

working together for democracy, human rights, rule of law and security

NEWSLETTER /// 3rd Quarter of 2020



Head of Mission



Ambassador Henrik Villadsen

Staffing



99 posts (UB and XB):

4 international and 95 local 63 women / 36 men

Newsletter Source:



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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.

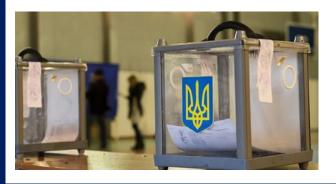
This newsletter provides a brief overview of the Co-ordinator's efforts to support ongoing reforms, promote dialogue and help the country meet crisis-related challenges.

DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



ELECTIONS

- 13 July 2020. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator provided expert assistance to the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories in elaboration of improvements for the Election Code for due and proportional representation of citizens' interests in local self-governance. These proposals together with analytical conclusions are summed up in an article "Election Code: How to Balance Representation of Communities?", prepared by a group of experts involved in this work. To learn more
- 28 August 2020. As Ukraine prepares for local elections scheduled for 25 October this year, the OSCE Project Coordinator started to upload materials on the online system Vyborkom to provide training opportunities for people administering electoral process at various levels. The process of forming territorial election commissions for villages and city rayons was completed on 25 August 2020, and the precinct commissions will form by 9 October. Nearly half a million commission members will assume responsibility for organizing elections in line with Ukrainian legislation and international standards of free and fair vote. To learn more
- 8 September 2020. Before the local elections in October, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine invited territorial election commissioners to master e-governance tools that can make their work easier and more efficient. From 22 September till 2 October 2020, a series of presentations of e-Cabinet for election commissioners, developed with the support from the OSCE PCU, took place in six locations across the country. The e-Cabinet enables TECs to input, process and transmit data— from information about electoral districts to tabulation of voting results. To learn more





CIVIL SOCIETY

- 21 July 2020. The Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine announced the launch of the drafting the National Strategy for Civil Society Development for 2021-2025. This framework document helps with policy-making that fosters engagement of civil society organizations and citizens into the decision-making processes, it further nurtures necessary environment for sustainable civil society development. To support the strategy development, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine will:
- \checkmark organize a series of regional discussions across the country to better reflect the current needs of the civil society sector;

To learn more

- **22 September 2020.** Over 550 activists learnt about ways to introduce good governance standards into the work of civil society organizations at a series of 8 seminars organized by the OSCE PCU in partnership with Isar Ednannia, the Office of the President of Ukraine and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The seminars were held in the regions and in Kyiv on 7-22 September 2020.
- "The energy of civil society can greatly enhance state policies at all levels. However, being a reliable partner means also a greater level of responsibility and transparency," said Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, OSCE Project Co-ordinator, at a press-conference, organized in Kyiv to sum-up the effort. To learn more
- 25 September 2020. Good governance in non-governmental sector is the fuel that can accelerate development of civil society organisations, enhance trust and widen support of their efforts, and provide access to public funding opportunities. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator, Isar Ednannia, Ukrainian Charity Forum, and Ukrainian Charity Foundation announced a call for applications for CSOs that want to benefit from practical support in introducing good governance into their practices. Till the end of the year, prominent experts will be providing advice and assistance in developing codes of conduct, structural changes in management, transparency practices, necessary procedures and frameworks. To learn more

DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



DIALOGUE

- 6 August 2020. Dialogue helps bridging differences and managing discussions on conflict-prone issues. OSCE PCU has compiled a page with useful resources on dialogue training and other educational materials developed by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine: https://bit.ly/2DjaacZ. One can use them to teach how to organize dialogues; to develop skills of dialogue stakeholders to lead constructive dialogue; and to manage conflicts in different contexts. To learn more
- **12 August 2020.** Decentralization reform, establishment of an amalgamated territorial community, adoption of a local budget, defining the strategic development directions these important decisions could be easily blocked with conflicts.

We have compiled on our website a collection of resources, methodological tools, and materials developed with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator to promote the use of dialogue as a tool for managing discussion about difficult or divisive issues for the wellbeing of communities. To learn more

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT



- **27-29 August 2020.** Event: "Digital Tools for Local Media" Module of the three-module's school for independent regional media. To learn more
- **10-12 September 2020.** Event: Media as a dialogue platform for discussion of community-related challenges: 2nd module of the school for independent regional media. **To learn more**





- 11 September 2020. "Excessive limitation of media freedoms may in the end undermine all other freedoms, so we are advocating for self-regulation among journalists. I do believe that journalists can themselves address a number of things that are arising or may arise from bad practices in media. Establishing and promoting high standards for work of media, identifying and publicly exposing the "black sheep" among the community is in fact a powerful tool to deal with most grievances that serve as a reason for limitations for work of media professionals," Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine welcomes participants of Donbas Media Forum at the event opening in Kyiv. To learn more
- 12 September 2020. The ability of the journalistic community to analyze its mistakes, to admit and correct them, to identify and condemn bad examples of media work, but at the same time to find and support best practices this is called media self-regulation, the mechanism that is useful not only for community development but also to avoid increased regulation from the Government. On September 11 a presentation of a research on journalists' perceptions of self-regulation and discussion of its prospects took place during the panel discussion "Self-regulation: where we are and where to move next" at the Donbas Media Forum 2020. Video recording of the discussion is available here.





HUMAN SECURITY



COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

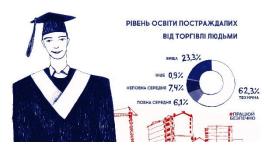
14 July 2020. The 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report issued by the US Department of State in July demonstrates a wide range in geography and ways Ukrainians fall victims of modern slavery. That is why every year the OSCE PCU supports information campaign to promote safe practices that would help job-seekers to avoid situation of trafficking. This year, in partnership with Ministry of Social Policy, IOM Ukraine and NGO A21 Ukraine we launched Facebook and Instagram pages #Працюйбезпечно (Work Safely) to share tips and stories that will help people to know their rights and opportunities in case of labour exploitation. To learn more

Work Safe 2020! Campaign page is also available at our website: https://www.osce.org/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/458293



20 July 2020. It's a dangerous myth to believe that only uneducated people can become victims of trafficking in human beings. According to the IOM, most of Ukrainians who suffered have university diplomas or professional technical education.

OSCE PCU called upon everybody to join the information campaign it organized in partnership with Ministry of Social Policy, IOM Ukraine and NGO A21 Ukraine to share the content to help others avoid situation of a victim of traffickers! To learn more





20 July 2020. Trafficking of human beings often starts from a contact with a fraudulent recruiter or an employment agency. There are some tips that can help you recognize and avoid this trap.

★An agent has neither a license nor an office ★He\she asks to pay for services in cash and in advance ★Your health or knowledge of language of destination country is not important ★Offered salary is too good to be true.

This is part of campaign supported by the OSCE PCU in partnership with Ministry of Social Policy IOM Ukraine and NGO A21 Ukraine. To learn more



22 July 2020. Trafficking in human being is known to be a transnational crime; however, it is not an unusual risk to get into a situation of slavery while being at home without any travels abroad. As part of the #Працюйбезпечно campaign supported by the OSCE PCU in partnership with Ministry of Social Policy IOM Ukraine and NGO A21 Ukraine, PCU offers an opportunity to learn safety rules from stories of people who suffered from criminals.

To learn more



26 July 2020. To mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July 2020, the OSCE PCU together with Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, IOM Ukraine and the NGO A21 Ukraine organized an open-air exhibition entitled "Expectations vs Reality" in Kyiv.

The exhibition presents nine stories of people who suffered from various forms of human trafficking, so that visitors can learn more about the nature and impact of this crime. It will be on display for two weeks in Kyiv, before travelling across the country and being exhibited in the country's 17 regional centres by mid-December. To learn more

HUMAN SECURITY



COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

13 August 2020. It was the concluding day of our Summer School for Advanced Studies of Trafficking in Human Beings. 15 participants from across Ukraine were selected among those who participated in our previous summer and winter schools – based on their willingness to work with and engagement in the anti-trafficking topic.

Three days of intensive practical training covered, among other things, modern challenges of social work and crisis management, as well as the interaction and co-operation between police and social services when identifying and providing assistance to victims of traffickers. To learn more

22 July 2020. Ongoing decentralization reform in Ukraine defines new responsibilities and ways of functioning for authorities at various levels. However complex, this process should not undermine the established measures for preventing trafficking in human beings and for assisting the victims of this crime. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in partnership with the IOM-Ukraine has been supporting National Referral Mechanism (NRM) — a cooperation framework between local and central authorities, social workers, law enforcers, health care providers, and civil society for identifying victims of trafficking and providing them comprehensive assistance.

A round table organized by the Co-ordinator in Vinnytsia on 10 September 2020 concluded this year's series of 12 events in different regions to bring together existing participants of the NRM and representatives of newly established amalgamated communities to identify and discuss practical arrangements for joint and systemic antitrafficking efforts. To learn more





ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

4 July 2020. A new comprehensive distance-learning course on response to domestic violence, developed by the OSCE PCU in partnership with EdEra online education studio, was handed over to the Academy of Patrol Police in Kyiv. The use of this course will contribute to better police response to domestic violence; moreover, expansion of distance-learning capacities is also instrumental in the conditions of COVID-19 pandemic. **To learn more**

26 August 2020. Participants of the 2020 Summer School for future social service providers and psychologists followed step-by-step the path of providing assistance for domestic violence victims, using practical examples. The OSCE PCU organized the Summer School on 19-21 August in Tatariv (Ivano-Frankivsk region). Interactive and creative sessions helped young specialists and students – future social workers from across Ukraine – to learn the intricacies of domestic violence-related legislation, the practices of dealing with such cases, and approaches for identifying the victims. **To learn more**

GENDER EQUALITY

1 July 2020. This year marks 20th anniversary of a landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building. An important instrument to implement "Women, Peace and Security" agenda is a National Action Plan, a document that outlines practical steps that should be undertaken in a particular country. In winter this year the OSCE conducted a comparative research on how those plans are being developed, introduced and implemented by the Organization's participating States with a focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia and Ilkraine

The Co-ordinator also produced a Ukrainian translation of the report "Implementing Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the OSCE Region", which is now available online here: *https://www.osce.org/uk/secretariat/455623.

To learn more

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS







CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

3 August 2020. The constitutional complaint mechanism provides an opportunity for anyone to appeal directly to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine if they believe the law applied in the final court decision in their case does not comply with the Constitution of Ukraine.

To explore the possibilities of using this tool in practice to protect social rights, as well as to study gender aspects of the constitutional complaint, the Project Co-ordinator organized an open 3-day online training on 29-31 July. Among 70 participants from 15 regions of Ukraine, there were human rights activists, representatives of legal clinics, non-governmental organizations, public authorities, lawyers, academics and students. To learn more

- 8 August 2020. Crisis as a theme has become a crosscutting feature of many public communications in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic and the transformation of "normality" caused by the anti-coronavirus measures triggered profound transformations in the modern society and state. How will the current social crisis affect democracy, human rights, and constitutionalism? What trajectories the modern state, society, and international rule of law will follow? These and other questions are addressed in a lecture by Oleksandr Vodiannikov, Legal Adviser of the OSCE PCU, during the 10th Constitutional Law Summer School held in August 2020. To learn more
- 17 September 2020. Two fundamental legal disciplines philosophy of law and constitutional justice are brought together in a publication by Prof. Oksana Hryshchuk published with the support of the OSCE PCU. The book that will be useful for scholars, judges and other legal practitioners can be downloaded here: https://www.osce.org/uk/project-coordinator-in-ukraine/463419. To learn more



CRIMINAL JUSTICE, ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

- 22 August 2020. Catching a corrupt official red-handed is a tricky task that requires solid legal clearances to ensure that the investigation results in a justified conviction. Officers from investigative and operative departments of the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) could learn these and other practical tools for fighting corruption during our two training events on "Investigating Cases of Corruption and Abuse of Authority by Law Enforcement Officers" on 21 and 22 August. To learn more
- 4 September 2020. One of the key elements of public trust in the law enforcement system is an effective system of prevention and punishment of wrongdoings for those who work in it, especially for such crimes as torture and ill-treatment of citizens. To support mechanisms of response to those crimes, on 3-4 September 2020 the OSCE Project Co-ordinator organized two 1-day seminars in Odesa for officers of State Bureau of Investigation on ways of dealing with abuse of power by law enforcers. Forty employees of the SBI had a chance to learn about international best practices, discuss Ukrainian experience in this sphere and review legal aspects of due investigation. To learn more
- 14 September 2020. What actions should be undertaken if law enforcers do not include the record of criminal charges into the unified roster of pre-trial investigations; how much time the corruption suspect may take to study the criminal case materials; when and how the permission for the search in advocate's premises may be granted; when the court can hear the case if the prosecution or defence do not show up these and many other issues were in focus of review by the participants of a round table organized jointly by the OSCE PCU and the High Anti-Corruption Court on 10 September 2020. To learn more

17 September 2020.

- ${\mathscr C}$ Draft introduction to the new Criminal Code elaborated by the Working Group on Development of Criminal Justice;
- ⋄ Discussions on ways to ensure that procedure is not an obstacle but a safeguard of criminal justice;
- ✓ Disputes on what Ukraine wins and loses from competition of criminal justice agencies and how to promote their co-operation; Spotlight on digital evidence in pre-trial investigation.

The discussions of these and other topics of the 6th Lviv Forum of Criminal Justice, organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator were streamed online on 17-18 September 2020. To learn more

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS





LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

3 July 2020. Estonian and Lithuanian agencies for higher education quality assurance expressed their support and readiness to help their Ukrainian colleagues in the elaboration of recommendations on introducing relevant internal systems for quality in Ukrainian educational institutions. This cooperation was launched at online meetings with these agencies, organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine recently for the country's National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA). **To learn more**

14 August 2020. Schools play a central role in forming young people's practical skills and attitudes that empower them to enjoy and exercise their rights, as well as respect and uphold the rights of others. This week 25 teachers and representatives of pedagogical retraining institutions from across Ukraine participated in a 3-day tailored online training to be able to promote human rights education in schools. To learn more

21 August 2020. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has approved new requirements for a Master's degree programme in law, developed with the assistance of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The order issued by the Ministry, on 17 August 2020, enacts the use of the Standard of Higher Education for speciality no. 081 "Law" at Master's degree level, making it applicable starting from the 2020/2021 academic year. The document set the requirements to provide the due quality of Masters Programmes. The OSCE PCU facilitated expert discussions for the elaboration of the Standard in 2019 and provided experts to finalize its text. To learn more

24 September 2020. Corporate sector can become a driving force for better protection of human rights through own strict compliance with laws, preventing or addressing adverse impacts of their entrepreneurship, as well as through supporting social responsibility initiatives. the OSCE Project Co-ordinator organized the online streaming of the discussion "Business and Human Rights in Central and Eastern Europe" as part of Kharkiv International Legal Forum. To learn more

23 September 2020. Event: Teaching Administrative Law in the Light of New Legal Education Standards.

Given the development of new standards in legal education (bachelor's and master's), improvement of approaches to conducting the Unified Professional Entrance Exam for the Law Master's Degree (UPEE), and piloting the Unified State Qualification Exam in Law (USQE), the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine together with other partners organizes public discussion on new approaches to teaching Administrative Law. To learn more

23 September 2020. Representatives of 20 legal clinics learned about the main provisions of the standards for bachelor's and master's degree in Law, developed with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Participants of the Autumn Forum of the Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine "Potential of legal clinics in the modernization of legal education" discussed the main provisions of these standards and their impact on the development of legal clinical education in Ukraine. The forum took place in Kyiv on 17-18 September. To learn more





RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



TRIAL MONITORING

17 July 2020

- ✓Developing the capacity of the civil society and the Secretariat of Ukraine's Parliamentary Commissioner on Human Rights to perform monitoring of court trials in line with international best practices and methodologies;
- Strengthening the parliamentary control over the respect of the rights of the child, including free expression, protection against discrimination and all forms of violence and abuse:
- Supporting observance of the rights of citizens to information, also in view of challenges posed by global digitalization.

These are key novelty spheres established in the new version of Memorandum of Co-operation signed today in Kyiv by Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and Liudmyla Denisova, Parliamentary Ombudsperson. To learn more

30 September 2020. Children can come into contact with the justice system in many different ways - as witnesses, offenders or victims. It is equally important that a system they encounter understands and respects both their rights and their unique vulnerability.

To promote adherence to child-friendly justice standards in criminal proceeding and administrative offences cases, the Project Co-ordinator helps officials and civil society master trial monitoring tools and methodologies, that can help analyse the state of affairs and produce recommendations for improvements. On 28-30 September 2020 the Co-ordinator organised a training for 20 civil activists, Ombudsperson's staff and representatives of the Ministry of Justice. To learn more

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GENDER IN JUSTICE

27 August 2020. To advance gender-responsive justice sector, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine helps the National School of Judges to incorporate gender aspects into its judicial training programmes and supports the School in maintaining and expanding its network of gender focal points in courts. On 19-21 August, 12 judges – members of the network – received a tailored advanced training in Kyiv to strengthen their competencies in gendersensitive justice delivery. To learn more

SIGN UP to OSCE PCU's YOU TUBE CHANNEL to follow discussions on major aspects of legal reforms in Ukraine



International Forum on the caselaw of the ECHR



Lviv Forum of Criminal Justice



Select discussions within
International Kharkiv Legal Forum

And more ...

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



MINE ACTION

20 August 2020. Making the conflict-affected areas safe from mines and explosive remnants of war is a very complex and long-term endeavour. Comprehensive media coverage of mine action issues can support efforts to raise awareness of people about safe behaviour in those areas. Such coverage is also important in the context of ongoing elaboration of solid regulatory framework that would ensure effective and co-ordinated work of all actors, local and international organizations. That is why the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine organized a three-days press tour on humanitarian demining to Kramatorsk and Sloviansk in Donetsk Oblast for 12 media professionals from across Ukraine on 18-20 August 2020. To learn more.

23 September 2020. Impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian demining in Ukraine was in focus of the round table, organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Kramatorsk. The event gathered officials from the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, the Ministry for Reintegration of temporary occupied territories of Ukraine, local administrations, international organizations, civil society, business and agriculture holdings. To learn more







CONTROL OVER SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

26 September 2020. The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine experts deepened their knowledge in the field of criminal analysis with the support of the OSCE. On 24–25 September, 30 criminal analysis experts from State Border Guard Service of Ukraine from different regions, including 8 female representatives, attended specialized online training on the use of criminal analysis in combatting illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives (WAE).

They improved their knowledge and practical skills in using various ICT tools and techniques in searching for specific data on the Internet, as well as in information analysis; learned best practices in identifying indicators of illicit trafficking in WAE in Dark Net – a deliberately hidden content cluster in the Internet that the criminal elements often use. To learn more.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

29 September 2020. Nowadays, there is a growing pressure on governments and business institutions alike worldwide to improve controls over financial flows to prevent criminals from legalizing and using proceeds from their illegal activity. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator jointly with the State Financial Monitoring Service organised an online seminar on 24-25 September 2020 to help about 180 representatives of law-enforcement and regulatory bodies, private sector practitioners enhance their knowledge of international tools to prevent money-laundering. To learn more.



ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

9 July 2020. Tailings storage facilities (TSFs), reservoirs for industrial waste, are among the high-hazard objects that pose threat to water resources of Ukraine. They require special attention in the context of the situation in the heavily industrialized Donbas, where the ongoing hostilities increase risks of industrial accidents.

In 2019, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection examined the state of such storage facilities of three enterprises located in the most vulnerable conflict-affected areas of the region. The research produced recommendations for systematic improvements of environmental and technogenic safety, preventing risks of emergencies and reducing the threats of water pollution in the region. To learn more

16 July 2020. While Ukrainian part of the Carpathians is recovering from recent floods, environmental challenges and risks in the region are not subsiding. Local tailing storage facilities – pools of water with industrial waste – have been an issue in the Dniester river basin for quite a while, and high waters made this issue an urgent one, as flooding puts additional pressure on dams that prevent chemicals from going into rivers.

This month, a joint GEF/UNDP/OSCE/UNECE project on transboundary co-operation and sustainable water management has completed a large-scale inventory of 31 tailing storage facilities in the Dniester basin, which contain over 160 million tons of waste of with hazard class ranging from II to IV. Comprehensive research conducted in 2018-2020 produced an inventory, along with reports on each enterprise and recommendations for action. The findings will be forwarded to operators of the storage facilities and to the competent authorities of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. To learn more.



4 August 2020. Water quality monitoring is a prerequisite for effective planning and management of water resources. Chemical state of the Siverskyi Donets River in Eastern Ukraine is particularly vulnerable due to significant industrial pressures and unstable situation associated with the armed conflict. Specialists from the Water Monitoring Laboratory in Sloviansk completed a five-day practical training on gas chromatography water testing, organized with the support of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. To learn more.

28 September 2020. The GEF Dniester Project, implemented with the support of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, invited Environmental activists, experts, civil society, business and all other interested stakeholders in Moldova and Ukraine to contribute to the development of a realistic and good-quality Strategic Action Programme for the Dniester River Basin by providing comments on the draft document that will serve as guidance for the governments of the two countries in making sure the basin's environmental situation improves for the benefit of people. To learn more.



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