

# Field operations



## Eastern Europe Office in Minsk



⊙ Office in Minsk

*The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.*

*The Office, in line with its mandate, carried out programmes in the economic and environmental and human dimensions aimed at enhancing the host government's capacity in these fields. A seminar on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, a number of projects targeting the economic and environmental rehabilitation of the Chernobyl-affected areas, a campaign against domestic violence and a film festival devoted to International Human Rights Day are some examples of the Office's activities.*

### **Economic and environmental dimension activities**

#### **Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas.**

As a founding member of the *Co-operation for the Rehabilitation of Living Conditions in Chernobyl-affected areas*, a programme involving national and regional authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, the Office supported special training sessions for comprehensive agro-business development in the Chernobyl-affected areas.

**Promoting alternative and renewable sources of energy.** Under the project *Assistance in the creation of legal conditions for the usage of renewable (alternative)*

*energy sources*, the Mission organized a study tour to Sweden for national stakeholders in February, followed by a seminar in Minsk aimed at reaching a larger audience from outlying areas of Belarus.

**Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).** The Office promoted the official launch of ENVSEC in Minsk on 19 September with the release in Russian of the ENVSEC assessment report for Eastern Europe. The Office supported the trans-boundary projects on water management along the Prypiat River bordering Ukraine.

**Assisting Belarus with its commitments to the Kyoto protocol.** The Office offered two training seminars for Belarusian technical experts, in Minsk and in France, on Green Investment Schemes and Carbon Funds.

**Assisting Belarus with its commitments to the UN Convention against Corruption.** The Office, with the National Law Drafting Centre, organized a seminar on the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism in Minsk on 14 and 15 November. International financial experts from Latvia, Ukraine and the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime participated in the event.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Justice, the Office conducted a seminar on national and international legal instruments and best practices in the fight against corruption, with the participation of experts from the Council of Europe and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

## Human dimension activities

**Anti-trafficking.** The Office in Minsk continued to assist with the assessment led by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/La Strada and aimed at preparing for a national referral mechanism for victims of human trafficking.

**Gender issues.** For the second consecutive year, the Office co-sponsored an information campaign to prevent domestic violence in Belarus within the framework of the annual global initiative *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence*. This year, the campaign carried the slogan *Domestic Violence Denies Family*. It was widely covered by the media.

**Multinational Belarus.** In July, together with the Belarusian Office of the Representative for Religions and Nationalities, the Office published an updated edition of *Multinational Belarus*, in Belarusian, Russian and English. The publication provides information about cultural features, traditions and customs of ethnic groups and national minorities living in Belarus.

**Public lecture on ombudsperson work.** In March, the Office organized a public lecture, entitled *Legal Defence of Public Interest*, for law students from all universities in the Republic of Belarus. Invited speakers were Mats Melin, the current parliamentary ombudsperson of Sweden, Adam Zielinsky, the former Polish ombudsperson, and Vladimir Tambovtsev, the head of staff of the ombudsperson institution of the Russian Federation. The lecture provided students with an insight into the way different European countries approach ombudsperson work. The Office also distributed OSCE literature on human dimension commitments.

**Human rights film festival.** To commemorate the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Human Rights Day, the Office, together with the UN Representation in the Republic of Belarus, organized a film festival, entitled *Dignity, Equality, Justness*, in Minsk from 3 to 10 December. OSCE and UN human rights posters were on view and publications on human rights and other OSCE- and UN-related topics were available free of charge.

**Training course on police behavioural skills.** In September, the Office conducted a training course on police behavioural skills at the College of the Ministry of the Interior of Belarus. Two international police training experts shared their teaching experiences with the professors of the College and police staff from Mogilev and the surrounding region.

**Monitoring activities.** The Office monitored court hearings relating to freedom of association, the right to peaceful assembly, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention and the right to fair trial, including several cases involving youth organization activists.

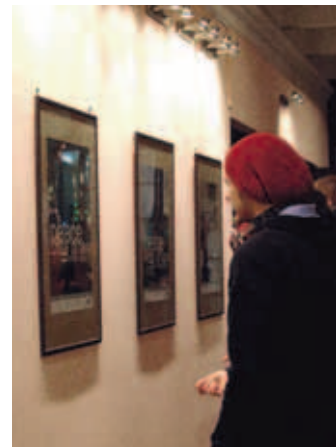
The Office also monitored public rallies, the European March in October and the Social March in November.

**Individual complaints.** The Office received individual complaints both from Belarusian and foreign citizens residing in Belarus. The greater part of the complaints involved the role of the judiciary in criminal justice matters as well as alleged human rights violations by law enforcement agencies. Whenever within its mandate, the Office referred the complaints to the competent Belarusian authorities.

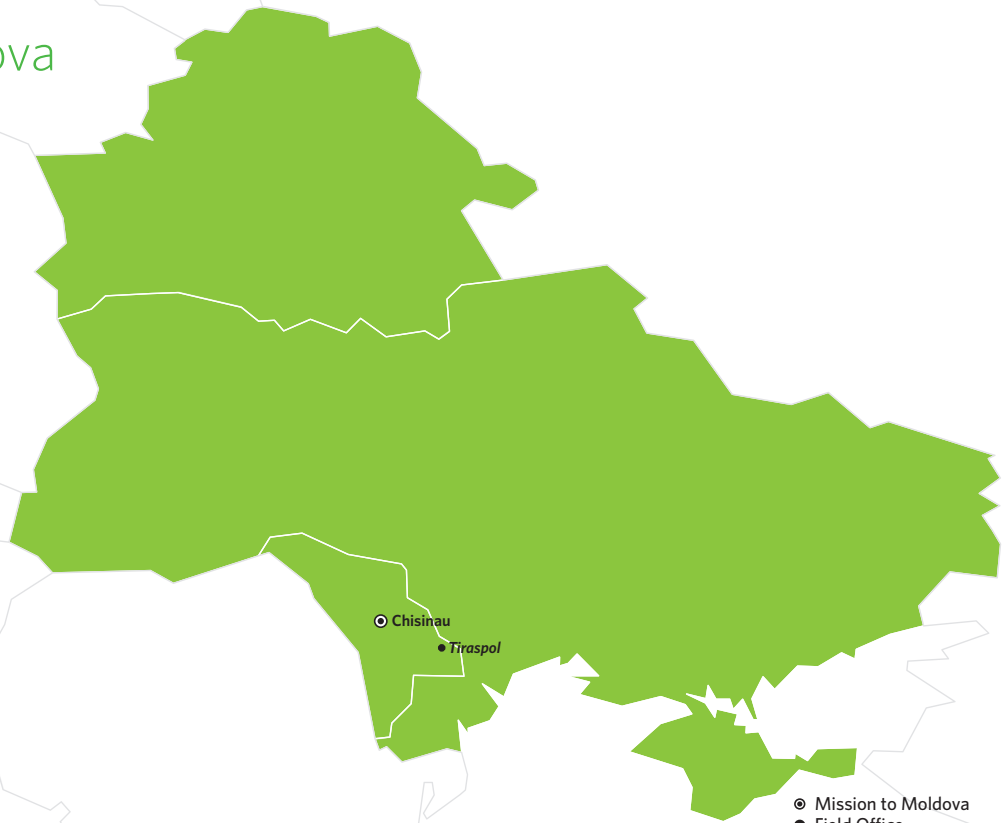
Acting Head of Office:  
Vahram Abadjian,  
succeeding Ambassador Ake Peterson whose mandate ended on 25 August  
Approved budget: € 897,500  
[www.osce.org/belarus](http://www.osce.org/belarus)

→ Students in discussion with the Swedish, Polish and Russian ombudspersons during a public lecture on ombudsperson work in March, organized by the Office (Julia Doroshkevich)

→ Visitors to the OSCE and UN-sponsored exhibition and film festival in Minsk on the occasion of UN Human Rights Day on 8 December (OSCE)



# Mission to Moldova



● Mission to Moldova  
● Field Office

*The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.*

*The Mission focused on defusing tensions in the Security Zone and attempting to get the political settlement negotiations back on track. Other important areas included mediating the controversy over the Moldovan Latin-script schools on the left bank, combating human trafficking and promoting the rule of law and freedom of the media.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Political settlement negotiations.** The mediators in the Transnistrian settlement process, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE, and the observers, the European Union and the United States, met four times. The mediators and observers met informally with the Moldovan and Transnistrian sides once, in October. All meetings concentrated on finding ways to restart formal settlement negotiations, which have nonetheless failed to resume.

**The Joint Control Commission.** The Joint Control Commission (JCC), which oversees the 1992 ceasefire arrangements, met regularly throughout the year and Mission members attended all sessions. A working group on posts in the Security Zone achieved a small success in May with the removal of a Moldovan police post and a Transnistrian militia post. A large part of the Mission's work was directed at defusing

tensions in the Security Zone, including those that led to the forced closure of the polling station in Corjova by Transnistrian law enforcement bodies in June. **Confidence- and security-building.** The Mission held a seminar on confidence- and security- building measures in Odessa in October. Both sides attended and expressed interest in continuing consultations. The Mission implemented a project funded by Finland for the destruction of surplus ammunition held by the Moldovan Army. In addition, it co-operated with the Forum for Security Co-operation in activities aimed at improving ammunition and arms stockpile management in Moldova.

**Removal of Russian Federation arms and equipment.** The Mission witnessed that there were no withdrawals of Russian ammunition or equipment during 2007. The Voluntary Fund retains sufficient resources to complete the withdrawal tasks.

## Human dimension activities

**Election and electoral reforms.** The Mission supported the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)'s election observation mission to the local elections and continued, with ODIHR, to provide advice on further improvements of electoral legislation.

**Protecting language rights.** The Mission continued to work with Moldovan and Transnistrian authorities to ensure the functioning of Moldovan Latin-script schools in the Transnistrian region. The issue of the school building in Ribnita, confiscated by the local authorities in 2004, remained unresolved.





**Monitoring human rights.** The Mission responded to numerous individual human rights complaints, and monitored several high-profile court cases which involved issues such as the right to a fair trial or torture. The Mission also paid close attention to the release of the last two imprisoned members of the Ilascu group, who had been convicted by Transnistrian authorities of alleged crimes during the 1992 conflict and were later ordered released by the European Court of Human Rights.

**Promoting human rights.** The Mission continued to support small-scale projects aimed at promoting human rights and tolerance across the Dniestr/Nistru River and strengthening the capacities of non-governmental organizations.

**Providing legal expertise.** The Mission continued to work closely with Parliament on legal reforms and provided comments and expertise on draft legislation.

**Promoting freedom of the media.** The Mission helped build capacity in the media sector through training for journalists and continued to support Moldova's broadcasting reform. In co-operation with the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Mission also organized training for judges on defamation cases. It assisted with the transformation of the state-funded press in the Gagauz region into an independent press and supported an assessment project of the state of the media in Moldova.

**Preventing human trafficking and promoting gender equality.** The Mission continued to host regular technical co-ordination meetings in the anti-trafficking and gender fields. In addition, the Mission supported a number of gender and anti-trafficking projects. It

assisted in the provision of hotline counseling and other urgent support to victims of domestic violence in partnership with the shelter Casa Marioarei. It also worked with the international centre La Strada to offer humanitarian, social and legal assistance to victims of trafficking. Besides other activities, the Mission supported the drafting of a law on anti-discrimination.

**Trial monitoring programme.** Trial monitoring expanded from Chisinau to include southern regions in Moldova. The network of national trial observers monitored more than 3,000 hearings and trials in the national courts, including cases of trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, trafficking in arms, crimes against justice, corruption and crimes committed by public officials.

*Head of Mission:*

*Ambassador Philip Remler from 19 December, succeeding Ambassador Louis O'Neill whose mandate ended on 16 November*

*Approved budget: € 1,868,800*

[www.osce.org/moldova](http://www.osce.org/moldova)

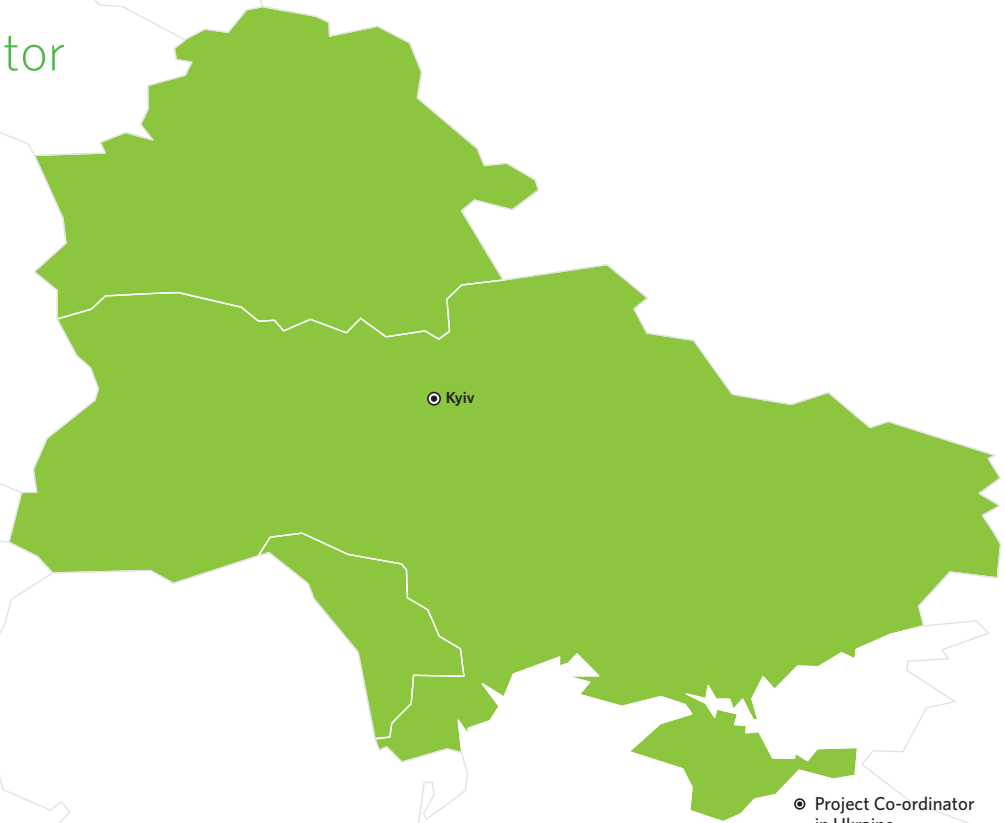
↖ Checkpoints along the internal boundary between Moldovan and Transnistrian controlled territory, like this one near Bender, hinder freedom of movement. A working group of the Joint Control Commission achieved the removal of one set of posts in May. (OSCE/Matthew Atkins)

→ *Satencele (Village Women)*, a photo by Lurie Foca, was selected in December by an independent jury as the winner of the Mission to Moldova's photo contest *Imaging Moldova - Diversity and Identity*. (Lurie Foca)

← Moldovan soldiers repack obsolete pesticides. More than 1,350 tons of pesticides and dangerous chemicals were repacked, centralized and destroyed as part of a NATO project supported by the Mission in 2006/07. (NAMSA/Ludmila Fisciu)



# Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine



The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Project Co-ordinator worked in co-ordination with Ukrainian authorities to promote the development of democratic institutions, increase economic prosperity in Ukraine and tackle serious environmental threats. A major project this year was to provide training and information for voters and election officials in preparation for the pre-term parliamentary elections held on 30 September. The Project Co-ordinator also continued to help retrain laid-off military personnel. With the field operation's assistance, the Government finished the clean-up of the Novobohdanivka ammunition site.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Social adaptation of discharged military personnel.** The Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence, organized retraining and employment assistance for 1,031 military officers in 25 cities throughout Ukraine. In addition, it supported the establishment of a Resource and Career Centre for discharged servicepersons. To date, 81 per cent of retrained officers have found employment.

**Destruction of ordnance.** In September, the government, helped by the Project Co-ordinator, finished clearing the Novobohdanivka ammunition site of

unexploded ordnance. The Project Co-ordinator procured and delivered detection and safety equipment to the Ministry of Emergency Situations and conducted training sessions to further build the Ministry's capacity to dispose of unsafe ammunition safely and effectively.

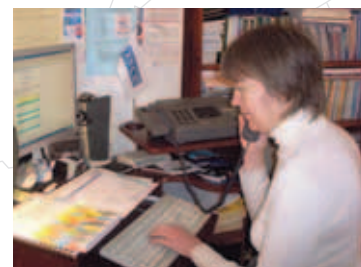
## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Supporting local business development.** Since initiating the *Local Economic Development Project* in 2004, the Project Co-ordinator has worked with partners to improve the business infrastructure for small- and medium-sized enterprises in Ukraine. Collaborating with regional employment centres to identify target groups throughout the country, the Project Co-ordinator held training sessions providing business basics, advice and information to at least 600 entrepreneurs.

Aiming to create conditions of sustainable economic development throughout Ukraine, the Project Co-ordinator continued to support the expansion of *Foreign Direct Investment*, a project which is estimated to attract approximately € 140 million in investment and create more than 2,000 jobs in 2007/2008.

## Human dimension activities

**Anti-trafficking support.** The Project Co-ordinator focused on developing a comprehensive anti-trafficking law in Ukraine to help prevent and prosecute trafficking in human beings and assist victims



according to international human rights standards. The Project Co-ordinator, intent on ensuring the sustainability and efficiency of anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations, conducted anti-trafficking training sessions for more than 170 non-governmental organization representatives. The Project Co-ordinator is currently facilitating the National Referral Mechanism Needs Assessment, which will provide a clear understanding of the pre-requisites and conditions of establishing a Ukraine-specific referral mechanism.

**Administrative law.** The Project Co-ordinator established working groups of experts in administrative justice to suggest amendments to Ukrainian legislation regulating state-citizen relations, in order to bring it into line with established European standards. The Co-ordinator developed and published educational material based on the results of research conducted by the working groups. In concert with the French Supreme Court for administrative justice, it provided extensive training to Administrative Court judges at all levels, in particular judges of the Higher Administrative Court. Furthermore, the Project Co-ordinator carried out training sessions in the rule of law for Ukrainian professors of constitutional law and legal theory.

**Detention monitoring.** The Project Co-ordinator extended the scope of the inspections carried out under the detention monitoring project it established last year to include the juvenile justice system. The mobile monitoring groups monitored 25 juvenile detention facilities. Together with the International Society for Human Rights, qualified legal aid was provided to more than 750 juvenile detainees in six regions of Ukraine. The field operation continued to support the elaboration and dissemination of new legislation and international legal instruments, assist in adjusting legislation to international standards and conduct training seminars for judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

**Strengthening of democratic practices.** In preparation for the parliamentary elections, the Project Co-ordinator co-operated with the Central Election Commission to draft election manuals and distribute them to all of the approximately 34,000 polling stations across Ukraine. It trained almost 100,000 election officials. A second part of the project to support the elections, aimed at raising citizens' awareness of the legal aspects of the elections, included the production and broadcasting of public service announcements to a potential audience of 21 million viewers.

The Project Co-ordinator continued to work toward building an independent and strong media community in Ukraine by helping to reform and draft media legislation. It held a training programme for members of the judiciary on media issues.

Finally, the Project Co-ordinator worked to strengthen civil society and increase the transparency and accountability of government actions. With the aim of improving co-operation between the Ukrainian authorities and civil society, it supported several civil society initiatives, for example to improve the accessibility of public places and buildings for young disabled people in the Luhansk region.

Project Co-ordinator:  
Ambassador James F. Schumaker  
Approved budget: € 2,467,800  
[www.osce.org/ukraine](http://www.osce.org/ukraine)

↻ The OSCE trained operators on the use of radio-controlled fire-initiation systems to destroy unexploded ammunition at the Novobohdanivka ammunition site from 31 July to 3 August. It also equipped the operators with safety vests and Kevlar helmets, metal and ferrous detectors, field computers and firing cable. (OSCE/Leonid Kalashnyk)

→ Training on project proposal writing for civil society organizations, potential recipients of project grants, in the pilot region of Khelnytskyi in June (OSCE/Antonina Prudko)

← Regional anti-trafficking hotline operated by the Kharkiv non-governmental organization Women's Community and financed by Denmark as part of the Danish Programme Against Human Trafficking in Eastern Europe. (Women's Community/Olga Biletska)

