



DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE

**Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of OSCE/ODIHR
Election Observation Missions (1300536)**

**FUNDED THROUGH
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Warsaw, September 2012

Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions (1300536)

Current budget: EUR 2,809,200¹

1. Background

ODIHR's Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions was established in 2001, with the intent of fostering participation in OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions (EOMs) from a broader range of the OSCE's 56 participating States. The Fund was a follow-up action to a recommendation formulated during the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes held in Warsaw in May 2001. Generous extra-budgetary contributions from some OSCE participating States have since enabled the participation of observers from 17 eligible participating States within OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions (EOMs).² The participating States eligible for the Fund are drawn from Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Based on election observation conducted through the years, ODIHR is aware of the growing body of electoral expertise in a number of OSCE participating States from South Eastern and Eastern Europe, from the Caucasus and Central Asia.

However, the governments of some of these States have not regularly seconded observers to ODIHR EOM's, for various reasons, including a presumed limitation on financial resources to cover the participation of their observers. ODIHR recognizes the mutual benefit to be gained from greater participation of observers from these participating States and this Fund has endeavoured to remedy this shortcoming. A rich diversity of national experience is well utilized within an EOM, and at the same time, participation in these missions provides observers from respective eligible States with experience that may be applicable in their own countries.

Since the Report "*Common Responsibility: Commitments and Implementation*" was presented to the OSCE Ministerial Council in December 2006, and the Ministerial Council's subsequent tasking to ODIHR to "further diversify[ing] the participation of short-term, long-term [...] observers [...]" ODIHR has been trying to implement its own recommendation to send 4 long-term observers (LTOs) and 20 short-term observers (STOs) through the Fund to each EOM.

2. Objectives

To enhance diversification and geographical balance in the composition of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions and to provide observers from respective eligible participating States with experience applicable in their own countries.

3. Eligibility

Individuals with expertise in the following categories (the list is non-exhaustive) from the eligible participating States can be considered for inclusion in EOM's as Fund-sponsored LTOs and STOs:

¹ For the period 12 November 2009 to 31 December 2013.

² Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

- Non-governmental organizations (NGO) for domestic observation or human rights; and
- Public officials, e.g. members of electoral commissions and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) personnel responsible for OSCE matters.

In case a NGO representative is not available, a local staff member from OSCE field operations with election-related responsibilities may be nominated instead.

Professional requirements include: proficiency in the English language; university degree in political science, public or international law, international relations, human rights, administration or other relevant fields; minimum of two years of experience in election administration or relevant civil society experience including domestic election observation efforts; and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.

4. Selection

In accordance with ODIHR's standard implementation procedures for the Fund, experts from eligible participating States are selected by OSCE/ODIHR to participate as LTOs from a roster of experts specifically applicable to the Fund. Some will also be drawn from participants who have successfully undergone ODIHR's training for short-term election observers. Selection depends, first and foremost, on the level of professional expertise, but also takes into account geographical diversity from among the eligible participating States, and of course available funding. LTOs must have election experience, and/or comparative election observation experience, in order to be able to perform an analysis of the pre-election period. They should have no conflict of interests that might prevent them from maintaining objective working relations, over an extended period of time, with election and other officials, political party representatives and non-governmental organizations.

STOs are nominated for each observation mission by MFAs in consultation with the respective OSCE field operations. They are strongly encouraged to nominate individuals who have completed ODIHR STO training and who have not yet participated in an EOM as a funded STO. In order to provide an opportunity to the greatest number of observers, ODIHR encourages eligible participating States not to nominate the same candidate for more than one EOM per year. For each electoral event to which ODIHR deploys an EOM, ODIHR invites eligible participating States to submit the curriculum vitae of two STO candidates, one of whom could be a public official and the second must be a member of civil society (or possibly staff of an OSCE field operation in the event that NGO representatives are not available). Depending on the number of STOs to be recruited, on each occasion and on a rotating alphabetical basis, ODIHR requests submissions from the number of participating States necessary to reach the required number of STOs. For each occasion, ODIHR sends a letter to the participating State from which STOs are requested, together with an information sheet for the specific EOM. The STO who is not a public official should be selected based on consultation between the relevant MFA, the OSCE field operation (where present), and relevant civic organizations. ODIHR will notify the submitting MFA, delegation, NGO or individual, when a prospective candidate has been selected for a specific mission. ODIHR does not maintain a roster for eligible STOs.

5. Duration of Assignment and Compensation

The duration of a LTO's assignment may be up to seven weeks and for STOs around one week. All LTOs and STOs receive a daily allowance and are reimbursed for approved costs related to observer duties (local transport, interpreter costs, etc.). They are also provided with medical evacuation and accidental life/disability insurance and their travel costs are covered (economy class).

6. ODIHR's role and activities

Through the Fund ODIHR can support participation of approx. 10% of the total number of STOs and 10% of the total number of LTOs requested from eligible participating States in each EOM. ODIHR invites eligible states to nominate STOs for a given EOM following the selection process outlined above, and makes all logistic, administrative and financial arrangements for the selected observers, integrating them fully into the EOM. It is crucial that the 17 eligible States provide the required number of applicants from both civil society and relevant public institutions, including female candidates. It is paramount for the success of the programme that nominated Fund-sponsored observers also satisfy the same standard professional requirements to which seconded observers are subject.

7. Reporting

ODIHR reports annually to donors in the context of its regular extra-budgetary reporting. The Director of ODIHR also updates participating States directly from time to time on how the Fund has contributed to diversifying EOMs in his reports to the Permanent Council.