



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting II (2024)

Vienna Austria, 27 - 28 May 2024

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE 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. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Monday, 27 May

Time: **17:30-18:30**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: Restriction of the right to access information in Europe as a factor in the crisis of European democratic institutions.
Convenor: Information Group on Crimes against the Person
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In recent years, the situation with the realization of the right to freedom of speech in Europe has caused concern. There is a lot of evidence that media freedom in Europe and the fundamental right of citizens to freedom of access to information are in crisis. This is the result of years of ignoring the persecution of journalists, which hinders the work of the media in Eastern Europe. Under the justification of countering Russian propaganda, the basic, inalienable rights of citizens, including the right to freedom of information, are actually being eliminated. At the same time, the facts of the persecution of journalists, the closure of the media are recorded in almost all countries of the OSCE region. Unfortunately, in some of them, the process has taken on the character of the actual destruction of any manifestations of freedom of speech. Unfortunately, in a number of countries, in particular in the

Baltic States and Ukraine, the situation goes beyond the legal framework. During 2022-23, the Government of Ukraine has completed the process of destroying independent media. Any media outlets critical of Zelensky's government are currently closed, their representatives are being harassed, arrested and physically abused. Within the framework of the Round Table, experts, journalists and public figures from Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Australia and India will assess the current situation with freedom of speech in Europe, present facts, discuss possible development prospects and ways out of the current situation.

Time: **17:30-18:30**
Venue: **Room 531**
Title: Resilience of civil society using social media.
Convenor: Pantarey Foundation
Working language: English

Summary: At the seminar, Polish and Austrian experts, social activists, vloggers and influencers will talk about motivations and methods of fighting government propaganda during the pandemic and the armed conflict in Ukraine.

Time: **17:30-18:30**
Venue: **Room 533**
Title: Media, information, and literacy: development in times of war
Convenor: OSCE Secretariat
Working language: English

Summary: The event will focus on media literacy, examining state-level strategies, involvement of media in lifelong learning, good practices during wartime, and methodologies for measuring the effectiveness of media literacy projects.

The speakers of the event:

- Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine Taras Shevchenko
- Head of the “FILTER” National Media Literacy project under the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine Olha Kravchenko
- Director of the NGO “DETECTOR Media” Galyna Petrenko

Tuesday, 28 May

Time: **13:15-14:15**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: Launching of the OSCE RFoM's Report “Fostering Media Freedom Literacy Across the OSCE Region”
Convenor: Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
Working language: English

Summary: The emerging concept of Media Freedom Literacy is prompted by threats to media freedom, media plurality and the quality of information available to all. It reflects the knowledge and skills that enable everyone to value the democratic functions of the media, both online and offline, and to understand the significance of a pluralistic and well-functioning media landscape serving the public interest. This concept also includes the ability to critically evaluate and ethically produce media and information content. The RFoM's new Report on how to foster media freedom literacy across the OSCE region is a practical tool providing an overview of promising practices and educational programmes. The Report exemplifies the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors under various competencies and how they affect the use and dissemination of information as well as content production. To promote cross-sectoral collaboration, the Report presents recommendations of concrete actions for key actors to develop effective response to current and future challenges in a rapidly changing media and information space. Opening remarks: Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Speakers: Martina Chapman (Ireland), independent expert in media and information literacy Asja Rokša-Zubčević (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Partner at Wagner-Hatfield specialized on media policy and regulation Moderator: Tsovinar Arevyan, Associate Project Officer, RFoM

Time: **13:15-14:15**
Venue: **Room 533**
Title: Kyrgyzstan: how restrictive media freedom environment affects media literacy
Convenor: American Bar Association
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Kyrgyzstan's civil society, journalists and media outlets are experiencing an unprecedented pressure from the government because of their expressed pluralistic and diverse views and opinions. This side event will explore the importance of media freedoms for citizens' abilities to access independent media sources, critically evaluate its content and form their own opinions. The experts will highlight the importance for young generation to be media literate in order to engage in both political and non-political activities to improve the society and promote rule-of-law-based values. Furthermore, the experts will discuss hardships and challenges that journalists, media outlets and HRDs are facing in their difficult work to also implement OSCE established principles and standards. Last, the speakers will offer recommendations and suggestions for the OSCE members and civil society representatives on how to improve media freedom and media literacy in Kyrgyzstan.