



ODIHR e-newsletter

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Sept/Oct 2006

Project news: Roma and Anti- trafficking

A new project fund to support NGOs tackling the trafficking of Roma was launched at a roundtable in Tirana on 18-20 September. The fund is a joint initiative of the ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Unit and the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

The roundtable brought together both Roma and non-Roma NGOs and was aimed at exchanging expertise and knowledge about the problem, and building trust between community representatives and anti-trafficking organizations in both countries of origin and countries of destination.

• ODIHR to host annual human rights conference in Warsaw

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) will be held on 2-13 October, Warsaw. Some 1000 participants from OSCE delegations, NGOs and international organizations are expected.



Keynote speakers will include **Thomas Hammarberg**, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Belgian Foreign Minister **Karel de Gucht**.

[Conference website](#)

• Human rights in the armed forces

On 7-8 September in Berlin, the ODIHR held a conference *Citizen in Uniform: Implementing Human Rights in the Armed Forces* with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) as part of its recently launched programme to encourage states to integrate respect for the human rights of soldiers into the way their military institutions operate.



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• Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System

The ODIHR's online database on tolerance-related documents and materials will be launched on 12 October at a side event at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. The information system will enable good practices on tolerance education, combating hate crime, and other areas to be exchanged across the OSCE region.

Current election observation missions

- [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Latvia](#)

As well as providing access to a wealth of information for the general public, the site has dedicated areas for

Latest reports

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- [Final report of the SHDM on Freedom of the Media: Protection of Journalists and Access to Information](#)
- [Final report on the parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)
- [Preliminary statement on the parliamentary elections in Montenegro](#)
- [Needs assessment report ahead of parliamentary elections in Latvia](#)
- [General elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Interim Report 1](#)
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educators, law enforcement officials, and OSCE delegations.

- **Freedom of assembly meetings in Warsaw and Almaty**

The third roundtable in the ODIHR's project to consolidate its *Guidelines on Freedom of Assembly* was held in Almaty on 11 September. The meetings are a consultative exercise, bringing together a Panel of Experts established by the ODIHR for the purpose of commenting on the draft Guidelines, and representatives from relevant professions and institutions in the region.

All participants are invited to share good practices as well as challenges and concerns faced in regulating and handling public assemblies so as to draw the attention of the Expert Panel to these practical issues and to take them into account when re-drafting the Guidelines.

The fourth and final roundtable will be held on 16 October in Warsaw, and will be attended by representatives from Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Canada.

At the end of the consultation process, the Panel will revise the Guidelines, with a final version to be ready by the end of 2006.

- **Tolerance education meeting**

The second OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting, on *Education to promote Mutual Respect and Understanding and to Teach about the Holocaust*, will be held in Dubrovnik on 23-24 October. The event, which brings together education experts, is jointly organized by the OSCE Chairmanship and the Croatian authorities.

- **New publications and translations**

- Roma Action Plan factsheet ([English](#), [Romani](#))
- Human Dimension Implementation Meeting factsheet ([English](#), [Russian](#))
- Teaching Materials on Anti-Semitism factsheet ([English](#), [Russian](#))
- Law Enforcement Officer Programme on Combating Hate Crime factsheet ([English](#), [Russian](#))
- Election Observation Handbook ([Romanian](#))
- National Referral Mechanisms Handbook ([French](#))



Download publications

- **New Rule of Law Chief**

Berry Kralj (Switzerland) has been appointed Chief of the Rule of Law Unit. Seconded to the ODIHR's Rule of Law Unit from 2002-2004, he returns to the ODIHR after

completion of his appointment as Executive Officer to the former OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Helga Konrad.

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