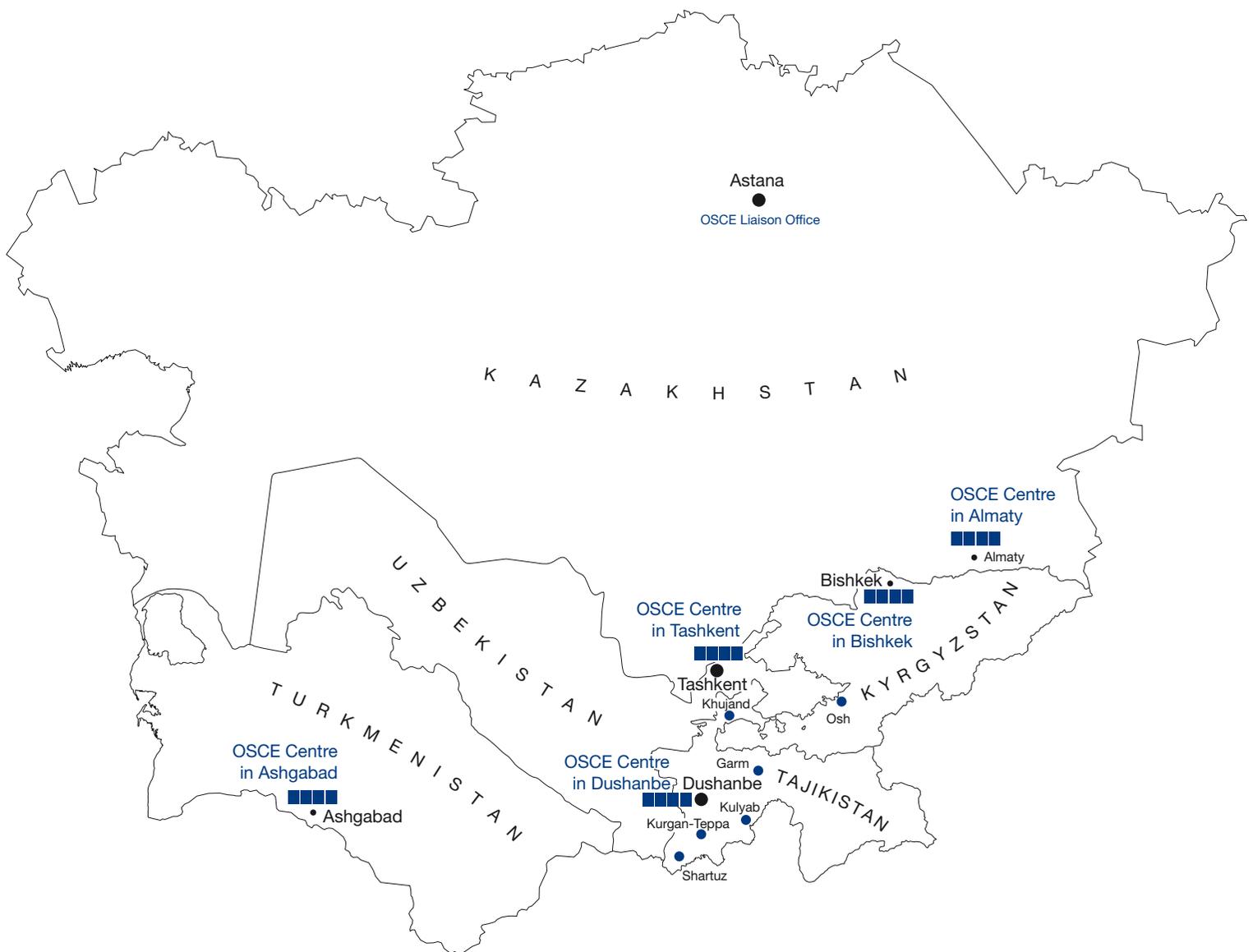


# *Field operations*

OSCE/Steven Weinburg



# Central Asia



- International Borders
- OSCE Field Office

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

# Centre in Almaty

Kazakhstan faced new challenges in 2005 in the fields of security, legislative reform and elections. With an attentive ear to the concerns of the host country, the OSCE Centre in Almaty offered its support in balancing security and human rights, stability and reform, rights and re-

sponsibilities. Kazakhstani lawmakers and the Centre actively facilitated the participation of international experts in discussions and analyses of draft laws, strategies and plans in the fields of security, extremism, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trafficking, judiciary, anti-

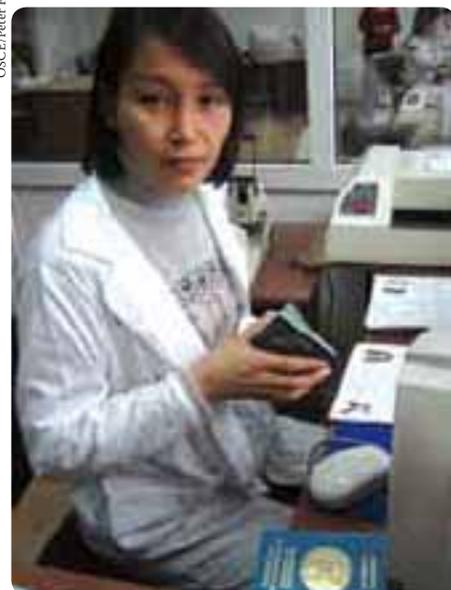
corruption and media. The Centre in Almaty continued to address the specific needs of the regions and shifted some of its activities to the new capital of Astana. It paid special attention to the development of co-operation and mutual confidence between governmental and demo-

cratic institutions on the one hand, and civil society and the broad public on the other. In view of the crucial role of youth in supporting democratic processes in the country, the Centre targeted youth and young professionals in all fields of activity.

## Politico-military dimension activities

### Alternative ways to maintain security.

Together with the OSCE Secretariat's Action against Terrorism Unit and the ODIHR, the Centre facilitated research, visits, roundtables and workshops dedicated to the analysis of risks and the search for adequate alternative, non-legislative means to prevent and combat new security risks such as terrorism and violent extremism. As part of this continued focus on preventative measures, it promoted inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue and provided training to journalists who report on issues of terrorism and extrem-



OSCE/Peter Felch

The Centre held a workshop on the security and issuance of travel documents in Almaty on 8 and 9 December. It was the first regional workshop of its kind and aimed to improve existing practices and exchange experience on document security.

### "I vote for the first time!"

Teacher Evgeni Miasnikov asked students in his 10th grade class at School number one in the city of Karaganda in central Kazakhstan what they expected from the upcoming lesson, part of the programme "I vote for the first time!" which was implemented by Elections-2000, financed by the OSCE Centre and supported by the Central Election Commission and the Ministry of Education.

"To find out how important it is to come to the election," said one.

"To be able to fully understand my responsibility for the choice I make," another said.

In his 10th grade class in Gymnasium 38, teacher Oleg Balanetskiy asked his students whether participation in an election was voluntary. "It is voluntary. But you need to go and vote because the future of your country depends on this," one student said.

These students are a few of the 7,000 from high schools in 10 regions of Kazakhstan that took part in the programme, which targets pupils, who will soon be able to vote. University-age voters make up at least 35 per cent of the electorate.

OSCE/Peter Felch



In connection with the presidential election, the Centre supported projects to support first-time voters in schools.

ism. It also monitored developments in the field of security legislation and facilitated the analysis and discussion of new and amended laws. By supporting mediation training, the Centre promoted capacity-building in conflict prevention and resolution among NGO experts from all regions of Kazakhstan.

The Centre provided international expertise on modern policing and assistance to the Kazakhstani police, especially in the fields of police training and community policing.

**Civic education and voters' participation.** In the run-up to the December 2005 presidential election, the Centre supported two nationwide voter education and mobilization campaigns targeting young and future voters.

**Destruction of weapons and ammunition.** Responding to the Kazakhstani authorities' security and environmental concerns, the Centre facilitated needs assessment missions, information exchanges and concept development for secure storage and

destruction of surplus and hazardous weapons and ammunition. Special significance has been given to the security risks posed by toxic rocket fuel components. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

### *Economic and environmental dimension activities*

In line with OSCE commitments, the Centre is increasingly focusing on combating corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism. It also continued its work in 2005 in support of small- and medium-sized enterprises, tourism, and awareness-raising and access to information on environmental issues.

#### **ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

**Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.** The Centre actively promoted international co-operation in combating money laundering, and assisted in the creation of a legal framework and the establishment of a central, national agency responsible for receiving, analysing and disseminating disclosers of information to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. It organized workshops and study tours to assist Kazakhstan in acquiring international expertise for the adoption of the related legislation and administrative tools. Regular experts' meetings focused on a legal and institutional concept in line with international standards. The Centre followed up on the experts' meetings with awareness-raising activities among parliamentarians and ministerial staff.

**Anti-corruption activities.** Kazakhstani authorities invited the Centre to assist in their efforts to join the relevant international agreements and to adopt a national anti-corruption strategy and an action plan. Thus, the Centre facilitated the participation of Kazakhstani officials in the Istanbul Action Plan of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, organized training for district prosecutors and information-sharing events with anti-corruption agencies of other OSCE participating States.

OSCE/Madina Bakieva



**The Centre on Radiation Safety and Ecology, directed by Inessa Khvoshnyanskaya, produced the radiology mapping for residents of the Semipalatinsk region with OSCE financial support.**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

**Aarhus Convention.** The Centre focused its environmental activities on the promotion of the Aarhus Convention targeting access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. Through a series of public hearings in seven cities across the country, civil society activists and officials assessed and commented on the National Report on the implementation of the Aarhus convention. To follow up, it organized consultative meetings between NGOs and key ministries as well as Public Ecological Council meetings aiming at the elaboration of an Environmental Code and a framework for the establishment of Aarhus Centres in Kazakhstan. The Centre also supported the Kazakhstani environmental authorities in assessing the country's technical and legislative readiness to accede to the *Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers* adopted in Kyiv in 1993.

OSCE/Liza Zhumakmetova



**Ambassador Ivar Vikki visited the Aral Sea in December. The world's fourth-largest lake in the 1960s, the Aral Sea has since lost 75 per cent of its water, leaving rusty ships and miles of dried salt land behind.**

### *Human dimension activities*

Rule of law, capacity-building and civil society support, anti-trafficking activities and gender issues were the main priorities of the Centre in 2005. In light of several draft laws that were proposed and passed during the winter and early summer, the Centre facilitated several events to encourage public discussion, and continued to promote freedom of the media and foster journalistic skills through master classes, especially for young journalists in the regions.

**Anti-trafficking activities.** The Centre supported Kazakhstan in combating trafficking in human beings. To assist Kazakhstan's efforts in developing a new National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Centre has, in close co-ordination with the ODIHR, commissioned research on trafficking in human beings, with a focus on forced labour in Kazakhstan and on national referral mechanisms. Together with the Ministry of Justice, it organized a seminar on the research findings and recommendations for the improvement of the protection of victims of trafficking. These findings were also used for the training of NGOs on National Referral Mechanisms, as a way to strengthen co-operation between NGOs and authorities in protection of trafficked victims' rights.

**Human rights.** The Centre supported the Presidential Human Rights Commission, which is tasked with co-ordinating the process of developing a *National Human Rights Action Plan*. It provided international expertise and participated in its meetings.

The Centre also encouraged and supported the swift ratification in 2005 of two United Nations covenants: the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) without reservations, and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, which were signed by Kazakhstan in 2003. To facilitate this process, the Centre organized a conference on the implementation of international agreements and several other awareness-raising and discussion events.



OSCE/Peter Felch

**A woman in Almaty celebrates the inauguration of President Nursultan Nazarbaev on 11 December.**

Centre followed up on the 2004 master class programme with a series of specific trainings for more than 150 journalists on economic, election, security, human rights and civil society issues. It also focused on the development of investigative reporting, its ethical background and legal framework. To provide greater access to information, the Centre helped to establish two more Internet cafes and provide Internet training for local journalists in Kostanay and Astana. It paid special attention to journalists' legal knowledge, especially with regard to libel defence, as well as relations and co-operation between journalists and governmental press services. In Almaty, the Centre hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Asian Media Conference, which focused on media pluralism and the Internet, and added regional significance to the Centre's media-related work.

**Rule of law.** The Centre co-operated closely with ODIHR experts in offering assistance to Kazakhstan by providing comments on several draft laws, such as the Law on Extremism, amendments to legislation related to national security, and on non-commercial organizations. Rule of law activities covered a wide area of issues, such as the judicial authorization of arrest, additional investigation issues, trial monitoring and freedom of assembly.

**Human rights education activities.** The Centre organized a series of educational activities, such as human rights training for secondary schools teachers and educators in the Kazakh language, and training sessions on human rights for law students and staff working at penitentiary institutions. It also facilitated co-ordination between NGOs and government institutions working on these issues.

**Gender issues.** Gender issues are one of the Centre's priorities, with particular focus on enhancing the participation of women in public life. The Centre worked closely with the Kazakhstani authorities and the relevant UN agencies and encouraged the development of a Strategy for Gender Equality for Kazakhstan between 2006 and 2016, which was adopted on 29 November. These activities were closely co-ordinated with partner NGOs, promoting equal opportunities for women and



OSCE/Peter Felch

**Women in national costumes at the National Women's Fair Inspired Woman in Almaty on 24 August.**

men in politics, and with international organizations, in particular the UN Development Fund for Women.

In its related activities, the Centre seeks to reach out to the most vulnerable groups, such as victims of domestic violence. It organized training for 28 lawyers from partner NGOs, who work as legal counsels for such victims and represent them in the courts, and co-organized consultations between NGOs and the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, together with the Canadian NGO, *Equitas*.

**Professionalism and freedom of the media.** The Centre actively promoted the professional development of local journalists and improved access to information for both the media and the public. The

Head of Centre:  
 Ambassador Ivar Vikki  
 Revised budget: €1,683,900  
[www.osce.org/almaty](http://www.osce.org/almaty)

# Centre in Ashgabad

Turkmenistan took some positive steps toward further development of the country in 2005. A law prohibiting child labour was put in force. The country submitted its first report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and began to ease the process of registration for some religious groups.

Turkmenistan granted citizenship to more than 13,000 former citizens of Tajikistan, mostly ethnic Turkmen, who were uprooted during the civil war in Tajikistan and found shelter and residence in Turkmenistan.

The Centre's priorities in 2005 included strengthen-

ing border security and combating drug trafficking, facilitating the development of a market-based economy, supporting the country's environmental protection programmes and assisting the country in the process of democratization and legal reform.

The Centre continued its efforts to intensify co-operation with the country's authorities and civil society, expand its work with international organizations and put special emphasis on promoting Turkmenistan's involvement in OSCE activities.

The participation of Turkmenistan officials and indi-

viduals in OSCE activities increased in 2005. Officials participated in the meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Washington in July, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September and OSCE events that addressed security issues, the work of law-enforcement agencies and legal and humanitarian issues.

The Centre strengthened its co-operation with the international community. In collaboration with the European Union's Technical Aid for CIS Programme (TACIS), the Centre continued to implement a number

of long-term projects, such as a micro-credit project for Voluntary Farmers Associations and computer and English-language training for employees of state agencies. New joint initiatives included projects undertaken in co-operation with Embassies of the United Kingdom and the United States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.S. Peace Corps and U.S. Agency for International Development.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Capacity-building for border and customs officials.** One of the Centre's key activities within this dimension is aimed at strengthening the professionalism and operational capacities of Turkmenistan's border and customs services.

In April, six members of the country's border and customs services took part in

a week-long training course in southern Germany, organized by the Centre in Ashgabad with the support of Turkmenistan's Government and Germany's Ministry of Finance. The training took place at border crossing points between Germany, France and Switzerland and included visits to a regional customs centre and a customs criminal investigation office. The participants witnessed how other countries handle large amounts of border traffic and learned about the latest techniques to pre-

vent and investigate trafficking of drugs, arms and human beings and the illegal transfer of money.

**Roundtable on cross-boundary co-operation.** In September, the Centre organized a two-day roundtable on cross-boundary co-operation focused on the proper balance between legitimate border security requirements and the principles of free flow of goods and people across the borders. The roundtable brought together representatives of the State Border and Customs services; the Service for the Registration of Foreign Citizens; the General Prosecutor's Office; the ministries of Defence, Justice and National Security; and experts from Germany, Russia and Turkmenistan, as well as from NATO, the Marshall Center and the European Commission.

*"A border is more than a geopolitical line of division. It is the point where countries must co-operate most effectively for the security and prosperity of all."*

**Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic, Head of the Centre in Ashgabad**



German Customs Service experts, specializing in drug recognition and testing, conduct practical training courses for Turkmenistan customs and border officials.

**Practical arms control training.** A two-week training course for Turkmenistan arms control officers focused on implementing OSCE confidence- and security-building measures. The course, held in November and December at the Verification Centre of the German Armed Forces in Geilenkirchen, also included participation in a live verification inspection in Switzerland.

**UN-OSCE project on advance drug recognition and testing.** In co-operation with the UNODC's sub-office in Turkmenistan, the Centre organized two one-week practical training courses on enhancing the investigative and interdiction capabilities of Turkmenistan's law-enforcement personnel in combating drug trafficking. The training courses, which were held in October and November, covered methods of recognition and testing of drugs, and enabled the trainees to conduct training courses for law enforcement officers dealing with combating drug trafficking at border checkpoints.

### *Economic and environmental dimension activities*

**Supporting economic development.** The Centre completed a project with the State Tax Service of Turkmenistan to improve the taxation mechanism by introducing modern information technology and accounting procedures. This will ensure effective and reliable tax collection and tracking, and help reduce corruption in the system.

As part of a co-operative initiative with the EU's TACIS programme, the Centre continued its support of a small revolving micro-credit fund to four Voluntary Farmers' Associations in two regions of Turkmenistan. The Centre, in co-operation with the British Embassy, supported the Youth Employment Generation project, which was implemented on the Caspian Sea coast and covered several rural districts. The aim of the project was to provide youth with knowledge about self-employment and improve access to vocational training through seminars and resource centres. In collaboration with the British Embassy and the Winrock International

#### **Farmers learn business skills**

In October, the OSCE Centre, in co-operation with TACIS, expanded its successful micro-credit project for Voluntary Farmers' Associations (VFAs), after all four participating VFAs repaid the credit issued to them in 2004, which they had invested in livestock and seeds and essential equipment to expand their businesses. Under the expanded programme, the partners organized computer and business planning training for representatives of each VFA.

"This training course gave the VFAs the skills they need to take their work to the next level, get the most of the micro-credit programme, and begin more complex co-operative projects of their own," said Farhat Orunov, the project's local co-ordinator. "All of them are now starting to understand that they are not just farmers, but business people, too."



**Farhat Orunov is a local co-ordinator for the micro-credit project for the Voluntary Farmers' Associations.**

Institute for Agricultural Development, the Centre launched a project supporting a resource centre and training programme for an agricultural co-operative in the Dashoguz region of northern Turkmenistan. The project will support the development of local agricultural techniques, as well as facilitate capacity-building in business and marketing practices.

**Promoting environmental awareness.** The Centre continued its co-operation with Turkmenistan's Ministry of Nature

Protection, specifically in the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan. In addition to supporting the publication of 2,500 copies of the first Turkmen-language textbook on ecology, the Centre also supported a conference organized by the Ministry of Nature Protection to discuss the implementation of the Action Plan. More than 80 representatives of various ministries, research institutes, public associations and international organizations from across the country participated.



**Summer camp on health and safety in the Kopet-Dag mountains.**

In co-operation with the US Embassy, the Centre financed the establishment of resource centres in several regions in order to increase the capacity of the Society of Nature Conservation of Turkmenistan, a registered public environmental organization with several thousand members.

**Combating terrorism financing.** A two-day workshop held in December focused on legal and administrative tools to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Eighteen officials representing Turkmenistan's Central Bank, Supreme Court, Foreign and Defence Ministries and law enforcement bodies participated in the event, which was organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the UNODC, Turkmenistan's Government and the OSCE Centre. International experts presented key international instruments and institutions dealing with the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism and helped participants identify needs for the further development of Turkmenistan's legislation.



Participants and international experts at a workshop on combating the financing of terrorism in Ashgabad in December.

## Human dimension activities

**Supporting legislative reform.** The Centre continued to offer OSCE legal expertise and advice on best practices for the country's legislative reform.

**Democratization and civil society.** In this field, the Centre supported the participation of civil society representatives in seminars abroad, offered educational opportunities for students, and funded activities of various NGOs. It also gave support to a youth summer camp focusing

### Promoting education

The Centre supported the publication of a Tri-lingual Health Dictionary (Turkmen, Russian and English), developed and edited by U.S. Peace Corps volunteers in co-operation with local health care workers and education professionals. The Centre promoted the Master's Programme in Political Sciences of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and delivered a module on Turkmenistan to the Academy's students.

The Centre selected students from Turkmenistan and funded their participation in the OSCE Central Asian Youth Network, a project launched in 2004 and focused on building regional tolerance and understanding.

In close co-operation with the EU's TACIS Programme, the Centre continued its support for computer and English language training for customs officers and employees of health care and educational institutions throughout the country.

on health and safety issues and, along with UNICEF, co-sponsored an art competition for children on the occasion of the International Day of Child Protection. The Centre provided local NGOs with advice on how to navigate legislation on public organizations. It also continued to fund a legal clinic that delivered more than 200 free legal consultations to citizens of Turkmenistan on issues ranging from citizenship to property rights.

**Promoting human rights.** In June, the Centre, in co-operation with Turkmenistan's National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, organized two seminars on international human rights legislation. The courses, held in Mary and Turkmenbashi, brought together representatives of Parliament, the General Prosecutor's office, the police, the Bar Association and the State Border Service. They addressed issues ranging from the historical development of human rights and the rule of law to the implementation of norms of international law and international reporting procedures.

**Monitoring.** Throughout the year, the Centre continued to receive a significant number of individual complaints ranging

Four journalists from Turkmenistan won prizes at the Fifth Central Asian Festival of Environmental Journalism, held in Almaty in November. The contest aimed to identify the best newspaper articles, documentaries, and TV and radio programmes on environmental issues presented by journalists from throughout Central Asia. The OSCE Centre in Ashgabad facilitated the participation of eight journalists from Turkmenistan in the event.

from lack of due process of law, disregard for property rights to restrictions on freedom of movement. The Centre provided legal counseling to individuals and regularly brought certain cases to the attention of the authorities.

Head of Centre:  
Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic  
Revised budget: € 1,050,600  
[www.osce.org/ashgabad](http://www.osce.org/ashgabad)

# Centre in Bishkek

2005 was a busy year for the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. Swift changes in the political and social environment put Kyrgyzstan in the headlines for much of the year and required rapid OSCE responses. Citizens took to the country's streets following parliamentary elections in February and March 2005,

forcing the President to flee the country and eventually resign. An early presidential election followed. In response to these changes, the Centre developed a work plan to help the country address its immediate and longer-term needs. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

Despite the upheaval, the

Centre also managed to implement those activities planned in advance for the year. It focused on enhancing political stability and legal reform, the improvement of the human rights situation and assistance to media development, ecological security, development of the economy and good govern-

ance. The OSCE maintains a long-term commitment in the country to police reform and to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. In 2005, it set up a network of project co-ordinators in Kyrgyzstan's regions to increase its outreach capacity.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Elections.** The pace for reform accelerated after the events in March. The Centre initiated and supported various activities during both the first parliamentary elections of 27 February and the presidential election of 10 July. It focused on legal and technical assistance to the Central Election Commission, voter education, training of domestic observers and the development of early warning mechanisms for potential election-related violence. The Centre's election co-ordination mecha-

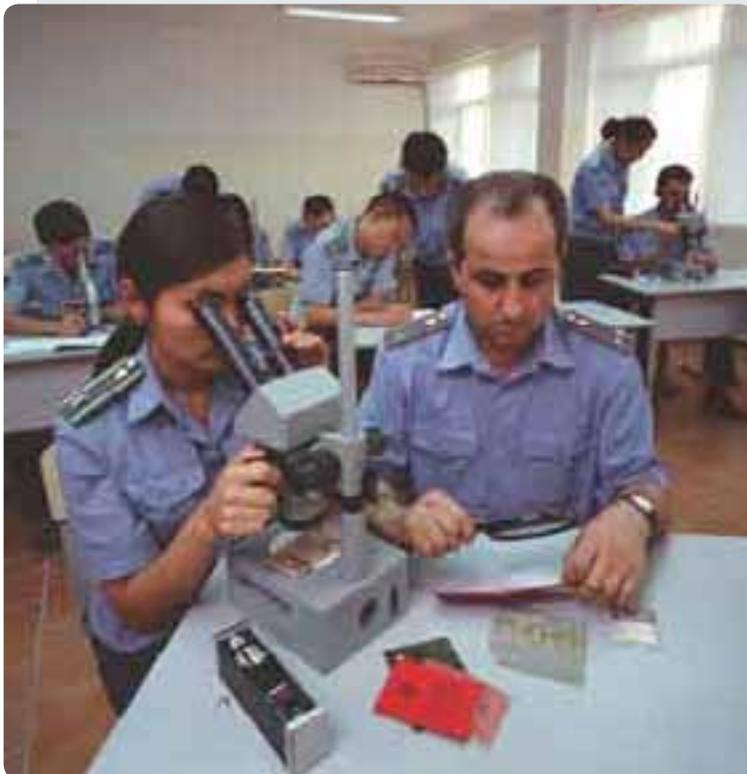
nism, launched in 2004, channeled international assistance effectively. After the elections, the Centre worked with several groups to promote electoral reform.

**Education: the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.** The OSCE invests in future decision-makers of Central Asia through the OSCE Academy. Founded in 2002, the Academy is a study and research institute that provides training programmes for experts and scientific research on regional security issues with a focus on Central Asia. It offers a Master of Arts degree in Political Science (Central Asia) for selected

students. The first class of 36 students graduated from the MA 2004/2005 programme on 1 July 2005. From a competitive field, the Academy selected a new class of 27 MA candidates from all five Central Asian countries in 2005. The Academy provides the students with experience in a professional working environment.

**Multi-ethnic policing.** The introduction of multi-ethnic policing can help strengthen inter-ethnic stability and social integrity. The OSCE and the Kyrgyz State Academy for Management organized a series of projects for senior police

Eric Gourlian



### Policing

The OSCE Police Assistance Programme and the Kyrgyz Interior Ministry are working jointly in a long-term effort to turn the Kyrgyzstan militia into a modern police service.

The political events in March led to an almost complete breakdown of law and order in the country. To address the situation, the OSCE developed a focused one-year interim support programme.





**Community policing in action**

officers and for the teachers and cadets of police schools. These projects also aim to facilitate the access of national minorities' representatives to police structures.

**Media.** The OSCE's current efforts are focused on providing legal support to journalists; assisting in transforming the state media; journalism training for the state press services; promoting regional media support centres; and Internet accessibility throughout Kyrgyzstan. The Institute of the Media Commissioner, which is partially supported by the OSCE, provides legal support. The Centre's Media Support Programme focused on monitoring the media during the parliamentary and presidential elections.

### *Economic and environmental dimension activities*

**Economic development.** In 2005, the Centre worked on stimulating the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and business associations, attracting foreign direct investment and achieving more employment opportunities for youth. The Centre also supported initiatives aimed at tourism promotion, the improvement of SMEs' legal and regulatory environment, strengthening the institution of third-party arbitration and building the capacity of rural women to improve entrepreneurship skills. In co-operation with a non-governmental organization, the Centre organized train-the-trainer programmes to build the capacity of local communities and the government sector to implement a special

employment programme for socially vulnerable groups.

Given the high rate of unemployment among young people, the Centre and the public foundation, *Career and Employment Centre*, carried out a project on youth empowerment. University students undertook extra-curricular applied business courses and received pre-job training with local employers. The Centre also co-operated with the Secretariat of the National Council on Women, Family and Gender Development of the Kyrgyz Republic on the vital issue of eliminating latent discrimination in employment opportunities for women and improved access to economic resources for rural women.

**Environmental security.** The Centre supported institutional development and capacity-building on environmental security at the national and regional levels. It welcomed a number of initiatives aimed at implementing international environmental conventions. It also fostered environmental journalism, raising awareness on laws and regulations on environmental protection and water usage for communities along the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. In co-operation with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Ecology and Emergencies and a local NGO, the Centre organized discussions of the National Report on Implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

**Good governance, fight against corruption and money laundering.** The Government recognizes widespread corruption as a major constraint to growth and a threat to welfare. Therefore, the Centre paid special attention to anti-corruption issues. It supported authorities who are identifying priorities in a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and its Action Plan, including the creation of an independent Anti-Corruption Agency.

### *Human dimension activities*

**Constitutional and legal reform.** In 2005, the Centre supported constitutional reform. It assisted the ODIHR and the Venice Commission in providing an expert review of a draft amendment, which will help bring the country's legal framework

into conformity with its international obligations. Together with the ODIHR, it also provided an expert review of several other draft laws, for example on the Bar and the Bar Association. It encouraged the authorities to abolish the death penalty and to further humanize criminal legislation.

**Promoting gender balance and fighting against human trafficking.** The OSCE worked to support women's leadership and gender balance in the decision-making sphere. To establish a dialogue with women, who played a crucial role in the country's political and public life this year, the Centre supported a series of meetings to help raise women's awareness of peaceful and constructive means to express and lobby for their interests. The Centre and the Kyrgyz National Council on Anti-trafficking started drafting a new National Action Plan on anti-trafficking for 2006 to 2008.

### *Osh Field Office*

In 2005, the Osh Field Office focused on electoral processes, monitoring the developments of the March events in the southern provinces of Jalalabat and Osh. The Field Office helped organize and facilitate confidence-building activities for law enforcement bodies and community leaders to ease tensions that had grown during the March events. These sessions allowed both parties to identify the main sources of tensions and jointly plan future interactions to prevent conflict situations. Following the spring violence in Andijan in neighbouring Uzbekistan, refugees arrived in Osh and Jalalabat Provinces. The Field Office monitored the Osh refugee camp together with other international partners and organized several confidence-building events to decrease tensions caused by the presence of more than 400 refugees. The Field Office also monitored the asylum-seeking procedures managed by the Migration Department of the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry and the Court System to ensure a transparent and fair process. The majority of asylum-seekers were granted refugee status and taken to third countries. Four were transferred to pre-detention facilities where they await trial.

## Politico-military dimension activities

The Field Office worked closely with local media organizations to establish a Media Resource Centre for journalists in the southern province of Batken. The Centre hosted numerous activities aimed at building the capacity of journalists to report, draft and edit news stories and at fostering interactions between government press and independent journalists. Media Development activities also included technical support to a Radio Station in Kyzyl Kia, enabling it to broadcast further and to cover remote areas. The Media Centre assisted the Osh TV in making and broadcasting documentaries on the situation in remote areas.

**Economic development.** The Field Office focused on improving the business environment in the south of Kyrgyzstan by empowering local businesses to lobby both local and central authorities in their economic interest. These initiatives aimed at increasing the involvement of southern Kyrgyzstan business society in decision-making on economic policy and legislation. Another priority was the issue of unemployment and its consequences for the development of the local economy. The Office supported local education structures and the organization of specific job-oriented training for the youth and unemployed. The Field Office worked in close co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups through a number of participatory social planning events.

**Human rights and anti-trafficking activities.** The Field Office established a Human Rights and Advocacy Centre which is used by most of the Human Rights NGOs in the south of Kyrgyzstan to meet and conduct advocacy and lobbying campaigns on pressing issues. Trafficking in human beings was also a priority in 2005. Together with local NGOs, the Field Office conducted several awareness-raising initiatives that explained trafficking in human beings among potential victims such as commercial sex workers and labour migrants.

OSCE



Osh Field Office and NGO partner, *Podrug*, conducting training to prevent cases of human trafficking among sex workers in Osh.

### Nuripa recovers from trafficking victimization

We at the OSCE met a victim of human trafficking through a woman named Gulbara from Uzgen District in Osh Province:

The young woman and her husband accepted a job in Kazakhstan at a good salary. When they arrived she discovered this long-promised work was not available. Instead, she was instructed to work on a tobacco plantation. She worked hard but never received any pay.

“We didn’t have money for a long time. They promised every time. They didn’t even provide medical care,” said Nuripa, a 22-year-old woman from Uzgen.

She and her husband decided to leave, but they did not have enough money to return to Kyrgyzstan. At this point, the OSCE stepped in.

“We assessed her needs and offered her computer courses within our project to combat trafficking in human beings in the south of Kyrgyzstan. After successfully completing the course, she got a job at the local school as a system administrator,” said Jerome Bouyjou, Head of the Osh Field Office.

“Strong-willed and driven, Nuripa decided this was not yet all she wanted. She asked the OSCE and its partners to allow her to attend other available courses like sewing. She is currently attending these courses.”

Head of Mission:  
Ambassador Markus Mueller  
Revised budget: €2,454,800  
[www.osce.org/bishkek](http://www.osce.org/bishkek)

# Centre in Dushanbe

The Centre in Dushanbe launched a security and military project to destroy small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition and continued its work clearing landmines in 2005. Its political activities focused on improving electoral legisla-

tion and on raising awareness among youth of their civic and political rights.

The Centre assisted the Tajik Government in implementing its poverty reduction strategy and in developing a national environmental strategy. It worked

to reduce the degradation of ecosystems and to address the dangers of radioactive waste.

The Centre helped the Government make progress on judicial reform and fulfil other human rights obligations. It assisted the

development of regional media and helped train young journalists. It raised awareness and built capacity, including on gender issues and anti-trafficking, among non-governmental organizations and the authorities.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Small arms, conventional ammunition and de-mining.** The Centre launched a Programme to destroy 21 tonnes of surplus ammunition and 26,000 pieces of small arms and light weapons. In June, the Norwegian Government sent a technical adviser to support implementation of this initiative. Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United States pledged funds. The Programme aims first to build national capacity to destroy conventional arms. To achieve this, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Centre and Demolition Ground opened in November in Lohur, 30 kilometres from Dushanbe. A French team trained 13 trainees from the Ministries of Defence

and Interior there, destroying 8.5 tonnes of ammunition. Other aims are to build capacity to destroy small arms and light weapons; to enhance the security of stockpiles of these weapons; and to build an ammunition storage facility for the Tajik State Border Protection Committee.

The Centre assisted the Ministry of Defence to reconnect its Verification Centre to the OSCE Communication Network, created as an aid to implementation of the 1999 Vienna Document, which sets out procedures for exchange of information, co-operation, visits and observation of activities in the military field between participating States. Tajik inspectors were trained on implementation of the Vienna Document as the Centre plans a number of Document inspections in 2006.

The Centre allocated €360,000 to its Mine Action Programme. The implementing partner NGO, *Fondation Suisse de Deminage*, cleared 125,000 square metres of land. It also destroyed 4,546 tonnes of unexploded ordnance, 1,032 anti-personnel mines and one anti-tank mine. To build national capacity, it conducted training in such fields as medical trauma, basic de-mining and surveying.

### **Elections and political dialogue.**

Through meetings of the Tajik Public Council, the Centre promoted open dialogue between the Government and civil society. The Council gathers 70 representatives from state bodies, political parties and civil society to discuss and find consensus on pressing social issues. A series of seminars raised public awareness on the relation between law and religion and promoted tolerance in southern Tajikistan. Summer camps provided civic education for youth.

Seminars involving electoral commissions and some 1,600 state representatives helped improve presentation skills for political parties ahead of the 27 February parliamentary election.

**Anti-terrorism.** Conferences, awareness-raising campaigns and the publication of brochures helped prevent the spread of extremist ideas and terrorism, addressing the causes and objectives of international terrorism. They also taught participants how to protect themselves individually from terrorism.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

### **Capacity-building for small businesses.**

To support the Government's poverty reduction programme, the Centre financed numerous small business development projects in the regions, enabling beneficiaries to start their own businesses. Many projects focused on the needy east and south of the country and provided skills training, such as sewing and baking, to enable women whose men have gone abroad in search of work to support themselves and their families.

Summer camps, two of which included Kyrgyz and Afghan students, trained young people who want to start their own businesses in basic entrepreneurial skills.

**Labour migrants' rights.** Hundreds of thousands of Tajik citizens, mostly men, go abroad each year to find work, mainly to Russia. Many are unaware of immigration and registration requirements and become irregular migrants. Since 2004, the Centre and the International Organization for Migration have financed an information



OSCE/Morten Kjellvang

Tajik trainees prepare for their first demolition under the supervision of French explosive ordnance disposal instructor, Staff Sergeant Fabrice Laplagne (right), at an engineer battalion near Lohur.



OSCE/Surat Toimastov

**A trainer advises a local farmer on starting an agricultural business at the office of the NGO, *Steady Development*, in Kurgon-Teppa.**

resource centre in Dushanbe for potential migrants.

**Support to land reform.** Since 1996, Tajikistan has reorganized large state and collective farms into co-operatives. In 2004, the Centre launched a project to facilitate the land reform, aiming to provide training to farmers to ensure that they understand their rights and land tenure options. In 2005, the partner NGO, *Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et le Développement*, conducted educational sessions on farms in the process of reorganization.

**Cross-border trade.** The Centre has promoted trade development between Tajikistan and Afghanistan since 2004. In October, an international conference was held in Khorog, the administrative centre of the Badakhshon region, on developing trade among countries bordering the Pamir region. The conference fostered a number of cross-border business deals.

**Environmental strategy and environmental education.** The Centre assisted Tajikistan in drafting a national environmental strategy for 2005 to 2020. The strategy aims at improving legislation, institutional capacity and establishing priorities for solving ecological problems. After training and awareness-raising campaigns in 2004, the inhabitants of the Rasht Valley of south-eastern Tajikistan planted 500,000 saplings on their own ini-



OSCE/Surat Toimastov

**An abandoned radioactive waste processing facility in the Khujand area. The OSCE monitors radioactivity and posts warning signs where necessary. Some areas have radioactive levels that are 60 times the maximum limit.**

Public-awareness seminars on radioactive waste pollution promoted the proper use of water resources and increased the natural disaster management skills of local communities.

tiative, far more than the 12,500 envisaged by the project. The trees will help stop land degradation and erosion.

**Aarhus Convention.** The Aarhus Centre in Dushanbe, which the OSCE established in 2003, helped draft a law on

*Green Patrols and Ecological Summer Camps* trained 1,000 students across Tajikistan on environmental issues. In the southern region of Kurgon-Teppa, 2,100 persons received training on the consequences for human security of the degradation of ecosystems.

environmental protection, published information materials, and created a website ([www.aarhus.land.ru](http://www.aarhus.land.ru)) on the Aarhus Convention, which enumerates public environmental rights. It organized seminars and public hearings involving local communities and authorities to raise awareness on the Convention. The OSCE opened a second Centre in Khujand in northern Tajikistan under the joint UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme, UN, OSCE and NATO Environment and Security Initiative.

### *Human dimension activities*

**Raising human rights awareness.** Low human rights awareness in Tajikistan prompted the Centre to train and inform the public on human rights and the rule of law. The *OSCE Human Rights Summer School* prepared future leaders on human rights standards and commitments.

Together with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre helped turn a small-scale human rights education project for secondary schools into Tajikistan's first comprehensive, nation-wide programme. A majority of schools may soon participate in the programme.

**Legal, judicial and prison reform.** The Centre assisted the Government in identifying gaps in the judicial system and trained NGO observers to monitor and analyse court proceedings according to international fair trial standards. The very presence of domestic monitors, a novelty in Tajikistan, proved instrumental in sensitizing many courts on fair trial standards.

A rule of law culture also means that ordinary citizens have access to justice. In the individual human rights complaints

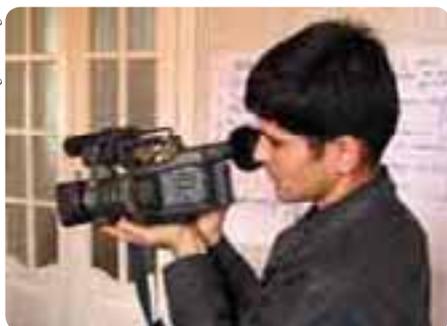
project, the Centre funded training for lawyers from all regions to better help victims of violations.

A roundtable emphasized the humanization of Tajikistan's Criminal Code, alternatives to imprisonment, and joint efforts between government and civil society to develop alternative penalties.

**Minority rights.** A minority survey and a website set up in 2005 intend to give insight into the situation of national minorities and offer the Government a better framework for its policies.

**Media development.** The Centre expanded the activities of the *Media Resource Centre* set up in 2004 through training for journalists on journalistic skills and Information Technologies. The intensive one-month *Master School of TV Journalism* taught 13 youth the basics of television journalism, starting from how to hold a TV camera to the production of news programmes. To improve the quality of Internet news coverage in the Ferghana Valley, further training and the renovation of the online press agency, *Varorud* ([www.varorud.org](http://www.varorud.org)), were carried out.

OSCE/Eugenia Benigni



**A participant in the Master School of TV Journalism training programme in Dushanbe films participants during an exercise.**

The Centre in Dushanbe continued to assist the regional newspapers *Kulyabskaya Pravda* (in Russian and Tajik) and *Bomdod* (in Tajik) in southern Tajikistan, as well as the Uzbek-language *Nafosat* magazine for the Uzbek minority.

**Raising gender awareness.** The Centre organized gender education sessions for Tajik State Employees Training Institute staff. This project, which will continue in

OSCE/Surat Toimastov



**The women's shelter in Khujand has provided accommodation to nearly 20 women and more than 700 psychological consultations.**

**Domestic violence: Nargis and her husband make a fresh start**

Thanks to U.S. funding, the OSCE Centre opened the first shelter for victims of domestic violence in Tajikistan in July.

In August, a 33-year-old woman we call Nargis was granted accommodation and counselling at the shelter, suffering from her husband's repeated beatings and sexual and psychological abuse. In the presence of a lawyer, her husband later signed a declaration that he would not attack Nargis and would face court proceedings if he did so. He also asked to be given another chance to re-build his family.

"Nargis has recently returned home and together with her husband is presently undergoing psychological consultations at the shelter," said Mavzona Khakimbayeva, shelter co-ordinator. "They seem to be conducting a more harmonious life, and I consider this a successful case".

Since opening, the shelter, located in Khujand in northern Tajikistan, has provided more than 160 psychological consultations at its premises and 580 on the telephone helpline. Nearly 20 women have taken shelter at the centre.

2006, included a general assessment of the state employees' sensitivity and knowledge of gender equality and will be used to elaborate educational modules for various Tajik ministries.

**Women's resource centres.** The OSCE funded nine women's resource centres in the regions. The centres raise women's

awareness on human rights, provide free legal and psychological consultations, and help women develop professional skills. Groups to eliminate illiteracy helped rural girls close gaps in their education caused by poverty and the civil war.

Seminars and TV programmes on gender equality compared secular law with traditional and Shariah law, continuing the OSCE's 2004 project, *Women's Rights in Islam*. The last three concluding seminars were conducted for the students of Islamic schools in northern Tajikistan.

OSCE/Surat Toimastov



**A woman learns computer skills on a training programme at a Women's Resource Centre in Khuroson.**

**Anti-trafficking.** The Centre funded the compilation of Tajikistan's initial report on the implementation of the *Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, supplementary to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This helped identify gaps in national legislation and practices and develop a national anti-trafficking action plan.

**Head of Centre:**  
Ambassador Alain Couanon  
Revised budget: €3,728,900  
[www.osce.org/tajikistan](http://www.osce.org/tajikistan)

# Centre in Tashkent

The Centre focused its 2005 politico-military work on the fight against terrorism, the destruction of unused rocket fuel components, combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons and the strengthening of border

security, all security concerns raised by Uzbek authorities.

In the economic arena, the Centre worked with Uzbek farmers to enhance their legal protection, and trained women and youth in entrepreneurship. It helped

raise public awareness of environmental issues and assisted with the drafting of a secondary school curriculum on water conservation issues, given the scarcity of resources in the country.

In the human dimension,

it launched a project to promote student intercultural exchange and continued its work in prison reform and legal education.

## Politico-military dimension activities

### Preventing and combating terrorism.

The Centre developed a long-term programme to assist Uzbekistan in preventing and combating terrorism. Following up on a workshop conducted in Tashkent in December 2004, the Centre held talks with the Government on a possible project that would help enhance the national passport system.

It ensured Uzbek officials participated in a number of expert workshops organized by the OSCE Secretariat's Action against Terrorism Unit, including on *Container Security* (February), *Co-operation in Criminal Cases related to Terrorism* (April), *Suicide Terrorism* (May) and *Combating the Use of the Internet in Terrorist Purposes* (October).

**Promotion of border security.** The Centre organized the participation of five Afghan border and customs service experts in a

regional training course for advanced dog handlers in Central Asia, held in Tashkent under the framework of the UNDP/EU Border Management in Central Asia programme. Five participants each from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan also attended. The training course objectives were to:

- upgrade practical and theoretical skills of dog handlers/instructors;
- train dogs on drugs and explosives searching;
- re-inforce regional co-operation among representatives of dog training centres and dog handlers of Central Asia.

**Destruction of toxic rocket fuel component.** In January, the Centre received a formal request from the Ministry of Defence to help it destroy its stocks of a toxic rocket fuel component. Approximately 1,000 liquid tons of the fuel is located at Oqtosh, in the Samarkand region. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

The Centre facilitated the participation of an Uzbek delegation to a preparatory seminar for the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum on the theme of *Migration from an economic, environmental and security perspective*, held in Almaty. The delegation included representatives from the Interior Ministry, Centre for Effective Economic Policy under the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population and the Centre for Social and Marketing Research.

### Support for farming development.

Together with the Farmers' Association of Uzbekistan, the Centre organized training programmes to help develop farming. The project gave some 520 farmers an opportunity to discuss practical issues, such as contractual relations, tax and insurance as well as irrigation, land use and soil productivity. The Centre developed a number of recommendations based on the obstacles participants said they faced as entrepreneurs. The Centre also supported

**Sobirjon Mina-  
varov, head of  
the Dog Training  
Centre of the State  
Custom Committee  
of Uzbekistan, ex-  
plains dog training  
exhibits to visitors.**



Exercises use specially trained dogs to detect criminals or terrorists.



Young people learn about the legal aspects of entrepreneurship during a series of training workshops supported by the Centre in Tashkent.

OSCE



**The OSCE Centre in Tashkent is helping young people such as Bakhtyor Toshpulatov develop skills in private entrepreneurship.**

### **Bakhtyor Toshpulatov draws up a business plan**

Promoting entrepreneurial initiatives is crucial for Uzbekistan's transition to a market economy. Unemployment is high, especially in rural areas. Many young people have difficulty finding work due to limited opportunities and a lack of practical entrepreneurial skills.

The Centre in Tashkent aims at increasing opportunities for young people in order to keep them from leaving Uzbekistan, ease social tensions and stimulate the country's economy. With the help of the Republican Youth Social Movement, *Kamolot*, the Centre organized a series of training workshops to help young Uzbeks develop their own business plans and learn to defend their interests.

Bakhtyor Toshpulatov produces and sells sports balls. He took part in an OSCE-sponsored youth entrepreneurial project in his home province, Ferghana. A panel of experts selected his plan to expand his business and produce more types of balls for a larger market for funding.

"The OSCE training expanded my knowledge of private entrepreneurship and legal issues," he said. "It allowed me to define the direction and possibilities of my own business plan."

Asked about his future plans, Toshpulatov said that he intends to make his product well known nationally and internationally – an ambitious plan for the young entrepreneur. But with support from his country and the OSCE Centre, he just may realize it.

**Fight against drug trafficking.** The Centre facilitated the publication of 1,000 copies of an information bulletin detailing the drug situation in Central Asia in 2004. This annual publication is prepared by the local partner, the National Centre on Drug Control, under the auspices of Uzbekistan's Cabinet of Ministers. It is based on information from the national centres on drug control in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and is distributed free of charge to the relevant international and national agencies.

**Promoting entrepreneurship and environmental protection in Mahallas.** The Centre and the National Mahalla Foundation of local community organizations held workshops in several provinces of Uzbekistan from the series on *Mahallas: Promoting Entrepreneurship and Environmental Protection*. The workshops briefed Mahalla leaders on business and environmental law, rational use of natural resources, processing of domestic wastes and entrepreneurship.

**Environmental education for school-children.** In co-operation with the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission for Central Asia, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent supported the development of a draft curriculum on water conservation issues for secondary schools. The Scientific Information Center trained secondary-school teachers in the curriculum and organized a 10-day summer camp for provincial schoolchildren to promote youth awareness of environmental issues.

## *Human dimension activities*

**Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.** The Centre organized a study tour for members of an inter-agency working group of law enforcement officers and members of civil society to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Italy, countries of transit and destination. The study tour and regular joint meetings helped improve government and civil society co-operation and co-ordination in tackling trafficking. The Centre also supported small projects in the field, designed to raise general awareness and educate

arbitration. Run by a non-governmental organization, *Legal Problems Research Centre*, the two-day training courses aimed to facilitate the development of arbitration in the provinces and to promote the legal protection of farmers by educating local lawyers in settling farmers' disputes and in carrying out proper legal consultations.

**Women's entrepreneurship.** The Centre continued its project on women's entrepreneurship, briefing some 125 women on the legal and practical aspects of doing business. At the request of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Centre carried out workshops in the five provinces which were not covered in the 2004 programme. The Women's Committee plans to maintain contacts with these entrepreneurs and help them access financial credit in order to start their own businesses. Throughout the year, the Women's Committee/OSCE Information Centre gave free consultations on business topics to women who aim to become entrepreneurs.

**Fight against corruption.** The Centre provided additional copies of the Uzbek edition of its handbook, *Best Practices in Combating Corruption* to the General Prosecutor's office and the Supreme Economic Court, among others.

**Tourism.** The Centre followed up on an OSCE initiative to promote small business development in the tourism sector. In the first phase, the project assessed the conditions and prospects of tourism development in the provinces of Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya.

**Public participation in environmental decision-making.** The Centre supported the Environmental Public Advocacy Centre, *Armon*, by promoting a series of roundtables in several provinces on environmental security and civil initiative. Participants discussed hazardous industrial wastes, their impact on environmental conditions and social welfare. The project provided citizens with free legal consultations on environmental matters.

at-risk groups in Termez, Samarkand and Ferghana. The Centre, supporting a Navoyi-based NGO initiative, published a brochure under the title, *Make your own choice*. The Centre also trained some 1,500 investigators in methods of identification and investigation of human trafficking-related crimes.

**Empowering women.** The Centre focused on enhancing women's organizations' capacity-building in advocacy and women's rights monitoring and reporting. It paid special attention to a joint Ombudsman and civil society initiative on training national experts to implement, monitor and report under the *Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*.

**Prison reform.** The Centre concentrated on further humanizing and liberalizing the penitentiary system. It assisted authorities and NGOs by providing literature, developing reform initiatives and capacity-building. It focused support on Uzbekistani NGOs that monitor penitentiaries. The Centre trained NGO representatives from different regions in human rights monitoring, building this capacity to widen the geography of prison monitoring. It helped establish a Resource Unit at the Prison Training Centre which consists of a specialized library and computer class with permanent access to the Internet.

**Legal Education Support Programme.** The Centre, the U.S. Embassy, the American Bar Association and the Central European and Eurasian Law Institute launched a train-the-trainer programme to incorporate practical skills training into the continuing legal education of prosecutors. The first training courses focused on



Participants at a roundtable on CEDAW monitoring and reporting, supported by the Centre, discussed women's rights and opportunities for women in Uzbekistan.

safeguarding defendants' rights during preliminary interrogations as well as on professional standards of prosecutors.

**Youth activities.** Together with three local NGOs, the Centre launched the *Youth of the XXI Century* project. It works to involve youth in the development of society and to promote student dialogue, debate and intercultural exchange. As part of the project, young people participate in seminars and summer schools on subjects such as tolerance and multiculturalism, conflict prevention and the role of youth in society.

Head of Centre:  
Ambassador Miroslav Jenca  
Revised budget: €1,275,900  
[www.osce.org/tashkent](http://www.osce.org/tashkent)