



DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE

**Human Rights Education and Capacity Building Programme
(1300607)**

**FUNDED THROUGH
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Warsaw, September 2012

Human Rights Education and Capacity Building Programme (1300607)

Current budget: EUR 648,000¹

1. Background

Human rights education (HRE) and capacity building promote knowledge about human rights along with related skills and values; they provide tools for developing strategies and advocacy to claim rights, and encourage professional action by government officials based on human rights. The fundamental role of human rights education and training in protecting and promoting human rights was explicitly recognized in the Moscow Document (1991). In Ljubljana (2005), participating States stressed ODIHR's contribution in promoting HRE and training and called for further enhancement of the OSCE role in this area.² This programme combines ODIHR's many years of HRE experience with its OSCE-wide network of contacts within both civil society and government, including national human rights institutions (NHRIs). It provides a platform to assist OSCE participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments through supporting the effective work of civil society to advocate, monitor and report on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. Approach

The programme's overall goal is to deepen understanding of the interdependence of human rights and security as a prerequisite for national and regional stability. Its objectives are to increase the capacity of government officials to respect, protect and fulfill human rights and strengthen the capacity of civil society actors and NHRIs to monitor, report on and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. Expected outcomes include: greater awareness of State authorities about human rights and fundamental freedoms; institutionalization of good educational practices; increased constructive dialogue between State authorities, civil society and NHRIs in areas related to respect for human rights; and strengthened capacity within civil society and NHRIs to monitor specific human rights developments and trends.

2.1. *Planned activities for 2011-2014 (funds permitting)*

Building the capacity of different stakeholders to uphold human rights

ODIHR will offer specialized/general human rights training/other types of capacity building to government officials, NHRIs and civil society actors, based on prior needs assessments and requests. Topics will include e.g. rights of detained persons, torture, freedom of assembly and association, victims' rights, fair trials standards, social and economic rights, advocacy, human rights monitoring and reporting. Specific projects will promote a constructive relationship between civil society and governments, strengthen the credibility of NGOs and their human rights work and expand the understanding and skills of government authorities and NHRIs to address human rights.

Promoting successful human rights teaching strategies in formal and non-formal education

Using recently developed human rights education resources for formal and non-formal education of young people/adult educators, e.g. *Human Rights Education in the School Systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America. A Compendium of Good Practice*, ODIHR will offer workshops

¹ For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2014.

² MC Decision 11/05

to strengthen human rights as part of teaching curricula and promote a quality approach to the practice of human rights through education. ODIHR is also engaging in the development and dissemination of guidelines on HRE programmes for different target groups, such as secondary school students, law enforcement officers, health professionals, and human rights activists.

2.2 *Indicators of achievement (examples)*

- Number of successful collaboration efforts between authorities, NHRIs and civil society, including campaigns with concrete positive results for particular groups of rights holders or types of rights;
- Number/quality of resources, good practices and other expertise promoted by ODIHR, or adapted versions of them, have been included in school curricula and used in informal education.

2.3 *Strategy/methodology*

The dual-track approach (government/civil society) builds capacity comprehensively in OSCE participating States to promote human rights and security. Close links with NHRIs will be strengthened and their members encouraged to join capacity building initiatives. The programme is constructed to enhance ODIHR's monitoring work. Through direct engagement, also with emerging and established networks of human rights defenders, ODIHR can identify particular needs and priorities of OSCE participating States and tailor capacity building efforts accordingly. Local ownership of project results is key, so ODIHR will add value by partnering with local education/training to change attitudes of civil society leaders, government officials and educators. Trained participants are long term 'agents of change,' disseminating human rights values further in society, motivated by trust in ODIHR's long-term involvement. Training/workshops use expertise from ODIHR/OSCE structures, including field operations as appropriate.

2.4 *Assumptions and risks*

Best results will come where political will is demonstrated through action by governments and co-operation among State authorities, NHRIs, civil society and ODIHR. It is assumed that participating States are ready to apply what has been learned and use it at follow-up events; that human rights defenders and NHRIs stay active in programme activities; and that NHRIs demonstrate sufficient independence. Where they exist, the continued presence of OSCE field operations will encourage counterparts to address issues of concern after programme activities are over, and thus sustain outcomes.

2.5 *Quality factors*

ODIHR is experienced in delivering quality HRE in OSCE participating States for government authorities, civil society, NHRIs and OSCE field operations. It has also developed effective human rights education tools for formal and non-formal education and trained on effective national and international advocacy. Co-ordination, co-operation and regular contacts with all relevant actors, i.e. OSCE structures, international organizations, NHRIs, NGOs and individual human rights defenders, are long established, avoid duplication and maximize synergies. ODIHR has the knowledge and skills to support and assist in individual countries, but also to facilitate exchange of practices between countries on relevant issues and facilitate the OSCE's international outreach on the human dimension, as needed.