



HUMAN DIMENSION
S E M I N A R

**Promoting effective and integral justice systems:
How to ensure the independence and quality of the judiciary**

**21- 23 November 2016
Warsaw, Poland**

I N F O R M A T I O N F O R C I V I L S O C I E T Y

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV, the participating States agreed to facilitate informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and NGOs during OSCE meetings.

In line with these agreements, the OSCE invites representatives of civil society from the OSCE region having relevant work activities to the 2016 Human Dimension Seminar (HDS), to be held on the subject of “ Promoting effective and integral justice systems: how to ensure the independence and quality of the judiciary”. The seminar will take place on 21 – 23 November 2016 at the hotel Sofitel Victoria on ul. Krolewska 11 in Warsaw.

Additional information relevant to the seminar, including the annotated agenda can be found on the ODIHR website at https://www.osce.org/odihr/hds_2016.

Participants wishing to attend the meeting are requested to register online at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> latest by the **deadline of Wednesday, 16 November 2016**. Important note: registration after this date will be closed and registration on-site will not be available. Due to limited space, **up to five representatives per civil society and media** entities will be allowed to attend.

Registered participants will be able to collect their badges at the seminar’s venue as of Monday, 21 November, from 1 p.m.

Civil society participants are invited to organize side events. The booking system will be open on Monday, 7 November, at 12.00 (CET) and will be closed by Sunday, 13 November, 23:59 (CET) and it is done on a ‘first come, first served basis so participants are advised to enter the booking system immediately after the opening. No bookings will be accepted after this date. More information is available in the “Side events information” document.

Participation in the meeting is free of charge, although all travel and accommodation costs should be borne by participants. Civil society organizations are kindly requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. You can find a list of selected hotels in Warsaw on the ODIHR website.

Civil society organizations will have equal access to the speakers' list at the Working Sessions of the Seminar in order to make relevant interventions and concrete recommendations.

Civil society organizations may display information materials about their organizations on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents through the Documents Distribution System, in accordance with special guidelines that will be available on the website prior to the event. Written statements and recommendations can also be forwarded in advance to hds@odihhr.pl. In addition, a "computer room" will be available for the duration of the Seminar.

Additional information on the meeting such as agenda, annotated agenda and general information concerning the modalities and logistics (incl. venue, schedule, seating, interpretation, guidelines for debate, interpretation and distribution of documents) is available on the OSCE website at: https://www.osce.org/odihhr/hds_2016.

For further information about the content of the Seminar, please contact:

Overall co-ordination of meeting: Ms. Kamila Czerwinska at kamila.czerwinska@odihhr.pl or +48 22 5200 657

Programme matters: Ms. Michelle Brady at Michelle.Brady@odihhr.pl or +48 22 5200 703

Coordination of side events: Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski at ireneusz.stepinski@odihhr.pl or +48 22 5200 658

Registration of participants: Ms. Anna Sierant at hdmeetings@odihhr.pl or +48 22 5200 627

Distribution of documents: hds@odihhr.pl