



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

NEWSLETTER /// 1st Quarter of 2020

Ukrainian police gets anti-domestic violence posters
SEE HUMAN SECURITY

SEE OUTREACH and COVID-19 RESPONSE

OSCE's preventative measures
17 March 2020

Illustration showing a range of preventative measures against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. (CDC) Alicia Botero, MSc, Dan Higgins, MAMS

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
MEDIA SELF-REGULATION
VS
REGULATION**

As a new legal framework for media is proposed, journalists brainstorm to diminish risks of regulation
SEE MEDIA SECTION

JANUARY – MARCH 2020

State of waters in Ukrainian rivers is in focus based on OSCE studies
SEE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Students compete at the first Ukraine-wide contest on effective dispute resolution
SEE DIALOGUE

Head of Mission



Ambassador
Henrik Villadsen

Staffing



94 posts (UB and XB):
4 international and 90 local
59 women / 35 men

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.

Newsletter Source:



&



COORDINATION AND REPORTING



24 January 2020. As [Democracy House](#) and Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Ukraine ([Slovenské veľvyslanectvo na Ukrajine / Посольство Словаччини в Україні](#)) organised the conference "OSCE in Ukraine in 2019 ([ОБСЄ в Україні в 2019 році](#))" to review Organisation's efforts, for Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, it was a good opportunity to thank the Slovak Chairmanship for support in various spheres of work of our office. Notably, this support was especially instrumental in promoting improvement of the legal framework for humanitarian demining, which removed barriers for work of non-governmental mine action organisations in the country. In addition, as Albania assumed the role of the new OSCE Chair-in-Office (CiO), its priorities were also in focus of discussions. [To learn more](#)

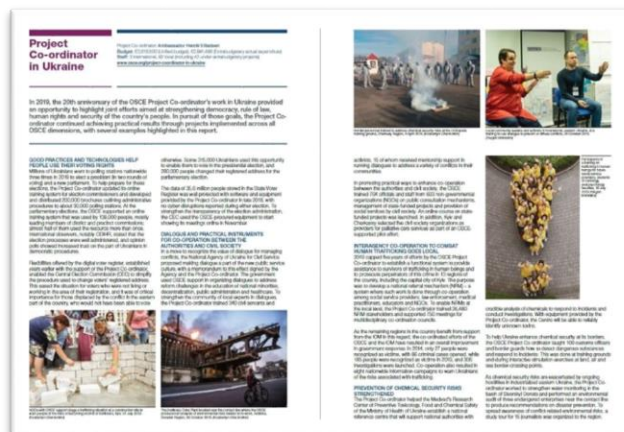
3 February 2020. Harlem Desir, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and his team came to our office at the beginning of a visit to Kyiv. He was meeting officials, media professionals, experts and civil society to receive first-hand information about challenges to freedom of expression in the country. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is an institution tasked by the Organisation's participating states to monitor and assess how governments implement their commitments in ensuring free flow of information and environment enabling unhindered work of journalists. The OSCE PCU complements these efforts by planning and implementing projects that help Ukraine to better implement those commitments. [To learn more](#)



2 March 2020. Synergy of efforts of international organizations means that their assistance to Ukraine is more efficient, has specific results and a wider impact. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the European Union Advisory Mission ([EUAM Ukraine](#)) discussed and co-ordinated this year's plans to support advances in the civilian sectors of security, promote strengthening rule of law, better protection of human rights and good practices in law enforcement. [To learn more](#)

30 March 2020. Highlighted in the OSCE annual report, 2019 achievements in Ukraine:

- ★to ensure good practices in election administration,
 - ★to promote dialogue and co-operation of authorities with civil society,
 - ★to develop an interagency framework for combating human trafficking,
 - ★to strengthen chemical and environmental security.
- The document provides an overview of work done by the Organisation, its institutions and field operations across the region. [To learn more](#)



DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



ELECTIONS

11 March 2020. The Election Code of Ukraine needs improvements to create better conditions for proportional representation of communities in local councils. This is one of the expert conclusions presented at the round table “Reforming Local Elections Legislation”, co-organized by the OSCE PCU on 10 March 2019. The OSCE PCU provides experts support on legislation analysis within the frames of co-operation with the [Ministry](#) of Regional Development. [To learn more](#)

CIVIL SOCIETY

31 January 2020. The OSCE PCU recalls its efforts in 2019 to raise awareness among representatives of Ukrainian civil society organisations (CSOs) and state executive authorities about the studied experience of the Netherlands and Spain in the application of Quality Standards for the third sector to build efficient and healthy relations between state authorities and CSOs. To learn more about the ways to apply this self-regulation mechanism in the civil society sector, we are offering you to enjoy the products of our respective 2019 project now available on our website. [To learn more](#)

3 February 2020. There is a number of funding resources available for civil society organisations (CSOs) to sustain their operations, and one of them is state funding. OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine organized a series of 5 regional workshops on the development and management of state-funded projects for 325 CSOs representatives and state officials back in 2019. Later the PCU used the workshop materials to transform it into a free online course. [To learn more](#)

Проектний Менеджмент

Онлайн курс

Організація за безпеки та співробітництва в Європі Координатор проекту в Україні

Розробка та управління проектами, які фінансуються за публічні кошти

Онлайн курс розроблений ІСАР Будапешт за фінансової підтримки OSCE в рамках проекту «Зміцнення спроможності Уряду України та організації громадянського суспільства ефективно співпрацювати, які реалізуються Координатором проекту OSCE в Україні в партнерстві з офісом Президента України та Міністерством молоді й спорту України»

DIALOGUE

30 January 2020. The video released by OSCE PCU provides an account by Olha Lishyk, former Deputy Head of Luhansk State Oblast Administration, about practical application of dialogue approaches taught, promoted and facilitated by PCU to improve interaction of authorities of various levels, civil society, community members and representatives of various groups in a conflict-affected region. To know more about dialogue and how it can be instrumental a practical guide “How, When, Where Does Dialogue Work?” was developed and published with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator’s support in 2019. [To learn more](#)



3 February 2020. Absence of development plans or a clear vision of prospects for local life improvement, weak media environment – these are just some of the key risk factors of conflicts in Kherson oblast. This conclusion is based on the situation analysis in three communities, performed with the support of the OSCE PCU. Summary of preliminary findings were presented to a community of international organizations working in the sphere of dialogue and social cohesion at an event organised in Kyiv. This work is part of the assistance provided by the OSCE PCU to pilot a methodology elaborated by the Ministry as a tool for planning of dialogue interventions by authorities or NGOs with the purpose of strengthening social cohesion on the ground. [To learn more](#)

29 February 2020. Between 25 and 28 February in Kyiv, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator trained 90 aides of Members of the Parliament and Rada’ administration staff members in building effective dialogue-based communication. The training was organised in cooperation with the Ukrainian Law Making School of the Legislation Institute of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. [To learn more](#)

DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



DIALOGUE

8 February 2020. PCU organised the first countrywide competition for effective resolution of disputes! The final round between two winning teams of the Kharkiv and Ternopil universities produced initial settlement agreement that might eventually help solving the case study dispute and save the main characters' business from litigation burdens. To participate in Student Competition for Effective Resolution of Disputes 2020 the best 16 teams out of 44 teams from universities across Ukraine who applied were selected. 50 mediators and legal professionals - specialists and active community members have pro bono joined the competition in the role of judges and mediators. [To learn more](#)

20 February 2020. Dialogue becomes more accessible to civil servants thanks to the educational products jointly created by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service, online studio EdEra and Ukrainian School of Governance. They are: online course "Dialogue and Mediation Skills for the Needs of Public Service" and general professional (certificate) programme for civil servants of categories 'B' and 'C', heads of administrations and their deputies, representatives of local self-government bodies, including online and in-person training. [To learn more](#)

7 March 2020. The establishment of an amalgamated territorial community, adoption of a local budget, defining of strategic development directions – these important decisions are often blocked with conflicts. To strengthen skills in management of such processes 81 representatives of local government, self-government bodies and civil society learned how to plan, organize and conduct dialogue meetings to facilitate sustainable decision-making in their communities during a series of five trainings organised in February-March 2020 in Odesa, Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv. [To learn more](#)



10 March 2020. OSCE Project Co-ordinator has been supporting the development of a Ukrainian community of mediators and dialogue facilitators. The aim is to make sure local expertise is available when needed to assist the authorities and communities in bridging differences or resolving conflicts. The PCU published a video that provides feedback from some of the experts, the Co-ordinator worked with. The PCU also presented a collection of articles "5 Years of Dialogue and 25 Years of Mediation in Ukraine: from Division to Cohesion". [To learn more](#)

MEDIA

2 February 2020. Ensuring the right balance between efforts to protect people from disinformation and the need to safeguard freedom of the media is a matter of ongoing discussions in Ukraine. Prominent journalists, media professionals, officials and expert community of Ukraine gathered on 24 January 2020 to discuss ways of strengthening self-regulatory mechanisms in the media sphere to address concerns about health of information sphere. The conference "Media Self-regulation VS Regulation" was organised by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine in partnership with the Commission on Journalistic Ethics and State Committee on Television and radio Broadcasting. [To learn more](#)



HUMAN SECURITY



ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

8 March 2020. Ahead of International Women's Day, the OSCE dispatches two-thousand posters highlighting the need to stop violence against women to police stations all over Ukraine on 6 March 2020. The posters stress the important role that the police play in supporting and protecting women who have experienced violence. The posters were produced as part of the "End the Silence" awareness-raising campaign which was implemented by the OSCE Secretariat's Gender Section and supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the country's National Police. [To learn more](#)

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

28 February 2020. The Winter School on Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, organized by the OSCE PCU on 25-27 February 2020, provided an opportunity for students of sociology and psychology to get a practical sense of multiple aspects of their future profession. 25 participants from all over Ukraine were actively involved in discussions and learned basics in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, talked about the risks of getting involved into such situations, ways to avoid them and practiced the methods of providing assistance to people who have experienced the situation of trafficking in human beings. [To learn more](#)

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Дитина в об'єктиві правосуддя

11:00-12:30
25 березня 2020р.

вул. Набережно-Лугова, 8
(Креативний простір IZONE), Київ

DOCU DAYS UA

Захід відбуватиметься в межах проєкту «Міжнародна програма Rights Now! Міжнародного фестивалю документальних фільмів про права людини DOCSUMMIT UA»



Організація за безпеки та співробітництва в Європі
Координатор проєкту в Україні



Уповноважений
Верховної Ради України
з прав людини



Центр
Політичних
Прав



Вектор
Права
Людини

LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

10 February 2020. The OSCE PCU and [EdEra](#) developed in 2019 the online course "Human Rights in Educational Environment" to help educators, parents and a wider audience to learn about their rights. The course already counts over 13,000 participants enrolled and more than 4,500 already completed the course with certificates. The course is recommended by Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Sciences to upgrade teachers' professional qualification. The PCU organized last year an additional in-person advanced 4-day training for 24 educators from across Ukraine. [To learn more](#)

The current state of minors' protection by the judiciary, challenges and possible changes were to be discussed at an expert discussion "Child through the Lens of Justice", was planned for **25 March 2020** with the support of the Parliament's Ombudsperson, OSCE PCU, the NGOs "Center for Political and Legal Reforms" and "Human Rights Vector". In view of safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the PCU had to postpone the event. The topic of child-friendly justice remains high on our agenda, so we intend to have it highlighted and discussed in future. The new date of the event is to be communicated further, when the situation permits. [To learn more](#)

A photograph showing two men in dark suits and ties seated at a white table, signing documents. The man on the left is wearing glasses and is focused on his signature. The man on the right is also focused on his signature. In the background, there is a whiteboard with some faint writing and a shelf with various items, including a box and some papers.

Державне агентство водних ресурсів України

OUTREACH



YOUTUBE.COM

OSCE Secretary General's message on COVID-19 (short version)

COVID-19 RESPONSE

16 March 2019. In view of the outbreak of COVID-19, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is taking all the necessary measures to contribute to the safety of its staff and partners, and support measures to minimise risks related to the spread of the disease. While continuing its work to plan and implement projects to the extent possible, the Co-ordinator decided to:

- ✦ assign all the staff to work remotely;
- ✦ reschedule or cancel all the conferences and events organized by the Co-ordinator in accordance with official guidance. [To learn more](#)

20 March 2020. "From the OSCE's own work we know how difficult it can be to demonstrate the impact of prevention. Yet we continue to dedicate our daily efforts to this aim. Now we must take the same approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19. I urge you to respect "social distancing" practices to prevent potential virus transmission. This will protect your own health, your colleagues and community," - Thomas Greminger, the OSCE Secretary General highlights that safety of the Organisation's staff is priority, and assures that the OSCE is to continue its important work with all the due precautions.

The staff of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine continues to work by means of telecommuting at least till 3 April 2020, limiting visits to the office only for the staff, whose presence is critical for operations, with due safety precautions. [To learn more](#)

27 March 2020. "Protecting people's lives is the top priority. We recognize the urgent necessity of preventive measures now being implemented in many countries, which may limit some human rights and fundamental freedoms for a time in order to protect people from COVID-19 and to break its chain of transmission. However, such emergency measures should be proportionate, temporary, and in compliance with the rule of law and international commitments." - Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council Igli Hasani, OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir and OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Lamberto Zannier addressed the OSCE community with a joint message. [To learn more](#)



USEFUL RESOURCES FOR QUARANTINE

24 March 2020. This year's spring vacations that started on Monday may well be a challenging time for many teachers that have to stay indoors because of COVID-19 situation. Here is a selection of resources and materials developed by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, and we hope they can help educators to live through these difficulties and turn them into a productive possibility to upgrade skills and knowledge. [To learn more](#)

25 March 2020. Social distancing may in fact become an opportunity for those who manage civil society organisations to turn around, look with a critical eye at the way things are done, and discover ways to make your associations a more productive and successful endeavor. For those who drive change through activism, here is a useful collection of resources we helped to produce in the recent years. [To learn more](#)

26 March 2020. Civic activists are a driving force for effective defense of human rights, and though we face now at least another month of quarantine, we hope Ukraine's human rights defenders will not lose their spirit and decisiveness to act. For those who want to use this time for enhancing professionalism, we are pleased to share these resources. [To learn more](#)

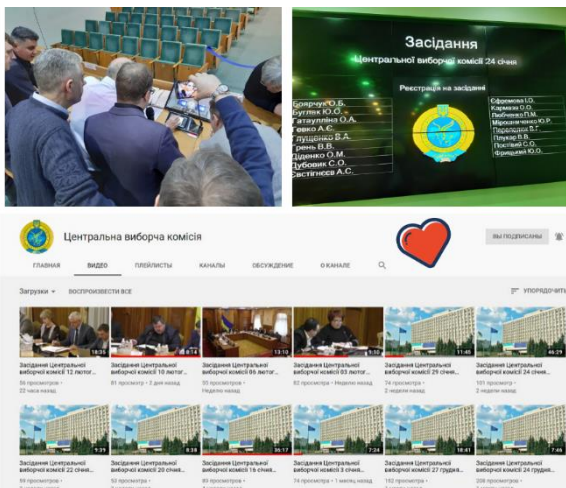
31 March 2020. For social workers these days are especially challenging, as with additional COVID-19-prevention safety measures in place these days they still have to provide care and assistance to those people who need such support. Understanding the importance of these efforts and in a sign of high appreciation of this work, we have assembled for Ukraine's social workers a collection of useful materials that we helped to produce over the past couple of years. [To learn more](#)

OUTREACH

WARM FEELINGS ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE

14 February 2020. The Co-ordinator used the occasion of St.Valentine's day to highlight and promote outcomes of partnerships with state institutions. Love is: also having warm feelings about good things we do.

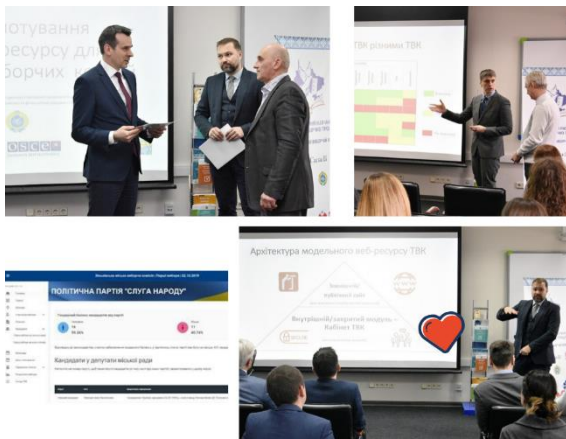
Well-managed personal life-work balance is highly important for achieving good results, so it is part of our organisational culture to remind employees that life exists beyond office walls. Still, St.Valentine's Day is yet another good occasion to take a look back and remember those sweet moments when you feel good because your efforts matter. [To learn more](#)



Love is... When Central Election Commission makes it a permanent practice to stream its sessions online using conference system provided by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine



Love is...when Ombudsperson's office uses findings of PCU-supported court monitorings by civil society in its annual address to the Parliament for promotion and protection of human rights in Ukraine.



Love is... when for the first time ever the results of local elections are available online the following day after the vote. And this is just one result of successful piloting of the web-based election management resource, that the OSCE Project Co-ordinator and the Central Election Commission rolled out during local elections on 22 December 2019



Love is ... when Ukraine's National Mine Action Standards (ДСТУ-П 8820), developed with OSCE support, become operational on 1 April 2019 to help the country's agencies better address explosive threats.

OUTREACH



Love is when thanks to the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Sieversky Donets river basin administration becomes the first agency in the country to introduce new water monitoring programme, as prescribed by new legislation.



Love is... when the National Police of Ukraine rolls out mobile police units to respond to domestic violence incidents, and you know these officers will have necessary skills for that job - with programmes developed and interactive training rooms established by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in 5 training centres across the country.



Love is ... when Constitutional Court decides to draw on power of international expertise for making well-grounded decisions and with OSCE PCU support activates the institute of special international advisors.



Love is... when the National School of Judges endorses and starts using the OSCE -developed evaluation methodology for judicial training.



Love is... when it is already for the fourth year in a row on 30th of July the Ministry of Social Policy unites with non-governmental organizations and international organizations to run awareness-raising campaigns on combatting trafficking in human beings across Ukraine, in all regional centres and beyond.



Love is... when the team of Reforms Delivery Office of the Cabinet of Ministers actively promotes dialogue approaches for supporting a range of transformations from decentralisation to healthcare.

OUTREACH



Love is... to see how young students from across the country are able to hear, understand and take into account other side's interests in a difficult argument during first ever nationwide Student Competition on Effective Dispute Resolution, organised by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the National Association of Mediators of Ukraine.



Love is... when the National Agency for Civil Services includes dialogue skills into a list of important competencies for public servants and asks the OSCE Project Co-ordinator to develop tailored training programme for them.



Love is... when the Ministry of Education and Science includes ideas of representatives of national minorities into roadmap on implementation of language provisions of the new Education Law as a result of a dialogue process supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator.



Love is when Ministry of Defence trains its personnel to better implement gender equality principles at the events on democratic control of armed forces, organized by OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine



Love is ... when Ministry of Education and Science recommends the OSCE PCU-developed online course "Human Rights in Educational Environment" for professional retraining for teachers.



Love is .. when colleagues cover a conference room wall with hearts of appreciation for each other's support and respect.