

ODIHR Update

No. 3, 7 May 2015



Director Link joined by Ukraine's Human Rights Commissioner for civil society project launch



The lecture by the ODIHR Director was followed by a panel discussion on the vital role of civil society.

ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link was joined on 24 April by Valeria Lutkovska, Ukraine's Human Rights Commissioner, for the launch in Kyiv of ODIHR's two-year civil society project. Following the Director's public lecture on the subject of civil society, democracy and human rights, ODIHR engaged representatives of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society and academia in a panel discussion on the vital role civil society has to play as Ukraine takes critical steps to advance democracy, protect human rights and address discrimination.

"ODIHR often serves as the main institutional channel for contact between the OSCE and civil society. Strengthening the independent voices of civil society in countries of transition is at the core of ODIHR's mandate," Director Link told the audience.

The project will bring together more than 600 stakeholders from both civil society and the Ukrainian authorities in 2015 alone, to enhance effective mechanisms for dialogue to address key human rights issues in Ukraine, in line with OSCE commitments and international standards.

ODIHR promotes education about Roma and Sinti genocide



Mirjam Karoly, OSCE Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, making a presentation at the event in Stockholm.

More than 60 civil society and state authority representatives from across the OSCE discussed how teaching about the Roma and Sinti genocide can promote tolerance and non-discrimination across societies at an international seminar held in co-operation with the Swedish Living History Forum and the Equality Ombudsman in Stockholm, 23 April 2015.

ODIHR presented data gathered from OSCE participating States on recognition of and practices for teaching about the Roma and Sinti genocide in the OSCE area, as part of efforts to promote models of teaching history to address continued human rights challenges and promote equality and justice.

Mirjam Karoly, OSCE Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, said: "We have to address how state authorities and public institutions deal with the past, as well as promote reconciliation to bring justice to the victims and following generations."

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ODIHR to intensify co-operation with Council of Europe



Director Link meeting with Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Following an invitation from Ambassador Dirk Van Eeckhout, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link paid a visit to Strasbourg on 28 April for an exchange of views with the Committee.

Among topics discussed were the necessary conditions for ODIHR observation of elections to be held in eastern

Ukraine, as envisaged in the February 11 package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreement.

Director Link also met with Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to exchange a letter of co-operation and further ideas for intensifying collaboration between ODIHR and the Council. Among the topics discussed by the

Director and Battaini-Dragoni were the situation of Roma in Ukraine and human rights issues in Crimea, in particular.

The subject of human rights violations in Crimea also dominated discussion during the ODIHR Director's meeting with Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Rule of Law Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Secondment

Closing date: 19 May 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Human Rights Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Secondment

Closing date: 9 June 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Policy and Fundraising Advisor

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Secondment

Closing date: 2 June 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Deputy Chief, Rule of Law Unit

Location: Warsaw

Grade: P3

Closing date: 26 May 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Upcoming Election Needs Assessment Missions*

Denmark – 6-8 May

Canada – 19-22 May

Switzerland – 9-11 June

*The determination of whether to carry out observation activities and, if so, in what formats will be determined based on the recommendations in the missions' reports.

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