



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities

29-30 October 2015

Hofburg, Vienna

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 informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and NGOs during OSCE meetings.

In line with these agreements, the OSCE would like to invite civil society organizations to the third 2015 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) to be held on the subject of “*OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities*”. The meeting will take place on 29-30 October 2015, in Vienna, at the Hofburg conference centre. Additional information and other documents related to the meeting are available on the OSCE website at www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_3_2015.

Recommendations from the meeting may be addressed to participating States, OSCE institutions and OSCE executive structures, and other inter-governmental as well as civil society actors in OSCE participating States.

Civil society organizations whose activities directly relate to the topic of the meeting, as well as those who wish to attend, are requested to register at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> **preferably by 14th October 2015**. The registration will also be available after the date; however, early registration would be highly appreciated to facilitate the preparation of the SHDM. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges at the meeting’s venue as of Thursday, 29 October 2015, from 9 a.m.

Civil society organizations are invited to organize side events (SE). As we have introduced a new on-line SE Booking System, please register first in the ODIHR Registration System (<http://meetings.odihr.pl>.) and then proceed with the Side Event Booking. Participants wishing to organize a side event are requested to register and book the slot at their earliest convenience as the system is based on ‘first come, first served’ basis. The system will be open on Wednesday, 23 September 2015, at 12.00 (CET) and will be closed by Friday, 9 October, 23:59 (CET). No bookings will be accepted after this date. Additional information on the content and objectives of planned side events, timing and duration as well as instructions on how to book a side event are available on SHDM website (Side Event Information Document & Side event Booking Instructions).

Participation in the Seminar is free of charge, although all travel and accommodation costs should be borne by participants. Civil society organizations are kindly requested to make

their own travel and hotel arrangements. You can find a list of selected hotels in Vienna on the ODIHR website.

Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the SHDM by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. Participants are encouraged to intervene during the SHDM Working Sessions while limiting their statements to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

The meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

For further information about the content of the meeting, please contact:

Substantive content matters:

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Organizational matters:

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Registration of participants:

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