



HUMAN DIMENSION  
S E M I N A R

**2014 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

***Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations***

**WARSAW, 12-14 May 2014**

**B A C K G R O U N D I N F O R M A T I O N**

The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar (HDS) is devoted to *Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations* in accordance with PC Decision No.1116<sup>1</sup>.

In numerous CSCE and OSCE documents, the participating States have highlighted the importance of practical co-operation among OSCE participating States in the human dimension.

In Istanbul (1999), the OSCE participating States committed themselves to “*joint measures based on co-operation, both in the OSCE and through those organizations of which we are members, in order to offer assistance to participating States to enhance their compliance with OSCE principles and commitments. We will strengthen existing co-operative instruments and develop new ones in order to respond efficiently to requests for assistance from participating States [...]*”.

In keeping with the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, the OSCE participating States reiterated the common vision that comprehensive and lasting security is not possible without respect for human rights and democratic standards.

States are primarily responsible for implementing the OSCE Human Dimension Commitments. The OSCE has created different structures (institutions, field missions, representatives) in order to assist the participating States in implementing their OSCE Human Dimension commitments. These structures work together with similar entities of other regional and international organisations in order to improve their effectiveness when fulfilling their mandates.

The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar will review the current state of co-operation between the different OSCE structures and their respective counterparts in other regional and international organisations. OSCE delegations, representatives of the civil society and the concerned entities of the OSCE and other relevant regional and international organisations will identify specific challenges, possible opportunities and best practices to improve their cooperation and as a consequence improve implementation of OSCE Human Dimension Commitments at the national level.

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<sup>1</sup> The HDC agenda remains subject to the approval of the OSCE participating States

The discussion should be guided by the mandates of the OSCE structures and embrace all segments of the implementation cycle of OSCE Human Dimension Commitments. The discussion should be specific and outcome oriented. It should allow the identification of immediate improvements of cooperation between OSCE entities and their counterparts that will contribute to enhance implementation of OSCE Human Dimension Commitments at the national level.

The Seminar will discuss co-operation between the OSCE and international and regional organizations in four Working Group Sessions.

The first Working Group will focus on how the OSCE can better promote and advance OSCE Human Dimension Commitments, learn from and increase its co-operation with international and regional organizations to better assist OSCE participating States in promoting OSCE Human Dimension Commitments.

The second and third Working Groups will focus on identifying areas of assistance and expertise which can be strengthened by increased co-operation between the OSCE and international and regional actors in providing assistance to the participating States, and on increasing the effectiveness of collecting, processing, exchanging and disseminating information concerning the human dimension.

Working Group four will focus on good practices for co-operation and how OSCE structures can benefit from best practices of their respective counterparts in other regional and international organisations in assisting OSCE participating States.

The more detailed agenda ('Annotated Agenda') as well as the 'Short Agenda' will be uploaded on the HDS website closer to the Seminar.