

South Caucasus Office in Baku

The Office extended its involvement across the spectrum of Azerbaijan's democratic development aspirations and commitments as a participating State, expanding both the volume and diversity of projects handled. It focused on providing assistance to the reform of police and justice administration as well as to the fight against corruption.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police assistance programme. Teachers of the Baku Police School, newly trained in modern teaching methods, ran a second course for their colleagues, mentored by partners from the Czech Republic. All training staff have now completed the course.

The Office launched its three-phase community policing project in July. The project, which is designed to bring police closer to the community, made use of seminars, lectures, public events and television and radio programming. Local police officers also visited Turkey to experience community-based policing there.

Freedom of assembly. The Office, with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany, delivered two further training courses in 2006 for the Ministry of the Interior and, for the first time, a course for the Baku Police. Command and control, situation evaluation and legal obligations, practised in a command-post environment, were balanced by practical exer-



cises in crowd control, culminating in a demonstration of skills before the media, international community and senior government officials.

Elimination of rocket fuel component stocks. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, with the Office's support, began the disposal of the *Melange* portion of liquid rocket fuels stored on two sites in Azerbaijan. The Office, with the help of an international expert, established projects to monitor a *Samine* spill at one of the sites.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Office created a database of existing and potential Az-

erbaijani exporters, providing a fundamental tool for business and regional economic development. The database gives those listed access to the expertise, know-how and best practices of leading investment promotion agencies in other transition economies.

Anti-corruption activities. The Office helped establish an operational anti-corruption network. In co-operation with *Transparency Azerbaijan*, the Office created a new Anti-Corruption Centre in Guba, while also supporting centres in Baku, Ganja and Lenkaran. The Centres enable people to report corruption cases they experience, and assist them, where appropriate, in taking their cases to courts. They also encourage the relevant authorities to enforce new legislation and to process cases.

Water issues. The Office further supported the *Environment and Security Initiative*



Interior Ministry troops and police officers take part in a practical exercise, part of a training programme for law enforcement agencies, in Baku in October.



Site of leaking *Melange* containers, Azerbaijan

(ENVSEC), a joint OSCE, UN Development Programme and UN Environment Programme activity. The Office also continued to support the OSCE/NATO South Caucasus *River Monitoring Programme*. Thirty water monitoring stations along the Kura and Araks river basin provide unique data for the management of the region's water resources, keeping a balance between increasing domestic and industrial demand and the needs of a fragile ecosystem.

Human dimension activities

RULE OF LAW

Improving pre-trial detention. An expert group established by the Office to improve the pre-trial system elaborated amendments to the draft law on Pre-Trial Detention and Custody on Remand, under review by the Parliamentary Standing Commission.

Trial monitoring. The Office monitored more than 250 trials in 2006 as part of its long-term programme to increase respect for the right to a fair trial and promote judiciary-legal reform in the country.

Presumption of innocence. The Office issued a report on the practice of presumption of innocence in the country. Among its recommendations were that public officials and the media refrain from damaging the reputation of the accused and that public officials' comments on ongoing criminal cases be more closely regulated.

Improving juvenile justice administration. Representatives of various ministries and civil society met regularly to discuss the development of a juvenile justice system as part of the Office's efforts to help harmonize national legislation and procedures with the country's international obligations on children's rights. The working group's brief included issues relating to prevention, penalties and social integration.

Torture prevention programme. The Office delivered more than 25 training courses for judges, officers of prosecutors' offices and administrators of penitentiary institutions.

The Office published a booklet, entitled *200 Questions– 200 Answers about Torture*, for

the public and a manual, *Discovering and Punishing Torture*, for investigators, law-enforcement officials, judges and lawyers.

DEMOCRATIZATION

Capacity-building programme. The Office organized two workshops for domestic non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the fields of gender mainstreaming, women's rights and anti-trafficking. They highlighted a variety of advocacy methods including public participation, impact litigation and community organizing. In December, the Office followed up with training courses on media relations skills.

The Office supported the process of drafting laws on public associations, foundations, charities and volunteer associations and highlighted shortcomings in existing laws.

Freedom of the media. Through a series of seminars, the Office promoted more balanced, informed and inclusive media coverage and facilitated responsible and inclusive public discussion of issues such as labour migration, domestic violence and anti-trafficking. The Office supported training for journalists and government spokespersons to strengthen their professional skills and, in May, resumed its media roundtables to provide an information-sharing platform for international organizations.

To improve the media's legal environment, the Office helped initiate a discussion on defamation and libel law. A journalists' union, with Office support, will lobby for complete decriminalization of libel as well as for revisions to the civil code, focusing particularly on establishing appropriate ceilings for damages.

The Office commissioned a British Broadcasting Corporation team to assess public television's current operations and immediate development needs. The report, delivered in October, serves as a basis for the Office's ongoing effort to help public television transform into a professional, balanced public broadcaster.

Domestic violence. The Office facilitated discussions on the draft Law on Domestic Violence and helped co-ordinate efforts to train police and the judiciary, particularly in rural areas.



More than 150 women lawyers, legal experts and law students attended an OSCE-organized conference on the participation of women in the legal sector, in Baku on 28 November.

Gender issues. In February, the Office sent a team to southern Azerbaijan in order to assess any discrimination and inequality faced by women, locate governmental and NGOs active in alleviating problems in this field, and recommend strategies to promote gender equality. The team recommended establishing a centre in 2007 to reach out to all women in the region. In May, the Office facilitated an in-depth public discussion on the *Law on Equality* in order to increase public awareness, transparency and accountability in the process of drafting the law. Participants presented their comments and recommendations to the drafters.

Trafficking in human beings. The Office and the Ministry of the Interior refurbished a building designated as the country's first secure accommodation for victims and those at risk of being trafficked. The Office also designed and funded a training scheme for at-risk women in the northern regional town of Guba. With the support of the municipal government, young women gained secretarial skills and were helped to find employment, thereby reducing their vulnerability.

Head of Office:

Ambassador Maurizio Pavesi
Revised unified budget: €1,733,000
www.osce.org/baku

Mission to Georgia

The Georgian-Ossetian conflict resolution process – one of the main focuses of the Mission's mandate – saw development of confidence through economic rehabilitation this year, but it made little political progress. Dialogue within the Joint Control Commission (JCC) was stalled by year-end, with no progress toward demilitarization. Several incidents exacerbated ever-present tensions in the zone of conflict. These included the firing on a Georgian Ministry of Defence helicopter flying over the zone, a fatal exchange of fire between Georgian and Ossetian militia and various explosions, including several from landmines.

Despite this, important achievements in the area of confidence building were made. The Mission completed a needs assessment study into the economic infrastructure in the zone of conflict and adjacent areas and subsequently launched a large OSCE-led international Economic Rehabilitation Programme.

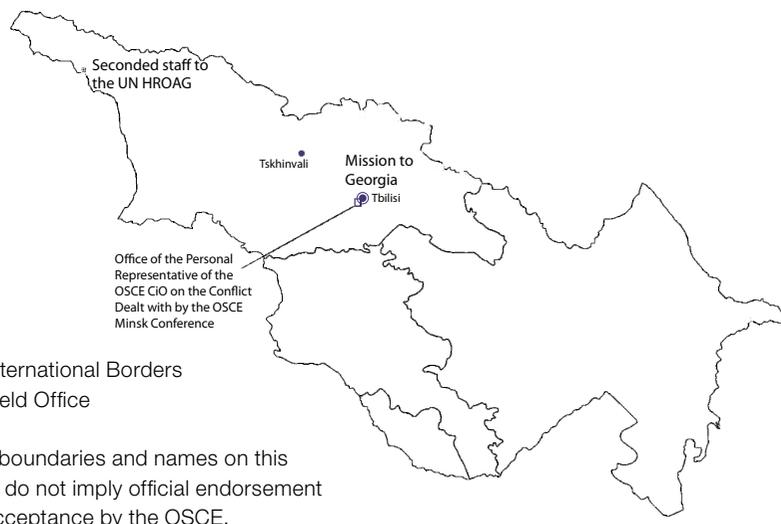
The Mission further developed its human rights and rule of law programmes, notably for penitentiaries, to reach more of the regions. It assisted the Central Election Commission reform process before and after the October local elections. The Mission continued to help build the Government's capacities for border management, police reform and action against terrorism. It also helped support the development of the Government's policy on good governance and anti-corruption.

Politico-military dimension activities

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Georgian-Ossetian conflict. To help resolve the conflict peacefully, the Mission took advantage of the political, economic and human dimension tools at its disposal.

On the political front, it participated actively in meetings of the JCC, co-chaired by the Georgian, South Ossetian, North Ossetian and Russian sides, and intensified consultations with all stakeholders to ensure that the sides maintained dialogue and searched for mutually acceptable solutions.



The Mission continued to urge the sides to improve the security situation, in particular with proposals to move forward the demilitarization of the zone of conflict and to promote joint law enforcement co-operation.

The Mission has carried forward several initiatives to build confidence among the communities, including programmes on economic and infrastructure rehabilitation, civil society and human rights development and conflict reporting training for journalists for unbiased media coverage of events.

Monitoring the activity of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces (JPKF) and the security situation in the zone of conflict continue to be important Mission tasks.

Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The peace process resumed within the UN-led Coordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in May, but was again suspended in July after a large-scale Georgian special operation in the Georgian-controlled upper Kodori Valley in Abkhazia and the establishment there of the 'Government-in-exile'.

Economic rehabilitation in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict

The Mission has been engaged in two major economic rehabilitation initiatives in the zone of conflict. The sides agree that implementation of such programmes serves as an effective mechanism for confidence-building and, ultimately, for the full-scale resolution of the conflict. The Mission continued to co-ordinate a programme funded by a €2.5 million European Commission grant. The Mission also launched a unique international initiative stemming from an OSCE-led needs assessment study into social infrastructure, roads, agriculture, business and finance. Backed by international pledges of almost €8 million, and in close co-operation with the four sides and the international community, the Mission commenced the implementation of the large-scale *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* in October by developing plans and logistics for immediate projects such as the rehabilitation of the Tskhinvali water supply system and the provision of grants to local agricultural associations.



OSCE/Martha Freeman



Mission Military Monitors and the Head of Mission Ambassador Roy Reeve in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict

Still lacking agreement from the Abkhaz side, there was no progress in 2006 regarding the opening, in Gali, of a branch office of the joint UN-OSCE Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia.

OTHER POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION ACTIVITIES

Destruction of obsolete weapons. The Mission continued dismantling obsolete ammunition and destroying munitions which could not be dismantled. It improved infrastructure at the ammunition dismantling base, reprocessed nearly 3,500 containers of smoke chemicals and completed the installation of TNT smelting equipment.

Police reform. The Mission continued to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs in implementing its police reform, laying the foundation for future work in areas such as human resources management and community policing development.

To combat money laundering, the Mission

OSCE/David Khizanishvili

helped the Ministry and financial police increase analytical capacity by organizing the introduction of advanced software.

Action against terrorism. The Mission launched a series of specialized crisis management training programmes and assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs in developing a Crisis Management Centre.

In co-operation with the United Kingdom's Cranfield University and New Scotland Yard, the Mission prepared the way for the establishment of a Bomb Data Centre in Georgia.

Other projects contributed to the strategic objective of the OSCE's *Counter-Terrorism Programme* by supporting a sustainable capability within the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop its long-term counter-terrorism capacity.

The Mission helped Georgian agencies strengthen co-operation with European counterparts, notably with Austria, France, Romania and Spain.

Strengthening border management capacities. In June, the Mission successfully completed a year-long programme to improve the capacity of Georgian Border Police in border management. The OSCE Mission's *Training Assistance Programme* aimed at transferring the skills it had gained from five years of border-monitoring experience.

A total of 784 mid-ranking and non-commissioned officers completed the



The Mission assists the Georgian border police to build capacity in border management.

training, some of whom were identified as potential future instructors.

In August, the Mission launched a new three-pronged training programme:

- Training of Trainers – addressing the request from the Georgian Border Police to assist in establishing a functional training unit
- Rapid Reaction Training – increasing the capabilities of the Rapid Reaction Unit of the Georgian Border Police
- Operational Planning – addressing Senior Border Management Personnel in the Regional Command and Georgian Border Police Headquarters

OSCE/David Khizanishvili



The Mission assisted the Ministry of the Interior to implement its reforms, including the stocking of the Policy Academy library.

OSCE/David Khizanishvili



A 'hostage' is released during an exercise, after members of a special police team held negotiations with the 'hostage-takers'. The Mission and experts from the French special unit RAID organized hostage negotiations training for the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

OSCE/David Khizanishvili

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Economic issues. The Mission focused on developing small- and medium-sized enterprises, on supporting the fight against corruption and on providing economic policy guidance to the Government. The Mission also produced a trade-facilitation handbook on new customs regulations for distribution at borders, organized a youth summer camp on the basics of entrepreneurship, and completed an extensive analysis, conducted with Parliament, designed to foster sound economic policy planning.

Environmental issues. The Mission worked on identifying environmental problems that can result in instability and potentially lead to conflicts. Assisted by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Mission supported the OSCE-UN Environment and Security (ENVSEC) initiative in developing projects in areas of environmental concern. It further supported the NATO-OSCE *River Monitoring* project, and continued to help raise public environmental awareness through the Aarhus centre.



OSCE/David Khizanishvili
NGO representatives receive certificates for OSCE-funded human rights training of trainers.

law for the staff of the Ministry of Justice, on criminal law for the investigators and prosecutors of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara and on newly adopted labour legislation for public servants.

The Mission initiated and funded human rights education in schools in the regions and supported a programme of free legal aid for prisoners in remand custody in western Georgia.

DEMOCRATIZATION

Much activity this year focused on Kvemo Kartli, a region heavily populated by national minorities. Technical and financial support was given to three resource centres to provide IT classes, legal advice and human rights training to the local Azeri, Armenian and Georgian population, as well as Georgian-language training where needed. The Mission provided capacity-building assistance to a number of newly founded NGOs in the two remote districts of Tsalka and Dmanisi.

In the run-up to the October 2006 local elections, the Mission held co-ordination meetings, at the technical and ambassadorial level, with governmental structures and international organizations. It assisted the Central Election Commission by financing the launch of a more comprehensive and informative website and, together with the National Democratic Institute and the Council of Europe, gave strategic advice. In addition, it financed monitoring and auditing of the Central Electoral Commission's voter list update. In collaboration with the ODIHR, the Mission and Parliament established and managed the Centre for Parliamentary Reform, which will co-ordinate donor activities and provide strategic advice to the parliamentary leadership.

Rule of law. The Mission developed practical recommendations for the effective reform of penitentiary institutions, arranged a professional training programme for penitentiary and probation staff and supported rehabilitation programmes for inmates.

Anti-trafficking. The Mission worked with the Government and civil society towards the adoption of anti-trafficking legislation. It delivered training for law enforcement officials and the media and implemented a small grants programme for urban and regional NGOs to combat trafficking at the grass-roots level.

Freedom of the media. The Mission concentrated on improving the flow of information between Tbilisi and regions mainly populated by non-Georgian-speaking ethnic minorities. In the Marneuli and Bolnisi districts the Mission funded the re-broadcasting of the public television evening news, simultaneously translated into Azerbaijani. The Mission also facilitated a trip of 15 journalists from leading Tbilisi newspapers to the southern district of Samtskhe-Javakheti, to encourage and support accurate reporting about this Armenian-speaking region in media publications with national coverage.

Human dimension activities

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Mission continued monitoring cases of individual human rights violations. It monitored trials, providing legal advice to victims and addressing alleged violations with the Government. The Mission also monitored conditions in Georgian prisons and the Government's efforts to reform the judiciary.

It provided comprehensive training programmes on international human rights



OSCE/Ciff Volpe
Representatives of the Mission and other international organizations visit a new penitentiary in Kutaisi.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Roy Reeve
Revised unified budget: €11,690,600
www.osce.org/georgia

Office in Yerevan

The Office made significant strides in 2006 on two major ongoing projects: the recycling of rocket fuel component and the promotion of trust between the police and the population.

The Office also widened the scope of its activities in the economic and environmental sphere and focused on providing legal and policy expertise on elections, migration, anti-trafficking, media and cyber security. It worked to build capacity in the fields of human rights, gender equality and youth leadership.

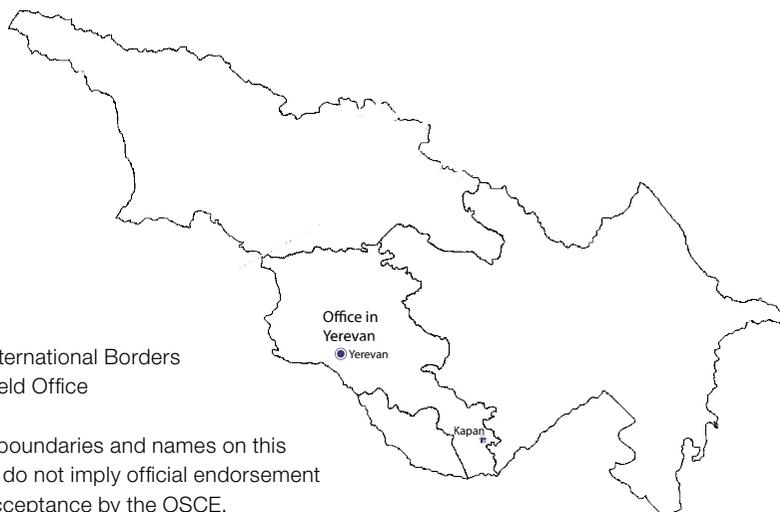
Electoral reform. In light of the May 2007 elections, the Office assisted the authorities in reforming the *Electoral Code* in line with the ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations. Most of these recommendations were incorporated into the text of the amendments. The Office also supported the publication of two manuals on election administration procedures.

Support to the National Assembly. Building on past years' experiences, the Office supported professional capacity-building of National Assembly staff through a three-week training course and a study visit by selected staff members to the Federal Parliament of Belgium.

Fighting corruption. The Office assisted the anti-corruption NGO coalition through the establishment of a pilot network of anti-corruption reception centres in Yerevan and the regions. The Office and its international partners also discussed strategies aimed at tackling corruption practices through the review of the Gov-

- International Borders
- Field Office

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



ernment's new *National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the 2007-2010 period*.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police assistance programme. The Office completed the renovation of the Police Training Centre and in November initiated a follow-up project to introduce a new curriculum and improved training methodology. It also launched a project on community-based policing in a pilot district.

Cyber security. The Office, jointly with a Task Force composed of experts from law enforcement agencies, organized a roundtable to recommend legal and practical measures to improve information security and combat the use of the Internet by terrorists.

OSCE communications network. The Office assisted the Ministry of Defence in obtaining the necessary equipment, tech-

nical assistance and training to connect to the OSCE Communications Network.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Office supported the elaboration of the *SME Statistical Guidebook 2004-2005* and commissioned the development of an Indicators' System aimed at measuring the effectiveness of government SME support. The Office also contributed to the translation into Armenian of the OSCE *Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate*.

Promoting principles of the Aarhus Convention. New Public Environmental Information Centres started operation with the Office's support in Syunik, Tavush and Lori provinces. The Centres help create a climate of transparency in environmental

Elimination of rocket fuel component stocks (*Melange*)

As part of its economic and environmental and politico-military activity to dispose of *Melange*, the Rocket Fuel Component Disposal Facility at Kaltakhchi in the north of Armenia was inaugurated on 12 May.

"The *Melange* project in Armenia is an outstanding example of what practical cooperation between the OSCE and a participating State can achieve and could well serve as a model throughout the OSCE region," said OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, who attended the inauguration at the invitation of Armenian Defence Minister Serge Sargsyan.

The Office initiated the project in response to a request by Armenia's Defence Ministry to assist in recycling 872 tons of the highly toxic and volatile substance in an environmentally friendly way, converting it into a mineral dressing for agricultural use.



OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (right) and Armenian Defence Minister Serge Sargsyan at the opening of a *Melange* processing installation at Kaltakhchi, Lori province on 12 May.

OSCE/Gohar Avagyan

Opening of a programme implementation presence in Syunik province

On 30 June, the Office opened a presence in Kapan to support local stakeholders in promoting economic development and investments while taking into account environmental risks in a region such as this with a large mining industry.

The Office and authorities forged a legal basis for the establishment of such presences in Armenia's regions.

"The Government pays special attention to the development of Armenia's regions and rural areas, and we are grateful to the OSCE for assisting in this matter," said Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanian, speaking at the inauguration.



OSCE

Schoolchildren and local volunteers help clean up the land around King Vahan's Monastery in Syunik, part of an environmental-awareness campaign organized by the programme implementation presence and the Aarhus Centre in Kapan on 13 October.

affairs by linking governmental authorities with relevant NGOs.

Environment and security initiative (ENVSEC). In partnership with the UN Environment Programme, the UN Development Programme and in association with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Office continued to engage in the ENVSEC initiative aiming at promoting co-operation on security-relevant environmental issues. The Office focused on environmental hotspots identified by ENVSEC, arranging environmental impact assessments of tailing storage sites from mining and dressing production. Within the same framework, the Office continued to support implementation of the OSCE-NATO South Caucasus Co-operative River Monitoring Project to provide a scientific basis for effective management of water in the Kura-Araks basin.

Human dimension activities

Support to the ombudsman institution. The Office together with the ODIHR organized a visit of Armenia's new Ombudsman to the Lithuanian ombudsman institution, aimed at capacity building of the institution through sharing experience on the operational methods of treatment of individual complaints. The Office together with the Ombudsman's Institution organized a conference devoted to the human rights situation in the country and coinciding with International Human Rights Day.

Criminal justice and penitentiary reforms. The Office supported the launching of the Chamber of Advocates' official website and the publication of a study on *Judicial Systems in Europe and the USA*, prepared by the General Prosecutor's Office's Training Centre. It initiated, with the Council of Europe, training on European

human rights standards for lawyers and public defenders and organized courses with the ODIHR focused on investigating cases of domestic violence and sex crimes.

The Office organized two workshops on alternative sentencing for Ministry of Justice staff, supported civil society monitoring activities in penitentiary institutions and the publication of the Public Monitoring Board's annual report. The Office also played a key role in a three-month pilot project on public monitoring of police detention centres.

Human rights in the army. The Office organized a roundtable, recommendations of which included introducing amendments to the current legislation on Alternative Military Service and establishing mechanisms for civilian control of the army.

Public awareness. The Office assisted with the production of three public service television announcements on tolerance, fair trial and prohibition of torture. The Office also helped organize a confer-



OSCE

The Armenian General Prosecutor's Office receives a freedom of information award for its website, following an event linked to the Right to Information Day and organized jointly by the OSCE and Freedom of Information Centre in Armenia.

ence devoted to the International Day of Tolerance.

Media freedom. The Office organized public discussions on media freedom and freedom of information and facilitated expertise on media legislation. The Office followed up on the implementation of recommendations of the July report on Armenia issued by the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Anti-trafficking efforts. The Office provided expertise and technical assistance in the development and revision of the *National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*. It held training courses and seminars on the implementation of national anti-trafficking policies. The Office also provided technical assistance to two NGOs conducting studies on trafficking.

Migration and freedom of movement. In response to Government and civil society requests, the Office provided expertise on migration management focusing on the protection of migrants' rights, returnees and reintegration and assisted in improving legislation on migration. The Office commissioned a survey on labour migration flows from and back to Armenia from 2002 to 2005.

Addressing gender issues. The Office helped implement the *2004 National Plan of Action on the Advancement of Women* and supported ODIHR projects aimed at promoting women's leadership. The Office also promoted gender awareness among young people through an essay contest.

Head of Office:

Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin
Revised unified budget: €1,599,200
www.osce.org/yerevan