



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office in Tajikistan

OSCE BMSC Cross-Border Research Conference “Developing Innovative Solutions to Border Issues through New Technologies”

Conference Objectives

The contemporary world, vastly driven by principles of globalization, offers an intensified and easier transfer of goods and people across the borders. Along with the positive traits of globalization there are also negative side effects of this phenomenon.

Transnational organized crime groups continuously upgrade the techniques and efficiently employ modern-day technology in bypassing border security control systems. It compels the relevant bodies to cooperate and overcome these threats both on national and international levels. Increasing volume of border traffic requires extra efforts and concentration from the border security related agencies, while promoting and facilitating the legitimate movement of people and goods across the borders remains a priority. Introducing innovative approaches to advance the efficacy of current standard operational procedures, and thus upgrading the accuracy of detection and apprehension, relieving the workload on the personnel, simplifying data compilation and exchange helps to develop an operational and secure border management system. With that in mind, the OSCE Border Management Staff College plans to convene a four-day International Cross-Border Research Conference entitled “**Developing Innovative Solutions to Border Issues through New Technologies**”.

The aim of this event is to facilitate an open and constructive dialogue between researchers and practitioners based on research works and practical experiences which foster a better understanding of the world best practices in applying new technologies in resolving the border-related issues. Researchers and practitioners from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation are expected to attend the conference.

Prospective researchers and practitioners who would like to be considered to present their work achievements and research findings at the conference are encouraged to assess the relevance of their work to the following sub-topics:

- Digital technologies in border surveillance;
- Integrated data collecting and sharing, identity management and inter-agency cooperation systems;
- Pre-arrival biographic and biometric inspection tools;
- Novel equipment and operational practices in detecting forged travel and customs documents;
- Major vulnerabilities in border security and management;
- Advanced technology use by transnational organized crime groups;
- Pioneering border security and management hardware infrastructure;
- Modernizing migration management and refugee protection systems;
- Eyes in the Sky: Are border patrol drones effective?;
- Combating cybercrime and ensuring cyber security; and etc.

Nominated researchers and practitioners are requested to submit the results of their work in a timely manner (*please, see supporting documents for a detailed description*). Both the research papers and the practitioner presentations must have relevance to the main theme of the conference.

Promoting and developing a demand-driven and practice-oriented research work on border security and management issues is one of the College's core objectives. This conference aims to benefit all participants as follows:

- Researchers from various countries will have a unique opportunity to present research findings to an exclusive audience comprised of border officials and international experts;
- The conference will facilitate constructive exchange of information, ideas, research findings, best practices, and lessons identified between the researchers and practitioners;
- Practitioners will receive different perspectives on current and emerging border-related issues, which will enable them to modify actions based on research findings;
- The conference will create a unique environment for participants to establish professional networks in their respective fields, particularly with representatives from academia;
- Participants will be offered a study visit to the Tajik-Afghan border;
- Research papers presented at the conference will be compiled into a publication.