



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR Warsaw, 14-16 May 2008

INFORMATION FOR ORGANIZERS OF SIDE EVENTS

NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant Human Dimension issues.¹ Side meetings/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. Side meetings/events are meant to facilitate informal discussions between representatives of governments, NGOs and International Organizations. HDS participants actively used this opportunity in the past.

The ODIHR will co-ordinate side events organization and make necessary logistical arrangements. The organization convening a side event will be responsible for its content, which will not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Practical information for side events organizers

When? Lunchtime 14 – 16 May (13.00-15.00), and in the evening 14 – 15 May (18.00-20.00).

Where? Up to four meeting rooms are available free of charge:

Meeting room 1: Layout: “Round table” arrangement. Capacity: 80 people. (Lunchtime only on 15.05)

Meeting room 2: Layout: “Round table” arrangement. Capacity: 30 people.

Meeting room 3: Layout: “Theatre style” arrangement. Capacity: 50 people.

Plenary Hall: Layout: “Round table” arrangement. Capacity: 100 people around the table and 150 at the back rows. This room is **available only on the 15 of May**. Please also note that the side event can be organized in the Plenary Hall only between 13:15 and 14:45, while evening arrangements are not possible.

How will people learn about the event? The ODIHR will inform the participants of the HDS about your side event by posting information on our web-page few days before the Seminar starts. In addition, we will also include the schedule and annotated agenda of side events into participants’ packs and put an announcement on the notice board at the HDS premises. If you wish, you can also make “flyers” with information and leave them on display tables.

Technical equipment? You might wish to use some technical equipment for your event (for example, overhead projector, power point, video + TV, microphones + speakers, etc.) Please let us know in advance what kind of equipment you need so that we could rent it at your expenses. Please find attached the pricelist & contact information

Interpretation? Interpretation services can be provided upon request at your expenses. ODIHR will put you in touch with the Interpretation Agency in this regard. Please find attached the pricelist & contact information

Refreshments? Some organizers of side events wish to offer refreshments (sandwiches, soft drinks, water, coffee, tea, etc.) to their audience. If you wish to do so, we can organize it at your expenses. Approximate cost is the equivalent of 15 EUR (50 PLN), per person, to be paid on the spot to the Hotel “Sofitel Victoria”

ODIHR requirements

For timely inclusion of the side events schedule into participants’ pack, please complete the Check-List for Side Events Form below and submit it before 05 May 2008 to ireneusz.stepinski@odihr.pl

¹ The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of CSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues.

CHECK-LIST FOR ORGANIZERS OF SIDE EVENTS

HDS 14– 16 May 2008

Your name and organization.	
Your preferences on date and time of the event	
Number of participants.	
Room layout (pls. see the setting: roundtable, theatre).	
Title of your event.	
Name of conveying organization(s).	
One, two paragraph description of your event – no more than half A4 page (<i>Please note, this text will be included into the Annotated Agenda of Side Events to be distributed among the participants of the HDS</i>).	
Do you need technical equipment. If yes, please specify your needs.	
Working languages.	
Do you need interpretation and related equipment?	
Do you wish to offer refreshments? For how many people. Special catering.	
Who will make necessary payments (if applicable)?	
Name of contact person (incl. tel/fax/e-mail)	
Any other information that might be useful for ODIHR	