

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

OSCE and policing support

Working with police in all 56 participating States, the OSCE primarily promotes the rule of law and respect for human rights. Professional, accountable and effective police is needed to deal with new risks and challenges to security, including international terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as the spread of small arms and light weapons.

The OSCE supports policing in all participating States, most often through assessment, expert advice and professional assistance.

The OSCE's police-related activities are carried out in the following key areas:

- **Police development and reform:** the goal is to create effective and efficient police agencies throughout the OSCE region. The activities in this field include police monitoring as part of crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as police training and facilitating police reform.
- **Community policing and police-public partnerships:** the goal is to help build stability, trust and reconciliation, and foster the confidence of the population in police services, in particular in post-conflict multi-ethnic societies.
- **Combating organized crime:** the goal is to support specialized organizations and assist the participating States in enhancing their capacities to tackle organized crime.

OSCE police-related activities in post-conflict environments

In times of crises and during post-conflict rehabilitation phases the OSCE participating States can request **special support** in the field of policing.

The Organization is to provide such **post-crisis support** to Kyrgyzstan following tragic events in spring and early summer 2010, and has previously done so in South-Eastern Europe (in Croatia in 1998 to 2000, and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2001-2002).

In South-Eastern Europe, a major initial task of the OSCE's police advisers and monitors was to closely monitor the performance of national police officers in their interaction with the population, and in particular, the ethnic minority groups.

This was carried out by OSCE police monitors who were co-located in local police stations; they also accompanied the national police on their patrols and operations.

The OSCE's monitors not only monitored and reported on the performance of the national police, but also provided advice, and when necessary, facilitated

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contacts between the police and the population and **mediated** in conflicts between them.

These were crucial steps towards building or rebuilding the confidence of the population, particularly of the minority communities in the national police, de-escalating tensions and stabilizing the situation in former crisis regions. Moreover, these confidence-building activities paved the way for establishing multi-ethnic police units.

Examples of OSCE police monitors and advisers' work in post-conflict environment are below:

Croatia (1998 – 2000): advising police on return of displaced persons

- From 1998 and 2000 the OSCE Police Monitoring Group in Croatia advised and monitored the police especially in relation to the return of people who had been displaced during the war.
- From 2000 as the situation improved, the Police Affairs Unit focused on police reform, regional and international police co-operation and community policing. The Unit successfully completed its work at the end of 2006.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2001-2002): facilitating return of police to ex-crisis areas

- Following the conflict in 2001, the OSCE sent 60 police advisers to facilitate the return of police to former crisis areas. One year later, they were replaced by 20 community police trainers, who worked on confidence-building.
- By 2003, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje's Police Development Department completed the task of assisting the police to return to the former crisis areas and recruiting and training some 1,000 new cadets from the underrepresented ethnic groups.
- Today, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje's Police Development Department assists the government in implementing the national police reform strategy through training courses, technical assistance in police reform and support for community policing.

Kyrgyzstan (deployment planned for 2010): preventing tensions spillover and assisting in post-conflict rehabilitation

- Following a request from Kyrgyzstan's government in June 2010, the OSCE participating States unanimously decided to send a 52-member Police Advisory Group to Kyrgyzstan for four months "to assist Kyrgyzstan

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- upon its request in resolving the current crisis, preventing the spillover of tensions the region, and in promoting post-conflict rehabilitation".
- The group can be expanded with an additional 50 officers and its term can be extended as needed and agreed by the 56 OSCE participating States.
 - The Police Advisory Group aims to help Kyrgyzstan reduce inter-ethnic tensions and strengthen the capacity of the Interior Ministry's territorial units. They will be on the streets with Kyrgyzstan's police, and will accompany them in their work with the communities. They will advise on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the protection of potentially vulnerable persons, on public order management and on police-public partnerships
 - Members of the Police Advisory Group will be unarmed. They have a mandate to advise and report, but not to intervene.
 - The Police Advisory Group is to consist of six teams, co-located with a territorial unit of the Interior Ministry. In addition to international police officers, each group will have a qualified and locally trained community mediator whose task will be to facilitate and encourage the dialogue, mediation, reconciliation and the rebuilding of trust and confidence between the population and between the different ethnic communities.
 - The OSCE Police Advisory Group is to be deployed to complement the projects carried out by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek since 2003, providing long-term police assistance under a police reform programme to improve the professionalism and operational capacity of the Kyrgyz police.

Other areas of OSCE police-related activities

Armenia

- The OSCE Office in Yerevan and the Armenian police have co-operated since 2003 on promoting democratic policing practices. The Office also has helped the country develop a concept for reforming police education and a strategy to implement community policing in Yerevan.

Azerbaijan

- The OSCE Office in Baku supports community policing and police education in a Police Assistance Programme. It has helped develop and introduce a new curriculum that extends the basic police training from three months to six. It also supported the creation of a website that provides the public access to information about police services, individual rights and advice on police-related topics.

Albania

- The OSCE Presence in Albania supports the country's efforts to introduce community policing through, for example, organizing roundtable discussions involving all stakeholders.

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- The OSCE Presence also provides the State, Border and Migration Police advisory support and training courses on issues such as leadership assessment and police-public partnerships.

Kosovo

- In 1999, the OSCE took on the task of training a new police service to uphold human rights and democratic policing principles. The OSCE supported the establishment of the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development, run by the local stakeholders with continued support by the OSCE with special and advanced training.
- The OSCE Mission monitors and advises the police on international human rights standards and has helped to establish the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo to oversee police performance and investigate allegations of police misconduct.
- The OSCE supports community policing bringing together community representatives, local authorities and police to work together and resolve local problems.

Montenegro

- The OSCE Mission to Montenegro supports community policing. It also supports internal oversight to investigate allegations of crime, corruption and other inappropriate behaviour by police officers.
- The Mission is helping Montenegro with modernizing forensics and new education and training methods for police.

Serbia

- The OSCE Mission to Serbia is working on police reform to modernize the police service in line with European and international best practices.
- The priority areas for co-operation are: police accountability, the fight against organized crime, community policing, police training and development, strategic planning and development, and public relations and communication.

Tajikistan

- The OSCE Office in Tajikistan supports the country's efforts to combat organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism. It focuses on the development of police training, police reform and community policing.