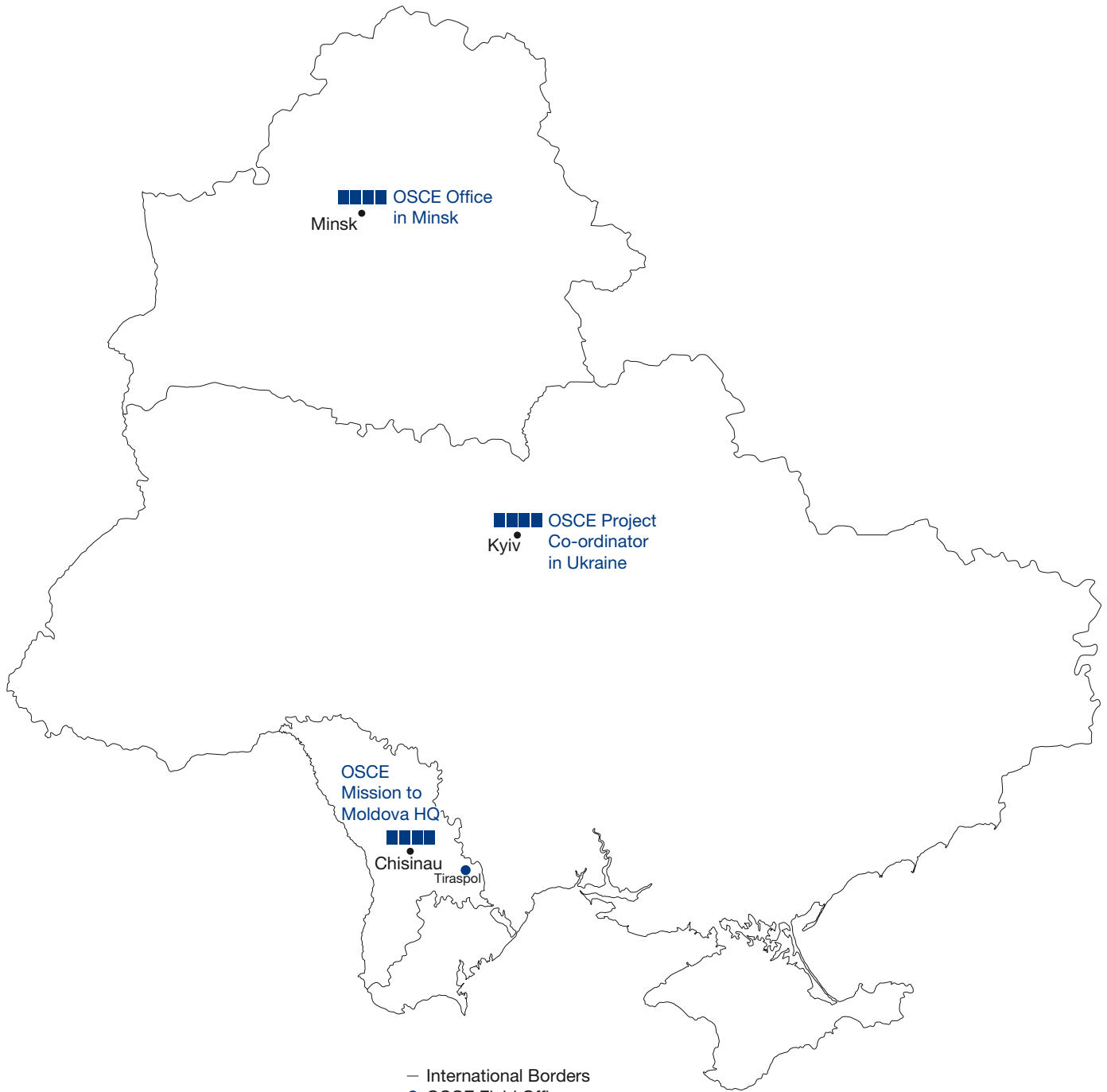


# *Field operations*

OSCE/Steven Weinburg



# Eastern Europe



- International Borders
- OSCE Field Office

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

## Office in Minsk

The Office in Minsk assisted the Belarusian Government in further promoting institution-building, consolidating the rule of law, fostering relations

with civil society and supporting the country in addressing economic and environmental issues. Following its mandate,

the Office focused on two major fields of involvement: monitoring of and reporting on the observance by the host country of its commitments

*vis-à-vis* the Organization, and implementing field projects in the economic and environmental and human dimensions.

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Legislation improvement.** To improve the general investment climate in Belarus, the Office worked with the National Law Drafting Centre to promote reform of legislation on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In November, it helped organize a working session on handicraft activities, a new type of SME in Belarus. The Office invited European Union experts on SMEs and handicraft experts from Poland and Belgium to share their experiences. The discussion resulted in recommendations on organization, taxation and state support to craftsmanship.

**Rural tourism development.** To promote and develop rural tourism in Belarus, the Office supported a project of the non-governmental organization, *Agro&Eco Tourism*, which works to enhance the existing network of rural farmsteads. These "Green Ways" are routes that promote a healthy lifestyle and environmentally friendly non-motorized tourism. After special training in Poland, rural farmers developed new routes near their farmsteads, engaging the local population and employing local resources. The project published a guidebook of the completed routes entitled *Green Trails of Belarus* and distributed it in Belarus and abroad.

**Access to environmental information.** In 2005, the Belarus Government approved and registered a project establishing an Aarhus Centre in Minsk, which is designed to raise people's awareness of environmental issues and encourage their participation in decision-making, following Office consultations with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

In December, the Aarhus Centre opened to its first visitors. All Centres promote the Aarhus Convention, which aims at improving public access to environmental

information, fostering public participation in environmental decision-making and ensuring that the public can challenge public environmental decisions.

**Environmental education for sustainable development.** The Office sponsored a study on introducing "Green Pack" environmental materials to the education system. Two Regional Environmental Committee experts assessed the feasibility of introducing the materials and the parties then agreed to put together a project proposal. The multimedia educational materials, developed by the UN-led Regional Environmental Centre in Budapest, aim to set a new model of behaviour, rather than simply impart knowledge about particular environmental subject areas. In this context, students partner with teachers to accomplish various activities, such as roleplays, decision-making and discussions.

**Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas.** The Office implemented five small projects focusing on this issue. These had been selected for grants under the CORE programme in 2004, a rehabilitation project designed to improve living conditions in the areas of Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster. In Stolín, one project assists disabled children, with a small shop selling the crafts the children produce. A second project in Stolín helps provide the local school with health and medical equipment. A project in Bragin helped a local museum in Bragin launch its website (<http://bragin-museum.org>). In the Chechersk region, the fourth project helped a local school establish a fruit and vegetable garden to raise produce for sale in coming years. The final project, located in Slavgorod, offered sewing workshops to assist teenagers from 'troubled' families to receive professional skills.

Under the CORE programme, the Office also submitted three smaller-scale projects for registration.



As one of a number of small projects designed to help rehabilitate Chernobyl-affected areas, the Office helped a local museum in Bragin launch its website.

**Environment and security.** Together with the UNEP and the UNDP, the Office participated in meetings to promote the Regional Initiative on Environment and Security in Eastern Europe, a project aimed at identifying and tackling environmental threats to security. In October, the Office contributed to consultations between the relevant governmental structures and Minsk-based international organizations during the visit of a UNEP expert, who presented the concept and the methodology of project assessment to be held next year.

### Human dimension activities

**Strengthening the rule of law and freedom of movement.** The Office assisted the ODIHR in the implementation of a project on *Alternatives to Criminal Prosecution* designed to introduce Belarusian legal policy-makers to non-custodial approaches to criminal cases. The project, carried out with the National Law Drafting Centre (NLDC) and the Institute for Continuing Training of Judges, Prosecutors and Justice System Employees, focused on mediation and restorative justice initiatives. These initiatives emphasize the restoration of community ties rather than punitive measures. The project, funded by the European Commission, followed up on the *Alternative*

*Sentencing* project implemented in 2003 and 2004 that assisted the Belarusian government to expand the use of alternatives to imprisonment and ultimately reduce the country's high prison population.

The ODIHR's Migration/Freedom of Movement Unit and the National Law Drafting Centre also supported the process of creating a unified state register of the population. Several activities were organized in the framework of this project, including roundtables, study trips and a regional conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan. These efforts aimed at assisting the Belarusian authorities in developing a conceptual and legal basis for the creation of a population registration system that would comply with international standards.

**Legislative support and good governance.** In an attempt to strengthen the legal protection for victims of crime, the Office implemented a project with the NLDC. Under the project, five Belarusian experts traveled to the United Kingdom in August to acquaint themselves with the experience of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel in London and Glasgow. CICA briefed the experts on the role of civil society in assisting victims of crime as well as on its compensation scheme, which provides material compensation to the victims of crime for any physical or psychological harm they suffered.

The Chief Executive of the CICA joined a follow-up seminar in October to discuss solutions to existing challenges in the Belarusian context and to support the authorities' drafting of legislative acts aimed at increased protection for victims of crime.

The Office also supported a project with the NLDC aimed at improving the law-making process by introducing criminological assessments. The two seminars and a study trip to Italy helped create a set of guidelines on examining draft legislative acts. The guidelines focus on detecting any undesirable side effects of legislation, such as increased corruption or other criminal actions.

**Human rights monitoring.** The Office promoted the implementation of the

**Promoting tolerance and non-discrimination**

During 2005, the Office together with the Committee on Religions and Nationalities under the Council of Ministers finalized two publications aimed at strengthening contacts between national minorities and religious communities and their relationship to Belarusian authorities.

In their joint welcoming address to the readers of *Multinational Belarus*, the Head of the Committee on Religions and Nationalities, Stanislav Buko, and the Head of the OSCE Office, Ambassador Eberhard Heyken, said the following: "We are confident that everybody will benefit from this 'travel' around multinational Belarus, and that the brochure will stimulate a fruitful dialogue between the authorities and different nationalities of Belarus and between minority communities themselves."

The second publication, *On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations in Belarus*, compiles articles on the current situation and the prospects of development of the multi-confessional community in Belarus.

The Deputy Chairman of the Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities, Yakov Basin, an expert in the field, said of the publication: "This compilation ... will undoubtedly promote deeper knowledge about different religious communities in Belarus and inter-confessional dialogue, and as such will serve further consolidation of the Belarusian society."



**The publication, *Multinational Belarus*, is designed to stimulate dialogue among the different nationalities of Belarus and with the authorities.**

OSCE's human dimension commitments through various monitoring activities. Regular field trips allowed the office staff to maintain an updated picture of the challenges and working conditions for local civil society parties as well as officials. The Office attended court hearings that related to key OSCE commitments and fundamental freedoms. One such example – touching upon the right to freedom of association – was the legal proceeding against a well-known polling agency, the Independent Institute of Social, Economic and Political Studies, which was closed after a decision in April by the Supreme Court of Belarus.

The Office also followed the situation of several prominent persons in detention, such as the former Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Mikhail Marinich; the Chairman of a market vendors strike committee Valery Levonevsky, as well as his deputy Alexander Vasilyev; former MP Sergey Skrebets; Social Democratic leader Nikolai Statkevich; and Professor Yuri Bandazhevsky. The Office visited several of the persons named in prison and expressed its concern publicly about the cases. In July and August, respectively, Messrs. Vasilyev and Bandazhevsky were released in accordance with a recent amnesty law.

**Media monitoring.** In the beginning of February, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, visited Minsk. He collected first-hand

information about the media situation in Belarus. In a final report, the Representative came up with a number of recommendations, in particular, regarding the decriminalization of libel.

Office activities in the field concentrated on close monitoring of the media situation in Belarus. Office representatives visited and observed court trials against newspapers and journalists. Libel cases against newspapers *Narodnaya Volya*, *BDG*, *Delovaya Gazeta* and *Z'hoda* prompted special concern.

**Dealing with individual complaints**  
The Office received approximately 150 individual complaints of alleged human rights violations, mainly regarding the actions of law enforcement agencies. Complaints included both civil and criminal cases. Many related to alleged violations of the right to a fair trial and the treatment of prisoners. The Office's findings and concerns were regularly brought to the attention of the Belarusian authorities, who generally responded promptly. On several occasions the relevant body took remedial action in response to the Office's intervention.

Head of Office:  
Until 31 July  
Ambassador Eberhard Heyken  
Since 29 August  
Ambassador Ake Peterson  
Revised budget: €858,500  
[www.osce.org/belarus](http://www.osce.org/belarus)

# Mission to Moldova

The Mission to Moldova focused its efforts in 2005 on restarting the negotiations on a political settlement of the Transdniestrian problem and addressed a range of destabilizing crises. The Ukrainian initiative, *Towards a Settlement through Democratization*, gave new impetus to the political settlement process. However,

formal negotiations remained blocked until October, when negotiations resumed with the addition of the United States and European Union as observers.

The Mission's crisis prevention efforts achieved their greatest success in mediating the issue of Moldovan Latin script schools on the left bank of the Dniestr/Nistru

river. (For more on this topic, please see page 19). An enhanced presence of Mission staff, including regular patrols, helped contain tensions and avert incidents between the former combatants in the Security Zone.

The March parliamentary elections and the April re-election of President Vladimir Voronin produced

a new consensus and commitment in Moldova to democratic reforms. The Mission devoted much time and attention in support of these efforts, in particular concerning the support of the rule of law, freedom of the media and electoral reform.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Political settlement negotiations.** The Mission concentrated its efforts on restarting the political settlement negotiations, stalled since summer 2004. The mediators from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the OSCE held consultations with representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol in January, May and September. At the May meeting, Ukraine introduced President Victor Yushchenko's settlement plan, *Toward a Settlement through Democratization*. This initiative envisages democratization of the Transdniestrian region through internationally conducted elections to the regional legislative body, along with steps to promote demilitarization, transparency and increased confidence.

In July, the Moldovan Parliament, citing the Ukrainian Plan, adopted a law *On the Basic Principles of a Special Legal Status of Transdniestria*. During consultations in September in Odessa, Chisinau and Tiraspol agreed to invite the EU and US to participate as observers in the negotiations. Formal negotiations resumed in an enlarged format in October after a 15-month break and continued in December following the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana. On 15 December, the Presidents of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Victor Yushchenko and Vladimir Putin, issued a Joint Statement welcoming the resumption of negotiations on the settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

In September, Presidents Voronin and Yushchenko jointly requested the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to consider send-



The Mission monitors the destruction of expired bombs and rockets.

ing an International Assessment Mission (IAM) to analyse democratic conditions in Transdniestria and necessary steps for conducting democratic elections in the region. In parallel, the OSCE Mission conducted technical consultations and analyses on basic requirements for democratic elections in the Transdniestrian region, as proposed in the Yushchenko Plan. At the October negotiating round, the OSCE Chairmanship was asked to continue consultations on the possibility of organizing an IAM to the Transdniestrian region.

Together with military experts from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the OSCE Mission completed development of a pack-

age of proposed confidence- and security-building measures, which were presented by the three mediators in July. The Mission subsequently began consultations on the package with representatives of Chisinau and Tiraspol. The October negotiating round welcomed possible progress on enhancing transparency through a mutual exchange of military data, as envisaged in elements of this package.

**The Joint Control Commission.** The Joint Control Commission (JCC), the body responsible for implementing the July 1992 Ceasefire Agreement and supervising the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in the Security Zone, remained blocked during 2005 over an unresolved dispute concern-

ing a Transnistrian checkpoint and the access to nearby farmland. Moldovan farmers who cultivate areas under the *de facto* control of Transnistrian authorities continued to suffer harassment and intimidation from Transnistrian militia and customs officials. Most of their land in Transnistrian-controlled territory was not worked in 2005, resulting in almost no harvest and increased tension. The Mission monitored developments carefully and sought to reach a solution through the JCC and diplomatic channels. However, the situation remains unresolved.

**Removal of Russian Federation arms and equipment.** There were no withdrawals of Russian arms and equipment from the Transnistrian region during 2005. Roughly 20,000 metric tons of ammunition remain to be removed. The commander of the Operative Group of Russian Forces reported in May that surplus stocks of 40,000 small arms and light weapons stored by Russian forces in the Transnistrian region have been destroyed. The OSCE has not been allowed to verify these claims.

**Building confidence and security and reducing threats.** In addition to the CSBM package, the Mission explored ways to assist the Moldovan Ministry of Defence in reducing stocks of surplus and outdated ammunition, destroying military equipment and upgrading ammunition storage facilities. Mission staff made assessment visits to Moldovan military installations and submitted recommendations for supporting de-militarization projects and other initiatives.

### Human dimension activities

#### ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL REFORM

The Mission supported the International Election Observation Mission to the March 2005 parliamentary elections and assessed the elections for mayor of Chisinau in July and November. In co-operation with the ODIHR, the Mission also closely followed the process of electoral reform.

**Protecting language rights.** The Mission successfully prevented a recurrence of



OSCE/Trygve Kalland

**Donation of winter shoes to an orphanage in Bender**

the 2004 school crisis, when Transnistrian authorities forcefully closed several Moldovan schools teaching Moldovan/Romanian in the Latin script. Negotiations hosted by the Mission resulted in an agreement between Moldovan and Transnistrian education authorities on a set of statutes for Moldovan schools in the Transnistrian region. Based on these statutes, the schools received permanent registration from Transnistrian authorities and started the new academic year on schedule. However, the premises of one Moldovan school remain confiscated by Transnistrian authorities and 550 children must study in temporary premises. The Mission continues to press Transnistrian authorities to return the building. (For more on this topic, please see page 19.)

**Monitoring human rights.** The Mission received and responded to a large number of individual human rights complaints from both sides of the Dniestr/Nistru River. Complaints from detained or sentenced persons predominated. Detainees mostly refer to violations of procedural rights during pre-trial detention. Many detainees also refer to poor conditions and lack of adequate medical assistance.

The Mission closely monitored several individual court cases, including high-profile cases with possible political motivations, involving the right to a fair trial, torture, mass media, and religious freedom. Special attention continues to be devoted to the remaining two members of the Ilascu group, convicted by Transnistrian authorities of alleged crimes during the 1992 conflict.

**Capacity-building through promoting human rights.** Through use of the human dimension fund, the Mission responded to several funding requests from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support small-scale projects aimed at promoting human rights and tolerance across the Dniestr/Nistru River, and among national minorities. Participation in OSCE and other international seminars for civil servants and NGO representatives from both sides of the river has also been ensured through this fund.

### Combating human trafficking and promoting gender balance

The Mission continued its leading role in co-ordinating actors involved in combating trafficking in human beings. The Mission hosted monthly technical co-ordination meetings in Chisinau and six in the regions. The Mission also published a twice-yearly consolidated Matrix of Anti-Trafficking Activities, which was expanded to include information on NGO and government activity in the regions. The launch of a new website about anti-trafficking actors, activities, and resources available in Moldova is under preparation.

The Mission continued to support activities of both the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and the numerous District Committees. The Mission co-chaired the National Committee's sub-working group on legislation, and provided technical support for drafting of the newly revised National Plan of Action (effective in September 2005). In co-ordination with the ODIHR, the Mission also provided technical support and advocacy for the draft Law on Prevention and to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, adopted by Parliament on 20 October.

To strengthen the capacity of national authorities, the Mission and the ODIHR supported a series of training programmes for judges and prosecutors. In co-operation with the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Mission conducted an intensive training programme for law enforcement officers on pro-active investigation techniques to combat trafficking in human beings.



**The Mission organized anti-trafficking training for police**

The Mission continued to support the NGO, *La Strada*, in formalizing a National Referral Mechanism, including maintaining a database of social assistance for trafficking victims and vulnerable persons. To support re-integration of trafficking victims, the Mission funded university and vocational scholarships for trafficked persons. Together with other international partners, the Mission co-funds the project, *Fight against Child Trafficking*, implemented by *Terre des Hommes*. The Mission also contributes to a social campaign implemented by *La Strada* to cultivate a more tolerant attitude toward victims of trafficking.

***Promoting freedom of the media.***

Promoting media freedom on both sides of the Dniestr/Nistru river was a key Mission activity. The Mission closely monitored the performance of the national public broadcaster *Teleradio Moldova*. In co-operation with the ODIHR, the Mission also monitored coverage of the 2005 parliamentary and local election campaigns in the broadcast media. The Mission supported efforts for fundamental reform of Moldova's broadcasting legislation.

Other areas drawing Mission attention were transparency in allocation of broadcasting frequencies, transformation of state print press into private institutions and implementation of Moldovan legisla-

tion with regard to libel and access to information.

In February, the Mission supported an assessment visit to the Transdniestrian region by the Senior Advisor of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. The subsequent report described the media climate in the region as restrictive and recommended continued dialogue with local authorities and support for the few independent media outlets in the region.

**Head of Mission:**  
Ambassador William H. Hill  
Revised budget: €1,485,700  
[www.osce.org/moldova](http://www.osce.org/moldova)

# Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

The mandate of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is to plan, implement, and monitor projects in all three OSCE dimensions in co-operation with the relevant Ukrainian authorities and the OSCE and its Institutions.

The Project Co-ordinator substantially increased its activities in 2005, particularly

in the areas of good governance, focusing on co-operative programmes in preparation for the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary elections. The project includes training for journalists and election officials, media-related activities and voter education.

Other important activities included efforts to assist

Ukraine in the fight against human trafficking and in disposing of toxic rocket fuel components. These projects dovetailed with those designed to help recently demobilized military personnel in their transition to civilian life.

The office has also implemented comprehensive

programmes in the field of rule of law and in the economic and environmental dimensions, concentrating on stimulating economic growth by supporting local development initiatives and assisting Ukrainian regions in attracting investment.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Helping demobilized soldiers.** To assist former military personnel affected by the downsizing of the country's armed forces in their transition to civilian life, the OSCE worked in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence and the former National Co-ordination Centre for the Resettlement of Military Servicemen and Conversion of Former Military Facilities. Special training courses on topics such as business management, economics, and marketing and sales were combined with employment assistance and information seminars to help ease the transition for discharged or soon to be discharged military personnel. In 2005, more than 500 discharged military officers took part. Eighty per cent of them found employment within three months of completing training.

Also in co-operation with the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, the Project Co-ordinator has offered assistance in helping to establish a Resource and Career Centre within the Ministry. Once established, the Centre will assist discharged soldiers with issues such as pensions, housing and employment, as well as house a library on social adaptation issues.

**Disposing of dangerous rocket fuel.** The Project Co-ordinator's office has recently launched a new initiative, jointly with the Forum for Security Co-operation, which has as its goal the disposal of more than 16,000 tons of a highly unstable and toxic rocket fuel component. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

OSCE/Timothy Tappe



**Ukrainian worker at a bottle production facility in Rivne, western Ukraine taken during an investment promotion trip organized by InvestInRivne.**



## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Supporting local business development.** The Project Co-ordinator's office concentrated on improving conditions for entrepreneurs and assisting small business development at the regional level. Since its launch in 2004, the Office's main project, implemented with the Eurasia Foundation and state-run employment agencies in nine Ukrainian regions, has helped create more than 800 new businesses and 1,100 new jobs. The project will be extended into three more regions in 2006.

**Stimulating the economy through progressive development models.** Industrial clusters, where numerous companies set up business in the same area, and ecotourism, a booming branch of the tourism industry, can stimulate local economic growth by increasing employment opportunities and improving competitiveness in the market place. Recognizing the importance of such progressive development models, the OSCE and the Ukrainian International Market Support Foundation commissioned and financed a study on the



OSCE/Timothy Tappe



**An assembly worker at the SAMGAS plant.**



**Delegation of commercial attaches inspecting a stone production facility in Rivne during the promotion trip.**



**The promotion trip also visited the SAMGAS Ltd Liability Co in Rivne.**

economic potential of 10 Ukrainian regions, which highlighted potential high-growth sectors and identified comparative advantages.

Based on those findings and the success of a pilot programme funded by the Eurasia Foundation to establish a wood-processing cluster in Ukraine's Rivne region, the OSCE created a strategic development plan for the cluster, helping it diversify and widen its distribution channels.

The study also identified eco-tourism as a potential growth area for the lower Danube region of Ukraine. Situated in the Odessa region, this lush delta is one of Europe's most famous nature reserves. In co-operation with the Vylkovo-based Information Tourism Center, more than 50 households will be trained as bed and breakfasts operators.

**Regional economic development.** In May, the Project Co-ordinator, the City of Rivne, the Rivne State Regional Administration and the Rivne Chamber of Commerce and Industry together established the Rivne Agency for Investment Attraction and Investor Assistance. The Agency, which officially opened in May, provides expert advice and actively promotes the region. It has advised more than a dozen potential investors from Western and Central European countries on investment

opportunities, regional economic conditions and legislative issues.

The Rivne Chamber of Commerce and Industry provided the Agency with free premises, while the Rivne City Administration gave financial support. The Project Co-ordinator is currently considering how to extend this project to other regions.

### *Human dimension activities*

**Good governance and strengthening of democratic institutions.** In response to requests from many Ukrainian governmental bodies, the Project Co-ordinator's office substantially increased its activities in these fields, focusing on co-operative projects to assist Ukrainian authorities in preparing for the 2006 parliamentary elections.

Based on the ODIHR's recommendations, the Project Co-ordinator's office assisted an expert working group in drafting the new law on parliamentary elections in

Ukraine. After the law was passed, the office participated in an inter-departmental working group under the Cabinet of Ministers which formulated the first steps for creating a central voter registry and provided the Ukrainian Central Election Commission with computers, servers, printers and operating systems for use in compiling updated voter lists from all over the country.

**Preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings.** The Project Co-ordinator launched several anti-trafficking projects, increased its policy-level focus and continued assisting the Ukrainian Government in implementing a comprehensive national programme to combat human trafficking. The programme includes assistance to the country's law enforcement personnel and judicial authorities to help the prosecution of criminals. It supports prevention through the spread of information. The office has also continued assistance to anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations, which provide hotline services across Ukraine and conduct information campaigns. Some 14,000 persons used these hotline services in 2005.

At the request of the Ukrainian Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports and in conjunction with the OSCE's Anti-trafficking Assistance Unit and the Chairman-in-Office's Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Project Co-ordinator is assisting Ukraine in creating the ministerial-level post of the

National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator. The office also worked closely with ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit on an expert legal review of new anti-trafficking draft legislation and completed an assessment of Ukraine's adoption system. Commissioned by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, the assessment analysed the current system, identified gaps, and provided recommendations for the planned reform.

The OSCE initiated several projects to empower groups at risk for trafficking economically. First, it assessed labour markets in the ten regions of Ukraine most affected by trafficking. The assessment, conducted with the IOM, resulted in recommendations supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Project Co-ordinator's office has also partnered with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for a pilot project providing internships, employment assistance and independent living skills to Ukrainian orphans. (For more on this topic, please see page 14.)

**Supporting the establishment of Ukraine's new administrative justice system.** The Project Co-ordinator's agenda in this field focused particularly on rule of law projects that supported the establishment of the country's new administrative justice system. At the request of the Judicial Academy of the State Judicial Administration, the Co-ordinator helped develop new criteria to test the qualifications, knowledge and skills of judges applying for positions in Ukraine's newly created administrative court system. The Co-ordinator's office, together with the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, also developed and published a manual for training and retraining administrative court judges based on the new criteria and a textbook on international standards of administrative justice. It held training sessions for over 200 judges of the Higher Administrative Court and regional courts and prepared a commentary to the Code of Administrative Court Procedure, which judges and prosecutors will use in applying the Code. Finally, it also assisted authorities in developing and introducing the first rule of law courses to law faculties.

**Legislative activities.** At the request of the Ukrainian Supreme Court, the Project Co-ordinator's office helped to reconcile gaps and overlaps between the country's civil and commercial codes, which entered into force in January 2004. The office issued a guidebook that highlights the contradicting legal provisions and included practical guidelines, and also assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a court restatement aiming at assisting judges in the coherent application of the new codes. Training courses for judges of appellate courts on applying the codes were held in seven regions of Ukraine, and the Project Co-ordinator also provided training courses on legislative drafting techniques for representatives of the Ukrainian Parliament and bodies of local self-government. At the request of Ukrainian legislators, the Co-ordinator provided the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on European Integration with 68 independent expert opinions on proposed legislation. The team of legal experts considered each draft law's conformity with international human rights, standards of the Council of Europe, the case law of the European Court of Human rights, OSCE principles, legal requirements of the European Union's Second and Third Pillars and the Copenhagen criteria on EU accession.

Head of Mission:  
Ambassador James F. Schumaker  
Revised budget: €1,650,100  
[www.osce.org/ukraine](http://www.osce.org/ukraine)