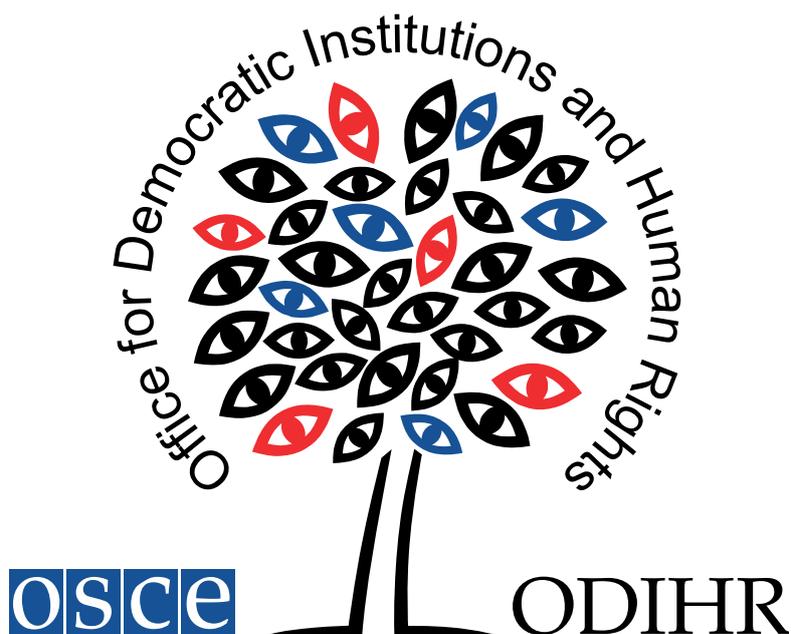


SEMINAR
STRENGTHENING LINKS BETWEEN CIVIL
IDENTIFICATION AND CIVIL REGISTRATION IN UKRAINE

Kyiv, Ukraine

7 November 2017

ODIHR Meeting Report



Warsaw
December 2017

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SEMINAR

STRENGTHENING LINKS BETWEEN CIVIL IDENTIFICATION AND CIVIL REGISTRATION IN UKRAINE

MEETING SUMMARY

The OSCE Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) organized a seminar “Strengthening links between civil identification and civil registration in Ukraine” on 7 November 2017 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The seminar aimed to contribute to developing shared understanding by the State Migration Service of Ukraine (SMS) and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine (MoJ) of the importance of continued co-operation to ensure a holistic national approach to identity management. The seminar also marked the completion of the ODIHR’s assistance to the State Migration Service in improving the framework for issuance of travel documents and national identity cards, provided from 2015 to 2017. In this period ODIHR provided expertise for improving procedures for issuance of travel documents in order to support the SMS in meeting EU criteria for visa free travel and increasing SMS efficiency through internal restructuring. This technical assistance was also provided with a view to support ongoing efforts by the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) on Roma access to identity documents in Ukraine.

The meeting was structured in three working sessions (please see Annex I for the agenda), in which participants explored: strengthening co-operation between the state-wide demographic register and the national civil register; good practices in identity management in the OSCE region; and how to ensure a uniform approach to applications for identity cards and travel documents.

The Chairman of the SMS provided an overview of ongoing developments within the SMS on improvements to the framework for issuance of travel documents. Part of these efforts relates to continued co-operation with the MoJ to improve the national framework for identity management. He acknowledged the value of ODIHR assistance provided in this area, highlighting the technical expertise provided from 2015 to 2017 which contributed to shaping a wide range of internal SMS policies, including legislative proposals that helped improve systems for issuance of travel documents and national identity cards. The SMS co-operation with ODIHR was also useful in highlighting the importance of developing specific policies aimed at addressing obstacles vulnerable categories of population can encounter when applying for a national identity card or travel document.

The Deputy Minister of Justice also acknowledged that the co-operation between the MoJ and the SMS is important for issuance of identity documents, emphasizing her full support for the ongoing discussions between the two agencies aimed at establishing technical conditions for electronic data exchange.

ODIHR presented findings and recommendations from the assessment of the prospects for improving data sharing between the State Civil Register administered by the MoJ and the SMS undertaken on the request of the Ministry of Interior. The assessment underlined the need for the SMS to verify applicants' personal data in the State Civil Register to ascertain accuracy of these data. This verification process is important for achieving the goal of having correct personal data in the Unified State Demographic Registry, including on the travel documents and national identity cards. Verifications should be conducted in the civil registration records on birth, change of name/surname, marriage, divorce and death.

Participants were further reminded that about 600 SMS local offices across Ukraine are authorised to issue identity documents and register persons in the Unified State Demographic Registry, which means that all of them conduct person identification and will therefore need to have access to the data in the State Civil Register. All of these local offices should have the necessary powers and technical capacity to compile and forward data requests. It is recommended that authorised SMS officers could compile requests for data from the State Civil Register through the SMS internal centralized information system used for application processing.

In order to successfully implement the information exchange system in line with these recommendations, it was highlighted that as a first step a legal basis should be established that would allow the SMS and the MoJ to move forward with the establishment of a pilot data sharing mechanism, which could provide the basis for a future permanent system. The SMS and the MoJ were encouraged to agree on the general logic of a data-sharing mechanism and then on specific modalities of such a process, including target dates for their implementation.

SMS experts pointed out the productive and frequent contacts between the SMS and the State Civil Register, aimed at exploring opportunities for the establishment of a data-sharing mechanism. In this respect, a wide range of information on hardware and software systems of both agencies has already been collected. Experts from both agencies are currently exploring options for establishing interconnection or interoperability between the two systems. The findings and recommendations from the ODIHR assessment were seen as valuable in further improving the final design of the future data-sharing mechanism.

Discussions on this topic were informed by a presentation of the new ODIHR publication on identity management, and ODIHR highlighted relevant good practices of OSCE participating States in identity management elaborated in the *Compendium of Good Practices in Identity Management in the OSCE Region*¹, focussing on the prevailing trend to establish direct communication between the travel/ID issuing authorities and civil registration authorities to ensure additional verification of applicants' identity information.

ODIHR also presented the content of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the processing of applications for travel documents and national identity cards by local authorities in Ukraine that have been developed with ODIHR support during 2017. The mandatory use of these SOPs by SMS-accredited local authorities country-wide in receiving and processing applications for travel documents and identity cards will ensure that the same uniform procedures and processing rules are applied consistently across Ukraine, limiting the scope for corruption and discrimination and lowering document fraud risks.

¹ <https://www.osce.org/odihr/346906>.

Representatives of the participating civil society organization “Europe Without Barriers” underlined that their organization was a strong advocate of visa liberalization process with the EU. After visa liberalization was achieved their work has shifted towards monitoring the issuance of travel documents and promoting more user-friendly procedures for issuance of travel and identity documents. They emphasized their support of the planned improvements in the processing of such applications and expressed hopes for continued good co-operation with the authorities in improving citizens’ access to state services in Ukraine.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA



Seminar “Strengthening links between civil identification and civil registration in Ukraine”

Kyiv, 7 November 2017
Agenda

- 09:00-09:30 Registration and welcome coffee
- 09:30-09:45 **Opening remarks**
Mr. Maksym Sokoliuk, Chairman, State Migration Service of Ukraine
Ms. Christine Hirst, Deputy Head, Democratization Department, ODIHR
- 09:45-11:00 **Session I: Strengthening co-operation between state-wide demographic register and national civil register to promote holistic approach to identity management**
Ms. Dinara Pimaxova, Deputy Head of the State Migration Service
Ms. Olena Sukmanova, Deputy Head of State Registration Service under the Ministry of Justice
Mr. Giorgi Gabrielashvili, Identity Management Expert

Moderator: Mr. Zoran Đoković, Advisor on Migration and Freedom of Movement, ODIHR
- 11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:30-12:30 **Session II: Good practices in identity management from the OSCE Region**

Mr. Zoran Đoković, Advisor on Migration and Freedom of Movement, ODIH

Moderator: Mr. Ivan Dvoylenko, Director of the Informatization, Telecommunication and Information Protection Department of the SMS
- 12:30-13:30 **Lunch**
- 13:30-15:00 **Session III: Supporting uniform approach to application for identity cards and travel documents**

Mr. Giorgi Gabrielashvili, Identity Management Expert

Moderator: Ms. Kateryna Kulchytska, “Europe without barriers” civic initiative
- 15:00-15:15 **Closing remarks**
Ms. Christine Hirst, Deputy Head, Democratization Department, ODIHR
Mr. Maksym Sokoliuk, Chairman, State Migration Service of Ukraine

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



List of Participants

Mr. Maxim Sokoliuk

Head of the State Migration Service of Ukraine

Ms. Olena Sukmanova

Deputy Minister of Justice for State Registration Issues

Ms. Dina Pimakhova

First Deputy Head of the SMS

Mr. Ivan Dvoylenko

Director of the Informatization, Telecommunication and Information Protection Department of the SMS

Mr. Serhiy Donskyi

Director of the of the Organizational Protection Department of the SMS

Mr. Serhiy Gunko

Head of the Press Service of the SMS

Ms. Mariia Garnik

Deputy Director of the Citizens Inquiry, Passportization and Registration Department of the SMS

Ms. Iryna Dubikivska

Head of the Civil State Documents Registration Service at the Ministry of Justice

Mr Yuri Koshel

Head of the SMS Public Council

Ms. Iryna Sushko

Europe without Barriers

Ms. Kateryna Kulchitska

NGO Europe without Barriers

Mr. Giorgi Gabrielashvili

Identity Management Expert

Ms. Christine Hirst

Deputy Head of Democratization Department
ODIHR

Mr. Zoran Dokovic

Adviser on Migration, Freedom of Movement and Human Contacts
ODIHR

Mr. Juris Gromovs

Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser
ODIHR

ABOUT THE OSCE/ODIHR

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) is the OSCE's principal institution to assist participating States "to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to abide by the rule of law, to promote principles of democracy and (...) to build, strengthen and protect democratic institutions, as well as promote tolerance throughout society" (1992 Helsinki Summit Document). This is referred to as the OSCE human dimension.

The OSCE/ODIHR, based in Warsaw (Poland) was created as the Office for Free Elections at the 1990 Paris Summit and started operating in May 1991. One year later, the name of the Office was changed to reflect an expanded mandate to include human rights and democratization. Today it employs over 130 staff.

The OSCE/ODIHR is the lead agency in Europe in the field of **election observation**. Every year, it co-ordinates and organizes the deployment of thousands of observers to assess whether elections in the OSCE region are conducted in line with OSCE Commitments, other international obligations and standards for democratic elections and with national legislation. Its unique methodology provides an in-depth insight into the electoral process in its entirety. Through assistance projects, the OSCE/ODIHR helps participating States to improve their electoral framework.

The Office's **democratization** activities include: rule of law, legislative support, democratic governance, migration and freedom of movement, and gender equality. The OSCE/ODIHR implements a number of targeted assistance programs annually, seeking to develop democratic structures.

The OSCE/ODIHR also assists participating States' in fulfilling their obligations to promote and protect **human rights** and fundamental freedoms consistent with OSCE human dimension commitments. This is achieved by working with a variety of partners to foster collaboration, build capacity and provide expertise in thematic areas including human rights in the fight against terrorism, enhancing the human rights protection of trafficked persons, human rights education and training, human rights monitoring and reporting, and women's human rights and security.

Within the field of **tolerance** and **non-discrimination**, the OSCE/ODIHR provides support to the participating States in strengthening their response to hate crimes and incidents of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. The OSCE/ODIHR's activities related to tolerance and non-discrimination are focused on the following areas: legislation; law enforcement training; monitoring, reporting on, and following up on responses to hate-motivated crimes and incidents; as well as educational activities to promote tolerance, respect, and mutual understanding.

The OSCE/ODIHR provides advice to participating States on their policies on **Roma and Sinti**. It promotes capacity-building and networking among Roma and Sinti communities, and encourages the participation of Roma and Sinti representatives in policy-making bodies.

All ODIHR activities are carried out in close co-ordination and co-operation with OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field operations, as well as with other international organizations.

More information is available on the ODIHR website (www.osce.org/odihhr).