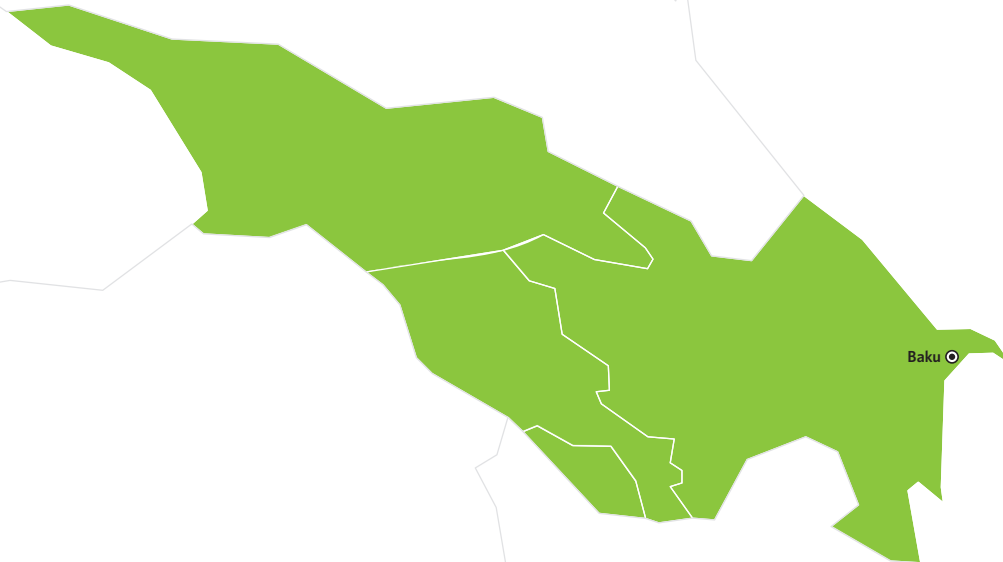


# Field operations



## South Caucasus Office in Baku



⊙ Office in Baku

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

*In anticipation of the elections to be held in October 2008, the Office intensified its efforts to help the Government of Azerbaijan meet its commitments as a participating State. It assisted with the reform of the police and the judiciary and promoted freedom of the media, freedom of assembly, good governance, environmental awareness and regional economic development.*

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Police recruit training.** A new curriculum for training police recruits, developed by the Office in partnership with the Czech Ministry of the Interior, will become effective in January 2008. Under the new curriculum, the duration of basic training for rank-and-file policemen will double to six months from three.

**Community policing.** The Office introduced community policing in a pilot project in the city of Mingchevir carried out in partnership with the Turkish police. In light of the very positive results of the project, Azerbaijani authorities have agreed to expand it to other locations in Azerbaijan.

**Public assembly management.** The Office continued to train troops of the Ministry of the Interior in effectively managing public events while respecting the freedom of assembly, this year in partnership with the police services of Hungary. So far, more than

300 members of the Police and Internal Troops have received training in public assembly management. **Democratic control of the armed forces.** The Office undertook a series of meetings and roundtables with Defence Ministry and civil society representatives this year to promote democratic control of the armed forces. As part of the initiative, the Office assisted in the creation of a central committee comprising all 35 associations that advocate for the health, housing and general welfare of serving and retired military members.

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Good governance and the fight against corruption.** The Office assisted two regional Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres operated by the Azerbaijani branch of Transparency International to promote citizens' legal rights and deal with corruption complaints.

The Office also initiated courses for Azerbaijani business managers and accountants on international accounting principles.

**Environmental affairs.** The Office helped the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to establish two new Aarhus Centres, in Ganja and Gazakh. The Centres provide environmental information in support of the *Aarhus Convention*.

The Office was instrumental in implementing the Azerbaijani version of the 'Green Pack' environmental toolkit in more than 1,000 Azerbaijani secondary schools.



↑ Platoon commanders of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Internal Affairs troops with Hungarian trainers in Budapest, Hungary (OSCE/John MacGregor)

↗ Instructors trained in Ganja as part of a course for self-employed business entrepreneurs (Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise/Trond Langen)

→ An OSCE environmental expert (right) and a National Academy of Science representative (left) sample the water of the Kura River in Mingchevir, Azerbaijan on 18 May. (OSCE/Ilgar Hasanov)



The Office continued to render administrative support to the OSCE-NATO South Caucasus *River Monitoring* project during this trans-boundary programme's fifth year of operation.

**Regional development.** Promoting the transition to an open market economy, the Office provided farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs outside Baku with advice and management training.

## Human dimension activities

### Rule of law

**Trial monitoring.** Having monitored more than 500 trials the Office completed its second trial monitoring report and communicated its findings to the Government of Azerbaijan as part of its programme to promote judiciary reform.

**Pre-trial and police detention reform.** The Office chaired expert group meetings held jointly with the Government to finalize a draft law reforming the country's pre-trial and police detention system. The Office helped improve the assessment and interpretation skills of representatives of national non-governmental organizations to monitor detention facilities.

**Training of judges.** The Office trained 102 judge candidates in civil law, criminal law and human rights. It also completed preparations for training judges of first instance and court of appeal next year.

**Juvenile justice.** The Office helped the non-governmental organization Alliance for Children's Rights to conduct research on institutions detaining minors and on the fairness and effectiveness of judicial proceedings involving juveniles. After consulting with the Government on how to improve the juvenile justice system, the Office published a juvenile justice monitoring report.

**Legislative assistance.** The Office helped draft amendments to laws on freedom of assembly, land administration, labour, advocates, the defamation provisions in the Criminal Code and the rules of procedure of the Constitutional Court.

### Democratization

**Freedom of the media.** The Office began a long-term project to provide practical guidelines for improving the flow of information between government institutions and the media in order to increase the transparency of the Government's work.



The Office launched a comprehensive training programme for journalists and senior management professionals of the public broadcaster ITV. The programme, which will continue in 2008, focuses on free and fair election coverage and reporting.

The Office supported a proposal for a new defamation law, which, if adopted, would decriminalize defamation.

**Election legislation and practices.** The Office took the lead in co-ordinating activities of international actors with respect to the 2008 presidential elections, identifying shortcomings and areas requiring action for the preparation of elections in line with international standards.

**Support to civil society.** The Office opened a resource centre on democracy and gender in Shamakhi. To promote better representation of women within civil society, it offered training on establishing non-governmental organizations, managing them and raising funds.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Office organized workshops for women lawyers on fighting trafficking in human beings and sponsored a television production that raised awareness of the issue.

*Head of Office:*

*Ambassador Jose Luis Herrero from 3 February, succeeding Ambassador Maurizio Pavesi whose mandate ended on 8 January*

*Approved budget: € 2,476,500*

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

# Mission to Georgia



- ⊙ Mission to Georgia
- Economic Rehabilitation Office
- Seconded staff to the UN Human Rights Office

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

*The Mission provided ongoing support to the Government's reform agenda and also responded to unforeseen challenges and events in Georgia.*

*As part of the Mission's efforts to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the Mission built confidence through the OSCE-led Economic Rehabilitation Programme. Political or security progress was hampered, however, by several contentious developments in the zone of conflict, including a crisis over water supply in early summer and a missile incident in August. Nevertheless, the new Head of Mission hosted the first formal plenary session of the Joint Control Commission in more than a year at the Mission premises in October.*

*The Mission monitored and facilitated the Organization's response to an 11-day state of emergency in Tbilisi in November, following the dispersal of thousands of opposition-led demonstrators, the closure of a leading television company and the calling of early*

*presidential elections for 5 January 2008. At year's end, the Mission was engaged in co-ordinating the international community's involvement in the upcoming elections and facilitating the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' long-term election observation mission.*

*The Mission successfully carried out projects in areas including democratization, human rights and rule of law, police reform, anti-terrorism, crisis response, economic development and environmental security.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

### Conflict resolution

**Georgian-Ossetian conflict.** The Mission helped to ensure that the sides maintained dialogue within and outside the Joint Control Commission, co-chaired by the Georgian, South Ossetian, North Ossetian and Russian sides. OSCE military monitoring officers continued to observe the tense security situation on the ground, working closely with relevant bodies and the Joint Peacekeeping Forces, whose activities they are mandated to monitor.



↑ In October, the new Head of Mission Ambassador Terhi Hakala (centre) hosted the first formal plenary session of the Joint Control Commission in more than a year. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)



**A pioneering film jointly made by Georgian and Ossetian journalists.**

As part of an OSCE Mission project a joint crew of Georgian and Ossetian journalists made a documentary on the concepts and results of the recently completed European Commission-funded economic rehabilitation programme in the zone of conflict. A leading Georgian TV Company, *Rustavi 2*, broadcast the film in February. The film was the first of its kind since armed tensions rose again in summer 2004 in the region.

(OSCE/Martha Freeman)

➤ "I am thankful to the OSCE for its work to ensure peace and stability, which is very important for us here," says Zurab Lazarashvili, a Georgian farmer in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict who has benefited directly from the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme*. He learned about dairy farming standards and how to raise yields at a specialized forum in Israel. This study visit was financed by the United States. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

➤ Trout farmers in the zone of conflict improved their yield, following a study visit to Kyiv funded by Sweden. The OSCE helped them form a local collective so that they could afford better stock. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

➤ Labourers work on urgently needed renovations on a school in Dzari in the north of the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

→ The villages of Ksuisi, Disevi, Khelchua and Gugutiantkari in the zone of conflict have drinking water after the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* constructed 18 taps and 11 kilometres of pipes linking them to the local water supply. (OSCE/Martha Freeman)

**Confidence-building in the zone of conflict.** The Mission successfully completed the co-ordination of a programme for economic rehabilitation funded by a € 2.5 million European Commission (EC) grant. It continued implementing the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme*, funded by 21 international donors with more than € 8 million. The *Programme* is designed to build confidence both within the communities concerned and between the sides. Achievements to date include the completion of several drinking water pipelines, the repair of the main Tskhinvali reservoir, the construction of a new combined school and clinic, and ongoing substantial renovations to several schools. The *Programme's* Economic and Business Development Unit provided more than 80 separate training seminars on a broad range of subjects, directly benefiting more than 1,200 residents of the zone of conflict.

The Mission continued to work for peaceful conflict resolution in all three OSCE security dimensions. Projects included producing a confidence-building film made jointly by Georgian and Ossetian journalists, implementing a small grants programme to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations and working towards opening an environmental centre. **Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.** The United Nations-led peace process remained largely suspended due to developments on the ground. However, the Mission continued its activities in support of the UN process aimed at enhancing trust and confidence between the sides.

**Other politico-military dimension activities**

**Destruction of obsolete weapons.** The Mission continued dismantling obsolete ammunition and destroying unrecyclable munitions. Mission-donated TNT smelting equipment became operational early in the year and 9,000 artillery rounds of explosives were successfully recycled.

**Police reform and action against terrorism.** The Mission continued to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs in implementing its police reform, focusing this year on community policing, support to the Georgian Police Academy and human resources management. It helped to support a sustainable capability within the Ministry to develop its counter-terrorism capacity. This was achieved through organizing training programmes and workshops and helping the Ministry develop a database centre to improve investigation into attacks involving bombs and other explosives.

**Strengthening border management capacities.** The Mission successfully completed a programme to transform the Georgian border guard department into a law enforcing body. More than 300 officers underwent training in rapid reaction, operational planning and the establishment of a functional training unit. The Mission furthermore provided the Ministry of Internal Affairs with emergency rescue personnel with specialized training in techniques for responding to crises in hazardous environments.



## Economic and environmental dimension activities

### Economic issues

The Mission funded Business Support Centres in Abkhazia and Alkhalkalaki. These Centres provided much-needed training to entrepreneurs to support the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in these regions.

The Mission continued to support non-governmental organizations monitoring the Government's compliance with its obligations to implement the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Anti-Corruption Network.

The Mission continued to support good governance resource centres in Gardabani and Marneuli, areas with large ethnic minorities. These centres help local governments to develop and implement their budgets and manage public resources.

### Environmental issues

The Mission and the Ministry of the Environment continued to support the Aarhus Centre, which aims to promote environmental awareness all over Georgia. Furthermore, the Mission supported two regional environmental centres in Kvemo Kartli.

The Mission supported the OSCE-UN Environment and Security (ENVSEC) initiative in developing projects that tackle environmental security concerns. It further supported the NATO-OSCE River Monitoring project.

The Mission also funded environmental youth clubs that provided environmental education for more than 500 Georgian students.

### Human dimension activities

**Democratization and elections.** The Mission continued its collaboration with the Central Election Commission by providing training to its staff with a view to increasing its transparency, accountability and professionalism. With the help of Mission funding, a domestic election watchdog monitored the internal and external communications and management structures of the election administration. The Mission facilitated dialogue between the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Venice Commission and Georgian election stakeholders on bringing the election code into line with international standards. It co-ordinated the international community's involvement in election issues – a role which became even more crucial when early elections were called for the beginning of 2008.

**National minorities.** The Mission continued to work with national minorities in Kvemo Kartli, a region mostly populated by ethnic Azerbaijanis and Armenians. It helped develop the capacity of 11 local non-governmental organizations, fostered inter-ethnic interaction, offered classes in Georgian, English, information technology and civic education, established small legal clinics and organized a summer camp for youth.

**Human rights.** The Mission continued monitoring conditions in Georgian prisons and observing trials,

provided legal advice to victims of human rights abuses and addressed alleged violations with the authorities. It worked to improve conditions for prisoners by raising awareness of the rights of detainees and providing legal aid to prisoners. It offered training to legal professionals on advanced legal aspects of European human rights standards, to law enforcement personnel on criminal matters and to secondary school teachers from three regions on teaching human rights.

**Human Rights Office, Abkhazia, Georgia.** As in previous years the OSCE Mission to Georgia continued its collaboration with the UN's Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, by seconding an OSCE Mission official to act as human rights officer. Apart from his work in monitoring human rights violations in Abkhazia, the OSCE official also monitored the OSCE's portfolio of projects which seek to promote both a human rights culture as well as civic awareness across the territory.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Mission worked with the Government and civil society to further develop the system of victim identification and assistance, helping two mobile units to identify cases in the field. It also implemented a small grants programme for non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of trafficking issues. It produced a handbook for medical schools on treating the victims of trafficking.

**Freedom of the media.** The Mission continued to improve the flow of information between regions populated by ethnic minorities and the rest of the country and to support the translation of the public broadcaster's news programme into Azerbaijani for the residents of Kvemo Kartli. To raise awareness of the challenges faced by ethnic minority communities, it organized study trips for journalists to Javakheti, home to the country's largest Armenian-speaking community.

After a leading broadcasting company in Georgia was prevented from operating on 7 November as a result of a case initiated by the prosecutor general, the Mission co-operated with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the international community in Georgia to monitor the media situation, seeking a speedy resolution of the issue.

**Rule of law.** The Mission continued assisting with the reform of the penitentiary system by offering practical recommendations, training for staff and rehabilitation programmes for inmates. In support of judiciary reform it offered training for judges, organized a study visit to France for Georgian officials and developed a curriculum for initial training at the newly established High School of Justice.

*Head of Mission:*

*Ambassador Terhi Hakala from 15 October, succeeding Ambassador Roy Reeve whose mandate ended on 31 July*

*Approved budget: € 10,106,200*

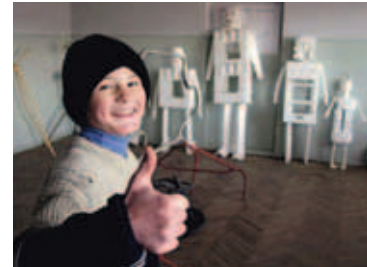
[www.osce.org/georgia](http://www.osce.org/georgia)



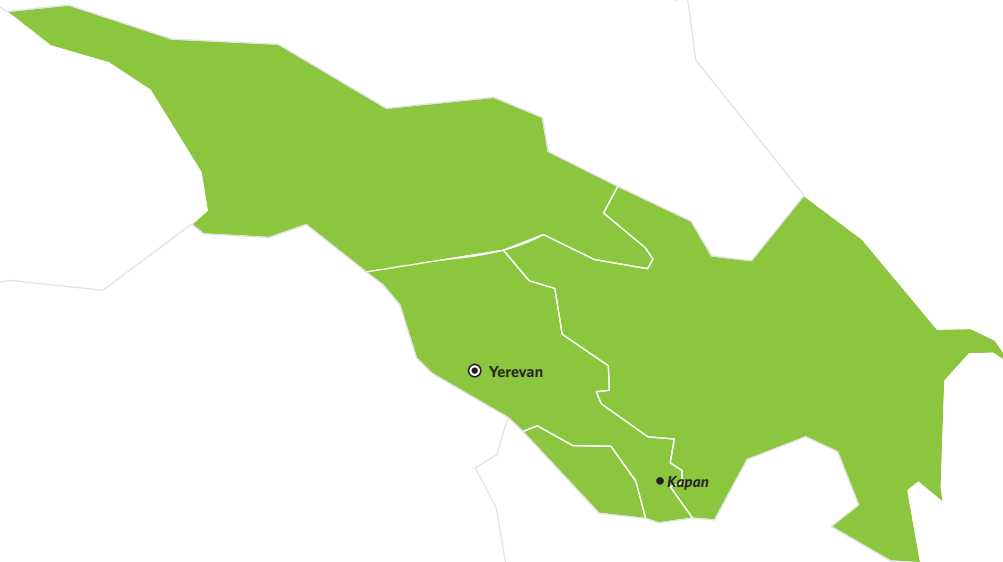
↑ Senior and middle-ranking Georgian Border Police fly to the site of a simulated serious border incident during an exercise of the Mission's capacity-building programme. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

↑ OSCE-funded information technology classes for young people in Marneuli, Kvemo Kartli (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

↓ Young people from vulnerable families in Tskhinvali developed social and creative skills in a Mission-funded project. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)



## Office in Yerevan



- ⊙ Office in Yerevan
- Field Office

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

→ Anti-corruption Public Reception Centres in Yerevan and the Gegharkunik and Lori provinces provided legal and procedural consultations to citizens on corruption-related violations in the fields of the army, public education, healthcare, public services, traffic and civil and administrative law. (OSCE/Karen Minasyan)

↓ In the run-up to the year's Parliamentary Elections, the Office jointly with the Freedom of Information Centre of Armenia published for journalists the guidebook *How to receive electoral information*. (OSCE/Gohar Avagyan)



*The Office in Yerevan supported further reform of election administration and legislation in Armenia. In co-operation with the Armenian authorities, it completed the recycling of the highly toxic and volatile rocket fuel component Melange. It assisted with the introduction of community policing in Armenia.*

**Electoral reform.** The Office contributed to the improvement of electoral practices by supporting training of election officials, sponsoring the publication of specialized election materials and enhancing public awareness of electoral rights and procedures. It also provided technical assistance to the Central Electoral Commission.

**Fighting corruption.** The Office opened anti-corruption reception centres in three regions of Armenia and helped the authorities to elaborate the terms of reference for the new *National Anti-Corruption Strategy* for the 2008-2012 period.

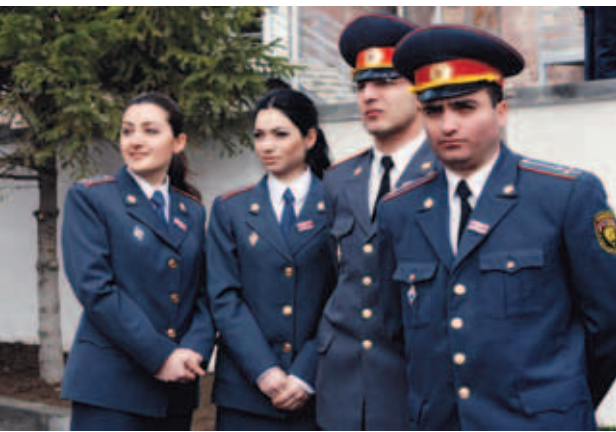
**Training for civil servants.** The Office arranged training in foreign policy analysis for the staff of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It also initiated a training programme tailored to the needs of the staff of the Ministry of Defence.



## Politico-military dimension activities

**Police assistance programme.** Having completed the renovation and re-equipment of the Police Centre for Induction Training, the Office helped to revise the curriculum and train the staff. It assisted with the introduction of community policing in Yerevan's Arabkir district and assessed the needs for a computerized emergency call centre in Yerevan.

**Strengthening cyber security.** The Office supported the work of the Cyber Security Task Force, which commented on the draft Law on Information Technologies. It presented the international information security management standard, translated into Armenian, to the authorities.



**Democratic control of the armed forces.** The Office offered training and advice on the democratic control of the armed forces to officials from the Ministry of Defence, the National Security Service, the police, parliamentary staff, media representatives and non-governmental organizations.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Elimination of Melange.** With the Office's assistance, 872 tons of *Melange* rocket fuel were recycled into 4,972 tons of fertilizer and sprayed on 1,243 hectares of land in September. A group of local and international experts from Russia, Georgia and the extra-budgetary project's donor countries closely monitored the whole process to ensure its professional execution, financial transparency and environmental safety. An official ceremony marked the successful conclusion of the largest extra-budgetary project ever conducted by the Office with the financing of Canada, Finland, Germany and the United States.

**Supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).** The Office helped to elaborate a system of indicators to evaluate state SME support programmes. It commissioned the assessment of a government-funded SME loan guarantee scheme and presented the results at an expert workshop in Vienna organized together with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

**Promoting regional socio-economic development.** The Office's Presence In Syunik supported an

assessment of needs for socio-economic development carried out in 30 rural communities by a regional public-private partnership.

**Promoting the Aarhus Convention.** The Office supported existing Public Environmental Information Centres and established three new ones.

## Human dimension activities

**Supporting the ombudsperson institution.** The Office and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights organized workshops to reinforce co-operation between the ombudsperson institution, the state administration and civil society. The Office regularly chaired an international ombudsperson working group.

**Supporting criminal justice reforms.** The Office offered training to the Chamber of Advocates and the General Prosecutor's Office and encouraged legislative initiatives in the field of criminal justice reform. It supported the activities of public monitoring boards in penitentiary institutions and police detention centres.

**Tolerance and minority rights.** The Office organized conferences, roundtables and produced publications on minority rights. It supported handcraft training courses for incarcerated women and juveniles and an international summer camp for disabled children.

**Promoting public awareness of human rights.** The Office produced four public service announcements on human rights and supported the publication of a bulletin on case law of the European Court of Human Rights. It also worked to inform the public about mechanisms for the promotion and protection of property rights.

**Media freedom.** The Office organized workshops on freedom of information and media self-regulation and offered expert advice on media legislation and the digitalization of broadcasting. It initiated an ambitious project to institutionalize freedom of information training for public information officers.

**Anti-trafficking and migration.** The Office, together with the International Labour Organization and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development supported the establishment of a national referral mechanism and helped assess the need for training in anti-trafficking within law enforcement agencies. The Office also commissioned a survey on labour migration from Armenia from 2005 to 2007 and a review of migration legislation.

**Addressing gender issues.** The Office supported research on women's political participation, domestic violence and the economic and political empowerment of women in the Syunik region. It helped a non-governmental organization publish a series of monthly newspaper inserts addressing women's political participation.

**Youth.** The Office supported discussions with youth on draft legislation on education and local government and the organization of a summer school for young leaders in Syunik.

*Head of Office:*

*Ambassador Sergey Kapinos from 1 October, succeeding Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin whose mandate ended on 14 June*

*Approved budget: € 2,315,800*

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

← The Police Centre for Induction Training was renovated with OSCE support as part of the on-going Police Assistance Programme that the Office in Yerevan has been implementing. (OSCE/Karen Minasyan)

↓ Thanks to OSCE support in Armenia, all 872 tons of the highly explosive missile fuel *Melange* have been neutralized, converted into 4,972 tons of fertilizer and sprayed on 1,243 hectares of land. (OSCE/Gohar Avagyan)

