



HUMAN DIMENSION
S E M I N A R

Migration and Integration

Warsaw, 11-13 May 2005

ANNOTATED AGENDA

I. Background

The Human Dimension Seminars are organised by the OSCE/ODIHR in accordance with the decisions of the CSCE Summits in Helsinki (1992) and Budapest (1994). The 2005 Human Dimension Seminar will be devoted to the topic of *Migration and Integration* in accordance with PC Decisions No. 657 of 19 January 2005 (PC.DEC/657) and No. 667 of 7 April 2005 (PC.DEC/667/Corr.1).

Migration is an issue that has been of concern for the CSCE/OSCE since its inception. In the Helsinki Final Act and a number of follow-up documents, the CSCE participating States addressed various aspects of migration, including human contacts and family reunification. Furthermore, in the Concluding Document of Vienna at the Third Follow-up Meeting in 1989, the participating States emphasised the need *'to respect fully the right of everyone to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State'*¹. The importance of migration in the CSCE process was reiterated in 1990 in the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE as the participating States affirmed *'that freer movement and contacts among their citizens are important in the context of the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms'*².

In 1994 the notion of **integration** of migrants first appeared in CSCE/OSCE documents when, in the CSCE Summit Declaration in Budapest, the OSCE participating States committed themselves to *'continue to promote the integration of migrant workers in the societies in which they are lawfully residing'* and recognised that *'a successful process of integration also depends on its active pursuit by the migrants themselves and decided therefore to encourage them in this regard'*³.

The issue was taken up again in December 2003 during the OSCE Ministerial Council in Maastricht. In accordance with paragraph 11 of the OSCE Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision No 4/03 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, the ODIHR has been called to reinforce its activities aimed at *'combating discrimination against migrant workers and at facilitating the integration of migrant workers into the societies in which they are legally residing'*.

¹ Concluding Document of Vienna – the Third Follow-up Meeting, 1989 ('Questions Relating to Security in Europe', paragraph 20).

² Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, 1990 (paragraph 19).

³ CSCE Summit Declaration, Budapest, 1994 ("Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era", Decisions, chapter VIII, paragraph 31).

In 2004 the issue of tolerance and non-discrimination was one of the priorities for the OSCE and a number of OSCE-wide fora were organized to discuss the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, including *the OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism* in Berlin in April 2004, *the OSCE Meeting on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes* in Paris in June 2004, and *the OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination* in Brussels in September 2004. The Brussels conference, in particular, addressed, *inter alia*, the issues of non-discrimination and protection of migrant workers in the OSCE area.

At the OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia in December 2004, the OSCE participating States committed themselves to ‘*take steps, in conformity with their domestic law and international obligations, against discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia against migrants and migrant workers*’, as well as to ‘*consider undertaking activities to raise public awareness of the enriching contribution of migrants and migrant workers into society*’⁴.

Following the Sofia Ministerial Council Decision, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office appointed three Personal Representatives as part of the OSCE’s overall fight in combating discrimination and promoting tolerance. Dr. Anastasia Crickley was appointed as Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, Dr. Gert Weisskirchen became the Personal Representative on Combating anti-Semitism, and Ambassador Ömür Orhun was appointed as Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

The ODIHR’s *tolerance and non-discrimination* programme, which was established in 2004 following the Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision, provides support to participating States in implementing their OSCE commitments and in strengthening their efforts to respond to and combat hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance. The programme also aims to strengthen civil society’s capacity to respond to hate-motivated crimes and incidents. In relation to tolerance and non-discrimination, the ODIHR’s activities are focused on the following areas: legislative assistance; law enforcement training; monitoring, reporting on, and following up on responses to hate-motivated crimes and incidents; as well as educational activities to promote tolerance, respect, and mutual understanding.

In pursuing the implementation of the aforementioned commitments and decisions, the OSCE has been active in addressing the issues of migration and integration in the region. Looking at the topic from the *human dimension perspective*, the OSCE/ODIHR is implementing a number of specific programmes aimed at protecting the human rights of migrants as well as promoting intra-state and inter-state co-operation to facilitate their efficient integration into receiving societies.

Following the call of the OSCE Maastricht Ministerial Council in 2003, the ODIHR reinforced its activities in the field of combating discrimination against migrant workers. In particular, the ODIHR has been assisting the participating States in developing bilateral and multilateral co-operation mechanisms in the field of *labour migration and protection of human rights of migrant workers* as well as in elaborating specialised training programmes for law-enforcement agencies in this field. Moreover, since 1998 the ODIHR has been assisting several OSCE participating States in overcoming the Cold War-era legacy of restrictions *on freedom of internal movement and free choice of the place of residence* for citizens, migrants legally residing in the country and foreigners travelling for personal and professional reasons.

⁴ Decision No.12/04 of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia on Tolerance and Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, December 2004.

The ODIHR also promotes the active participation of migrants in the public life of receiving countries through its work in the field of *democratic governance*. In particular, the ODIHR is focusing on increasing public awareness of the mechanisms and benefits of participatory democracy as well as of more efficient involvement of civil society in decision-making processes, including input into the legislative process. In the framework of ODIHR *legislative support* to participating States, expert analysis of international standards on migration and domestic migration legislation of twelve of the OSCE's participating States has been conducted and was made available on the *Legislationline.org* website at the end of 2004. The analysis focused on introducing the aspects of immigration laws and policy, migrant rights and entitlements, discrimination of migrants and on international co-operation with regard to migration. In addition, legislation concerning migration has been collected from most of the OSCE participating States. In the field of *gender equality*, the ODIHR is implementing the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and a number of programmes aimed at increased participation of women in democratic processes, facilitating dialogue between the government and the civil society to address gender aspects of migration and integration of migrants and to raise awareness of the specific needs and concerns of female migrants.

The ODIHR *Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues* is continuously working on various forms and trends of across-State-boundary movements of different groups and persons belonging to the Roma and Sinti populations. Throughout the OSCE area the ODIHR/CPRSI supports field projects and networking among NGOs in countries and places of origin and in the host countries of Roma and Sinti migrants, as well as the participation of interested NGOs in inter-governmental programs addressing particular aspects and categories of Roma and Sinti migrants. Finally, the issue of integration of internal migrants is addressed through ODIHR activities on *internal displacement*, with, in particular, the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in November 2004 dedicated to discussions of potential practical measures the OSCE institutions and participating States can take to alleviate the plight of IDPs in the OSCE area.

Among other institutions of the OSCE, a highly important role in promoting integration respecting diversity is played by the *OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*. The starting point for the High Commissioner's policy of promoting integration respecting diversity is the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. His mandate requires him to be an instrument of conflict prevention by identifying and by finding ways to reduce tensions arising from minority issues. The mandate rests on the premise, whose truth has been demonstrated again and again in recent years, that problems concerning the relationship between the majority and minorities are one major source of international conflicts as well as instability within states. Social tensions arising from minority issues, and, more specifically, from the exclusion of groups or communities from the benefits of society, exist in many states and can lead to serious incidents of violence. Failure to deal adequately with these tensions can lead to a vicious circle in which isolation and alienation reduce the benefits of belonging to the State, leading to further isolation and deprivation, which can in the end provide a breeding ground for crime and even terrorism. The aim of integration is a State which all groups consider their common home, where all individuals are able to interact freely, in which all have equal opportunities to participate and to benefit and in which the causes of tensions arising from minority issues will have been eliminated. Integration avoids the extremes of forced assimilation on the one hand and separatism on the other hand. To assist him to develop suitable policies, the High Commissioner has invited international experts to draw up a series of recommendations on minority issues (education – The Hague, 1996; language issues – Oslo, 1998; participation in public life – Lund, 1999; and language use in broadcasting – 2003).

The complex phenomenon of migration needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Bearing this in mind, the Slovenian Chairmanship, having chosen “Migration-Integration” as its overall theme, decided for a cross-dimensional approach. In addition to being examined as part of the OSCE’s Human Dimension, this issue is also being discussed within the Economic and Environmental Dimension and in the context of developing the Border Security Management Concept.

Finally, the issues of migration and integration are an integral part of the everyday activities of a number of the *OSCE field presences* which work on labour migration, anti-trafficking, protection of internally displaced persons, and other issues related to participation of migrants in the political, economic and social life of the country of their residence.

II. Aims

The 2005 Human Dimension Seminar on *Migration and Integration* will provide an opportunity for this OSCE-wide discussion forum to examine ways to ensure protection of the rights of migrants and an efficient and harmonious integration of legal migrants, to the benefit of both the receiving society and the migrants themselves. The discussion of concepts and challenges, expert presentations and sharing of experiences between experts from OSCE participating States, international organizations and NGOs working on migration, protection and integration issues is expected to contribute significantly to this endeavour.

The idea of the seminar is to move beyond traditional discussions on the costs and benefits of migration as merely a cross-border movement, towards looking for practical solutions for migrants already in the territory of the receiving countries. The proposed approach is to discuss *integration of migrants* as a two-way process which affects both the newcomers and the host population. Therefore, it is expected that the discussions would be focused on the need for change in the receiving society in this process, and the responsibility of the public institutions to open up society to newcomers, enabling them to participate fully in its political, socio-cultural and economic life, thus providing migrants with an opportunity of bringing benefits to the host country. It appears that not all countries in the OSCE region make systematic efforts to protect the rights of migrants and to integrate immigrants and refugees into their social and political fabric and fewer still can claim success. When such deficiencies coexist with incomplete economic incorporation, migrants and refugees are marginalised. Entrenched marginalisation leads the host community to view immigrants as consumers of public assets, as social and political liabilities, and even as threats to the central identity of the society and its security, rather than as potential resources. For migrants it can lead to their ill-treatment by the host community and, at worst, their exploitation.

On the other hand, it is clear that the newcomers have a duty to respect the values and the identity of the receiving society and to make a genuine effort to integrate and to be integrated. It is a process of mutual acceptance and tolerance⁵. Therefore, the Seminar will provide space for discussions of the responsibilities of migrants vis-à-vis the host community. At the same time, the experiences of many OSCE participating States shows that successful integration is possible only if adequate legal and socio-economic frameworks are established to ensure that newcomers do not have to renounce their own identity, lifestyles and beliefs in order to adopt the identity of the receiving society, but may benefit from both. In this regard, co-operation both at the intra-state level, between the civil society, ethnic communities or diasporas, mass media and the government, and at the inter-state level, between the countries of origin and destination of migrants, is of vital importance.

⁵ *The European Inclusion Index. Is Europe ready for the globalisation of people? Framework Document.* By Mark Leonard and Phoebe Griffith working with Kate Arthurs and Richard Tite. The Foreign Policy Centre in association with the British Council and Sciences Po., October 2003. For the full text, please refer to <http://fpc.org.uk>.

The Seminar will discuss relevant experiences and recommendations in four Working Groups dealing respectively with questions related to co-operation at domestic and international levels, the legal framework of integration processes, participation of migrants in public life as well as socio-cultural aspects of integration. The Seminar will also seek to build on the conclusions of the relevant session of the OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, which took place on 13-14 September 2004 in Brussels as well as for strategies to implement Decision No. 12/04 of the Sofia Ministerial Council on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. Finally, the Seminar will serve in the preparation for the upcoming Thirteenth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum dedicated to the issues of demographic trends, migration and integration of the persons belonging to national minorities, to take place 23-27 May 2005 in Prague.

All documents related to the Seminar are available at the ODIHR website (<http://www.osce.org/odihhr>) under *Events calendar*.

III. Participation

Representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field missions, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations will participate in the Seminar.

The participation of representatives of government agencies dealing with the issues of migration and integration within the OSCE participating States, the media as well as the specialised NGOs working on the issues related to the protection of the rights of migrants, integration, tolerance and non-discrimination will be particularly encouraged. In this regard, participating States are requested to publicise the Seminar widely and to include wherever possible such representatives in their delegations who can contribute most to the discussions.

The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation as well as the Partners for Co-operation are warmly invited to attend and share their views and ideas on migration and integration-related problems facing the OSCE region.

All participants are encouraged to submit in advance written interventions on their respective work and proposals regarding the subject of the Seminar, which will be distributed to delegates. Participants are also encouraged to make brief oral interventions during the Seminar. While prepared interventions are welcomed during the Plenary Sessions, free-flowing discussions and exchanges are encouraged during the Working Group sessions.

IV. Organization

The venue for the Seminar is the "Sofitel Victoria" Hotel in Warsaw, ul. Krolewska 11.

The Seminar will open on Wednesday 11 May 2005 at 10.00 a.m. It will close on Friday 13 May 2005 at 05.30 p.m.

All Plenary and Working Group sessions will be open to all participants. The Plenary and Working Group sessions will take place according to the Work Programme below.

The four Working Group sessions will focus on the following topics:

1. Co-operative frameworks supporting integration and protection of legal migrants
2. Legal aspects of migration and integration of lawful migrants
3. Participation of legal migrants in public life and society

4 Socio-cultural aspects of integration.

All Working Group sessions will be held consecutively in single sessions.

The closing Plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of May 13th shall list practical recommendations emerging from the four Working Group sessions.

An OSCE/ODIHR representative will chair the Plenary sessions.

Standard OSCE rules of procedure and working methods will be applied at the Seminar. Discussions will be interpreted into all six working languages of the OSCE.

Registration will be possible during the Seminar days from 08.00 a.m. to 06.00 p.m.

By prior arrangement with the OSCE/ODIHR, facilities may be available for participants to hold side events at the Seminar venue. A table for display/distribution of publications by participating organizations/institutions will also be available.

WORK PROGRAMME

Working hours: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

	Wednesday, 11 May 2005	Thursday, 12 May 2005	Friday, 13 May 2005
Morning	Opening plenary session	WG II	WG IV
Afternoon	WG I	WG III	Closing plenary session

Side events may be scheduled between 13.15 and 14.45, or after 18.15, in order not to compete with the Plenary or Working Group sessions.

V. WORKPLAN

Wednesday 11 May 2005

10.00 - 13.00 Opening Plenary Session

Welcome and introduction from the Seminar Chair

Amb. Christian Strohal

Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

Welcoming remarks

Mr. Piotr Switalski

Deputy Foreign Minister
Republic of Poland

Amb. Dr. Boris Frlec

Head of the OSCE Task Force
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Slovenia

Keynote Speakers

Ms. Lidya Imanalieva

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic
Ambassador-at-large
Kyrgyz Republic

Amb. John de Fonblanque

Director
Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

15.00 - 18.00 Working Group I:

Co-operative frameworks supporting integration and protection of legal migrants

Moderator: **Mr. Andreas Halbach**
Regional Representative
IOM Vienna

Introducers: **Mr. Luigi Swich**
Deputy of the Vice Prefect
Office for International Relations
Ministry of Interior
Italy

Mr. Tolon Turganbayev
General Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic
in Yekaterinburg, the Russian Federation
Kyrgyz Republic

Rapporteur: **Ms. Sandra Sacchetti**
Adviser
Permanent Representation of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg to the OSCE

Larger-scale immigrant populations are a reality in most parts of the OSCE region. In many OSCE participating States, the percentage of legal residents who are foreign-born has reached double-digits. For some OSCE participating States migration is a phenomenon that has become a part of their national identities, with societies viewed as “melting pots”. For others, migration is a phenomenon to which an effective policy response needs to be developed. For some participating States, migration is taking place in the context of the newly-gained independence, and is combined with a challenge of building institutions required to meet their OSCE commitments. In particular, a number of countries in the OSCE region have only recently become recipients of extensive migration flows and are gradually undergoing the process of adapting their policies and societies to the new realities. Clearly, migration is now a social and economic phenomenon of the first order in the OSCE region, with a positive and negative potential which the participating States cannot afford to ignore. No country in the OSCE region is - or needs to be - alone in facing the challenge of managing migration, protecting the rights of and integrating its migrants.

In this regard, improved *co-operation between governments and civil societies of countries of destination and origin* is required to protect the rights of migrants and obtain better integration outcomes. Countries of origin are impacted deeply by migration and are concerned about the welfare and hope for the eventual return of many of their emigrants. Co-operation could create a “win-win” situation for host countries, countries of origin, and for migrant communities.

Along with civil society groups and migrant organizations, *foreign representations and consulates of the countries of origin* are instrumental in assisting the receiving country in its integration efforts. In particular, diplomatic offices can play a pivotal role in establishing effective co-operative frameworks between the countries of origin and destination, as well as ensuring protection of the rights of migrants in the territory of the receiving country. On the one hand, one of the key objectives of their everyday work consists in facilitating contacts between migrants and their families and communities in their countries of origin. On the other hand, in partnership with the civil society, they are well-equipped to facilitate the dialogue between migrants and the receiving country, for example, through advice and assistance to migrants in protecting and claiming their rights, as well as through addressing the problems encountered by migrants with the receiving country’s relevant authorities.

The working group will highlight examples of co-operation between countries of origin and destination in order to disseminate these cases throughout the OSCE. Participants will discuss existing *bilateral and multilateral co-operation mechanisms* among the OSCE participating States in the field of migration and integration, from formal frameworks, such as *inter-state agreements*, to the numerous *regional and sub-regional fora* which have developed in recent years in the OSCE region. This working group will provide an opportunity to review and exchange information on the aims of these fora and the role the OSCE could play in supporting them. Finally, it is hoped that a common understanding will emerge across the OSCE participating States of the barriers to integration and of effective steps to address them using the OSCE as a platform for inter-state co-operation.

Thursday 12 May 2005

**10.00 - 13.00 Working Group II:
Legal aspects of migration and integration of lawful migrants**

Moderator: **Dr. Vladimir Shkolnikov**
Head of Democratization Department
OSCE/ODIHR

Introducer: **Ms. Maria Luisa Casado**
Senior Consultant on International Affairs
Directorate General for Immigration
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Spain

Ms. Natalia Vlasova
Consultant of the Ministry of Health and Social Development
The Russian Federation

Rapporteur: **Mr. Luis Francisco Martinez Montes**
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE

It is widely believed that secure legal status and transparent rules regarding rights and duties of migrants are particularly important factors in achieving positive integration outcomes for both migrants and the host society. This working group will discuss the situation with regard to existing legislation in the OSCE region governing the legal status of migrants, as well as questions of access to justice, and practical implementation of, the respective legal provisions.

For social integration and cohesion, it is essential that migrants enjoy full human rights and have access to the legal system on equal terms with the nationals of the host country. Participants of this working group will review the implementation of the OSCE commitments with respect to the ***fundamental human rights of migrants and their non-discrimination under the law***, contained in number of important OSCE documents. In particular, already in the Helsinki Final Act, the participating States committed themselves to *'ensure equality of rights between migrant workers and nationals of the host countries with regard to conditions of employment and work and to social security, and to endeavour to ensure that migrant workers may enjoy satisfactory living conditions, especially housing conditions'*⁶. In the Concluding Document of Vienna at the Third Follow-up Meeting in 1989, the OSCE participating States agreed to *'ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status'* as well as to *'ensure that no individual exercising, expressing the intention to exercise or seeking to exercise these rights and freedoms or any member of his family, will as a consequence be discriminated against in any manner'*⁷. Finally, in the Helsinki Summit Declaration in 1992, the participating States reiterated that *'human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, that they are also enjoyed by migrant workers*

⁶ Helsinki Final Act, 1975 ('Economic and Social Aspects of Migrant Labour', paragraph 3).

⁷ Concluding Document of Vienna – the Third Follow-up Meeting, 1989 ('Questions relating to Security in Europe', paragraphs 13.7 and 13.8).

wherever they live' and stressed that *'the importance of implementing all CSCE commitments on migrant workers and their families lawfully residing in the participating States'*⁸.

The working group will also discuss existing national legal frameworks which provide migrants with a secure legal status, rights and responsibilities reflecting temporary or permanent status, and access to the rights which promote integration, including *employment, family reunification and freedom to choose one's place of residence*.

Clearly, **access to work** for legal migrants should be a central part of any integration policy. It is not only an important means for migrants to return benefits to the society, but is also fundamental to personal development and expression. Participation in the labour market is a critical way to build up social networks, learn the language and become embedded in local society⁹.

The right to **family reunification** is, by itself, an indispensable instrument of integration. Moreover, the OSCE also has an extensive set of commitments with respect to reunification of families, contained mainly in the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and the Concluding Documents of Madrid (1983) and Vienna (1989). In particular, the participating States committed themselves to *'deal in a positive and humanitarian spirit with the applications of persons who wish to be reunited with members of their family'* and to *'take appropriate care with regard to employment for persons from other participating States who take up permanent residence in that State in connection with family reunification with its citizens and see that they are afforded opportunities equal to those enjoyed by its own citizens for education, medical assistance and social security'*¹⁰. In addition, in accordance with paragraph 41 of the Concluding Document of Vienna, *'the participating States will (...) consider favourably applications for family reunification as well as family contacts and visits involving migrant workers from other participating States legally residing in the host countries'*¹¹.

In addition, participants will discuss the **freedom to choose one's place of residence** which, in accordance with international human rights standards, should be guaranteed by receiving countries to every migrant legally residing on its territory. Procedures for registration of migrants as the key element of legal frameworks for integration of migrants will also be discussed.

Finally, the working group will provide an opportunity for exchange of experiences and practices for a more effective integration of legal migrants in host societies. In particular, recent changes of legislation in some OSCE participating States aimed at facilitating the legal aspects of integration will be highlighted.

⁸ Concluding Document of Helsinki – the Fourth Follow-up Meeting, 1992 ('Enhanced commitments and co-operation in the Human Dimension', paragraph 36).

⁹ *Migration, Integration and Citizenship: Lessons from Around the World*, by Sacha Chan Kam, Phoebe Griffith, Mark Leonard. The Foreign Policy Centre, UK, 2002. For the full text, please refer to <http://fpc.org.uk>.

¹⁰ Helsinki Final Act, 1975 ('Human Contacts, (b) Reunification of families', paragraphs 1 and 9).

¹¹ Concluding Document of Vienna – the Third Follow-up Meeting, 1989 ('Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment', paragraph 41).

**15:00 – 18:00 Working Group III:
Participation of legal migrants in public life and society**

Moderator: **Prof. Mitja Žagar**
Director of the Institute for Ethnic Studies
University of Ljubljana
Slovenia

Introducers: **Mr. Ayhan Kaya**
Director of the Centre for Migration Research,
Istanbul Bilgi University
Turkey

Ms. Galina Vitkovskaya
Senior Fellow, Institute of Population Economic Projection
Academy of Sciences
The Russian Federation

Rapporteur: **Mr. Mustafa Osman Turan**
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE

Democratic legitimacy requires equitable participation of all groups of society in public life. The contribution of legally residing migrants to a country's prosperity further justifies their right to influence public debates and political decisions in the country of their residence. Participation in public life best qualifies migrants to become full members of the receiving society.

Participation in *political movements, trade unions, non-governmental organizations representation by mass media* and *access to national human rights institutions* are, on the one hand, an integral part of migrants' ability to influence decision-making processes at political and societal levels, on the other hand, indicators of the success of integration process, and of the extent to which newcomers are engaging with the receiving society and are willing to participate in its structures.

The working group aims at engaging the OSCE participating States, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in sharing experiences and good practices which enabled migrants to voice their views and contribute productively to the public debate and the decision-making process, as an essential element of civic participation. Participants will have an opportunity to exchange information on how the participating States ensure that migrant communities are able to play a part in providing feedback to both countries of origin and to host countries as well as to make referrals to social services, as appropriate.

About half of the world's migrants are women. Immigrant women often suffer from multiple forms of discrimination due to their gender and ethnic origins, both at home and in the host society, including job segregation often in unregulated forms of work, unequal pay, gender-based violence and exploitation. Participants will discuss measures to ensure *women's equal participation* in public life, as well as to promote *non-discrimination of female migrants and their adequate protection from violence or exploitation*.

Migrant organizations constitute an important tool for the integration of migrants into political processes since they are instrumental in voicing migrants' demands and concerns, as well as constituting the basis for dialogue between different groups in society and the

authorities¹². Therefore, participants will discuss the role of migrant organizations, including ethnic communities/diasporas, as intermediaries between the newcomers and the host society. They will also discuss ways to ensure that co-operation between different communities is built on mutual confidence - a critical factor for supporting integration and maintaining social cohesion.

Friday 13 May 2005

**10.00 - 13.00 Working Group IV:
Socio-cultural aspects of integration**

Moderator: **Dr. Anastasia Crickley**
Personal Representative
of OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Racism,
Xenophobia and Discrimination also focusing on Intolerance
and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

Introducers: **Ms. Phoebe Griffith**
Senior Research Associate
The Foreign Policy Centre
London

Mr. August Gächter
Centre for Social Innovation
Vienna

Rapporteur: **Dr. Eltje Aderhold**
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE

Discrimination and ***intolerance*** represent a challenge to democratic societies built upon the principles of respect and equal rights. Where discrimination becomes entrenched or institutionalised, we often witness the social and cultural exclusion of groups from participation in 'mainstream' society.

Integration is often presented as a one-way process: the need for a newcomer to learn the language, norms and customs of the host community. But for integration to work the host community needs to play a role by creating an open and welcoming environment.

This working group will identify measures that respond to the needs of migrants (orientation programmes, language training), enable them to build social networks and overcome barriers to participation in the host society.

Successful integration also depends on policies and practices that move beyond a mere tolerance of diversity towards those that foster ***respect for diversity***. The task is to establish social cohesion through the promotion of intercultural understanding *and* diversity management strategies.

Participants will discuss the role of formal and informal ***education*** in instilling an understanding and respect of, and openness to diversity. Emphasis will be given to initiatives that highlight commonalities between groups, facilitate cross-community bridge-building, and

¹² Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly. Participation of immigrants and foreign residents in political life in the Council of Europe member states. Doc. 8916. 22 December 2000. Report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography.

enable migrants to form social networks – an important stepping stone to integration. The session will also address the importance of *diversity management strategies*, specifically the need to *measure* the integration and inclusion of newcomers using social and economic criteria in order to fill in information gaps and provide tools for policy development.

While it is important to provide migrants with tools to navigate and adapt to the host society, it is also vital to provide at the same time, *opportunities* to participate in and contribute to the host community. Recognizing and encouraging the positive contribution of migrants to their host society encourages a mutual perception of migrants as active participants in a collective enterprise. Promoting the benefits migrants bring is also vital to changing public attitudes towards newcomers (such as fears that migrants compete for scarce jobs, resources and burden the state).

Participants will discuss ways to define, measure and promote the benefits that migrants and diversity bring to host societies, the role of governments and media in fostering appreciation for these contributions, and policies that provide opportunities for newcomers to contribute the resources they bring with them.

The use of racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic arguments and expressions has become increasingly common-place in political discourse and in the media. This trend both affects and reflects public opinion and official policies towards migrants. Given the influence of public officials in this regard, participants will discuss the impact of such discourse on migrants, examine those groups that have been specifically targeted, and identify measures to promote accountability for public statements.

14.30 - 17.30 Closing Plenary Session

Rapporteurs' Summaries from Working Groups

Statements from Delegations

Closing remarks

Prof. Blandine Kriegel

Chair of the Supreme Council for Integration
Special Representative of the President of the Republic
France

Prof. Rita Süßmuth

Member, Global Commission on International Migration
Former President of the German Bundestag
Germany

Mr. Marcin Świącicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities

Amb. Christian Strohal

Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

Closing of the Seminar