



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

**16 – 17 May 2022  
(Vienna)**

### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE**

#### **I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES**

##### **1. Aim, dates and venue of the meeting**

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chairpersonship-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the OSCE Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and, when required, other OSCE structures and institutions assist the Chairmanship-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) of 2022 will be held from **16 to 17 May** on “*The Functioning of Democratic Institutions in Times of Crisis*” in Vienna (Hofburg, Heldenplatz 1010 Vienna, Austria).

The meeting is organized by the Polish OSCE Chairpersonship with the support of OSCE ODIHR.

During the meeting, recommendations for the OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE executive structures, other inter-governmental organisations as well as civil society actors can be identified and addressed.

Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including the agenda, is available at [https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_2\\_2022](https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2022).

##### **2. Participation**

Representatives of OSCE participating States and OSCE executive structures, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and researchers having interest in the topic can participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-operation can attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil society organizations can find more information below, in the *Information for Civil Society* section.



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### **3. Registration**

Participants wishing to attend the meeting are requested to register at <https://meetings.odihr.pl>.

Please allow sufficient time for the self-registration process, in particular if you are a first time user of the ODIHR Conference and Event Registration System, as you will have to start by creating a profile. First time users are encouraged to sign up for the event as soon as possible after creating an account. Please note that the registration system requires individual registration and uploading of your ID photo.

**Important note:** Please note that registration is now closed. Past-deadline registration is not possible.

### **4. Accreditation**

Registered participants will be able to **collect their badges at the meeting venue** on Monday, 16 May 2022, between 11.00 and 17.30 CET, and on Tuesday, 17 May from 8.00 until 17.30 CET, at the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre.

Participation in the meeting is free of charge, although all travel and accommodation costs should be borne by participants.

A list of recommended hotels in Vienna offering OSCE discounts is available for registered participants at: <https://meetings.odihr.pl/resources> (please make sure you are logged in in order to access the list).

In order to obtain a discount, participants should quote either a contract number or a booking code, included in the table.

### **5. Modalities, Schedule and Logistics**

**Modalities:** The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

**Venue:** The meeting will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre (Heldenplatz 1010 Vienna), **at the Neuer Saal**, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**Schedule:** The opening session of SHDM will start on Monday, 16 May at 13.00. During this session, the representatives of the OSCE Chairmanship and OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) will present their opening remarks, followed by a keynote address by an invited



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expert in the topic of the meeting. No comments or statements are foreseen from participants due to short time of the opening session.

Three working sessions will follow:

- Session I: Role of national and local institutions as guardians of democracy in times of crisis
- Session II: Importance of freedom of association in the OSCE region
- Session III: Times of crisis: why we need more media freedom, not less.

All participants will have the right to request the floor during the working sessions by raising a hand.

At the closing session, starting on Tuesday, 17 May at 16.30, the moderators of three working sessions will present the reports from the working groups. There will be time for delegations of participating States to voice their comments and, finally, for the representatives of ODIHR and OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office for their closing remarks. Only the delegations of participating States have the right to speak during the closing session.

The meeting will end on Tuesday, 17 May at 17.30.

**Interpretation:** Interpretation will be available in the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

**Guidelines for the debate:** The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panelists' inputs, discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. For topic and composition of each panel, please consult the agenda and annotated agenda at [https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_2\\_2022](https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2022).

The moderator will help to ensure that the participants engage in a constructive debate aimed at achieving the meetings' objectives, improving the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments and formulating recommendations.

**Right of reply:** At the end of working sessions, as well as at the opening and closing plenary, participating States will have the possibility to exercise their right of reply. Participating States should indicate this to the ODIHR staff seated behind the head table early enough before the end of the session of their wish to exercise their right of reply, so sufficient time is allocated.

Participants should wait for the moderator to give them the floor. When taking the floor, participants shall introduce themselves by providing their name, surname and the name of the organization they represent. Participants should keep their comments short and to the point and speak only within the time frame allotted to them.



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Interventions should be relevant to the topic of the session and contain specific recommendations. Participants have a right to express their opinions freely, while respecting human rights and the principle of non-discrimination.

Participants shall refrain from presenting or shouting any slogans that might: a.) provoke or disturb order and safety, b.) likely to give rise to violence, c.) discriminate against others on the basis of their race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (Maastricht 2003, Ljubljana 2005), d.) condone terrorism or the use of violence. Moderators are instructed to ensure that discussions are held in accordance with these principles.

**Distribution of documents:** Any registered participant present at SHDM may also submit documents for distribution by sending their documents (maximum 3 pages in length) to the Document Distribution Centre at [documents@osce.org](mailto:documents@osce.org). Participants should mention in their message when submitted documents are intended for distribution or to facilitate interpretation.

There are no translation services available.

**Filming in plenary hall:** Filming with cameras and video cameras will only be permitted by accredited journalists, and only during the opening and closing sessions. No other audio-visual recordings should be undertaken inside the plenary.

**Livestreaming:** livetream will be available in English and Russian on the website of the event.

### Limitations due to Covid-19 pandemic

#### a) Requirements to enter Austria

Persons wishing to enter Austria will be requested to provide the following proof of low epidemiological risk:

- proof of vaccination\*, or
- proof of recovery, or
- negative PCR test (valid for 72 hours) or a negative antigen test (valid for 24 hours)

\* with a vaccine which has been authorized by the European Medicines Agency or which has completed the World Health Organization's Emergency Use Listing Procedure. (Two-dose vaccinations: valid for 270 days after the second dose. There need to be at least 14 days in between the first and second dose. Booster jab: valid for 270 days after the booster. There need to be at least 90 days between the second and third dose).

Persons vaccinated with a vaccine which is not recognized by the EU, who enter Austria to participate in ODIHR meeting, are not subject to a mandatory quarantine and do not have to



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register online through the Pre-Travel Clearance system. However, they are required to produce a valid PCR-Test and may be asked to show documents proving the professional purpose of their entry.

For the latest list of limitations in Austria, applicable in various settings, please consult <https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Coronavirus/Information-in-English.html>

### **b) Measures inside event venue**

Persons wishing to enter Hofburg are not requested to provide proof of low epidemiological risk before entering the premises.

Inside the venue, the following applies:

- Social distancing is required and seating available to participants will be organized in line with applicable limitations,
- All participants are strongly encouraged to cover mouth and nose with a FFP2 mask.

## **II. INFORMATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV, the participating States agreed to facilitate during OSCE meetings “informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and NGOs”.

As per Chapter IV, paragraphs (15) and (16), of the Helsinki Document 1992, the provision of making “open to NGOs [...] human rights implementation meetings” does not apply to “persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence.”

In line with these provisions, the OSCE welcomes participation by civil society organizations at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting.

## **III. SIDE EVENTS**

Registered participants representing civil society organizations, international organizations, governments and other registered participants of SHDM are encouraged to organize side events on relevant human dimension issues. Side events are meant to facilitate less formal discussions among representatives of governments, civil society and international organizations. The side events provide an opportunity for the participants to discuss issues that have not been fully covered during the working sessions, since only limited time is assigned to each of the topics.



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ODIHR's role is to co-ordinate the organization of side events and make the necessary venue arrangements. Participants can book rooms dedicated for side events free of charge. The participants organizing a side event will be responsible for its logistics (catering, presentations and technical facilities, interpretation, financing etc.) and for its content.

Booking is organized on a first come first served basis via <https://meetings.odihr.pl>.

*Schedule and Overview of Side Events* is posted on [the SHDM website](#). The views expressed during the side events do not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Refreshments will be available in all meeting rooms.

## **IV. CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Meeting co-ordination:** Mr. Martin Toplišek, at [martin.toplisek@odihr.pl](mailto:martin.toplisek@odihr.pl)

**Side events:** Ms. Anna Piwowarska, at [anna.piwowarska@odihr.pl](mailto:anna.piwowarska@odihr.pl)

**Registration, venue, document distribution:** Ms. Aleksandra Szorc, at [aleksandra.szorc@odihr.pl](mailto:aleksandra.szorc@odihr.pl)

**Accreditation (badge collection):** Ms. Paulina Wozniak, at [Paulina.wozniak@odihr.pl](mailto:Paulina.wozniak@odihr.pl)

**Other enquiries:** [hdmeetings@odihr.pl](mailto:hdmeetings@odihr.pl)