in-depth the discrepancies between the current law and the National Mine Action Standards with OSCE and GICHD experts, as well as with representatives of the Swedish Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Demining Centre. [To learn more](#)

9 June 2021. Clearing the land from mines and other explosive remnants of war is very costly and time-consuming activity. Thus, the process of identifying hazardous areas is extremely important for every mine-affected country. Non-technical survey (NTS) is typically the starting point for the assessment of land and its categorization as safe or hazardous areas.

To help the country's mine action agencies develop the core skills in non-technical survey, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine jointly with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) organized a two-stage course. Its theoretical part took place in Kamianets-Podilskyi on 15-20 March 2021, and on 31 May-4 June 2021 the participants completed practical training at the Interregional Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Rapid Response of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Vatutine, Kharkiv Oblast. 22 participants from the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, State Emergency Service of Ukraine, State Special Transport Service, national and international operators enhanced their understanding of how to use the tools of such survey to properly identify, gather, record and verify evidence of contamination with dangerous objects. [To learn more](#)

16 June 2021. For the first time the OSCE Project Co-ordinator joined as the co-organiser to an important international symposium in Croatia that gathers professionals in mine action, state and non-governmental agencies, equipment producers and operators from various countries in the world. The purpose of the event, annually organized by the Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training, was to exchange best practices, new approaches and technologies for all aspects of humanitarian demining. 90 professionals in mine action from 15 countries joined the 17th international Symposium "Mine Action – 2021"

This year's discussions focused on models of mine action systems, quality management of operations; possibilities provided by new technologies; impact of demining on development, economy, energy, transportation and infrastructure. [To learn more](#)



ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



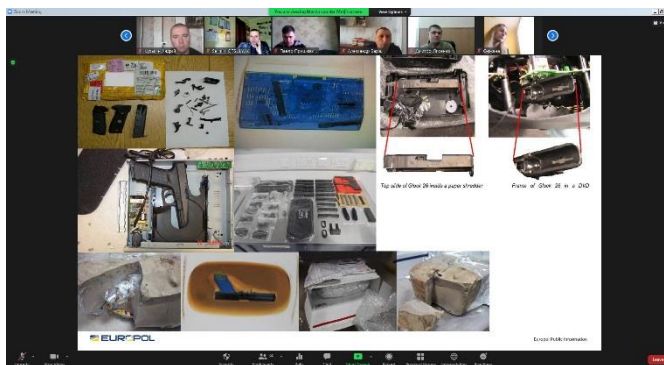
MINE ACTION

17 June 2021. Each country has a unique story of difficulties it has to overcome to make lands affected by conflict safe for local communities. However, there is one sad similarity for all of them – humanitarian demining consumes a lot of time and resources. Therefore, it is an imperative for many countries to look for financial support from donors. Special panel on donor relations gave a possibility to participants of 17th International Symposium “Mine Action – 2021” in Croatia to share their tips on how to effectively attract funding and implement projects with international support. Ambassador Tomazh Lovrencic, Head of ITF Enhancing Human Security Fund of Slovenia presented his perspective. OSCE Project Co-ordinator’s expertise in this was presented by Yaroslav Yurtsaba, head of Economic, Environmental and Politico Military Projects Programme and Miljenko Vahtaric, Technical Advisor. [To learn more](#)

18 June 2021. Honeybees have an extraordinary ability to feel and find even the smallest traces of TNT. There are already available methodologies to train them to locate mines or unexploded shells, and this is a recently new solution for the situations when you have to survey large areas that are possibly contaminated with dangerous remnants of war.

This and other innovative approaches were presented and discussed during the 17th International Symposium “Mine Action – 2021” in Croatia, co-organized by the Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. Among other topics covered – new ways to train dogs to sniff out mines, testing of machinery designed to replace humans in risky operations, use of virtual reality tools for explosive risk education. [To learn more](#)

19 June 2021. Raising awareness about threats posed by explosive remnants of war, promoting safe behaviour models can prevent accidents with mines and save lives of many civilians in conflict-affected communities. That is why, on 7–11 June, 2021 the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine jointly with the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action in Ukraine (FSD) held a training for Ukrainian partners to help them enhance their work in the sphere of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). The event was organized at the Interregional Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Rapid Response of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Vatutine. 13 experts from the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, State Special Emergency Service of Ukraine, State Special Transport Service, Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, Ukrainian Deminers Association had an opportunity to learn fundamental principles of campaigning in endangered communities. [To learn more](#)



26 June 2021. Exchange of best practices in humanitarian demining is always useful, as it helps the involved agencies to explore new ways to better clear lands from explosive items. On 14–18 June 2021, a seminar for such an exchange was organized by the Swedish Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Demining Centre (SWEDEC) in Stockholm as part of its bilateral co-operation with Ukraine’s Ministry of Defence. The Swedish agency extended invitation to participate to other Ukraine’s state mine action agencies, with 10 participants benefitting from the visit. It was especially important for ensuring that the learnt experiences contribute to development of consistent demining programme of the country. [To learn more](#)

CONTROL OVER SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

8 April 2021. The problem of illicit cross-border trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives (WAE) requires special attention from law enforcement agencies, as well as consolidated international efforts. [#OSCE](#) provides support to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) in a number of areas, including strengthening SBGS’s capacities to combat illicit trafficking of WAE in and across Ukraine’s state border.

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine developed and implemented specialized training course for the SBGS personnel. The course addresses SBGS in-depth needs analysis in increasing personnel competence level in combating WAE smuggling. On 23 – 25 March, the fifth and the last training in the course framework was held.

[To learn more](#)

13 May 2021. Over 80 representatives from Ukraine, the donor community and international partner organizations met on 14 April to discuss co-operation and programmatic efforts in developing and implementing strategic approaches and practical measures in combating illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives (WAE). The discussion was part of a Governance board meeting of the OSCE Comprehensive Programme on “Strengthening capacities of Ukrainian authorities in preventing and combating illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives in all its aspects”.

“We stand ready to further support the Government of Ukraine and its ministries in taking necessary policy, regulatory and practical measures to address the issue of illicit trafficking in WAE head-on and comprehensively,”

said Henrik Villadsen,

the OSCE Project Co-coordinator in Ukraine.

[To learn more](#)



COORDINATION & OUTREACH



22 May 2021. OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine celebrated a vivid and colorful Vyshyvanka Weekend to mark the Vyshyvanka Day, marked in Ukraine every third Thursday of May.

[To learn more](#)

27 May 2021. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator's team welcomed in our office Helga Maria Schmid, the Secretary General of the Organization, who is visiting Ukraine. For us it was an opportunity to discuss in detail with the OSCE's top management ways to enhance project support to Ukraine's democracy and rule of law, as well as efforts to address security challenges.

The Co-ordinator is currently implementing 34 projects, both funded from the Organisation's unified budget and from additional contributions of participating States. The projects cover such topics as mine action, environmental security, cybercrime, dialogue, judicial reforms, legal education, human rights protection, elections, media freedom and civil society development and other spheres that are part of the OSCE wide comprehensive security approach. [To learn more](#)



29 May 2021. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator supports meaningful participation of youth in activities and projects across many of its spheres of work, e.g. in promotion of dialogue culture, rule of law, combating human trafficking and domestic violence. It is important that voices of the young are heard on the top political level. That is why the Co-ordinator helped to organise the meeting of young civil society leaders from Donbas with the OSCE Secretary General in Kramatorsk on Friday, 28 May 2021. Representatives of youth, including from former OSCE supported Youth Contact Group, were able to share with Helga Maria Schmid their experiences of activism, views on challenges and opportunities for development in the conflict-affected areas of Ukraine's eastern regions. [To learn more](#)



6 June 2021. Anything we do, can be done with due care for environment! A good thing to remember on World Environment Day, marked on Saturday, 5 June. An even better thing is to demonstrate that in practice! Promotion of dialogue as a tool to resolve or prevent conflicts and implement reforms is one of key areas of effort for the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The Co-ordinator's team added final touches to create a dialogue awareness corner with an environmental twist in Kyiv's Oleksandr Fomin Botanic Garden.

6 thuja trees were planted by our team and family members as a contribution to the garden's collection. They surround an artistic bench made out of 150 kilogram of recycled plastic - this is 75 thousand tops from collected bottles. The bench is equipped with a solar panel that provides renewable energy to charge phones for the garden's visitors. Another solar-power panel provides energy for the autonomous lightning system, to make light for the alley at night. [To learn more](#)



24 June 2021. ✦ Continued assistance to Ukraine in conditions of COVID-19, with due safety measures for staff and partners;

✦ Our efforts to do more FOR youth and WITH youth, including promotion human rights education in schools, opportunities of knowledge upgrade for young lawyers and possibilities to meet the OSCE Secretary General;

✦ Progress in teaching public servants to use dialogue for conflict management and reforms;

✦ Campaigns against domestic violence and trafficking in human beings;

✦ Promotion of gender-sensitive justice, including constitutional one;

✦ Assistance in developing a system of psychosocial rehabilitation and support for veterans and their families, including digital guide on providers of such services;

these and many other efforts for the past half-year period were presented today to Vienna-based Delegations of the OSCE participating States by Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. This was a first in-person report to the Permanent Council since last year's start of COVID-19 pandemic.

[To learn more](#)

OUR TEAM



As of 1 July 2021, our team consists of:

104 employees, incl.:

4 international and 100 local

68 women / 36 men



12 June 2021. COVID-19 changed our lives drastically. It definitely made it more difficult for us to implement projects that we do together with our Ukrainian partners to help strengthen the country's democracy, support rule of law and improve security. The good news was that the majority of the Co-ordinator's staff was vaccinated! We are extremely grateful **to the government of Poland** for providing vaccines and medical staff to deliver the jabs! A great share of our team's gratitude also goes to:

- ❖ the OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid,
- ❖ OSCE Secretariat in Vienna,
- ❖ OSCE Staff Committees (Nizar Zaher and Kateryna Rogovska) and
- ❖ Dr. Gerald Ripberger, OSCE Chief Medical Officer.

This is an excellent example of duty of care for the safety and security of employees and their families!

[To learn more](#)



To recognize contributions and outstanding efforts of the Project Co-ordinator's staff in 2020, the OSCE Recognition and Rewards were presented to:

- **Ms. Kateryna Rogovska**, Senior Programme Assistant
- **Ms. Liubov Kravchenko**, National Human Resources Officer
- **Ms. Vira Martyniuk**, Project Assistant
- **Mr. Sergiy Petrov**, National Project Officer
- **Ms. Yaroslava Tereshchenko**, Human Resources Assistant
- and **PCU HR Team**.



OSCE Project Co-ordinator and the team with sadness express condolences to family and friends of **Ms. Olga Ozerna, National Project Officer**, who passed away on 24 June 2021 as a result of severe illness. She was a good colleague, always responsive and willing to help, her colleagues miss her sadly. Olga was working to promote development of civil society organisations, wider and more meaningful partnership between authorities and the civil society. Her contribution was especially valuable for:

- developing National Strategies of civil society development in 2016-20 and 2021-25;
- elaboration of draft law on public consultations;
- numerous trainings delivered for civil society and authorities on use of public funds for civic initiatives and social services;
- promotion of good governance standards in civil society organisations, and other efforts.

May she rest in peace!

COMING SOON



- **2-8 August 2021.** Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law – 2021. X Summer School. [To learn more](#)
- **10-12 August 2021.** Training for Trainers on Human Rights Education. [To learn more](#)
- **10-13 August 2021.** Social Services and Psychological Assistance to Children. Summer School for Young Professionals. [To learn more](#)

ABOUT US



Download [OUR FACTSHEET](#)
to know more.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

is mandated to plan, implement, and monitor projects that help Ukraine enhance its security and develop its legislation, institutions, and practices in line with democratic standards. The goal is to support the country in adapting legislation, structures, and processes to the requirements of a modern democracy built on a secure environment for its people.

This newsletter provides a brief overview of the Co-ordinator's efforts to support ongoing reforms, promote dialogue and help the country meet crisis-related challenges.

Head of Mission

**Ambassador
Henrik Villadsen**



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E-mail us: office-pcu@osce.org

Visit us: 16 Striletska St., Kyiv, Ukraine



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