



OSCE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION (SMM) TO UKRAINE: The Facts

As of December 2016

On 21 March 2014, the Permanent Council of OSCE decided to deploy the Special monitoring mission of unarmed civilian observers to Ukraine. Here's what you need to know about the Mission's activity.

Why did the OSCE send the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine?

Peace and stability in Ukraine became fragile. The OSCE, the largest regional security organization in the world, decided to assist and support Ukraine.

Who decided to send the SMM to Ukraine?

The Mission was deployed following a request to the OSCE by Ukraine's government and was agreed by all 57 OSCE's participating States.

What are the aims of the Special Monitoring Mission?

The SMM aims to gather information and report on the security situation establish and report the facts, especially on specific incidents on the ground. The Mission monitors talk to various community groups - authorities at all levels, civil society, ethnic and religious groups and local communities.

The ultimate goal of the SMM is to help Ukraine to reduce tensions and facilitate dialogue between all the sides.

Who does the Mission consist of?

The Mission currently consists of almost 700 unarmed civilian monitors from more than 40 OSCE participating States; and local staff from Ukraine who work as Language Assistants, Administrative Assistants and Advisers.

The Chief Monitor of the Mission has been given the flexibility to increase the number of monitors up to 1000.

Where does the SMM work?

The mandate of the Mission covers the entire territory of Ukraine. The Mission's Head Office is in Kyiv, and the monitoring teams work in 10 biggest cities of Ukraine: Chernivtsi, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Odessa. The Mission also has a number of Hubs and Forward Patrol Bases. Almost 600 monitors work now in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

How does the Mission work?

The key principles are impartiality and transparency. Each team consists of a team leader and monitoring officers. The monitors work in small groups in shifts seven days a week.

How long will the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine last?

The Mission was deployed on 21 March 2014. In February 2016 its mandate was extended until 31 March 2017, with the possibility of further extension if necessary.

Who do the monitors report to?

The monitors report their daily observations to the OSCE participating States. The reports are made available in three languages (English, Ukrainian and Russian) to the public and media on the OSCE website at www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports

I am a journalist. How do I get in touch with the OSCE SMM representatives to get an interview / comment?

Media contacts at SMM headquarters in Kyiv:

- Mariia Alekseyvych, Senior Press Assistant, Mobile: +380 93 691 67 90, +380 50 382 51 92; e-mail: mariia.alekseyvych@osce.org, smm-media@osce.org
- Nadiia Kaidanovych, National Media Analyst, Mobile: +38 067 827 37 11; e-mail: nadiia.kaidanovych@osce.org, smm-media@osce.org

I want to report about security situation in my region to the monitors, so that they would come and see for themselves. How can I do this?

You can send the information to the general e-mail address: smmua@osce.org. While the monitors are unable to respond to all individual requests, they take them into account in their work.