RESPONSE TO CYBER THREATS:
- Digital hygiene for public servants, see p. 3
- Understanding criminal potential of cryptocurrencies, an online course for law enforcers, see p. 5

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
- Outcomes of 3-years’ efforts in strengthening chemical security, see p. 7
- Mobile laboratory for chemical and industrial emergencies, see p. 7
- Analysis of industrial waste threats for Dniester and Siversky Donets, see p. 8

ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE
- Digital reference guide for available rehabilitation resources across the country
- Training centre for psychologists and social workers

GENDER EQUALITY
- Reference for policy makers and reformers
- Joint statement with the OSCE SMM on International Women’s Day
27 January 2021. The purpose of the Conference “2020 Local Elections: Lessons Learnt and Recommendations” streamed live here, was to analyze and evaluate the implementation of the 2020 local elections, as well as to develop and to discuss short-term and long-term recommendations for further strengthening and improving the electoral processes. To learn more

9 February 2021. Transparency of election administration bodies is an important factor of people's trust into elections, as a tool to influence the government of their own country. That is why enhancing transparency of election administration is one of the goals of project co-operation of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine with the country’s Central Election Commission.

An important development in this sphere is the introduction by the CEC of a practice to publicly report on its work. For the first time in its history, the CEC has published an annual report (for 2020) in accordance with its Strategic Development Plan. To learn more

15 March 2021. The year of 2020 demonstrated growing interest of public servants to using dialogue as a tool for policy-making and conflict management! This is confirmed by the following facts:

• over 2,300 representatives of state agencies passed a self-paced online course “Mediation and Dialogue Skills for the Needs of Public Service” that is a part of a retraining programme and started only in February 2020;
• 320 participants received trainings on conflict management, effective communication, mediation, dialogue;
• 15 public servants passed a programme on facilitation of group discussions;
• in total, more than 20 government agencies were represented in these activities.

These efforts were part of the OSCE Project Coordinator’s projects aimed at supporting dialogue for reforms and social cohesion in Ukraine. To learn more

19 January 2021. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine presented a new online course “Standards of good governance for civil society organizations” placed at distant learning platform Prometeus. This educational tool was developed as part of project partnership with the Office of the President and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in 2020. The course is a unique opportunity for everyone to look at good governance as a tool to speed-up institutional development of a civil society organization, it will be a useful resource of expertise for a wide audience, but notably for those civil society representatives that are interested in trust-building, improving their operational approaches and widening partnerships. To learn more
18 February 2021. Wind of change raised by two reforms – divestiture of state and municipal ownership (de-statisation) and decentralisation – poses numerous challenges for Ukrainian regional and local press. An analytical research, produced with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in the end of 2020, provides insights into new conditions of work of print media outlets, as well as recommendations that will help them steer an optimal course in these conditions. Read, download and share it with colleagues. E-version in Ukrainian can be found here. To learn more

24 February 2021. This year’s seminar “Media and Reality: Measurements of Responsibility” organized under the initiative of OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, together with the Aspen Institute Kyiv, will take place on 26-30 May 2021. The seminar provides a platform for discussion of media community representatives to discuss on the importance of the media for democracy, civil society, good governance and conflict prevention practices, as well as for presenting community interests. To learn more

26 January 2021. Rapid development of information technologies and, thus, increasing vulnerability of state information systems urge the need for sustainable efforts in creating safe and secure cyber environment. Recognizing the importance of responsible cybersecurity practices among civil servants at different levels or hierarchy, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator developed the educational series of videos “Cyber Hygiene Essentials”. To learn more

An educational series of videos on cyber hygiene rules for civil servants, produced with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, was presented at an event in Kyiv on 26 January 2021. Nine episodes lasting from 3 to 7 minutes are placed on the Dia.Osvita digital education platform of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and are accessible here. To learn more

10-17 March 2021. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator helps Ukraine’s civil servants to acquire skills and knowledge on safe use of IT tools in their work. The Co-ordinator is developing educational products and tools promoting cyber hygiene rules and safe behaviour in a digital world. To create a pool of expert trainers able to teach relevant courses for civil servants, the Co-ordinator organized first two methodological training sessions, that helped improve educators’ expertise in interactive methods of teaching on cybersecurity, cyberhygiene and data protection in cyberspace, safe and secure use of computer equipment at state/local authorities. To learn more

10 February 2021. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine announced the selection of participants from national and regional media to participate in the training “Models of work of of Press Ombudsperson/Media Ethics Focal Point in an Individual Ukrainina Media”. This event was rescheduled due to changed situation in spread of COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more

HUMAN SECURITY

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**COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

1 March 2021. Ongoing reform of decentralization in Ukraine together with wider opportunities for the new local self-government bodies also carries potential risks to non-fulfillment of certain social obligations, at least temporarily. For instance, newly elected local officials may set new priorities other than preventive measures against trafficking in human beings.

To discuss ways of addressing this challenge, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the Ministry of Social Policy gathered anti-trafficking civil society organisations from across Ukraine at an event in Lviv on 24-25 February 2021. Participants elaborated a list of recommendations highlighting the importance of the assistance to vulnerable groups and identification of survivors of trafficking in human beings for local authorities. **To learn more**

**REHABILITATION OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE**

15 February 2021. “War and military action, those are probably most difficult experiences a person can get in the course of his or her life. Not everyone can handle that experience without external support. For that a system of professional assistance is needed, so that people who need it could get quality psychological help and thus avoid long-term negative effects for their lives,” said Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine on the occasion of opening of the new training ground at the rehabilitation center of the Hospital of Veterans “Forest Glade” in Pushcha Vodytsea at the outskirts of Kyiv.

This training ground was equipped by furniture and necessary technical appliances with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator on the request from the Ministry of Veteran Affairs of Ukraine. **To learn more**

23 February 2021. Interactive guide developed with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in partnership with the country’s Ministry for Veteran Affairs (Мінветеранів) provides handy reference to veterans and their family members on available resources for medical and psychological rehabilitation, social service providers.

The online guide, presented today at a joint press-conference, was developed as part of the OSCE efforts to help the country develop a system of support for veterans and their families.

The guide is a part of the comprehensive solution, called E-Veteran, that is being developed by the Ministry to digitize access to services for veterans. **To learn more**

9 March 2021. Anti-trafficking Facebook page Правацькій Безпеці and Instagram #worksafe project, initiated jointly by the Ministry of Social Policy and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, ran a video contest “I am against human-trafficking” among students. As part of this contest, over 90 students from 24 educational institutions created 37 short social media videos uncovering the importance of combating human-trafficking and possible solutions how not to become a victim and shared it on their social media pages. **To learn more**
8 February 2021. Efforts to create equal opportunities for men and women in a certain sphere require systemic approach that takes into account a number of factors. Often success of this work, be it law-making or policy development, depends on ability of change agents to draw on existing frameworks, or to analyze them and propose relevant changes.

On Friday, 5 February 2021, Kateryna Levchenko, Governmental Ombudsperson for Gender Policy, presented a new reference guide “Gender Policy in Legal Documents: Part 1”, developed with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator. The publication is a useful tool for lawmakers, officials of central and local authorities, civil society activists and international organisations, as it provides an overview of Ukraine’s legal and institutional instruments for dealing with inequalities and arising problems. To learn more

8 March 2021. Women make critical contributions to peaceful and prosperous societies, say Chief Monitor of OSCE SMM - Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and OSCE Project Co-ordinator. International Women’s Day provides a timely reminder of women’s ongoing and critical contributions to sustainable peace and security. To learn more

1 March 2021. “The Constitutional Court is not part of the justice system, it is a court for laws, it works as a negative law-maker, if the parliament adopts laws, the Constitutional Court rejects them. For the time of the Court’s existence, it made a number of important decisions, but also some doubtful ones, causing public outcry. The Court is important, as it was created to protect the Basic Law, yet now we are in a situation, when the agenda is dominated by the need to ensure better health of constitutional justice”, with these words Oleksandr Vodyannikov, OSCE Project Co-ordinator’s Legal Advisor opened the session of “Development of Constitutional Justice System” at today’s All-Ukrainian Forum “Ukraine – 30” organized by the Office of the President. To learn more

11 January 2021. OSCE together with UNODC and other global actors recognizes the connection between increased illegal use of cryptocurrencies and illicit drugs trade, which in turn generates serious crimes, including terrorism and violence. The Organization makes efforts towards building law enforcement capacities to address this challenge.

The PCU in the framework of its project co-operation with the Security Service of Ukraine conducted a series of expert discussions on the role of cryptocurrencies in criminal justice and developed an online course open for public “BlockChain and Bitcoin: what is it and how does it work?”. To learn more
LEGAL & HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

19 March 2021. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine promotes legal clinics movement and its initiatives that aim at providing law students with the opportunity to gain essential practical skills. Today, the Co-ordinator jointly with the Association of Legal Clinics and USAID New Justice Programme presents the Manual on Clinical Legal Education. This Manual covers the history of this approach to education and contains helpful advices for organizing legal clinics’ activities in line with best practices. This video is a livestream of the Manual's presentation. To learn more.

26 March 2020. Call for applications in this year’s Annual Inter-University School on Human Rights is open! It is a well-known platform for Ukrainian law students and young legal practitioners to increase their knowledge about international and European human rights law issues. This year online School will focus on the problems of safety of journalists, freedom of association (Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms), positive and negative obligations to investigate crimes against media actors, as well as measures to protect safety (including digital) of journalists, journalistic sources, surveillance of data. To learn more.

Economic, Environmental and Politico-Military Projects

CHEMICAL SECURITY

28 January 2021. Video story: OSCE provides training for joint efforts of Ukraine’s agencies in chemical emergency response. This video describes an inter-agency table-top exercise, organised by OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine on 20 November 2020 at the Lviv State University of Life Safety. The exercise is based on a fictional scenario, modelled on the situation that could actually happen on many similar production sites across Ukraine.

An oxygen cylinder explodes during welding works causing a fire at a roof of a large warehouse of the fat plant. As the plant stores sizable reserves of sulphur and ammonia, highly hazardous chemical substances used in production process, the situation quickly turns into a disaster that can potentially affect large territories and threaten lives of many people. To learn more.
CHEMICAL SECURITY

5 February 2021. Outcomes of three years of OSCE assistance to Ukraine in modernizing its system of protection from threats related to toxic and hazardous chemicals were presented on 5 February 2021. The projects, completed in January, focused on three key areas: the regulatory system, laboratory analysis capacity, and control over transboundary movement of chemicals.

“Ukraine is an industrially developed country, and that involves a number of risks, related to hazardous materials used by enterprises in production or moved across borders,” said Henrik Villadsen, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. To learn more

11 March 2021. Videostory: Chemical Safety and Security at Borders: OSCE’s Assistance to Ukraine

Raw materials, fertilizers, pesticides, household chemicals, construction and other materials are crossing Ukraine’s border every day to provide for needs of industry and consumers. This video tells a story about the OSCE PCU help in increasing preparedness of the country’s border personnel to address potential chemical security threats. This assistance included delivering of classroom and field exercises, development of training programmes and materials, provision of chemical security control kits and laboratory equipment. To learn more

30 March 2021. During a ceremony in Mariupol on 30 March 2021, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine provided sophisticated and up-to-date mobile laboratory for radiological and chemical surveillance and monitoring to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

“Quick identification of threats, on the spot, during an emergency situation is critical to saving people’s lives. It enables emergency services to take timely decisions and act swiftly to address dangerous situations,” said Henrik Villadsen, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. To learn more

BIOLOGICAL SECURITY

17 March 2021. A country’s protection from biological threats depends on many factors, some of the critical ones are:

- comprehensive legal framework where laws and regulations are aligned with international law and best practices;
- local laboratories have tools to diagnose dangerous pathogens of infectious diseases and safely handle biological materials;
- scientists in those laboratories have solid and up-to-date knowledge about biological safety, security and ethics.

To help Ukraine improve its biosecurity system in those components, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine launched three new projects this year. These efforts are being implemented with the financial support of the European Union and in partnership with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection. To learn more

CONTROL OVER SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

11 February 2021. OSCE contributes to strengthening the capacity of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to protect Ukraine’s border from illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives (WAE). In 2020:

- 30 SBGS criminal analysts trained on open source data collection and analysis, which is an important aspect in combating cross-border organized crime and illicit trafficking in WAE as one of its forms (in particular, use of IT tools and techniques in searching for specific data on the Internet, information analysis, indicators of illicit trafficking in WAE in Dark Net).
- 25 border guards trained on the best standards and practices used for countering illicit trafficking in WAE covering such issues as risk analysis and profiling, behavioural specifics of potential offenders, identification of WAE and its components, traffickers’ modi operandi to conceal WAE items, canine support. To learn more
16 February 2021. “Environmental damage of the armed conflict can have a long lasting impact that will threaten not only natural ecosystems, but also human life and health,” said Ambassador Henrik Villadsen at a three-days conference “Bridge the Gap: Environmental and Industrial Risks in Eastern Ukraine”. The conference started today to bring together governmental and international partners, local authorities, and expert community for discussions of environmental challenges. In the past years, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator has been helping Ukraine in addressing those threats. Inter alia, the Co-ordinator helped to modernize eastern region’s water monitoring laboratory, provided training to its specialists, supported comprehensive chemical screening of pollutants and conducted other environmental field works to ensure knowledge-based decision making in managing water resources. To learn more

3 March 2021. Mitigation of environmental risks related to operation of industrial waste storage facilities require comprehensive settlement and cooperation of all stakeholders, governmental and private. OSCE-supported studies with analysis of the situation of those facilities in two water basins of Ukraine – Dniester and Sieversky Donets were presented on 2 March at an event in in Kyiv. To learn more

2 March 2021. In 2020, over 44,000 explosive objects were discovered and disposed of by deminers of Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast. Across the country, the State Emergency Service found more than 73,000 dangerous objects, which includes both remnants of war in the eastern part of Ukraine, as well as dangerous legacy of XX century conflicts. These figures were voiced by representatives of those organisations at the regional roundtable, organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Sievierodonetsk on 2-4 March 2021. In a sign of serious attention paid by the international community to the need to assist conflict-affected areas of Ukraine to diminish explosive threats, heads of diplomatic missions of five OSCE countries Albania, Croatia, Norway, Slovakia and Sweden, this year’s Chairpersonship of the OSCE, traveled to Sievierodonetsk to participate in the roundtable. They also visited demining centers in Sloviansk and Rubizhne, and participated in handover of mine risk education materials, developed by Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories with OSCE support, to Lysychansk hospital for children and School#6 in Sievierodonetsk. To learn more

31 March 2021. On Sunday, 4th of April, the world marks the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. It’s a good occasion to remind everyone of the importance to have a comprehensive infrastructure, unified standards and approaches, and co-ordination of all agencies that will help make the land contaminated by mines safe again. This is especially important for Ukraine, where due to the ongoing conflict huge areas in the east of the country are contaminated with explosive items. To learn more
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.

Download OUR FACTSHEET to know more.

About Us

Head of Mission
Ambassador Henrik Villadsen

As of 1 April 2021, our team consists of:
104 employees, incl.:
4 international and 100 local
68 women / 36 men

Our Team

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is available for download here (in English).

2 March 2021. The PCU's Green Committee receives OSCE Recognition Reward for its work in promoting sustainable approaches to international development and project management.

The Green Committee is a voluntary group that was established by employees of the Co-ordinator to develop and guide implementation of environmental policy in the office.

Listen to a podcast by Ms. Anna Zhovtenko, Chairman of the Green Committee, about efforts to promote sustainability in all aspects of project work.

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