



# **DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE**

**Programme of Assistance for Implementation of OSCE  
Commitments on Migration and Freedom of Movement  
(1300496)**

**FUNDED THROUGH  
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Warsaw, September 2012

# Programme of Assistance for Implementation of OSCE Commitments on Migration and Freedom of Movement (1300496)

Current budget: EUR 165,000<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Background

Increasing population mobility is one of the main characteristics of a modern society and has brought a number of new challenges and opportunities to participating States in the OSCE region to develop and implement migration policies that are both humane and pragmatic. While migration can contribute to the economic, social and democratic development of migrant destination and origin countries, migrants themselves can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation and human rights violations. Migrant receiving countries face challenges in maintaining the social cohesion of their societies, which may be put under strain by the diverse composition, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds of migrants. In order to address these concerns, this programme aims to build on the work undertaken since 2009 to assist OSCE participating States in meeting relevant OSCE commitments<sup>2</sup>.

## 2. Approach

With input from external experts on migration and in cooperation with the OSCE field operations, the programme aims to facilitate an exchange of good practices among relevant authorities of OSCE participating States related to the integration of migrants, with a specific focus on participation of migrants in public affairs. The programme will provide policy advice on integrating migrants to OSCE participating States to build their capacity to implement migration policies in compliance with OSCE commitments. The programme will also support continued development of humane and gender-sensitive national migration management schemes and policies.

### 2.1 *Planned activities for 2013 (funds permitting)*

#### Migrant participation in public affairs

Assessments of migrant participation in public affairs, and in particular, of the political participation of migrant women, will be conducted in selected OSCE participating States to identify potential challenges in meeting OSCE commitments in this area. Based on research findings and with the help of external experts, ODIHR will facilitate awareness-raising and the transfer of best practices to decision- and policy-makers. Work will also be carried out to increase dialogue and co-operation between state-authorities and civil society, including migrant associations, so as to enable them to influence and improve public processes related to migration.

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<sup>1</sup> For the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Helsinki Final Act 1975, Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment; 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment; 1990 Copenhagen Document; 2003 Maastricht MC Decision No. 4/2003 on Tolerance and Non-discrimination; 2004 Sofia, Annex to MC Decision No. 12/2004 on Tolerance and Non-discrimination, PC Decision No. 621: Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination; 2005 Ljubljana MC Decision No. 2/2005 on Migration.

## Migrant integration

ODIHR will continue to build the capacity of participating States to facilitate migrant integration through assessments of migrant integration policies, development of sustainable data collection and monitoring systems, provision of policy and legislative advice, and training, as well as through the transfer of good practices within the OSCE region. Special emphasis will be placed on countering discrimination and hate crime, as well as on addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable groups of migrants. Efforts will also be invested to help raise awareness of OSCE participating States on policy and legislative issues related to integration of migrants, and to provide a platform for discussion and closer co-operation at local, national and regional levels. As a result, the capacity of the national authorities of OSCE participating States to facilitate migration integration will be enhanced and compliance with relevant OSCE commitments further increased.

### *2.2 Indicators of achievement (examples)*

- Robust/reliable relevant data is available to and used by relevant stakeholders in participating States;
- National decision- and policy-makers are introducing local solutions to facilitate migrant integration and participation in public affairs, based on awareness-raising and best practices collected within the OSCE region.

### *2.3 Strategy/methodology*

Research findings and the ensuing policy recommendations will serve as the basis for further action by ODIHR to assist participating States in meeting their commitments. By engaging “*a cross-dimensional approach at the national, regional and international levels*”,<sup>3</sup> ODIHR will strengthen dialogue on migration issues between state institutions and civil society/migrant organizations, and among OSCE participating States. To maximize effectiveness, synergies with relevant departments in ODIHR<sup>4</sup> and OSCE field operations will be sought. ODIHR will seek partnership with donors, national and international stakeholders and international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration and the Council of Europe.

### *2.4 Assumptions and risks*

The primary assumption is that political will and a co-operative approach exist among key stakeholders in governments, political parties, civil society, and OSCE field operations to co-operate with ODIHR on these issues. A highly polarized political environment at national or regional level would limit the impact that ODIHR’s tools and resources may have on national policy debates. Co-operation between migrants and state authorities will be affected if there is a lack of trust between the two for other reasons.

### *2.5 Quality factors*

Covering the entire OSCE region, ODIHR is in a unique position to provide its longstanding expertise in the human dimension to facilitate exchange of participating States’ practices on

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<sup>3</sup> MC Decision No. 2/2005 on Migration

<sup>4</sup> Primarily the Human Rights Department, Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department and the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

integration of migrants, and their inclusion in the democratic process. ODIHR has access to a wide network of expertise on migration policy issues, experience of legislative assistance and capacity to stimulate and facilitate public discussions on migration issues. This programme will also benefit from ODIHR's expertise in anti-trafficking and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as the OSCE's collective security approach in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and OSCE field operations.