



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine



working together for democracy,
human rights, rule of law and security

NEWSLETTER /// 2nd Quarter of 2020

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APRIL – JUNE 2020

Head of Mission



Ambassador
Henrik Villadsen

Staffing



94 posts (UB and XB):
4 international and 90 local
60 women / 34 men

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is mandated to plan, implement, and monitor projects that help Ukraine enhance its security and develop its legislation, institutions, and practices in line with democratic standards. The goal is to support the country in adapting legislation, structures, and processes to the requirements of a modern democracy built on a secure environment for its people.

This newsletter provides a brief overview of the Co-ordinator's efforts to support ongoing reforms, promote dialogue and help the country meet crisis-related challenges.

Newsletter Source:



DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



ELECTIONS

15 April 2020. This winter the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Election Code, which was welcomed by civil society and international community as a sizeable step in harmonization of electoral legislation. However, analysis, performed within the OSCE PCU's projects, outlined a number of areas where the Code should be improved in order to be a good foundation for the local elections, due in October this year. See the presentation delivered by the OSCE PCU's experts here <https://bit.ly/39N4Bys>.

The recent developments effectively stopped the process of consultations on electoral legislation reform that was already underway in Verkhovna Rada, but modern ICT technologies allow to revitalise it. That is why the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine joined our partners the International Foundation for Electoral System and Civil Network OPORA in a statement that proposes to parliamentarians to resume this process. [To learn more](#)

22 April 2020. In-depth coverage of decentralization processes has a serious impact on success of this comprehensive reform. To promote good journalism and enhance awareness of people about implications of ongoing transformations on their lives the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories ([Мінрегіон](#)) jointly with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, Council of Europe Office in Kyiv ([Офіс Ради Європи в Україні - Київ](#)) and [Internews Ukraine](#) are organizing a contest for best media works on the topic. [To learn more](#)

12 June 2020. Any reform of the administrative-territorial structure will succeed and meet the interests and needs of citizens, if it is implemented based on in-depth research. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved administrative centres and territories of communities of the majority of oblasts. Decisions on the communities of several oblasts will be finalized shortly. Division by the new rayons are yet to be adopted by the Parliament.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine contributed to the elaboration of these decisions by providing expert support that allowed to analyze and consider, inter alia, such an important criterion, as communities' sustainability with the view of their demographics, condition of infrastructural development and finances. [To learn more](#)

26 June 2020. With local elections approaching this year, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine assists the Central Election Commission of Ukraine in developing and launching a chat bot in Facebook and Telegram to make it easier for users to get informed about various aspects of electoral processes. The software will serve to provide timely and relevant information for three categories of audience:

- ★ voters (e.g. about location of the polling station)
- ★ election commissioners (e.g. on rules of organizing election process)
- ★ candidates (e.g. about procedures for submission of necessary documents).

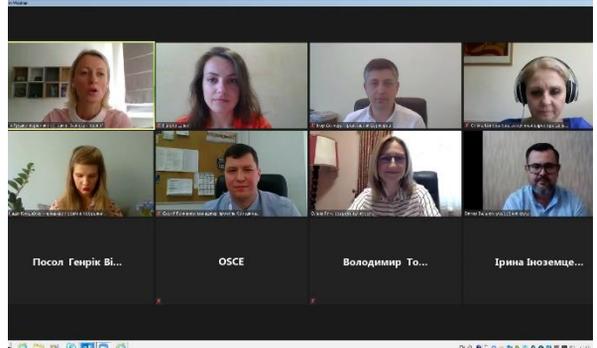
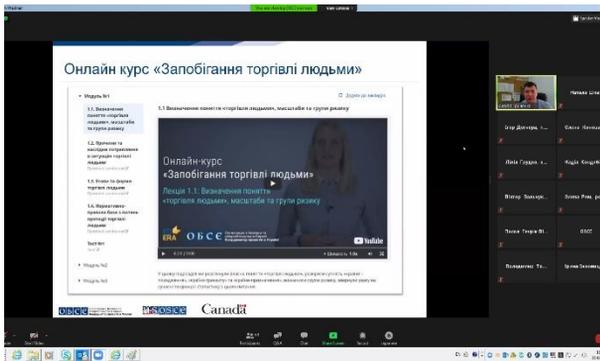
[To learn more](#)

DIALOGUE

21 April 2020. Efforts to strengthen social cohesion at the local level require analytical work to identify divisions and conflicts that need planned interventions. From July 2019 till April 2020, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator has been helping to pilot the Methodology Guide, developed by our partner – Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons – to assess the situation at the level of communities. The methodology was tested in five communities in total. Officials of those communities also received tailored trainings on conflict sensitivity and the use of dialogue tools. Based on this work, the Co-ordinator also helped to devise the Explanatory Note that will simplify use of conflict assessment tools for local authorities. The full report of the piloting and the Explanatory Notes (in Ukrainian) are available at the OSCE website. [To learn more](#)



HUMAN SECURITY



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

16 April 2020. COVID-2019 is a challenge that also heightens risks in a number of spheres, where the OSCE Project Co-ordinator helps Ukrainian institutions to enhance security of its citizens. Notably:

- ✦ quarantine and social distancing may result in worsening of domestic violence situation
 - ✦ distant working is a perfect condition for cybercrimes
 - ✦ economic challenges put more people into risk of becoming victims of human trafficking
- To help Ukraine better address these challenges, the Project Co-ordinator, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the National Police:
- sent to the regions 5,000 medical masks to strengthen protection of social workers, who remain at the forefront of dealing with vulnerable categories of people, who can suffer from trafficking or domestic violence;
 - printed and sent to the regional offices and departments of social protection 2,000 information posters, that provide advice and useful references to resources on dealing with those threats. [To learn more](#)

17 April 2020. Amarsanaa Darisuren, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, reviews different impact factors COVID-19 situation has on men and women in a recent article, available in English here: <https://bit.ly/2ZBTn1Y>

To help diminish some of the risks, described in the article, PCU call upon its followers to share with others a recently produced leaflet by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, which is available for download here: <https://bit.ly/2BrYWGS>.

[To learn more](#)



COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

23 June 2020. Across Ukraine, there are around 1,500 labour inspectors of the State Labour Service of Ukraine, they have the authority to verify whether an employer complies with the requirements of properly organized working process at an enterprise. Labour inspectors are those state officials who can significantly strengthen the system of combating trafficking in human beings.

That is why the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has developed a specialized online course on combating trafficking in human beings for the needs of the State Labour Service staff. The training tool was presented and handed over to the Labour Service on 23 June 2020, it contains 6 sections and is designed for 12 hours of distant learning. [To learn more](#)



2 June 2020. School age is a good time to already know how to surf in cyberspace safely and to be able to avoid traps by digital criminals. For example, those set up by traffickers in human beings. That is the reason the OSCE Project Coordinator supported the 2nd online contest "Young Cyber-Erudite" organized by Kharkiv University of Internal Affairs to promote cyber education at schools. The first round of the competition was attended by 253 pupils from 10th -11th grades, including 62 girls.

All participants of the second round and the winners of the contest received gifts from the OSCE PCU and the Ukrainian E-Sports Federation. In addition, the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine will conduct online courses for 10 finalists during this month on the subjects related to information security. [To learn more](#)

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

2 April 2020. With all due precautions regarding the risks related to COVID-19, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has provided to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine the equipment needed to create a training and telecommunication center. In the nearest future this will allow to conduct trainings and other events for judges and the Court's Secretariat staff, organize expert discussions with participation of legal practitioners, academia representatives and human rights activists. The donated equipment will allow to do videoconferencing for such events, which is highly relevant now, but will also give opportunity for regions to be included in the discussions. [To learn more](#)



19 June 2020. Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, and Judge Oleksandr Tupytskyi, the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, launched the training facility established at the Court's premises as part of a joint project "Support to Ukraine's Human Rights Protection by Enhancing Accessibility of Constitutional Justice", implemented with financial support of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Just right after the opening of the facility, its first online event – workshop "Constitutional Proceedings: New Opportunities and Peculiarities of their Implementation" took place, with the participation of representatives of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, Donetsk Law Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and Luhansk State University of Internal Affairs named after E.O. Didorenko. In future, such online events will be held on a regular basis, which will contribute to the operation of the Court during the pandemic. [To learn more](#)



22 June 2020. 24 years ago the Parliament deliberated the draft of new Constitution for independent Ukraine. The final document was born in fierce debate and the Constitution was finally adopted at the dawn of 28 June 1996. As the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine joined the Constitutional Court in the "Constitutional Week" series of events, we presented a video explaining the nature and significance of the constitutional complaint mechanism. [To learn more](#)

24 June 2020. Daily flow of world news may nurture a suspicion of widespread disenchantment in formal political institutions, though researchers indicate trends of more and more people being involved in political processes in many ways. As Ukraine's Constitution Day is approaching, it provides a good opportunity to reflect on how modern challenges to democracy impact the role of Basic Law and constitutional justice. Oleksandr Vodyannikov, Legal Advisor to the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, proposed to cast a look at these issues through the historical perspective in his online lecture "A Tribunal for Democracy: Protecting the Constitution in the World of Post-Modernity". [To learn more](#)

25 June 2020. The Constitution Day (a Ukrainian public holiday celebrated on 28 June since 1996) is a perfect opportunity to ponder on the current issues of democracy, constitutionalism and the rule of law through different formats, applied by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and the OSCE Project co-ordinator in Ukraine. This year the Court and Project co-ordinator jointed efforts with the European Commission for Democracy through Law in organizing an online conference to explore influential concepts of rule of law and constitutional jurisprudence. Judges from constitutional courts and ECHR, Supreme Court, members of parliament, Venice Commission members and leading experts in constitutionalism shared their views on constitutional provisions interpretation; constitutional control as a means of dealing with interpretational conflicts; and constitutional complaint as a tool of human rights promotion. [To learn more](#)



Coming soon. Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law – 2020. IX Summer School. 30 law students and PhD candidates will participate in the Summer School. Students of the School would be able to begin to link their theoretical studies to on-going reforms processes, human rights practice and identify key issues and challenges in the area of constitutionalism and the rule of law. [To learn more](#)

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ОБСЄ Організація з безпеки та співробітництва в Європі
Координатор проєктів в Україні



Злочини у сфері використання інформаційних технологій

Презентація
Миколи Карчевського

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

22 June 2020. Unauthorized access to personal data, including in state registers, their sale or publication, the spread of malware and targeted cyberattacks are just a few of crimes committed through information technology. Modern law enforcement officers have to address them. Naturally, technology is evolving faster than the law, and that is why detectives are facing challenges not only in investigating, but also in defining corpus delicti in cybercrime so that the perpetrator gets what he or she really deserves in terms of punishment.

The answers to such thematic questions can be found in the presentation of Dr Mykola Karчевsky - an expert engaged by the OSCE Project Coordinator for the development of training programs for law enforcement. This presentation is now available here: <http://tiny.cc/ommhphz>. [To learn more](#)

TRIAL MONITORING

ПРЕЗЕНТАЦІЯ

РЕЗУЛЬТАТИ ПІЛОТНОГО ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ СТАНУ ДОТРИМАННЯ СУДАМИ І ОРГАНАМИ ОПІКИ ТА ПІКЛУВАННЯ СТАНДАРТИВ ПРАВОСУДДЯ, ДРУЖНЬОГО ДО ДИТИНИ

11:00-13:00 онлайн
1 червня 2020 р.



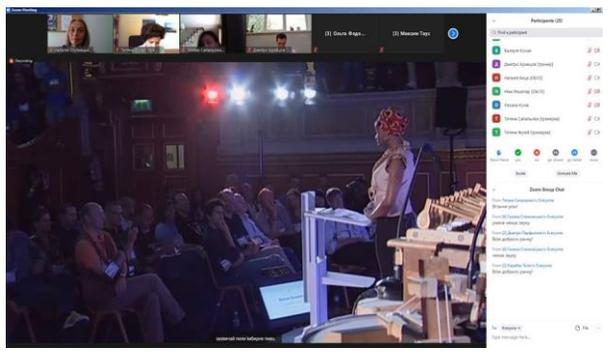
ОБСЄ Організація з безпеки та співробітництва в Європі
Координатор проєктів в Україні

Уповноважений Верховної Ради України в правах людини

ЦППР

ВЕКТОР ПРАВ ЛЮДИНИ

1 June 2020. A vast majority of Ukrainian civil and administrative court cases concerning the interests of a minor are being examined without involving the minor in question. This is one of the key findings of monitoring and research conducted by civil society on the initiative of Ukraine's Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. The research was supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The report, available in Ukrainian, was presented at an online event on 1 June 2020, the International Day for the Protection of Children. The event brought together more than 200 judges, representatives of state authorities, civil society and human rights activists, and other justice sector stakeholders. [To learn more](#)



GENDER IN JUSTICE



11 June 2020. Both parents have common responsibilities to care for the upbringing and development of a child, according to the Supreme Court practice and international standards. However, a recent analysis of the court practice conducted with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator shows, that when the courts of first instance and appeal deal with cases, involving girls, they often rely on a gender stereotype that preference should be given to mothers.

To tackle this and many other gender-related challenges within the national justice system and to support the National School of Judges with implementation of its Recommendations on promotion of gender equality in justice, the OSCE PCU jointly with the School continues building up the national gender focal point network that consists of judges from across Ukraine. Twenty judges participated in the three-day tailored online training to be able to identify gender stereotypes and discrimination, strengthen competencies in gender-sensitive justice delivery, and mainstream gender equality within their professional environment. [To learn more](#)

Правосуддя, дружнє до дитини: презентація дослідження

Мониторинг кризь призму дотримання стандартів:



- комфортні умови перебування
- право бути поінформованим_ою
- право висловити свою думку
- право на спеціального представника
- право на швидкий розгляд
- прийняття рішення в найкращих інтересах дитини

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICO-MILITARY PROJECTS



MINE ACTION

4 April 2020. As the world marks the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the Chief Monitor of the [OSCE SMM - Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine](#), Yaşar Halit Çevik, and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Henrik Villadsen, reiterated the importance and urgency of conducting mine action in eastern Ukraine. [To learn more](#)

5 April 2020. Article “Making the lands safe - Ukraine’s challenges of humanitarian demining” produced by Miljenko Vahtarić and [Andrii Dziubenko](#) for ZN.UA website on the occasion of International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action outlines prospects and needs to ensure the country has an effective system of response to explosive threats. [To learn more](#)

6 April 2020. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine invited journalists and bloggers to participate in the press tour to give insight into the principles and procedures of humanitarian demining on the examples of conflict-affected areas. In addition, the participants will have a chance to communicate with international and national mine action experts, raise awareness of international best practices and local initiatives, see practical works aimed at reducing risks of explosive hazards for people.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the event dates are preliminary, and the PCU reserves the right to postpone the press tour for a later date. [To learn more](#)

20 June 2020. Humanitarian demining needs a systemic approach to make sure that efforts of all agencies are coordinated and resources are used with maximum effect to diminish risks to civilians from explosive objects. The Ukrainian parliament made a move to change the legislation to enable practical implementation of framework 2019 Mine Action Law. The draft law 2618 adopted in the first reading proposes to establish Mine Action Center with existing facilities of the Ministry of Defense and Humanitarian Demining Centre under the State Emergency Service. Their work will be coordinated by a special interagency body.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator provided expert advice in the process of elaboration of these changes, and introduced stakeholders to international experience in this sphere.. [To learn more](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

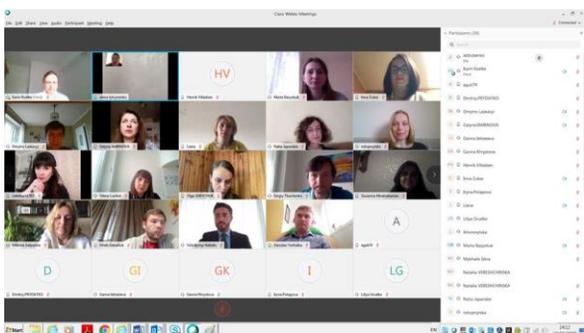
9 April 2020. The photos from Boryspil Airport illustrate an unexpected added value of last year’s efforts by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator. Officials of State Customs Service (Нова митниця) are secured against COVID-19 due to the special suits and gas masks that the Co-ordinator handed over in summer 2019 to the training institutions of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to exercise skills on countering chemical threats. According to our partners, the suits, which also effectively protect against biological threats, have been dispatched to those border control points, where the risk of contamination is the highest. [To learn more](#)

18 May 2020. Draughts imposed by climate change make sustainable and well thought-out water management a priority of state policy. The infographics developed by the project demonstrate availability of water resources under low-water conditions in different regions along the Dniester river basin. It helps to see where efforts are needed to ensure water supply. The infographics was produced with the use of water balance calculation system developed in 2018-2019 as part of the GEF/UNDP/OSCE/UNECE project “Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin”. [To learn more](#)

31 May 2020. The Dniester Day marked on May 31 is a good occasion to revisit challenges of climate change that already have an impact on the basin and people living along the river and its tributaries. In 2012-17 the OSCE, UNECE under umbrella of the international initiative ENVSEC produced climate change analysis and proposed measures to counter its negative consequences in the basin. “Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin” signed by the ministers of the environment of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, along with a plan to implement the measures are available in English and local languages at https://dniester-commission.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Dniester_ukr_web.pdf.

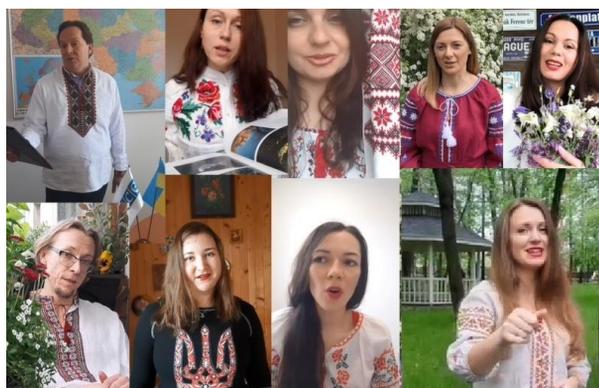
[To learn more](#)

OUTREACH / COORDINATION



19 April 2019. Lockdown delayed but didn't prevent annual discussion of ways to achieve closer coordination of project work between the OSCE PCU and the Council of Europe's Office in Ukraine. The online meeting covered all the areas where the two missions already have established and long lasting cooperation, or where such cooperation should be deepened. The two offices naturally have a lot of synergy in supporting Ukraine's work in strengthening justice, law enforcement and human rights protection mechanisms, as well as in supporting democratic institutions, including election, civil society and media. But it was also important to discuss plans for promoting dialogue as a tool of enhancing social stability, efforts to combat domestic violence and improve gender equality, projects for combating money-laundering. [To learn more](#)

21 May 2020. Normally, on Vyshyvanka Day our office would get together to showcase the PCU team's bright and diverse collection of embroidered shirts and dresses. This time we couldn't do it, unfortunately. Nevertheless, we decided to launch VyshyvankaChallenge for followers of our page. Our employees read Ukrainian poetry (and sang!), and you could admire the vishyvankas and verses, but also try to guess names of the authors – and post in the comments your versions. We offered small and pleasant prizes to those 2 winners who named correctly the poets. [To learn more](#)



1 April 2020. For many years the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has been helping to improve the system of legal education. Therefore, it was an easy task to assemble a collection of materials that could definitely help students of law to adapt to challenges of distant learning. Notably, PCU helped to produce a number of comprehensive handbooks on general legal theory, criminal law, criminal procedure, general administrative law, principles of the Election Law and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. For those who want to expand understanding of how to apply international law for defence of human rights, we propose: Interactive Journal on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and on European Court of Human Rights, European Convention on Human Rights and individual statements. [To learn more](#)

23 April 2020. Life is a lesson in progress for any lawyer, who is passionate about his or her profession. Quarantine is a challenge, but not a disaster, especially if you are serious about investing your time and effort into professional development. The offered collection of materials could serve as an inspiration for legal professionals to go on and expand horizons of expertise. These resources could be quite handy for those who want to deepen understanding of international tools that can be used to protect human rights, including case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. [To learn more](#)

29 April 2020. Social distancing and teleworking can sharpen our relations both at home and with our colleagues or partners, bring those relations to the verge of conflicts. We use this opportunity to reminding of existence of approaches and technics that can help to transform conflict energy from standoff to constructive cooperation. Dialogue is a managed communication that helps all participants of the process understand and take into account needs and views of each other. If you want to use quarantine time for upgrading your skills and knowledge in using such approaches, this collection of materials will be very useful. [To learn more](#)

30 April 2020. In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator provided assistance to Ukraine with a number of activities including handover of personal protective equipment (PPE) and awareness-raising. [To learn more](#)

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E-mail us: office-pcu@osce.org

Visit us: 16 Striletska St., Kyiv, Ukraine