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OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE • OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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INTRODUCTION

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is the principal institution of the OSCE responsible for the human dimension. According to its mandate, the ODIHR is tasked to help OSCE participating States “to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to abide by the rule of law, to promote principles of democracy and ... to build, strengthen and protect democratic institutions, as well as promote tolerance throughout society” (1992 Helsinki Document).

The ODIHR, based in Warsaw, Poland, has been growing steadily since its creation as the Office for Free Elections under the Charter of Paris in 1990. In 1992, the name of the office was changed to reflect the expansion of its mandate to include human rights and democratization. Today it employs over 80 staff members and is active throughout Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Based on its mandate, the ODIHR

- promotes democratic elections through a cycle of in-depth observations of elections and assistance projects aimed at strengthening democracy and good governance, and enhancing stability;
- provides technical support in consolidating democratic institutions and the respect for human rights as well as strengthening civil society and the rule of law through targeted projects; it also co-operates with OSCE field operations in developing human dimension activities;
- serves as the OSCE Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues;
- contributes to early warning and conflict prevention by monitoring the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments by participating States.

Following several years of steady expansion due to the development of its democratization and election observation programmes from 1997 onwards, the ODIHR in 2000 increasingly focused on refining its projects and ensuring proper follow-up, while retaining its flexibility.

The year 2000 was again marked by a number of challenges.

In the field of elections, the ODIHR was faced with an extremely busy election schedule. A total of 13 elections were observed or assessed by ODIHR experts and observers in the course of the year, including several high profile elections with great political significance. The main problems encountered by ODIHR observers in many countries were lack of transparency in the election process, lack of accountability in the work of election commissions and the restriction of fundamental freedoms.

In the field of democratization, the ODIHR in 2000 implemented its largest ever programme of technical assistance, comprising some 100 projects in two dozen countries. The ODIHR not only put great efforts in improving its existing projects, it also developed and implemented a number of new initiatives, which added to the enormous workload of the office staff. Innovative projects were carried out in the areas of prison reform, women’s empowerment and the rights of internally displaced persons. Additionally, significant new programmes of assistance were undertaken in Belarus, Montenegro and Ukraine.

An independent assessment of ODIHR democratization project implementation undertaken in 2000 confirmed that in key project areas the ODIHR “has been performing remarkably well and most of the time with much

higher rapidity than other international organizations it can be compared to”. The study evaluated a total of 20 ODIHR democratization projects in Central Asia.

During 2000, the ODIHR considerably expanded its activities aimed at combating trafficking in human beings. Dr. Helga Konrad, a former Austrian Minister for Women’s Affairs, was seconded to the ODIHR to chair the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking, giving the ODIHR the lead in co-ordinating this set of issues in South Eastern Europe.



of Roma in elections, and developed a special programme on Roma in and from Kosovo.

In addition to its on-going election observation and democratization programme activities, the ODIHR organized, in co-operation with the Chairmanship, a number of human dimension meetings as well as the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in October. With 600 representatives from governments, non-governmental and international organizations, as well as all OSCE institutions and field operations, this year’s Implementation Meeting was one of the largest ever. The ODIHR facilitated the participation of close to 150 NGOs and accommodated a record number of side events which profiled a broad range of human rights topics. Among the key issues debated during the conference were the problem of trafficking in human beings and the situation of children in armed conflicts, both of which were included in the agenda for the first time. Another focus was the controversial issue of Roma refugees and asylum seekers.

ODIHR Director Stoudmann and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ferrero-Waldner at the Warsaw Human Dimension Seminar

Responding to the critical human rights situation in Chechnya, the ODIHR supported the work of the Presidential Representative on Human Rights in Chechnya by designing and providing programming input for a computer database to manage individual complaints of human rights violations, and by launching a training course in human rights standards and improving skills in interviewing, reporting and individual case management.

Following months of intensive preparations, the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues with its three full-time staff successfully started implementing its first comprehensive Action Plan in 2000. The Contact Point advised governments on policy-making on Roma and Sinti, facilitated international consultations on the issue of Roma refugees and asylum seekers, promoted the participation

ELECTION OBSERVATION

Parliamentary election in Croatia (3 January 2000)

The ODIHR deploys election observation missions to OSCE participating States to assess the implementation of OSCE commitments relating to elections. Its carefully developed methodology provides a unique, in-depth insight into all elements of an electoral process. To do this, the ODIHR fields extensive teams of experts to observe the entire electoral process before, during and after election day.

The 1990 Copenhagen Document commits OSCE participating States to invite other States to observe their elections and the ODIHR provides a co-ordination framework for such observation. Long-term observers, seconded by participating States, are deployed throughout the country for a period of six to eight weeks to assess the legal and regulatory framework, the election administration, the media environment and conditions surrounding the election campaign. Short-term observers arrive to monitor the end of the campaign and the voting and counting process. Shortly after election day, a preliminary statement is issued, often jointly with other international organizations present for the observation. The ODIHR publishes a final election report within 30 days after the election. The 1999 OSCE Charter for European Security commits the States concerned to follow-up ODIHR's recommendations on elections. The ODIHR can provide assistance to implement the recommendations made in the final reports. In its election-related activities, the ODIHR co-operates closely with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and other election monitoring organizations.

On 2-3 January, the ODIHR, together with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, observed the election to the House of Representatives of the Republic of Croatia. The ODIHR Election Observation Mission (EOM) was headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria). Ms. Helle Degn, then President of the OSCE PA, was named by the Chairperson-in-Office as Special Representative for the election. The EOM deployed more than 350 short-term observers throughout the country, including 25 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA and nine from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The joint preliminary statement issued on 4 January concluded that the election marked progress towards meeting Croatia's commitments as a participating State of the OSCE and as a member of the Council of Europe. However, important issues that fundamentally impede Croatia's democratic development remain.

Presidential election in Croatia (24 January and 7 February)

The ODIHR observed the two rounds of the presidential elections in Croatia held on 24 January and 7 February. The observation of first round of the elections was conducted jointly by the ODIHR and the Council of Europe. A joint statement issued after the first round indicated further progress in fulfilling OSCE and Council of Europe commitments in regard to, among others, the impartiality of the State media. The State Election Commission was able to remedy some deficiencies of the legislative framework by implementing relevant regulatory improvements from the parliamentary elections and decisions of the Constitutional Court.

In a preliminary statement issued after the second round of the election, the Election Observation Mission concluded that the election marked further progress towards meeting Croatia's commitments as a participating State of the OSCE and as a member of the Council of Europe. However, the EOM remained concerned with the following issues that fundamentally impeded Croatia's democratic development: (1) the Law on Citizenship granting ethnic Croats born abroad and having no permanent residence in Croatia the right to Croatian citizenship and the right to vote; (2) a large number of refugees in neighbouring countries remain effectively unable to assert their citizenship and therefore exercise their right to vote; and (3) the risk of discrimination and intimidation arising from the identification of voter's ethnicity on voter lists which was retained

for this election, although it was irrelevant. Other concerns relate to the lack of uniformity of the electoral process.

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission was headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria). More than 300 short-term observers were deployed on 24 January, including parliamentarians from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. For the second round, more than 200 short-term observers were deployed.

Parliamentary election in Kyrgyzstan (20 February and 12 March)

The ODIHR observed the two rounds of the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on 20 February and 12 March.

In a joint statement issued by the ODIHR and the OSCE PA following the first round of the elections, the two institutions stated that recent changes to the electoral legislation provided the potential for increased competition and party representation in the political process. However, a series of decisions preventing parties and candidates from competing in the election on a fair and equal basis, and a high degree of interference in the electoral process by public prosecutors and some State officials, marred the election. As a result, despite a generally well administered process on election day, the 20 February parliamentary elections were not in full compliance with OSCE commitments.

The preliminary statement issued on 13 March, after the second round of elections, expressed concern that certain problems, which arose in the course of the first round of the elections and to which the attention of the Kyrgyz authorities was drawn, remained unresolved. Election day procedures were generally well conducted in most areas, but very serious concerns emerged in certain constituencies. The process leading up to the second round of the election was marred by interference by State officials, particularly through the selective use of legal sanctions against certain candidates. As a result, the ODIHR concluded that the parliamentary elections failed to comply with OSCE commitments. The ODIHR also expressed serious concern about developments after the elections, including in particular the arrest of a prominent opposition leader.

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission was headed by Mark Stevens (UK). Mr. Ihor Ostash, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament and a Vice-President of the OSCE PA, was the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the observation of the first round. For the first round, the observation mission deployed 115 short-term

observers, including 16 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA. The second round was observed by 70 short-term observers.

Parliamentary election in Tajikistan (27 February)

The Joint UN-OSCE Election Observation Mission for the 27 February parliamentary election in Tajikistan issued a preliminary statement on 28 February, concluding that the first multi-party election in the history of Tajikistan marked an important benchmark in the implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord (1997). The most significant accomplishment in this peace-building step was the inclusion of the former warring parties and other political forces in the electoral process. This contrasted sharply with the limited choice offered to voters during previous elections and marked an improvement in the democratic development of Tajikistan. However, Tajikistan must improve the process in order to meet the minimum standards for democratic elections.

The elections took place within a new legislative framework that failed to secure these standards, in particular insofar as the independence of election commissions and the transparency of the vote count and tabulation results are concerned. The campaign period was marred by violent incidents, interference from State officials and media bias. The Joint Election Observation Mission, headed by Ambassador Zenon Kuchciak (Poland), was a combined effort of the ODIHR and the United Nations. More than 80 short-term observers were deployed on election day.

Presidential election in the Russian Federation (26 March)

The International Election Observation Mission for the 26 March presidential election in the Russian Federation concluded in a preliminary statement released on 27 March that the election marked further progress for the consolidation of democratic elections in the Russian Federation. The Central Election Commission (CEC) administered the election process professionally and independently. The election took place under a new law that is consistent with internationally recognized democratic principles. However, while in general meeting the country's commitments as an OSCE participating State and as a member of the Council of Europe, the election revealed some weaknesses. Chief among these are pressure on the media and the decline of credible pluralism.

The Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, had led an ODIHR delegation on 20 March 2000 to assess the preparations in Chechnya for the presiden-

tial election. The ODIHR delegation accompanied the CEC Chairman Mr. Alexander Vesnyakov. During the visit to Gudermes and Khankala near Grozny, the delegation held discussions with civilian and military authorities, as well as with regional and local election commission members. The ODIHR delegation concluded that standard conditions for elections were not present in Chechnya.

The International Election Observation Mission was a joint effort of the ODIHR, the OSCE PA and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Ms. Helle Degn, President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Russian presidential election, led the OSCE Election Observation Mission. Ambassador Edouard Brunner (Switzerland) led the ODIHR long-term observers. Mr. Björn von der Esch headed the PACE delegation. The observation mission deployed more than 380 short-term observers from 32 participating States, including more than 75 parliamentarians.



election campaign and candidates were able to express their views. However, improvements are necessary in the legal framework, the performance of the State media and the implementation of counting and tabulation procedures. Voting did not take place in Abkhazia and in part of Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia.

The Election Observation Mission was headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria). Some 150 short-term observers from 24 OSCE participating States were deployed on election day.

Municipal elections in Montenegro (11 June)

The ODIHR observed the 11 June municipal elections in Podgorica and Herceg Novi and concluded that the elections were well conducted and generally in line with OSCE commitments.

The election legislation had been adopted by consensus between the governing coalition and the largest opposition party. It provided for a high degree of transparency, enabling political parties to follow all aspects of the process closely and to participate in decision making on election commissions and polling boards. However, there remains scope for improvements, in particular in the uniform application of legal provisions.

An ODIHR delegation assesses preparations for Russian presidential elections in Chechnya

The elections, covering approximately one third of the electorate of the republic, were very significant for Montenegro and for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a whole. They served as a test of public opinion midway during the Montenegrin President's and Parliament's mandates and amidst a number of significant questions concerning Montenegro's future political direction.

The election observation was conducted by the ODIHR Office in Montenegro, headed by Julian Peel Yates (UK) and co-ordinated by Paul O'Grady (UK). On election day, 54 international short-term observers from 24 OSCE participating States and 6 ECMM accredited observers were deployed.

Municipal elections in the FYR of Macedonia (10 and 24 September)

In August, the ODIHR deployed an election observation mission for the 10 September municipal elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The ODIHR Election Observation Mission concluded that the municipal elections fell short of a number of OSCE commitments for democratic elections. The Mission noted that, while voting took place in a calm and orderly manner in the majority of municipalities, the overall election atmosphere was tense and election day was marked by serious security incidents committed by individuals and groups of supporters of political parties in some western municipalities, as well as by irregularities and intimidation. The ODIHR expressed concern over the incidents of violence and called on the Government to investigate vigorously and immediately all breaches of law.

In a second statement, the ODIHR concluded that the 24 September second-round elections showed improvements in some areas, but still fell short on a number of international standards for democratic elections formulated in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen document. While voting took place in a calm and orderly manner in most municipalities, election day was marked by tension, major irregularities and acts of intimidation and violence in some areas. Unlike during the first round, such cases were not limited to a particular region but appear to have been most severe and widespread in municipalities where the mayoral races were particularly close.

The Election Observation Mission was headed by Ambassador Charles Magee (USA). One hundred and thirty short-term observers from 22 OSCE participating States were deployed on election day in over 850 polling stations.

ODIHR issues report on elections in Yugoslavia

The ODIHR was denied entry to conduct a technical assessment and subsequently deploy an election observation mission to monitor the 24 September federal and municipal elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Consequently, in accordance with its mandate, the ODIHR published a report of preliminary findings and conclusions without the benefit of an in-country observation mission. The report was based on information compiled from other reliable sources.

The ODIHR concluded that the 24 September elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia fell far short of the minimum standards for transparent, accountable, secret, fair and free elections. Under such circumstances, initial reports that the opposition presidential candidate

Vojislav Kostunica was in the lead indicated a strong will for change. The months leading to election day were characterized by severe restrictions on fundamental freedoms, harassment of and attempts to suppress the independent media, persecution and intimidation of non-governmental organizations and the disappearance of a former President of Serbia. Election day was marked by reports of opposition representatives on election commissions, including the Federal Election Commission, expelled and the secrecy of the ballot seriously compromised. Other violations were also reported, including an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. Moreover, the elections in Montenegro and Kosovo were conducted in an environment fraught with possibilities for manipulation.

Earlier, on 30 August, the ODIHR released a critical assessment of the Yugoslav election legislation concluding that the laws governing the 24 September elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were not in line with international standards and failed to guarantee a transparent election process. According to the report, there was no adequate provision to ensure effective monitoring by election observers and the mass media. Also, the legislation did not contain any requirements to publish voting results immediately at each level of the tabulation process, thus opening the way for serious malpractice.

Local government elections in Albania (1 and 15 October)

The ODIHR observed the two rounds of the local government elections in Albania on 1 and 15 October, concluding that the overall election process marked progress towards meeting OSCE standards for democratic elections.

The post-election statement issued after the first round of elections concluded that the election marked significant progress towards meeting the standards for democratic elections. These elections took place under a reformed constitutional, legislative and administrative framework. A new election code, adopted after multiparty round-table discussions with the participation of international experts, in general provided a sound basis for democratic elections. The elections were held, in contrast with previous occasions, in a tense but remarkably peaceful atmosphere with only a few isolated incidents of violence. The shortcomings pointed out in the preliminary statement were: concerns about the lack of independence of the CEC, inconsistent transitional provisions in the election code introduced by the parliamentary majority, disputes surrounding the composition and establishment of election commissions at all levels, contributing to tight dead-

lines missed in the electoral process and errors and omissions in the new voter register.

In the preliminary statement issued on 16 October, the ODIHR noted that the second round on 15 October was less transparent and inclusive and showed the need for further improvement in order to meet certain OSCE commitments.

The Mission, which was led by Eugenio Polizzi (Italy), deployed 251 short-term observers from 26 OSCE participating States for the first round and 80 observers from 18 OSCE participating States for the second round. For both rounds, it co-operated closely with the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

Parliamentary elections in Belarus (15 October)

The ODIHR deployed only a Technical Assessment Mission, led by Elisabeth Rasmusson (Norway), for the 15 October parliamentary elections in Belarus on the basis of a decision by the 30 August Technical Conference in Vienna. The Technical Conference, attended by representatives of a number of major international organizations, determined that the Government of Belarus had made insufficient progress on a number of key criteria to merit an observation. As a result, the ODIHR did not deploy observers on election day. The OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA and European Parliament, acting as a Parliamentary Troika, visited Belarus during the election period for a political assessment.

In the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions issued on 16 October and included in the statement issued by the Parliamentary Troika on the same day, the ODIHR concluded that the election process failed to meet international standards for democratic elections, including those formulated in the 1990 Copenhagen Document of the OSCE. In particular, these elections fell short of meeting the minimum commitments for free, fair, equal, accountable and transparent elections. Despite some improvements since previous elections, the process remained flawed.

Other factors contributing to the failure of these elections to meet international standards include: substantial and fundamental deficiencies in the electoral legislation, significant restrictions of the fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly and association, insufficient respect for the rule of law and due process of law, together with observed instances of the executive interfering with the independence of the judiciary, and heavily biased state-controlled media with no effective counterbalance of the independent media.

Presidential election in Kyrgyzstan (29 October)

The ODIHR observed the 29 October presidential election in Kyrgyzstan, concluding that the election failed to comply with OSCE commitments for democratic elections. In particular, the international standards for equal, free, fair and accountable elections were not met. The Election Observation Mission stated that the election had not reversed the negative trends identified during the recent parliamentary elections, instead undermining some of its positive features. It further noted that democratic development in the Kyrgyz Republic still remains comparatively viable, though increasingly challenged.

While the electoral process also exhibited some positive elements and the electoral legislation provided the potential for democratic elections, implementation failures undermined this potential. The general pre-election environment and, in particular, the process of candidate registration limited the possibilities for full participation in the election.

The Election Observation Mission, headed by Mark Stevens (UK), was established on 21 September with a team of 16 international experts and long-term observers. The Mission deployed 104 international observers on election day. Observers reported from more than 500 polling stations out of the 2,090 across the country.

Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (5 November)

The parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan marked progress over previous elections, though falling short of international standards, concluded the International Election Observation.

The international observers noted that progress was made in particular with regard to enhancing political pluralism. The parties and candidates had better opportunities to conduct their campaign, although an increasing number of obstacles were observed in the final few days. In contrast to previous elections, all political parties were eventually able to register for the proportional ballot, although the late registration of eight of them did affect their ability to conduct a full campaign. The elections took place within an improved legislative framework that incorporated recommendations by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission and the ODIHR.

However, serious deficiencies were noted in regard to the implementation of the election legislation. The registration of candidates for the single mandate constituencies was substantially flawed and effectively barred approximately half of the candidates from running.

The ODIHR mission was headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria). On election day more than 200 short-term observers were deployed.



media. The Election Observation Mission examined the participation of national minorities and women in the electoral process. Some 75 international short-term observers were requested to be deployed by the EOM throughout the country shortly before polling day.

“OSCE is coming”: A demonstrator in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan

Mainstreaming Gender Issues into Election Observation

The ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the Romanian Parliamentary and Presidential Elections included a Focal Point on Gender Issues for the first time. The work of the Gender Focal Point aimed to further ODIHR's commitment to increasing gender equality in all political and democratic processes. This pilot project provided information regarding gender issues at all stages of the electoral process. It provided comprehensive analysis of the preparation and conduct of elections from a gender perspective, including discrimination faced by women candidates, attitudes of political parties and media coverage of gender issues in electoral context. Following this analysis, the ODIHR Election Section Observation Procedures will be revised to include analysis of gender issues in future observation missions.

The full text of ODIHR preliminary statements and final reports on its election observations are available on the ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elecprep.htm>.

Observers reported that voting was conducted in a generally calm atmosphere, but in contrast to the official figures the voter turnout was reported to be very low. The elections were marred by numerous instances of serious irregularities, in particular a completely flawed counting process. Observers reported ballot stuffing, manipulated turnout results, pre-marked ballots and production of either false protocols or no protocols at all, as well as a number of other irregularities.

Presidential and parliamentary elections in Romania (26 November)

On 25 October, the ODIHR deployed an election observation mission consisting of eight election experts in Bucharest and expected to deploy several long-term observers in the regions. During the pre-election period, the observation focused on the campaign and the political environment, transparency and accountability of the electoral process, effectiveness and impartiality of the election administration, the implementation of the election law and regulations and the conduct of the mass

TECHNICAL ELECTION ASSISTANCE

ODIHR comments on electoral legislation

The ODIHR provided comments and analyses on the electoral legislation of Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Montenegro and Serbia. The reviews are available on the ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elecprep-byreview.htm>.

The review projects were supported by voluntary contributions from Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Statoil (Norway).

Azerbaijan amends CEC Law following ODIHR recommendations

Following intense discussions between ODIHR experts and officials and a cross-section of the main political parties in Azerbaijan, a new Law on the Central Election Commission was adopted by the Parliament on 9 June. The new law improved significantly the previous legislation and incorporated a number of recommendations made by the ODIHR. As a consequence, the main political interests had the opportunity to assume a full and comprehensive role in the administration of the election process.

The ODIHR monitored the work of the CEC from July to November with an on-site expert. This project, together with a broader review of the election laws of Azerbaijan, was supported by voluntary contributions from Norway and Statoil.

Political party training programme in Belarus

As part of the joint European Commission-ODIHR programme for Belarus, the ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus, conducted on 16-17 June a two-day training for senior campaign managers from opposition parties. The training focused on basic campaign techniques and party organization. Specific topics covered by the international trainers included image presentation, strategic planning and coalition and alliance building. On 4 August, a similar training workshop was organized for representatives of the pro-government candidates and parties.

First round table on elections held in Kazakhstan

A first round table on elections was held in Astana on 2 September, under the auspices of the OSCE (ODIHR, Parliamentary Assembly and Centre in Almaty).

In a constructive atmosphere, participants discussed ways and means to improve the election legislation in

view of the recommendations contained in the ODIHR Final Report on the October 1999 parliamentary elections. There was a broad consensus on the pressing need to amend the current election legislation. An agreement was reached to organize three more round tables on elections in January, May and September 2001.

The event was conducted in close collaboration with the Government of Kazakhstan and the Central Election Commission and brought together representatives of the Parliament, various government ministries and agencies and civil society, including political parties not represented in the Parliament.

Workshop on implementing Lund recommendations

On 3-4 July, the ODIHR convened a workshop in Warsaw to discuss the implementation of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) Recommendations for Minority Participation in Public Life ("Lund recommendations"). The main objective of the workshop was to formulate a first set of concrete guidelines for experts when addressing national minority concerns during ODIHR election-related activities and to provide guidance to national minorities on participation in elections. A group of leading experts from Bulgaria, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America participated in the workshop, together with ODIHR election experts and reviewed a draft paper. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the HCNM and International IDEA. As a follow-up, a minorities expert was assigned to the ODIHR Election Observation Mission in Romania, as a first effort to implement the recommendations emerging from the workshop. The project was supported by a voluntary contribution from Canada.

Workshop on "Guidelines for Election Legislation Review"

On 14-15 September, the ODIHR, jointly with the International IDEA, convened a workshop on Guidelines for the Review of Election Legislation in Stockholm. The main objective of the workshop was to finalize guidelines on election legislation, including the electoral system, composition of election commissions, transparency of the election process, voter registration, finance, voter information, counting and tabulation of votes, political parties and candidates and mass media issues. A group of leading experts from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America reviewed a discussion paper and participated in the workshop together with ODIHR and International IDEA staff. The workshop was supported through a voluntary contribution from Switzerland.

Training of domestic observers for Yugoslav presidential elections

After the announcement of the presidential elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the ODIHR promptly launched an election-related project jointly with the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR). The project intended to improve the election environment in Serbia by training representatives of opposition political parties who were to be nominated as members of election commissions and by publishing a user-friendly manual on election procedures.

Since previous elections in Yugoslavia/Serbia were jeopardised by the regime's control over most election commissions, a compromised judiciary, a restrictive media situation and flawed election legislation, an active role for the opposition in the election process was fundamental for the credibility of the outcome of the 24 September vote.

During the month preceding the elections, 30,000 copies of the procedure manual were published in the Serbian language and nine seminars on elections for 40-50 trainees each were conducted by BCHR experts throughout Serbia.

DEMOCRATIZATION

The ODIHR conducts a wide range of democratization projects as part of its overall programme of activities, designed to build and enhance capacity in new and transitional states. ODIHR democracy projects seek to assist participating States in implementing their OSCE commitments, thus promoting a comprehensive view of security which includes the human dimension. ODIHR democratization projects also seek to develop self-sustainability and to strategically address difficult development issues by using the added value of the OSCE and the credibility of the OSCE name.

The ODIHR's democratization work is primarily conducted across five thematic areas: Rule of Law, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations, Equality Between Men and Women, Trafficking in Human Beings and Freedom of Movement and Migration. Panels of prominent independent experts help shape the ODIHR's work on combating torture and promoting religious freedom. The ODIHR also has a regional unit for specific democracy programmes conducted in the Balkans region, a special co-ordinator for programmes in Central Asia and Belarus which are conducted under a joint programming agreement with the European Commission, and a special grassroots programme initiative which provides rapid assistance to micro-projects in the field.

As the year 2000 Action Plan was carried out, many ODIHR democratization projects were again very successful, reflecting a high measure of continuity and long-term investment with both governmental and non-governmental partners. A number of projects progressed towards self-sustainability, through partners who began to work independently. This has been one of the ultimate goals of ODIHR's democratization work – to develop and foster indigenous capacities.

In implementing its projects during the past year, the ODIHR again sought to target specific audiences in its work, but also to then link and build co-operation between the ODIHR's work and that of other, related developmental projects and international organizations. This form of strategic co-operation and co-ordination has created a "multiplier effect", increasing programme impact, as well as overall programme cost efficiency. During 2000, the ODIHR implemented more than 75 democratization projects in 22 participating States. Projects were conducted in co-ordination with OSCE field operations and with a number of other international actors.

Independent evaluators give good marks to ODIHR project implementation

An external evaluation of ODIHR projects in Central Asia concluded in August that in key project areas the ODIHR "has been performing remarkably well and most of the time with much higher rapidity than other international organizations it can be compared to".

The study, conducted by the independent Belgian consulting firm ADE, evaluated a total of 20 ODIHR democratization projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The authors of the study interviewed the originators of the projects at the ODIHR, as well as recipients, staff of OSCE field presences in the three countries and other international organizations active in the region. The evaluation represents the first independent assessment of ODIHR technical assistance project implementation ever undertaken. Although limited to three countries in Central Asia, it provides a reasonable basis for an assessment of the strengths of the ODIHR's performance in general.

The study was sponsored by the Governments of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, which also have supported many of the ODIHR activities in Central Asia through voluntary contributions. The final report has been carefully studied and discussed by the ODIHR staff with a view to incorporating its recommendations into future ODIHR technical assistance projects. The report also provides a useful insight into ODIHR operations and their quality and hopefully will create an incentive for the participating States to continue or increase their valuable support for the ODIHR.

ODIHR-European Commission joint programme for Central Asia completed

On the occasion of the official completion of the Joint Programme for Advancing Human Rights and Democratization in Central Asia, representatives from the ODIHR and the European Commission met in Warsaw on 28 June to review and evaluate the implementation of the projects included in the Programme. There was a general agreement on both sides that the Programme was successfully completed. As a result of the positive assessment of the Programme, it was decided by the ODIHR and the European Commission to extend the co-operation and to develop a new programme for Central Asia for 2001.

The joint activities in Central Asia represented a pioneering endeavour within the framework of the relations between the ODIHR and the European Commission in being the first large-scale co-operation effort between the two institutions in the fields of human rights and

democratization. The Joint Programme was aimed at advancing the rule of law, civil society and respect for human rights in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan through a number of projects in the fields of legislative review, development of election dispute mechanisms, fostering NGO-Government dialogue, strengthening the role of women in public life and providing assistance to national human rights institutions. The projects were implemented by the ODIHR in co-operation with the respective OSCE field operations and other experts and local partners within the framework of Memoranda of Understanding signed between the ODIHR and the two Governments.

Projects within the Joint Programme also received support from other donors, particularly from the Governments of Denmark, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

ODIHR-European Commission democratization programme begins in Belarus

In April, the ODIHR launched a multi-faceted democratization programme in Belarus. The projects, which are part of the ODIHR-European Commission Joint Programme for Advancing Human Rights and Democratization in Belarus, are implemented by the OSCE Assistance and Monitoring Group in Belarus in co-operation with the ODIHR and local partners. The projects focus on providing training for political parties, support to the independent legal sector, a programme on dispute resolution, a prison project, a lecture series, support for the independent European Humanistic University and other activities.

RULE OF LAW

The concept of Rule of Law forms a cornerstone in the OSCE human rights framework. The notion of Rule of Law, as enshrined in major OSCE documents such as the 1990 Copenhagen Document, does not merely describe a formal legality. It aims also at justice based on the full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and human rights. Rule of Law seeks to establish and entrench an institutional framework for democracy in participating States.

Based on this concept, the ODIHR is engaged in a variety of technical assistance projects designed to foster the rule of law and the respect for human rights. It seeks to enhance the administration of justice, inter alia by training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers as well as police and correctional officers. The ODIHR also undertakes legal reform and legislative review projects in order to bring domestic laws into line with OSCE commitments and other recognized international standards. The ODIHR also renders support to the enhancement of legal education in the field of human rights by supporting law schools and legal clinics.

Following the creation of the OSCE Advisory Panel on the Prevention of Torture in 1998, the ODIHR has given particular focus to projects aimed at the prevention of torture. A large number of activities in this context are implemented in the context of the Rule of Law programme.

Complementary to the areas mentioned above, the ODIHR also provides support and advice to national human rights institutions or Ombudsman institutions. Such institutions – provided that they are independent from the executive – can form an efficient and cost-effective way to monitor human rights and contribute to a legal culture which is conducive to the observance of human rights.

Central Asia: Legislative alert project activities

Within the framework of its legislative alert project in Central Asia – a project aimed at providing ad hoc expertise on draft laws having a particular relevance for the human dimension – the ODIHR provided expert comments on several pieces of draft legislation. These included the draft Freedom of Assembly Law of Kyrgyzstan, the Anti-Terrorism Law of Uzbekistan and legislation on local self-government and on the rights of children in Kazakhstan.

The Legislative Alert and Assistance project has been supported by the Government of the United Kingdom and will continue in 2001.

Kazakhstan: Assistance to reform of penitentiary system

ODIHR prison experts from Poland and the United Kingdom travelled to Kazakhstan in April and August to conduct seminars on prison reform and human rights for officials of the penitentiary system and to visit several prisons and pre-trial detention centres in Kazakhstan in order to assess the current situation.

The two seminars were highly successful in establishing an open dialogue between the Ministry of Interior, penitentiary officials and civil society organizations and in opening the prison system to the media. Also, based on the recommendations made by the ODIHR experts, Kazakhstani officials agreed to make several changes at a new pre-trial detention centre to be opened in Kyzylorda by the end of the year. Moreover, the Kazakhstani Government has recently announced that, as a result of the prison reform being done, the decision has been made to transfer the prison system from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice.

The second seminar with prison officials, held in Oskeken on 8-9 August, was particularly successful in establishing lines of communication between the prison system and the media. As a result of discussions with the Director of the Kazakhstani prison system concerning the poor relationship the prison system had with the media, the press was invited to attend the seminar and accompany the ODIHR delegation on a tour of a prison in the Zhangistobe region. The journalists were allowed to enter the prison with cameras and to videotape inside. The ODIHR delegation and the press were allowed to speak alone with any prisoner and were free to examine all sections of the prison.

Both the journalists and the prison authorities have requested that the ODIHR continue to facilitate the discussion between the media and the prison system.

The last phase of the project was implemented in September and October when 15 Kazakhstani prison officials visited the Prison Training Academy in Poland. The Kazakhstani officials were the trainers at the new Kazakhstani Prison Training Facility in Pavlodar that began classes in autumn. The goal was to help the Kazakhstani authorities develop a curriculum for the training facility that more directly addresses the needs of prison personnel and incorporates international human rights stan-

dards. The trainers were exposed to new teaching techniques that will be used at the facility in Pavlodar. Next year, the ODIHR will send prison experts to observe the classes being taught in Pavlodar and suggest ways to improve teaching methodology and curriculum.

The project was carried out in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Almaty and in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law. It was funded through a voluntary contribution from Norway.

Kyrgyzstan: Conference on compliance with the UN Torture Convention

A round-table Conference on ways to ensure compliance of the Kyrgyz legal system with the UN Convention Against Torture was organized by the ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, on 18-19 May. The Conference was part of a joint ODIHR-European Commission project on legislative reform in Kyrgyzstan.

Representatives from all branches of Government, judges from the Supreme and Constitutional Courts, key actors dealing with legal reform in Kyrgyzstan, the procuracy and prison officials, as well as legal practitioners and NGOs participated in the round table. The participants discussed recent legislative changes in the criminal justice system of Kyrgyzstan and further ways to ensure compliance with the obligations assumed upon accession to international treaties. The participants recognized the recent improvements made, but also pointed to deficiencies as regards implementation. A number of concrete recommendations emerged from the discussions.

Based on the study of legislation, a series of bilateral meetings with a variety of actors involved and the results of the Conference, the ODIHR published a final report with a number of important recommendations to the Kyrgyz authorities. These recommendations aim to assist the authorities in Kyrgyzstan in ensuring actual compliance of the domestic system with the requirements of the UN Convention Against Torture. The full list of recommendations is available from the ODIHR Rule of Law Unit.

The Legislative Reform project was funded as a part of the joint European Commission-ODIHR Central Asia Project and through a voluntary contribution from Switzerland.

Tajikistan: Assistance to reform of prison system

An ODIHR delegation visited Tajikistan in June 2000 and conducted a preliminary assessment of the needs of the Tajik prison system. A meeting was held with the Minister of Interior to discuss the ODIHR project and the training needs of the prison system. An ODIHR expert will return to Tajikistan in December to meet with personnel of the Tajik prison administration and to visit several prisons. The ODIHR will then develop a work-plan for the training of prison personnel to be implemented in early 2001. This project was funded through a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

Tajikistan: Legislative review project

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Tajikistan, the ODIHR in September launched a legislative review project. An ODIHR consultant began to review the legislation of Tajikistan in order to make concrete recommendations on how best to ensure compliance with the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The expert will have a first consultation with interested parties in December 2000. The project is supported by a voluntary contribution from Switzerland.

Tajikistan: Legal clinic programme for women

After an assessment conducted by an ODIHR expert in April, the ODIHR began implementing a legal clinic programme with the law faculty of Tajikistan University in Dushanbe. The project envisages the establishment of an accessible mechanism for the protection of women's rights through free legal advice. In December, a conference, organized by the ODIHR with assistance from the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, will bring together representatives from the law faculty, women's organizations and other NGOs. The agenda will concentrate on providing training on legal clinics, the development of a curriculum that is best suited to the situation of women in Tajikistan and practical training for lawyers in providing free legal advice to women. The long-term objective of the project is the establishment of a clinic that will provide practical experience to law students under the supervision of professional lawyers and free legal advice to women. This project was funded by a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands and will continue in 2001.

Tajikistan: Human rights training for law enforcement personnel

Initial preparations have begun for a human rights training for local law enforcement personnel in Tajikistan, a project which is carried out in collaboration with the local authorities in the Khatlon region of Tajikistan and

the OSCE field offices in Kugan-Tube, Shartuz and Dusti. The aims of the project are to provide militia and KGB personnel with human rights training covering a number of crucial themes, provide participants with the opportunity to exchange experiences with foreign experts, strengthen OSCE links with local law enforcement and raise the visibility of the OSCE field offices in southern Tajikistan with the local population and authorities. The training will begin in December 2000 and continue in 2001. This project is funded through a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

Uzbekistan: Assistance to Ombudsman Office

On 1-4 May, the ODIHR, together with the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, held a four-day training seminar for the Uzbek Ombudsman Office. The training was provided for the staff of the Ombudsman institution and the newly appointed regional representatives of the Ombudsman Office. The seminar focused on the various aspects of handling complaints and on issues relating to the regionalization of the office. In addition, a general introduction to international human rights standards and concepts was offered to the participants. Many issues of concern in the daily work of the staff of the institution were discussed openly during the sessions.

A subsequent training will be held in December 2000 focusing on the relationship with the Judiciary and the interaction with law-enforcement agencies and the Prokuratura. The project was funded by a voluntary contribution from Denmark.

Uzbekistan: Alternative sentencing project

In October, the ODIHR began implementing an alternative sentencing project in Uzbekistan. An agreement has been signed with the Academy of the Ministry of Interior to draft a report on sentencing practices and identifying reasons why the non-custodial sanctions available in the criminal code are little used in practice. The report will provide practical solutions that may include amendments to legislation and standardized sentencing guidelines.

Once the report is completed in early 2001, a conference will be organized with Uzbekistan's decision-makers from the ministries, the Parliament, defense lawyers and NGOs working in the field of penitentiary reform to develop concrete recommendations on how to improve the usage of non-custodial sentences in practice. The conference is also intended to facilitate the development of an instruction and training manual to be used during the training stage of the project. This stage will consist of six seminars to be conducted throughout Uzbekistan

for 150 representatives of the judiciary, procuracy and penitentiary institutions. The first two seminars will be conducted as training for trainers.

The project is carried out in co-operation with the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute (COLPI) and the Open Society Foundation Uzbekistan. COLPI and the ODIHR share the costs of this project. The ODIHR share is funded through a voluntary contribution from Austria.

Uzbekistan: Regional human rights workshops for members of judicial system

Three regional workshops on international human rights law and how to apply it domestically were organized by the ODIHR in Uzbekistan in August. Judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers attended the workshops that were facilitated by two barristers from the United Kingdom. The workshops engendered lively discussions among the three groups and many suggestions about how domestic law should be changed to comply with Uzbekistan's international commitments. Next year, the ODIHR will organize three more regional workshops dealing with this topic and will institute a review of Uzbek law in the criminal field for compliance with international commitments. This project was funded by a voluntary contribution from Germany.

Central Asia/South Caucasus: Assistance to national human rights institutions.

As a follow-up to two MoU projects implemented in 1999 in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the ODIHR continued to provide expert advice on draft laws on the establishment of Ombudsman institutions in both countries. In addition, the ODIHR provided comments on the Ombudsman draft law in Armenia. The ODIHR assistance is aimed at supporting the creation of truly independent Ombudsman institutions in line with the UN Paris Principles. These projects, carried out as part of the joint EU-ODIHR programme for democratization and human rights in Central Asia, were supported through voluntary contributions from Denmark and the United Kingdom.

South Caucasus: Prison reform projects in Armenia and Azerbaijan

As a part of the expansion of its work on prison reform, the ODIHR began the implementation of prison projects in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Both projects are being implemented in co-ordination with the Council of Europe. An initial co-ordinating meeting was held in Strasbourg in April 2000.

In October, the ODIHR took part in a Yerevan meeting of the Council of Europe working group on the transfer of the Armenian prison system from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. The meeting resulted in joint recommendations to the Armenian Government on steps that should be taken in the transfer process.

Upon request of the Minister of Justice, the ODIHR in November began a training programme for high-ranking officials in the prison administration. Two workshops were held in Yerevan for prison governors, deputy governors and prison administrators. Ten individuals took part in each workshop. The interactive workshops focused on incorporating international agreements on treatment of prisoners into Armenian prison rules and regulations.

The future needs of the Azerbaijani prison system will be discussed at a meeting scheduled for December in Strasbourg with the Council of Europe, ODIHR and Azerbaijani prison officials. The discussion will focus on the future training needs of the Azerbaijani prison system and the curriculum to be used by the Azerbaijani training facility.

These projects were made possible by a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

South Eastern Europe: Legislative website under Stability Pact

The ODIHR completed initial preparations for the development of a legislative website for South Eastern Europe. The website will contain a collection of national laws and other legal documents in the field of the OSCE human dimension coupled with a list of direct links to international human rights treaties.

The objective of the project, which is being implemented under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, is to develop a reference tool for legal decision-makers of the region and to enable legislators to obtain specific information on how the same issue has been addressed in different legal systems. The development of the legislative website reflects one of the priorities of the Stability Pact, namely to support the countries of the region in their efforts to reform their legal systems with a view to bringing them into line with international standards.

The launch of the website is scheduled for January 2001. The project is funded by a voluntary contribution from Austria and is carried out in co-ordination with the Council of Europe.

South Eastern Europe: Prison reform programme

The ODIHR assists countries in South Eastern Europe in the reform of prisons, with an emphasis on management and training of prison staff. An important element is to build links between prison services of countries of the region in order to allow exchange of best practices and experiences.

In this framework the ODIHR prison expert, Mr. Alan Walker, undertook an exploratory mission to Montenegro on 29-31 March, visiting a number of prisons and meeting prison management officials. Mr. Walker also visited Zagreb and discussed with the Croatian prison service their reform programme for 2000.

From 24 to 30 September, representatives of the prison service and the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro visited Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in order to study the ways in which the prison services have been reformed and how training of staff is organized. This provided a highly appreciated opportunity for regional networking.

The prison reform programme is financed through the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and is part of a joint initiative with the Council of Europe.

Albania: Assistance to Shkodra law school

The ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, assisted the Law Faculty of the Shkodra law school in Northern Albania for the second consecutive term in including human rights in the school's curriculum in order to facilitate the development of local capacities for teaching human rights. Human rights education of young lawyers, judges and prosecutors is of particular importance in the Shkodra region given the politically fragile situation in Northern Albania and the lack of international assistance to the regions outside the capital Tirana.

During the spring semester 2000, an international expert taught a class on international human rights. The expert also developed course materials on international human rights law in the Albanian language. This material will be published by the ODIHR and made available to the Shkodra law school. It provides a model human rights course in Albanian, which will also be made available for other institutions and law schools in Albania. As a result of the ODIHR capacity building, the law school began to offer the human rights class for credit and integrated it into the permanent curriculum. An Albanian professor who was the co-teacher during the last two semesters will teach the class. The ODIHR also facilitates partnerships with other

European Universities and encourages them to co-operate with the Shkodra Law School. The ODIHR expert also gave lectures at a training seminar on human rights for OSCE field officers and in a human rights workshop with local journalists in Shkodra, both organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania.

The Shkodra law school project is supported by voluntary contributions from the United Kingdom and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Albania: Assistance to newly elected Ombudsman
The ODIHR, together with the OSCE Presence in Albania, provided start-up assistance to the newly elected Peoples Advocate in Albania. The ODIHR organized a visit by the newly elected Ombudsman of Albania to the Office of the Ombudsman of Slovenia from 3 to 6 April. The purpose of the visit, which took place only one week after the Ombudsman had been elected by the parliament, was to provide first hand insight into the functioning and the main working principles of an Ombudsman's office. The meetings also laid the foundation for future co-operation with the Ombudsman's Office of Slovenia, which has led *inter alia* to the elaboration of a code of ethics and the adoption of internal staff regulations. The ODIHR further supports this co-operation within the context of its assistance to establishing a functioning Ombudsman institution in Albania.

The assistance programme to the Albanian People's Advocate is supported by a voluntary contribution from Switzerland.

Kosovo: Training of Ombudsman institution staff
The ODIHR supported the training by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo of staff of the Ombudsman institution in Kosovo. The training focused on the international mandate in Kosovo, the status of the Ombudsman institution and international human rights standards, which the Ombudsman is tasked to promote and protect under regulation 2000/38 of the UN Civil Administration in Kosovo.

Serbia: ODIHR supports NGO providing legal assistance to ethnic Albanians
The ODIHR supported a programme of the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade aimed at providing legal assistance to ethnic Albanians in courts and prisons in Serbia. Many ethnic Albanians were arrested during and after the war in Kosovo on dubious charges and are on trial or awaiting trial in Serbia. The Humanitarian Law Centre formed a team of lawyers visiting prisoners and representing the accused in court.

FYR of Macedonia: Assistance to reform of police academy

Three international police trainers visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in May in order to support the reform of the Police Academy training curriculum. In collaboration with a working group of the Academy, the draft of a new basic structure for the training of police cadets was developed. The trainers stressed the need to integrate human rights issues into all lectures rather than teach it only as one specialized course. Also, new methods of teaching were discussed, such as role-play exercises and simulations.

The visit is part of a support programme for the police of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which is implemented jointly by the ODIHR, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje, the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, Budapest and the Open Society Institute Macedonia. The project was supported by a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

Translation of Fair Trial Manual into Albanian and Serbian

In order to address the shortage of legal material in the Albanian language, the ODIHR translated and published an Albanian-language version of the Amnesty International Fair Trial Manual. The Manual is intended to support capacity building of the legal profession in Kosovo and elsewhere. The ODIHR also provided, in co-operation with the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade, a translation of the Fair Trial Manual into Serbian.

Ukraine: Assistance to Human Rights Representative

The ODIHR organized a working visit by Mr. Frank Orton, a former Swedish Ombudsman and newly appointed Human Rights Ombudsperson for Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the office of Ms. Nina Karpachova, the Authorised Human Rights Representative of Ukraine.

The ODIHR expert worked with Ms. Karpachova's office from 4 to 16 May. He gave advice on how to handle complaints, as well as on investigation procedures, management and finance systems and interaction with other State agencies. The working visit had been co-ordinated with other donor organizations supporting the Ukrainian Human Rights Representative, including the Council of Europe and the United Nations Development Programme. This project was made possible through a voluntary contribution from the United States of America.

Ukraine: Comprehensive review of human rights legislation

Within the framework of its on-going human rights legislation review project, ODIHR experts have reviewed several pieces of current and draft Ukrainian legislation. These have included the draft legislation on national and local referenda and legislation on freedom of movement.

In preparation for an ODIHR-Council of Europe seminar on personal data protection in state registers on 23-24 October (see chapter "Freedom of Movement/Migration"), an ODIHR expert reviewed the draft Law on the State Register. The seminar resulted in specific recommendations for redrafting the law, which will be evaluated by the Council of Ministers.

The ODIHR has also undertaken a review of draft laws on the Judicial System, the Status of Judges and the Judicial Code of Ukraine and organized an expert seminar for the relevant actors in November.

This project, implemented by the ODIHR, forms part of the mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and is funded by voluntary contributions from the United Kingdom and Norway. It will continue in 2001.

Ukraine: Assistance to Constitutional Court

A training seminar for the Ukrainian Constitutional Court justices was held in Budapest on 22-23 November. The Ukrainian Court had identified the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Hungary as a good partner due to its similar situation as a Constitutional Court in a transition country and also due to its success in establishing itself as an important actor in the legal system of Hungary. Upon request from the Ukrainian justices, the topics covered by the training seminar included judicial independence and methods of interpretation. The seminar also provided an opportunity for both Courts to share their experiences and exchange their views and approaches.

Moldova: Workshop on detention monitoring

An expert workshop on monitoring places of detention by national NGOs was held in Chisinau in July. The workshop was organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) as part of a joint project to encourage local NGOs to visit places of detention.

The goal of the workshop was to gather information from NGOs which have been successful in gaining access to places of detention for use in a guide being

developed by APT. The guide will then be used to train local NGOs in how to gain access to places of detention and what to look for once access is achieved.

The project is supported by a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture

The ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture was created in 1998 pursuant to a recommendation emerging from the 1997 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The Panel provides advice and guidance to the ODIHR on developing programmes and activities to combat torture in the OSCE area without duplicating the work of other organizations. The Panel consists of five of the world's leading anti-torture authorities, each of whom serves on the Panel in his or her personal capacity:

- Ms. Anne Burley, Director of the Europe Regional Program at Amnesty International;
- Ms. Danielle Coquoz, Head of the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- Mr. Douglas Johnson, Executive Director for the Center for Victims of Torture, United States of America;
- Mr. Claude Nicolay, Deputy Prosecutor General of Luxembourg and former Chairman of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture;
- Sir Nigel Rodley, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Professor of Law at the University of Essex.

The Panel serves an institutionalized "think tank" for the ODIHR. It assumes the functions of an internal control mechanism, helping to ensure that the ODIHR's overall approach is soundly conceived, that its project proposals have benefited from expert input and that its resources are directed at high priorities. The Panel helps to keep anti-torture activities high on the agenda of the OSCE. As a result of Panel recommendations the ODIHR has undertaken a broad range of activities:

- Reviewing national legislation to assess its compliance with international standards, in particular the UN Convention against Torture,
- Publication of training material for OSCE field staff,
- Public awareness activities,
- Prison reform projects,
- Training for police, prosecutors, judges and defence attorneys,

- Alternative sentencing,
- Support for the development of the “Istanbul Protocol”, a UN manual and principles for the effective documentation of torture,
- Monitoring allegations of torture.

The Panel held its fourth meeting in Warsaw on October 19-20. During the meeting the Panel provided guidance to the ODIHR in the development of new projects, in integrating torture issues into existing projects and in reviewing past efforts. It also provided valuable information about new trends and developments in the fight against torture.

The creation of the Panel and its subsequent meetings have been supported by a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

GENDER ISSUES

Increased attention has been paid to gender issues as an integral part of the ODIHR’s work over the last two years, recognizing that representative democracy requires the equal status and contribution of women. The ODIHR works to implement specific gender projects and to ensure that all its activities take into account the need for gender equality.

Transition has frequently had a negative impact for women. Participation of women in government and politics has declined in many countries, while social and economic pressures are considered by many NGOs to have brought increased domestic violence. The post communist era has seen sexual violence directed at women during conflicts and the emergence of trafficking. Economic transition has often brought discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace.

NGOs addressing these issues are now at the forefront of civil society development in many former communist countries. The ODIHR has an essential role to play in working with NGO and government partners on a long-term strategy for empowerment of women and developing frameworks for equal opportunities and protection of women’s rights.

The ODIHR Gender Unit collaborates closely with other units to look at the implications of their work from a gender perspective, with the mainstreaming of ODIHR projects conducted at all stages of project design and implementation.

Kazakhstan: Raising women’s rights awareness

The Women’s Rights Awareness project is a sustainable and strategic initiative designed to address discrimination and abuses of women’s rights in Kazakhstan. It includes two components: the provision of widespread education for women on gender equality through a specially trained team of NGO trainers and support to NGO leaders and journalists on creating an effective public awareness raising and lobbying network.

The project, which has been conducted in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Almaty, has provided the first extensive training on gender equality in regions of Kazakhstan. It has used a board of local NGO and government representatives to advise on project design, evaluation and long-term planning. It was designed in response to lack of knowledge among women about their right to equality and means to address discrimination. The implementation of

the education component began in April with the design of a training curriculum on gender and women’s rights in co-operation with the Russian NGO, FALTA and local NGO experts. In June, a training of 24 trainers drawn from women’s NGOs across Kazakhstan was conducted by FALTA. This provided interactive training skills on topics including gender equality, women’s civil and political rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence and trafficking. Trainers then worked in several regions of Kazakhstan to conduct training of key groups including media representatives, students, members of NGOs, local government and law enforcement representatives.

A specialist team of trainers worked with students in Almaty. The project generated an extremely strong response from both trainers and participants and has developed the basis for an extensive and active network on gender issues. NGOs working on the project made recommendations for follow-up which will include additional skills on network building and lobbying and measures to address discrimination at community level. It is also planned to support the development of specific networks and NGOs for young women.

In November, a strategy session for NGO leaders, journalists and government representatives built on the regional training by providing skills on leadership and the opportunity to identify strategic priorities and activities to raise awareness on women’s rights in the media and among the government.

The project was funded by a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands.

Kyrgyzstan: Women’s leadership and advocacy training

The ODIHR this year conducted a major training project aimed at supporting the development of a widespread and effective network working to increase women’s political role and status in Kyrgyz society. The project included a special focus on increasing involvement of young women in public life. The project initiated the development of a strategic approach to increasing women’s political participation in the Kyrgyz context. It increased the capacity of women leaders to lobby on gender related legal framework and equality of opportunity and helped developing active networks of women working throughout all the regions of Kyrgyzstan

During the first phase of the project, seven training seminars, including separate training sessions for young women, took place in all regions of Kyrgyzstan. The seminars reached over 400 women and identified new

activists in all regions. The training was carried out in co-operation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The second phase consisted of leadership, network building and advocacy training for selected women activists from the regions and focused on promoting gender equality and increasing the involvement of women in public life. In addition, it brought established women NGO leaders and parliamentarians together with new activists to develop lobbying strategies on draft gender related legislation.

The project is funded through a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan: Legal reform on women’s rights

An ODIHR expert reviewed a broad range of legislation in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and made recommendations for legislative and policy measures to address discrimination against women and ensure protection of their rights. The review in both countries was conducted under projects agreed in the Memoranda of Understanding concluded between the ODIHR and the Governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

In Kyrgyzstan, the ODIHR provided extensive recommendations on a draft gender equality law. The reviews also looked at related legislation including labour and employment law, family law and criminal law and procedure codes, with a view to developing a comprehensive framework for the protection of rights of women according to ratified international law in both countries.

The work on the legal reform complemented the ODIHR projects on women’s rights awareness in Kazakhstan and women’s leadership and advocacy in Kyrgyzstan. In Kyrgyzstan, training sessions on lobbying and networking building were used to spread knowledge of the draft laws on gender equality and domestic violence and to create civil society support.

Follow-up to the legal review included intensive work by an ODIHR expert on draft domestic violence legislation prepared by NGOs in Kyrgyzstan. The ODIHR expert visited Kyrgyzstan, including the Osh and Naryn provinces, to work with involved NGOs on the draft law and implementation strategies.

The legislative review projects formed part of the European Commission-ODIHR Programme in Central Asia and were funded through voluntary contributions from Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Uzbekistan: Training on monitoring of women's rights

In October, the ODIHR and the OSCE Central Asia Liaison Office in Tashkent conducted a training course for members of NGOs and government bodies on techniques of reporting and documenting women's rights issues and cases of discrimination against women. Experts conducted a five day training on practical techniques and worked with participants to identify issues for monitoring and analysis. Following the training, the participants used the acquired skills to monitor and report on the issues identified during the workshop.

The project was funded by a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands.

Azerbaijan: Training on women's leadership and political participation

In view of the November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, the ODIHR held a training workshop for women politicians, NGOs and Government representatives in Baku on 26-28 April. Experts from Bosnia-Herzegovina conducted a training on leadership, lobbying and coalition building for women. The workshop highlighted the extent of discrimination against women in politics and means available to address this issue through co-operation between different political parties and with civil society.

The aim of the second phase of the ODIHR training project, which brought together women party members, NGO representatives and journalists in Baku on 10-12 July, was to create a cross party strategy on increasing the number of women candidates within political parties, to develop mechanisms for supporting women candidates and to train NGO and party representatives on lobbying and women's coalition building.

The participants worked out common strategies for campaigning and pre-election lobbying and adopted a joint appeal to the President, the political parties and the public of Azerbaijan, calling for increased involvement of women in decision making and active participation of women in elections. The participants also agreed on a common goal for the future: to increase the number of women among the 125 members of parliament to 30.

The project was supported by a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands.

Azerbaijan: Conference "Say No To Violence"

Within the framework of its project on prevention of violence against women in Azerbaijan, the ODIHR organ-

ized a conference "Say No to Violence" in Baku on 17-18 May. Some 100 participants attended the conference, including a number of high profile local figures active on this issue. The participants welcomed the ODIHR initiative to address the issue of violence against women publicly at high level and underlined the need to develop common recommendations to improve the situation in the country.

The conference was successful in bringing Government and NGO representatives together for the first time to discuss activities aimed at preventing violence against women. It also facilitated the creation of a coalition between different NGOs working in this field and encouraged further co-operation. A comprehensive list of recommendations was jointly developed by the conference participants in order to strengthen the implementation of the national Plan of Action. The participants decided to establish a working group consisting of Government and NGO representatives to ensure proper follow-up to these recommendations. The ODIHR closely monitors this process.

As a part of its project on the prevention of violence against women in Azerbaijan, the ODIHR is also supporting the establishment of crisis centres for women victims of violence in seven regions of Azerbaijan, including Baku.

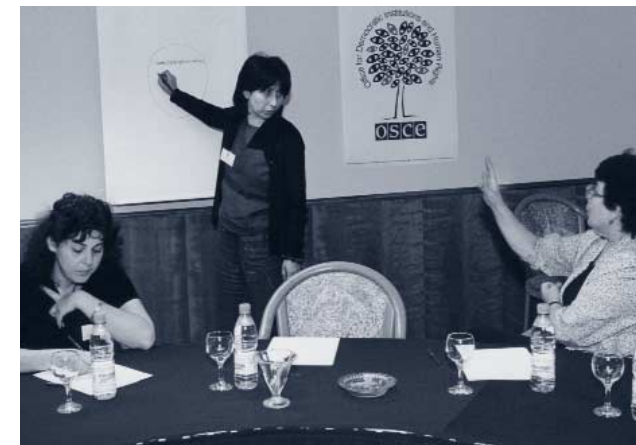
Georgia: ODIHR initiates creation of first women's coalition

A training workshop on women's leadership and coalition building for women NGO leaders initiated the creation of the first women's coalition in Georgia. The workshop was organized by the ODIHR in Tbilisi in June and brought together 30 women from different NGOs. It provided the first opportunity for the participating women to co-operate and develop common goals towards gender equality and a strong visible role for women in political life.

The workshop gave the women useful knowledge on leadership skills, introduced the idea of the women's movement, proved the importance of co-operation among women NGO representatives and initiated the creation of an informal women's round table. The round table has subsequently held regular weekly meetings during the summer to develop a common strategy of work on gender equality in Georgia.

A follow-up workshop in October focused on strengthening coalition initiatives, strategic planning, priorities for co-operation within the coalition, leadership skills

and co-operation between the state and NGOs. Thirty-one women's NGOs participated in the workshop, 23 of which also had taken part in the June training and had worked together during the summer.



FYR of Macedonia: Prevention of domestic violence

A training workshop on prevention of domestic violence for judges and prosecutors was conducted by the NGO ESE in May, supported by the ODIHR, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje and the American Bar Association.

Participants in the women's leadership and coalition building workshop in Georgia

As a result of the workshop, 31 women NGO leaders signed a memorandum on co-operation and agreed on a structure for future coalition work. The coalition aims to create greater gender balance in Georgian society, by means of improving the status of women and their active participation in public life. The project was funded by a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands.

Albania: Education on women's rights and trafficking

A targeted training on women's rights in areas of Albania particularly subject to trafficking was conducted in November in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania. The project created a team of Albanian training experts who are now working in four regions of the country. The project provides comprehensive education for targeted groups, such as youth groups, teachers, journalists, local government and law enforcement representatives, on gender equality and women's rights including domestic violence and trafficking. The project also addresses women's economic inequality and develops practical advocacy and other solutions to abuses of women's rights. The development and implementation of the project drew on local consulting expertise in order to ensure the project was specific to the Albanian context.

The project has created a basis to strengthen civil society and community co-operation to combat abuses of women's rights and discrimination. It has also enhanced the development of women's NGOs outside the capital, Tirana.

This project was supported by a voluntary contribution from Switzerland.

The objective of the training was to generate understanding among the participants on appropriate intervention and treatment of victims by the judicial system and the dynamics and social costs of domestic violence. The seminar also increased support and helped to lobby for a draft legislation on domestic violence prepared by ESE. The intensive training was conducted by Slovenian experts with relevant experience in developing capacity to address domestic violence in a transition context. The training was extremely well received by the participants. The project also provided support to the establishment of a legal aid centre for women in Skopje which is being developed by ESE.

The project was supported by a voluntary contribution from Switzerland.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Every year, an estimated 200,000 persons, mostly women and girls, are trafficked from Eastern Europe and Central Asia primarily to other OSCE countries into conditions amounting to slavery. Trafficking in human beings is one of the most pressing and complex human rights issues in the OSCE region. It reaches across borders to affect nearly every OSCE country.

“Trafficking” includes all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport (within or across borders), sale, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by the threat or use of force, deception, coercion (including abuse of authority), or debt bondage, or the practice of placing or holding such person, whether for pay or not, in involuntary servitude, forced or bonded labour, or in slavery-like conditions, in a community other than the one in which the person lived at the time of the original deception, coercion or debt bondage.

Trafficking is distinct from cases of smuggling and illegal migration in several significant ways. A person can be trafficked within national borders. In some cases trafficked persons may cross national borders legally. Finally, in cases of trafficking, there is an element of threat or use of force, deception or coercion.

Case study: ODIHR intervention leads to return of trafficked women

An intervention by the ODIHR Office in Podgorica led to the release and return of seven Ukrainian women who had been trafficked to Montenegro and forced to work as prostitutes in a Podgorica nightclub.

After receiving information from the Ukrainian branch of the NGO La Strada on the case in mid-January, the ODIHR through its Office in Podgorica informed the Montenegrin Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs of the believed whereabouts of the women in a named nightclub, where they were subsequently found by the police. The women told the ODIHR that they had been held against their will and forced to work as prostitutes. One of the Ukrainian women, using a client's mobile phone, had been able to contact her mother who then asked La Strada for help.

The ODIHR Office in Podgorica arranged for the women to be accommodated in a women's shelter before

they were brought out of the country. The Ukrainian representation in Belgrade, with whom the Office was in contact, arranged for their citizens to be transported back to Ukraine by train. La Strada further contacted Ukrainian border authorities to inform them of the situation and ensure that the women safely reached Kiev. On 20 January, La Strada informed the ODIHR that the seven Ukrainian women had arrived in Ukraine.

This example confirms many of the patterns that are recognizable in numerous similar trafficking cases. Apparently, some of the women had been issued legal entry or residence permits based on an official invitation from an association for artists in Belgrade. One woman had been promised a sales job in Italy, but was sold directly to the nightclub by the Ukrainian trafficker who drove her to Montenegro. The women reported that they were forced to service clients in the nightclub from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. every night, that they had to sleep on the floor in the cellar and were given one hamburger per day. If any woman refused to work, she was reportedly beaten and sold to traffickers in Albania. At least one woman suffers serious health problems arising from her trafficking experience. Moreover, it appears from the testimony of several of the women that traffickers take advantage of complicity in local administrations. The information provided by the women is further evidence that organized trafficking in women is taking place in the region with impunity.

Russia: ODIHR and Russian MFA initiate joint measures to combat trafficking

On 14-16 February, an ODIHR delegation headed by the Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, met with Russian authorities, NGOs and media representatives to discuss the problem of trafficking in the Russian Federation and to begin exploring areas for potential co-operation. As an outcome of those preliminary meetings, the ODIHR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Humanitarian Co-operation and Human Rights) agreed to work together in both the short and longer term to raise public awareness of the problem of trafficking and to assist in enhancing the national legislation available to combat trafficking.

As a follow-up, Russian government officials and key Russian NGOs met in Moscow on 14 July to discuss trafficking in human beings and possible ways to collaborate in the future to address this growing problem. The round table meeting was organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the roundtable discussions, it was stressed that anti-trafficking initiatives could not be successful with-

out the support of NGOs and local governments and that all actors involved need to find common ground and to set priorities for their future co-operative efforts. The role of international organizations in facilitating dialogue between different national actors and providing support for future activities was highlighted. ODIHR Director Stoudmann stressed the need for a co-ordinated response to urgent cases of trafficking. He also emphasized the need for legislative reform in order to prosecute traffickers more effectively and to protect victims and their families.

Moldova: Round table on trafficking

On 26-27 September, Moldovan government officials, NGOs, relevant international organizations and donors met in Chisinau in order to raise awareness of the problem of trafficking in Moldova and to exchange information about current and proposed activities to combat trafficking with the aim of increasing co-ordination rather than duplication of efforts and resource allocation. The round table also served to formulate recommendations for the National Commission to incorporate into a strategic national plan. The conference, entitled Evaluation, Prioritization and Co-ordination of National and International Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Moldova, was a joint effort of the ODIHR, OSCE Mission to Moldova, Moldovan Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Council of Europe and International Organization for Migration. It was supported by a voluntary contribution from the United States of America.

Ukraine: ODIHR activities to prevent trafficking

In 2000, the ODIHR carried out a joint project with the International Organization for Migration office in Kiev aimed at constituting, establishing and supporting a National Council to Prevent Trafficking in Ukraine which is responsible for developing, overseeing and co-ordinating a national strategy and activities to combat trafficking in human beings. Activities under the project included regional training seminars, dissemination of trafficking prevention materials, assessment of anti-trafficking legislation and development of bilateral links between Ukraine and key destination countries such as Belgium, Greece, Italy and Turkey.

The ODIHR also implemented two separate projects which support information and counselling hotlines and related activities by the NGO La Strada-Ukraine. Objectives of the projects included providing information to potential victims and their families about the risks and consequences of migrating and working abroad, advising them on how to protect themselves against traffick-

ing, counselling and assisting victims of trafficking and their families, collecting and disseminating information on trafficking patterns and trends and raising public awareness about the problem of trafficking in Ukraine. The ODIHR supported La Strada's Kyiv hotline throughout the year 2000. Also in the second half of 2000, the ODIHR supported a project in which La Strada trained five regional NGOs to advertise and provide hotline services throughout Ukraine. The ODIHR activities in Ukraine were supported by voluntary contributions from the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Poland: Training for professionals in border regions

The ODIHR supported the Polish NGO La Strada in developing and implementing a series of six training workshops with the objective of raising awareness about the issue of trafficking in human beings among groups of professionals in border regions of Poland. The target audience included social workers, journalists, law enforcement officials and border guards. The workshops aimed to provide appropriate information about trafficking in human beings and to present legal, social and economic aspects of the phenomenon. Particularly, practical guidelines on dealing with trafficked persons at all stages of their contact with law enforcement officials were presented. The implementation of the project began in 1999 following the identification of training as a key element for any anti-trafficking activities at a La Strada Awareness Raising Conference.

The project was funded by a voluntary contribution by the United Kingdom, while three additional workshops were funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

South Eastern Europe: ODIHR chairs Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings

Dr. Helga Konrad, a former Austrian Minister for Women's Affairs, has been seconded to the ODIHR to chair the Stability Pact Task Force as “Co-ordinator, Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings”. With Minister Konrad serving in this capacity, the OSCE is taking up the role assigned to it during the Oslo inaugural meeting of Working Table 3 of the Stability Pact for South East Europe.

Initial contacts have been made with other relevant international organizations active on this issue in South Eastern Europe, in particular the United Nations, Council of Europe, International Organization for Migration and Southeast European Cooperative Initiative. From 29 June to 1 July 2000 in Greece, the ODIHR joined the

Council of Europe, UNHCHR and others in the international seminar Co-ordinated Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe. The goal of this seminar was to assist governmental representatives to develop recommendations for national action and to identify areas for co-ordinated activities at the regional level. As a result of three working groups, national and regional action plans to combat trafficking were developed. Recommendations from the action plans may be implemented in the future through the Stability Pact Task Force.

The newly established Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings met for the first time in Vienna on 18 September. At the meeting, Dr. Konrad presented a proposed Action Plan for initial activities, including a joint ODIHR-IOM data collection project and a joint ODIHR-Council of Europe legislative review project. The meeting identified a number of key areas of concern on which the task force will concentrate its initial efforts.

The 100 participants from governments of the region, the Stability Pact Secretariat, OSCE structures and institutions and international organizations and NGOs, underlined the necessity for enhanced regional co-operation and concrete action on the issue of trafficking. They stressed the importance of involving the governments of South Eastern Europe in all efforts to combat trafficking. In this context, participants welcomed the proposal made by the Chair of the Task Force that governments nominate co-ordinators on trafficking at high level in order to co-ordinate national activities and to ensure regional and international co-operation. It was pointed out that these co-ordinators should also be provided with the necessary political authority and support. Participants also emphasized that training for the judiciary, police, civil servants and NGOs is crucial to combating trafficking, as is improving anti-trafficking legislation.

Research and data collection on trafficking to, through and from the Balkans:

This project will provide a comprehensive database on trafficking in human beings to, through and from the Balkan region. This information will provide institutions and authorities involved in combating trafficking in human beings and assisting its victims with the factual information they need to devise relevant policies, legislation and procedures.

Country specific reports will be collected and analysed by the project management and published as a report on

the existing facts on trafficking to, through and from the Balkans. This is a joint project with the International Organization for Migration and is funded through voluntary contributions from Switzerland and the United States of America.

Montenegro: Anti-trafficking activities

After the ODIHR Office in Montenegro in January had been faced with cases of trafficking for the first time, the Office began to initiate projects on combating trafficking in women, supporting the process of capacity building of the domestic NGO "Women's Lobby" and strengthening co-operation between State authorities, NGOs and international organizations and networking among NGOs.

A round table on trafficking in women was organized by the ODIHR Office in Podgorica in co-operation with "Women's Lobby" on 18 April. The purpose of the meeting was to draw public attention to trafficking issues, to exchange information and to discuss future activities and networking. Participants in the round table included NGO representatives from Ukraine, Romania, Serbia and Albania as well as officials from the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior.

The round table was successful in laying the groundwork for the development of further activities in Montenegro. It illustrated the need for continued support in terms of substance of the work, regional and international networking and financial assistance. The meeting also highlighted the importance of a regional approach in addressing this issue.

As a follow-up to the round table, the ODIHR Office invited members of "Women's Lobby" to Sarajevo to exchange experiences and discuss a regional approach to combating trafficking, with representatives from the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Police Task Force and NGOs.

Albania: Course on women's rights developed for police training

The ODIHR substantially contributed to the development of a new police training course to be added to the curricula of police training programmes in Albania. The course, Policing the Rights of Women: Domestic Violence, Prostitution and Trafficking, is the first course in Albania to sensitize police officers on issues of gender and provide them with guidance under international conventions and domestic law on the treatment of women who are victims of domestic violence and trafficking.

Developing the course materials was a collaborative effort. A local advisory board was formed and included members of local NGOs, a human rights training specialist from the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as curriculum development experts from the police training facilities. The efforts were co-ordinated by the ODIHR and the OSCE Presence in Albania.

The course will now become part of the new nine-month police basic training programme of the Multi-Advisory Police Element (MAPE) of the Western European Union in Albania. It will also become part of the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), sponsored by the US Department of Justice. In addition, the course is being considered for inclusion in the training course for police recruits at the National Police Academy and the border police training programme.

The project was funded by a voluntary contribution from Norway.

Romania: Round table on trafficking

A round table on trafficking in human beings was organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice. Governmental representatives and NGOs met in Bucharest on 30 October to participate in a constructive dialogue on ways to combat trafficking in human beings in Romania. Among the high level participants were Mr. Valeriu Stoica, Minister of Justice, and Ms. Nadia Constantinescu, Counsellor at the Ministry of Justice.

Both governmental and non-governmental representatives stressed the need to combine their efforts, to enhance their co-operation, as well as to share information on the discussed topics. There was a common understanding that the dialogue started at the round table should be institutionalized and lead to the development and implementation of a strategic national action plan. The participants identified the exigency of short- and long-term goals for the joint combat of trafficking in human beings. The round table was funded by a voluntary contribution from the United States of America.

Central Asia: Research on trafficking

In Kazakhstan, the ODIHR supported the development and implementation of an educational programme for at-risk women and girls and their families in the Russian and Kazakh languages aimed at raising public awareness of trafficking. The project was implemented by the Crisis Centre for Women and Children. The Centre also carried out a preliminary review of current legislation avail-

able to combat trafficking in Kazakhstan and prepared information material. Another important component of the project was working with mass media to raise awareness among the general public.

In Kyrgyzstan, the ODIHR has carried out a joint project with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to identify the incidence of, and potential for, trafficking in women in Kyrgyzstan. The project also aims to assess the existing policy, legislation and other mechanisms in place to prevent and combat trafficking in women. The final project report will include recommendations for national policies, regional co-operation and follow-up programmes and initiatives.

In autumn 2000, a research project was launched together with the IOM in Tajikistan. On a regional level, the results of this project will add to the information gathered during the Kyrgyzstan research project. On a national level, it will serve as a basis for a co-ordinated, strategic plan to combat trafficking in Tajikistan. First results of the research are expected to be available in spring 2001.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT/MIGRATION

Recent conflicts in the OSCE region have resulted in the displacement of 7.5 million people. Their plight is a major human dimension concern. Many more have moved due to reasons associated with economic transition.

The ODIHR's work in this field is based on the premise that weak legal systems and deficiencies in democratic governance especially adversely affect all categories of migrants and, in particular, those who had to flee places of their previous residence.

The ODIHR seeks to enhance respect for human rights of migrants by improving human rights standards among border service officers, by providing training on international standards and by advising on appropriate organizational structures. The Office also assists participating States in improving their population registration systems to ensure non-discrimination against all categories of migrants.

Kazakhstan: Government-NGO meeting on freedom of movement

Kazakhstan is among the few OSCE participating States that continue to require their citizens to obtain exit visas. This was one of the main topics for discussion at a Government-NGO meeting on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence, organized in Almaty on 13-14 March by the ODIHR in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Almaty and the Kazakh International Bureau for Human Rights.

Kyrgyz border guards on a study visit to Poland

issue of internal registration. A number of recommendations, aimed at simplifying the legal and administrative procedures for internal registration in Kazakhstan, were developed.

The ODIHR continues to follow the issues related to freedom of movement in Kazakhstan and, in particular, the implementation of the recommendations made at the Almaty Government-NGO meeting.

Kyrgyzstan: Launch of border guards training

The first phase of an ODIHR border guards training project was accomplished on 17-18 March, with a needs assessment visit to Kyrgyzstan by the ODIHR Freedom of Movement/Migration Adviser and Major Grzegorz Zygnier, lecturer in law at the Polish Border Guards Training Centre. The needs assessment mission met with a number of senior officials and visited the Training Centre of the Main Directorate of Border Defence. The mission concluded that, should the ongoing process of delimitation and demarcation of borders in Central Asia continue, border guards will have an important role to play in dealing with persons travelling throughout the region. Border guards also have an important role in law enforcement in border areas. Finally, the refurbishment and expansion of Bishkek airport, then ongoing, is expected to bring more travellers to and from Kyrgyzstan.



The first training components took place on 26-30 June when a group of Kyrgyz border officials visited Poland to study the successful reform of the Polish Border Service, which has been transformed from a military structure under the Ministry of Defence to a "border police"

under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Kyrgyz border guards visited the Polish Border Guards Training Centre in Ketrzyn in order to learn about the structures and tasks of the Centre. They also visited a checkpoint at the Polish-Slovak border, where practical information was provided on dealing with cases of irregular migrants, illegal border crossing and regular passport and customs controls. At Warsaw airport, the delegation was briefed on the legislative basis and practical functioning of the airport's checkpoint as well as on security measures and the rights and responsibilities of customs, border and security officers.

As a next step, Polish border service experts will visit Kyrgyzstan to train a wider group of border officials. These will then serve as trainers at their respective duty stations. The needs assessment visit was facilitated by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) office in Bishkek. The IOM, together with the United States of America, also contributed financially to the subsequent phases of the project.

South Caucasus: Regional workshop on internal displacement

There are an estimated one million persons who have been forcibly displaced within the countries of the South Caucasus as a result of armed conflicts in the region between 1989 and 1994. Unlike refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) lack an internationally established protection system and primary responsibility for their security and well being lies with national authorities.

To promote more effective solutions to the issue of internal displacement in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ODIHR organized a Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement in the South Caucasus in collaboration with the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement. The workshop took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 10-12 May. The main purpose of the workshop was to inform Governments and NGOs in the region of relevant international standards and guidelines, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, to promote their application and to stimulate the development of institutional and legal frameworks for addressing internal displacement.

Some 80 participants attended the workshop, including government delegations of the three South Caucasian countries, the Representative of the UN Secretary General on IDPs, Dr. Francis Deng, local and international NGOs, international organizations, as well as sponsoring organizations and international experts in the field.

The participants reviewed the situation and specific needs of IDPs in the region and discussed the role that Governments, regional organizations, NGOs and international organizations can play in addressing these issues. It was emphasized that the right of IDPs to return to the place of their previous residence and the opportunity to exercise at the place of their current residence the full range of rights to which they are entitled as citizens of their State are not mutually exclusive notions. Follow-up measures suggested by the participants include the review of legislation to ensure compliance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and an expanded NGO-Government dialogue on issues related to internal displacement.

The project was supported by voluntary contributions from Norway and the United States of America.

Armenia: Working group on registration issues established

In April, the inter-agency working group on registration issues, which was established following the July 1999 ODIHR workshop on the registration of permanent residents, met for the first time in Yerevan. The meeting was attended by the ODIHR Freedom of Movement/Migration Adviser, the ODIHR civil registration expert, Mr. Dan Christensen, and a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and other Government agencies.

The participants agreed that the present registration system – providing for three different types of registration – was inefficient and confusing. It was suggested to introduce national ID numbers as a basis for a new registration system. The national census scheduled for 2001 would provide a good opportunity to proceed with this project. In the shorter term, it was agreed to better coordinate ongoing efforts by different branches of the administration developing separate registration lists for their respective purposes and to augment the working group with representatives from other agencies dealing with registration issues.

Since April the working group has been meeting on a regular basis under the aegis of the OSCE Centre in Yerevan. The group has identified and analysed a pilot population registration project in Charentsevan, a small industrial town in central Armenia, and has been developing a concept for introduction of national ID numbers and relevant accompanying legislation. The ODIHR has been supporting the working group by providing relevant legislation from other OSCE countries and discussing on-going issues with the group. The project was supported by a voluntary contribution from Norway.

Ukraine: Training visits to Poland for border officials

As part of an ongoing ODIHR project on the reform of Ukraine's Border Service, a group of Ukrainian border officials visited Poland on 23-26 October.

An intensive program had been prepared in collaboration with the office of the Commandant-in-Chief of the Polish Border Service. The Ukrainian delegation visited two checkpoints at the Polish-German border and saw first-hand the joint Polish-German passport and customs controls. The delegation was given practical information about the functioning of the checkpoints in general and in particular about dealing with cases of irregular migrants and attempted illegal border crossing. Polish border guards briefed their Ukrainian counterparts about the tasks and challenges they face.

Additionally, the visit included discussions between Polish and Ukrainian border officials on the more efficient protection of the common border in the light of future European Union enlargement – Poland being a candidate for accession to the EU. A second group of Ukrainian border officials, comprising legal instructors, was due to attend a training in Poland in November. The project was funded by a voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

Ukraine: Seminar on data protection in state registers

A seminar entitled "Protection of personal data in the state registers in Ukraine", organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, was held on 23-24 October in Kyiv. The seminar was held within the framework of the ODIHR project on legislative review and a newly launched project on registration of permanent residents in Ukraine. The participants included representatives of the Presidential Administration, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Court, Security Council of Ukraine, relevant committees of the Parliament and international experts in this field.

The agenda included presentations on international standards on data protection, ways of reforming the propiska system and creation of a state population register in Ukraine. An ODIHR representative presented the new project on reform of the registration system in Ukraine. ODIHR experts spoke about the compatibility of Ukraine's draft law on the state register with the international standards on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence and data protection. In the closing discussion participants developed a number of concrete recommendations on the draft legislation.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

The strengthening of civil society in countries in transition is a main focus of the ODIHR's democratization activities. Through a number of assistance projects, it seeks to establish constructive dialogue between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government or state representatives on legislation affecting the civil society and on important human rights issues.

In post-conflict areas, the ODIHR brings together actors from the different parties involved in order to support reconciliation efforts. In addition, it builds public awareness of national human rights provisions through support for the production of educational TV and radio programmes. Finally, the ODIHR enhances the capacity of NGOs and facilitates their participation in major OSCE events such as Summits, Review Conferences or Human Dimension Meetings and Seminars.

Kazakhstan: Civil Society Assistance Project

The first NGO-Government round table under the Civil Society Assistance Project in Kazakhstan took place on 13-14 April in Almaty and was devoted to freedom of movement issues (see Chapter "Freedom of Movement/Migration").

The second NGO-Government round table was held in Astana on 31 October - 1 November and addressed the subject of "Human Rights Education in Kazakhstan". The objective of the meeting was to raise the importance of human rights education in Kazakhstan and to persuade the Government of Kazakhstan to include a human rights education component into the curriculum of the primary and secondary schools of the country. The meeting was also aimed at enhancing co-ordination between several of the actors in this process, including NGOs and international organizations on the ground.

The round table was organized jointly with the OSCE Centre in Almaty and the Conflict Management Centre of Almaty. It was attended by local and international NGOs, governmental institutions, including the Ministry of Education, the Human Rights Commission and the Constitutional Council, as well as by international organizations such as the European Union, UNESCO and UNDP.

The project was supported by voluntary contributions from Norway and Denmark.

Uzbekistan: Human rights monitoring and reporting training

The ODIHR jointly with the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia has successfully completed the implementation of the Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Training Programme in Uzbekistan aimed at developing practical skills in monitoring and reporting, as well as increasing contacts and networking among local human rights activists. Two trainers from the Polish Helsinki Foundation and one from the International League for Human Rights led the training which took place over three sessions and was attended by 25 persons from NGOs and Government institutions.



dards. A total of 16 radio programmes, each lasting 20 minutes, were broadcast nationwide throughout the year. Due to positive audience reply, it was decided to rebroadcast the programmes four times a week instead of once a week as originally planned.

In co-operation with the Institute for Human Rights of Azerbaijan, the ODIHR has completed the production and broadcast of a television series, aimed at raising public awareness on human rights issues. A total of 12 TV programmes each lasting 45 minutes were aired on local SPACE TV throughout the country.

The project was supported by a voluntary contribution from Germany.

Participants in the ODIHR human rights training in Uzbekistan

As a result of the success of this programme, which was funded by a voluntary contribution from Germany, the ODIHR is planning to carry out similar training in other Central Asian countries.

Armenia: Public awareness TV programmes on human rights

The ODIHR, jointly with the Civil Society Development Union of Armenia, has continued the production and broadcast of a series of public awareness TV programmes, each devoted to a specific human rights issue. This year the following six issues were covered: freedom of press, freedom of movement, the new judicial system, freedom of religion, rights of children and access to information.

The project was funded by a voluntary contribution from Germany.

Azerbaijan: Public awareness radio and TV programmes on human rights

In co-operation with BBC World Service, the ODIHR produced and broadcast a series of public awareness radio programmes, aimed at explaining basic human rights as per national legislation and international stan-

Georgia: Public awareness radio programmes on human rights

The ODIHR, together with two local radio stations and the OSCE Mission in Georgia produced and broadcast a series of radio programmes on human rights under the Public Awareness Project in Georgia. The radio programmes covered such topics as pre-trial detention, rights of religious minorities and children rights. The series was broadcast nationwide in Georgian and Russian.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief

A newly restructured ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief was established at the beginning of 2000, as a result of recommendations emerging from the 1999 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief and with the strong encouragement of the then Chairman-in-Office (Norway). The Panel serves as an advisory and consultative body to the ODIHR for advancing freedom of religion in the OSCE area; its members participate in activities to this end. A Contact Group of six members constitutes the core of the Panel and is responsible for co-ordinating the Panel's activities and for liaison with the ODIHR. The Panel is structured into three thematic Working Groups, each dealing with a set of key issues:

Working Group 1: Conflict Prevention and Dialogue

Co-chairs:

Reverend Rüdiger Noll,
Conference of European Churches,
Moderator of the Contact Group
Dr. Bahja Tahzib-Lie, Ministry
of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Working Group 2: Legislative Issues

Co-chairs:

Professor W. Cole Durham,
Brigham Young University
Dr. Sophie C. Van Bijsterveld,
Katholieke Universiteit Brabant

Working Group 3: Education/Awareness for Tolerance

Co-chairs:

Professor Emmanuel Agius,
University of Malta
Dr. Jolanta J. Ambrosewicz,
Jagiellonian University

Contact Group members met twice in Warsaw in 2000, on 9-10 February and 23-24 October. The 23 members of the full panel do not meet as a group, but conduct their work within the Working Groups, in general communicating by electronic means. The Panel proposes projects and initiatives, ensures that the ODIHR's work in these fields is well founded and soundly based and keeps the ODIHR informed of developments and concerns in the area of freedom of religion or belief. Its members may also make themselves available to assist with project implementation or other activities. During 2000, the Panel supported the ODIHR in implementing the following projects:

Expert roundtable on ethnic and religious tolerance in Armenia

Co-organized by the ODIHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the

24-25 May roundtable brought together representatives of ethnic and religious groups, NGOs, state officials and local and international experts. Participants discussed general issues of religious and ethnic tolerance and also addressed the role of legislation, public education and mass media in the promotion of tolerance. International commitments and practices in these areas were presented by various participants. The expert roundtable – the first event of its kind in Armenia – adopted a number of concrete recommendations aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and tolerance education. As a follow-up, experts of the Advisory Panel are preparing a chapter on tolerance for a new human rights textbook for Armenian secondary schools.

The law on the position of religious communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina

This project is intended to enhance the implementation of commitments in the area of freedom of religion or belief by developing a legal framework to regulate the status of the country's religious associations and provide protection to all denominations. A draft law was prepared by experts of the Advisory Panel and discussed with representatives of the major religious denominations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, members of the Inter-religious Council, as well as other national and international agencies. The draft law is currently being finalized and will be submitted to the new Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina for consideration.

Legislative database on freedom of religion or belief

The database will be a compilation of legislation from OSCE participating States covering issues such as the status of religious organizations, rights to conduct religious activities and restitution of confiscated property. A number of prospective partners – researchers, academic institutions, international organizations and government bodies – are involved in the implementation of this project. Once operational, the database will be accessible to the public through the Internet.

Conferences

Members of the Advisory Panel co-organized or participated in a number of conferences in their capacity as members of the Panel. These included:

- “From the Policy of State Atheism to the Liberty of Conscience” (Moscow, 23-26 May);
- UNESCO International Congress on Inter-religious Dialogue and the Culture of Peace (Tashkent, 14-18 September);
- Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Baku, 26-27 October).

ODIHR OFFICE IN MONTENEGRO

Pursuant to the observation of the May 1998 parliamentary elections in Montenegro, the ODIHR was requested by the authorities to remain represented in Montenegro through a local office. The ODIHR remained on the ground with a small international representation that was temporarily closed during the Kosovo war. Following the end of the armed conflict, the office was re-opened and expanded. It now operates with 5 international and 4 local staff and a representative of the Council of Europe. The Office is headed by Mr. Julian Peel Yates (UK).

Apart from observing the municipal bi-elections on 11 June this year, the office has been engaged in maintaining contacts with leaders of Government, opposition and civil society, as well as in monitoring and analysing domestic political developments. In the field of democratization the office pursued numerous activities, notably in the fields of:

Legal reform

The Office reviewed new legislation and shared relevant concerns with the Government. It has participated in working groups tasked with drafting the Law on Public Prosecutor and draft Law on Petty Crimes. It also supported and advised various government agencies and ministries on legal reform issues and is represented in the steering board for the establishment of a human rights centre. Also, the concept and rationale of a national human rights institution was introduced through an ODIHR-sponsored conference on the issue that was held on 13-14 April in Podgorica. The Ombudsman of Slovenia and representatives of the Ombudsman offices in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece and Sweden explained the role of their institutions. The Office has assisted in the training of young lawyers, who started to work for the Ministry of Justice.

Gender issues

The Office organized monthly meetings with women's NGOs, in order to clarify and discuss issues such as women and media, women's right, women in politics, legal advice and support and social welfare. The Office has also been implementing the “women in politics” programme of the Gender Task Force under the Stability Pact. This included strategy sessions with women leaders, a donors meeting and the organization of a training programme in the two municipalities that were conducting by-elections in June. In January, the office organized a meeting on the issue of domestic violence.

Trafficking in Human Beings

This issue was high on the agenda of the Montenegro office throughout 2000, starting with a successful intervention in January to ensure the safe repatriation of women who were trafficked from Ukraine to Montenegro. A roundtable on the issue was held on 18-19 April and the Office was engaged in consultations with the authorities and NGOs and is closely co-operating with other agencies and countries under the ODIHR Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings. The Office also prepared a report on this issue.

Media

The Office served as a channel for support grants for independent media outlets, provided by international donors. It also co-financed a conference on “Truth, Responsibility and Reconciliation” for the whole region of former Yugoslavia organized by ANEM, as well as the training of members of the South East Europe Network for Professionalisation of the Media (SEENPM), also organised by ANEM.

Municipalities

The office prepared a comprehensive report on the 21 municipalities of Montenegro, in preparation of a visiting programme of mayors to Austria, to be followed by project partnerships between municipalities from other countries and those in Montenegro.

Roma

The office monitored the situation of Roma, notably of those who are refugees from Kosovo.

The Office and its projects were supported by Austria, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as secondments by Austria, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY PROJECTS

The ODIHR grassroots programme was established in 1999 to encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democracy through low-cost, high-impact microprojects. Through this programme, the ODIHR provides support and funding to specific projects across the human dimension, highlighting co-operation between OSCE field offices and local actors.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To encourage the development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democratization as a conflict-prevention and -resolution tool;
- To support and expand the human rights and democratization work of OSCE missions and field offices, in co-operation with the ODIHR;
- To provide a regular source of support for grassroots human rights and democracy initiatives developed by OSCE missions and field offices in their local areas.

In 2000, the programme was expanded as a result of its success and 20 grassroots projects were implemented in co-operation with 13 OSCE field offices, through ODIHR core budget funding and through a generous voluntary contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency.

The following grassroots projects were implemented in 2000:

ARMENIA

Human Rights Education; To include human rights in the national school curriculum by the creation and provision of a textbook on human rights; OSCE Centre in Yerevan;

AZERBAIJAN

Media Coverage of the Election; To assist in developing an objective media approach to election campaigns by providing training to journalists on impartial reporting of elections; Council of Europe / ODIHR;

BELARUS

Newsletter for Association of Journalists; To promote democracy by increasing public access to unbiased information and participation in civil society; OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus;

CHECHNYA

Legal Assistance to IDPs from Chechnya; To train “protection officers” from the Northern Caucasus and to provide legal assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs); OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya / Russian human rights NGOs “Memorial” and “Civic Assistance Committee”;

CROATIA

Public Diplomacy and the Media; To increase awareness among journalists of the role of the media in democracies and, in particular, the importance of objective analysis and the dissemination of unbiased material; OSCE Mission to Croatia;

ESTONIA

Assistance to the Estonian Law Centre in Establishing a Centre for the Study of Constitutional Law; To educate Estonian lawyers on the practical use of the European Convention of Human Rights and procedures before the European Court of Human Rights; OSCE Mission to Estonia / Estonian Law Centre / British Estonian Latvian Lithuanian Law Association (BELLLA);

FYROM

National Plan of Political Empowerment of Women in Macedonia: Support to Stability Pact Gender Task Force Conference; To increase political participation of women by implementing the Gender Task Force Plan and initiating a programme of training for women;

KAZAKHSTAN

Broad Coalition against Corruption; To combat corruption in Kazakhstan by: improving legislation, ratification of international conventions against corruption, enhancing of the role of civil society and making corruption an issue in mass media; OSCE Centre in Almaty/ NGO “Transparency Kazakhstan”;

Free Legal Aid / Consultations for Women Victims of Domestic Violence; To prevent domestic violence against women and to strengthen social and legal status of women in the family, through the provision of free legal aid; OSCE Centre in Almaty / Association of Women-Lawyers of Kazakhstan;

Local Self-government Assistance Project; To elaborate practical recommendations for the development of local self-government, such as possible changes to existing legislation and mechanisms for generating income for local budgets; OSCE Centre in Almaty;

Development of a Strategy on the Implementation of the Convention on Access to Information and Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (three regions of Kazakhstan); To broaden discussion at local level on development of procedures for obtaining information and participation of the public in decision-making; OSCE Centre in Almaty;

KYRGYZSTAN

NGO National Conference; To promote the development of civil society through national co-ordination among NGOs; OSCE Centre in Bishkek;

Summer School for Law Students; To promote respect for and knowledge of, international law and commitments among students through a special summer programme; OSCE Centre in Bishkek;

LATVIA

Publication of Three Brochures “10 Questions about Social Integration in Latvia” in Latvian, Russian and English to be distributed at Latvian Secondary Schools; To promote national integration by providing basic information and educational material on integration of society; OSCE Mission to Latvia / Local Naturalisation Board;

LITHUANIA

Workshop on the Observation of the Parliamentary Election; To provide theoretical and practical knowledge on democratic election matters for media and political party representatives from Belarus; OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus / General Election Committee / MFA of Lithuania / Lithuanian Journalism Centre;

MOLDOVA

Conference on Free Circulation of Information; To engage journalists in confidence building and free circulation of information on both sides of the Dniester River; To establish a joint Transnistrian-Moldovan journalists’ NGO; OSCE Mission to Moldova / NGO “VIDOINI”;

Debating for Peace and Democracy; To increase awareness and training in non-violent conflict resolution in Moldova and Transnistria and set up debate clubs to further discussion on and dissemination of, constructive solutions; OSCE Mission to Moldova;

Assistance to Commission on the Reform of Criminal Procedural Code; To provide a Russian translation to speed up the adoption of a new Criminal Code; OSCE Mission to Moldova;

Confidence Building Measures in Transnistrian Conflict; To build confidence and abolish enemy images in history education; OSCE Mission to Moldova;

UZBEKISTAN

NGO-Government Meeting in Samarkand; To promote co-operation between NGOs and Government by building networks of local NGOs and examining suggestions to improve their relationship with the Government; OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia.

ROMA AND SINTI

The Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) was established at the ODIHR following a decision by the 1994 Budapest Summit. It was tasked to act as a clearing-house for the exchange of information on Roma and Sinti issues, including information on the implementation of commitments pertaining to Roma and Sinti and to develop, maintain and facilitate contacts on Roma and Sinti issues among participating States, OSCE institutions, other international organizations and NGOs.

In December 1998, the OSCE Ministerial Council decided to strengthen the Contact Point and to broaden its mandate. Subsequently, an Adviser solely devoted to Roma and Sinti Issues was appointed by the ODIHR in May 1999. Within the Contact Point, the Roma and Sinti Adviser is currently assisted by two additional staff. On the basis of its broadened mandate, the Contact Point in 2000 implemented a broad work programme which included projects and workshops aimed at providing advice to Governments on policy-making on Roma and Sinti, facilitating international consultations on Roma refugees and asylum seekers, promoting the participation of Roma in elections and protecting the rights of Roma in and from Kosovo.

As part of its function as a clearing-house, the Contact Point collects information from participating States on legislative and other measures related to the situation of Roma and Sinti and makes it available to the OSCE community and to other interested international organizations. This includes the elaboration of additional reports on the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area. The Roma and Sinti Adviser has embarked on a series of meetings with various international organizations, governments and NGOs engaged in policy-making on Roma and Sinti issues. The goal of these meetings is to promote better co-operation, synergies and common approaches designed to combat discrimination and promote full participation and equal opportunities for Roma and Sinti in the societies in which they live.

ODIHR advises on policy-making on Roma and Sinti issues

As part of its work programme for 2000, the ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues began to provide advice on and assistance to the policy-making process on Roma in participating States with large Roma populations.

In 2000, the ODIHR/CPRSI was particularly active in Romania, a country with one of the largest Roma populations in the OSCE area. While the Romanian Government has been successful in establishing a complex network of bodies for the representation and protection of the country's large and diverse national minorities, it has not yet adopted a decision on Roma policy-making as recommended by the OSCE. In late January and early February, the ODIHR Roma and Sinti Adviser visited Romania and met with the Working Group of Roma Associations in Bucharest. The meeting brought about a revitalization of the dialogue among Roma associations with a view to defining common interests and developing a coherent and long-term Roma policy, also in the context of the forthcoming start of negotiations on Romania's accession to the EU. The participants developed a list of concrete future activities.

On 6-8 March the CPRSI organized a series of round table discussions with government representatives and the Working Group of Roma Associations. The participants adopted a memorandum outlining the basic principles on which the development of a Government strategy should be based. The document reaffirms the need for including Roma NGOs in this process.

The Contact Point also supported a Government-NGO meeting on schooling of Roma children, which was organized to review the present practices and regulations. Participants evaluated the newly established "inspectors for Roma schooling" and agreed to formalize the role of the "Roma assistant or mediator" in the relations between local schools and Roma communities. A standing working group on the schooling of Roma children and adults will be established within the Ministry of Education. In the framework of the Roma policy assistance project, the Contact Point also started to document the legal status and policy making on Roma in Slovenia.

In Bulgaria, the ODIHR Roma and Sinti Adviser met in June and July with representatives of the Office for National Minorities/Roma and Sinti Issues – both at national and regional level – to discuss the stage of implementation of the framework programme for equal participation of Roma in Bulgaria.

In the Czech Republic, the Roma and Sinti Adviser met repeatedly with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Commissioner for Human Rights and Chairman of the Inter-departmental Commission on Roma Affairs to discuss and document the elaboration and implementation of the Government policy concept on Roma.

In Moldova, the ODIHR supported a first round table discussion between Governmental institutions and Roma representatives in preparation of a future comprehensive policy on Roma. The round table was organized in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

A Roma refugee from Kosovo at the ODIHR meeting on Roma refugees and asylum seekers

monitor the human rights situation in the countries of origin, as well as the application of asylum procedures in the destination countries, in particular when there are concerns that the procedures are applied in a discriminatory way. No consensus was reached among the participants on whether discrimination or economic reasons is the main cause for the increasing number of Roma migrants.

There was strong support among Roma NGOs at the meeting for the proposal to establish a Roma-led assess-



During several visits to Slovakia, the ODIHR Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues facilitated a constructive dialogue aimed at narrowing differences between the authorities and some Roma speakers on the concept and the implementation of the Government's Roma policy.

International consultation on Roma refugees and asylum seekers

Some 150 representatives of governments, Roma NGOs and international organizations were invited by the ODIHR to an international consultation on Roma refugees and asylum seekers which took place at the margins of the annual OSCE human rights conference in Warsaw on 23 October.

As a result of mediation efforts by the ODIHR Contact Point, the two largest international Roma organizations and long-time rivals, the International Romani Union and the Roma National Congress, set aside their differences for the first time in many years, formed a working group and agreed on a common platform on migration issues. The establishment of the working group was welcomed at the meeting as an important step towards the emergence of a joint position of major Roma organizations.

The ODIHR made clear during the consultation meeting, organized by the ODIHR with support of the Council of Europe and other partners, that it will continue to

ment group, which should be tasked to evaluate the effectiveness of existing national and international Roma programmes. The proposal reflected growing criticism of internationally funded projects aimed at improving the situation of Roma in countries of origin.

The international consultation was preceded by numerous preparatory meetings in the course of the year. These included:

- a roundtable on questions relating to the legal status of Roma refugees from Kosovo currently living in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Skopje in 18 February. The roundtable, which was co-organized by the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, for the first time brought together various Roma and non-Roma NGOs dealing with refugee issues, the UNHCR representation in Skopje, the Council of Europe and officials from the Ministry of Interior.
- several meetings, documentation visits and field activities in Finland, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia aimed at documenting the steady increase in Roma seeking asylum in Western European countries and identifying possible ways of addressing this phenomenon.

- a roundtable on migration and asylum-seeking of Slovak Roma on 3-4 March in Bratislava. The roundtable, co-organized by the Project on Ethnic Relations (PER), brought together officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Government's Commissioner for Roma, the UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, as well as Slovak NGOs and representatives of Roma associations.
- a series of meetings with Roma representatives from the international umbrella organization International Romani Union and officials from the Governments of Norway and Finland in May.
- a meeting on alternatives to asylum seeking organized by the ODIHR in Bucharest on 16 May. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) office in Romania, the Working Group of Roma Associations of Romania and representatives of various relevant governmental bodies and agencies participated in the meeting.
- a workshop organized by the Roma National Congress in Tarnow, Poland on 22-24 July and a congress of the International Romani Union in Prague on 24-28 July, both supported by the ODIHR.

The International Consultation Project was supported by voluntary contribution from the Czech Republic and the Council of Europe.

Action Plan for Roma of Kosovo

In 2000, the ODIHR developed a broad-ranging Action Plan for Roma in and from Kosovo. The Action Plan includes activities on capacity building, awareness raising, identifying partners for policy making activities, advancing legal rights for Roma communities and providing information in Romanes. The Action Plan also contains projects aimed at improving co-ordination on issues relating to Roma refugees, protecting refugee rights and providing human rights education for Roma. The implementation of components of the Action Plan, started in early 2000, is carried out in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

The project is supported by a voluntary contribution from the United States of America.

Electoral education for Roma in South Eastern Europe

With elections in several Balkan countries, the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues launched an elections training programme to provide assistance to the active participation of Roma in the polls.

In view of the local elections held in Romania in June, the ODIHR supported a training seminar for Roma election observers in Brasov, Romania. The training was conducted in co-operation with the Project on Ethnic Relations, the Roma NGO CRISS and the Romanian NGO Pro-Democracy, which also provided the framework for integrating the newly trained Roma observers into the country-wide observation of the local elections. The ODIHR also supported the production of a guide for Roma voters, published both in Romanian and Romani languages and distributed among Roma NGOs. The ODIHR continued its Roma voter education programme in Romania in the run-up to the November national elections.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a voters' leaflet was distributed and a videoclip in Romanes was shown on TV, explaining to Roma at grassroots level both how to vote and the possible impact of elections on their lives. During the elections a team of Roma went to different locations to assess the participation of Roma in the elections. This assessment team also monitored the participation of Roma in the local elections in Albania.

ODIHR supports activities surrounding the International Roma Day

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues supported a number of awareness-raising activities organized on the occasion of the International Roma Day on 8 April 2000. The main focus of this year's events was Kosovo, where the ODIHR, as part of its Action Plan and in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, organized a number of public activities, including a series of cultural events with the participation of a group of famous Roma artists from Norway. The activities took place in Roma communities throughout the province and constituted the first high profile public manifestation of Roma in Kosovo since the end of the armed conflict in 1999.

The ODIHR Contact Point also co-ordinated activities commemorating the International Roma Day in a number of other countries, including Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

MONITORING AND SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Monitoring Unit within the ODIHR follows and analyses human rights developments and compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments by participating States. As an early warning function, it alerts the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to serious deteriorations in human rights that could merit his attention. The Monitoring Unit also prepares background briefings and provides advice on human rights issues for the ODIHR Director and the Chairman-in-Office. Another focus of the ODIHR's work in this field is preparing and organizing OSCE meetings on the implementation of human dimension commitments by participating States such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the annual Human Dimension Seminar and Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings.

MONITORING AND REPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Throughout the year the Monitoring Unit within the Monitoring/Public Affairs Section continued to provide strategic and policy advice on human rights to the OSCE political leadership and continued to offer support in this area to OSCE field operations. Through ongoing monitoring of political and human rights developments, key issues of state non-compliance with OSCE commitments and selected individual cases were brought to the attention of the Chairperson-in-Office and other key OSCE actors.

Russian Federation: Support for Presidential Human Rights Representative in Chechnya

During 2000, the ODIHR implemented two projects to support the office of the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for Upholding Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic, Mr. Vladimir Kalamanov. At the first meeting between Mr. Kalamanov and ODIHR Director Gérard Stoudmann in March it had been emphasized that the international community attaches great importance to the results of the work being undertaken by Mr. Kalamanov and his team. Agreement was reached immediately for the ODIHR to provide technical support to Mr. Kalamanov's office.

The first project, funded by a Norwegian voluntary financial contribution to ODIHR, involved design and programming input for a computer database to manage individual complaints of human rights violations, to be used by Mr. Kalamanov's staff in Moscow and Chechnya. The database is intended to equip Mr. Kalamanov's staff to process complaints quickly and to track their progress once complaints are referred to the state bodies responsible for their investigation and follow-up. The ODIHR input was concluded successfully in August.

The second project is a training course in human rights standards and improving skills in interviewing, reporting and individual case management. Using the training services of the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and in co-ordination with the Council of Europe, groups of Mr. Kalamanov's staff from his Moscow and Chechnya offices are being trained in Warsaw and Strasbourg. The first two courses were undertaken between September and November 2000, with a third slated for early 2001.

Funding for this project was provided by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, following a bilateral meeting between the Chairperson-in-Office and Mr. Kalamanov

in Vienna in July. Mr. Kalamanov also addressed the OSCE Permanent Council during his July visit to Vienna.

During a July visit to Moscow, an ODIHR delegation held additional discussions on human rights in Chechnya, including with Mr. Pavel Krasheninnikov, the head of a Public National Commission for investigating human rights violations in the North Caucasus, the NGO "Memorial" and leading Chechen diaspora representatives. In September, Mr. Krasheninnikov and Mr. Kalamanov were both instrumental in organizing the participation of an ODIHR delegation led by Ambassador Stoudmann at the Russian State Duma hearings on human rights in Chechnya.

HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Children and armed conflict

Following the November 1999 Istanbul Summit decision to put children's rights, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations, on the agenda of the OSCE, a first step in implementing this decision was taken in May by devoting the annual OSCE Human Dimension Seminar to "Children and Armed Conflict".



Delegations from OSCE participating States, representatives from OSCE missions and institutions as well as participants from international organizations and NGOs met in Warsaw on 23-26 May to discuss the diverse effects of armed conflict on children and to examine possibilities for OSCE action in this field. The seminar was organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the OSCE Chairmanship.

"Children are the most vulnerable members of society", said OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner at the opening of the seminar. "Armed conflicts have devastating consequences for children, consequences which have to be addressed by all of us, comprehensively and effectively." Mr. Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Mr. Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, gave keynote speeches following the opening.

Discussions took place in two working groups. The first focused on the situation of children during conflict and immediately post-conflict. Participants in this working group addressed issues such as the abuse of children as soldiers, children being deprived of education and health care, psychological trauma and the special situation of refugee children. The second group concentrated on the longer-term needs of war-affected children in post-conflict situations and frozen conflicts. Issues identified as

ICRC President Kellenberger, ODIHR Director Stoudmann, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ferrero-Waldner and UN Special Representative Otunnu (from left) at the Seminar on Children and Armed Conflict

being of specific relevance to the OSCE included education and training, building tolerance and raising awareness, juvenile justice, gender issues, including trafficking, as well as poverty and illiteracy. This working group also addressed politico-military issues such as the effects on children of landmines and small-arms transfers.

A comprehensive list of concrete recommendations for OSCE activities in the area of children and armed conflict emerged from the discussions in the working groups. These recommendations will be used as a valuable pool of ideas by the OSCE decision-making bodies, which are tasked to convert the Istanbul decision into concrete action.

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETINGS

The regular Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings are devoted to key substantial concerns raised at previous Review Conferences or Implementation Meetings. Three meetings were organized in 2000 by ODIHR in co-operation with the OSCE Chairmanship.

Human rights and inhuman treatment or punishment

The first meeting of 2000, devoted to “Human Rights and Inhuman Treatment or Punishment”, took place in Vienna on 27 March. Sir Nigel Rodley, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Member of the ODIHR Advisory Panel on the Prevention of Torture, gave the keynote speech. Discussions focused on two areas: first, to identify issues relating to the protection of persons under detention or imprisonment and develop concrete recommendations for the implementation of provisions in international law and OSCE commitments in this area; and second, to foster an exchange of information on capital punishment in the OSCE region.

In two working groups, the participants – State delegations, international organizations and more than 50 NGOs – discussed key obstacles to the prevention of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons in detention or imprisonment and possible ways for the OSCE to overcome these obstacles through its own programmes or by assisting governments, national institutions and civil society.

The first working group, on pre-trial detention, specifically focused on issues such as improving the implementation of safeguards against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment for persons in pre-trial detention, the role of the prosecutor and other officials involved, the use of alternatives to pre-trial detention and the prevention of arbitrary or incommunicado detention. The other working group first explored issues relating to the penitentiary system, such as existing obstacles to the prevention of cruel, inhuman or degrad-

ing treatment or punishment of prisoners, possible ways to implement best practices and alternatives to imprisonment. This working group then moved on to exchange of information on capital punishment, concentrating on the specific situations in non-abolitionist OSCE participating States, on measures aimed at improving the availability of information on the use of the death penalty and on questions relating to the role of public opinion in the process leading to abolition.

Discussions in the working groups resulted in a large number of recommendations directed to participating States, to the OSCE as a whole, as well as to OSCE field operations and the ODIHR.

Trafficking in human beings

Delegations from OSCE participating States, international organizations and NGOs met on 19 June in Vienna to raise awareness about the issue of trafficking in human beings, to review the Proposed ODIHR Action Plan 2000 for Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and to develop recommendations for how the OSCE and participating States could more effectively address this problem.

Remarks during the opening session stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to the issue of human trafficking that would support projects in the areas of prevention, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers. “Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime and a basic human rights violation”, said meeting moderator Ambassador Christian Strohal (Austria). “Prevention and control strategies against trafficking should be based on a dual track of strengthening law enforcement and human rights”, he said. “Prosecuting and convicting traffickers should be pursued just as vigorously as working for the protection and rehabilitation of victims.”

During the working group sessions, participants discussed in greater detail best practices in these areas and formulated recommendations for future activities of OSCE bodies and participating States.

There was a clear agreement that the OSCE should combat trafficking in all its forms in countries of origin, transit and destination. Several participants noted the need for prevention efforts not only to include public awareness campaigns, but also to ameliorate the socio-economic situation in countries of origin, particularly by empowering women at the grassroots level.

Further recommendations focused on the need to provide better services to victims. The first step in this

regard should be the identification of a trafficked person as a victim rather than as an illegal migrant or criminal. Participating States were urged to consider specialised training for law enforcement and judiciary officials in order to recognise and prosecute cases more effectively while protecting the rights of victims. Suggestions in the area of protection included providing victims with adequate shelter, interpretation services and access to legal, psychological and medical aid.

In order to ensure the protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers, participants considered recommendations for necessary legislative reform. Such reforms should fit into strategic national plans that States could develop in partnership with non-governmental organizations and international actors in order to address all aspects of trafficking in human beings.

Following the meeting, NGOs were invited to brief interested participants on their activities to combat trafficking on the national and regional levels.

Migration and internal displacement

In a further step to enhance OSCE activities in the area of migration and internal displacement, a Supplementary Human Dimension meeting on this topic was held in Vienna on 25 September.

The participants in the meeting discussed the human rights aspects of migration, such as the right to freedom of movement, as well as the economic and security aspects. Discussions also focused on the similarly multifaceted phenomenon of internal displacement.

A wide range of issues, including some not exclusively within the human dimension, was addressed. The participants – representatives of governments, international organizations and NGOs – addressed issues relating to international standards and mechanisms, as well as specific issues such as the fate of displaced children and women, the need to better address health issues and the paramount importance of local dialogue between civil society and authorities.

The interplay between various economic factors and migration was also exposed. Such subjects as visa policies, family reunification, asylum and resettlement were touched upon. A number of participants also informed the meeting about the situation in their countries/regions and challenges facing them. It became evident during the discussions that the OSCE with its comprehensive approach to security, its early warning functions and its capacity to assist governments in defining

national and regional policies, has great potential to deal with these issues.

The meeting served to evaluate the state of implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, to encourage cooperation between governments and relevant organizations and institutions and to raise awareness of new developments regarding internal displacement, in particular of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, developed by the Representative of the UN Secretary General on IDPs, and their practical application. There was general agreement on the need to address migration and internal displacement in a comprehensive way, tackling the root causes of the problems.

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

With 600 representatives from governments, non-governmental and international organizations, as well as all OSCE institutions and field operations, the 2000 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the fifth of its kind, was one of the largest ever. Held in Warsaw from 17 to 27 October, the meeting reviewed the OSCE participating States’ record in putting into practice the commitments undertaken in the fields of human rights and democracy. Almost 150 NGOs from throughout the OSCE area participated actively in the meeting.

Among the key issues debated during the 2000 Implementation Meeting were the problem of trafficking in human beings and the situation of children in armed conflicts, both of which were included in the agenda for the first time. Another focus was the controversial issue of Roma refugees and asylum seekers, which was discussed at a day-long side meeting prior to being debated in a regular working session on Roma and Sinti issues (see Roma and Sinti Chapter, above).

A record number of side events profiled a broad range of human rights topics. They included presentations on the work of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Third Committee and ODIHR’s democratization programme. There were campaign briefings by the ICRC, Amnesty International and the NGO coalition for an International Criminal Court. Film screenings included a profile of Russian journalist Andrei Babitsky, winner of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Prize for Journalism and Democratization 2000 and a compelling BBC documentary on trafficking of women.

A topical highlight from the programme of side events was a presentation by a three board members of the Association of Independent Judges of Serbia, who had been dismissed from their posts as judges in the last months of the Milosevic regime. Hailing the first opportunity for their Association to bring the situation of the Serbian judiciary to the attention of a large international forum, the judges expressed the need for international assistance to reform Serbia's judicial system. "Without an independent judiciary there is no democracy", said Judge Leposava Karamarkovic. "The courts lost their independence during the Milosevic years and are almost completely dominated by the executive branch." She pointed at a system of dependence and corruption based on low salaries, favouritism and intimidation in case of dissent. In the last months of the Milosevic regime, numerous judges were dismissed in order to ensure loyalty during the election period.

At the Implementation Meeting's closing session, government representatives from OSCE participating States reaffirmed their commitment to implement human rights standards. "This year's Implementation Meeting has made clear that human rights violations remain a cause for serious concern in many OSCE countries", said Peter Eicher, the Deputy Director of the ODIHR, which organized the conference in co-ordination with the OSCE Chairmanship. "The conference has given us a better picture of which problems are considered most pressing by participating States and non-governmental organizations and has provided some constructive recommendations on how to address these problems. This will help the OSCE to set its agenda for the future."

The recommendations made during the working sessions have been referred to the OSCE decision-making bodies to ensure proper follow-up.

The final report of the Human Dimension Seminar, Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings and the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, including the complete lists of recommendations, are available at the ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr>.

In preparation: New compilation of OSCE commitments

In November, preparations for a completely revised and updated compilation of OSCE Human Dimension commitments were finalized. The publication, which will be available on the ODIHR website and as a hard copy, contains not only an updated chronological listing of extracts from OSCE documents including the 1999 Istanbul Documents, but also, for the first time ever, a

listing of all relevant human dimension commitments organized topic-by-topic. The publication represents a much-needed, user-friendly and practical tool for governments, OSCE personnel and the general public.

PRIORITIES FOR 2001

In 2001, the ODIHR will continue to consolidate its democratization and election assistance and observation programmes. For its democratization programme activities, the ODIHR will follow four overall strategic objectives to ensure continuity and consistency between all of the ODIHR's programmes:

The first objective will be to develop, educate and empower civil society in the OSCE region. In doing this, the ODIHR will increasingly target certain key groups, such as the younger generation, legal community and academia. It will also work to enhance the maturity and capacity of society in general, seek to engage civil society in political processes and foster a broader understanding of responsibility within civil society.

Secondly, the ODIHR will seek to enhance capacities and governmental compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments. The ODIHR's work in this area will focus on increasing capacities in the rule of law, enhancing accountability and transparency of governmental institutions and promoting the role of governments as guardians of civil society. The Office will also concentrate on stressing the roles of the state and the citizenry with respect to each other, fostering the democratic development of each of the three branches of government and encouraging flexibility and compromise in decision making.

Thirdly, the ODIHR will continue to promote and develop awareness of and adherence to OSCE human dimension commitments, in particular by stressing the universality and indivisibility of these principles, seeking to integrate and institutionalize human rights into governmental policies, promoting the security enhancing aspect of human rights compliance and operationalizing and increasing the capacity of human rights institutions and mechanisms.

And finally, the fourth overarching objective will be to assist participating States in developing a comprehensive view of security which includes the human dimension. ODIHR assistance will stress security as being dependent upon compliance with human dimension commitments and the importance of inclusivity for national security enhancement. The Office will encourage dialogue, debate and co-operation within and among countries and promote human dimension commitments in conflict prevention, resolution and rehabilitation.

In the field of elections, the ODIHR will focus on finding ways to address what it has identified as key problems in the conduct of elections in many countries of the OSCE area: Lack of transparency in the election process, particularly at the results aggregation level, a lack of accountability, in particular in the work of upper level election commissions, interference by executive authorities in the electoral process and the restriction of fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, association and assembly. The ODIHR will continue to assist OSCE countries in improving electoral legislation and the overall human rights environment, but will continue to make clear that the ultimate responsibility for improving elections remains with the participating States.

In its election observation efforts, the ODIHR will continue to venture into new areas by paying more attention to the participation of national minorities in the electoral process, appointing gender focal points to examine ways in which women's participation in elections can be enhanced and training in practical conflict resolution skills for election administrators. In line with the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999, the ODIHR will pay increased attention to following up on the recommendations emerging from its election observation missions.

Reflecting the priority to remain flexible, the ODIHR will ensure that it retains the capacities to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging opportunities and challenges in the human dimension. Notably, the Monitoring Unit, as in 1999 (Kosovo) and 2000 (Chechnya), will remain positioned to respond – through reporting as well as project interventions – to any human rights crisis emerging in the OSCE region. The programme planning of democratization activities has also factored in the need for extra capacity for flexible and rapid response to emerging needs and opportunities, such as those presented by the changing situation in the Balkans.

In the area of support for implementation, the ODIHR will be working with the Romanian OSCE Chairmanship on refinements to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and Supplementary Meetings, with the objective of promoting these as relevant and dynamic forums for dialogue and constructive recommendations to OSCE participating States and retaining the unique characteristic of broad participation by the OSCE-wide NGO community. The ODIHR looks forward in 2001 to solidifying its partnerships with OSCE field missions, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders.

ODIHR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR 2000
(As of October 2000)

CAUCASUS

ARMENIA

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Prison Service Training	Upgrade operational functioning of the prison system in relation to the OSCE "best practices", through training programs for prison staff on European and international standards for prison conditions and administration, including women's prisons. (In consultation with Council of Europe.) New project. Timeframe: October 2000 – joint meeting with Council of Europe to provide action plan.
Public Awareness on Human Rights	Promote awareness on human rights by publicizing current legislation through TV programs on topics such as freedom of press, movement, religion, rights of children, soldiers, access to information, new court system. Video materials will be distributed to schools, community centres, churches, newspapers and prisons. Follow-up to MoU project. Timeframe: 31 March 2000 – Freedom of press – broadcast; 5 July 2000 – soldiers rights – broadcast; September 2000 – Freedom of movement – production and broadcast; October - December 2000 – Production and broadcast of up to four additional programs.
Review of Election Legislation	Conduct review of legislative and administrative framework to improve the Election Code adopted in 1999 in line with recommendations made by the OSCE ODIHR in 1998 and 1999. Continuation of MoU project. Timeframe: Fall 2000 – identification of experts and collection of relevant documentation; November 2000 – meetings with interlocutors and production of comment on existing Election Code; December 2000 – organisation of roundtable in Yerevan; Early 2001 – production of comments on draft amendments before and after first reading in parliament.
Registration of Permanent Residents	To assist in developing a population registration system that conforms to international standards on freedom of choice of residence, equality and non-discrimination; to train officials in implementation of new laws; and to ensure public awareness of new laws. Continuation of MoU project. Timeframe: Early 2000 – working Groups on Developing New Legislation established; April 2000 – Experts Visit to Advise the Working Group; May / October 2000 – Ongoing meetings of the working group (co-ordinated by OSCE Centre in Yerevan); Late 2000 – Training for members of the Working Group.
Expert Roundtable on Tolerance for Ethnic and Religious Groups	To assist ethnic and religious groups of Armenia with identifying major concerns pertaining to tolerance and help the authorities of Armenia with developing a conceptual basis for tolerance education; to raise public awareness on the question of tolerance. New project. Timeframe: May 2000. COMPLETED.

AZERBAIJAN

Prison Service Training	Upgrade operational functioning of the prison system in relation to the OSCE "best practices" through training program to prison staff on European and international standards for prison conditions and administration. Project complimentary with Council of Europe programs to support Ministry of Justice responsible for prison administration. New project. Timeframe: October 2000 – joint meeting with Council of Europe to provide action plan.
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Name of project

Status/plan of implementation

Review of Election Legislation	Review legislative and administrative electoral framework and assist in elaboration of transparent electoral legislation and efficient election administration in accordance with OSCE standards. Continuation of MoU project. Timeframe: January - February 2000 – identification of expert and field visits; review of existing legal framework; March - June 2000 – review of draft and elaboration of recommendations; revision of law on Central Election Commission; July - October 2000 – monitoring of the functioning of the Central Election Commission; August 2000 – proposals for revision of Parliamentary Election Law; August 2000 – final assessment of the Parliamentary Election Law. PROJECT COMPLETED.
Public Awareness Project Human Rights (Radio)	Production and broadcast of radio programmes explaining basic human rights according to national and international law in Azeri language, in co-operation with BBC World Service. Continuation of MoU project. Timeframe: May 2000 – three programmes were broadcast on general concept of human rights, right to food and shelter, right to healthcare; June - September 2000 – production and broadcast of thirteen additional programmes. PROJECT COMPLETED.
Public Awareness Project (TV)	To provide information to the larger public of Azerbaijan about their human rights through the production and broadcasting of TV programmes on selected human rights topics in Azeri. The project will be implemented in co-operation with Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences/ Institute on Human Rights. New project. Timeframe: Seven programmes have been produced and broadcast. Additional programs are planned.
Women's Leadership and Political Participation	To increase the political role and visibility of women, and to provide training on lobbying and leadership to parliamentary candidates, NGO and government leaders. New project. Timeframe: 26 - 28 April 2000 – training workshop for women from different political parties and NGO leaders on gender based co-operation; 10 - 12 July 2000 – training on party strategies on increasing the number of women candidates within political parties and development of mechanisms for supporting women candidates.
Prevention of Violence Against Women	To facilitate Government – NGO co-operation on the prevention of violence and to initiate drafting of a strategy on prevention of violence against women. New project. Timeframe: March - May 2000 – expert support to NGOs working on prevention of violence against women; 17 - 18 May 2000 – seminar initiating Government – NGO co-operation on the prevention of violence against women, drafting of state strategy; June - December 2000 – support to establishment crisis centres for women victims of violence in seven regions throughout the country.

Name of project

Status/plan of implementation

GEORGIA

Civic Diplomacy	To increase contacts across lines of conflict (Abkhazia and South Ossetia) and foster a sustainable dialogue between civic groups from conflict areas and their counterparts in the rest of Georgia, through a series of meetings. Follow-up to MoU project. Timeframe: October 2000 – training for physicians to be held in Warsaw.
Public Awareness Project on Human Rights	Production of six radio programmes throughout Georgia on various human rights issues to raise the awareness of the general public. Six programmes were broadcast: voter's rights, rights of refugees and IDPs, rights of soldiers and military officers, rights of persons under investigation, rights of children, and rights of religious minorities. Continuation of MoU project. Timeframe: PROJECT COMPLETED.
Women's Leadership Training and NGO Coalition Building	To support coalition building among women's NGOs and to train NGOs in leadership and advocacy skills. New project. Timeframe: 11 - 14 June 2000 – training workshop for women NGO leaders on NGO coalition building and women's leadership; Autumn – December 2000 – strategy meetings on lobbying initiatives on gender equality and raising the profile of gender issues in the public domain; – advocacy training for NGOs and journalists on women's rights and gender equality.

REGIONAL

Workshop on Internally Displaced Persons in the Southern Caucasus	Promotion of international standards on IDPs and their application by governments and NGOs; development of institutional and legal frameworks on internal displacement and reinforcement of "best practices" at all levels. Focus attention of international community on IDP issue in Southern Caucasus. New project. Timeframe: May 10 - 12 – regional workshop held in Tbilisi. PROJECT COMPLETED.
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ODIHR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR 2000

CENTRAL ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Assistance for the Establishment of a National Human Rights Institution	Continuing assistance in elaboration of Ombudsman Law. Depending on satisfactory law and appointment of representative further assistance in the internal organisation and training. Timeframe: January - December 2000. Late October 2000 – Expert advice to Parliament on draft law.
Prison Service Training	Upgrade operational functioning of the prison system in relation to OSCE “best practices” by developing training for prison service in human rights standards, prisoner treatment and security. Timeframe: April - November 2000. Assessment of Penitentiary System: 24 - 26 April 2000 – facilities of Pavlodar, Shymkent and Kyzylorda were visited. Regional training for penitentiary personnel: 25 - 26 April 2000 – training in Shymkent; 7 - 13 August 2000 – training in Usk Kamenogorsk and Shchinsk; October 2000 – Kazakh trainers training at Polish Prison College took place.
Civil Society Assistance	Facilitate discussion on human rights issues between government and civil society. Continuation of meetings on different topics with participation of international moderators. Timeframe: 13 - 14 March 2000 – first meeting in Almaty on Freedom of Movement; October 2000 – second meeting in Almaty on Human Rights Education; December 2000 – topic for the third meeting to be identified.
Legislative Reform	Legislative review to ensure compliance of domestic legislation with obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention Against Torture. Timeframe: February - May 2000. COMPLETED.
Women’s Rights Awareness	Creation of training resource on gender equality and women’s human rights, training of selected community and NGO leaders; training for NGOs, women leaders and journalists to strengthen lobbying capacity on women’s human rights. Timeframe: April 2000 – design of the program; 26 - 30 June 2000 – training of local trainers for women’s awareness raising programs in regions; Autumn - winter 2000 – training for women leaders and journalists on lobbying on women’s human rights.
Educational Programme on Trafficking in Women	Development and implementation of an educational programme in Russian and Kazakh languages on prevention of trafficking in women and children targeting particularly young women and girls. Timeframe: April - December 2000.
Round Table on Elections	Examine the current legislative framework for elections and suggest improvements based on OSCE ODIHR recommendations contained in the Final Report on Parliamentary Elections. Timeframe: 2 September 2000 – First Round Table. COMPLETED. Additional meetings planned for 2001.

KYRGYZSTAN

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Human Rights Training for Border Guards	Assistance with institutional reform including training system, also to include human rights and legal training into curriculum in co-operation with Polish Border Guards. Timeframe: February 2000 – Needs Assessment Mission; June 2000 – visit to Polish Border Guard headquarters and Academy, and training session on human rights and legal issues; November 2000 – Training Session under the auspices of the Bishkek Migration Management Centre (BMMC).
Registration of Permanent Residents	To assist in developing a population registration system that conforms to international standards on freedom of choice of residence, equality and non-discrimination, to train officials in implementation of new laws, and to ensure public awareness of new laws. Continuation of 1999 MoU project. Timeframe: Mid 2000 – Working group to review existing legislation established under the Bishkek Migration Management Centre (BMMC); Autumn 2000 – Review of legislation and development of recommendations.
Student Legal Aid Initiative on Criminal Law	Developing local capacity in human rights advocacy, access to justice, fair trial. Training of law students in criminal law and related international standards through free of charge legal assistance to vulnerable segments of population in the conflict area of Ferghana Valley. Timeframe: Summer 2000 – assessment mission by expert; Winter 2000 – develop plan in conjunction with ABA-CEELI.
Assistance for Establishment of an Ombudsman Office	Continuing assistance in elaboration of an Ombudsman Law. Timeframe: through 2000. November - December 2000 – Round-table on draft law.
Legislative Reform	Continuation of Legislative Reform project 1999. Review of domestic legislation to ensure its compliance with obligations under international treaties, the Convention Against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Timeframe: May 2000 – Conference on ways to ensure compliance with UNCAT. June 2000 – COMPLETED
Women’s Leadership and Advocacy	Strategy development training to build networks among NGO and political leaders. Development of 1999 Women in Politics leadership skills to facilitate effective lobby on women’s political and human rights; training of targeted group of students and potential leaders. Timeframe: March - April 2000 – preparations, design of the project; May - August 2000 – training of potential leaders and targeted groups of students in regions; Autumn 2000 – training for selected group of women leaders from the regions in women’s rights and gender equality advocacy lobbying strategy.
Research on Trafficking in Women and Children	To assess the patterns and extent of trafficking in Kyrgyzstan and to develop recommendations for national policies and follow-up initiatives to combat trafficking in the region. Timeframe: December 1999 - Spring 2000 – research; Autumn 2000 – finalize conclusions and recommendations for appropriate future activities.

TAJIKISTAN (MoU PROJECTS)

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Legislative Reform Assistance	Assistance in reviewing domestic legislation’s compliance with international standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; laying foundations for mechanisms to monitor implementation of domestic laws. Timeframe: January - May 2000 – identification of experts and relevant laws in co-operation with Ministry of Justice, NGOs; June - December 2000 – compliance review and presentation of recommendations.
Legal Support Centre for Women	Provide an accessible mechanism for protection of women’s rights through free legal advice by law students, gaining practical experience under supervision of professional lawyers in protecting women’s rights. Timeframe: Spring - Summer 2000 – identification of international expert in the field of legal clinics, visit to Dushanbe, elaboration of working plan for centre; Autumn 2000 – finalising the working plan, developing methodology; Winter 2000 – training workshop, establishing contacts and networks; Throughout 2001 – establishment of the support centre for women in Dushanbe and legal advice centres in the regions.
Prison Service Training	Upgrade operational functioning of the prison system according to OSCE “best practices”, develop administration standards through training of prison personnel in human rights, prisoner treatment and security issues. Timeframe: June 2000 – preliminary assessment visit; Autumn 2000 – development of recommendations for long-term assistance; Winter 2000 – implementation of a targeted program.
Human Rights Training for Law Enforcement Personnel	Assistance in establishing human rights training programme for law enforcement bodies to respect human rights and guarantee rule of law. Timeframe: Winter 2000 – development of a targeted program.
Civil Society Assistance	Support to development of civil society and better contact between governmental and non-governmental institutions, facilitating active participation in the society. Six meetings in the capital and regions with participation of international moderators. Timeframe: First meetings in Autumn 2000.

ODIHR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR 2000

UZBEKISTAN

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Human Rights Monitoring Training	Strengthen local human rights monitoring capacities by training NGOs on how to prepare comprehensive reports and develop co-operation among local human rights monitors. The training consists of three phases. Timeframe: 17 - 20 April 2000 – first session; 2 - 6 June 2000 – second session; 8 - 12 September 2000 – third session. PROJECT COMPLETED.
Legal Standards Training for Prosecutors, Judges and Defense Lawyers	Training of prosecutors, judges and defense lawyers in the application of international legal standards and identification of possible gaps between domestic and international legislation. Timeframe: 10 - 22 August 2000 – three training workshops in the regions. COMPLETED
Assistance to Ombudsman Regional Offices	Assistance in training of regional representatives of the Ombudsman's office. Introduction of the Ombudsman's office in regional roundtables with participation of NGOs and local authorities. Timeframe: Spring 2000 – training of 14 regional representatives; October - November 2000 – training of regional representatives on inter-action with other law enforcement agencies and judiciary; December 2000 – roundtables on the role and functioning of the office; impact assessment.
Alternative Sentencing	Discussion of models of sanctions as an alternative to prison sentences and implementation of a system of alternative sentencing. Dialogue on criminal justice system and recommendations for developing alternative sentencing models; upon acceptance of recommendations, training seminar for judges and prosecutors. Timeframe: through 2000.
Women's Rights Campaign Development Program	Strategy development training to build networks among NGO and political leaders. Development of 1999 Civic and Legal Education for Women Project to facilitate effective lobby on women's political and human rights. Timeframe: March - December 2000.

REGIONAL

Legislation Alert and Assistance Program	Monitor and review draft / new legislation in relation to human dimension commitments of the OSCE, discuss new laws in public meetings for strengthening of public consultation and input into elaboration of legislation. Findings of review to be presented at NGO-government meetings, public roundtables. Timeframe: through 2000.
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SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ALBANIA

Assistance to the Law School in Shkodra	Continuation of 1999 project. Expert was co-teaching human rights in Spring 2000. Course material was developed. Timeframe: January - July 2000 – teaching course completed; August - September 2000 – publication of text book to be used for Fall semester.
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Name of project

Status/plan of implementation

Election Law Review	Review legislative and administrative electoral framework and assist in the elaboration of transparent election legislation in accordance with OSCE standards, in conjunction with OSCE Presence and other relevant organisations, including the Council of Europe. Timeframe: December 1999 - January 2000 – Expert reviews of draft Code; Spring 2000 – consultations on election law review and participation in multi-party roundtable on electoral code; June 2000 – Review finalized. COMPLETED.
Civil / Voter Registration	Follow up on ODIHR civil / voter registration project by providing expert opinion and assistance in conjunction with OSCE Presence, as Albanian authorities proceed with a national voter registration for the fall local elections. Timeframe: January 2000 – provide legislation and information on civil registration practices for the fall local elections; June 2000 – second round of follow-up in pilot project locations; June 2000 – expert advice to OSCE Presence during observation of enumeration process; September 2000 – follow-up visit to assess computerized voter register prior to local elections. COMPLETED.
Ombudsman Technical Assistance	Technical assistance to organisation of Ombudsman Office. Timeframe: April 2000 – training in Slovenia; July - August 2000 – continuous technical assistance including on internal staff regulations and code of ethics by Slovenian Ombudsman Office; September - December 2000 – assistance with the help of the Slovenian Ombudsman will continue on issues relevant in the start up phases of the People's Advocate.
Women's Rights and Anti-Trafficking Education Project	Regional training to educate key groups in community on women's rights and gender equality and address abuses of women's rights, including trafficking. Timeframe: September 2000 - March 2001.
Development of Gender Curriculum for Police	Development of training component on gender and trafficking for MAPE (European Union Multi-Advisory Police Element) basic police training course for National Police Academy. Timeframe: April - May 2000 – preparations, program design; June 2000 – finalisation of curriculum; October 2000 – training of police trainers.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
Combating Violence against Women	To develop materials for training programs in governmental institutions and to enhance awareness building among women. Timeframe: July 1999 - July 2000; August 2000 – evaluation. COMPLETED.
Assistance for the Development of a Law on the Position of Religious Communities	To assist the religious communities in developing the draft text of the law and to advance co-operation between the communities. Continuation of project begun in 1999. Timeframe: January 2000 – Roundtables; Autumn 2000 – Law comes before Parliament.

Name of project

Status/plan of implementation

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Assistance to the Police Service	Upgrade operational functioning of the police forces in relation to OSCE "best practices", by improving training of police in human rights standards, de-escalation tactics and community policing, review / assistance in curriculum of Police Academy. Report of Needs Assessment Mission (February) available. Timeframe: through 2000; Next: assistance in curriculum development.
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Prevention of violence against women	Advocate pro-active responses to address domestic violence through educational programmes for law enforcement and creation of effective legal framework. Timeframe: March - May 2000 – preparations; 24 - 25 June 2000 – conference on prevention of violence against women; Autumn 2000 – follow-up activities.
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KOSOVO

Action Plan on Roma in Kosovo	Enhance the situation of Roma as a contribution to regional stability. Raise awareness; provide training; build democracy through NGO development and self-help initiatives; advance legal rights for Roma. Timeframe: through 2000.
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MONTENEGRO

Action Plan on Montenegro	Various projects in the field of legal reform, gender, Roma, elections and support for municipalities. Timeframe: through 2000.
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REGIONAL

Prison Service Reform (part of the OSCE ODIHR / Council of Europe Joint Initiative)	Upgrade operational functioning of prison systems according to OSCE best practices. The program continues projects in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Croatia and may be extended to further countries. Timeframe: through 2000; March 2000 – Assessment Mission to Montenegro.
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National Visiting Procedures to detention facilities in the Balkans	Promote and encourage national NGOs to visit detention facilities by providing training and practical guide. Joint project with the Association for the Prevention of Torture. Timeframe: through 2000. 10 - 11 July 2000 – workshop held in Moldova; Autumn 2000 – evaluation of workshop results and drafting of guidebook.
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Legislative Database	Provide on the web texts of and comments on legislation in OSCE's core areas of expertise, in order to provide legislative examples to countries of SEE's (and other regions) for their own legislative work. Timeframe: through 2000. August 2000 – Phase I: project design; September 2000 - January 2001 – Phase II: creation of website with focus on trafficking, elections and citizenship; January 2001 – launch of website.
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ODIHR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR 2000

OTHER REGIONS	
BELARUS (WITH OSCE AMG)	
Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Links to International Research	Facilitate access to international research in humanities and social sciences in order to improve the quality of national research and education, in order to promote democratic values, working with the European Humanistic University. Timeframe: June 2000 – assessment of needs completed; July - December 2000 – establishing of links to internet, subscription of journals and other publications.
Establishment of a Center for European and Transatlantic Studies	Support for an independent educational institution in order to promote a pluralistic approach and inputs from the academic field into national policies. Timeframe: Summer 2000 – conceptional and operational preparatory phase – formation of an international working group; through 2000 – pending findings of the working group.
Lecture Series on Public Institutions	Spread a basic knowledge and acceptance of pluralism and of interaction among democratic institutions. Timeframe: through 2000 – five one-week lecture tours.
Prison and Pre-trial Detention Management	Improve the management of prisons and places of pre-trial detention and encourage compliance with OSCE, UN and CoE standards. Timeframe: January - March 2000 – review of existing prison management guidelines; August - December 2000 – seminar and presentation of recommendations; training visit to Polish prison service; pilot project with selected prisons; evaluation.
Program on Dispute Resolution	Introduce theory and practice of successful dispute resolution mechanisms. Timeframe: through 2000 – preparation; workshops in Minsk and Grodno; follow-up research phase.
Training of Public Defenders	Provide free legal advice for political and other cases; support families of political prisoners. Timeframe: through 2000.
Training of Political Parties	Guidance to political parties, movements and organisations on campaign techniques as preparation for forthcoming elections. Timeframe: 1 - 2 June 2000 – preparation of program; June - August 2000 – training workshops in Minsk for political parties and candidates. COMPLETED. Follow-up to be determined after elections.
ESTONIA	
Integration through Language Training	Estonian language training for 100 non-Estonian women and 50 children from former Soviet military base towns in Estonia, including education on Estonian culture and history. All participants will take official language examination. Continuation of 1999 project. Timeframe: October 1999 - June 2000 – language training; 25 - 26 March 2000 – training workshop for Estonia and Latvian minority women on women's leadership and participation in public life; July 2000 – official language examination. PROJECT COMPLETED.
Integration through Legal Counselling and Advocacy	Provide free legal counselling and advice to the population of Ida – Virumaa province on human rights issues. Timeframe: through 2000.

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation	Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
MOLDOVA		UKRAINE	
Links to International Research	Conference entitled "Evaluation, Prioritization, and Co-ordination of National and International Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Moldova" was held on 27-28 September 2000 in Chisinau in collaboration with the Moldovan Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, OSCE Mission to Moldova, Council of Europe and International Organization for Migration. Results of conference's working groups will serve as basis for national action plan to combat trafficking. COMPLETED.	Reform of Border Service	Assistance with institutional reform and reform of the training system, introduction of human rights and legal training, increase cross-border co-operation with Poland including combating trafficking in human beings. Timeframe: Late 2000 – visit to Polish Border Guards Headquarters and Academy; training session on human rights.
		Legislative Reform Assistance	Review of existing legislation in the field of human rights and bring it in compliance with international and European standards. Timeframe: throughout 2000 June 2000 – Comments on draft laws on referenda provided to OSCE in Kyiv; August - December 2000 – Reviews of approximately two dozen laws in progress; October 2000 – Round-table on data production legislation.
POLAND		Technical Assistance to Support a National Council for the Prevention of Trafficking	Support to constitute, establish and support a body to develop, oversee and co-ordinate a national strategy to combat trafficking in the human person. Continuation of 1999 project. Timeframe: Early 2000 – Activities to promote awareness among government officials and establish bi-lateral links with receiving and transit countries to enhance co-operation and co-ordination; Mid - end 2000 - Further awareness – raising activities; - Training for law enforcement and judiciary; - Legislative Review.
Trafficking: Training and Awareness Raising	Awareness raising about the issue of trafficking in women among groups of professionals (social workers, policemen, border guards, prosecutors, teachers, school supervisors, NGO representatives, local government representatives, journalists) through six training workshops in six different border regions in Poland. Continuation of 1999 project. Timeframe: November 1999 - July 2000 – workshops; October 2000 – evaluation.	Assistance to Ukrainian Ombudsman	Assistance to internal organisation of the Office, advice on complaints handling procedures. Timeframe: Expert deployed in May 2000 for two weeks. Follow-up in preparation.
ROMANIA		Trafficking Hot Line	Support for a counselling hot line in Kyiv and training for 5 NGOs to advertise and run regional hot lines throughout Ukraine. In co-operation with the NGO La Strada. Timeframe: January - December 2000 – Kyiv Hotline; July - December 2000 – training of support regional NGOs to create a network of hot lines.
NGO – Government Round Table on Trafficking in Human Beings	Joint initiative with the Romanian government to support the development of a strategic national plan to combat trafficking in human beings and prioritize future activities in this field. Timeframe: October 2000 - NGO-Government Round Table.		
RUSSIAN FEDERATION			
Chechnya – Support for Human Rights Monitoring	Assist the Office of the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for Upholding Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic, by developing a computer database for the management of complaints about human rights violations. Timeframe: June to August 2000. COMPLETED.		
Chechnya – Assistance to the Special Representative for Human Rights: Staff training in human rights monitoring	Contribute to the effective working of the office of the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for Upholding Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic, by providing staff training on human rights standards, basic human rights interviewing skills, reporting and case management. Timeframe: Three one-week training courses to be held in Warsaw between September 2000 and early 2001. First course completed in October.		
NGO – Government Round Table on Trafficking in Human Beings	Joint initiative with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate NGO-Government co-operation on combating trafficking in human beings. Timeframe: July 2000 – NGO meeting and NGO-Government Round Table. COMPLETED.		

ODIHR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR 2000

GENERAL PROJECTS

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Grassroots Democracy Projects	Assist OSCE Field Operations in developing and implementing small scale projects in the field of democratisation. The projects are implemented by the OSCE Offices themselves or in co-operation with local counterparts. Timeframe: through 2000 – twenty projects supported as of October 2000.
Guidelines on Review of Election Legislation	Produce guidelines on election legislation based on international standards and OSCE commitments in order to offer a series of standard options when reviewing election related legislation. Timeframe: 14 - 15 September 2000 – workshop in Stockholm; December 2000 – complete final draft.
Implementing HCNM Guidelines for Minority Representation	Convert recommendations developed by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on effective participation of national minorities in public life (Lund recommendations) into practical guidelines directly relevant for ODIHR election-related work. Timeframe: February - December 2000. 3 - 4 July 2000 – workshop on draft guidelines with participation of experts from High Commissioner on National Minorities, IDEA, OSCE Mission to Croatia, and independent consultants; November - December 2000 – final report and integration into ODIHR field work.
Regional Database on Legislation affecting Freedom of Religion	To develop comprehensive database on religious freedom legislation in the OSCE area. Timeframe: through 2000.
Young Voices: First Regional Survey of Children and Youth	A regional survey in Europe and Central Asia to study the opinion of children and adolescents on basic issues of politics, human rights and society. The results will contribute to needs assessment and give a basis for designing future OSCE activities. Joint project with UNICEF. Timeframe: November 2000 - April 2001.
Thematic and Chronological Compilation of OSCE Human Dimension Commitments	Estonian language training for 100 non-Estonian women and 50 children from former Soviet military base towns in Estonia, including education on Estonian culture and history. All participants will take official language examination. Continuation of 1999 project. Timeframe: October 1999 - June 2000 – language training; 25 - 26 March 2000 – training workshop for Estonia and Latvian minority women on women's leadership and participation in public life; July 2000 – official language examination. PROJECT COMPLETED.

Name of project	Status/plan of implementation
Roma Political Participation	Convene a workshop of elected Roma leaders (MPs, mayors, municipal councillors) to develop strategies to increase Roma political participation and its effectiveness. Timeframe: 13 - 14 November 2000, Prague.
Roma and Elections	Training courses for Roma to increase electoral participation; production of "Roma voters' guidelines", including in Romani language. Assess participation of Roma in elections. Timeframe: April - November 2000 – training courses.
International Consultation on Roma Asylum Seekers	Promote national and international discussions among government and Roma leaders to develop constructive strategies and approaches to the increasingly contentious issue of Roma refugees and asylum seekers. Timeframe: April - October 2000 – workshops with Roma in high risk areas (with partner organizations); July 2000 – preliminary meeting with Roma leaders; October 2000 – International Consultation Meeting.
Assist with Policy Making on Roma and Sinti Issues	Provide advice and assistance to the policy making process on Roma and Sinti in the States with large Roma populations. To train Roma/Sinti activists, officers and experts for better performance as policy makers. Timeframe: through 2000 – provide contact point resources for constructive dialogue between government authorities and Roma partners in policy making on Roma and Sinti issues.

