

Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities 2022



**The Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe is**

The World's Largest Regional Security Organization

working to ensure peace, democracy and stability for more
than a billion people between Vancouver and Vladivostok.

This report is submitted in accordance with Decision 9,
paragraph 6, of the Bucharest Ministerial Council Meeting,
4 December 2001.

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Foreword by the Secretary General



I am pleased to present the 2022 edition of the Annual Report on the OSCE's Police-Related Activities. It highlights the many efforts undertaken in 2022 by the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations, within their respective mandates, to strengthen law enforcement capabilities and co-operation across the OSCE region.

For the first time, this Annual Report provides an overview of some of the key security challenges that OSCE police-related activities address across the OSCE region. This demonstrates how OSCE efforts help participating States and Partners for Co-operation address a diverse set of threats, from cybercrime, drug-related criminality, money laundering and illicit finance, and terrorism, to trafficking in human beings, cultural goods, firearms and explosives. The activities contained within this report illustrate the real value that the OSCE brings to the citizens of participating States and our Partners for Co-operation.

A few examples serve to highlight both the thematic range of our engagement in 2022, and its geographic scope across the OSCE region.

In Eastern Europe, we aided national authorities through various initiatives to enhance multi-agency law enforcement co-operation and specialized services such as forensic or canine units.

In South-Eastern Europe, the OSCE supported efforts to strengthen police reform and build capacity. This included the development and review of legislation and technology platforms for more effective policing. We also promoted a safer and more secure environment for people in South-Eastern Europe by supporting law enforcement agencies in integrating gender considerations throughout their work and addressing issues such as gender-based violence and school safety.

Similarly, in Central Asia, the OSCE worked to strengthen law enforcement capabilities and supported co-operation with the media, social services, educational institutions and youth. Through capacity-building, mobile police reception teams, anti-trafficking

simulations, cybercrime training courses and more, we prepared law enforcement agencies to effectively address evolving security challenges.

Promoting gender equality within the police also remains a high priority for the OSCE, and I welcome the significant work done on gender-specific capacity-building and the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women. The share of female participants in police-related training activities increased from 36 per cent in 2021 to 40 per cent in 2022. While this is a promising development, there is still more work to be done to ensure the equal representation of women and men in all our programmatic undertakings, and I am committed to achieving that goal.


Finally, this report demonstrates how the OSCE continues to serve as an essential platform for exchange, bringing together its participating States and Partners for Co-operation with experts from other regional and international organizations, civil society, academia, the media and the private sector, to collectively strengthen resilience and responses to the transnational threats facing the OSCE area. Police-related activities implemented by the OSCE continue to play a significant role in police development and reform across participating States, and exemplify the comprehensive approach to security in practice.



Helga Maria Schmid
OSCE Secretary General

Executive Summary





The Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities provides a comprehensive overview of all police-related projects, events and programmes implemented by OSCE executive structures, including the thematic units in the Secretariat, OSCE field operations and institutions.

The Report is submitted in accordance with Decision 9, Paragraph 6, of the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Council (MC) Meeting, while the activities described in this report are based on a comprehensive list of individual mandates and tasks that have been provided by various Ministerial Council (MC) and Permanent Council (PC) Decisions since 1998. A full list of all MC and PC Decisions and Action Plans that focus on police-related activities is provided in Appendix 1 below.

The police-related activities described in this report are presented in two main categories:

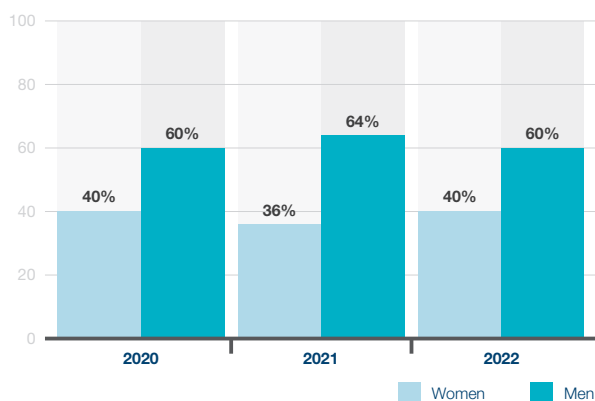
- 1) General police development and reform, including anti-corruption, gender-based violence, community policing and hate crime;
- 2) Threats posed by criminal activity, including organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in illicit drugs and chemical precursors, trafficking in human beings and cybercrime.

- ▶ **In 2022, police-related activities covered a broad range of initiatives, some short-term and others part of long-term capacity-building efforts. These initiatives were conducted across the whole OSCE region. They included training courses, workshops, awareness-raising events, conferences and many other types of activities.**

These activities took place in the context of a varied and complex security landscape across the OSCE's main areas of operation in Central Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern-Europe. Overall, there are some types of crime threats common to all of these regions, such as drug trafficking, cybercrime and environmental crime. The exploitation of irregular migrants and trafficking in human beings (THB) remain a challenge throughout the OSCE region, with some countries registering a significant number of cases each year that are related to exploitation for labour and/or sexual services. Sexual- and gender-based violence remains a significant issue. As indicators from local communities and police show, it is likely that such crimes continue to be significantly underreported. Corruption remains a challenge at different levels of society and to varying degrees across the OSCE region. Conflict zones are frequently a source of illegal firearms, which are trafficked throughout the world and offered to criminals via black markets. Since active conflicts increase the risk of firearm trafficking, diligent monitoring is needed to stem illicit flows. Moreover, climate change is likely to have an impact on all aspects of life in the foreseeable future, including criminal activities. Excessive droughts or floods may create demand for certain criminal services or goods, such as counterfeit products.

The OSCE continues to monitor these developments and respond to established and emerging challenges. In co-operation with participating States and other partners, the OSCE seeks to mitigate the impact of such developments on the security and prosperity of the OSCE area.

In accordance with OSCE commitments to promote gender equality stemming from the 2004 Gender Action Plan, while preparing the 2022 Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities, the TNTD/SPMU collected disaggregated data, where data were available, on the gender composition of participants in OSCE police-related activities. This data show that the participation of women in OSCE police-related activities in 2022 was approximately 40 per cent (8,644 out of a total of 21,422)—an increase of 4 percentage



Percentage of female participants

points compared to 2021. This indicates a reversal of the previous downward trend observed between 2020 and 2021.

Within the group of activities related to general police development and reform, female participants represented approximately 38 per cent (4,352 out of a total of 11,435), compared to 33 per cent in 2021 (3,689 out of a total of 11,131), amounting to an increase of 5 percentage points. There is particular room for improving gender balance in activities in the following areas: human resources and police management (female participants: 23 per cent), police development and reform (26 per cent), and community policing, police-public relations, and crime prevention (30 per cent).

Within the group of activities related to addressing threats posed by criminal activity, in 2022 approximately 43 per cent of the participants were women (4,292 out of a total of 9,987), compared to 40 per cent in 2021 (3,805 out of a total of 9,619), amounting to an increase of 3 percentage points. Within this group of activities, the areas with the lowest percentage of female representation were: cybercrime (female participants: 26 per cent) and illicit drugs and chemical precursors (26 per cent). Nonetheless, this represented significant increases of 10 and 12 percentage points, respectively, compared to the previous year.

Overall, the gender-disaggregated data collected in 2022 show that women's participation increased, reversing the previously observed downward trend, but that there is still room for improvement in all police-related activities organized in the OSCE region. Nonetheless, there remain certain areas, notably gender mainstreaming (male participants: 36 per cent) and trafficking in human beings & migration-related crime (male participants: 37 per cent), in which male participants are traditionally under-represented. In these areas,

the share of male participation should be increased in order to enable gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches in the delivery of criminal justice services.

Despite a challenging operating environment and significant budgetary constraints, the OSCE field operations and institutions together with the OSCE Secretariat are continuing their work in police-related matters. Their aim is to build a stronger, safer and more equitable OSCE region.

2022 Gender disaggregated participant data

Activity	Woman participants	% Women participants	Men participants	% Men participants	TOTAL
General police development and reform					
Police monitoring and confidence-building	-	-	-	-	-
Police development and reform	183	26%	516	74%	699
Strategic planning including threat assessments	51	32%	109	68%	160
Human resources / police management	70	23%	235	77%	305
Human rights and police accountability	466	38%	774	62%	1,240
Anti-corruption	121	34%	239	66%	360
Gender mainstreaming	266	64%	150	36%	416
Community policing, police-public relations and crime prevention	961	30%	2,251	70%	3,212
Gender-based violence	582	39%	899	61%	1,481
Hate crime	675	55%	556	45%	1,231
Specialized investigations units / forensics	93	34%	179	66%	272
Public order and crisis management	137	49%	144	51%	281
Other, including co-ordination and co-operation	747	42%	1,031	58%	1,778
	4,352	38%	7,083	62%	11,435
Threats posed by criminal activity					
Organized crime	104	29%	255	71%	359
Criminal investigations and analysis	48	28%	126	72%	174
Financial investigations, anti-money laundering and seizures of criminal proceeds	244	44%	309	56%	553
Cross-border co-operation in criminal matters	411	38%	658	62%	1,069
Counter-terrorism & VERLT	896	33%	1,801	67%	2,697
Illicit drugs and chemical precursors	111	26%	311	74%	422
Trafficking in human beings & migration-related crime	2,074	63%	1,195	37%	3,269
Cybercrime	92	26%	267	74%	359
Border security and management / customs	111	39%	177	61%	288
Others	201	25%	596	75%	797
	4,292	43%	5,695	57%	9,987
Total	8,644	40%	12,778	60%	21,422

Police-related Activities of the OSCE Secretariat



1



1.1 Transnational Threats Department/ Strategic Police Matters Unit

► Police officers enhance their skills on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls through OSCE course in Bosnia and Herzegovina

From 12 to 15 December 2022, TNTD/SPMU facilitated a training course on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls for 295 police cadets at the Sarajevo Police Academy.

A team of trainers, including a police officer, a prosecutor, a psychologist and an expert from the NGO Vive Žene, delivered the course. They focused on various topics, including definitions of gender, sex and sexual orientation; why a victim-centred approach is crucial; reporting and the role of the police in detecting and preventing violence; implementing protective measures and conducting risk assessments; the neurobiology of trauma; and the psychology of victims and perpetrators.

As part of a wider approach to addressing the issue, the Centre for Youth Education (CEM) of Bosnia and Herzegovina performed the play “Hidden Shadows” during the course. This drama is based on true stories, including testimonies of victims and perpetrators of gender-based violence (GBV), as well as institutions that deal with such cases. It depicts different aspects of this kind of violence, such as alcohol consumption and the reaction of families, society and institutions.

Hamza Alijagić, one of the police cadets who took part in the course and who will work as a police officer in the Sarajevo Canton, emphasized the importance of this training course. Because this is a very serious and complex topic, it is relevant for the future work of police officers in the field. As Alijagić stated, “I will try, as well as I can, to protect and provide safety to all victims of GBV, as well as victims of any other form of violence. I have felt very emotional throughout this training. I will do my best to expand my knowledge and skills so that all bullies and perpetrators are punished to the fullest extent permitted by law for their cruelty.”

📷 Participants of the training course on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, December 2022.

**Sarajevo Police Academy/
Džanan Kišmetović**



The training course was organized as part of the “Enhancing Criminal Justice Capacities for Combating Gender-based Violence in South-Eastern Europe” project, in co-ordination with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE Gender Issues Programme. The course was followed by the development of a model curriculum on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls that will be institutionalized by the Federal Police Academy and the Police Training Centre in the Republika Srpska, as well as a specialized training course on the same topic for police officers and prosecutors.

General police development and reform

First meeting of the steering committee for the UB project “Expanding and supporting the participation of women in the police at all levels”; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (21 April 2022)

The first meeting of the steering committee for the UB project “Expanding and supporting the participation of women in the police at all levels” was organized at the office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz). In its capacity as project manager, TNTD/SPMU planned, organized and led the meeting, assisted by staff from the PCUz office. Through desk research and interviews, the project will map factors that influence the role of women in the police, and will also outline challenges and ways to solve them. The participants from different law enforcement authorities and civil society in Uzbekistan were presented with an overview of the project objectives, as well as the activities it plans in order to increase the participation of women at all police levels.

Assessment visit to Kyrgyzstan to support police reform (10–14 May 2022)

Jointly with ODIHR and in co-ordination with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, TNTD/SPMU conducted a visit to Kyrgyzstan to assess possible support of police reform in the country. During the visit, the delegation met with the Minister of the Interior of Kyrgyzstan, as well as the heads of various departments and institutions of the Ministry of the Interior (Police Academy, the Republican Training Centre,

the Service for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, the Bishkek Main Police Directorate), the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector (KAWSS), the Public Council of the Ministry of the Interior, and the Office of the Prosecutor General. The assessment visit increased understanding of the current state of police reform in Kyrgyzstan and served as the basis for an assessment report. The report was shared with the national authorities; it will also guide further OSCE assistance in policing to the country.

Annual Meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement and Security Co-operation Departments of OSCE field operations and Institutions; Vienna, Austria (22-23 November 2022)

The Meeting facilitated the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned between TNTD/SPMU, field operations and Institutions, as well as strengthened co-ordination and mutual support for each other’s activities. The Meeting also provided colleagues with an opportunity to discuss challenges, concerns and issues emerging in their daily work. The first day focused on Law enforcement and the Human Dimension, with an emphasis on practical examples of law enforcement co-operating with the human dimension and gender issues in service delivery and beyond. The second day was dedicated to recruitment and training, highlighting the importance of inclusive recruitment practices and innovations in law enforcement training and in-service capacity-building.

Asset recovery

International Certifications for Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) and Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (CAMS) (January–March 2022)

Three participants from Albania and three from Bosnia and Herzegovina became Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists as part of a TNTD-OCEEA activity that is supporting 15 practitioners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Montenegro in acquiring CFE and CAMS certificates. All participants have been provided with a one-year membership to the Association of CFE or the Association of CAMS, as well as course learning material, individual and group mentorship by an expert, and paid exam fees for both certifications. The activity has supported practitioners to enhance their skills and knowledge to conduct financial investigations. The knowledge gained is globally standardized, hence facilitating international and regional co-operation and alleviating the need to resort to external expertise in complex investigative actions.

Capacity-building on social re-use of confiscated assets in Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–March 2022)

The OSCE concluded an implementing partner agreement (IPA) with the Sarajevo-based Center for Civil Society Promotion (CPCD). Building upon national workshops for civil society organizations (CSO) and asset management agencies conducted in 2020 and 2021, the IPA aims to promote the social re-use of confiscated criminal assets among CSOs and relevant institutions and agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to foster public discourse on the role of civil society in the fight against organized crime and corruption. Jointly with the CPCD, the OSCE conducted three capacity-building training activities for CSOs on social re-use practices and procedures.

Second co-ordination meeting mapping current asset recovery technical assistance projects in South-Eastern Europe; online (21 January 2022)

The OSCE took part in the second co-ordination meeting mapping current asset recovery technical assistance pro-



📷 Kick-off meeting at the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek for the TNTD/SPMU needs assessment visit to Kyrgyzstan in support of police reform, May 2022.

OSCE

jects convened by the Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE) Centre in co-operation with the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat and presented the planned activities on asset recovery. The meeting was attended by representatives of the CoE, UNODC, EU, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Centre for International Legal Co-operation.

Training event for judges on extended confiscation of proceeds of crime; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (26–27 January 2022)

TNTD and the OCEEA organized a training event on extended confiscation of proceeds of crime for judges from cantonal and municipal courts working in departments for fighting organized crime, in co-operation with the Federal Agency for the Management of Seized Property and the Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event was attended also by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. By addressing theoretical and practical aspects of extended confiscation of proceeds of crime, the event aimed to foster the use of these provisions where applicable.

Awareness-raising workshop on social re-use of assets confiscated from crime; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (23–24 February 2022)

TNTD together with the OCEEA supported a workshop aimed at raising awareness on the social re-use of assets confiscated from organized crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The activity was organized in partnership with the Sarajevo-based CSO CPCD. Representatives from CSOs in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the event. The concept of social re-use, as well as its practice and legal framework in the two jurisdictions, was introduced by representatives of the asset management agencies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the Republika Srpska. Representatives of CSOs from Albania and Italy discussed the application of social re-use in civil society.

Discussions on social re-use with national experts, CSOs and policymakers from South-Eastern Europe; online (March 2022)

Contracted experts conducted 23 online discussions with representatives of asset management agencies, experts on asset recovery, representatives of CSOs, and policymakers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Discussions gathered first-hand information on existing legal frameworks, practices and challenges related to the social re-use of assets confiscated from

organized crime in the region, with a specific focus on the re-use of buildings, land, vehicles and money.

Steering group meeting of the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network; online (31 March 2022)

The OSCE supported the organization of a steering group meeting of the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network (BAMIN). During the meeting, representatives of the agencies of Albania and Montenegro discussed the date, location and topics of the BAMIN annual general meeting. As topics that would benefit all of the asset management agencies involved in BAMIN, participants identified the management and disposal of cryptocurrencies, management of confiscated vehicles, and pre-seizure planning. Moreover, they all agreed that social re-use of confiscated assets is a relevant topic for workshops and training events.

Support for the social re-use of confiscated property in Bosnia and Herzegovina (April–June 2022)

TNTD and the OCEEA provided support to the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in re-using the confiscated Hotel Walter for accommodating people fleeing from Ukraine as its first Government decision to re-use a confiscated property for social purposes.

Regional workshop on confiscation and re-use of criminal assets for participants from South-Eastern Europe; Rome, Italy (30–31 May 2022)

In co-operation with the OCEEA, TNTD conducted a regional workshop in Rome on the confiscation and re-use of criminal assets. The event gathered policymakers and CSOs from South-Eastern Europe and other participating States who discussed how to effectively seize, confiscate, manage and re-use criminal assets. The focus of the workshop was on re-use of assets confiscated from organized crime and corruption cases, including the re-use of assets for social purposes.

Support for the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network annual general meeting; Budva, Montenegro (22–24 June 2022)

The OSCE supported the fourth annual general meeting of the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network (BAMIN). Representatives discussed what constitutes a mandate for an effective asset management office. Through interactive group work, participants shared lessons and potential challenges. This input will be used to develop guidelines to be disseminated among BAMIN members.

Participation in the 3rd Asset Recovery Technical Assistance Providers Co-ordination Meeting and assessment visit; Belgrade, Serbia (29 June 2022)

Organized by the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat and the AIRE Centre, the meeting gathered donors and organizations supporting countries in South-Eastern Europe in asset recovery processes. TNTD and the OCEEA presented recent achievements and planned activities as part of their regional project on asset recovery.

Second national workshop on the effective management and re-use of confiscated assets in Montenegro (18 July 2022)

The OSCE held the training workshop on the effective management and re-use of confiscated assets for representatives of Montenegro's Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Court, Cadastre and State Property Administration, and CSOs. At the workshop, participants discussed how to improve the management and re-use of assets confiscated from organized crime and corruption cases, including aspects of the new draft law on the confiscation of proceeds of crime and subsequent bylaws. Experts from Albania, Croatia, Romania, and the United Kingdom presented good practices in the effective management and re-use of confiscated assets.

Third national workshop on social re-use of confiscated assets; Skopje, North Macedonia (27 September 2022)

A third national workshop brought together participants from the North Macedonia Ministry of Justice and its Asset Management Agency, as well as thematic experts and CSOs. The event raised awareness about the importance of asset recovery and the potential leverage that the re-use of confiscated assets as a public good can create to reduce crime and corruption. It also offered an opportunity to discuss ongoing amendments to a draft law on the management of confiscated assets in North Macedonia and the law's practical implementation, including social re-use practices.

BAMIN training event on management of seized and confiscated vehicles; online (July–September 2022)

Supported by TNTD and the OCEEA, BAMIN organized a training event focused on effective and cost-efficient management of seized or confiscated vehicles. This is a key challenge for most BAMIN members.

National workshop on the social re-use of confiscated assets; Podgorica, Montenegro (2 November 2022)

A series of national workshops held in Montenegro on the social re-use of confiscated assets came to a conclusion. The final workshop gathered representatives from CSOs, think tanks, the Montenegro Ministry of Justice, its Cadastre and its State Property Administration, as well as thematic experts. In anticipation of the implementation of an amended law on the confiscation of assets gained by criminal activities, the workshop facilitated an exchange of views among the participants on how to devise necessary mechanisms for allocating and distributing confiscated assets. The discussions focused on the key role of CSOs in this process, as well as the possibilities for re-using confiscated assets to support victims of crime or affected communities.

Presentation of the work of the OSCE on asset recovery; Washington, D.C. United States (2 and 6 November 2022)

The work being done at the OSCE on asset recovery was presented at the online webinar "Innovations in Asset Recovery in the OSCE: The Concept of Social Re-use" and at the International Anti-Corruption Conference 2022. Both events underlined how the seizure and confiscation of criminal assets assists criminal justice practitioners and CSOs to fight organized crime and corruption. To support the establishment of efficient mechanisms for cost-effective management and disposal of confiscated criminal assets, as well as the re-use of such assets for crime prevention and community support initiatives, the events emphasized advocacy, awareness-raising and policy discussion.

Training course on mutual legal assistance and international co-operation in asset recovery for participants from South-Eastern Europe, Moldova and Ukraine; Dubrovnik, Croatia (7–10 November 2022)

The training course gathered criminal justice practitioners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. Its aim was to enhance the capacity of participants to mutually request and provide legal assistance in cross-border cases of organized crime and corruption, including asset recovery. The trainers offered a combination of theoretical and practical sessions. During the latter, participants had an opportunity to apply acquired knowledge and skills in a simulation exercise.

National workshop on the social re-use of confiscated assets; Tirana, Albania (25 November 2022)

A third workshop in Albania on the social re-use of confiscated assets brought representatives from CSOs, think tanks and Albania's Agency for the Administration of Sequestered and Confiscated Assets together with asset recovery experts. Albania has several examples of social enterprises and other social initiatives related to confiscated properties and thus is a regional pioneer in the distribution and re-use of confiscated criminal assets. However, CSOs as well as government agencies have been encountering challenges with the aspect of social re-use. The third workshop addressed these challenges, focusing in particular on matters connected to sustainability and feasible ways for addressing them. Social re-use is a crucial means for ensuring the continuity of projects aimed at preventing crime and promoting a culture of legality.

Gender-based violence

Roundtables for law enforcement and judiciary training on GBV in South-Eastern Europe (January–March 2022)

Multi-agency committees from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia met to discuss current relevant legislation in each country, identify specific training needs and explore methods to ensure the sustainability of project results. The events brought together representatives of law enforcement and judicial agencies, social services, civil society, the OSCE Secretariat, field operations in the region, as well as regional and international partner organizations.

Regional workshop in South-Eastern Europe on developing a state-of-the-art training curriculum on GBV for law enforcement and judiciary; online (24 March 2022)

TNTD/SPMU organized a regional workshop attended by the members of the South-Eastern Europe regional Advisory and Co-ordination Board and national Multi-Agency Committees, which were established as part of the project. Representatives from law enforcement, judiciary, civil society, social welfare, health and educational institutions, as well as OSCE field operations and regional and international partner organizations attended the event. The main goal of the workshop was to agree on the content of a regional state-of-the-art curriculum for law enforcement on GBV. The curriculum aims at covering training gaps identified during a mapping conducted in South-Eastern Europe by the OSCE Gender Issues Programme.

Development of state-of-the-art curriculum for a training-of-trainers course on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls (April–June 2022)

TNTD/SPMU developed the first draft of a state-of-the-art training curriculum for a training-of-trainers course on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The curriculum focuses on enhancing the skills and knowledge of first-line responders (police and prosecutors) in relation to cases of GBV. It covers various areas, including in-depth knowledge of VAWG as a form of GBV, victim-centred approaches to VAWG, interagency co-operation, and diversity as a shared vision of success and partnership. The curriculum will be piloted during a regional training-of-trainers course for police officers and prosecutors from South-Eastern Europe.

Training-of-trainers course on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls; Warsaw, Poland (25–29 July 2022)

TNTD/SPMU organized a regional training-of-trainers course held in partnership with ODIHR and the OSCE Gender Issues Programme. Police officers and prosecutors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia were trained to respond effectively to cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG) while maintaining a victim/survivor-centred approach. The course covered topics such as causes and cycles of violence, violence prevention, harmful biases, attitudes and stereotypes, risk assessment, victim/survivor protection protocols, referral mechanisms and interagency co-operation.

National workshops on the improvement and updating of national curricula for law enforcement on GBV in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia (October–November 2022)

In co-operation with the respective OSCE field operations and national law enforcement authorities, TNTD/SPMU organized six independent national workshops on improving and updating the national training curricula for law enforcement on GBV. The events were attended by representatives of the respective law enforcement authorities, ministries, academies, courts, prosecutor's offices and social services. During the workshops, participants analysed and proposed improvements to the national training curricula on preventing and fighting GBV with the aim of aligning them with the CoE's Istanbul Convention. They also elaborated on how the updated curricula can be institutionalized.

Webinar for cadets on trends in contemporary policing, especially on combating GBV and advancing the meaningful participation of women in law enforcement; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (6 December 2022)

In co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz), TNTD/SPMU organized a webinar for cadets and lecturers from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This was the last in a series of four webinars organized to raise awareness among students and staff at the Academy of key trends and developments in contemporary policing. The webinar was dedicated to combating GBV and advancing the meaningful participation of women in law enforcement. The presenters outlined the different forms of GBV, possibilities of multi-sectoral co-ordination, training of practitioners and awareness-raising on the topic. They also highlighted the importance of addressing gender inequality as one of the root causes of GBV and discussed ways to advance the meaningful participation of women at all levels of policing. The event was attended by over a hundred cadets and lecturers from the Academy. It was preceded by webinars organized by TNTD/SPMU in 2022 on topics such as countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime, and intelligence-led policing.

National training course for cadets on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls at the Sarajevo Police Academy; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (12–15 December 2022)

TNTD/SPMU facilitated a training course on gender-responsive policing of violence against women and girls for 295 police cadets at the Sarajevo Police Academy. A team of trainers, a police officer, a prosecutor, a psychologist and an expert from the NGO Vive Žene delivered the course. In addition, a group of actors performed the role play “Hidden Shadows”. The discussions focused on topics such as the definitions of gender, sex and sexual orientation; why a victim-centred approach is crucial; reporting and the role of the police in detecting and preventing violence; implementing protective measures and conducting risk assessments; the neurobiology of trauma; and the psychology of victims and perpetrators.

Intelligence-led policing

Assessment visit to Georgia to identify perspectives for co-operation on intelligence-led policing (16–20 May 2022)

An international expert conducted a needs assessment to identify perspectives for co-operation with Georgia on intelligence-led policing (ILP). The expert met with interlocutors at the MoIA of Georgia and at law enforcement agencies to gain insight into the current status of ILP-related activities, as well as to identify areas in which assistance might be provided.

Training seminar for law enforcement officers on intelligence-led policing: From theory to practical implementation; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (5–8 July 2022)

In co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and in response to a request of the Kyrgyz MoIA, TNTD/SPMU organized an introductory training seminar on ILP. During the event, law enforcement officers from the Criminal Investigation Department and the Republican Training Centre of the MoIA broadened their knowledge of ILP, crime analysis and decision-making processes. Participants also learned about international good practices and assessed the possible implementation of the ILP model in Kyrgyzstan.

Awareness-raising event on intelligence-led policing approaches for senior Georgian law enforcement managers; Tbilisi, Georgia (16 November 2022)

In co-operation with the MoIA of Georgia, TNTD/SPMU conducted an awareness-raising event on the benefits of the ILP model at national and regional levels for senior managers from the Georgian law enforcement authorities. The event included an introduction to the general principles and concepts of ILP presented by an international expert, followed by a practical example of the implementation and impact of ILP approaches in Serbia presented by a Serbian ILP expert and practitioner.

Community policing

The OSCE’s component in the EU-funded project on building effective and accountable institutions in Armenia (25 January 2022)

An EU-funded project on building effective and accountable institutions in Armenia was officially launched. The objective of the project is to implement three components based on the highest priorities for national reform. The police reform component is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the OSCE (CPC and TNTD). The focus of TNTD’s support in relation to the estab-

ishment of Armenia's new Ministry of the Interior (MoI) will be strengthening Armenia's police education system, developing a community policing framework, and ensuring transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

Dialogue policing training course; Yerevan, Armenia (29 April–12 May 2022)

TNTD/SPMU organized a dialogue policing training course for Armenian police officers as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen democratic policing in Armenia through enhanced police–public partnership. The course was delivered by two Swedish experts and focused on the Swedish concept of dialogue police, which aims at the more effective policing of public assemblies.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Crime prevention

Youth crime and drug use prevention workshops in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (January–April 2022)

Joint TNTD-OCEEA workshops on youth crime and drug use prevention brought together government representatives, school teachers, university professors and civil society to raise awareness on existing UNODC training modules (Education4Justice and Global Programme on Prevention), foster exchange of best practices and cross-agency collaboration, and to identify capacity gaps and training needs in the field of youth crime and drug use prevention. The youth crime and drug use prevention workshops in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan provided a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and co-operation among representatives from government, schools, universities and civil society to discuss trends, challenges and lessons learned in youth crime prevention (YCP). During the workshops, participants identified capacity gaps in YCP and emphasized the need for effective training in this area.

Intragovernmental working group meetings on educational curricula and awareness campaigns on YCP; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (3 November and 8 December 2022)

TNTD/SPMU facilitated working group meetings in Bishkek on YCP that brought together representatives of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science, MoIA, Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Culture,

Updated guidebook on good practices in building police–public partnerships (29 June 2022)

TNTD/SPMU launched a second updated version of its *Guidebook on Good Practices in Building Police–Public Partnerships*. The *Guidebook*, published in English, was updated jointly with UNODC and is available on the OSCE website. A core objective of TNTD/SPMU's work in this area is to promote police–public partnerships, including through community-oriented policing. The updated *Guidebook* reflects new relevant research on the topic, including aspects such as the use of new technologies as part of ILP.

Information, Sports and Youth Policy, as well as experts from Kyrgyz civil society. The curricula and strategy were developed by TNTD and OCEEA at the request of the Kyrgyz Government, in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation signed in April 2022 between the OSCE and the Kyrgyz Government on YCP.

Cybercrime

Country visits to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan (10–18 March 2022) and Kyrgyzstan (20–22 April 2022)

TNTD/SPMU conducted country visits to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to gather feedback on the implementation of its cybercrime prevention project and to discuss preparations, both with national counterparts and the respective field operations, for the project's next phase, namely implementing national training courses to commence later in the year 2022.

Introductory training course on open source IT forensics; Koschi, Kazakhstan (16–20 May and 20–24 June 2022)

TNTD/SPMU delivered, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana and the Kazakhstan Law Enforcement Academy under the General Prosecutor's Office, a two-week introductory training course on open source

IT forensics. The course was attended by law enforcement officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and was delivered by four digital forensic experts from Estonia, Georgia, Norway and Romania. The course, originally developed by the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group, provided participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for understanding the steps and key principles of the digital forensic process, reading computer data, and using available open source forensic tools to analyse data.

Donation of IT equipment and preparations for national training activities (July–September 2022)

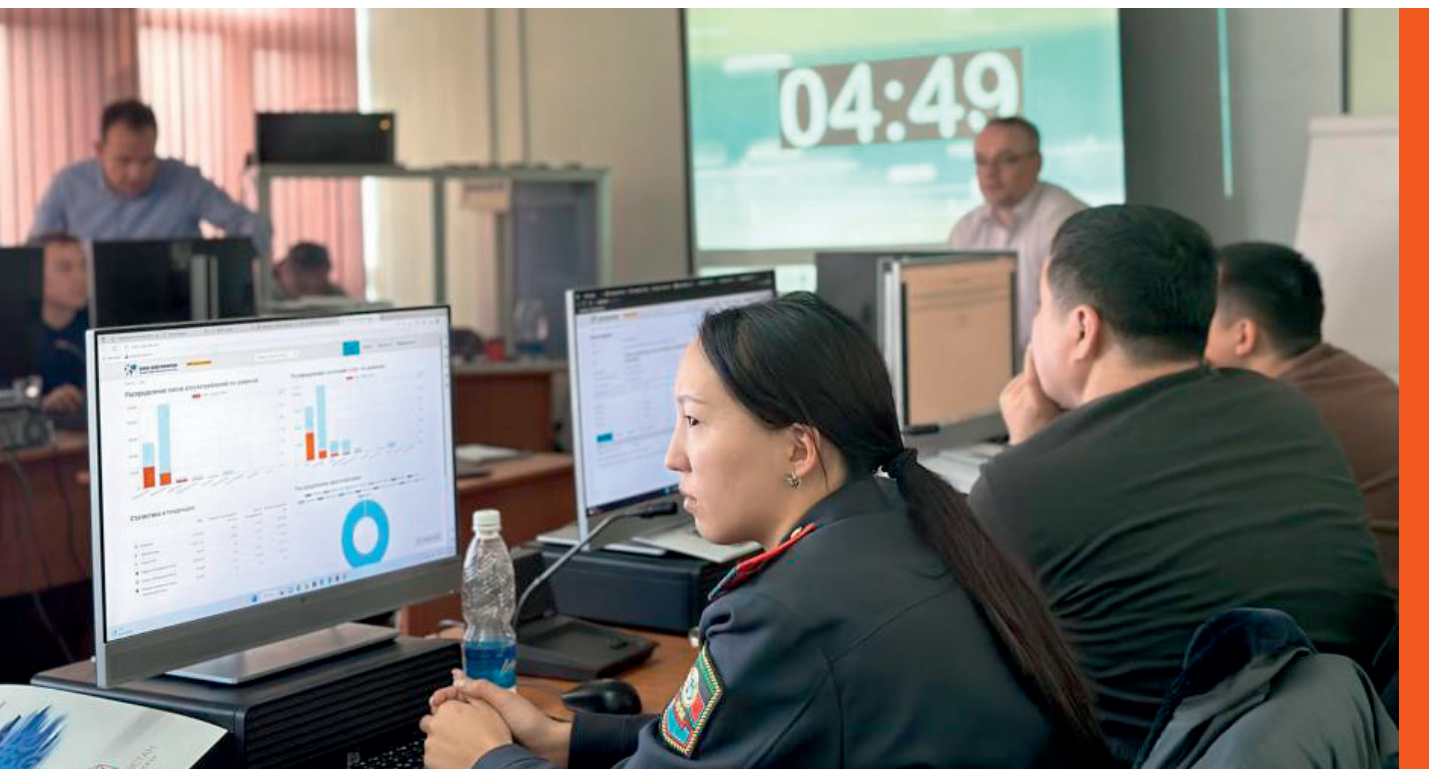
IT equipment for law enforcement educational institutions in Central Asia was delivered. Each beneficiary country (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) received equipment for one computer classroom (23 desktop computers, 4 laptops, 2 projectors and projection screens, 1 printer) that will be used for subsequent national training activities. The equipment donation was complemented by a series of national training courses, *inter alia*, on cryptocurrencies and dark web investigations, requesting electronic evidence across borders, and handling digital evidence by first responders.

National training courses on cryptocurrencies and dark web investigations; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (17–21 October 2022) and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (21–25 November 2022)

In co-operation with the PCUz and the Academy of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan, TNTD/SPMU delivered a training course on cryptocurrencies and dark web investigations for 15 representatives of the Uzbek Office of the Prosecutor General, MoIA and State Security Service. Participants learned about the main concepts and key trends in the areas of internet-working, anonymity and encryption, cryptocurrencies, obfuscation techniques, dark web and Tor networks. They also practiced approaches and methods for cryptocurrency seizing, blockchain analysis and searching the dark web.

National training courses on requesting electronic evidence across borders; Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Astana, Kazakhstan and Dushanbe, Tajikistan (October–December 2022)

In co-operation with the OSCE field operations in Central Asia, TNTD/SPMU continued to conduct training courses on requesting electronic evidence from foreign service provid-



Participants during the training course on cryptocurrencies and dark web investigations in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in November 2022.

OSCE / Dmytro Zhuravlyov

ers. Developed jointly with UNODC and INTERPOL and with financial support from the EU, the course is based on the *UN Practical Guide on Requesting Electronic Evidence across Borders*. The three-day training course covered available instruments for requesting electronic evidence from service providers based in foreign jurisdictions, including requests for preservation, voluntary disclosure, emergency disclosure and mutual legal assistance, as well as channels for police-to-police co-operation. Also discussed is the importance of respecting human rights in all of these procedures. Each training course was followed by a one-day roundtable, during which participants and experts discussed possible changes to the operational procedures of criminal justice institutions in each country to improve their capacity to obtain electronic evidence from abroad.

National training course on handling digital evidence by first responders; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (14–18 November 2022)

In co-operation with the POiB and the Academy of the Kyrgyz MoIA, TNTD/SPMU organized a training course on handling digital evidence by first responders. Representatives of relevant operational units of the MoIA and Academy staff learned how to identify, seize and secure potential sources of digital evidence at a crime scene, use open source forensic tools for first responders, conduct basic live data forensics, and deal with volatile data. They were also introduced to the basics of computer networking, as well as online open source investigations and anonymity on the internet.

Illicit drugs and chemical precursors

Participation in the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs 65th session; Vienna, Austria (14–18 March 2022)

Upon the invitation of UNODC, TNTD/SPMU attended the 65th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UN CND) as an observer. Participants discussed recent developments of the drug control system and joint efforts in tackling the world drug problem. They also adopted resolutions aimed at promoting comprehensive and scientific evidence-based early prevention, strengthening international co-operation to address the links between trafficking in illicit drugs and firearms, and intensifying efforts to address the diversion of non-scheduled chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs or the proliferation of designer precursors.

Support to UNODC's Paris Pact Initiative on tackling financial flows linked to illicit Afghan opiates; Vienna, Austria (30–31 May 2022)

TNTD/SPMU supported the UNODC's Paris Pact Initiative by co-organizing its Expert Working Group meeting to discuss recent developments in countering illicit financial flows linked with Afghan opiates. Participants discussed the security situation in Afghanistan, opiate trafficking, money and service transfer systems (Hawala), interagency/international co-operation, challenges and developments in anti-money laundering, as well as asset recovery initiatives. They also considered technical assistance needs and new capabilities that can enhance understanding and disruption of illicit financial flows in line with implementing priority recommendations as endorsed by the 15th Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group meeting in 2021.

1.2 Transnational Threats Department/ Action against Terrorism Unit

- ▶ **Action against Terrorism Unit (TNTD/ATU) supports participating States and Partners for Co-operation in bringing a gender analysis to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (P/C VERLT)**

With the support of the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Vienna and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) in Malta, TNTD/ATU organized a training course for participants from Jordanian law enforcement agencies and civil society (12 October) aimed at a better integration of gender perspectives and enhanced collaboration across sectors in P/C VERLT programming and operations. In addition, the event looked at strengthening a community-oriented approach in P/C VERLT that protects and promotes human rights. The training event was built on the P/C VERLT Guidebook Series, including publications on whole-of-society approaches, and on gender and VERLT, the latter in particular designed as guidance for law enforcement officers.

Similarly, in co-operation with the Spanish National Police, TNTD/ATU organized a training event for Spanish law enforcement (13–14 December) to further advance gender-responsiveness in P/C VERLT activities. Facilitated by a team of international and national experts, and tailored to the Spanish and wider European contexts, the event focused on intersections between gender power relations and VERLT. The nexus between violent misogyny and violent extremism was discussed in particular, informed by a related Policy Brief that TNTD/ATU launched jointly with the OSCE's Gender Issues Programme's WIN project.



📎 Participants of the two-day training event “Understanding the Role of Gender in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism” (P/C VERLT) in Madrid, Spain in December 2022.
OSCE

Threats posed by criminal activity

Counter-terrorism activities

Workshop on juvenile justice in a counter-terrorism context; online (8–9 February 2022)

Following the contribution to the development of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Neuchatel Memorandum on Juvenile Justice, TNTD/ATU participated in a workshop on juvenile justice organized by the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), since TNTD/ATU has included related legal aspects in its national criminal justice seminars and regional policy dialogues related to foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).

High-level conference on regional co-operation in the fight against terrorism; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (3–4 March 2022)

A high-level international conference on regional co-operation in the fight against terrorism was jointly organized by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), the OSCE PCUz and TNTD/ATU. The conference addressed regional co-operation among Central Asian countries within the framework of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The conference facilitated discussions on the four pillars of the strategy as well as the situation in Central Asia following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. The adoption of the Tashkent Declaration and an updated Joint Plan of Action demonstrated the commitment of Central Asian countries to the joint fight against terrorism.

UN conference on human rights, civil society and counter-terrorism; Malaga, Spain (10–11 May 2022)

TNTD/ATU participated in a conference on human rights, civil society and counter-terrorism organized by UNOCT and the Government of Spain. The conference highlighted the OSCE's efforts in upholding the rule of law as a crucial component of preventing and countering terrorism. It provided an opportunity for TNTD/ATU to deepen its relationship with UNOCT and discuss plans to engage with their Madrid-based Global Programme on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Attacks.

Participation in the plenary meeting of the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism; Strasbourg, France (23–25 May 2022)

TNTD/ATU participated in the plenary meeting of the CoE Committee on Counter-Terrorism. Discussions among CoE Member States touched upon a range of issues, including an update of the organization's current Counter-Terrorism Strategy, efforts to identify and address emerging terrorist threats, and efforts to counteract terrorist communications, recruitment and training. TNTD/ATU contributed to the discussions by presenting its respective ongoing efforts, and co-ordinated with the CoE on areas of common interest.

UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee visits to Bulgaria (4–8 April 2022), the Baltic States (10–21 October 2022), and Uzbekistan (28 November–2 December 2022)

TNTD/ATU represented the OSCE in visits of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee to Bulgaria, the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) and Uzbekistan. These visits assessed the implementation of UN resolutions and international counter-terrorism commitments, with TNTD/ATU contributing expertise in the areas of preventing and countering VERLT, on critical infrastructure protection, and on criminal justice parameters.

High-level conference on international and regional border security and management co-operation to counter terrorism; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (18–19 October 2022)

In co-operation with the Government of Tajikistan, UNOCT, the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, and the EU, the OSCE co-organized a high-level conference on border security and management co-operation to counter terrorism. The conference was attended by over 900 participants. Discussions focused on regional border security challenges, FTFs and on leveraging partnerships to mitigate related threats. The conference concluded with the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration on Border Security and Management Co-operation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists.

Annual focal points meeting of the action against terrorism networks; Vienna, Austria (20 December 2022)

The annual meeting of counter-terrorism focal points in the OSCE Secretariat, institutions, field operations and the Parliamentary Assembly, organized by TNTD/ATU, served as a platform for information-sharing and co-ordination to identify mutual priorities for 2023. Regional breakout sessions allowed focal points to present programmatic priorities and upcoming activities.

Participation in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Compact Committee meeting (8 June 2022)

TNTD contributed online to the 8th meeting of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Compact Committee at the invitation of UNOCT. The OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats presented about the OSCE's co-operation with UN agencies, addressed challenges in preventing and countering terrorism, and focused on engaging with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, particularly in North Africa.

Regional discussions for the establishment of a counter-terrorism early warning network for Central Asia; Istanbul, Türkiye (27–30 June 2022)

TNTD participated in regional discussions for the establishment of a counter-terrorism early warning network for Central Asia. The event was organized by UNOCT and the United Nations

Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UN-RCCA). The aim was to enhance co-operation and co-ordination between law enforcement agencies, representatives of international and regional organizations and counter-terrorism mechanisms to develop an early warning network in response to threats emanating from Afghanistan. TNTD contributed particularly to the session focusing on assessments and responses by international and regional organizations.

Participation in the UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism; New York, United States (8–9 September 2022)

The OSCE participated in the UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, with the OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats (Co/TNT) delivering a speech at the session "Rehabilitation, Assistance and Support", highlighting, *inter alia*, the OSCE's good practices related to the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs and associated family members. This session also explored support for victims from the immediate aftermath of an attack to the longer term, as well as good practices in the development of comprehensive national assistance plans. On the margins of the Congress, high-level meetings with UNOCT, UNCTED, and the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights were held to discuss further co-operation.

Open Briefing of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee on Central Asia (20 December 2022)

TNTD contributed online to the Open Briefing of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee on Central Asia, alongside rep-

Participants in the OSCE training course "Understanding the Role of Gender in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism" (P/C VERLT) in Valletta, Malta in October 2022.
The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law



representatives from other international organizations. The briefing focused on international and regional co-operation mechanisms in Central Asia in the area of counter-terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. TNTD placed its focus on prevention, emphasizing how prevention-oriented programmes carry the potential to foster more bottom-up engagement. It also drew attention to the importance of creating a culture of listening between government actors and civil society, with both sides drawing on each other's skills, insights and experience.

Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/C VERLT)

Training course on understanding the role of gender in P/C VERLT for Jordanian participants; Valletta, Malta (12 October 2022)

With the support of the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Vienna and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta, TNTD/ATU organized a pilot training course for Jordanian law enforcement agencies and civil society. The event was aimed at the better integration of gender perspectives and enhanced collaboration across sectors in P/C VERLT programming and operations. In addition, it looked at strengthening a community-oriented approach in P/C VERLT that protects and promotes human rights.

Participation in the International Conference on Transnational Terrorist Threats from Emerging and Re-Emerging Violent Extremist Movements; Strasbourg, France (3–4 November 2022)

TNTD/ATU participated in a conference on transnational terrorist threats organized by the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism and the German Federal Foreign Office. The need to adapt existing tools and approaches was stressed, as was countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes and promoting co-operation in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

ODIHR regional workshop on detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering VERLT in prisons; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (29–30 November 2022)

TNTD participated in a regional workshop for government and civil society representatives from Central Asia organized by ODIHR and Penal Reform International. The event focused on independent detention monitoring and increased oversight for enhanced protection of the rights of persons deprived of liberty, while effectively preventing/countering

VERLT in prisons. TNTD delivered remarks focused on the importance of distinguishing violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism from extremism and radicalization alone, and the need for a human-rights based and multi-stakeholder approach.¹

Training event “Media and Information Literacy in the Context of P/C VERLT – Addressing Challenges in the Digital ‘Information Disorder’”; Skopje, North Macedonia (5–7 December 2022)

TNTD organized a training event for policymakers, law enforcement officials, educational stakeholders, media representatives, media institutes and other CSOs focused on strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration on media information literacy as well as critical thinking in the context of P/C VERLT. In co-ordination with the Women & Men Innovating & Networking for Gender Equality (WIN) project of the OSCE Gender Issues Programme, also discussed were links between gender dynamics and VERLT in the digital space, and enabling more gender-responsive programmes. International and local experts on media and information literacy, gender and P/C VERLT contributed, which ensured that the training event was tailored to the regional and national context.

Training event “Understanding the Role of Gender in P/C VERLT – Good Practices for Law Enforcement”; Madrid, Spain (13–14 December 2022)

Upon request by Spain, TNTD/ATU organized a training event for the Spanish National Police to advance gender-responsiveness in national P/C VERLT activities. The course allowed for reflection and exchange on how gender power relations relate to and intersect with VERLT, including the nexus between violent misogyny and violent extremism. The event was tailored to the Spanish and wider European contexts.

Countering the financing of terrorism (CFT)

Implementation of OSCE-UNODC training course on CFT; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and Tajikistan (April–December 2022)

In collaboration with UNODC and the respective OSCE field operations, TNTD/ATU organized training courses to enhance national capacity in preventing the financing of terrorism and

¹ See also section 3.1 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

in conducting effective financial investigations through inter-agency co-operation. The training event included modules on foundations and analysis, as well as basic and advanced investigation skills. The event also involved aspects of training-of-trainers, aimed at preparing multi-agency teams of local trainers to deliver the course to peer experts in their respective jurisdictions. One objective of the event was thus also to tailor course material and scenario-based exercises to the local context, and to help in the design of appropriate national strategies on preventing and disrupting the financing of terrorism, in line also with the UNSCR 1267 sanctions regime against individuals and entities associated with terrorist groups.

Security briefing for parliamentarians from Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sarajevo (8 June 2022)

TNTD contributed to a security briefing organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Republican Institute for parliamentarians working at all legislative levels in the country. TNTD facilitated the participation of a speaker from the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), who discussed the importance of effective national strategies. TNTD then moderated the second session of the event, which focused on countering terrorist financing.

Countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes

Participation in the UNOCT/INTERPOL meeting on the CT TECH project for Central Asia and Mongolia (14 April 2022)

TNTD/ATU participated online in a regional consultation meeting with Central Asia and Mongolia, launching the joint UNOCT/INTERPOL project CT TECH, which aims at strengthening law enforcement and the capacities of criminal justice authorities to counter the exploitation of ICT for terrorist purposes, and to support leveraging new technologies in the fight against terrorism. TNTD/ATU contributed an overview of the OSCE's efforts in preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism online, particularly on promoting human-rights based responses.

OSCE launch of an e-course in the Uzbek language on preventing the use of the internet for terrorist purposes (10 August 2022)

In collaboration with the PCUz, TNTD/ATU launched an e-learning course in the Uzbek language aimed at policy-makers, law enforcement, government officials, academics and practitioners involved in security issues. The course

focuses on preventing and countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes in a human-rights compliant and gender-mainstreamed manner.²

National training courses and roundtables on requesting electronic evidence across borders in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (September–December 2022)

In co-operation with the respective OSCE field operations and UNODC, TNTD/ATU and TNTD/SPMU jointly organized training courses and roundtables in four Central Asian participating States on requesting electronic evidence across borders. The courses were aimed at improving the capacity of participants in obtaining electronic evidence from service providers based in foreign jurisdictions, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The activities are part of ongoing efforts by the OSCE to enhance the capabilities of participating States in countering terrorism and terrorist abuse of new technology in a responsible and rights-based manner.

Protecting critical infrastructure and vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks

Participation in a UN workshop on countering terrorist threats against vulnerable targets for Tunisia (2–3 June 2022)

TNTD participated online in a workshop focused on efforts to build an effective legislative and regulatory framework protecting vulnerable targets in Tunisia. The workshop was organized by UNOCT and its implementing partners. In support of this Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation, TNTD contributed a presentation on the experience of OSCE participating States in identifying and listing vulnerable targets.

Conference: Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience Europe 2022; Bucharest, Romania (14–16 June 2022)

TNTD participated in the annual conference Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience Europe, which gathered practitioners from national governments, industry, as well as research and development sectors. TNTD's participation helped to expand its pool of experts on critical infrastructure protection, experts who can support and advise on future capacity-building and technical assistance.

² See also section 2.3.5 Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Regional training workshop on countering terrorism focusing on critical infrastructure protection; online (14–16 June 2022)

TNTD/ATU supported the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat (CiA) in organizing a regional online training workshop on countering terrorism with a specific focus on protecting critical infrastructure. The training was aimed at participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It was co-organized by the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and UNOCT. The aim of the workshop was to enhance participants' knowledge and capabilities in safeguarding critical infrastructure from terrorist threats.

Participation in a radiological attack table-top exercise; online (6 September 2022)

TNTD participated in a virtual strategic-level table-top exercise focused on a terrorist incident involving radiological weapons. The invite-only event was organized by the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre of UNOCT. The event provided an opportunity to assess the local impact on critical infrastructure and services at various stages after a theoretical attack.

Briefing for the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Compact working group; online (10 October 2022)

TNTD/ATU prepared an online briefing for the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Compact working group on emerging threats and critical infrastructure protection. The briefing highlighted the OSCE's planned Regional Expert Workshop in Central Asia on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks, and discussed future pro-

gramming under TNTD/ATU's vulnerable target protection portfolio. The briefing aimed to foster co-operation and collaboration with UN and non-UN entities working on critical infrastructure and soft target protection.

Regional expert workshop in Central Asia on the protection of vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (16–18 November 2022)

In collaboration with the PCUz, UNOCT, UNCTED and INTERPOL, TNTD/ATU conducted a regional workshop attended by law enforcement, criminal justice and government stakeholders from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. International experts were also present to facilitate the exchange of good practices and identify programming needs for OSCE support in preventing terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure and soft targets.

Participation in the UN Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets: In-depth Consultations; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (21–22 November 2022)

TNTD and the Programme Office in Dushanbe attended, as observers, an event organized by the UN Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets (UNOCT, UN CTED, UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and UN Alliance of Civilizations). The event examined Tajikistan's legislative and operational frameworks for protecting soft targets and critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks. The OSCE's participation in this visit will ensure a co-ordinated delivery of support to Tajikistan through the POiD, TNTD and UN channels.

1.3 Transnational Threats Department/ Border Security and Management Unit

► **Highlighting the power of gender equality in border security and management: The annual conference of the OSCE Gender Equality Platform; Podgorica, Montenegro (29–30 November 2022)**

On 29 and 30 November 2022, the OSCE Gender Equality (GE) Platform in Border Security and Management organized a much-anticipated meeting in Montenegro.

Since its inception in 2016, the OSCE GE Platform has been an influential force in promoting gender equality in the realm of border security and management. This initiative has brought together a diverse group of mid- to senior officers from border and law enforcement agencies in OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. It serves as a platform for sharing good practices and expertise on gender mainstreaming in border security and management.

The conference saw networking and discussions on the challenges and successes of gender mainstreaming in the border security domain. One topic addressed was the complex and sensitive issue of sexual harassment faced by female border officers. The event was a safe space where participants had the freedom to openly discuss the risks of retaliation when reporting complaints of sexual harassment within border agencies. They explored effective strategies for prevention and combating such behaviour, placing a strong emphasis on comprehensive training programmes.

The annual conference convened representatives from border agencies in 19 participating States. With an in-person format and adhering to Chatham House Rules, the event ensured an environment where participants could express their thoughts openly and constructively.

The conference kicked off with an address by Mr. Filip Adžić, Montenegro's Minister of Interior. In his speech, he assured the attendees: "Women are just as capable and exceptional as their male colleagues in the police force. They play a pivotal role in the security system, not only in Montenegro, but in every organized and democratic society. I am grateful for the opportunity to engage with you on this topic, which is fundamental to shaping our society's future. Rest assured, the Ministry of Interior stands as a steadfast partner, fully committed to furthering gender equality in the security sector." ▶

Gender-inclusive border management remains a priority for the OSCE with the aim to increase security and safety in the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. In 2022, over 150 border officers participated in online and in-person events organized to promote gender-responsive border management and the implementation of the Women Peace and Security Agenda. The Annual Conference of the Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management was held in November in Podgorica, Montenegro.

OSCE / Dragica Vucinic





During the conference, participants undertook interactive exercises to dissect the intricate relationship between gender biases, stereotypes and the fight against cross-border crimes. The aim was to integrate a gender perspective into the daily work of border officers in order to foster a more inclusive and effective approach to security.

To conclude, members of the GE Platform shared their impressions and provided valuable feedback. Ms. Parisa Sheralieva, Gender Focal Point of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, “as a part of this vibrant GE Platform community, I am thrilled by the energy that fuels our collective pursuit of gender equality in border security. The nexus between gender biases, stereotypes and countering cross-border crimes caught my attention; I will strongly recommend incorporating this crucial topic into the training curriculum of the College.”

Cross-border co-operation in criminal matters

Needs assessment on countering trafficking in cultural property in Romania (20–21 April 2022)

The Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU) conducted a needs assessment for the Romanian border service, focusing on the existing normative framework, inter-agency co-operation, training needs and experience in combating trafficking in cultural property (TCP). A tailored report with recommendations for capacity-building on countering TCP in Romania is planned to be produced in 2023.

Interactive field training course on cultural heritage protection; Rome, Italy (25–29 April 2022)

In co-operation with Cranfield University, UK, and the Italian Carabinieri, TNTD/BSMU delivered an interactive field training course for forensic investigators and law enforcement officials on cultural heritage protection and TCP.

Investigation skills training course workshop on TCP; Vilnius, Lithuania (24–25 May 2022)

In co-ordination with national customs officials, TNTD/BSMU delivered a three-day investigation skills training workshop on TCP to thirty officials. The workshop resulted in the development of both internal and international TCP communications networks.

Meeting of international law enforcement/border management experts task force; Edinburgh, Scotland (12–14 September 2022)

TNTD/BSMU organized a meeting of 17 experts from the international law enforcement/border management experts’

task force on combating TCP. The meeting aimed at planning the development over the next five years of a new comprehensive, multi-stream operational training curriculum on combating trafficking in art, antiquities and cultural property for the ExB project “Combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property in the OSCE area”.

Regional operations workshop on TCP; Helsinki, Finland (7–11 November 2022)

In partnership with law enforcement agencies and international organizations, TNTD/BSMU launched the first scenario-based interactive training workshop on combating illicit trafficking of art, antiquities and cultural property. Experts from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway participated in scenario-based training exercises, utilizing latest technologies and tools.

Identity management and travel document security

Scoping mission to Uzbekistan (21 February–4 March 2022)

In co-operation with the PCUz, TNTD/BSMU conducted a scoping mission to assess cross-border challenges emanating from Afghanistan. Meetings were held with representatives of Uzbekistan’s State Customs Committee, border guard forces and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), as well as the UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia. The mission also visited the Termez Cargo Center logistics terminal to meet with relevant officials and assess the situation at Uzbekistan’s border.

Deployment of an OSCE mobile training team; Belgrade, Serbia (2–3 March 2022)

In collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, TNTD/BSMU organized the deployment of an OSCE mobile training team (MTT) to Belgrade. The MTT conducted a training course for 16 officers of Serbia's Ministry of Interior Counter-terrorism Service. The course focused on the detection of FTFs at borders, with an emphasis on the role played in this by INTERPOL, as well as behavioural analysis and interviewing techniques. Feedback from participants will contribute to the development of a follow-up ExB project, which will aim to further advance the skills and knowledge of border officers in identifying FTFs while ensuring compliance with human rights standards.

Donation of equipment to Bosnia and Herzegovina (25 March 2022)

TNTD/BSMU donated highly specialized technical equipment for detecting fraudulent documents to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Agency for Professional Training and Education in Mostar. The donation supports efforts to build the technical capacities and skills of border officers in detecting forged documents in line with EU/Frontex standards.

Workshop on responsible biometric data use; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (28–30 March 2022)

Jointly with the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, TNTD/BSMU supported a workshop focused on the responsible use and sharing of biometric data to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute terrorist offenses and other serious crimes at borders.

Meetings of the Eastern European informal working group on passenger data (20 May–28 June 2022)

As the secretariat of the Eastern European informal working group (EE IWG) on passenger data, TNTD/BSMU facilitated meetings to discuss preparations for the group's annual meeting in November 2022. The meetings focused on topics such as the current situation of passenger data implementation, tools for enhancing co-operation and information sharing, and the challenges faced in implementing advance passenger information (API) systems. Participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Mongolia and North Macedonia reported on achievements in legal harmonization of API legislation with the support of the OSCE and UNOCT.

Technical needs assessment mission to Uzbekistan (23–27 May 2022)

In collaboration with the PCUz and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), TNTD/BSMU conducted a technical needs assessment mission to Uzbekistan as a follow-up to the scoping mission conducted in February. The mission focused on discussing and refining training and equipment proposals based on the needs of the state customs committee and the committee for state border protection. The assessment addressed issues such as illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), ammunition and explosives, cross-border travel of FTFs and other criminals, and free and secure movement of goods across the Uzbek–Afghan border.

National workshop on establishing API systems in Turkmenistan (29 July 2022)

In collaboration with the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, TNTD/BSMU organized a national workshop in Turkmenistan for participants from the Turkmen Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Customs Service. The workshop served as a forum to discuss the implementation of Turkmenistan's API roadmap and share lessons learned from other OSCE participating States. The event aimed to support Turkmenistan in learning good practices from Albania, Kyrgyzstan and the Netherlands in establishing API systems. As a result of the meeting, TNTD/BSMU offered concrete support to Turkmen authorities to conduct an API needs assessment in the country and to provide online expert consultations on this topic.

Training sessions on identifying impostors at border crossing points; online (19–20 July 2022, 22–23 August 2022)

TNTD/BSMU organized two online training sessions on the identification of impostors at border crossing points for members of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Points Network as well as selected representatives of border authorities.

Roundtable meeting with Uzbek authorities; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (9 August 2022)

In collaboration with the CPC/FSC Support Unit and the PCUz, TNTD/BSMU organized a roundtable meeting with Uzbekistan's State Customs Committee, border guard forces and representatives from the Termez Cargo Center logistics terminal. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the ExB project "Strengthening the resilience of Uzbekistan to address cross-border challenges emanating from Afghanistan". The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views and co-ordinate efforts in addressing cross-border challenges.

Advance training course for the Albanian border and migration police on identifying forged documents and imposters; Tirana, Albania (10–14 October 2022)

In co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, TNTD/BSMU organized an advanced training course for Albanian border and migration police officials on identifying forged documents and imposters. The one-week training course, delivered by experts from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior (Mol), aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge of security features in documents, security printing inks, printing techniques and passport production. It also provided an introduction to technical devices designed for document and face verification. This course was a follow-up to a basic training course conducted the previous year for the same group of participants.

Second meeting of the EE IWG on passenger data; Vienna, Austria (1–2 November 2022)

The second annual meeting of the EE IWG on passenger data was co-organized by UNOCT and TNTD/BSMU. The meeting provided a platform for technical exchange, sharing of good practices and lessons learned, and methodologies in data collection from travellers. Also explored were security analyses across different modes of travel and new applications of passenger data frameworks. During the meeting, the group chair (Kyrgyzstan) and vice-chairs (Albania, Georgia, Mongolia and Montenegro) volunteered to continue their respective functions in 2023.

6th Annual Passenger Data Exchange Seminar; Vienna, Austria (3–4 November 2022)

In collaboration with UNOCT, TNTD/BSMU organized the 6th Annual Passenger Data Exchange (PDE) Seminar. The seminar brought together decision-makers, technical experts, international organizations and the private sector to discuss how to enhance travel security across all modes of travel. The topics covered included legal issues, international standards in advance passenger information (API) systems, and engaging with the transport industry. The event aimed at facilitating practical discussions, sharing of good practices, and strengthening partnerships in implementing national passenger data systems.

Technical assessment visit on the implementation of an advance passenger information road map; Tbilisi, Georgia (6–7 December 2022)

To evaluate the status of Georgia's API system, TNTD/BSMU organized a needs assessment meeting with relevant authorities responsible for the system's implementation and management. Various issues were addressed, including ongoing

discussions with the API service provider, future funding plans, connectivity with air carriers, and the establishment in Georgia of a Passenger Information Unit. The visit aimed at providing support and clarifying matters that had previously proven problematic for the Georgian Inter-Agency Working Group.

Roundtable meeting on airport security; Chişinău, Moldova (6–7 December 2022)

With the support of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, TNTD/BSMU organized a roundtable meeting on airport security in Chişinău. The meeting gathered thirty representatives from national authorities, regional and international organizations engaged in airport security in Moldova. TNTD/BSMU presented a draft of its new project "Enhancing airport security at international airports in the Republic of Moldova", which aims at supporting Moldovan authorities to prevent cross-border crimes and terrorism at its international airports. The participants discussed national legal frameworks, co-ordination mechanisms, information-sharing practices, and challenges related to airport security in Moldova. The findings and recommendations from the meeting were used to finalize a project based on a similar initiative that was implemented in Montenegro in 2019. It is planned to launch the new project in 2023.

Training-of-trainers on identifying forged documents and imposters; Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5–16 December 2022)

In co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), TNTD/BSMU organized a two-week training-of-trainers course on identifying forged documents and imposters at border crossing points. The course targeted nine instructors from the BiH Agency for Education and Professional Development and the BiH Border Police. Delivered by experts from the Austrian Mol, the hands-on training course enabled participants to work with specialized equipment for document verification that had been donated by TNTD/BSMU in March, and to assess real and forged identification. The training course aimed at enhancing participants' knowledge in analysing techniques for morphing, detecting stolen identities, and understanding the latest trends in travel document forgery.

17th Central Asian Border Management Initiative conference; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (13–15 December 2022)

In co-operation with the CPC, OSCE field operations in Central Asia and UNODC, and with support of the Government of Uzbekistan, TNTD/BSMU organized the 17th Central Asian Border Management Initiative (CABMI) conference. The

conference brought together participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as international and regional organizations to discuss border security and management challenges in the region, particu-

larly in light of developments in Afghanistan. It also provided a platform to explore opportunities for regional co-operation to address these challenges.

Border security and management / customs

Gender equality in border security and management

Webinar on gender-inclusive border security and management; online (25 May 2022)

With the support of the OSCE's Gender Issues Programme, TNTD/BSMU organized a webinar focused on integrating a gender-inclusive and human rights-based approach in border security and management (BSM) during crises, particularly when dealing with refugees. The webinar brought together 56 representatives from 17 participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Experts from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and ODIHR discussed strategies for handling high numbers of refugees at borders while ensuring human rights sensitivity and a refugee-centred approach. Participants engaged in practical exercises to address unconscious biases, discrimination, gender mainstreaming and human rights principles in BSM.

Contribution to the Airpol Plenary Congress; Stockholm, Sweden (23–24 March 2022)

TNTD/BSMU contributed to the 2022 Airpol Plenary Congress by delivering a presentation on the OSCE's role in addressing cross-border challenges emanating from Afghanistan. An overview of the OSCE's border security-related portfolio in Central Asia was also given. The Congress served as an opportunity for TNTD/BSMU representatives to gain insight into current aviation security challenges, learn about capacity-building initiatives and familiarize themselves with leading technologies showcased by service providers. A call for action was made to support a planned ExB project aimed at assisting Uzbekistan in addressing cross-border crimes emerging from Afghanistan.



In 2022, TNTD/BSMU delivered on-line and in-person courses to more than 150 border security officials from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation on the identification of forged documents and impostors to support prevention and combating of serious and organized crime and terrorism in accordance with human rights principles. Photo: Training-of-trainers on identification of forged documents, December 2022, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OSCE / Anja Krajcinovic

Contribution to the 2022 World Border Security Congress; Lisbon, Portugal (16–19 May 2022)

TNTD/BSMU participated in the 2022 World Border Security Congress, which focused on developing border strategies through co-operation and technology. TNTD/BSMU presented the OSCE publication *Self-assessment tool to increase preparedness for cross-border implications of crises* and delivered a keynote presentation on cultural heritage and wildlife crime. TNTD/BSMU also chaired the workshops "Biometrics and travel document security" and "Travel security/API", sharing OSCE lessons learned and good practices in these areas.

Support to the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) and the Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center (MPSOTC); Raketje, Croatia (8 June 2022)

At the invitation of the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) and the Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center (MPSOTC), TNTD/BSMU delivered a half-day training session to familiarize security sector officials from South-Eastern Europe with integrated border management (IBM), and in particular, TNTD/BSMU programmes on travel document security, combating trafficking in cultural property, as well as integrity and gender-awareness in border security management. TNTD/BSMU also presented the OSCE's co-operation platforms, such as the National Border Focal Points Network and the Gender Equality Platform, and introduced the training opportunities provided on the OSCE's e-learning platform. The event fostered interest in enhanced co-operation with the OSCE, particularly in combating illegal trafficking and addressing border-related challenges.

Meeting of the OSCE Mediterranean Points of Contact Network on Border Security and Management; Madrid, Spain (4–5 July 2022)

TNTD/BSMU organized a two-day meeting for the OSCE Mediterranean Points of Contact (PoC) Network on Border Security and Management. The event aimed at reactivating

the network, identifying training needs in border security and management in the Mediterranean region, providing training on the behavioural analysis of FTFs and cross-border crime perpetrators, and presenting TNTD/BSMU projects and initiatives. Participants visited the Spanish National Co-ordination Centre for Border Crossing Points to gain insights into the "Smart Borders" project and regarding the prevention and identification of FTF travel. It is planned to incorporate the results of the meeting into tailored training courses for the Points of Contact (PoC) Network.

Study visit for the members of the OSCE Regional Anti-Corruption Platform; Tbilisi, Georgia (6–8 September 2022)

TNTD/BSMU organized a study visit to Georgia for members of the OSCE Regional Anti-Corruption (AC) Platform. The visit facilitated discussions, assessments and sharing of national anti-corruption standards and practices between the participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine and their Georgian counterparts from border and law enforcement agencies. The visit aimed to promote sustainable solutions for integrity in border security and management. Recommendations and suggestions gathered during the visit will inform a potential follow-up project focused on supporting the regional AC Platform and establishing joint investigation teams to combat corruption at borders.

Regional training course on gender mainstreaming in border and law enforcement agencies from South-Eastern Europe; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15–16 November 2022)

In collaboration with UNODC and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, TNTD/BSMU organized a regional training course for 32 border officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The course emphasized the importance of a gender perspective in the prevention of cross-border crime, as well as the protection of human rights at borders. Further key topics included engaging men to address gender-related challenges and sharing good practices to prevent and address sexual harassment in law enforcement agencies.

1.4 Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Introduction

In line with MC Decisions No. 02/03 and No. 3/06, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) is mandated to address all forms of trafficking in human beings (THB), to ensure the co-ordination of the OSCE's efforts in combating THB across all three dimensions, and to act as a focal point for the OSCE's efforts in this area. In 2022, the OSR/CTHB continued its efforts to support OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in preventing and prosecuting human trafficking and protecting its victims in line with the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments and recommendations set forth in the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, its 2005 and 2013 Addenda, and in other MC Decisions, particularly through policy recommendations and capacity-building.

► **Tech Against Trafficking Summit on innovative solutions to combat human trafficking (26–28 September 2022)**

The inaugural Tech Against Trafficking (TAT) Summit brought together a diverse group of over 160 leaders from the anti-trafficking field, spanning businesses, survivors and activists, governments, investors and civil society. The event aimed at fostering collaboration and accelerating the impact of innovative technology solutions in the fight against human trafficking.

During the summit, participants engaged in discussions on crucial topics, such as eradicating exploitation in global supply chains, ensuring accountability for human traffickers, and empowering survivors to reclaim justice. The event provided a platform for organizations to showcase cutting-edge technological tools designed to combat various forms of human trafficking. These presentations highlighted the valuable role of technology in supporting anti-trafficking efforts and preventing the misuse of digital platforms.

As an advisor to the Tech Against Trafficking initiative, the OSCE Special Representative actively participated in TAT Policy Experts' Consultations and took part in the panel discussions. One main point raised was the mapping of 305 technological tools used to combat THB around the world, which was carried out jointly by the OSCE and TAT.³ The Special Representative also emphasized the importance of technology tools in addressing emerging trends and trafficking risks within supply chains. Notably, a paper published by the OSR/CTHB on policies for states to effectively respond to the growing misuse of technology was highlighted at the summit.⁴

³ OSCE 2020, *Leveraging innovation to fight trafficking in human beings: A comprehensive analysis of technology tools*; accessible at: <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/455206>

⁴ OSCE 2022, *Policy responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings: Analysis of current approaches and considerations for moving forward*; accessible at: <https://www.osce.org/cthb/514141>

Threats posed by criminal activity

Direct assistance visit to Malta on tackling THB in supply chains and financial investigations; Valetta, Malta (17–19 January 2022)

Through meetings with national thematic agencies in Malta, the OSR/CTHB assessed the current legal framework and practices in the areas of financial investigation of THB cases and measures to prevent THB in supply chains, including in relation to public procurement. As a result of the visit, these recommendations were made in these areas. OSR/CTHB then continued to work with national authorities in Malta throughout 2022 to support these recommendations. This resulted in two specialized workshops, “Assessing the risks and prevention of trafficking in human beings in supply chains” and a seminar in the framework of the Sanctions Monitoring Committee in Valetta.

Series of peer-to-peer events on applying gender-sensitive approaches in CTHB (22 February–27 July 2022)

Following the launch of the occasional paper *Applying Gender Sensitive Approaches in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*,⁵ the OSR/CTHB brought together over 160 experts from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in seven peer-to-peer events. These events served to share knowledge, identify challenges, discuss trends and opportunities, and share promising practices in preventing and responding to THB through gender-sensitive approaches.

Visits to Poland, Moldova and Hungary to assess the situation for Ukrainian refugees (13 March–27 April 2022)

Visits to Ukraine’s neighbouring countries provided valuable insights into the situation of Ukrainian refugees and the response of the neighbouring countries to the unfolding humanitarian crisis. The visit enabled the promotion of crucial anti-trafficking measures. The visit to Hungary and the joint visits to Poland and Moldova were organized by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Special Representative to assess the situation of Ukrainian refugees at border crossings and reception centres in Przemyśl, Chişinău, etc. The visits aimed at maximizing efforts at the political level and utilizing the OSCE’s toolbox to address the challenges encountered.

Meeting of national anti-trafficking co-ordinators and rapporteurs on understanding and addressing the risks of THB within ongoing mass migration flows from Ukraine to other OSCE participating States; online (15 March 2022)

The meeting, facilitated by the OSR/CTHB, brought together national anti-trafficking co-ordinators, rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms from transit and destination countries for Ukrainians seeking refuge. Participants discussed sharing data and information on trafficking risks and patterns they had observed, and co-ordinated preparedness mechanisms and responses in line with OSCE anti-trafficking commitments and OSR/CTHB’s 9 March 2022 recommendations.

22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons – “Protection: Upholding victims’ rights and strengthening assistance”; Vienna, Austria (22–26 April 2022)

The annual Alliance conference focused on the persisting challenges in anti-trafficking efforts, particularly in terms of insufficient protection systems for victims, from low victim identification rates to lack of tailored services for rehabilitation and reintegration. The circa 900 participants of the Conference examined existing systems, identified gaps, and proposed solutions to provide comprehensive assistance to all victims of THB. The event emphasized practical solutions to enhance the inclusivity and effectiveness of state protection efforts.

Webinar for INTERPOL staff on understanding the intersection of THB and terrorism (25 April 2022)

The webinar presented the findings of the research paper on the nexus between terrorism and trafficking, an overview of the normative and policy frameworks governing actions against THB and terrorism, and aspects of THB used by terrorist groups. Participants discussed key principles in anti-trafficking responses and the complexity of applying them in this context. The webinar provided targeted recommendations on ways to assist participating States in addressing THB committed by terrorist groups.

Policy recommendations on enhancing anti-trafficking prevention, and on identifying and mitigating online risks of THB as a result of humanitarian crises (9 March and 22 April 2022)

To address the risks of trafficking in the context of mass migration flows from Ukraine, the Special Representative is-

⁵ OSCE 2021, *Applying Gender-Sensitive Approaches in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*; accessible at: <https://www.osce.org/cthb/486700>

sued two sets of policy recommendations. The first set of recommendations⁶ provides guidance on prevention measures and responses to pressing needs, as well as on longer-term challenges, such as integration into host communities. The second set specifically focuses on mitigating online risks of exploitation during humanitarian crises, in particular in Ukraine.⁷ The recommendations provide actionable guidance for cybercrime and THB police, technology companies and NGOs involved in preventing and combating online exploitation.

Multi-agency country workshops on the implementation of OSR/CTHB recommendations on preventing trafficking in human beings in the context of humanitarian crises; Moldova, Iceland and Latvia (8 June–13 December 2022)

In light of the increasing risk of THB for people fleeing Ukraine, and in order to support the participating States most affected by the refugee flows, OSR/CTHB conducted workshops on its recommendations on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows. The workshops allowed policy-makers and practitioners involved in different aspects of anti-trafficking efforts to discuss the current status, as well as needs and opportunities to prevent the current humanitarian crisis from turning into a human trafficking crisis.

Annual meeting of national anti-trafficking co-ordinators and rapporteurs; Vienna, Austria (13–14 June 2022)

In co-operation with the CoE, the OSR/CTHB organized the annual meeting of national anti-trafficking co-ordinators and rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. More than 180 participants from 55 participating States and 3 Partners for Co-operation discussed joint action to address current human trafficking-related challenges in the region, and how to foster the implementation of relevant OSCE and CoE commitments. A particular focus was placed on policy initiatives to combat technology-facilitated trafficking, data on the progress of national anti-trafficking efforts and current trends, and the needs to enhance anti-trafficking capacity-building. Participants also discussed the measures needed to prevent and mitigate the risks of trafficking stemming from the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine.

Validation workshop of skills-based training module for the judiciary; Brussels, Belgium (13–14 June 2022)

The OSR/CTHB and the European Judicial Training Network conducted a validation workshop for a skills-based training module on CTHB that judicial academies can adapt and integrate into their national curricula. Selected judges participated in testing and improving the module to ensure its practicality and effectiveness.

Workshops: “Holistic responses to discouraging demand: Addressing a root cause of human trafficking”; online and Astana, Kazakhstan (27 June–9 November 2022)

Capitalizing on the growing momentum in the OSCE region to curb the demand fostering trafficking for sexual exploitation, the workshops advanced dialogue with participating States on the importance of combating demand, highlighted legislative tools at their disposal, and promoted more effective use of prevention measures by raising awareness of the tools available to prevent, disrupt and deter demand. These discussions enhanced the capacity of participating States to respond to the growing market for sexual exploitation.

Roundtable on the intersections of THB and terrorism; online and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (7 July 2022)

The OSR/CTHB and the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a roundtable for state agencies, criminal justice practitioners and CSOs. The event explored the intersections between trafficking and terrorism, presented research-related data, and fostered discussion among specialists from both disciplines. Overall, the roundtable supported State efforts to hold terrorist groups and their members accountable for their criminal acts, while ensuring that those exploited by these groups are identified and their rights protected.

United Nations General Assembly side event on “Trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation: responding to prevention and protection challenges”, New York, United States and online (23 September 2022)

In collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the OSR/CTHB organized a UN General Assembly side event on prevention and protection against trafficking for sexual exploitation. The event raised awareness of the challenges of preventing and protecting against THB for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the context of conflict, highlighting the particular risks and challenges, as well as

⁶ OSCE 2022, *Recommendations of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows*; accessible at: <https://www.osce.org/cthb/513784>

⁷ OSCE 2022, *Recommendations on enhancing efforts to identify and mitigate risks of trafficking in human beings online as a result of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine*; accessible at: <https://www.osce.org/cthb/516423>

the specific protection measures for children and girls in particular. It also highlighted the role of demand and technology in facilitating sexual exploitation, while focusing on specific ways in which tech platforms can be involved in prevention. The event aimed at strengthening political will to support coordinated efforts to prevent and protect trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for sexual exploitation.

Direct assistance visit to Iceland (10–14 October 2022)

During the direct assistance visit to Iceland, the Special Representative met with high-level representatives, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the National Police Commissioner as well as the other key actors in CTHB, including in civil society, and the national anti-trafficking commission. Following the conclusion of the official visit, OSR/CTHB conducted a series of technical workshops for members of the Icelandic anti-trafficking community to strengthen domestic systems for prevention, protection and prosecu-

tion. Among other things, the discussion focused on ways to modernize Iceland's National Action Plan to respond to the evolving nature of human trafficking.

National simulation-based training “Combating human trafficking: Sustaining multi-agency collaboration through national simulation-based training exercises”; Tbilisi, Georgia (7–11 November 2022)

The OSR/CTHB conducted the first national simulation-based training exercise in Georgia to enhance participants' capacity to identify, investigate and prosecute THB cases among migrants and refugees in mixed migration flows. The course engaged over sixty participants' from law enforcement, judiciary, labour inspectorates, immigration authorities, public social services, NGOs and lawyers. They practiced a multi-disciplinary response to manage complex THB cases, while ensuring a victim-centred and human rights-based approach. To reflect current trends in human trafficking, the



Matthew Daggett (MIT), Lucienne Manton (Australia's Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking), Thi Hoang (The Global Initiative), Valiant Richey (OSCE) and Leigh Anne DeWine (Amazon) speaking at the 2022 Tech Against Trafficking Summit on innovative solutions to combat human trafficking at the Amazon headquarters in Seattle.

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simulation also introduced new elements such as tackling online sexual exploitation.

Official country visits by the SR/CTHB (throughout 2022)

Throughout 2022, the Special Representative conducted country or follow-up visits to Latvia, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Canada. These visits provided opportunities for consultations with government authorities, parliamentarians, law enforcement agencies, judiciary and civil society. The visits enabled the Special Representative to raise the profile of OSR/CTHB's anti-trafficking agenda, identify good practices, share knowledge and lessons learned, and offer technical assistance.

Publication of *Policy responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings: Analysis of current approaches and considerations for moving forward* (17 March 2022)

OSR/CTHB published a pioneering paper⁸ on the policies needed to combat technology-facilitated trafficking. The publication offers a comprehensive analysis of the issue and

provides policy recommendations for States to address the growing misuse of technology platforms to facilitate exploitation. Workshops and consultations are planned to translate the analysis into practical action across the OSCE region.

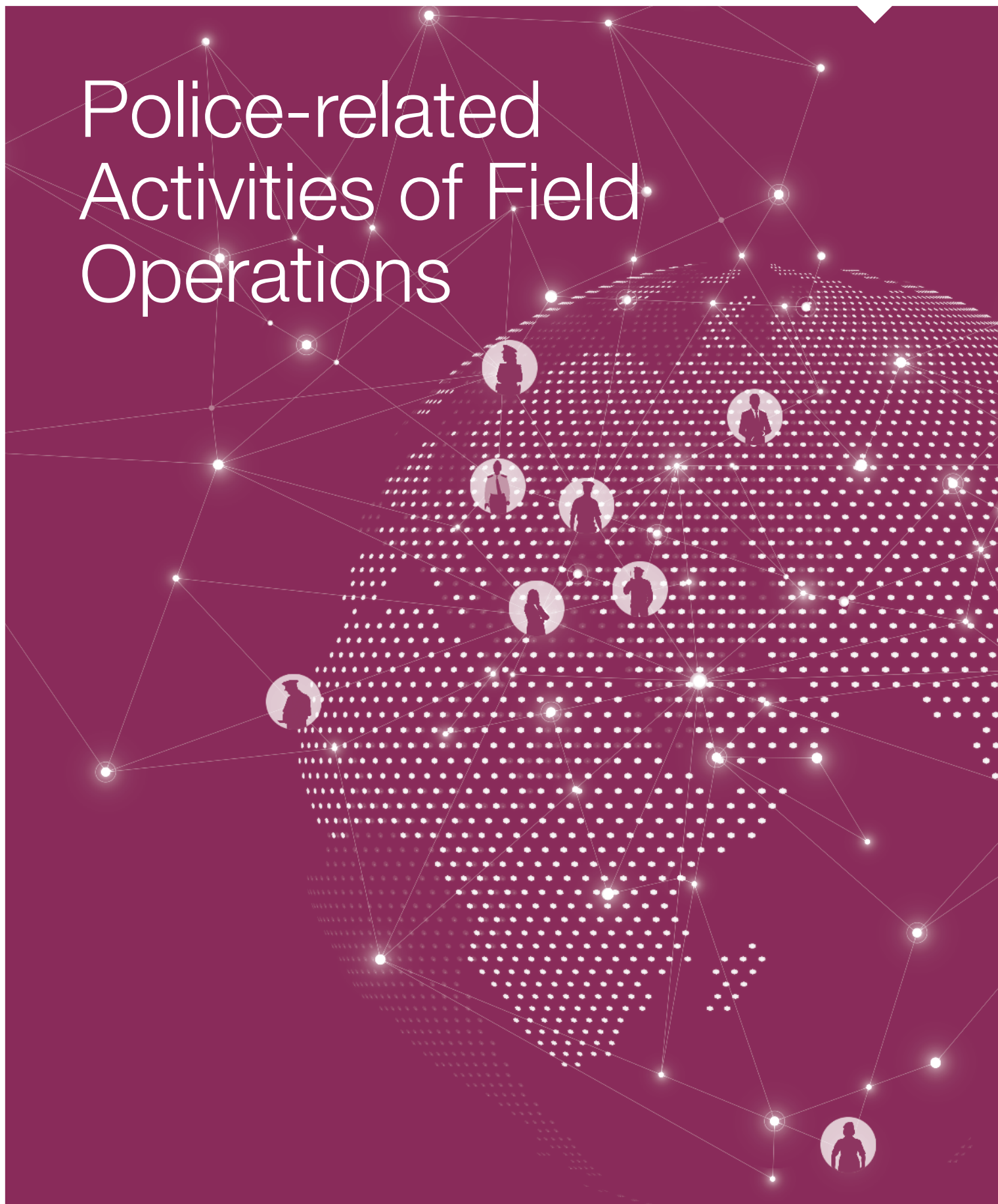
Publication of *Survey report 2021 of efforts to implement OSCE commitments and recommended actions to combat trafficking in human beings* (18 July 2022)

In 2020, the OSR/CTHB launched a follow-up survey⁹ for OSCE participating States and NGOs to assess progress in the OSCE in implementing OSCE anti-trafficking commitments, including in relation to investigations, law enforcement and prosecutions. The 2020–2021 survey was developed to track progress in implementing anti-trafficking commitments since the previous survey in 2015, with a specific emphasis on recently adopted Ministerial Council Decisions. The survey covers various aspects, including investigation, law enforcement, prosecution, vulnerability reduction, awareness-raising, addressing demand, and the role of technology in trafficking and online child exploitation. The report makes recommendations and addresses emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in CTHB.

⁸ OSCE 2022, *Policy responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings: Analysis of current approaches and considerations for moving forward*; accessible at: <https://www.osce.org/cthb/514141>

⁹ OSCE 2022, *Survey Report 2021 of Efforts to Implement OSCE Commitments and Recommended Actions to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings*; accessible at: <https://www.osce.org/cthb/522934>

Police-related Activities of Field Operations



2.1 South-Eastern Europe

2.1.1 Crime threats facing South-Eastern Europe¹⁰

The South-Eastern European region constitutes the main leg of the Balkan route for the trafficking of both illicit commodities and people towards the European Union. The conduit has a significant impact on European security. All types of drugs are trafficked through the region towards the EU, including heroin, cannabis, cocaine, synthetic drugs, as well as (pre-)precursor substances for the production of drugs in the region and further upstream in the EU. Although law enforcement authorities in the region have repeatedly seized record quantities of drugs and (pre-)precursors in recent years, this is not believed to have deterred trafficking activity along this route significantly.

Migrant smuggling is a major criminal business within the region and all along the Balkan route. Migrant smuggling networks are active throughout the region and continue to facilitate irregular migrants toward the EU. The networks exploit irregular migrants and frequently transport them in dangerous or even life-threatening circumstances. Corruption remains a significant facilitator for migrant smuggling throughout the region. The trafficking in human beings (THB) remains a challenge throughout the region, with countries registering a significant number of cases related to exploitation for labor and/or sexual services each year. Not only are victims exploited within the region, but smuggling also affects victims from South-Eastern Europe who are then trafficked elsewhere. Some progress has been made in tackling THB and migrant smuggling throughout the region over recent years.

Corruption remains a challenge in the region at all levels of society, including the political sphere, business, the economy, national healthcare systems, higher education as well as in the context of interactions between private citizens and public officials. In many cases, corruption schemes span these various spheres. Despite significant efforts undertaken in the region to curb corrupt practices, in many cases such practices remain imbedded in certain state institutions. It is encouraging that noticeable progress has been made throughout the region towards abolishing corruption as a common feature in public life. Nonetheless, to eliminate this threat to the rule of law, work is

still needed. The de-politicization of certain public authorities, such as law enforcement, will contribute significantly to this effort. A positive development has been the establishment of state oversight bodies and institutions. However, in many cases these remain under-resourced. They are also limited in what they can achieve due to current legislation.

Corruption plays a significant role in the region's economy. This means that criminal finances, including money laundering, represent a notable share of economic output. According to certain estimates, up to 40% of economic activity can be attributed to grey or illegal economic transactions.¹¹ Corruption is the most significant enabler of money laundering. These two facilitation crime areas are the driving factors behind organized crime in the region, which is reinforced by robust interconnected criminal networks.

Cybercrime is a significant challenge in the region. This was compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Online fraud and scams target the region's public authorities, private sector and individual citizens. Some jurisdictions in the region have noted an increase in the distribution of child abuse material. Money laundering in the region is also increasingly associated with the use of cryptocurrencies and other digital assets. Large-scale cyberattacks against national critical infrastructure have affected several countries in the region over the last year, disrupting public services as well as the operation of some public authorities, including law enforcement. Disinformation by state and non-state actors is believed to be an increasing threat. In the coming years, cybercrime will likely remain and emerge even further as a key security challenge in the region.

Organized property crime remains a significant challenge in the region. However, the number of reported incidents related to this type of offence appears to be in decline. Trafficking in cultural property remains an attractive criminal market, given the high concentration of cultural heritage sites in the region. The looting and destruction of cultural items and archaeological sites is a growing transnational crime that affects South-Eastern Europe in particular.

¹⁰ This brief assessment is based on information provided by the OSCE field operations in the region, as well as open source research.

¹¹ Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2021; available at: www.mvr.gov.mk

Environmental crime is also a growing concern in South-Eastern Europe. It is likely, however, that this remains significantly underreported due to persistent social tolerance toward such crimes, including the illegal disposal of waste, illegal logging, or trafficking in endangered species.

South-Eastern Europe has historically been a source for illegal firearms trafficked to the EU and other regions. It remains so to this day. However, the intensity of trafficking activity seems to have decreased over the years, since weapons stocks from earlier conflicts are becoming depleted. The internal trafficking of firearms sourced in the region remains a threat, as does the illegal possession of firearms.

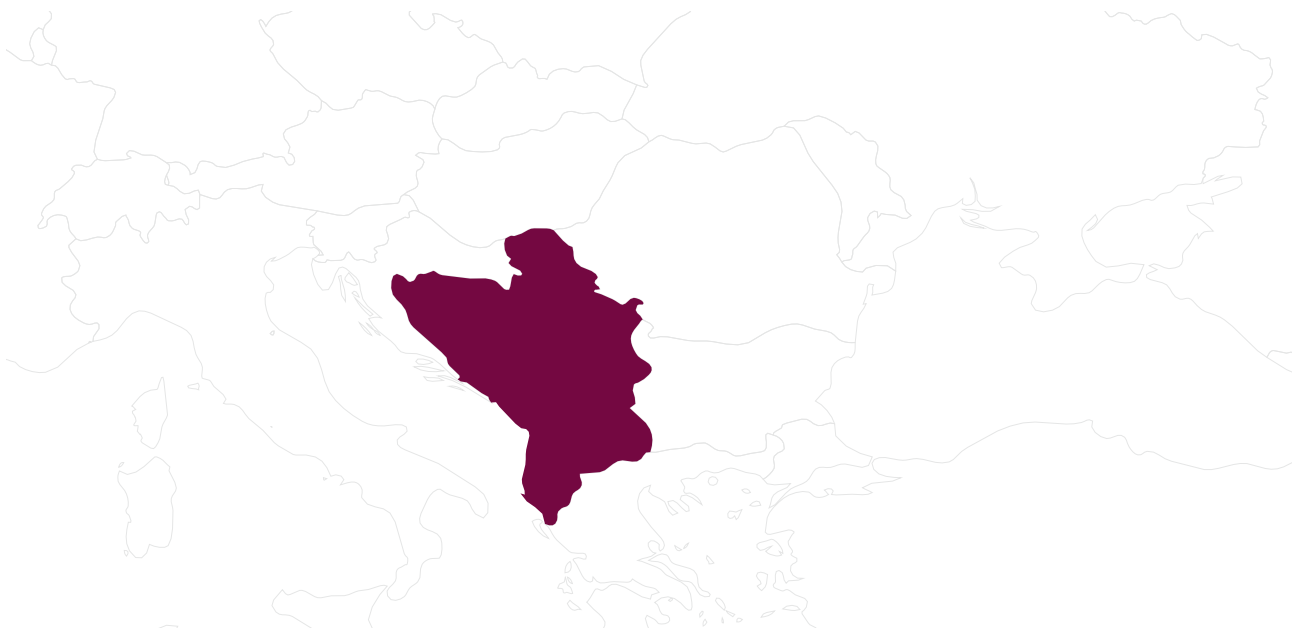
Sexual- and gender-based violence remains a significant issue in the region. Indicators from local communities and police show that such crimes continue to be significantly underreported. Among various reasons for low reporting rates are cultural and socio-economic factors, lack of technical and resource capacities within local law enforcement and judiciary, as well as low confidence of the public in rule of law institutions.

Organized crime in South-Eastern Europe is frequently involved in various types of fraud, including fraud schemes, excise fraud, VAT fraud and online fraud. It is likely that this type of criminality is significantly underreported in the region.

The return of FTFs to the region remains a challenge for public authorities, including law enforcement. It poses a threat in terms of the possible radicalization of additional individuals in the region. Right-wing extremism and other radicalizing ideologies are also believed to be part of the increasing security challenges throughout the region.

Organized crime groups and criminal networks operating in and from South-Eastern Europe are highly diverse. They vary from hierarchical organizations to loose networks of affiliates. In some cases, they have developed highly sophisticated *modi operandi* and operate across the spectrum of serious and organized criminality. Many are highly international in their operations, with criminal enterprises and activities not only throughout the region, but also beyond.

OSCE region — South-Eastern Europe



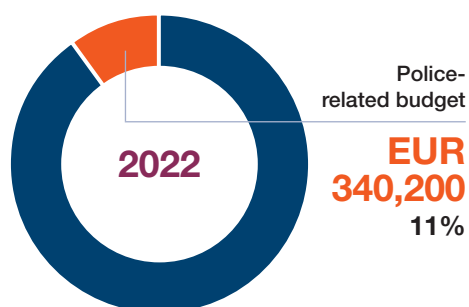
2.1.2 Presence in Albania

Introduction

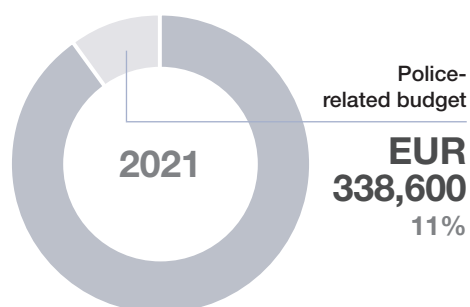
The OSCE Presence in Albania (the Presence) was established in 1997 with a mandate to promote democratization, the rule of law and human rights, as well as to consolidate democratic institutions in line with OSCE principles, standards and commitments. The Presence's activities focus on the following key priority areas: combating human trafficking; democratization; elections; good governance; gender equality; human rights; media freedom and development; policing; border management; rule of law; youth safety and security; counter-terrorism and reform and co-operation in the security sector.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 2,981,200

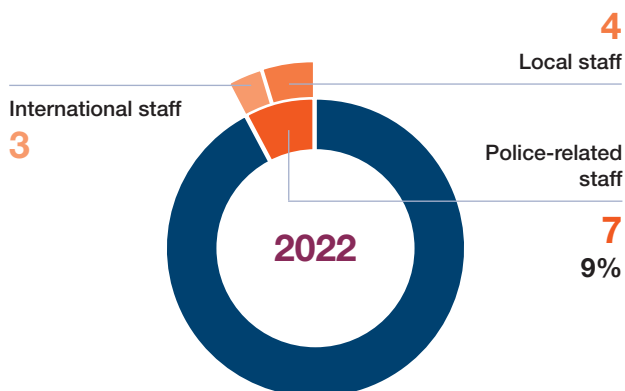


TOTAL
EUR 2,981,200

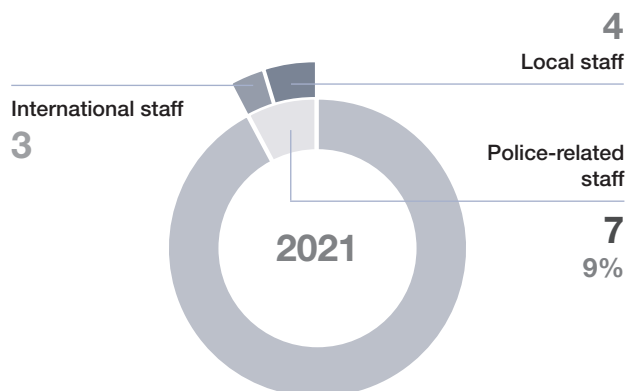


Staff*

TOTAL
74



TOTAL
80



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Presence in Albania.

► **Enhancing crime analysis expertise: Training-of-trainers at the security academy in Tirana, Albania (13–16 September 2022)**

The OSCE Presence in Albania took a significant step in strengthening the capabilities of the Albanian State Police by organizing a training-of-trainers programme on crime analysis. The event helped eight analysts to become proficient trainers in crime analysis techniques. Under the guidance of an experienced Canadian expert, the participants received a comprehensive four-day programme designed to equip them with knowledge and skills to deliver impactful training in crime analysis to their colleagues at both national and regional levels.

Reflecting on the importance of this training, one participant shared their enthusiasm, stating, “according to my professional function, this training will have a positive impact on both my personal experience and in transmitting this knowledge to younger colleagues.” It was evident that the participants recognized the value of the training, with another expressing, “I think this training is valuable and will have an important impact on my job, since I’m a trainer at the General Directorate of Police.” The practicality of the training was also acknowledged, with one participant affirming, “yes, this training was valuable, since we were trained in matters we deal with in our daily work as analysts.”

Through this engaging training initiative, the OSCE Presence in Albania continues to bolster the crime analysis expertise of the Albanian State Police, paving the way for more effective crime prevention and law enforcement practices.



📎 Simulation exercise to support the functioning and operability of Hot Pursuit protocols in Pogradec, Albania in September 2022.
OSCE

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Regional and central-level meetings to support the Joint Cross-border Co-operation Mechanism; Pogradec and Tirana, Albania (February–December 2022)

The meetings brought together border police directors from Albania and neighbouring countries. They discussed and

shared experiences on various topics related to irregular migration, information exchange, border controls, joint patrolling, and the management of seasonal influxes at border crossing points. In total, seven regional meetings and one central meeting were held.

Workshop and training event on risk analysis for border police officers; Tirana, Albania (May and October 2022)

A workshop in May brought together 18 participants from regional border and migration directorates in Albania. It served as a precursor to a training event organized by FRONTEX in October, for which the Presence provided logistical support. The second event aimed at enhancing the skills of 15 border police officers specialized in risk analysis. The event was delivered by three FRONTEX experts. There are plans for further training events in 2023.

Facilitation of the participation of an Albanian State Police representative in a CEPOL course; Rome, Italy (14–17 June 2022)

The Presence supported the participation of a representative from the Narcotics and Trafficking Directorate of the Albanian State Police in a CEPOL course on investigation techniques for countering serious organized crime and mafia-style groups. The course provided a comprehensive programme covering topics such as the analysis of criminal organizations, intelligence collection and analysis methods, investigative techniques, international law enforcement co-operation tools and more. The course involved 17 lecturers from various law enforcement agencies, offering insights based on international good practices and standards.

Peer-exchange regarding “cold cases”; Oslo, Norway (5–9 September 2022)

A delegation from the Albanian State Police conducted a study visit to the Cold Cases Unit of the Norwegian National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPPOS). The study visit facilitated the exchange of experience and expertise between the two services, with a focus on organizational structure, working methodology, forensic capabilities and good practices of the Norwegian Cold Cases Unit, with the aim of increasing the investigative capacity of the Albanian State Police in addressing unsolved murders with elements of contract killing.

Simulation exercise to support the functioning and operability of Hot Pursuit protocols; Pogradec, Albania (6–8 September 2022)

The simulation exercise tested the operability of Hot Pursuit protocols. It involved two hypothetical perpetrators attempt-

ing to traffic narcotics from Albania to North Macedonia. It brought together 40 participants from different police structures in both countries and took place over two days, with the first day dedicated to theoretical training and the second to practical exercises.

Special investigative techniques training course; Tirana, Albania (27–28 September 2022)

In co-operation with the Austrian Embassy in Tirana, the Presence organized a two-day training programme on special investigative techniques, their global and regional trends, effective criminal investigations, and parallel financial investigations. The programme enhanced the investigative capacities of 27 members of the Albanian State Police, the Security Academy and the Customs Directorate in tackling serious and organized crime.

Training event on the identification of forged documents for the Albanian Border Police; Tirana, Albania (10–14 October 2022)

The Presence, in co-operation with the Austrian MoI, organized a training event for 15 Albanian border police officers. The course focused on the detection of document and identity fraud at border crossing points, covering topics such as travel document security features, printing techniques, security substrates and facial comparison methods. This advanced training followed a basic training event held the previous year. It is planned to hold a related training-of-trainers event in 2023.

Support to the Albanian State Police’s newly established Informants Management Unit; Tirana, Albania (19 October–12 November 2022)

The Presence supported the Albanian State Police’s newly established Informants Management Unit by assisting in the drafting of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to govern the unit’s operational aspects. An international consultant worked on the SOPs draft together with a working group of the Albanian State Police. Three working meetings were held, and a preliminary draft of the SOPs, including comments and recommendations, was submitted to the Albanian State Police. The final version of the SOPs will be completed in 2023.

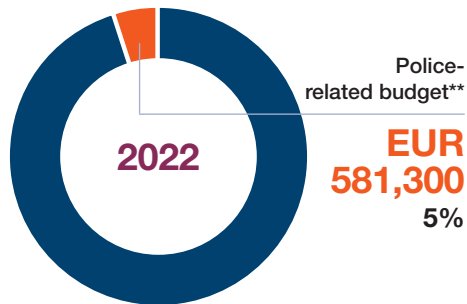
2.1.3 Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introduction

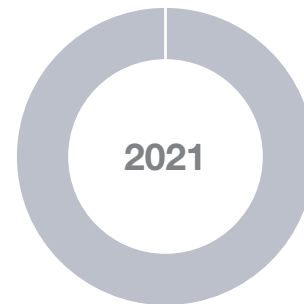
The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Mission) provides comprehensive support to the security sector, with the aim to enhance the capacities of law enforcement agencies and police officials in the country, as well as at fostering interagency co-operation and multi-sectoral partnerships. Law enforcement representatives actively took part in, contributed to and benefited from activities and efforts of the Mission aimed at enhancing law enforcement operations.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 11,682,000

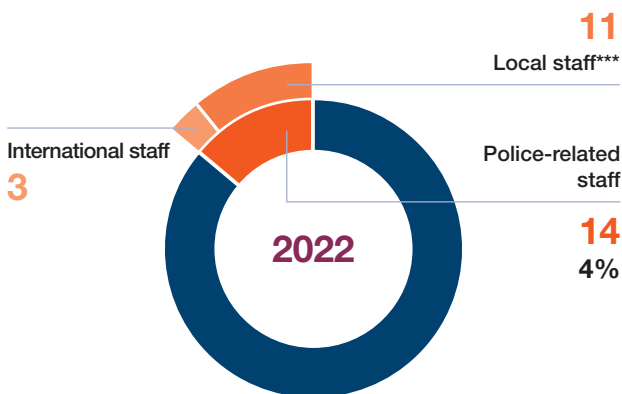


TOTAL
EUR 11,682,000

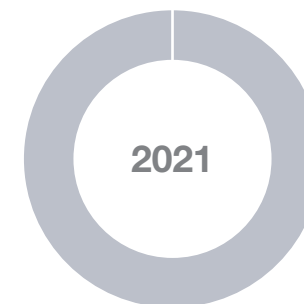


Staff*

TOTAL
314.5



TOTAL
314.5



* Figures on budget and staff provided for the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

** This figure refers to the entire budget allocated to the Mission's Security Co-operation Department in 2022.

*** Figures on international and local staff members refer to staff allocated to the Security Co-operation Department.

► Empowering police academies to combat gender-based violence (throughout 2022)

In 2022, the Mission supported the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior (Mol) of Republika Srpska (RS) in its efforts to address GBV. These efforts resulted in the release of the Police Manual for Processing Domestic Violence Cases by the Republika Srpska Mol. Moreover, interactive training modules were developed in order to enhance the skills of police officers and inspectors to detect and investigate cases of domestic violence effectively while focusing on a standardized and victim-oriented approach.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, specialized training events were held in all nine police administrations of RS to enhance the police response to domestic violence. The results have fostered an environment in which survivors receive the support they need.

In 2023, the Mission will continue to work with the Republika Srpska Mol to further enhance the police training curricula. The focus will go beyond domestic violence to include other forms of GBV that need urgent attention. The Mission's assistance will be extended to support Secretariat-led projects that aim at fortifying co-operation with the Mol Police Academies of the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH).

The Mission's support aligns with the objectives of the OSCE's WIN project of advancing its Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. Additionally, the initiatives led by TNTD/SPMU will further enhance criminal justice capacities to address GBV in South-Eastern Europe.

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Support to Mols in harmonizing police legislation with human rights standards; countrywide, Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2022)

The Mission has continued to support the Mols at various levels of authority (FBiH, as well as seven cantonal Mols) in aligning police laws and policies with international human rights standards. New laws on freedom of peaceful assembly incorporating OSCE input were successfully drafted in the FBiH cantons of Central Bosnia, Zenica-Doboj and Una-Sana. However, these draft laws have not yet been fully adopted and are still pending in the respective parliaments. Advocacy efforts for similar legislation were carried out in the cantons of Herzegovina-Neretva, West-Herzegovina

and Bosnian-Podrinje. The Mission also worked to improve a draft law on freedom of peaceful assembly in the Canton Sarajevo, which introduced restrictions on spontaneous assemblies and permitted venues.

Monitoring of police conduct during peaceful assemblies; countrywide, Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2022)

The Mission monitored 39 potentially contentious public assemblies in 2022, including 23 in the Republika Srpska, 15 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and one in the Brčko District. It identified 11 potential human rights violations, such as police violence, initiation of criminal/minor of-

fense proceedings against organizers, and the imposition of excessive requirements on organizers. Notable assemblies included pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian demonstrations, protests against amendments imposed by the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and environmental protests.

Working group meeting to amend police laws; Brčko District, Bosnia and Herzegovina (March–June 2022)

The Mission participated in the final meeting of the working group responsible for amending the Law on the Brčko District Police and the Brčko District Law on police officials. The meeting discussed concluding comments and finalized the draft laws. The proposed amendments aim at strengthening the principles of independence, transparency and merit-based selection for key management positions in the Brčko District Police. They were submitted by the Brčko District Government in April and adopted in the first reading by the Brčko District Assembly in June. However, political developments have delayed the enactment of the laws in 2022, and thus further monitoring in 2023 is needed.

Training session for police cadets on fundamental freedoms and discrimination; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (14–15 April 2022)

As part of its efforts to integrate human rights topics into the curriculum of the Republika Srpska Mol Police Academy, the Mission conducted a training session for police cadets on the policing of peaceful assemblies. The session enhanced the understanding among future police officers of fundamental freedoms and discrimination issues. The Mission plans to expand its co-operation on these topics with the police academies of both entities in 2023.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Delivery of seven simulation-based table-top exercises on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism; countrywide, Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–December 2022)

Seven table-top exercises were conducted that focused on preventing and countering violent extremism and radical-

Working group meeting for development of a new national strategy for the fight against organized crime; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (1–2 September 2022)

In co-ordination with UNODC, the Mission organized the final meeting of the working group developing a new national strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the fight against organized crime. The meeting was attended by representatives of State and entity-level security sector institutions, law enforcement agencies, and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Police. With the assistance of UNODC experts, the working group finalized the draft strategy, aligning it with the UNODC toolkit for developing high-impact strategies, as well as the recently adopted Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Strategy encompasses key objectives, strategic measures, and activities within the Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Promote pillars, the four strands of the EU's counter-terrorism strategy.

Two-day workshop on victim-centred approaches to prosecuting domestic violence; Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina (6–7 December 2022)

The Mission hosted a two-day multi-sectoral workshop for actors processing cases of domestic violence in Bijeljina and Zvornik. Participants included representatives from NGOs, social welfare centres, the police and the judiciary. The workshop focused on sharing good practices and addressing dilemmas in the prosecution, adjudication and co-ordination of institutional responses to cases of domestic violence. It aimed to address shortcomings identified through the Mission's monitoring activities, and to enhance the understanding and application of a victim-centred approach within the domestic violence response system.

ization that lead to terrorism (P/C VERLT). Key stakeholders from various sectors and civil society participated in the exercises and discussed fictional scenarios involving FTFs and right-wing/ethno-nationalism. The table-top exercises facilitated discussions about the drivers of violent extremism, response mechanisms, and the integration of recommendations into relevant strategies.

Training course for prosecutor’s offices and law enforcement agencies on advancing co-operation in high-profile organized crime and corruption cases; Trebević, Olovo, Igman, and Teslić, Bosnia and Herzegovina (March–June 2022)

In co-operation with USAID’s Judiciary against Corruption Activity, the Mission conducted a series of workshops facilitating co-operation between prosecutor’s offices and law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of high-profile organized crime and corruption cases. The events promoted recommendations derived from the Mission’s trial monitoring programme, focusing on criminal justice capacity and institutional issues, including the quality of indictments.

Support for developing a national strategy for preventing and combating terrorism; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (May–June 2022)

Continuing its support, the Mission provided substantive advisory and technical assistance to the working group developing a new national strategy for preventing and combating terrorism. Together they brought together various stakeholders, including security and non-security actors, CSOs and representatives from academia. The Mission ensured that a comprehensive approach was adopted involving the whole of society and the government. The strategy incorporates human rights principles, including gender equality and the “do-no-harm” principle. In November, the Strategy was adopted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers.

Capacity-building activities on bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes; Bijeljina, Zvornik, Prijedor and Foča, Bosnia and Herzegovina (May–December 2022)

In response to a series of bias-motivated incidents, the Mission conducted targeted capacity-building and advocacy activities on bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes. In addition, in-house presentations were held for the police in the Central Bosnia Canton. These activities, implemented in areas prone to bias-related violence, focused on raising awareness about hate crimes, providing information on the legal framework, and sharing the Mission’s monitoring findings.

Guidelines for enhancing inter-institutional communication and outreach on SALW in Bosnia and Herzegovina (June–December 2022)

The Mission supported awareness-raising activities by the Bosnia and Herzegovina SALW Control Co-ordination Board and all law enforcement agencies on the dangers of SALW and facilitated interagency communication and outreach in

this area, including through the development of standardized guidelines for public awareness-raising activities. The guidelines emphasize gender mainstreaming and the use of gender-sensitive language in public information campaigns. The Mission also supported the development of monitoring and evaluation tools for SALW-related public outreach.

Roundtable on the intersection between THB and terrorism; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (8 July 2022)

In collaboration with the OSCE’s OSR/CTHB, the Mission organized a roundtable to explore the intersection between THB and terrorism. The event brought together representatives from State agencies, criminal justice practitioners, NGOs and international experts. It provided a platform for discussion and knowledge-sharing among national anti-trafficking and counter-terrorism specialists. Highlighted were ways in which violent extremist and terrorist groups exploit existing gender stereotypes, and awareness was raised regarding the importance.

Launch event for the ExB project “Enhancing intelligence-led policing to combat serious security threats and crimes”; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (20 September 2022)

The Mission organized a high-level launch event for the five-year ExB project on intelligence-led policing (ILP), attended by heads of security institutions, law enforcement agencies, donors and international partners. Participants emphasized the importance of modernizing the police through ILP and expressed their support for the project. They also agreed on establishing an of an ILP co-ordination group to steer project activities and deliverables. The initial phase of the project in 2022–2023 will focus on identifying an applicable ILP model, sensitizing managers and operational staff on the benefits of ILP, assessing current ICT capacity business processes and databases, and mapping needs for the design of ILP curricula and training modules.

Workshop on human rights in counter-terrorism investigations; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (21–22 September 2022)

In co-operation with ODIHR, the OSCE Secretariat and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre, the Mission held a interactive workshop on strengthening human rights in counter-terrorism investigations. The workshop brought together State Investigation and Protection Agency inspectors, prosecutors, and associates from the Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecutor’s Office. Participants discussed and worked on real-life scenarios to strengthen their decision-making models in counter-terrorism investigations.

Regional conference on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) to disrupt terrorist financing; Rakitje, Croatia (4 October 2022)

In collaboration with the RACVIAC – Centre for Security Co-operation, the Mission organized a regional conference on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) in the Western Balkans. The conference promoted the understanding of international sanctions regimes and standards related to terrorism among experts and representatives of government agencies, police departments, prosecutors' offices, and security and law enforcement agencies. The conference will contribute to regional co-operation in the disruption and prevention of terrorist financing.

Launch event for the glossary of public audit terminology for Republika Srpska; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 October 2022)

The Mission contributed to the implementation of the Republika Srpska anti-corruption strategy and accompanying action plan by assisting the Republika Srpska Supreme Audit Office, its MoI and criminal justice actors in utilizing audit reports in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases. In this context, the Mission contributed to the development and launch of a new glossary of public audit terminology.

Training session on technology and human rights-compliant data gathering for detecting terrorism-related travel; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (18–19 October 2022)

The Mission organized a training session for border police and immigration officers to address the threat of terrorism-related travel while upholding the rule of law and human rights. The session enhanced the skills of the participants in detecting forged travel documents through the use of specialized databases. It also offered techniques for interviewing potential terrorist suspects, including FTFs. Real-life case studies highlighted the importance of multi-agency co-operation and timely information sharing for successfully disrupting terrorist travel.

Regional gender mainstreaming training event for border and law enforcement agencies; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15–16 November 2022)

In collaboration with UNODC and TNTD/BSMU, the Mission organized a two-day training event on gender mainstreaming for integrated border management actors. The interac-

tive event assisted law enforcement agencies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia to integrate a gender perspective into their daily work, thus increasing efficiency and effectiveness. Participants also discussed how to prevent and combat sexual harassment in the workplace. The event provided law enforcement agencies with various tools that can contribute to a more professional working environment, such as tools for identifying and addressing abusive behaviour.

Workshop to raise awareness of law enforcement managers of intelligence-led policing principles, requirements and benefits; Vlačić and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (30 November, 1 December, and 2–6 December 2022)

The Mission organized a workshop for law enforcement managers to sensitize them to the principles, requirements and benefits of intelligence-led policing (ILP). With the assistance of ILP experts, police officials adopted action-oriented steps for developing an ILP model in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its proactive use in strategic and tactical decision-making based on effective criminal intelligence processes. During the workshop, the heads of law enforcement agencies participated in the inaugural meeting of the Bosnia and Herzegovina ILP Co-ordination Body, which will steer the project's activities and deliverables.

The Mission organized two additional one-day workshops on the requirements and benefits of ILP for operational police staff of the Republika Srpska MoI and the Sarajevo Canton MoI Police Administration. The workshops familiarized participants with ILP and its requirements, and promoted the use of intelligence information in implementing police plans and strategies.

Training-of-trainers course on the identification of forged documents and impostors at border crossing points; Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5–16 December 2022)

In collaboration with TNTD/BSMU, the Mission facilitated a training-of-trainers course on identifying forged documents and impostors at border crossing points. Participants, including trainers from the Agency for Education and Professional Development and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police, enhanced their skills in detecting counterfeit documents using specialized equipment, as well as analysis techniques for morphing and detecting stolen identities. The training will ultimately contribute to strengthening border security in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

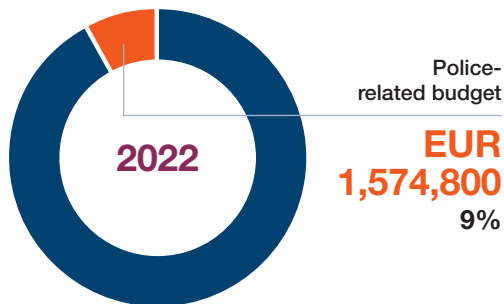
2.1.4 Mission in Kosovo

Introduction

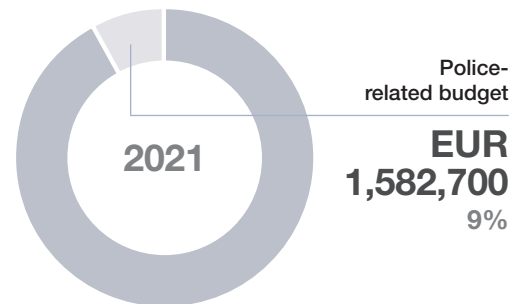
The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (the Mission) is mandated with the protection and promotion of human and community rights, as well as with democratization and public safety sector development. Building on the past support and progress achieved, further capacity-building and strategic improvements of the public safety and security sector, in line with good international practices, remain among the main priorities of the Mission.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 17,572,500

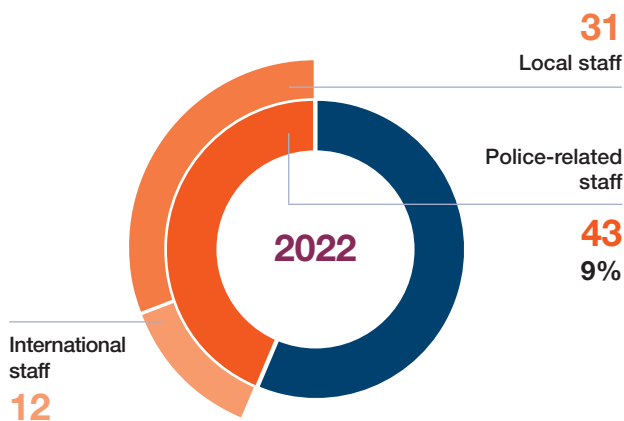


TOTAL
EUR 17,462,600

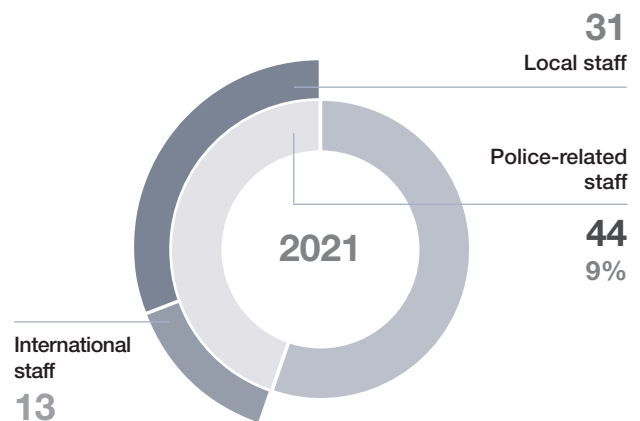


Staff*

TOTAL
489.5



TOTAL
490.5



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

► Support of police in fighting illegal drugs (throughout 2022)

The Mission has been actively supporting the Kosovo¹² Police (KP) in its fight against drug trafficking through specialized capacity-building support. Over 80 per cent of KP investigators from the KP Department for Investigating Trafficking in Narcotics (KP DITN) have received training to enhance their operational and analytical skills. The training has focused on personal safety and security during field operations, including high-risk searches of individuals, vehicles and premises. Additionally, the Mission offers expertise in the development of strategies and action plans against narcotics and organized crime through an in-house expert who is part of the Government working group. To provide further support, the Mission supplied the KP DITN with ICT equipment and narcotics field test kits in both 2021 and 2022.

This support has yielded positive results, with a 39.18 per cent increase in the number of cases handled by investigators in the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. KP managers have expressed their high appreciation of the Mission's assistance, highlighting the practical exercises provided by the Mission's expert, which address the actual needs of investigators. These exercises contributed to successful anti-drug operations throughout 2022, including the discovery of illicit drug laboratories, the seizure of large quantities of narcotics, and improvements in officer safety. The assistance has also enhanced the quality of complex case management reports and evidence handling for prosecutors. The KP is currently preparing an annual report that will provide comprehensive statistics on the impact of these efforts.

KP officials shared examples of successful Mission-supported operations, such as the discovery of 32 kg of marijuana and over 3,000 *Cannabis sativa* plants in illegal drug laboratories. In May, in a cross-border case, the KP arrested 15 offenders and seized 67.71 kg of heroin. Further investigations led to the detection and seizure of an additional 50 kg of heroin in July. Major Reshat Murseli, director of the KP DITN, expressed his gratitude for the strategic and capacity-building support provided by international partners, emphasizing the importance of advice, training and modern ICT equipment in combating organized crime.

By actively collaborating with the KP, the Mission is making a significant contribution to the disruption of transnational criminal groups and the fight against illegal drugs.



Participants at the roundtable on access to justice for domestic violence victims in Prishtinë/Priština, organized by the Mission as part of the 16 days of activism against GBV campaign in December 2022.

OSCE/Yilka Fetahaj

¹² All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Workshop for the finalization of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo strategic development plan; Prishtinë/Priština (31 January–2 February 2022)

The Mission supported the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK) in finalizing its strategic development plan. During the workshop, representatives from the PIK, the MoIA, the Mission and the ICITAP reviewed and revised the plan, ensuring its alignment with the goals and objectives of the PIK. The plan outlines strategic priorities, operational strategies and action plans to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of oversight activities.

Workshops to promote bilingual tools; Prishtinë/Priština, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Prizren, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Pejë/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac (14–24 February 2022)

In co-operation with the Kosovo Police (KP) and its Office of the Language Commissioner, the Mission facilitated eight workshops to promote bilingual tools, effective communication, and respect for linguistic identity among the police force. The workshops introduced police focus groups to the bilingual handbook for traffic police, a scenario-based video with messages encouraging bilingualism from the KP General Director and Language Commissioner for new police cadets, the bilingual language proficiency scheme, and the multilingual mobile platform.

Workshop on Kosovo Correctional Service regulation; Gjakovë/Djakovica (16–18 March 2022)

The Mission facilitated a workshop to support the finalization of the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) Regulation on internal organization and structure. The regulation establishes the organizational structure and defines the roles and responsibilities of KCS leadership and management. The workshop gathered 19 participants from the KCS, the Mission, the US Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), the UN Mission in Kosovo, and the European Union Mission on Rule of Law in Kosovo (EULEX).

Workshop on a draft law amendment to the law on police; Prizren (26–28 April 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in finalizing a draft law amending and supplementing the law on police. The workshop gathered representatives from a working group composed of the KP, government agencies, NGOs, the Mission, an EU project

for supporting Kosovo police reforms, the British Embassy, the ICITAP, and the EU Office in Prishtinë/Priština. The working group reviewed the draft legislation, made comments, and proposed amendments so that the draft law could be submitted to the Government for further steps.

Workshop to contribute to the development of a public relations strategy; Pejë/Peć (11–13 May 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in developing a public relations strategy and action plan for 2022–2026. The workshop involved working group members from different KP units, the Mission, the ICITAP, and the EU project for supporting Kosovo police reforms. The strategy emphasizes proactive multi-lingual communication and engagement with the public to enhance understanding and address community needs. It consists of three strategic objectives related to internal communication, public relations, and proactive communication.

Training course on monitoring public gatherings; Prishtinë/Priština (16 May 2022)

The Mission collaborated with the KP to conduct a training course on monitoring of public gatherings. The course covered police procedures, crowd control strategies and safety tips, as well as relevant legal and human rights considerations. Hands-on simulations and discussions prepared Mission members to effectively monitor protests based on the Mission's mandate.

Workshop to revise the KP's standard operating procedures on child abuse; Prishtinë/Priština (25 May 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in reviewing and amending the standard operating procedures (SOPs) on child abuse to incorporate enhanced investigative practices and to align them with current policies. The workshop gathered members of a joint working group and representatives from the Mission. The final document will serve as a guide for KP officers to handle child abuse cases professionally and with dignity.

Specialized training course on defensive tactics for KCS; Vushtri/Vučitrn (22–26 August 2022)

The Mission conducted a specialized training course for 15 KCS officers from the Prishtinë/Priština and Gjilan/Gnjilane regions, as well as the High Security Risk Prison. Aimed at

improving KCS officers' skills and knowledge of defensive tactics based on good practices, the course focused on human rights aspects related to the use of force, force continuum, control and self-defence procedures. The course was conducted at the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety premises, where participants practiced the learned tactics in dormitory rooms, which were used as mock prison rooms.

Training programme for senior police officers in developing operational command skills; Cardiff, United Kingdom (25–30 September 2022)

The Mission organized a training programme to support 11 senior KP officers in developing their operational command skills. The programme enhanced their ability to effectively lead and co-ordinate complex police operations. Participants received theoretical and practical training on strategic planning, decision-making, risk assessment and crisis management. They also engaged in simulations and case studies to apply their newly acquired skills in realistic scenarios.

Training event on crisis communication management for security sector communication officers; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (3–7 October 2022)

The Mission supported the MoIA, the KP, the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety, the PIK, and the Kosovo Emergency Management Agency in enhancing the crisis communication management capacities of their communication officers. The training event covered crisis components, planning, preparation, response strategies, media channels, crisis spokesperson selection, recovery strategies, and techniques for daily communication and crisis situations. Participants developed skills in analysing crisis scenarios and preparing communication plans.

Advanced training course on crime scene digital evidence for KP forensic officers; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (3–7 October 2022)

The Mission provided advanced training to 20 KP forensic investigators to improve their skills in handling digital evidence at crime scenes. The course covered various types of digital evidence, seizure and extraction from crime scenes, digital imaging and digital evidence analysis based on international standards. Participants also learned how to detect image manipulation and the principles of transferring digital evidence to forensic laboratories.

Media relation training course for senior officers of public safety institutions; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (7 October 2022)

The Mission delivered media relation training for 16 senior officers attending the mid-management supervision course at

the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety. The course focused on professional journalistic formats, preparing for press conferences and media interviews, and addressing complex questions in ways that interact with the press and public but do not harm investigative integrity. Participants demonstrated their knowledge through practical scenarios and received feedback.

Conference: “Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on integrity of public safety and security sector”; Prishtinë/Priština (16–18 November 2022)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety in organizing a scientific conference to assess the impact of the pandemic on the integrity of the public safety sector. The event brought together 75 participants from Kosovo and abroad. It focused on discussing the negative effects of the pandemic on the integrity of the police and other law enforcement agencies, measures adopted, and recovery phases. The conference facilitated the sharing of expertise, research reports and joint identification of ways to address recent threats and ensure public safety.

Workshops to review the Kosovo Correctional Service sub-legal acts; Prishtinë/Priština (14–22 November 2022)

The Mission facilitated three two-day workshops to support the KCS in reviewing administrative instructions governing the internal organization of the institution. These reviews were necessitated by the new law on the KCS and the law on execution of criminal sanctions. The workshops resulted in the revision or drafting of 26 sub-legal acts, SOPs and administrative instructions. The updated instructions covered various areas, including house rules, functioning of the Correctional Intelligence Unit and operation of the Evaluation and Classification Unit.

Workshops on drafting a KCS development strategy and action plan; Gjakovë/Djakovica (23–25 November 2022) and Prishtinë/Priština (12–16 December 2022)

The Mission organized a workshop attended by representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), senior staff of the KCS, Mission experts and EULEX. The working group assessed the current situation, identified challenges, and formulated strategic objectives and activities for the coming years. The draft strategy focuses on the system of execution of criminal sanctions, rehabilitation programmes, organizational units within the KCS and the development of training programmes.

In December, the Mission organized a workshop for representatives from the MoJ, the KPS, the Mission and EULEX to

review the current situation, identify challenges and develop strategic objectives and activities for the coming years. The strategy focuses on promoting alternative measures, improving technical capacities and logistics within the institution, and covers the professional growth of the KPS staff, along with further development of their sub-legal framework that regulates the work of KPS.

**Workshops for reviewing the KPS SOPs; Prishtinë/
Priština (29 November–1 December 2022)**

The Mission facilitated a workshop to support the KPS in reviewing its SOPs on pre-trial activities, implementation of alternative sanctions and oversight of conditional release. The working group, consisting of 17 KPS participants and representatives from EULEX and the Mission, reviewed the current SOPs and aligned them with the new Law on Probation and other relevant legislation.

**Workshop on developing a crisis communication
manual for public safety institutions; Pejë/Peć
(2–4 December 2022)**

The Mission facilitated a workshop to support the MoIA and public safety institutions in developing a crisis communication manual. The manual, based on the Kosovo Response Plan and Integrated Emergency Management System documents, provides recommendations for systematic and proactive communication in times of crisis. It covers crisis definitions, types and causes, as well as crisis life cycles.

**Training workshop on crime-scene examinations
for forensic officers; Vienna, Austria
(14–16 December 2022)**

The Mission conducted a specialized training workshop on crime scene examination for five KP forensic investigators. The workshop enhanced the participant's skills and knowledge in the updated and effective processing and analysis of crime scenes. The workshop covered various aspects, including evidence collection, preservation techniques, documentation and report writing. Participants received practical training and learned about good practices in forensic investigations.

Human rights and police accountability

Workshops for KP on disciplinary and preliminary investigations; Gjakovë/Djakovica, Prishtinë/Priština, Pejë/Peć, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prizren, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South and KP headquarters (2–19 September 2022)

In support of the KP Professional Standards Directorate, the Mission organized nine workshops on disciplinary and preliminary investigations. The workshops provided training on recent amendments to the KP SOPs and internal regulation on discipline and ethics. Participants, including first-line and mid-level managers, discussed and deepened their knowledge on the decentralization of disciplinary authority and new regulations regarding the display of police equipment on social media.

**Study visit on enhancing internal discipline within
the police force; Paris, France
(22–24 November 2022)**

The Mission organized a study visit to support the KP in enhancing internal discipline within the police force. The visit focused on strengthening the capacity of five senior managers from the KP Professional Standards Division. Participants discussed good practices, lessons learned and case studies related to disciplinary procedures and internal investigations.

**Training course on digital evidence collection
for PIK investigators; Prishtinë/Priština
(12–16 December 2022)**

The Mission conducted a training course for 11 investigators from the PIK, focusing on advanced techniques in evidence extraction and collection, including the use of specialized software such as Autopsy. Participants improved their skills in the acquisition, authentication and analysis of evidence, and received training in carving techniques by using Autopsy. The course provided participants with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively handle digital evidence.

**Workshop on the finalization of a monograph on the
KP; Prishtinë/Priština (27–28 December 2022)**

The Mission supported the finalization of a monograph on the KP by organizing a workshop. The workshop gathered 20 representatives from various KP departments and international partners. The participants reviewed and contributed

to the monograph, which provides an overview of the KP's history, development and achievements. The monograph aims to showcase the progress made by the KP in ensuring public safety and security in Kosovo and to serve as a reference document for future endeavours.

Gender mainstreaming

Roundtable on women's representation in decision-making and peace-building; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region (9 March 2022)

To commemorate International Women's Day, the Mission organized a roundtable discussion on strengthening the capacity of women representatives to address the concerns of women and girls. The event brought together 32 women leaders from different communities, including the Kosovo Serb, Albanian, Bosniak, Roma, Ashkali and Turk communities. Participants discussed ways to improve co-operation and information sharing, shared examples of good practices, and highlighted the importance of gender mainstreaming in infrastructure projects. The roundtable provided an opportunity to discuss specific security concerns for women, with KP representatives explaining procedures and institutional responses to domestic violence cases.

Meeting with the Association of Women in Kosovo Police on women's role in the security sector; online (18 March 2022)

The Mission organized an online meeting with the Association of Women in the Kosovo Police (AWKP), civil society, and media representatives to discuss increasing women's participation in the security sector. The meeting focused on the role of the AWKP in promoting women's representation in the KP and plans for capacity-building activities. Civil society and media representatives discussed advocacy initiatives, while participants addressed the challenges faced by female police officers in the region. The meeting highlighted the role of the international community, including the Mission, in promoting gender equality in the security sector.

Workshop with the AWKP on drafting a development strategy and action plan; Prizren (23–25 March 2022)

The Mission organized a workshop for a working group of 14 police officers to review the previous strategy and introduce new strategic and specific objectives to further promote the role of women in the police and ensure gender-responsive

services. The workshop addressed the challenges faced by the AWKP during the pandemic and emphasized the prioritization of women's representation in the police and in decision-making positions.

Workshops on gender and youth involvement in community safety; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Prishtinë/Priština (17 March, 19 May and 7 September 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in conducting three workshops on gender mainstreaming and youth involvement in community safety. Participants discussed the importance of public-police partnerships, the role of women and young people in preventive activities, and the findings of the evaluation report on MCSC functionality.

Annual assembly of the Women's Association of the KCS; Prishtinë/Priština (15 December 2022)

The Mission supported the Women's Association of the KCS in organizing its annual assembly, which was attended by the Deputy Director of the KCS, members of the association and representatives of the KP and international organizations. The assembly discussed the activities and financial report for 2022, expressed appreciation for the Mission's support and requested further assistance in improving the position of women in the KCS.

Community policing, police-public relations and crime prevention

Workshops on revitalizing and training of local public safety committees; Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica regions (24 February and 24 March 2022)

The Mission facilitated two one-day training workshops for 42 participants, including community members and KP officers, to revitalize non-operational local public safety committees (LPSCs) in the Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica regions. Discussions on security and successful community safety initiatives supported by the Mission highlighted the impact on residents' quality of life. The workshops aimed to strengthen the support of local institutions for community partnerships and contributed to co-operation between the police and LPSCs.

Support to LPSC awareness-raising on hate crime in schools; Prishtinë/Priština, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Prizren, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Pejë/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac (March 2022)

The Mission supported LPSCs in raising awareness of hate crime among young people in primary schools in all eight police regions. Child-friendly posters and stickers were distributed and presentations on hate crime and hate speech were given to ninth graders. Interactive sessions with over two hundred students highlighted the importance of diversity, inclusiveness and tolerance among different communities.

Workshop on the revision of police guidelines on intelligence gathering; Prizren (13–15 April 2022)

The Mission supported a workshop for 27 participants, including members of the KP working group and representatives from the Mission and the EU project for supporting Kosovo police reforms, to review and align the guidelines for police officers on intelligence gathering with the integrated intelligence-led and community policing strategy, as well as with the action plan for 2021–2025. The workshop enhanced participants' capacity to collect, process and disseminate intelligence, ultimately improving their performance in community and intelligence-led policing.

Workshops presenting the KP's integrated SOPs on community policing and intelligence-led policing; Ferizaj/Uroševac, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prizren and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South (5 May–29 June 2022)

Eight workshops were conducted by the Mission to assist the KP in presenting the integrated SOPs on community and intelligence-led policing. The workshops targeted 241 officials, ranging from first-line supervisors to senior staff, and introduced them to the framework and components of the SOPs with the aim of improving their crime-handling approaches and providing better services to the community. The workshops emphasized the roles and responsibilities of officers in the intelligence-led process and provided guidance on how to apply the SOPs effectively.

Awareness-raising workshop on disaster risk reduction; Prishtinë/Priština (25–27 May 2022)

The Mission facilitated an awareness-raising workshop for 26 participants from LPSCs, the KP and municipal officials in the Prishtinë/Priština region, emphasizing the importance

of implementing disaster risk reduction programmes at all levels, including local government officials, communities and CSOs. Experts delivered sessions on emergency management, roles and responsibilities, and the role of residents in self-protection and supporting communities. The workshop highlighted the contribution of community safety forums, particularly LPSCs, in providing support during emergencies. Promotional materials were distributed to raise awareness in the community.

Workshops for finalizing a school safety action plan; Prishtinë/Priština (7–27 June 2022)

The Mission facilitated workshops for the Prishtinë/Priština Municipal Directorate of Education and the KP to finalize an action plan based on a pilot survey and a school safety study. Seventy-three participants reviewed and made recommendations on objectives and measures for the school safety action plan, which addresses infrastructure, emergency management, governance, climate, capacity-building and monitoring. The plan will guide the Municipal Directorates of Education, the KP and the Mission in their engagement with schools and the implementation of safety initiatives.

Regional workshop on preventing security incidents with religious communities and municipal community safety councils; Gračanica/Graçanicë (15 June 2022)

The Mission brought together representatives of religious communities, the KP, and co-ordinators from municipal community safety councils (MCSC) and non-majority community mechanisms for a regional workshop to discuss joint efforts to prevent security incidents. Participants raised concerns about media coverage, punishment of perpetrators and compensation for MCSC meetings. They recommended the establishment of working groups, improved planning, police patrols near religious sites, and funding for security projects.

Intercultural youth forums with LPSCs; Prizren (17–19 June and 16–18 September 2022)

The Mission supported the KP and LPSCs in organizing two intercultural youth forums aiming to improve relations between young members of different communities and to enhance their co-operation with LPSCs and the KP. Participants engaged in activities and learned about advocacy, negotiation skills and prevention measures. The Mission also introduced the youth opportunities platform "kosovoyouth.com" to support youth participation. Participants committed themselves to working together on youth-related initiatives and to integrate youth into community safety activities.

Workshops in support of the bi-annual revision of the integrated intelligence-led and community policing strategy and action plan; Prishtinë/Priština (30 June and 22 December 2022)

Two one-day workshops were organized by the Mission to facilitate the bi-annual implementation reviews of the integrated strategy and action plan. The 62 participants from the KP, MoIA, UNDP and ICITAP assessed implementation and challenges, acknowledged the Mission's contribution and developed recommendations for successful implementation.

Support for the Para Sport Games Kosovo 2022; Vushtrri/Vučitrn (16–17 July 2022)

The Mission assisted the Kosovo Paralympic Committee in organizing the Para Sport Games, which brought together some five hundred para-athletes. The event offered para-athletes the opportunity to compete in 13 different sports activities, including wheelchair racing, wheelchair basketball, sitting handball and table tennis. The Mission provided competition equipment, sportswear, trophies and medals for the event. Volunteers from various organizations supported the athletes and facilitated networking with law enforcement and peacekeepers.

Workshops on community involvement in intelligence gathering; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and Prishtinë/Priština (1–13 September 2022)

The Mission organized four workshops for 118 sector officers, many from local public safety committees (LPSCs), to learn methods of intelligence gathering through community engagement. Officers were introduced to their duties under the integrated intelligence-led and community oriented policing SOPs. They learned about the importance of local community safety forums and working together to tackle and prevent local problems through partnerships. The workshops shed light on the intelligence process, emphasized the need for information from day-to-day operations, and underlined that gaining the trust of communities is vital to effective problem solving.

Roundtable on the recognition of volunteerism in LPSCs; Prishtinë/Priština (8 September 2022)

The Mission assisted the KP in organizing a roundtable to discuss the importance of community policing and ways to recognize the voluntary work of LPSC members. Representatives from the KP, LPSCs and local governance committed themselves to empowering LPSCs and promoting community health and safety.

Workshops to strengthen co-operation in preventing juvenile delinquency; Pejë/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prizren, Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (15–27 September 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in organizing five workshops for juvenile prosecutors, defence lawyers and representatives from the KP, Municipal Directorates of Education and centres for social work to strengthen co-operation among institutions addressing juvenile delinquency. In the workshops, participants discussed policies and measures for sustainable and multi-institutional approaches and focused on challenges, diversion, special procedures for juveniles, inter-organizational co-operation and policy choices to tackle current trends in juvenile delinquency.

Training event for LPSC trainers; Prishtinë/Priština (26–30 September 2022)

In collaboration with the KP and LPSCs, the Mission conducted a training-of-trainers event for 16 LPSC members. The event focused on effective training techniques, adult learning methodologies, and means for addressing safety and security issues. At the end of the event, participants developed and presented their own lesson plans, demonstrating their qualification to conduct future training courses for LPSCs.

Roundtable discussions on trafficking and domestic violence with community safety forums; Mitrovica/Mitrovicë (20–25 October 2022)

The Mission supported the MoIA in organizing roundtable discussions to promote information-sharing and improve partnership and co-operation among participants. It discussed CTHB, small-scale projects co-ordinated with the KP, and acknowledged that reporting of domestic violence cases by residents had increased.

Training young people as leaders and their role in preventing narcotic abuse (follow-up to the intercultural youth forums); Prizren (28–30 October 2022)

At the request of the KP and LPSCs, the Mission supported a training course for 31 young leaders on the prevention of narcotic abuse. Participants learned about the effects of drugs, negative phenomena among young people, and the role of the parent-student-teacher triangle. The course empowered participants to raise awareness and prevent drug abuse in schools and public spaces.

Workshops for young LPSC members on follow-up activities from the intercultural youth forums; Gračanica/Graçanicë, Vushtrri/Vučitrn and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (October–November 2022)

The Mission facilitated three workshops for young LPSC members to share knowledge acquired during the intercultural youth forums. The workshops focused on addressing safety concerns, including young people in decision-making, and implementing awareness-raising activities. Participants committed themselves to implementing collaborative initiatives with the KP and LPSCs.

Training workshops on media communication and PR for KP officers; Kosovo-wide (October–December 2022)

The Mission delivered eight training workshops on media communication for over 90 KP officers. The workshops focused on effective communication through traditional and new media, keeping abreast of communication dynamics, and technological developments. Participants learned how to engage with journalists, convey messages and harness the power of the media. The workshops also covered communication techniques, influential technologies and the importance of strategic communication.

20th LPSC Executive Council Meeting; Prishtinë/Priština (9 December 2022)

The Mission supported the organization of the 20th LPSC Executive Council Meeting, at which participants discussed progress, challenges and good practices. The meeting emphasized the important role of LPSCs in obtaining information and enhancing community safety. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to LPSC members for their dedicated volunteerism and commitment.

Workshop on the annual revision of the community safety strategy and action plan; Prishtinë/Priština (12 December 2022)

The Mission assisted the MoIA in conducting a workshop to revise the community safety strategy and action plan. Representatives from various institutions reviewed the implementation of activities and discussed new ideas for the future.

Presentation of results from the school safety study survey; Prishtinë/Priština (16 December 2022)

The Mission supported the presentation of the results of a school safety survey conducted in pre-university schools

throughout Kosovo. The survey covered various aspects of school safety and included interviews with students, staff and parents. In 2023, the conclusions and recommendations will feed into joint plans between the KP, the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, and school authorities.

Gender-based violence

Advanced training course on domestic violence risk assessment; Prishtinë/Priština (21 February–4 March 2022)

The Mission conducted two training courses on domestic violence risk assessment for 39 police officers from all eight KP regions. Building on earlier successful courses, the training enhanced officers' skills in dealing with domestic violence cases and enhancing a victim-centred approach. Participants learned how to assess risk, develop safety plans and conduct interviews. They practiced their skills using the DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour) checklist in a role-play scenario.

Roundtables on domestic violence with community safety forums and police; Prishtinë/Priština, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë South (17–31 May 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in conducting five roundtables on domestic violence with representatives from centres for social work, community safety forums and victim advocates. Participants discussed various aspects of domestic violence, its causes and consequences, and the support available to victims. Discussions emphasized the role of community safety forums in increasing awareness and reporting domestic violence cases, as well as the importance of education in breaking the cycle of this type of violence.

Design and dissemination of pocket-size cards for police officers handling domestic violence cases; Prishtinë/Priština (21 June 2022)

The Mission provided 5,000 pocket-size cards to the KP Domestic Violence Section. The cards, available in Albanian and Serbian, were developed in collaboration with the KP based on the new SOPs. They serve as a step-by-step guide for police officers when responding to domestic violence cases. The cards will be distributed to first responders and new officers in all regional directorates to enable them to improve their understanding of their responsibilities.

Workshops on the prevention of domestic violence for new police officers; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć and Prishtinë/Priština (4–21 October 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in conducting five workshops for 144 newly appointed police officers, focusing on the prevention of domestic violence at the first-responder level, relevant legislation and inter-institutional mechanisms. Participants learned about the importance of an appropriate and victim-centred police response and how to reduce the risk of further victimization.

Training course on domestic violence cases for advocates, prosecutors and police; Pejë/Peć (1–3 November 2022)

A residential training course was organized by the Mission to educate victims' advocates, prosecutors and police on effective responses to domestic violence cases. The training course, led by a judge and a prosecutor, covered topics such as the domestic legal framework, the Supreme Court's guidelines on sentencing, psychological and economic violence, protection orders and the Istanbul Convention.

Roundtable discussion “Everyone against gender-based and domestic violence/co-ordination of inter-institutional actions”; Prishtinë/Priština (25 November 2022)

As part of the 16 days of activism against GBV campaign, the Mission assisted the Prishtinë/Priština municipality in organizing a roundtable discussion on domestic violence and GBV to enhance co-operation between local institutions in addressing domestic violence cases.

Roundtables on access to justice for domestic violence victims; Prishtinë/Priština (7–19 December 2022)

Two roundtables were organized by the Mission as part of the 16 days of activism against GBV campaign. The events, attended by officials from the Kosovo MoIA and MoJ, the KP, the Ombudsman Institution, centres for social work and NGOs, discussed security aspects, international standards, legal frameworks, monitoring of protection orders, risk assessment and multi-sectoral co-operation in addressing domestic violence and GBV.

Roundtable for probation officers on reporting and recording domestic violence cases; Prishtinë/Priština (21 December 2022)

A roundtable was organized by the Mission for probation officers from all regions of Kosovo to discuss their experiences in dealing with domestic violence cases and the challenges they face. Also presented at the event was a new training curriculum aligned with the Istanbul Convention and the Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence 2022–2026. Additionally, the Mission provided the KPS with 15 laptops to enhance the on-scene reporting capacity of its officers.

Hate crime

Workshops on handling hate crimes; Prishtinë/Priština, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Prizren, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Pejë/Peć, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North (14–31 March 2022)

The Mission organized a series of eight one-day workshops in all KP regions to introduce the *Manual for KP on Handling Hate Crimes* to 147 police officers responsible for handling such cases. The workshops aimed to enhance their role in identifying, responding to, and recording hate crimes. They emphasized professional police response and compliance with international standards.

Mission and ODIHR assessment of hate crime victim support; Gjilan/Gnjilane (17–18 May 2022)

A diagnostic workshop was conducted by the Mission and ODIHR to assess support for victims of hate crimes. Representatives from various institutions participated. The discussions identified challenges in recording hate crimes, such as inadequate support mechanisms and reporting capacities, and led to recommendations for improvement.

Workshops to assist the Ombudsman Institution in developing monitoring guidelines for hate crimes; Prishtinë/Priština (6 June and 8 December 2022)

The Mission facilitated two workshops to support the Ombudsman Institution in developing guidelines for monitoring hate crimes. The workshops brought together members of the Ombudsman Institution, the KP and the Mission to discuss the structure, content and role of the Ombudsman Institution in treating hate crimes. Additional recommendations were made, these focusing on victim support, prevention mechanisms and awareness-raising campaigns.

Design and dissemination of pocket-size cards for police officers handling hate crimes; Prishtinë/Priština (24 June 2022)

The Mission provided 7,360 pocket-size cards in multiple languages to the KP Department for Operations. The cards contain legal definitions and bias indicators related to hate crimes, and serve as a quick reference for police officers. The distribution of the cards complemented the implementation of the *Manual for KP on Handling Hate Crimes* toward enhancing first responder and investigator case reporting.

Preparatory meeting for regional conference on hate crime; Prishtinë/Priština – hybrid (18 August 2022)

A preparatory meeting was hosted by the Mission for the 2022 Regional Conference on Hate Crimes in South-Eastern Europe. Participants from ODIHR and OSCE missions shared developments and priorities in combating hate crimes in their respective regions.

Workshop on the implementation of the co-operation agreement on addressing hate crimes; Prishtinë/Priština (20 September 2022)

The Mission facilitated a workshop to review the implementation of the co-operation agreement on addressing hate crimes in Kosovo. Representatives from the KP, the Chief Prosecutor's Office, and the Kosovo Judicial Council participated and provided updates on their progress. Gaps in the recording of hate crimes were identified as an ongoing challenge. The Mission recommended that the agreement be reviewed and the Office for Good Governance (OGG) be considered as a co-ordinating body.

Study visit to enhance efforts against hate crimes; Zagreb, Croatia (11–13 October 2022)

The Mission facilitated a study visit to Croatia for representatives of the Ombudsperson Institution and the OGG to meet with Croatian institutions and CSOs to learn about effective practices in addressing hate crimes. Discussions covered challenges, achievements, protocols and raising public awareness.

Ninth regional hate crime conference for OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe; Skopje, North Macedonia (26–27 October 2022)

Mission representatives attended the ninth annual regional hate crime conference organized by the OSCE Mission to Skopje. Representatives from Kosovo discussed the role of CSOs in responding to hate crimes and supporting victims. The conference concluded with recommendations for future support to CSOs.

Hate crime training course for law enforcement by the Mission and ODIHR; Prishtinë/Priština (14–16 December 2022)

The Mission and ODIHR provided training on hate crimes to KP officers and CSO representatives. The course covered legislation, victim-centred approaches and proper recording. Participants gained knowledge on the concept of hate crime and bias motivation, and improved their ability to respond. The course also included training-of-trainer elements to enable knowledge transfer.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Roundtables to present the *Guide for Early Identification of Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism*; Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prizren (1–10 March 2022)

The Mission facilitated four roundtables to present the *Guide* and to brief first-line officers from all KP structures on the *Guide's* framework, early indicators of VERLT, and prevention strategies.

Seminars on VERLT prevention for education personnel; Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjilan/Gnjilane (15–29 March 2022)

The Mission supported the KP in conducting four seminars for 135 students, teachers and psychologists from high schools in Kosovo. The seminars increased their understanding of VERLT prevention strategies. The participants learned about factors influencing youth vulnerability to extremism, recruitment and radicalization processes, and the current VERLT situation in Kosovo. Constructive discussions focused on

institutional measures to prevent VERLT and plans to handle returnees, particularly women and children.

Workshops to finalize the Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2025; Prishtinë/Priština (17–18 March 2022) & (23 December 2022)

The Mission organized workshops to finalize Kosovo's Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2025. Together with an international expert, participants defined objectives and proposed activities. The working group defined objectives and identified activities for the five-year plan.

Training course on reporting suspicious transactions for terrorist financing; Prishtinë/Priština (23–25 March 2022)

The Mission conducted a training course for participants from the FIU, KP, commercial banks and Notary Chamber on applicable legislation, good practices and real case studies, thereby promoting inter-institutional co-operation. Participants enhanced their capacity in preparing suspicious transaction reports (STR) and suspicious activity reports (SAR) on terrorist financing.

Training course on revised SOPs for victims of trafficking in human beings; Prishtinë/Priština (29–30 March 2022)

The Mission provided training to 20 participants from anti-trafficking institutions on the practical implementation of the revised SOPs for trafficked persons. The course focused on compliance with recent legislative amendments and a unified application of provisions. Participants discussed challenges and proposed solutions to improve treatment and services for victims throughout the SOP process.

Workshop on the drafting of an SOP for advance passenger information; Pejë/Peć (28–30 March 2022)

The Mission facilitated a workshop to draft an SOP for the newly established advance passenger information (API) unit of the MoIA. This activity, which built on the previous legal guidance provided by TNTD and the Mission in 2018 and 2019, involved representatives from various organizations and resulted in a draft SOP. The final draft SOP was also reviewed by the OSCE TNTD. It was adopted by the MoIA in March 2023 through the full operationalization of its Centre for Border Management.

Workshop on the annual evaluation of the Strategy and Action Plan against Narcotics 2018–2022; Prizren (19–21 April 2022)

The Mission supported the MoIA Secretariat for Strategies to conduct a workshop for the annual evaluation of the Strategy

and Action Plan against Narcotics 2018–2022. The workshop involved multiple agencies and resulted in additional activities and ideas for the next strategic document. A draft report on the evaluation will serve as the basis for drafting the next Strategy and Action Plan for 2023–2028.

Training course on mitigating the strategic risk of terrorist financing and developing strategic analysis; Prishtinë/Priština (28–29 April 2022)

The Mission held a training course for ten participants from Kosovo's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), KP and Special Prosecutor's Office on the co-ordination and co-operation between institutions that is needed for identifying money laundering and terrorist financing cases. The course covered international standards, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) guidance on terrorist financing risk assessment, Kosovo's money laundering and terrorist assessment, and prevention of the abuse of NGOs for terrorist financing.

Training courses on extended powers of confiscation and tracing illicit assets; Prishtinë/Priština (17–20 May and 23–26 May 2022)

Two training courses were held on extended powers of confiscation, asset tracing and financial investigations. Participants from the KP, as well as customs, tax administration, prosecution and other agencies learned about the legal framework, case management, intelligence, co-operation and integrated financial investigations.

The Mission conducted a training course for 19 participants from the KP, as well as the FIU and the Prosecutor's Office on investigating financial crimes and tracing illegal assets through a multi-agency approach. The course covered, *inter alia*, case strategy and management, intelligence and financial profiling, money laundering, the role of the FIU, and asset tracing, recovery and management. It also focused on improving inter-institutional co-operation, co-ordination and data sharing to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in preventing, investigating and combating financial crime and tracing illegal assets.

Roundtables on inter-institutional co-operation in addressing trafficking in human beings; Pejë/Peć, Prizren and Prishtinë/Priština (23–31 May 2022)

The Mission organized three roundtables bringing together representatives from local and international institutions and organizations working on CTHB, including the KP, the Kosovo MoIA, the Victims' Advocacy and Assistance Office, prosecutors, judges, shelters for victims of trafficking, and centres for social work. Participants presented the current situation, discussed challenges, and identified recommendations to enhance co-operation and improve the response to THB in Kosovo.

Provision of high-tech devices and training sessions for fighting organized crime; Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren (3 August, 8 September, 20–21 December 2022)

The Mission supplied specialized equipment to KP investigators and conducted training sessions on its use. Using real-case scenarios, the sessions enhanced the participants' investigative skills, particularly in the areas of evidence collection, documentation and the proper use of equipment.

Workshops on finalizing the Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Terrorism 2023–2028; Pejë/Peć (22–24 August and 17–19 October 2022)

The Mission facilitated two workshops to finalize the Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Terrorism 2023–2028. During the first workshop, the working group prepared a draft strategy, incorporating feedback from the Mission and partner organizations; the second workshop focused on finalizing the Action Plan. Discussions centred on prevention, de-radicalization, reintegration and the involvement of local stakeholders, CSOs and the media.

Training courses on responding to abuse and fraud in public procurement; Prishtinë/Priština (7–9 September 2022)

The Mission conducted a training course on abuse and fraud in public procurement attended by 25 participants from various institutions. The course covered EU legislation, contract management and electronic procurement. It enhanced the participants' ability to respond to administrative and financial violations related to public procurement.

Training of police dog handlers on SALW detection; Prishtinë/Priština (11 September–7 October 2022)

The Mission provided a four-week advanced training course for 14 KP dog handlers, focusing on detection and search techniques for SALW and related explosives.

Advanced training of the police bomb squad on improvised explosive device disposal; Prishtinë/Priština (19–23 September 2022)

The Mission delivered an advanced training course to 15 KP bomb squad officers on handling improvised explosive device disposal. The course covered initiation systems, construction, safe handling of detonators, and good practices for managing bomb scenes.

Training sessions on identifying cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Gjakovë/Djakovica and Prishtinë/Priština (28 September–3 October 2022)

The Mission conducted three one-day training sessions for 50 KP officers on identifying cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings (THB) within mixed migration flows. The sessions covered trends, *modus operandi* of criminal networks, indicators for identification, and regional and international contexts. The interactive sessions allowed for discussion, sharing of experiences and highlighting of lessons learned.

Provision of ICT equipment to KP regional anti-drug units; Prishtinë/Priština (7 October 2022)

The Mission handed over refurbished laptops to KP regional anti-drug units. The laptops will support the daily administrative work of investigators and enhance their case management tools.

Roundtable on asset confiscation needs and gaps; Prishtinë/Priština (25 October 2022)

A roundtable facilitated by the Mission on the confiscation of assets brought together decision-makers and operational representatives from the KP, Kosovo's Agency for the Management of Sequestered or Confiscated Assets (AMSCA), its FIU, Tax Administration, Customs, prosecution and judiciary, as well as two EULEX and Mission Task Force members. The event fostered co-operation and the identification of gaps. It resulted in a report with findings and recommendations to assist institutions in addressing these needs.

Operational meetings between the KP Directorate for Investigation of THB and sister agencies in Skopje and Tirana; Skopje and Tirana (1–4 November 2022)

The Mission facilitated operational meetings between the KP Directorate for Investigation of THB and sister agencies in Skopje and Tirana. The purpose was to establish and strengthen co-operation, share information and good practices, and plan joint investigations of THB cases. Participants discussed current trends and statistics, emphasizing the importance of continued close co-operation to prevent and combat THB.

Operational meetings for the FIU; Skopje and Tirana (29 November–1 December 2022)

The Mission facilitated two operational meetings of FIU officials from Prishtinë/Priština with their counterparts from Skopje and Tirana. The meetings allowed participants to

share good practices, discuss investigations of suspicious financial activity involving both locations, explore joint operations against money laundering and financing of terrorism, and build partnerships.

Training sessions on investigation and prosecution of crime-related virtual assets; Prishtinë/Priština (5–8 December 2022)

The Mission delivered a training course on the investigation and prosecution of crime-related virtual assets, including cryptocurrencies, as well as on the co-operative data sharing necessary to prevent and tackle financial crime. Participants from multiple institutions, including the KP, Kosovo's Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Tax Administration, FIU and AMSCA, learned about handling seized assets and the role of cryptocurrency in money laundering.

Provision of ICT tools for police to fight corruption; Prishtinë/Priština (14 December 2022)

As part of its anti-corruption efforts, the Mission provided two laptops and a multimedia projector to the KP Directorate of Economic Crimes and Corruption Investigation. These tools will be used for awareness-raising presentations, recording statements and improving operational efficiency.

Other activities, including co-ordination and co-operation

Training-of-trainers course on responding to sexual assault and harassment; Gjakovë/Djakovica, Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren and Mitrovicë/Mitrova (23 March–4 May and 31 May–2 June 2022)

The Mission organized a training courses and two workshops for students to become trainers on responses to sexual offences and harassment. Workshops involved lectures on legislation, standards, and victim services. Similar workshops were conducted for students, teachers and school psychologists to raise awareness and provide comprehensive knowledge on these topics.

Roundtable on effective case management; Pejë/Peć (10 October 2022)

The Mission supported a roundtable on increasing co-operation and effective case management. Judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers and police discussed strategies to improve efficiency and reduce backlog of unresolved cases.

Annual evaluation roundtable for improved co-operation in THB investigations; Prishtinë/Priština (20 December 2022)

The Mission facilitated an annual evaluation roundtable between representatives from the KP Directorate for Investigation of THB and the Basic Prosecution office in Gjakovë/Djakovica. They discussed achievements and challenges and proposed ideas for improving THB investigations. Emphasis was placed on strengthening co-operation and co-ordination between investigators and prosecutors to achieve better results.

Training course on online surveillance as an investigation tool; Prishtinë/Priština (19–23 December 2022)

The Mission provided training to KP investigators in online surveillance as an investigation tool, focusing on internet investigative sources, social media research, dark web analysis, and data collection and handling. Practical exercises improved the participants' ability to lawfully exploit and gather evidence using open source intelligence.

Workshop on judicial co-operation and transparency; Prishtinë/Priština (1 November 2022)

A workshop was organized with public information officers to enhance co-operation and transparency in judicial institutions. Discussions covered language compliance, accessibility to documents and effective information sharing.

Workshop on digital evidence in criminal proceedings; Prishtinë/Priština (5 December 2022)

The Mission held a workshop on digital evidence in criminal proceedings for judiciary, prosecution and KP representatives. Legal issues, procedures for obtaining digital evidence, and practical challenges were discussed. The workshop aimed to ensure a balance between privacy protection, complexities related to the use of digital evidence, and the huge amount of such evidence that exists.

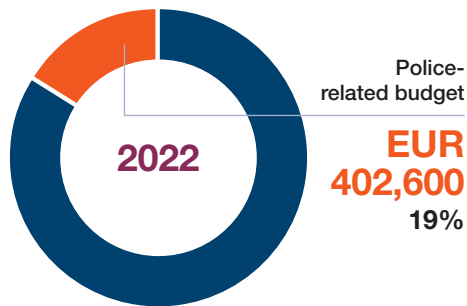
2.1.5 Mission to Montenegro

Introduction

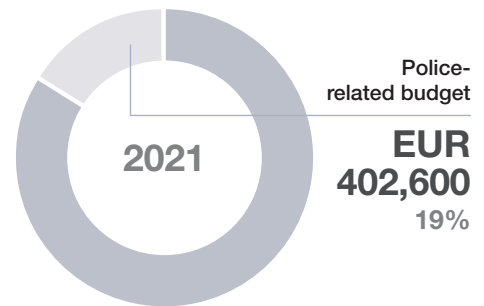
The OSCE Mission to Montenegro (the Mission) assists the host country in fostering a more accountable security sector capable of addressing serious threats and crimes, while ensuring public safety and the protection of the human rights in line with OSCE politico-military commitments. The Mission’s Security Co-operation and Governance Programme continued supporting the authorities of Montenegro in reform processes.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 2,152,100

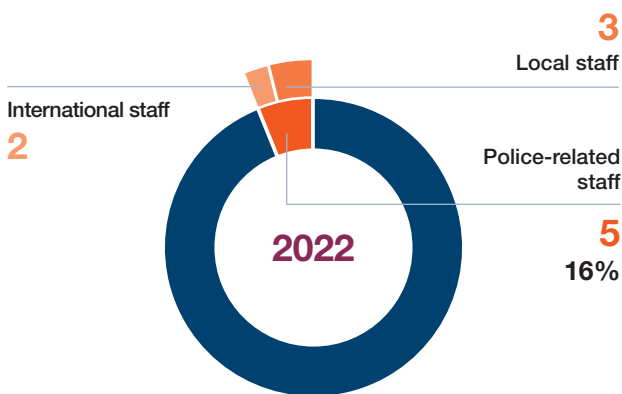


TOTAL
EUR 2,152,100

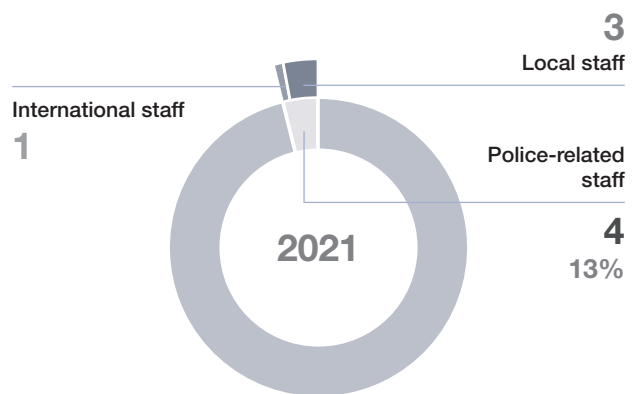


Staff*

TOTAL
32



TOTAL
32



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

► **Using intelligence-led policing to combat organized crime in Montenegro (September–November 2022)**

The Mission's support to the Montenegro Police Directorate has made a remarkable impact on enhancing their administrative and operational capacities. Police Director Zoran Brđanin expressed his gratitude and emphasized the importance of joint activities. He underscored the importance of the excellent co-operation, stressing that the Police Directorate is ready to continue working together to create a safer and more peaceful society.

A pivotal aspect of the assistance has been the adoption of the intelligence-led policing (ILP) model by the Police Directorate. This model includes a dedicated criminal-intelligence section within police operations that is responsible for producing strategic, tactical and operational documents crucial for law enforcement agencies in Montenegro. To support this process, the Mission provided geospatial analysis software tools to all regional security centres in the country. Additionally, the Mission conducted comprehensive training sessions for criminal intelligence officers, equipping them with the skills to effectively utilize this advanced tool in their investigations.

Mr. Ivan Jokic, head of the Criminal Intelligence Unit, praised the impact of the software, saying that it had significantly enhanced the work of the Sector for Combating Crime. Thanks to its implementation, several critical organized crime cases have been successfully solved. The software's capabilities have been instrumental in identifying perpetrators and uncovering some of the intricate routes used to smuggle illicit drugs and weapons. This has resulted in numerous high-profile arrests in Montenegro.

These efforts have not only elevated the capabilities of law enforcement agencies, but have also played a vital role in safeguarding Montenegro from organized crime, making a tangible difference in the fight for a more secure society.



Supporting “Police Persons of Trust” — A female police officer in front of a school in Podgorica.
OSCE

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Support for gender mainstreaming in the police and the national Women Police Association; Podgorica, Montenegro (April–May 2022)

The Mission supported the Police Directorate and Police Academy in their Women in Police campaign to encourage more women to join the police force. The campaign's success was evident in the increased number of female cadets admitted to the Police Academy, with 40 per cent of the cadets admitted in 2022 being women. The Mission also facilitated a visit by the Women Police Association of Montenegro to share experiences and project ideas with their counterparts in North Macedonia, thereby fostering co-operation between the two organizations.

Support in developing a Mol e-learning platform; Podgorica, Montenegro (June–December 2022)

The Mission aided the Mol IT Unit in developing an e-learning platform for the police to expand training opportunities, and to reduce travel and accommodation costs. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the lack of e-learning options, the Mol conducted 30 per cent fewer training courses in 2020 and 2021. In June and September, the Mission donated equipment to host the platform, including servers, firewalls, laptops and smartphones.

Support for drafting a police communication strategy and action plan; Podgorica, Montenegro (September–December 2022)

In response to a needs assessment conducted in 2021, the Mission supported the drafting of a four-year communication strategy and action plan for the police. The final documents, developed in co-operation with the Montenegro Mol and Police Directorate, were completed in November 2022. The Police Directorate management expressed strong interest in its development and future implementation. Once approved, the Mission will support various activities outlined in the action plan.

Fourth annual public perception survey on police work; countrywide (October–November 2022)

The Mission conducted its fourth annual public perception survey on police work to identify areas for improvement. The survey found that the police were ranked as the most trusted state institution, with organized crime, drug addiction, drug trafficking and corruption identified as major threats to security. The survey also highlighted an increased awareness of domestic violence as a threat to public safety.

Creation of the “Virtual Police Station” mobile application; Podgorica, Montenegro (November–December 2022)

The Mission supported the Mol and Police Directorate in developing a smartphone application called “Virtual Police Station” to provide online services to the public. These services include reporting crimes, requesting information on traffic regulations, issuing licenses and more. The development phase is estimated to take around eight months and is expected to be completed in 2023.

Supporting “Police Persons of Trust”; Budva, Montenegro (7–8 December 2022)

Continuing its support for “Police Persons of Trust” as a mechanism for promoting gender mainstreaming and integrity within the police, the Mission organized the Persons of Trust annual conference. During the conference, new officers were selected to focus on gender awareness, community outreach by the police, and support for victims of harassment within the police. The conference contributed to the visibility of Persons of Trust and aimed to improve the working environment within the Police Directorate.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Renewal of forensic software licenses and equipment at the Forensic Centre; Danilovgrad, Montenegro (throughout 2022)

Building upon the provision of technical assistance to strengthen the Montenegro Forensic Centre's capacity in conducting forensic examinations, particularly in the area of digital forensics, the Mission assisted in the renewal of forensic software licenses. The software in question is used to analyse and recover information from mobile devices, enhance images and videos, search hard drives, perform live RAM captures and collect digital evidence. The Forensic Centre's digital forensics laboratory has been fully equipped with high-performance computers and digital evidence analysis software.

Participation in the 22nd OSCE Alliance Conference against Trafficking in Persons; Vienna, Austria (4–6 April 2022)

The Mission supported the participation of two representatives from the Montenegro MoI's Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Supreme Court at the high-level OSCE Alliance Conference against Trafficking in Persons. Participants met and heard talks by experts with practical experience in victim rights advocacy and the application of the non-punishment principle. They reported that the exchange of good practices will contribute to the further improvement of national CTHB efforts in Montenegro. As a result of their participation, national partners are considering ways to implement OSCE recommendations on the prevention of THB.

Conference on risk assessment and prevention of human trafficking in supply chains; Budva, Montenegro (10–11 May 2022)

The Mission and OSCE's OSR/CTHB organized a conference on risk assessment and prevention of trafficking in human beings (THB) in supply chains. Representatives of law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, the Ministries of the Interior and Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce, the Union of Employers, the Labour Inspectorate, large retail chains and NGOs discussed current institutional and legal solutions in Montenegro and identified appropriate measures to detect and eradicate abusive and fraudulent recruitment and employment practices that may lead to labour exploitation. The Minister of the Interior, Filip Adžić, noted

that the recommendations of the OSR/CTHB on the need to enhance the prevention of THB amid mass migration flows had been given due attention and that their implementation would be closely monitored.

Support for the regulation of weapon production; Podgorica, Montenegro (May–June 2022)

Working with Montenegro's Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Defence and MoI, the Mission supported the finalization of a draft law on the production of weapons and military equipment. Through this activity, the Mission supported national authorities in issuing Montenegro's first regulation on weapons production that is in line with international standards and good practices on safety, security and environmental protection. The draft law was sent to relevant ministries for further consideration and will go through a public discussion process before being adopted. The activity is part of the Mission's efforts to support authorities in Montenegro in combating the misuse and trafficking of SALW.

Regional conference on countering online exploitation of children; Budva, Montenegro (5–6 September 2022)

The Mission facilitated a regional conference on investigating online sexual exploitation of children for 38 participants from 12 countries. Presentations, including by representatives of the OSCE OSR/CTHB and the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, covered the latest use of software to combat and investigate online child exploitation, victim-centred approaches to interviewing children, and case studies.

Training and guidance on interviewing possible victims of THB; Bar, Kolašin and Podgorica, Montenegro (26–30 September 2022)

The Mission organized three training courses for police officers on interviewing possible victims of THB, using a guide with a standardized set of questions to ensure that victim's rights are respected. In co-operation with the MoI's Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Mission brought together some 60 police officers from the central, southern and northern regions of the country to discuss how to identify and deal with victims of THB. The officers learned how to prepare for interviews, create a safe environment and assess

a victim's general health during an interview. According to the Mol's anti-trafficking department, in the first six months of 2022 its team for the formal identification of victims of THB identified 16 persons. Of these, 13 were given the status of trafficking victims.

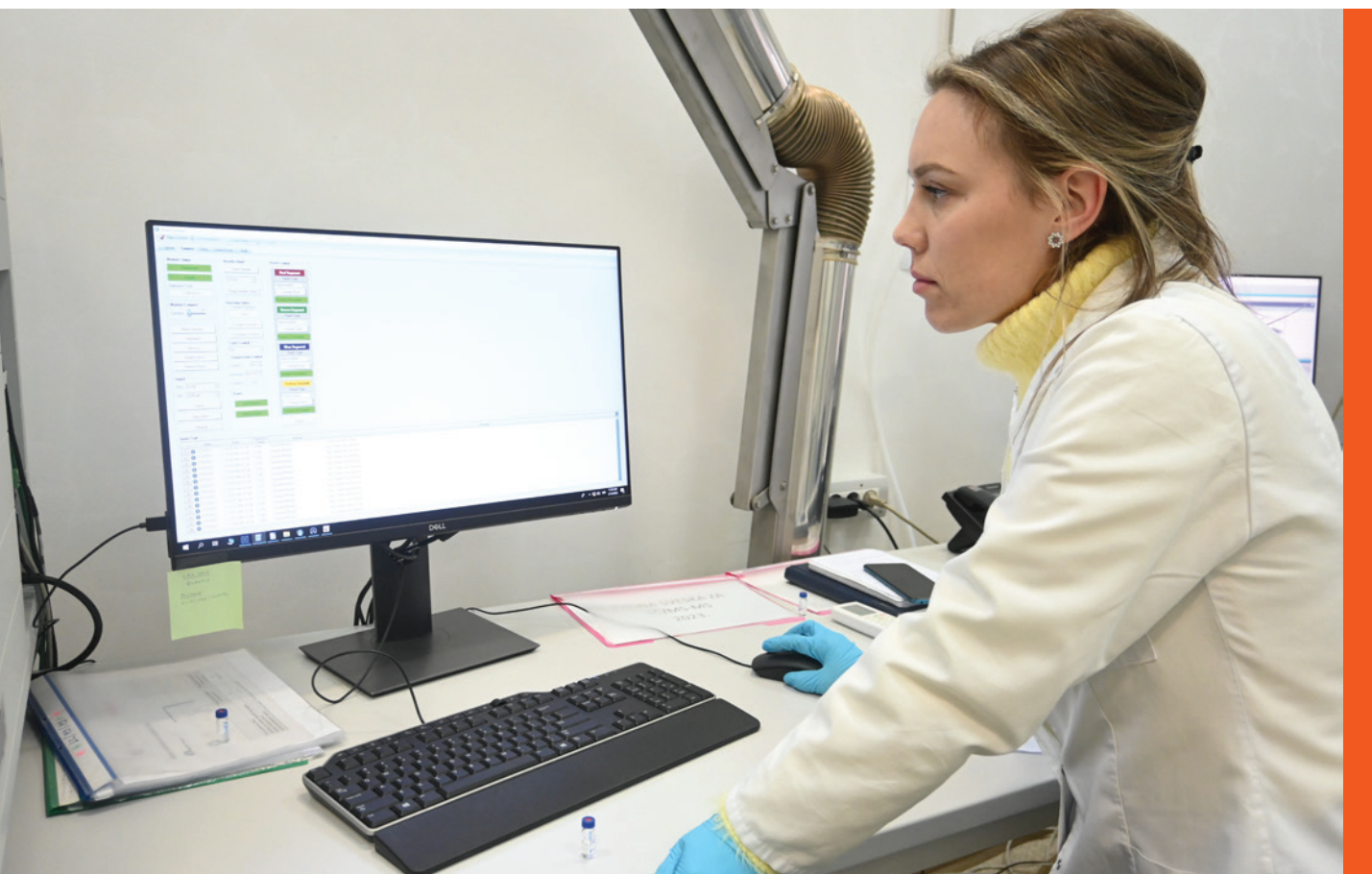
Seventh regional conference of forensic centres; Budva, Montenegro (20–21 October 2022)


The Mission supported the annual regional conference of forensic centres from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The conference contributed to regional co-operation to meet international standards in the exchange of forensic data. Training material on requesting e-evidence across borders was presented, and participants

agreed to develop a regional handbook on working with digital evidence, including instructions for the regional exchange of forensic data.

Workshop on intelligence-led policing and cybercrime; Budva, Montenegro (26– 28 October 2022)

The Mission facilitated a workshop for criminal intelligence officers from Montenegro. Presentations included an evaluation of the 3x5x2 information system, collection of operational information and production of analytical information. The second part of the event focused on cybercrime, in particular the basics of computer crime, electronic evidence, case studies and practical training.



 Forensic Centre staff working on digital forensics equipment provided by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, February 2023.

OSCE /Marina Živaljević

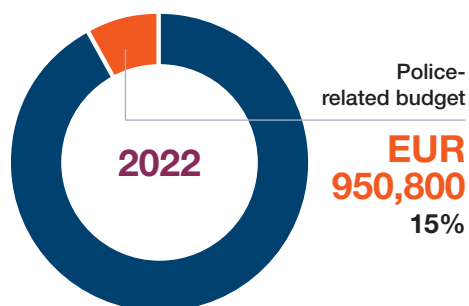
2.1.6 Mission to Serbia

Introduction

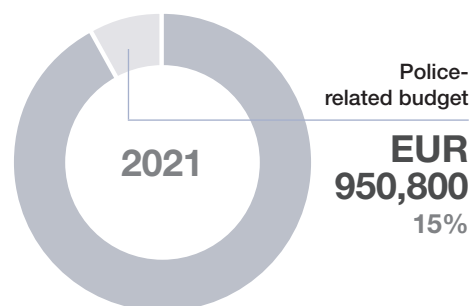
The OSCE Mission to Serbia (the Mission) was established in 2001 with the mandate to assist the host authorities in, *inter alia*, the restructuring and training of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 6,258,600

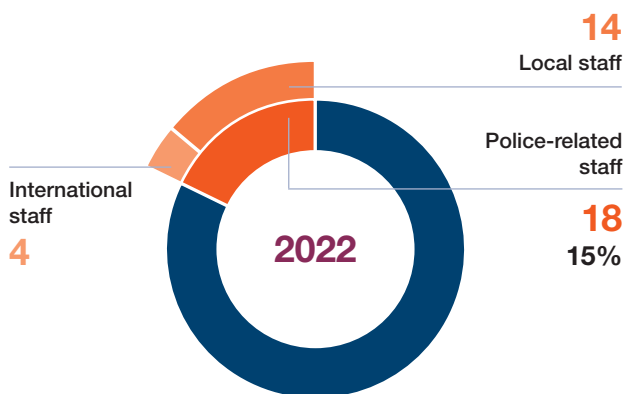


TOTAL
EUR 6,258,600

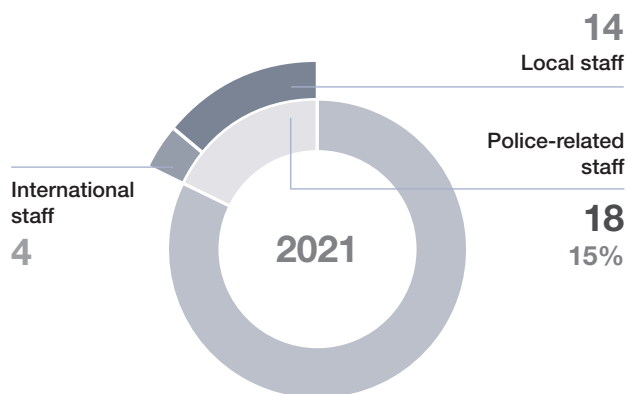


Staff*

TOTAL
118.5



TOTAL
118.5



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

► Strengthening partners in the fight against environmental crime (2022)

Serbian citizens have voiced their concerns about environmental safety, ranking it as the second most serious issue after corruption according to a 2022 public opinion poll commissioned by the Mission. Recognizing this growing understanding, the Ministry of Interior established a new police unit in March 2022 dedicated to suppressing environmental crime and protecting the environment.

The head of the unit, Mr. Živica Munćan, emphasized the detrimental effects of environmental crime on public health and the ecosystem. Pollution of water, soil and air with toxic substances poses a significant threat, leads to long-term damage of natural resources, flora and fauna, and disrupts the delicate balance of the eco-system. Mr. Munćan stressed the importance of raising public awareness and individual responsibility for environmental protection.

To support the Government's efforts in combating environmental crime, the Mission has been facilitating cross-departmental co-operation since 2020. Through its security co-operation, and democratization, rule of law and human rights programmes, the Mission has assisted in the preparation of strengthened institutional approaches. With Mission support, guidelines for investigating and processing environmental degradation in protected natural areas as well as procedures in the case of the improper management of hazardous waste were developed, which serve as training material for environmental inspectors, judges, prosecutors and the police. These guidelines aim to enhance co-ordination among these entities and improve enforcement of environmental legislation.

In response to a request from national authorities in mid-2022, the Mission organized a series of training events from October to December. These events focused on equipping police investigators, prosecutors, judges, and environmental inspectors with the skills to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate environmental crimes effectively. The events also emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder co-operation. A total of 104 participants, 46 women and 58 men, were trained in 2022.



▣ The Mission builds capacities of police and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute environmental crime, in Belgrade, Serbia in December 2022.
OSCE /Milan Obradovic

In addition to the training events, the Mission organized a two-day seminar in mid-December. The seminar brought together members of the newly established police unit for environmental crime, police district representatives and prosecutors from across Serbia. Participants had the opportunity to learn from INTERPOL and Europol experts about various aspects of environmental crime, including wildlife, waste and pollution crimes, as well as corruption. Case studies were presented to demonstrate the achievements made through international co-operation.

Looking ahead, the Mission plans to continue its comprehensive approach to strengthen good environmental governance. By supporting capacity-building efforts and promoting co-operation among relevant authorities, the Mission aims to contribute to the effective suppression of environmental crime and the protection of Serbia's natural resources.

Activity reporting

Threats posed by criminal activity

Meetings of the multi-stakeholder working group driving inter-institutional efforts for SALW control; Belgrade, Serbia (February–October 2022)

To combat the proliferation of SALW and promote voluntary surrender and return, the Mission organized three meetings of the multi-stakeholder Working Group for planning, design and implementation of the SALW Awareness-Raising Campaigns. The four-member team planned activities aligned with the implementation of the 2019–2024 national strategy on the control of SALW and the road map for a sustainable solution to SALW in the Western Balkans.

Workshop on enhancing police curriculum on VERLT prevention; Niš, Serbia (21–25 February 2022)

The Mission and Serbia's Mol organized a workshop for nine police officers from the Mol's Service for Combating Terrorism, the Uniformed Police and the Police Training Center. Participants discussed how to fine-tune the training curriculum on VERLT that will be used in VERLT awareness-raising seminars for teachers, social workers and police at the local level.

Training seminar to strengthen border security against FTFs; Belgrade, Serbia (2–3 March 2022)

The Mission, in co-operation with TNTD/BSMU, conducted a training seminar on the identification of FTFs at borders. The seminar used case studies to enhance the behavioural

analysis skills of 16 police officers from the Mol's Service for Combating Terrorism.

Training seminar to empower prosecution with specialized case management tools; Belgrade, Serbia (3–5 March 2022)

The Mission organized a training seminar for the staff of the Serbian Prosecution Office for Organized Crime on the use of a specialized case management and information system (SIDDA-SIDNA) for investigations. The seminar was conducted by a certified trainer from a software company for four beneficiaries: an analyst, an IT expert, a deputy prosecutor and a prosecutor's associate. The software enables the analysis of large data sets and the correlation of information to generate valuable insights for investigators. The IT expert from the Prosecution Office for Organized Crime will replicate the seminar for deputy prosecutors and their staff.

First workshop for a multi-stakeholder working group developing a national counter-terrorism strategy; Belgrade, Serbia (16 March 2022)

In co-operation with the Mol and the EU Delegation to Serbia, the Mission organized a first workshop for the multi-stakeholder working group developing a new national strategy for preventing and combating terrorism. The workshop brought together twenty members of the interministerial working group and three international experts. Discussions focused on international standards, domestic legal and strategic

frameworks for terrorism prevention, and the review of the expired 2017–2021 national strategy.

Co-operation with the Cybersecurity Network Foundation to foster collaboration in cybersecurity; Vrdnik and Belgrade, Serbia (12–14 April, 27–28 September and 29 September 2022)

The Mission facilitated two meetings with Serbia's Cybersecurity Network Foundation. Participants, including representatives from relevant ministries, academia and tech industries, discussed the Foundation's activities and international good practices in cybersecurity. Challenges in fostering cybersecurity education and the importance of investing in young talent were also addressed. The Mission and the Foundation then organized a panel discussion on the future of cybersecurity education programmes in Serbia. The event concluded with an awards ceremony honouring the winners of the 2022 Serbian Cybersecurity Competition, in which 85 IT students from universities across Serbia competed.

Strengthening co-operation against organized crime; online (13 April and 27 September 2022)

To enhance the efficiency of investigations on organized crime, the Mission facilitated two meetings of the Executive Board of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors (PCOCP). The four board members from Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia, as well as a representative of the Italian Anti-Mafia and Counterterrorism Directorate discussed matters related to organized crime investigations and shared their expertise.

Exchange of good practices on SALW control between North Macedonia and Serbia; Belgrade and Kragujevac, Serbia (4–6 May 2022)

Together with the Mission to Skopje and the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, the Mission organized a visit to Serbia by representatives from the Mol of North Macedonia. Practitioners exchanged knowledge and practices on the management of SALW registries, certification and oversight mechanisms.

Support to police and prosecution capacities to investigate cybercrime effectively; Belgrade, Serbia (5 May–1 December 2022)

In co-operation with the Department of High-Tech Crime of the Serbian Mol, the Mission delivered three basic training courses on electronic evidence for law enforcement officials.

The courses covered topics such as cryptocurrencies, open source investigative tools (OSINT) and practical exercises based on case scenarios.

Training courses for traffic police on identification of drug use among drivers; Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Sad, Serbia (11, 18 and 25 July 2022)

At the request of the Mol, the Mission organized three training sessions for traffic police officers on identifying signs of drug use among drivers. The sessions enhanced the capacity of traffic police officers across Serbia. A total of 194 officers completed the training sessions, which included testing drivers for the presence of drugs as part of standard traffic control procedures.

Training-of-trainers for police on preventing VERLT; Novi Sad, Serbia (25–29 July 2022)

In partnership with the Serbian Mol Service for Countering Terrorism, the Mission organized a training-of-trainers course for police officers on preventing VERLT. The course aimed to increase the number of trainers in this area and to address the drivers of radicalization among young people, emphasizing education, awareness-raising and social inclusion as preventive measures.

Training sessions for social workers on identifying possible THB victims; Kragujevac, Niš, Novi Sad, Novi Pazar, Užice and Zaječar, Serbia (25 July–9 December 2022)

In collaboration with Serbia's Centre for Protection of THB Victims, the Mission organized a series of six training sessions for social workers on identifying possible victims of THB. The sessions covered indicators for preliminary identification, SOPs for interviewing victims and the consequences of THB. The sessions were attended by 122 social workers and became part of the official training programme necessary for social workers to renew their licences.

Training events to build police capacity to tackle discrimination and recognize hate crimes; Bajina Bašta, Beograd and Kragujevac, Serbia (27 September–6 December 2022)

In co-operation with Serbia's Commissioner for Protection of Equality and the Mol, the Mission organized three training events for police officers on recognizing discrimination and hate crimes. The events increased awareness and built police capacity to identify and respond to various types of

discrimination. The events covered modules on indicators, combating stereotypes and bias-motivated offenses, and understanding the impact of discrimination on communities.

Strengthening international police co-operation to prevent VERLT; Madrid, Spain (3–7 October 2022)

The Mission and the Spanish Embassy organized a study visit to Spain for a group of police officers and a deputy prosecutor. During the visit, the Serbian delegation exchanged experiences with their Spanish counterparts from various units involved in counter-terrorism. The visit, organized utilizing ExB funds, was aimed at strengthening international co-operation. It also enabled the exchange of good practices in countering the misuse of the internet for terrorist purposes.

Training events on prosecuting and adjudicating environmental crimes; Belgrade, Kragujevac, Niš and Novi Sad, Serbia (29 October–9 December 2022)

The Mission organized four training events across Serbia to enhance the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of environmental crimes. A total of 104 police investigators, prosecutors, judges and environmental inspectors were trained at these events.

International police co-operation on combating smuggling of migrants; Madrid, Spain; Budapest, Hungary; and Bucharest, Romania (10 November–7 December 2022)

The Mission facilitated several operational meetings between Serbian law enforcement representatives and their international counterparts to enhance co-operation in combating the smuggling of migrants.

Seminar on combating human smuggling; Bucharest, Romania (8–9 December 2022)

The Mission organized a regional seminar for law enforcement officers from Hungary, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia to enhance their capacity to combat human smuggling. Experts shared successful investigations and strategies.

Training session on financial investigations; Srebrno Jezero, Serbia (12–14 December 2022)

In co-operation with external experts, the Mission conducted a training session on financial investigations for police officers from the Serbian Mol's Sector for Internal Control. The session contributed to enhancing skills of the participants in conducting financial investigations.

General police development and reform

Promoting inclusive police recruitment practices for national minorities; Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia (18–20 March 2022)

The Mission supported the vocational police association European Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Police in organizing a seminar for 18 of its members. The seminar contributed to the consolidation and preparation of the police association's outreach programme by harmonizing approaches and developing specific actions and guidelines to help young people from different national minorities prepare for the enrolment process. This will facilitate the entry of national minority applicants into the police service and promote inclusive recruitment in the security sector.

Support to the “My right to know my rights and obligations” YCP programme; Kragujevac, Niš, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, and Subotica, Serbia (29 March–20 April 2022)

To strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach to prevention work with young people and vulnerable groups, in line with the 2020–2023 strategy for the prevention of and protection of children against violence, the Mission, in co-operation with Serbia's Mol, its Ministry of Education, and CSOs, supported a YCP programme through a series of five workshops. Experts from State agencies and the CSO “Friends of Children of Serbia” led the interactive workshops, which focused on various aspects of YCP and informed 91 students about their

rights and responsibilities when interacting with the police. The participants will in turn act as peer educators and organize similar workshops in their schools.

Workshop on building police accountability through corruption risk assessment; online (12–13 April 2022)

In partnership with Serbia's Mol and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, the Mission organized a two-day workshop on corruption risk assessment, bringing together 77 police officers from various duty lines. Experts from the Romanian General Anti-Corruption Directorate and the Serbian Agency for Prevention of Corruption shared their knowledge and expertise in identifying and mitigating corruption risks within the police.

Training seminar to enhance police integrity planning; online (14 April 2022)

The Mission organized a training seminar for 42 relevant officers from Serbia's Mol to assist them in developing integrity plans. This seminar was crucial, since the Mol had to submit its integrity plans for the period of 2022–2024 to the Serbian Agency for Prevention of Corruption by 1 October 2022.

Workshops to promote transparency in policing; countrywide, Serbia (19 April–30 September 2022)

In collaboration with the Serbian Mol's Department for Data Processing, Complaints, and Co-operation with Independent Bodies, the Mission organized a series of 16 workshops to promote police transparency and accountability. A total of 347 police officers from 27 police districts in Serbia who are authorized to process requests for free access to information of public importance attended these workshops and learned how to apply Serbia's 2022 law on free access to information of public importance.

Support for candidates from national minorities to enrol in basic police training; countrywide, Serbia (25–30 April, 17 June and 9–10 August 2022)

The Mission supported the vocational police association European Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Police by developing information campaigns and meetings to reach out to and prepare prospective candidates from national minorities for basic police training. As a result, 186 candidates applied for basic police training, of whom 39 were admitted.

Support to national authorities' efforts on drug and crime prevention initiatives addressing youth; Belgrade, Serbia (9–10 May 2022)

In partnership with Serbia's Ministry of Education and UNODC, the Mission implemented a series of training workshops on the "Strong Family" programme for school psychologists and specialists. The programme aims at preventing negative social factors among children and improving their mental and physical health.

Facilitation of regional exchange on the treatment of repatriated FTFs; Šabac and Niš, Serbia (16–20 May and 6–10 June 2022)

The Mission organized two training courses for local teams responsible for handling re-socialization, re-integration and rehabilitation of FTFs and their families in the event of repatriation. The courses aimed to enhance Serbia's capacity in preventing terrorism. The training courses included experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Training seminars on community policing for police supervisors; Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia (23 May–28 October 2022)

In co-operation with the Serbian Mol's Department for Organization, Prevention and Community Policing, the Mission organized a series of four training seminars on practical aspects of community policing for police supervisors from various districts in Serbia. The seminars covered topics such as preventive work, ILP and gender equality aspects of policing.

Strengthened the capacity of police and prosecution to conduct crime scene inspections; Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kragujevac, Serbia (3 June–9 December 2022)

In co-operation with Serbian Mol's National Forensic Center, the Judicial Academy, and the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, the Mission organized four workshops on collecting and handling material evidence. The workshops strengthened the capacity of police and prosecutors to conduct crime scene inspections and collect material evidence.

Support in developing a volunteer firefighting strategic framework; Belgrade, Serbia (6–7 June 2022)

The Mission supported the development of a strategic framework for volunteer firefighting in collaboration with the Serbian Mol's Sector for Emergency Management. A workshop was organized for the multi-stakeholder working group responsible for developing the plan. Additionally, the Mission

supported the design and printing of the Mol's manual for training members of volunteer firefighting associations in multiple languages.

Meeting on developing criteria to prioritize anti-corruption cases; Belgrade, Serbia (9 June 2022)

The Mission organized a meeting to develop an interagency procedure for prioritizing corruption cases for investigation. The meeting was attended by chief prosecutors from specialized anti-corruption departments and Mol representatives, who discussed criteria for prioritizing corruption cases and the handling of inherited cases. These criteria will be included in a mandatory rulebook for the police and prosecutors.

Support to development of a strategy for disaster risk reduction; Vrdnik, Serbia (9 June–10 October 2022)

The Mission facilitated three meetings of a working group developing a strategy for disaster risk reduction. The group included representatives from various ministries, institutes and organizations. Participants focused on how to enhance the strategic framework for emergency management and increase local capacities for preventing and responding to emergencies. The national strategy, co-ordinated by the Mol's Sector for Emergency Management, is expected to be finalized by the end of 2022.

Support to development of police training capacities; Belgrade Serbia (5–7 July 2022)

A seminar was organized by the Mission for the Serbian Mol's Sector for Human Resources and Centre for Police Training. The seminar enhanced the capacity of seven participants to use software to produce training materials that will be used for online and classroom formats of police training at different levels. This seminar concluded the Mission's support for the development of technical skills required for police training.

External evaluation of the Mission's approach to municipal safety councils; Belgrade, Serbia (August 2022)

The Mission conducted an external evaluation of its approach to municipal safety councils (MSCs) as part of its community policing reform efforts. The evaluation included interviews with stakeholders involved in or familiar with the work of MSCs in selected municipalities. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation were presented in a final report to Mission management.

Expert meeting of traffic police and misdemeanour courts judges on the drafting of a new law on road traffic safety; Sokobanja, Serbia (20–22 September 2022)

The Mission facilitated an expert meeting of representatives from traffic police and misdemeanour courts to review the implementation of the current law and discuss the drafting process of a new law on road traffic safety. The meeting contributed to harmonizing views and practices between traffic police and misdemeanour court judges. The event was attended by 94 participants, including police commanders and misdemeanour court judges from across the country.

Upgrading of the website of the Basic Police Training Centre (September–December 2022)

The Mission supported the initial phase of upgrading the website of the Serbian Mol's Basic Police Training Centre to make it more user-friendly and providing up-to-date information for prospective candidates, including those from national minorities. A website development company has been contracted to redesign the website; the Mission will support the migration of data to the new website in 2023.

Roll-out of a drug prevention training handbook for school police officers (September 2022)

The Mission supported the development of a training handbook for school police officers to address drug abuse and related issues among young people. The handbook provides guidelines for school police officers on their role in the school environment regarding drug prevention and juvenile criminality. The first copies of the handbook have been distributed to police across Serbia and will be used for internal training purposes.

Regional conference on combating corruption at border crossings; Belgrade, Serbia (10–11 October 2022)

In partnership with the Serbian Mol's Sector for Internal Control, the Mission organized a regional conference on building police capacity to investigate corruption cases at border crossings. The conference brought together representatives from internal control services of several countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia) to discuss legal frameworks, practices, and ways to increase co-operation to prevent corruption among officials at border crossings.

Debates on local safety in south Serbia; Bujanovac and Preševo, Serbia (11–12 October 2022)

The Mission supported MSCs to organize discussions on local safety, including topics such as domestic violence, substance abuse and human smuggling. Experts facilitated the discussions, which involved participants from various local organizations and institutions, and emphasized the importance of continuity in municipal safety council activities and outreach to local communities.

Training courses to enhance the capacity of local communities for voluntary firefighting; Belgrade, Serbia (1 November–31 December 2022)

In co-operation with Belgrade's University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, the Mission implemented a project to enhance local capacity for voluntary firefighting. Training was provided to one hundred members of local voluntary firefighting associations from six municipalities across Serbia.

Training police officers on preventing substance abuse among young people; Belgrade, Ečka and Kragujevac, Serbia (14 November–14 December 2022)

In co-operation with the Mol and UNODC, the Mission organized three training courses for strengthening the skills and knowledge of school police officers in the prevention of substance abuse among young people.

Regional conference for women police officers; Belgrade, Serbia (18 November 2022)

In partnership with the Serbian Women Police Officers' Network, the Mission organized a regional conference to exchange good practices among women police officer networks from different countries. The conference addressed challenges and opportunities for the professional development of women police officers.

Development of the Mol's case management system; Belgrade, Serbia (21 November 2022)

The Mission supported the presentation of SIDDA-SIDNA software to the Mol of Serbia, which will be used as its case management system. The event was attended by representatives from various Mol departments.

Assessment of specialized anti-corruption departments; Belgrade, Serbia (29 November 2022)

The Mission presented its assessment of the implementation of the law on organization and jurisdiction of government authorities in suppression of organized crime, terrorism, and corruption, focusing on specialized anti-corruption court de-

partments. The assessment aimed to evaluate the law's effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

Conference on women, peace and security; Belgrade, Serbia (7 December 2022)

In co-operation with the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, the Mission organized a conference to present an independent report to monitor the second national action plan for implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The conference discussed the progress that has been made to fulfil the 1325 agenda, and produced input for developing the next national action plan.

Crime prevention planning session for community policing co-ordinators; Sokobanja, Serbia (13–15 December 2022)

Jointly with the Serbian Mol's Department for Organization, Prevention and Community Policing, the Mission organized a prevention planning session and an annual meeting for the Mol co-ordinators responsible for crime prevention and community policing. The session produced guidelines and strategic priorities for planning preventive activities.

Capacity-building training seminar for the Serbian Women Police Officers Network; Belgrade, Serbia (21–23 December 2022)

The Mission organized a seminar on project proposal development for members of the Serbian Women Police Officers Network.

Support for specialized anti-corruption departments (December 2022)

The Mission provided support for the further development of specialized anti-corruption prosecution and police departments based on the recommendations of the 2021 assessment. The Mission worked closely with the police and prosecutors to establish appropriate criteria for prioritizing cases based on seriousness and complexity. With the assistance of two experts, a methodology was developed for prosecuting cases inherited from the period before the establishment of these departments. The final document was discussed and approved by the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office.

Public perception survey on police work; countrywide (ongoing)

To strengthen the relationship between the community and the police, the Mission commissions a survey on citizens' attitudes towards police work. This survey, based on questionnaires and interviews, has been conducted regularly since 2008.

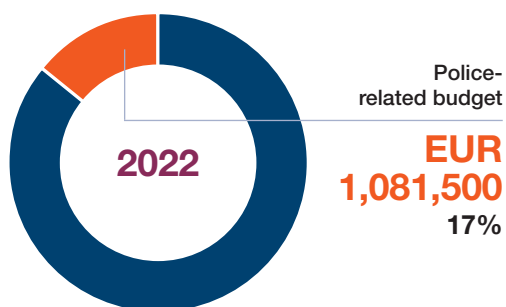
2.1.7 Mission to Skopje

Introduction

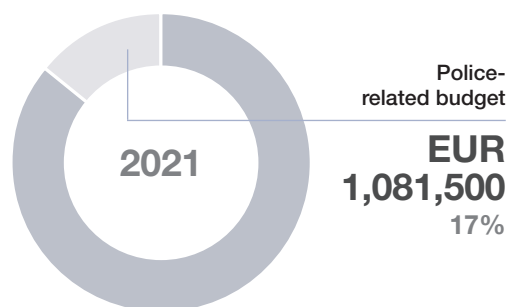
The work of the OSCE Mission to Skopje (the Mission) and its Police Development Unit (PDU) is based on the Mission’s original mandate from 1992 on policing, and the OSCE MC and PC decisions stemming from the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) of 2001. According to the provisions in Annex C of the OFA, the Mission was called upon to assist in a number of specific areas of policing, which were added to the initial mandate.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 6,506,100

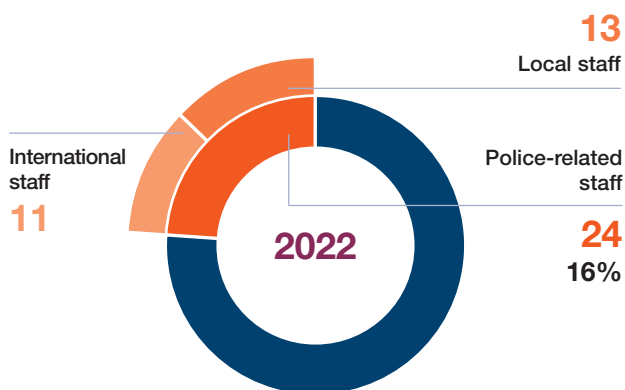


TOTAL
EUR 6,506,100

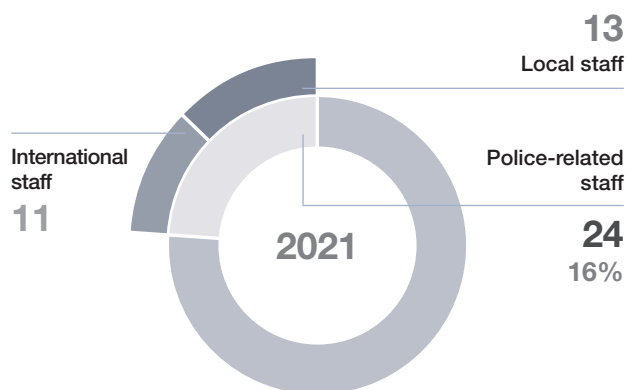


Staff*

TOTAL
154



TOTAL
154



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

► Harnessing gender equality in SALW detection (February–September 2022)

In order to ensure effective law enforcement and address public safety concerns, it is crucial to promote gender equality within the police. Recognizing this, the OSCE Mission to Skopje supported North Macedonia in its strategic reform agenda and assisted its MoIA in improving working conditions and attracting a more gender-balanced and diverse workforce. Through the project “Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)”, the Mission is focusing on gender-specific capacity-building and the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for men and women.

One key sub-activity of the project involves equipment assistance and infrastructure upgrades for police dog service units at both the national and regional level. In this process, a gender-responsive approach was adopted, taking into account the specific needs of both genders. As a result, the construction and renovation of the police dog unit facilities included, for the first time ever, the provision of gender-specific facilities such as women’s lockers and restrooms.

By integrating a gender perspective into the topic of SALW proliferation, the project has sparked increased interest among the female population in pursuing a career in a police dog unit. This positive trend is reflected in the growing number of female applicants for positions within such units. Through these efforts, the project not only enhances the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA, but also promotes inclusivity and diversity within law enforcement, contributing to a more balanced and effective approach to public safety.



Engaging female police officers on issues related to local security concerns affecting family and community.
OSCE

Activity reporting

Threats posed by criminal activity

Increasing the SALW detection capacity; Mavrovo, Ohrid and Skopje, North Macedonia (January–November 2022)

In order to enhance the MoIA's capacity to detect SALW, a project was initiated to procure services for the construction of kennels, to refurbish office facilities and to improve the physical and ICT security of SALW storage facilities. Alongside these improvements, a training manual on the effective use of police dog units for detecting SALW has been developed by a working group of relevant representatives from the MoIA. The manual, which includes international good practices, was finalized in November 2022 whereupon it was submitted for review and approval. This activity has contributed to building necessary infrastructure, human resources, regulations and information sharing for the effective deployment and management of police dog units within the MoIA.

Piloting a real-time information exchange system; Mavrovo, Ohrid, Skopje and Struga, North Macedonia (January–November 2022)

To counter illicit trafficking of SALW, a project was launched to promote interagency information exchange at both the national and transnational level. Construction work has started at the police and customs co-operation centres and at the MoIA headquarters. An SOP and an accompanying training manual for real-time information exchange have been developed and submitted to the MoIA for review. The first has already been approved. These efforts have contributed to enhancing the operational capacity of co-operation centres to detect SALW and facilitate expedited investigative procedures through real-time information exchange.

Advancing the national SALW commission's capabilities; Struga and Skopje, North Macedonia (January–November 2022)

In response to the evaluation of the National SALW Commission's operational capacity, measures were taken to enhance its interdisciplinary expertise. The rules of procedure and an orientation manual were approved, and a working group developed an SOP for data collection, information tracking and reporting. The procedure was submitted for review and approval by the national SALW commission. These activities aim at strengthening the Commission's operation-

al and analytical capabilities, enabling a multi-agency approach and promoting safer environments through efficient SALW control.

Conference to enhance regional co-operation in countering border security risks and challenges, and combating cross-border criminality in South-Eastern Europe; Skopje, North Macedonia (15–17 March 2022)

In co-operation with the UNODC Regional Office in Skopje, the Mission organized a conference attended by senior border and customs officials of five Western Balkan countries and Greece. The event allowed key border security and management agencies in the region to further develop effective joint responses to emerging and existing transnational threats. Topics covered during the conference included the threat posed by FTFs among irregular migrant flows, trafficking in SALW, and trafficking in human beings. The conference featured presentations by the OSCE, UNODC, the World Customs Organization, FRONTEX and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the Regional Initiative on Migration, Asylum and Refugees, and the Austrian Ministry of the Interior.

Support for co-ordinators from Police and Customs Contact Centres (PCCC): Showcasing good practices in combating cross-border criminality; Skopje, North Macedonia (30–31 March 2022)

The Mission organized the fifth regional workshop for co-ordinators from the Police and Customs Contact Centres (PCCC) of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro. The workshop focused on the trafficking of SALW as well as of conventional ammunition. Participants engaged in a wide range of discussions focused on good practices for real-time information exchange to move the concept of integrated border management (IBM) towards operational implementation.

Support on assessing risks posed by FTFs and homegrown terrorists; Skopje, North Macedonia (20 April 2022)

The Mission conducted a refresher training course on assessing risks posed by FTFs and homegrown terrorists, using in-house specialists. The course was delivered to represent-

atives from North Macedonia's National Security Authority (NSA) and the MoIA's Sector for Countering Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalism. As part of a series of training events, this was the last training activity on this subject. The refresher course also enhanced the skills and knowledge of selected counter-terrorism officers and intelligence personnel in countering the terrorist organization ISIS and its affiliates, as well as other terrorist groups.

Workshop on implementation, benefits and results of the Serious and Organized Threat Assessment report; Skopje, North Macedonia (30 June 2022)

The Mission and North Macedonia's MoIA organized a workshop to present the findings and recommendations of the national Serious and Organized Threat Assessment (SOCTA) 2021 report. The event was also used to raise awareness of the importance of conducting strategic analyses, including how these are essential for effective strategic decision-making within law enforcement agencies. The report highlighted current and future challenges and threats facing the country, including but not limited to drug trafficking, illegal migration, financial crime and money laundering, and the threat of terrorism. For the first time, the report contained a detailed analysis of environmental crime.

Enhancing awareness of SALW proliferation and misuse; Skopje, North Macedonia (June–December 2022)

Promoting social dialogue on the use of firearms, masculinity, cultural norms and domestic violence has been a key focus of a two-stage awareness-raising campaign developed by the Mission, which included the creation and distribution of leaflets and a video. Brochures on the mandatory re-certification of firearms licences were distributed to local police stations and citizens, especially gun owners and hunters. This campaign aimed at increasing public safety by raising awareness of the risks associated with the illegal possession and misuse of SALW. It also contributed to voluntary actions

such as the handover, legalization, registration, deactivation and destruction of SALW.

Support for enhancing capacity to detect and identify perpetrators of terrorism-related crimes; Skopje, North Macedonia (13–15 September 2022)

The Mission conducted a specialized training course on cyber-patrolling and OSINT techniques for North Macedonia's NSA and the MoIA's Sector for Countering Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalism. The training course covered the latest trends and developments related to cyber-patrol techniques used in law enforcement and intelligence, and strengthened the participants' skills in detecting and identifying perpetrators of terrorism-related crimes. Also discussed were means for ensuring that these techniques are human-rights compliant, including considerations regarding personal data protection.

Improving inter-institutional co-operation in addressing the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW; Skopje, North Macedonia (24 November 2022)

The Mission held a roundtable discussion with representatives of the Forestry Police on the issue of the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW. Discussions focused on assessing current legal, organizational and infrastructural capacities, as well as developing systematic recommendations to improve the Forestry Police's capacity to enhance SALW security and reduce the risk of proliferation. Key gaps identified included the lack of supportive legislation governing the responsibilities and powers of the Forestry Police. Serious resource shortages and a lack of internal regulations on the storage, allocation and use of service weapons were identified as key challenges. The lack of operational information sharing and the lack of technical resources for operational communications, such as a functioning radio system, were also identified as obstacles to timely responses and actions.

General police development and reform

Roundtable to assess an independent civilian oversight mechanism with a mandate to oversee complaints about policing; Skopje, North Macedonia (4 March 2023)

The Mission hosted a roundtable to discuss and assess the current independent civilian oversight mechanisms for the police in the country. The event was attended by the deputy director of police and two assistants at the MoIA. A former UK Chief Crown Prosecutor delivered an online presentation on examining prosecutorial issues in police misconduct/criminal allegations, as well as the functioning of the UK's Independent Office of Police Complaints. The roundtable provided a valuable forum to review the functioning and effectiveness of the current external oversight mechanism for the police in North Macedonia, and assessed both its independence and the levels of civilian influence. The open discussion focused on issues of standards, integrity, professionalism and transparency.

Discussion on professional stress factors and gender aspects in the police in North Macedonia; Skopje, North Macedonia (8 March 2022)

In partnership with the MoIA, the Mission organized a panel discussion on research commissioned by the Mission to assess professional stress factors in the North Macedonian police from a gender perspective. At the panel, the findings and recommendations of the research were presented. Many operational and institutional causes of stress were discussed. The recommended mitigation strategies included better provision of working equipment, improvements in working conditions, and more effective role classifications based on continuing professional development.

First working meeting of the MoIA's Permanent Evaluation Committee on strategy monitoring and evaluation; Skopje, North Macedonia (27 April 202)

The Mission facilitated the first working session of the MoIA's Permanent Evaluation Committee on the monitoring and evaluation of MoIA strategies designed and implemented with Mission support. The PEC, chaired by the State Secretary of the MoIA, assessed the progress of the implementation of the following strategies: Human Resource Management Strategy 2020–2022, Training Centre Development Strategy 2020–2022, Community Engagement and Communication Strategy 2020–2022, and MoIA Staff Training and Development Strategy 2022–2024. In addition, the chair of the disciplinary procedures working group provided an overview of the progress made in implementing the recom-

mendations arising from the Mission's report on disciplinary procedures. This working session was the first in a series of meetings that will continue in 2023 to provide oversight and strategic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the above strategies.

Basic gender and mentorship training event for mentors in the police gender mentoring programme; Skopje, North Macedonia (4–6 May 2022)

The Mission together with the Human Resources Management Department of the North Macedonia Police launched a third round of training events for the newly selected mentors of the police gender mentoring programme. Initially, the programme was designed to support coaching activities for female police officers. In 2022 the programme was modified to include male police officers as mentors. The basic training course was attended by a total of 19 mentors, both women and men, and included the two components of gender issues and mentoring skills.

Presentation of the handbook *Supporting and enhancing police knowledge of and capacity to protect victims' rights by raising their awareness of European policing standards*; Skopje, North Macedonia (12 May 2022)

The Mission organized an event to present the findings and recommendations from the Mission-supported research on victims' rights and the handbook *Supporting and enhancing police knowledge of and capacity to protect victims' rights by raising their awareness of European policing standards* to North Macedonia's Bureau for Public Security. The findings in the handbook are based on a comparative analysis of legislation, policies and practices concerning victims' rights in the United Kingdom, Poland, and North Macedonia. A panel discussion covered topics such as the provision of victim interview rooms within police stations, the benefits of a multi-agency approach to cases of domestic violence, and GBV.

Enhancing police gender sensitivity in cases of violence against women and domestic violence response; Struga, North Macedonia (16–20 May 2022)

The Mission conducted two training sessions for police officers dealing with domestic violence and GBV. The session discussions included improvements to certain policies and procedures, organization of specialized training activities, and the adoption of a multi-agency approach to domestic

violence and GBV. MoIA experts delivered modules on the latest laws and regulations on domestic violence and GBV in North Macedonia.

Basic gender and mentoring training event for the police as part of the gender mentoring programme; Skopje, North Macedonia (6–9 June 2022)

The Mission together with the Human Resources Management Department of the North Macedonian Police delivered a training event on gender issues and mentoring skills to 21 new mentees. A kick-off event took place on 9 June, at which mentors and mentees met for the first time. For this third generation of mentors and mentees, the Mission has introduced a new type of mentoring process for encouraging the development potential and growth of mentees. The new round of the programme is now open to both female and male police officers. Specific skills developed through the programme include active listening, identifying needs and setting development goals. The programme is designed to encourage participants to take initiatives, move out of their comfort zone and to take reasonable risks to achieve personal development and professional growth.

Enhancing capacities of e-course designers at the MoIA's police training centre; Skopje, North Macedonia (8–10 June 2022)

The Mission continued to support the development of the MoIA's Learning Management System and organized tailored training courses for ecourse developers working at the police training centre. An advanced course was delivered to two ecourse developers, resulting in the design of an ecourse on police authority.

Roundtable on integrity testing of employees of the MoIA; Skopje, North Macedonia (9 June 2022)

The Mission hosted a discussion on the primary legal framework for establishing an integrity audit architecture at the MoIA, including the identification of necessary by-laws and secondary legal frameworks. The roundtable was held in Skopje and attended by representatives from the MoIA. It provided a forum to further identify current operational challenges to establishing an integrity testing architecture within the Ministry. The roundtable concluded that implementing an effective and accountable integrity testing mechanism is a prerequisite to preventing and detecting serious police misconduct. Such a mechanism will contribute to the overall strategic goal of reducing corruption within the police and increasing the level of institutional integrity.

Workshop on changes in disciplinary procedures at the MoIA; Skopje, North Macedonia (29 June 2022)

The Mission organized a workshop to discuss a newly proposed model for conducting disciplinary procedures at the MoIA, including an assessment of a primary legal framework for establishing the new model. The workshop concluded with a session on needed internal regulations for establishing a uniform disciplinary system, early intervention tools, and the mandatory reporting of peer misconduct.

Series of local level workshops of the working group on the police and prosecutors co-operation protocol; Gostivar, Ohrid, Stip and Skopje/Kisela, North Macedonia (June–September 2022)

The Mission hosted four workshops for the police and prosecutors co-operation protocol working group. The workshop format used operational scenarios to test the draft protocol and invite feedback. The discussions focused on the need for better legislation and enhanced co-operation between the police and the judiciary.

Training courses on effective crisis communication for spokespersons for internal affairs; Skopje, North Macedonia (July–November 2022)

The Mission organized two advanced training courses for a total of 14 police officers, all of them regional spokespersons. The training course focused on developing media skills and techniques for effective communication in crisis management scenarios. Participants simulated on-camera briefings and press conferences, and received practical tips on body language and behaviour, particularly in live media situations. The first part of the training course was led by media professionals with journalism experience, who provided feedback on the participants' performance. The second part of the training course focused on specific guidance on the use of gender-sensitive language when preparing and delivering institutional messages to the public.

Gender mentoring programme development and handover; Ohrid, North Macedonia (17–19 August 2022)

The Mission organized an advanced gender mentoring workshop as part of North Macedonia's gender mentoring programme for police officers. The workshop addressed the combating of gender bias and stereotyping, as well as other forms of discrimination and GBV. Participants discussed discrimination cases and protection mechanisms within the MoIA and at the national level. The workshop also touched on advanced mentoring skills, including active listening and conversation management techniques. The last day of the workshop was

dedicated to individual mentoring sessions and self-reflection on achievements, as well as the planning of future actions for the mentoring pairs and the programme as a whole.

Supporting the Office of the National Co-ordinator for countering violent extremism (CVE) and terrorism (CT) to draft the new national CVE strategy and action plan; Skopje, North Macedonia (4–7 September 2022)

The Mission organized a workshop to draft new national strategies for countering violent extremism (CVE) and terrorism (CT). The workshop was the culmination of a series of consultative workshops organized with the support of the Mission from July to September, during which representatives of government institutions and civil society provided feedback on the outgoing strategies and action plans. This interactive workshop brought together representatives of the Office of the National Co-ordinator for CVE and CT (NCCVECT), members of the National Committee for CVE/CT, academia and CSOs to work together on the drafting of the two new strategies.

Support to the MoIA to increase evidence-gathering capacities of its staff during crime scene investigations and in IT forensics; Skopje, North Macedonia (20–21 September 2022)

The Mission conducted a training activity for MoIA investigators on the forensic identification, recovery and processing of chemical and biological material, as well as the use of such material as evidence in the investigative process. The training course aimed at improving the efficiency of investigations, with a focus on cost effectiveness and meeting high-quality investigative standards.

Second working meeting of the MoIA's Permanent Evaluation Committee on strategy monitoring and evaluation; Skopje, North Macedonia (27 September 2022)

The Mission facilitated the second working session of the MoIA's Permanent Evaluation Committee (PEC) on the monitoring and evaluation of the MoIA's strategies. The PEC, chaired by the MoIA Secretary of State, assessed the progress of the implementation of the following strategies: Human Resources Management Strategy 2020–2022, Training Centre Development Strategy 2020–2022, Community Engagement and Communication Strategy 2020–2022, and MoIA Staff Training and Development Strategy 2022–2024.

Annual workshop of the police prevention units; Krushevo, North Macedonia (28–30 September 2023)

The Mission organized the annual workshop for police prevention units. During the workshop, each unit presented its

prevention activities for the previous year. Participants also discussed how to improve the quality of their units' prevention work, agreeing that approaches such as gender-sensitive policing, engagement with multi-ethnic communities and effective use of the media would be a positive step forward.

Development of an e-learning guidebook for police; Skopje, North Macedonia (September–November 2022)

The Mission organised three in-person and five online working group meetings with the MoIA working group tasked with developing an "e-Learning Guidebook" as one of the priorities of the MoIA Strategy for Training and Human Resources Development 2022–2024. The working group initially focused on implementing e-learning in the MoIA training system, preparing curricula, co-ordinating the various stakeholders (the MoIA's Training Centre, Human Resources Department, IT Department, legal advisers), and examining the status of e-trainers within the MoIA. The working group also discussed essential components of the guide, with a particular emphasis on monitoring and controlling data flows, course development processes, defining the differences between different types of trainers, and the stages of self-evaluation and final evaluation.

Hate speech workshops; Skopje, North Macedonia (3–7 October 2022)

The Mission conducted two workshops on hate speech for police officers from Skopje and Kumanovo. The two workshops consisted of theoretical and practical sessions, focusing mainly on the new laws on hate speech, as well as practical training on how to present the issue of hate speech to high school students. The event was divided into theoretical and practical sessions, including technical presentations, case studies, role-plays and in-depth discussions for exploring each topic in detail.

Drafting an action plan for the implementation of intelligence-led policing recommendations; Skopje, North Macedonia (19 October 2022)

The Mission conducted an evaluation of the implementation of intelligence-led policing (ILP) at the MoIA in order to identify gaps and areas of current good practice. This assessment was conducted through a series of interviews with senior managers from the MoIA. The findings highlighted a number of challenges, including limited resources and inconsistencies across the organization in the application of the ILP model. Discussions highlighted the need for further work on standardizing ILP implementation and mandatory training for uniformed police officers, as well as for current and future police leaders.

Workshops on the protection of the rights of victims of crime in accordance with European policing standards; Ohrid, North Macedonia (20–21 October 2022)

The Mission organized two one-day workshops for 40 police officers on protecting the rights of victims of crime in accordance with European policing standards. The workshop included a presentation of the findings and recommendations of the Mission-supported handbook *Supporting and enhancing police knowledge of and capacity to protect victims' rights by raising their awareness of European policing standards*.

Alumni Gender Mentoring Programme Workshop; Veles, North Macedonia (26–28 October 2022)

The Mission conducted an Alumni Gender Mentoring Programme workshop in Veles for 25 female police officers on academic writing and public speaking. Participants received instruction on the methodology and structure of academic research, and on the effective presentation of results. The creative writing module was presented by a former mentor who has produced a number of publications and is a member of the Professional Association of Writers of North Macedonia.

Workshops on awareness-raising of mid-level police officers on police ethics and prevention of police culture tolerant to serious misconducts; Skopje, North Macedonia (October–November 2022)

The Mission organised two workshops to raise awareness among mid-level police officers on police ethics and the prevention of institutional cultures tolerant of serious misconduct. Participants discussed ethical issues and dilemmas related to underreporting/non-reporting of misconduct within the police, the prevention of corruption and organizational culture, including a police subculture tolerant of serious misconduct, as well as the challenges and mitigation measures in using social media. The activity reinforced the role of middle management in upholding standards and tackling corrupt behaviour and practices. Representatives from the Department of Internal Control, Criminal Investigation and Professional Standards took the opportunity to brief participants on the implementation of a proposed integrity audit scheme.

Closing the Gender Mentoring Programme for Police 2022; Skopje, North Macedonia (4 November 2022)

The Mission organized a workshop to conclude the Police Gender Mentoring Programme for 2022. Mentors and mentees of the programme's third generation had their last men-

toring session and shared their experiences and achievements during the programme. The event was attended by 35 participants who concluded that the mentoring experience had been of great value to them personally and to the police.

Cross-dimensional hate crime training event for police and prosecutors; Skopje, North Macedonia (9–11 November 2022)

The Mission carried out a hate crime training event for 24 police officers and public prosecutors who had previously attended the Training against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) or Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT) courses organized in collaboration with ODIHR. The event included an introduction to the ODIHR manual on joint hate crime training for police and prosecutors, and a presentation of the host country's Police and Prosecutor Protocol. The Protocol aims at improving co-operation between police and prosecutors in all areas of investigation and prosecution.

Management and leadership skills training course for lead executives at the MoIA; Skopje, North Macedonia (13–17 November 2022)

The Mission organized a week-long in-person management training course for lead executives at the MoIA. A special focus of the course was management in the digital age. The tailor-made training sessions covered the opportunities and challenges of e-conferencing, challenges for executive managers in communicating with staff at a distance, mechanisms for establishing and managing virtual teams and information flows, digital leadership, and online security issues. Two of the sessions were dedicated to the differences between leaders and managers, as well as ethical dilemmas, job satisfaction and professional and generational considerations within the police. This was the second course organized in the last two years to enhance the management and leadership skills of top management at the MoIA.

Roundtable Development of Local Prevention Councils in North Macedonia; Skopje, North Macedonia (25 November 2022)

The round table "Development of Local Prevention Councils in North Macedonia" brought together the mayors of the largest municipalities in the country, representatives from the MoIA, the Association of Units of Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Local Self-Government, the National Committee for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, CSOs and educational institutions. The participants discussed good practices, problems and obstacles preventing the effective functioning of local prevention councils, and concluded with a discussion on how to further develop such councils.

Revising the Community Engagement and Communication Strategy for 2023–2025; Skopje, North Macedonia (28–30 November 2022)

The Mission organized a kick-off workshop for the working group on revising the Community Engagement and Communication Strategy for 2023–2025. The members of the working group concluded that many tasks were either fully or partially implemented. They thus focused on outstanding activities, such as a mechanism for collecting information and monitoring the implementation process in the next period, and how to transfer certain activities from strategic to regular operational plans and working practices of the MoIA.

Implementing strategic priorities in training for the MoIA 2023–2025; Veles, North Macedonia (1–2 December 2022)

The Mission held a kick off meeting of the working group on the implementation of strategic priorities of the MoIA in the area of training for the period 2023–2025. The working group discussed its role and tasks, the implementation rate of the previous strategy on training, as well as the timetable of activities for 2023.

Study visit to the MoIA of Montenegro on ILP good practices; Podgorica, Montenegro (6–10 December 2022)

The Mission facilitated a study visit to Montenegro to enable delegates to assess and compare the implementation of ILP between Montenegro and North Macedonia. The delegation met with the head of the Intelligence Department of the MoIA of Montenegro, who presented recent legislative changes facilitating the implementation of ILP. Other topics discussed included internal and external co-ordination and co-operation, technical solutions, databases, and processes for strategic and operational reporting to ensure informed decision-making at the local, regional and national levels.

Assisting the MoIA in implementing *Police and Roma – Effective and human rights-compliant policing*; Skopje, North Macedonia (12–15 December 2022)

In order to assist the MoIA in improving its capacity to implement the strategy “Police and Roma – effective and human rights-compliant policing”, the Mission, together with ODIHR, conducted an assessment of current policing practices in relation to the Roma community in the country. As a result of the assessment, a tailor-made training-of-trainers course was organized for police officers from all regions of North Macedonia. The course was organized in support of the new national “Strategy for Improving the Situation of Roma and the Implementing Action Plan”.

First workshop of the Training Centre working group; Skopje, North Macedonia (15 December 2022)

The Mission hosted the first meeting of the members of the Training Centre working group, who evaluated the outgoing strategy and developed future strategic priorities. Regional law enforcement training co-ordinators also participated as new members of the working group.

First workshop of the Community Engagement and Communication working group; Skopje, North Macedonia (16 December 2022)

The Mission hosted the first meeting of the members of the Community Engagement and Communication working group, which evaluated the outgoing strategy and developed the future strategic priorities for the period 2023–2025. The working group members discussed the four priorities set out in the previous strategy, and proposed additional objectives to be achieved in the coming period 2023–2025.

2.2 Eastern Europe

2.2.1 Crime threats facing Eastern Europe¹³

In 2022, the war against Ukraine has had a significant impact on the serious and organized crime landscape in Eastern Europe, particularly when looking at Moldova and Ukraine. While the war disrupted some criminal operations, particularly those related to the trafficking of illicit goods across the region, it also created new markets and opportunities for criminal groups active in the region. The economic and social impact of the war is shaping the activities of criminals.¹³

Since 2022, Moldova has received hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals.¹⁴ Many of these individuals are at risk of exploitation by human traffickers and other criminals. While this risk is being addressed by Moldovan law enforcement authorities, it remains substantial.

Conflict zones are frequently a source of illegal firearms trafficked across the world and offered to criminals via black markets. With only limited evidence having emerged of weapons turning up abroad, there is currently no indication of notable firearms trafficking originating from Ukraine in connection to the war,¹⁵ but this phenomenon should be continuously monitored.

Eastern Europe continues to be a noteworthy region for cybercrime. It is a region of origin for some of the most sophisticated cybercriminals active today. But it is also a region targeted by cybercriminals as part of cyberattack operations against critical infrastructure, or online fraud and scam campaigns aimed at public authorities, private businesses and

individual citizens. Ukrainian institutions and organizations in particular have been under enormous strain from sustained attacks directed at their infrastructure and online operations since the beginning of the war. The war has had a significant impact on the cybercriminal ecosystem, which was previously characterized by collaboration between different cybercriminals crossing national boundaries. This ecosystem has turned increasingly adversarial as “a result of political disagreements among threat actors in the context of the war.”¹⁶

Climate change is likely to have an impact in the foreseeable future on all aspects of life in the region, including criminal activities. Excessive droughts or floods may create demand for certain criminal services or goods, such as counterfeit products. Environmental crimes such as the illegal disposing of waste, including hazardous waste, are thought to be a significant threat in the region. In many cases, such criminal activities intersect with the operations of legal waste management companies and thus are difficult to detect or investigate. Environmental rehabilitation through building national humanitarian action capacities, enhancing chemical emergency response capacity, and environmental monitoring of the war will be key priorities during a potential recovery period.

Economic strain as a direct result of the war and global economic trends such as sustained high inflation are likely to create demand for criminal services. This will incentivize some criminals and criminal groups to expand their activities. Fraud is a key crime threat affecting all sectors of the economy,

¹³ This brief assessment is based on information provided by the field operations in the region as well as open source research.

¹⁴ UNHCR 2023, Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee Situation, Republic of Moldova, accessible at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

¹⁵ GI-TOC 2023, The Russo-Ukrainian war and the illegal arms trade, accessible at <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Mark-Galeotti-and-Anna-Arutunyan-Peace-and-proliferation-The-Russo-Ukrainian-war-and-the-illegal-arms-trade-GI-TOC-March-2023.pdf>

¹⁶ Recorded Future 2023, Russia's War Against Ukraine Disrupts the Cybercriminal Ecosystem, accessible at <https://go.recordedfuture.com/hubfs/reports/cta-2023-0223.pdf>

including large companies, small and medium enterprises, the public sector and private citizens. Economic strain will likely intensify criminal attempts to generate profits by pursuing increasingly sophisticated fraud campaigns. Such attempts at fraud are likely to be particularly pronounced in the post-conflict reconstruction scenario. Thus, focusing on fraud prevention as well as on mitigation measures tailored to the region is warranted.

The region has traditionally been a transit area for drug traffickers smuggling heroin, other opioids and synthetic drugs, such as amphetamines, via the Southern Caucasus route from Asia to consumer markets in Europe. It is likely that this trafficking activity has been disrupted to some degree by the war, since it has resulted in border closures and the destruction or damage to key transportation infrastructure in the country.

OSCE region — Eastern Europe



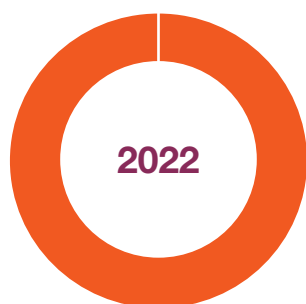
2.2.2 Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Introduction

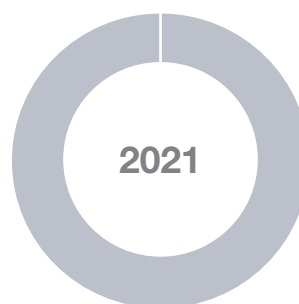
The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) started its activities on 1 June 1999. Its operations were discontinued on 30 June 2022. The PCU was deployed following a request to the OSCE by Ukraine's Government and a consensus decision by all OSCE participating States. The OSCE PCU supported Ukraine's internal reforms and helped the country meet a wide range of security challenges. Its projects actively contributed to major transformations that were critical for the stable and democratic future of the country.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 3,618,500



TOTAL
EUR 3,618,500

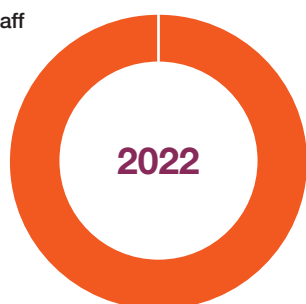


Staff*

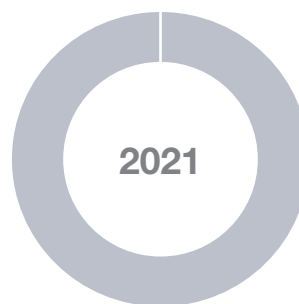
TOTAL
52

49
Local staff

International staff
3



TOTAL
52



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The PCU did not have a separate Department on Police-Related Activities in 2021. Police-related activities were implemented by the Human Security, the Environmental and Politico-Military, and the Rule of Law and Human Rights Programmes, through UB and ExB funds.

► **Equipping National Police of Ukraine personnel skills to handle calls from children in times of war (21–30 June 2022)**

The OSCE PCU organized a series of impactful training sessions in the regions of Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk. These sessions were specifically designed to equip 102 hotline operators of the National Police of Ukraine with the necessary skills to handle distressing calls from children reporting domestic violence or other types of violence. Despite the challenging security situation, four intensive two-day in-person sessions were held, training 106 participants.

With the relentless hostilities and the ongoing war, the number of calls flooding the police hotline had skyrocketed. Among these calls, there was a significant increase in reports from children who were caught in the crossfire. To compound the situation, operators at the 102 hotline in the Ternopil region found themselves also responsible for responding to calls from citizens in areas outside Ukrainian government control. The gravity of the circumstances demanded a response that was both sensitive and effective, particularly when it came to communicating with children.

Andriy Kanashuk, the head of the Department for Organization of Response of the “102” Service, emphasized the importance of these training courses. Thanks to the support provided by the OSCE PCU, the operators were equipped to handle the immense challenges of their role during these difficult times. As Kanashuk stated, “it is crucial for us to always be in touch with our citizens and to help them in every possible way, especially when we are talking about children.” By focusing on age-specific, psychological and gender-sensitive approaches to communication, the training ensured that the hotline operators were prepared to provide support and assistance when it mattered most.

Admiring the tremendous challenges posed by the war, these training courses have empowered dedicated staff to make a real difference in the lives of children affected by violence.



📷 Hotline operators of the National Police of Ukraine discussing how to handle calls from children in times of war at a training session organized by OSCE PCU in June 2022.
OSCE

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

VIII (XXI) Lviv Criminal Justice Forum dedicated to Ukrainian Criminal Justice in Conditions of War; Lviv, Ukraine (11–12 June 2022)

The PCU supported the VIII (XXI) Lviv Criminal Justice Forum, which brought together experts, legal practitioners and academia to discuss the transformation of the criminal justice sec-

tor in Ukraine. The event focused on reviewing criminal justice under conditions of war, the impact on human rights protection, procedural guarantees, recent amendments to criminal legislation, and adjustments to the criminal justice system. The forum was streamed online and garnered over 1,700 views on the OSCE Projects in Ukraine YouTube channel. A collection of essays was also published and distributed to stakeholders.

Threats posed by criminal activity

OSINT training course for migration police department; online (20–29 June 2022)

The PCU supported two practical workshops for representatives of the Migration Police Department on using open source investigative tools (OSINT) for investigating THB cases. With the rise of technology-facilitated and technology-

enabled THB crimes, there is a growing need to enhance the skills of law enforcement in utilizing available OSINT. Sixty police officers and investigators attended the training courses, where they learned about new tools and received hands-on training in the use of OSINT tools to gather necessary evidence for THB investigations.

2.3 Central Asia

2.3.1 Crime threats facing Central Asia¹⁷

There is limited information about the crime situation in Central Asia. However, certain types of criminal activities and a few specific factors appear to shape much of the serious and organized crime landscape in the region.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has had a significant impact on the security situation in the region. The full impact of this development on serious and organized crime in Central Asia has yet to be fully determined. It appears that the Taliban has undertaken serious efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation in the country,¹⁸ which will have a significant impact on the production of heroin in the region and may also imply a subsequent significant decline in trafficking activities related to heroin throughout Central Asia. Afghanistan is also believed to be a significant source for illegal firearms diverted from military weapons stocks. These are trafficked throughout Central Asia. Throughout the region, there is a significant risk of military-grade explosives being diverted and proliferated. There is also a risk of a proliferation of improvised explosive devices originating from Afghanistan.

Corruption remains a key threat to the security and rule of law in the region. Not only does it threaten state institutions and economic development, it can also result in social unrest and socio-economic instability in the region. In Central Asia, corruption is found at many levels and within the economy. It also occurs in the everyday life of citizens of the region. Corruption facilitates criminal activities across the spectrum of serious and organized crime, crime ranging from the trafficking of illicit goods, people smuggling and THB, to financial and economic crimes such as money laundering and fraud, among others.

The region has experienced cyberattacks targeting government offices, financial institutions and other critical infrastructure. The use of technology in crime, such as online fraud and the compromising of digital systems, is a growing concern. Central Asia currently has one of the highest global rates of cybercriminal activities.

Environmental crime is an emerging concern in Central Asia. This type of criminality exacerbates a range of existing environmental challenges in Central Asia, including desertification, water scarcity and air pollution.

OSCE region – Central Asia



¹⁷ This brief assessment is based on information provided by the field operations in the region as well as open source research.

¹⁸ Alcis 2023, Unprecedented reduction of opium production in Afghanistan, accessible at <https://www.alcis.org/poppy>

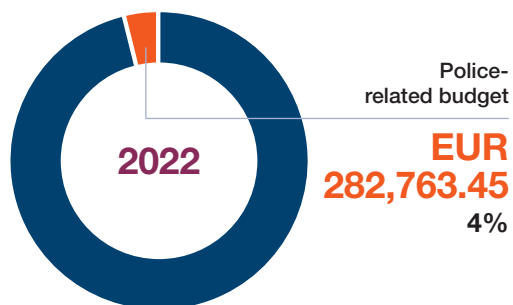
2.3.2 Programme Office in Bishkek

Introduction

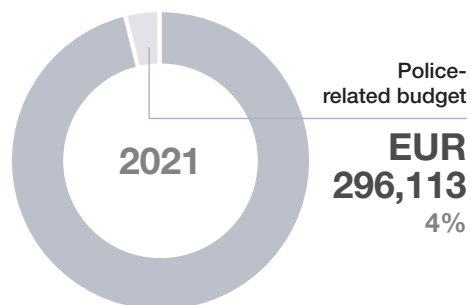
The OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB), previously the Centre in Bishkek, was established in 1998 to promote the implementation of OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of comprehensive security, to facilitate the exchange of information, to establish and maintain contacts with local authorities, academia and civil society institutions, and to provide support based on the evolving needs and priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 6,811,000

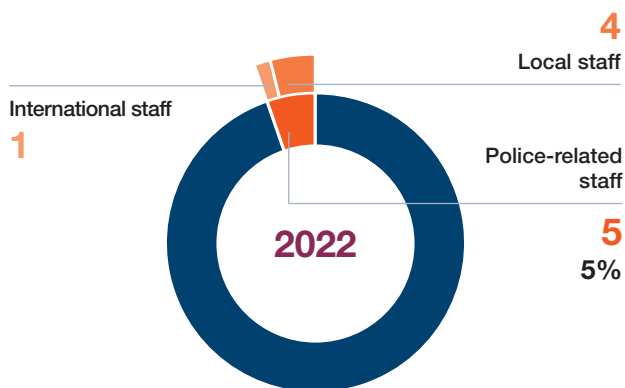


TOTAL
EUR 6,811,000

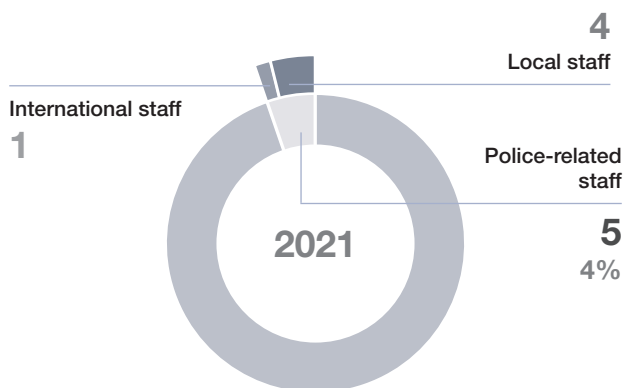


Staff*

TOTAL
132



TOTAL
131



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek.

► **Investing in schoolchildren: Promoting human rights and empowering youth (10–30 May 2022)**

“I don’t want to get married too soon, I want to study,” exclaimed Dilnoza, a determined student, after a lecture. From 10 to 30 May 2022, the Programme Office in Bishkek supported an information campaign targeting 2,148 high school students in 28 schools across the Kyrgyz Republic as part of the mentorship and leadership programme of the Association of Women in the Security Sector (KAWSS). The campaign involved students, teachers and parents, and focused on legal rights, prevention of transnational threats and domestic violence.

During the campaign, KAWSS trainers presented students theoretical and practical examples that highlighted the significance of education for future career success. They emphasized the detrimental impact of early marriage and encouraged students to prioritize education and personal growth. Participants eagerly asked questions about school regulations, religion, bullying, and relationships with teachers and classmates.

One memorable interaction involved Dilnoza, a 16-year-old ninth grader. She asked the trainers for advice on how, armed with her newfound knowledge of her rights, she could convince her parents to allow her to pursue higher education. Dilnoza aspires to become a doctor and felt that education and work should come before marriage. Her father was invited to the lecture and joined his daughter’s conversation with the trainers. They chatted about social norms, human rights and the benefits of education. The trainers stressed that early marriages are illegal and that both the parents and the cleric who performs such a marriage face legal consequences under Kyrgyzstan law.

After a heartfelt conversation, Dilnoza’s father agreed to reassess the situation and contemplate his daughter’s higher education. Months later, the juvenile delinquency inspector reported that the family had reached a consensus. Dilnoza was continuing her studies at the Medical Institute and her father had even promised to support her in opening her own medical practice.

Such information campaigns promoting human rights and fostering a gender-sensitive approach have the power to transform the mindset and behaviour of students and parents alike. At the conclusion of the lecture, each student received an informative brochure in Kyrgyz and Russian containing key legal articles regarding the rights, duties and responsibilities of minors, as well as information and contact details for support in difficult situations.



Annual national “Drug abuse prevention campaign” among youth in Osh, Kyrgyz Republic in May 2022.
OSCE

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Co-ordination meeting between mobile police reception teams and local public councils; Osh, Kyrgyzstan (24–25 March 2022)

POiB held a co-ordination meeting to improve the effectiveness of mobile police reception (MPR) teams and to discuss challenges and opportunities for their development. Representatives from the Kyrgyz Mol and local MPR public councils, which play a crucial role in providing civilian oversight of MPR activities, established working contacts and adopted a resolution outlining the principles of co-operation between MPR teams and local associations.

Analysis of national legislation on the deployment of unmanned aerial systems (8 April–8 July 2022)

The POiB provided legislative support through a comprehensive analysis of national legislation on the legal use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The analysis included a comparison with the legislation in neighbouring countries. It also provided recommendations for changes, including the creation of a roadmap and a training centre for UAS operators.

Introduction of new MPR teams; provinces of Alay, Batken, Naryn, Sokuluk and Suzak, and city of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (April–September 2022)

The POiB supported the expansion of MPR teams to territorial police departments and improved co-operation between the police and civil society. Six fully equipped MPR vehicles were donated to the Kyrgyz Mol. Induction training courses were conducted in several regions for new MPR team members, who will be able to carry out scheduled visits to remote areas, provide legal advice, and register and monitor claims that require the involvement of relevant State agencies.

Information campaign among schoolchildren on the rights, duties and responsibilities of minors; countrywide (10–30 May 2022)

The KAWSS conducted an information campaign among schoolchildren on transnational threats, domestic violence, and the rights, duties and responsibilities of juveniles. The campaign reached 2,148 students in 28 high schools across the Kyrgyz Republic. Participants gained knowledge about children's rights, how to prevent and counter violence, and

transnational threats. Each participant received an information brochure in Kyrgyz and Russian.

MPR monitoring visits; Batken, Chuy, Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Naryn, Osh, Talas provinces, Kyrgyzstan (13–30 June 2022)

A joint monitoring visit was conducted by representatives from the Kyrgyz Mol, the MPR Local Public Councils Association and the POiB. The visit covered territorial police departments where MPR vehicles operate. The monitoring team assessed the effectiveness of the MPRs' operation, analysed reporting documents and provided recommendations for improvement. In 2022, MPR teams conducted over 6,000 visits to rural communities, received over 8,000 claims and supported over 18,000 people.

Training course on project development; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (20–21 June 2022)

A training course on project development and writing grant applications was conducted by the POiB for 26 police officers. The course covered important steps in project development, grant proposal content, monitoring and evaluation, project sustainability, budgeting and implementation. It improved the participants' competence in composing grant applications and strengthening international co-operation.

Working seminar on women, peace and security; Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh provinces, Kyrgyzstan (25–28 July 2022)

In co-operation with the Kyrgyz Mol, the POiB conducted working seminars to facilitate the implementation of the National Action Plan on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Sixty police officers actively involved in the National Action Plan participated in the training sessions. The focus was on the impact of conflict situations on women and the role of women in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. Participants also shared their experiences of working with women as well as addressing the needs of vulnerable groups during conflict situations.

Support of capacity-building of the Mol MPR monitoring and co-ordination centre; Istanbul, Türkiye (30 August–3 September 2022)

The Kyrgyz Mol MPR monitoring and co-ordination centre, with the support of the POiB, conducted a joint monitoring visit to territorial police stations. The visit assessed the effectiveness of MPR operations, analysed reporting documents and shared good practices. As part of this initiative, a study visit to Türkiye was organized for MPR team members to exchange experiences and learn from Turkish police institutions. Based on the results of the MPR monitoring visit across the Kyrgyz Republic, a four-day study-tour to Istanbul, Türkiye, was awarded to the best members of the MPR teams. Organized in co-operation with the Kyrgyz Mol, the visit was an occasion to share experiences and good practices with law enforcement authorities in Türkiye. During the study-tour, the visiting delegation met with the staff of the Gokturk Police Station of Eyupsultan County, the Public Security Branch of the Istanbul Regional Police Department and the Tourist Police Stations of Istanbul.

Training course for representatives from law enforcement agencies; Issyk-Kul province, Kyrgyzstan (5–9 September 2022)

The POiB supported the KAWSS in conducting a training course for 30 representatives from law enforcement agencies, the presidential administration, the ombudsperson's office, educational institutions, the judiciary and the health care systems. The course increased the participants' knowledge of gender equality and preventing domestic violence and GBV. Based on the training course, recommendations were developed to support local government authorities in addressing these issues effectively.

Working seminar on the Code of Conduct and Ethics; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (21–22 September 2022)

The POiB and the Kyrgyz Mol Human Resources Department conducted a working seminar to enhance the understanding and application of the Mol's Code of Conduct and Ethics. Trainers from various Mol institutions learned about national and international regulations and standards in order to transfer knowledge effectively and reinforce the Code in the daily work of practitioners.

Supporting development of national legislation on UAS deployment; Chuy and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (26–27 and 30 September 2022)

On the initiative of the Secretariat of the Kyrgyz Security Council and the Service on Combatting Illicit Drug Trafficking (SCIDT) of the Kyrgyz Mol, the POiB supported an inter-

agency working group to develop a draft document package on the deployment of UAS. As a result of the joint efforts, the following documents were developed: Draft law "Amendments to the air code of the Kyrgyz Republic", which provides a legal basis for the adoption of regulatory legal acts of the Kyrgyz Cabinet of Ministers on UAVs in State aviation; draft aviation regulation "Operation of aircraft. Part IV"; and the draft resolution of the Kyrgyz Cabinet of Ministers "Approval of the flight rules for unmanned aerial vehicles of the State aviation of the Kyrgyz Republic". In addition, the POiB provided organizational support for a two-day interagency working meeting to improve and develop the final presentation of the draft documents and the final presentation itself. The interagency working group consists of more than 30 experts from various organizations, including the Kyrgyz Security Council, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence and State Committee for National Security, and other relevant law enforcement agencies.

International co-operation on preventing and countering domestic violence; Volgograd, Russian Federation (24–28 October 2022)

The POiB supported the participation of six police officers from the Kyrgyz Mol in a training course organized by the Volgograd Academy of the Mol of the Russian Federation. The course focused on preventing and countering domestic violence in the context of violence against women. Participants enhanced their knowledge of investigation techniques and criminological and psychological aspects of domestic violence.

Working seminar on innovative training methods; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (18 November 2022)

In co-operation with the Academy of the Kyrgyz Mol and the Moscow University of the Mol of the Russian Federation, the POiB conducted an online training course for teaching staff. The course focused on innovative training trends and techniques, promoting professional networking and increasing co-operation. Digital boards were provided to support the digitalization of the educational process.

Enhancing co-operation between civil society and the Kyrgyz Mol through a mobile application; Ankara, Türkiye (28 November–3 December 2022)

The POiB supported the introduction of the KADES (Women's Emergency Support Application) mobile application. The application opens a new channel for public-police co-operation and the prevention of GBV. Six participants from the Kyrgyz Mol and the MPR local public councils association visited the General Police Directorate of Türkiye's Mol to familiarize themselves with the system.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Supporting the annual national drug abuse prevention campaign; countrywide (throughout 2022)

The POiB supported the Kyrgyz Mol and other State agencies in organizing and implementing the annual national “Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign” among young people, which rolled out throughout the year in all provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic. The campaign endorsed intolerance towards drug abuse, and provided information about the risks of drug abuse, ways of choosing a healthy lifestyle, and how to develop supportive parenting and a safe community environment. In total, more than 50 prevention activities were carried out, with at least 30–50 participants per activity. More than 2,000 young people were involved in the activities, which included sports competitions, intellectual games and other cultural events.

Enhancing the educational capacity of social workers on drug abuse prevention in the regions; Batken, Jalal-Abad, and Osh provinces, Kyrgyzstan (30 May–3 June 2022)

In order to support the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021–2024, the POiB supported the efforts of the Kyrgyz Mol’s Trafficking (SCIDT) by organizing a series of co-ordination meetings. The 108 participants included representatives from local educational, social and administrative institutions, as well as local civil activists, narcotics specialists and other experts. Many of the participants are responsible for conducting related awareness-raising activities as part of the annual national “Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign”. The meeting enabled them to discuss the issue and to co-ordinate their efforts.

Support for a manual on countering illicit drug trafficking and laundering of proceeds from illicit drug trafficking (30 May–30 November 2022)

Following the development of a practical manual on countering illicit drug trafficking and laundering of proceeds from illicit drug trafficking, the section on international aspects was completed in early 2022. The POiB then helped the inclusion

of national aspects in the manual by providing consultancy support. It also supported the presentation of the manual, and assisted in its printing for further distribution to police officers throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. The manual will be used by Kyrgyz police officers and other law enforcement officials. It summarizes international good practices as well as specific features of national legislation in countering illicit drug trafficking and the laundering of the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking.

Enhancing the capacity of investigators and detectives; Osh and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (2 and 4 August 2022)

The POiB contributed to enhancing the educational capacity of Kyrgyz Mol investigators and detectives. Training sessions focused on the implementation of the new Kyrgyz Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. Participants learned about the new codes, interaction with and treatment of citizens, ethical considerations and effective investigation techniques.

Enhancing professional capacities of Kyrgyz Mol officers on the prevention of clandestine drug production and spread; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (24–25 October and 27–28 October 2022)

On the initiative of the Kyrgyz Mol’s SCIDT, the POiB supported the organization of two training courses for 22 SCIDT police officers on detecting clandestine laboratories for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and on countering the spread of synthetic drugs on the internet. The courses were conducted by police officers from the Main Directorate for Drugs Control of the Russian Federation’s Mol.

Training sessions on democratic policing principles and community security; provinces of Batken, Chuy, Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Naryn, Osh and Talas, and cities of Bishkek and Osh, Kyrgyzstan (5 October–10 November 2022)

Around 450 representatives of the Kyrgyz Mol participated in training sessions organized by the OSCE POiB and the Mol Public Safety Department. The sessions focused on democratic policing principles and the prevention of transnational

threats, domestic violence and VERLT among young people. The sessions took place in various regional police departments across the country and provided a platform for discussion and co-operation among the various stakeholders.


Support for international co-operation in studying methods for collecting information and security-important data; Voronezh, Russian Federation (7–11 November 2022)

In consultation with the Kyrgyz Mol and in consideration of the rapid development of new technologies for use in detecting and identifying crimes, the POiB supported the participation of four Mol police officers in a training course organized by the Voronezh Institute of the Mol of the Russian Federation. During the training sessions, participants enhanced their knowledge of methods for collecting information and security-relevant data, principles of social network analysis, and advances in the area of audio-visual recording. The courses will lead to an increase in the number of crimes that are detected and improve the analysis quality of committed crimes.

Support for international co-operation and familiarization with the “Antinar” drug monitoring system; St. Petersburg, Russian Federation (7–8 December 2022)

A study visit by the Kyrgyz Mol delegation to familiarize itself with the Russian state information system “Antinar” was supported by the POiB. Antinar is a system focused on a comprehensive analysis of the drug situation in St. Petersburg, identification of the main trends and patterns of its development, and information analytical support to the process of decision-making by the region’s leadership to determine priority areas for anti-drug activities in the region. This is based on monitoring indicators of the drug situation, analytical processing of information, and modelling and forecasting the process of the spread of drug addiction in the region. As a result of the study visit, Kyrgyzstan is now considering to develop a similar system that will help improve measures for analysing and assessing the national situation.



 Donation of a mobile police reception vehicle and office equipment to the Kyrgyz Mol in September 2022.
OSCE

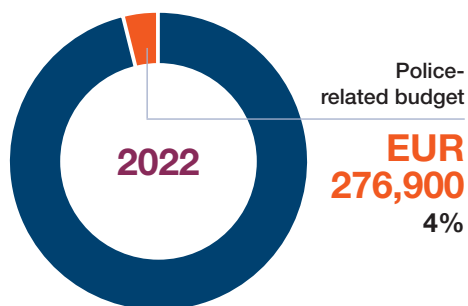
2.3.3 Programme Office in Dushanbe

Introduction

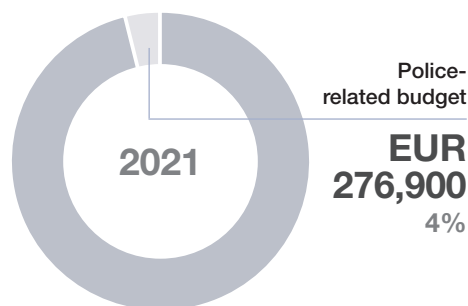
The OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (POiD), established as the OSCE Bureau in Tajikistan in 1994, is mandated to assist the Republic of Tajikistan in the formation of modern approaches to security issues and threats. In accordance with the existing OSCE concept on policing, the Office takes measures to build the capacities of law enforcement agencies and assists the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in the development and reform of internal affairs bodies.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 7,311,600

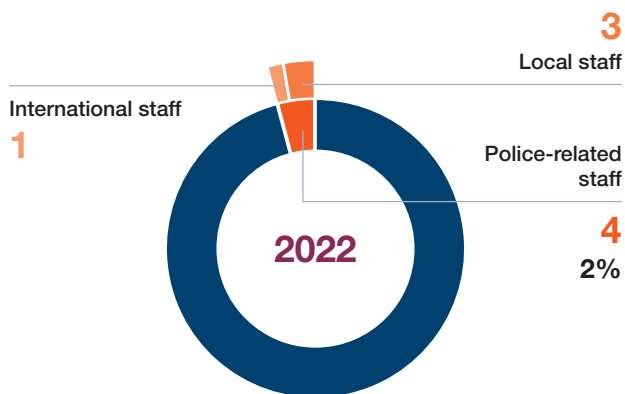


TOTAL
EUR 7,311,600

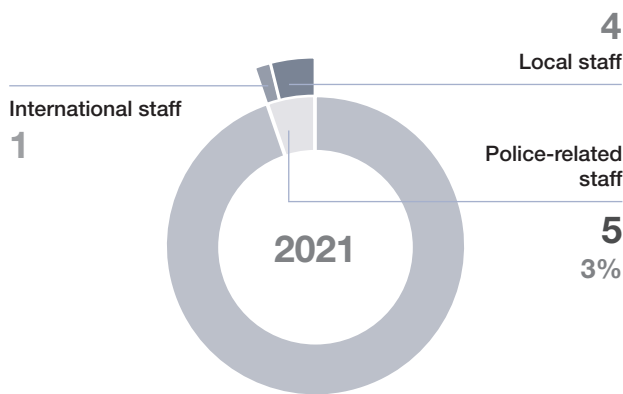


Staff*

TOTAL
178



TOTAL
178



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe.

► **Engaging youth in the fight against drug abuse (17–25 June 2022)**

The POiD supported the MoIA and the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in their efforts to raise awareness among youth about drug abuse by means of summer sports and summer camp campaigns. As part of these initiatives, award ceremonies were held in various regions of the Republic of Tajikistan for participants of the “Youth against drugs” and “Karavan against drugs” sport competitions organized by the Drug Control Agency.

Colonel Bozorali Safaralizoda, head of the unit for Prevention and Control of Illicit Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Trafficking of the Drug Control Agency, emphasized the importance of combating drug trafficking and preventing drug addiction with the support of the Government of Tajikistan. The Drug Control Agency, as a co-ordinating body, has been relentless in its fight against drug trafficking, distribution and abuse.

The award ceremonies were conducted in co-operation with relevant structures with the aim of reducing the level of drug addiction and protecting civil society from the threat of drug trafficking. Colonel Safaralizoda thanked the Programme Office for its support in organizing these significant events throughout the Republic of Tajikistan and expressed interest in continuing co-operation in the future.



📎 Campaign to engage youth in the fight against drug abuse
OSCE /Bahrom Alimov

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Informative seminars for public council members; Khatlon, Kulob, Rasht and Sughd regions, Tajikistan (12 April–26 May 2022)


To support the theoretical and practical capacities of newly selected members of regional public councils, the Office conducted seven information seminars. The seminars focused on the provision of public councils, the law on public participation, and the guidebook on interaction between police and communities for ensuring public order. Local experts, in co-operation with the MoIA Academy, facilitated the courses, tailoring specific sessions and materials for both the public council members and MoIA territorial police inspectors. With at least 150 public council members and 50 MoIA officers in attendance, these seminars highlighted the ongoing police reform process. They helped new members of the public councils to orient themselves and understand the scope of their work based on their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the provision and law on public participation.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Advanced practical training course on enhancing the knowledge and practical skills in using ILP for operative units of law enforcement agencies for combating drug trafficking; cities of Bokhtar (12–14 September 2022) and Kulob (15–17 September 2022)

In co-operation with Tajikistan's Drug Control Agency, the Office supported the organization of a six-day advanced practical training course to equip Drug Control Agency officers with the necessary tools to combat drug trafficking effectively. Lieutenant Colonel Tojiddin Ismoilion, head of the Drug Control Agency's Training Centre, emphasized the importance of this professional development course in preventing and combating the illegal circulation of drugs, particularly their smuggling across State borders.



 Campaign to engage youth in the fight against drug abuse
OSCE /Bahrom Alimov

2.3.4 Programme Office in Astana

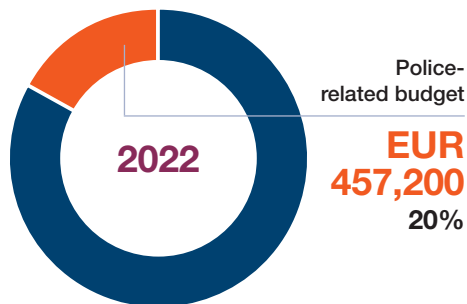
Introduction

The Programme Office in Astana is an OSCE field operation based in the capital of Kazakhstan. The OSCE Programme Office in Astana works on security issues, including arms control, border management, the fight against terrorism, trafficking in human beings, arms and drugs, economic and environmental topics, human rights and rule of law issues, and media freedom.

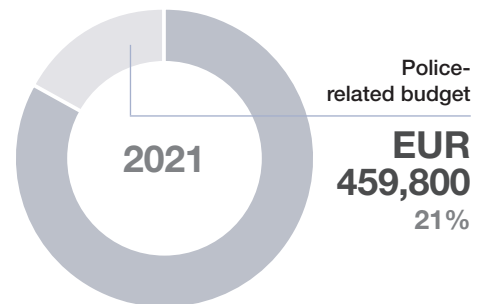
As of 23 September 2022 the name of the Programme Office in Nur-Sultan was changed to Programme Office in Astana following the name change of Kazakhstan’s capital. The change is reflected in the Journal of the 1390th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. The Mandate remains unchanged. The OSCE Programme Office in Astana, established as the Centre in Almaty in 1998, promotes the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, facilitates contacts and exchanges of information, and provides assistance to the government of Kazakhstan on police-related matters.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 2,232,700

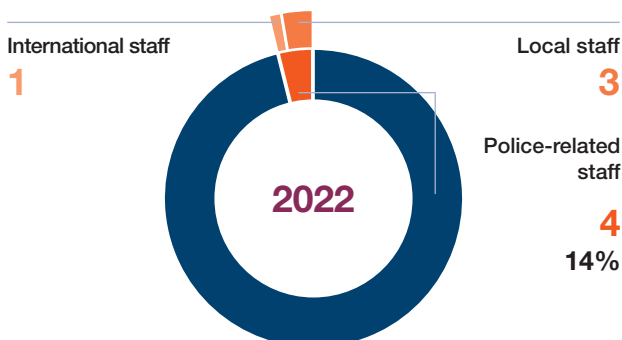


TOTAL
EUR 2,232,700

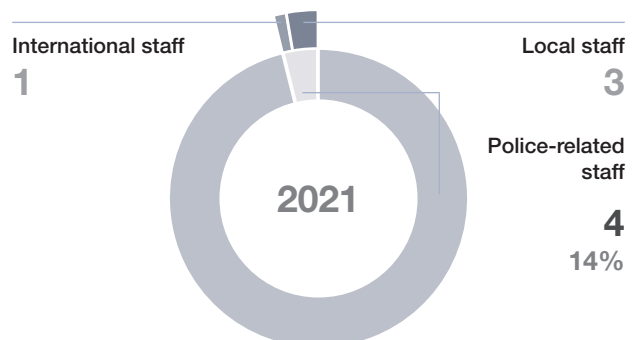


Staff*

TOTAL
28



TOTAL
28



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Programme Office in Astana.

► Building strong interagency partnerships for community policing (15–25 October 2022)

The OSCE POiA played an important role in supporting the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) of the Republic of Kazakhstan by providing international expertise in the establishment of interagency security partnerships (ISPs) in twenty regions of the country. These partnerships, composed of representatives from various local executive bodies, including health care, education, social protection, prosecution, police, police academies and local communities, received extensive training on community policing-related issues through online sessions.

During the training activities, national and international experts focused on analytical approaches to solving security problems. Participants were advised on modern methods of police crime analysis, conducting sociological research and working with crime maps. By identifying “hot spots” and peak periods of crimes, these partnerships can strategically allocate resources and address security challenges effectively.

Recognizing the value of such partnerships, the MoIA emphasized that ISPs enable the construction of an integrated system to ensure public safety through the active participation of all Government agencies and the public. By embracing the principle of the “listening state proposed by President Tokayev”, ISPs facilitate constructive dialogue with citizens, allowing citizens to voice their concerns to ensure timely identification of potential risks and tensions. ISPs also provide a platform for concerned citizens, businesses and the non-governmental sector to contribute their expertise in collecting and analysing information about local community issues.

The progress made through these training sessions will serve as a foundation for developing a legal framework governing these partnerships, thereby formalizing their roles and responsibilities. With the establishment of ISPs, Kazakhstan is taking significant steps towards a collaborative and participatory approach to enhancing public safety and security.

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Enhancing community policing practices (12–20 December 2022)

The POiA organized five online workshops on issues related to community policing for police departments of both the MoIA and the regions. An international expert emphasized the significance of utilizing the “Crime Triangle” methodology. By employing this approach, analytical units can effectively address systemic problems to improve the lives of local communities. The expert shared success stories from the United Kingdom, where a Crime Triangle analysis identified gaps in police and city hall operations. In this particular case, improvements involved more bus routes and the installation of video cameras on buses, which led to a reduction in the number of thefts.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Promoting anti-trafficking efforts through simulation training exercise (19–23 September 2022)

To bolster the country’s response to human trafficking, the POiA supported a live exercise that allowed first-line responders to simulate real-life anti-trafficking operations. The participants, including law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, migration authorities, NGO representatives and border security practitioners, dealt with simulated cases of labour and sexual exploitation. Organized in co-operation with the United States Embassy’s International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Programme, USAID’s Safe Migration in Central Asia project and the Regional Hub for Countering Global Threats, the exercise strengthened existing capacities and contributed to cross-border co-operation. With a focus on gender sensitivity and a victim-centred approach, the training promoted a gender perspective within the male-dominated law enforcement and prosecution sectors.

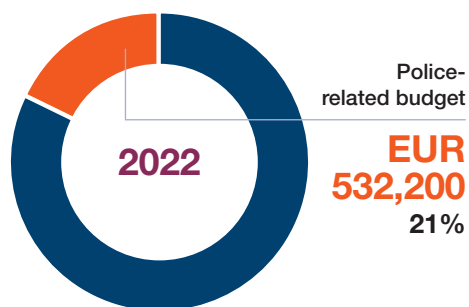
2.3.5 Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Introduction

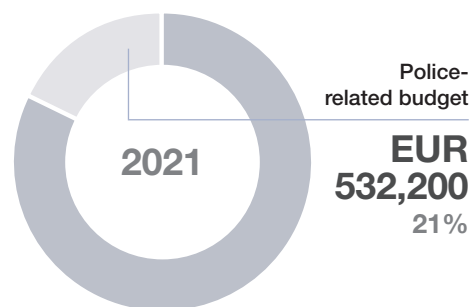
The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz), established in 2006, supports the host country authorities in strengthening anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in line with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Since 2012, the core activities of the PCUz in combating money laundering and terrorism financing have been based on a risk-based approach and have focused on capacity-building for the Financial Intelligence Unit of the General Prosecutor’s Office and the staff of financial institutions and other institutions engaged in AML/CFT measures.

Budget (UB)*

TOTAL
EUR 2,499,200

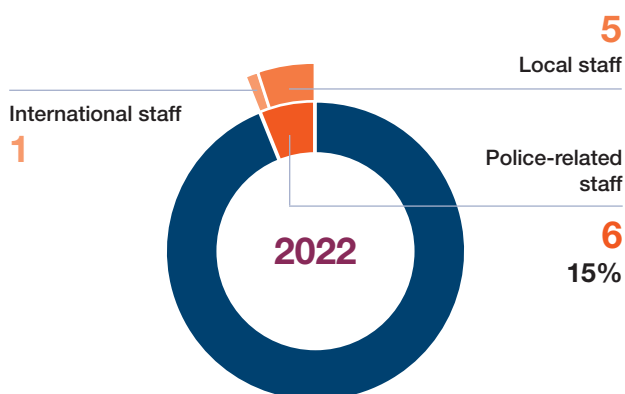


TOTAL
EUR 2,499,200

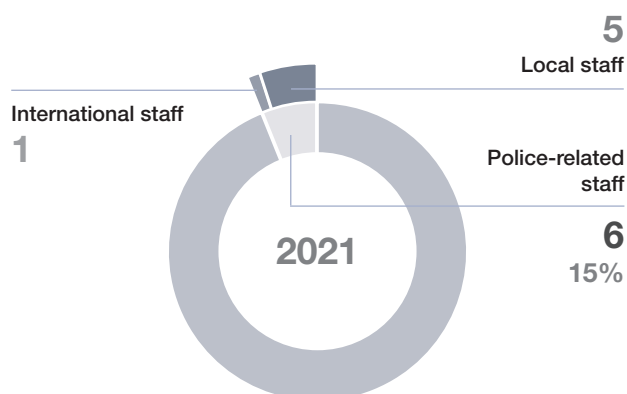


Staff*

TOTAL
40



TOTAL
41



* Figures on budget and staff provided by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan.

► Pilot anti-trafficking simulation exercise (12–16 December 2022)

Collaborating with the National Commission on Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour and the OSCE OSR/CTHB, the PCUz organized an innovative pilot anti-trafficking simulation exercise. Held at the premises of the Mol's Academy, under the Prosecutor General's Office, this immersive exercise brought together over 50 anti-trafficking professionals. Participants included representatives from various government agencies, such as Uzbekistan's Prosecutor General's Office, MoIA, Agency on Social and Medical Support, and National Human Rights Centre, along with the anti-trafficking NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod". The main goal of the simulation exercise was to enhance interagency co-ordination and co-operation within the newly established national referral mechanism for victims of THB. By prioritizing a human rights-centred, trauma-informed and gender-sensitive approach, the exercise aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of combating human trafficking and the support for its victims. Nodira Karimova, head of Istiqbolli Avlod, emphasized the importance of co-operation between state agencies and CSOs, recognizing that a sustainable mechanism to combat human trafficking requires collective efforts to provide victims with reintegration, legal assistance and a chance at a dignified life.



Participants of the pilot anti-trafficking simulation exercise in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in December 2022.
OSCE

► **Introducing trends in contemporary policing to students and faculty, online (October–November 2022)**

Joining forces with TNTD and the Academy of Uzbekistan's MoIA, the PCUz launched a series of webinars to sensitize Academy staff, professors and cadets to the latest trends in modern policing. Covering topics such as countering internet terrorism, cybercrime, ILP and innovative approaches to combating GBV, CTHB and drug trafficking, the webinar series provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of law enforcement. With a total of 460 participants, the webinars sparked engaging discussions and knowledge-sharing.

Activity reporting

General police development and reform

Workshop on open data for anti-corruption purposes; online (22 February 2022)

Together with the Anti-Corruption Agency of Uzbekistan and the International Open Data Charter, the PCUz organized an online workshop to present the results of the implementation of the *Anti-corruption Open Up Guide* in Uzbekistan. The workshop sensitized participants to the importance of interagency co-operation and advancing open data reforms in Uzbekistan.

Second Anti-Corruption Forum; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (23 September 2022)

In collaboration with Uzbekistan's Anti-Corruption Agency, its Ministry of Justice and UNDP Uzbekistan, the PCUz organized the Second Anti-Corruption Forum to strengthen good governance in Uzbekistan. The forum brought together international organizations, government agencies, academia, and national and international experts to discuss good

practices on combating and preventing corruption, the role of education, and means for improving the use of open data in anti-corruption policies. The forum also created a platform for improving networking and sharing experiences. It also represented a good opportunity for raising awareness on the importance of evidence-based measures and collective actions against corruption.

Business forum on business integrity and zero tolerance for corruption; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (29 November 2022)

The PCUz organized a business forum with Uzbekistan's Anti-Corruption Agency, its Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and its Business Ombudsman. The forum aimed at promoting business integrity and fostering a culture of zero tolerance for corruption in Uzbekistan. Participants, including entrepreneurs and government representatives, discussed legislation, corruption-free regulation and the role of open data in supporting business development.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Study visit on combating transnational organized crime; Washington, D.C., United States (6–13 March 2022)

The PCUz supported a visit of representatives from Uzbekistan's Prosecutor General's Office to the United States to exchange good practices in combating terrorism, cybercrime, corruption and other forms of transnational organized crime. The delegation met with various US government agencies and discussed plans for further co-operation.

Workshops on protecting human rights while countering terrorism; Andijan (12–13 May 2022) and Termez (16–17 May 2022)

The PCUz organized two workshops on links between human rights and police effectiveness in counter-terrorism operations. Participants, including representatives from Uzbekistan's MoIA and its Prosecutor General's Office, enhanced their professional knowledge and skills regarding human rights standards, risks arising from human rights violations, and interviewing techniques that prioritize trust and respect.

Conference on the laundering of criminal proceeds and financing of terrorism; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (3 June 2022)

In co-operation with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG) and Uzbekistan's Prosecutor General's Office, the PCUz organized an international conference to discuss the implementation of international standards and the strengthening of national AML/CFT systems. The initiative aimed at ensuring effective interaction and co-operation at the regional level, as well as the integration of the EAG member States into the international system of combating the laundering of criminal proceeds and the financing of terrorism in accordance with the FATF Recommendations. The event provided good opportunities for exchanging experience and knowledge, as well as for networking for international co-operation.

Regional training events on preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism for religious leaders; Andijan (21 June–6 July 2022) and Gulistan (13–27 July 2022)

In co-operation with the NGO "Center for Studying Regional Threats", the PCUz organized four capacity-building training courses on preventing terrorism and countering violent ex-

tremism for local religious leaders (imams). The events raised the awareness of the participants of the need to promote positive narratives on religious tolerance and peace, in compliance with human rights and international law. It also enhanced their practical skills in using social media and other online platforms to counter disinformation spread by violent extremists.

Series of training seminars for journalists; online (13 July–9 September 2022)

In partnership with the NGO "Centre for Retraining of Journalists", the PCUz organized four online training courses for journalists and bloggers in Uzbekistan. The seminars enhanced their professionalism in preventing and countering VERLT, and advanced their skills in using new multimedia technologies and fact-checking tools.

Training workshops on cybercrime for law enforcement officers; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (23 July–26 October 2022)

The PCUz organized four training workshops for police officers and prosecutors on various aspects of cybercrime investigation. International experts covered topics such as theft from card accounts, cyberattacks, and the illegal use of digital identities.

Presentation of an e-learning course on preventing and countering use of the internet for terrorist purposes; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (10 August 2022)

In co-operation with TNTD's Anti-Terrorism Unit, the PCUz launched an e-learning course in the Uzbek language on preventing and countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes. The course is used for educational and practical purposes and covers international good practices, including illicit content moderation, oversight, and public-private partnerships.

Regional capacity-building workshop on asset recovery; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (25–26 August 2022)

In co-operation with the Academy of Uzbekistan's Prosecutor General's Office and UNDP Uzbekistan, the PCUz co-organized a workshop on the Swiss requirements for successful asset recovery. The workshop provided practical exercises and group work for representatives from countries in Uzbekistan's Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network.

Training seminars on cyber/ICT security for ICT experts (19 September–9 December 2022)

The PCUz, in partnership with the NGO “Softline Education”, conducted the training seminars “Ensuring cybersecurity in working with Microsoft products” and “Cybersecurity courses track” for 53 specialists from various Government agencies. The seminars focused on topics related to ICT and cybersecurity. Participants advanced their knowledge on how to ensure cybersecurity when working with Microsoft products and how to implement ICT security measures in practice.

Cybersecurity training programme for young women; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (30 September–1 December 2022)

Along with international and local experts, the PCUz conducted a comprehensive cybersecurity programme for 40 young women working in the civil service sector of Uzbekistan. The three-month programme included workshops on enterprise cybersecurity, training in cyber hygiene, and specialized modules for IT specialists. The programme increased the participants’ awareness and capacity to address digital risks. It also promoted gender equality in cybersecurity.

Roundtable on threats posed by radicalization and terrorism; online, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (12 October 2022)

In co-operation with the NGO “Centre for Retraining of Journalists”, the PCUz organized an online roundtable discussion with representatives of Central Asian media and NGOs. The event focused on countering and preventing risks related to radicalization and terrorism in Central Asian countries. The discussion emphasized the importance of media literacy and combating disinformation to address these threats.

Training programme on child protection in the digital environment; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (13–15 December 2022)

In co-operation with ODIHR and the Child Rights Ombudsman of Uzbekistan, the PCUz organized a training programme on child protection in the digital environment. The programme aimed at enhancing criminal justice responses and increasing the capacity of law enforcement officials to apply knowledge and skills to protect children. The event emphasized a human rights-based, gender-sensitive and victim-centred approach to child protection in the digital space.¹⁹

¹⁹ See also section 3.1 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Police-related Activities of other OSCE Institutions





3.1 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Introduction

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provides assistance to OSCE participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments. In doing so, ODIHR works with governments and civil society to promote, in close co-operation with other OSCE executive structures and international organizations, compliance of policing practices with fundamental principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and tolerance and non-discrimination.

► Addressing the security needs of the Jewish community: Raising awareness of anti-Semitism among law enforcement agencies; Berlin, Germany (19 May 2022)

This awareness-raising activity was implemented in co-operation with the “Regishut – Sensitising Berlin police towards Antisemitism” project. The event raised awareness of contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism. It further aimed at integrating affected persons’ perspectives into police work and to involve the expertise of CSOs in the education and training of police officers. The Jewish community of Berlin hosted the event in a renovated 19th-century synagogue, which allowed the organizers to present this place of worship to a broader range of police officers, and educate them about Jewish life and its contribution to German society. The event brought the community and police closer, and also served as a launch event for additional training activities addressing anti-Semitism for 140 police officers that were conducted between May and December 2022. As noted by Sigmound Königsberg, Commissioner against Antisemitism of the Jewish community of Berlin, “the exchange of experience and knowledge between the Jewish community, the police and the public prosecutor’s office is essential in order to make the concerns and fears of the Jewish community clear to officials. On the other hand, it is important that we also understand that authorities are not omnipotent and that they are subject to limits. ODIHR’s WIA [Turning Words into Action to Address Intolerance] project is therefore an excellent approach to promoting mutual understanding and building trust. Both are indispensable in the fight against anti-Semitism.”



📷 Participants discussing hate crime at the TAHCLE course in Yerevan, Armenia, in January 2022.
OSCE / Viktor Kunderák

General police development and reform

Human rights and police accountability

Effective and human rights-compliant interviewing principles: A workshop for the OSCE Police Academies Network (PAN) (16 February 2022)

ODIHR organized an online workshop together with TNTD/SPMU which introduced members of the OSCE PAN to the “Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering”, which were released in May 2021. Also known as the “Méndez Principles”, the workshop highlighted their relevance for investigative work. The use of rapport-based interviewing techniques improves the effectiveness and fairness of information and intelligence gathered, while protecting the inherent dignity and human rights of persons being interviewed. This can enhance public trust in law enforcement institutions. Considering that questioning during investigations is a primary function of law enforcement and other authorities with investigative mandates, the Méndez Principles are of particular relevance for police officers. The workshop focused on a case study complemented by interventions of experts, enabling participants to become better acquainted with the Méndez Principles and their practical use. According to one participant, the workshop was “very useful, and the information given [was] very interesting and concentrated”.

Training courses on human rights compliant policing of assemblies for Mongolian law enforcement in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (14–23 September 2022)

ODIHR organized two courses on human rights compliant policing of public assemblies for law enforcement officials in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. They included a commander’s course for senior level police officers directly involved in the planning of facilitation of public assemblies. The courses provided police commanders with motivation for engaging in their work while complying with human rights standards and OSCE commitments in the area of freedom of peaceful assembly. The courses were followed by a training-of-trainers workshop for senior level police officers who deliver training courses and/or work on public order management, as well as to representatives from Mongolia’s School of Police. The course prepared participants to deliver a three-day training curriculum to police commanders from Mongolia on how to facilitate assemblies in a human-rights compliant way. The two training courses were well received by participants, who

noted that they had learned how to undertake a risk assessment prior to public assemblies, how to differentiate between various assembly participants, as well as how to mitigate risks and better plan assemblies.

Community policing and police–public relations

Raising awareness and building effective communication with law enforcement authorities on addressing the security needs of Jewish communities (January–October 2022)

From January to October, as part of ODIHR’s Turning Words into Action to Address Intolerance project and jointly with the World Jewish Congress and the European Commission, ODIHR organized a series of events on responding to anti-Semitic hate crimes. The events aimed at enhancing co-operation between law enforcement officials and Jewish communities. A total of four events were implemented in Estonia, Germany, Moldova and North Macedonia. The events improved the response of law enforcement representatives to anti-Semitic hate crimes, as well as the effective communication and co-ordination between police and Jewish communities.

Police and Roma – Effective and human-rights compliant policing (12–15 December 2022)

In partnership with the OSCE Mission to Skopje and in co-operation with the Training Centre of North Macedonia’s Mol, ODIHR organized a training-of-trainers course on police and Roma for law enforcement trainers. The course aimed to strengthen the capacity of police officers to work effectively with Roma and Sinti while complying with international human rights standards. The course involved police officers, police trainers, and training staff from the Mol’s training centre. The course equipped participants with an understanding of effective policing strategies that are fair and responsive to the needs of the people they serve. It also increased their knowledge of and sensitivity to gender-specific issues that Roma and Sinti women face. The participants trained in the course will subsequently be engaged in training law enforcement officials in North Macedonia.

Hate crime

Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) training-of-trainers; Armenia (25–27 January 2022), Montenegro (8–10 March 2022) and Kosovo (14–16 December 2022)

Within the framework of an MoU signed between ODIHR and the Police of the Republic of Armenia in February 2021, ODIHR delivered a training-of-trainers course as part of the TAHCLE programme in Yerevan. The course was held in person and attended by senior police officers (8 men and 7 women). The training followed the standard TAHCLE curriculum, customized for the needs of the Republic of Armenia. As a result, a National Implementation Plan has been developed and the training will be cascaded throughout 2022 and 2023 to all levels of the police.

Within the framework of an MoU on implementation of TAHCLE in Montenegro concluded in 2013, ODIHR conducted a refresher TAHCLE training-of-trainers event. The event was held in person and attended by senior police officers as well as two representatives from Montenegro's Ombudsman's Office, two representatives from its Ministry of Justice and Human and Minority Rights (MoJ) and two representatives from NGOs. The training followed the standard TAHCLE curriculum, customized for the needs of the country. As a result, a National Implementation Plan has been developed and the training will be cascaded throughout 2023.


Following an exchange of letters in November 2022 on commitments related to the implementation of TAHCLE in Kosovo between ODIHR's Director, Ambassador of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the Director of the Kosovo Police, ODIHR conducted a TAHCLE training-of-trainers event in

Pristina in December 2022. The event was held in person and attended by police officers from all regions, including three police officers from the Serbian minority, two senior representatives of the Police Training Academy and two civil society representatives. The training followed the standard TAHCLE curriculum, customized for local needs based on an online needs assessment mission conducted in July 2022. The Kosovo Police plans to cascade the training throughout Kosovo in 2023, and follow up with further training on individual needs assessments for hate crime victims.

Workshops on hate crime recording and data collection; Cyprus (24 February 2022) and Republika Srpska (27–28 April 2022)

ODIHR, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Cyprus Police co-organized a workshop in Cyprus in February 2022 on understanding hate crime and improving related crime reporting and data collection. The workshop gathered 23 experts from the Cyprus Police Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office, the Ombudsman's Office, the Ministry of Justice and five NGOs, as well as police liaison officers from all regions in Cyprus. The workshop aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes and their impact on individuals, communities and society, creating understanding of the need to record hate crimes and produce quality data on hate crime, and reviewing existing hate crime recording and the data collection framework to identify gaps, discuss potential solutions and propose steps for improvement. The workshop resulted in a report elaborated jointly by ODIHR and FRA providing a set of recommendations to the relevant state authorities.

In April 2022, ODIHR and the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina co-organized a workshop in Banja Luka to im-

 Anne Charbord, Senior legal adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counterterrorism, and Johannes Heiler, OSCE, addressing participants at the ODIHR side event at the WHDC “Counterterrorism and shrinking civic space: The misuse of counter-terrorism measures against dissenting voices” in Warsaw, Poland, in October 2022.
OSCE / Piotr Markowski



prove the recording and data collection of hate crimes in Republika Srpska (RS). The event brought together participants from the BiH Ministry of Interior and its Police Directorate, one prosecutor, and the Mission's focal points on hate crime. ODIHR discussed the hate crime situation in RS and the main principles behind hate crime recording and data collection. Discussions were held about current gaps in RS, and participants suggested and agreed on changes in the recording mechanisms for the future. A report with recommendations to be shared with the authorities was then developed with the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Hate crime – victim support

Training course for An Garda Síochána on sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims; online (12 April 2022)

ODIHR delivered an online training course for Ireland's An Garda Síochána based on selected modules of the recently developed Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) training course to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies to interact with victims of hate crimes in a sensitive and respectful manner. The event brought together diversity officers and victim support officers from Garda departments across the country, and provided them with an opportunity to learn about the impact of hate crimes, the needs of hate crime victims, and the importance of applying a victim-centred approach.

Briefings for the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police and Polish Police Hate Crime Co-ordinators annual meeting on identifying and responding to hate crime victims (22 June 2022 and 29 November 2022)

In June 2022, ODIHR delivered a presentation for the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police on identifying and responding to hate crime victims at a monthly training seminar organized in co-operation with the Oslo Police District of the Norwegian Police. The online seminar gathered participants who are developing a specialization in hate crime.

ODIHR presented at the Polish Police Hate Crime Co-ordinators annual meeting in Warsaw in November 2022. Organized by the Criminal Investigation Department of the Polish Police Headquarters, the event gathered all Hate Crime Co-ordinators from across Poland (16 regions) to discuss challenges and issues regarding hate crime data collection and reporting. ODIHR presented its annual Hate Crime Report.

CEPOL Hate Crime Session 10: Effective responses to hate crime victims: Sensitive and respectful treatment, preventing secondary victimization, and individual needs assessments (20 October 2022)

ODIHR contributed to the annual CEPOL training event (CEPOL 056/2022/ONS) on hate crimes held for law enforcement officers from across the EU. During the five-day course, participants had sessions on the definition of hate crime, bias indicators, recording hate crimes, hate crime data collection, and monitoring and responding to hate speech. ODIHR participated online and completed a training session on sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims and secondary victimization.

Fourth Seminar on Hate Crimes for Security Forces organized by the Spanish National Office for the Fight Against Hate Crimes (17 November 2022)

ODIHR supported the organization of a conference dedicated to addressing hate crimes during the Fourth Seminar on Hate Crimes for Security Forces organized by the Spanish National Office for the Fight Against Hate Crimes (ONDOD). The event aimed to raise awareness among police officers on hate crime victim support. The presentation of ODIHR was entitled "Working with law enforcement to enhance provision of effective hate crime victim support". It discussed various issues, including the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims, the need for comprehensive individual needs assessments, and the benefits of working with CSOs providing specialist support to hate crime victims.

CEPOL e-Learning Webinar: Co-operation and Referrals of Hate Crime between Law Enforcement and CSOs (23 November 2022)

As part of ODIHR's continued co-operation with CEPOL and to support their e-Learning Online Webinar Series for law enforcement and other criminal justice stakeholders, ODIHR participated in the online training session on Co-operation and Referrals of Hate Crime between Law Enforcement and CSOs. Along with fellow panelists from FRA and Europol, the session aimed at improving co-operation between law enforcement and CSOs in the area of hate crime. The session discussed the importance of co-operation with CSOs and of referral mechanisms for victims of hate crime, as well as good practices in hate crime referrals. ODIHR gave a learning presentation on co-operation between authorities and CSOs for the effective provision of hate crime victim support, with a specific focus on individual needs assessments and referrals. Good practice methodology from various ODIHR tools on hate crime victim support were shared with participants.

Threats posed by criminal activity

Counter-terrorism and P/C VERLT

Guest lecture on human rights and counter-terrorism at the Academy of the German Armed Forces, Center for Intelligence and Security Studies (24 March 2022)

Upon invitation of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies (CISS) at the Academy of the German Armed Forces (Universität der Bundeswehr) in Munich, Germany, ODIHR representatives delivered a lecture highlighting the importance of protecting human rights when countering terrorism. The presentation to participants from the military, intelligence and security sectors outlined some of the main challenges in protecting human rights when countering terrorism and preventing VERLT. It also provided an introduction to the work of the OSCE and ODIHR in this field. The lecture included a discussion of key counter-terrorism trends and related human rights challenges, for example, challenges regarding freedom of expression and countering VERLT online, or the return of FTFs and associated family members.

Training workshops for law enforcement: Protecting human rights while countering terrorism effectively; Andijan and Termez, Uzbekistan (12–17 May 2022)

Together with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, ODIHR organized two foundational training workshops on protecting human rights while effectively countering terrorism. The workshops were held for the first time in different regions of the country in order to reach officials in law enforcement agencies outside the capital. The two workshops were also the first delivered by ODIHR together with national trainers from Uzbek law enforcement education institutions and the National Human Rights Centre. These national trainers had completed ODIHR's training-of-trainers event for this course in September 2021. Following its standard methodology, the core training team included ODIHR human rights experts and an international police trainer. The involvement of national trainers as co-trainers increased their capacity for future delivery of the full training programme. It also strengthened the ownership of local partners to enhance the sustainability of ODIHR's capacity-building work that has been conducted in the country since 2018. Some of the selected trainers have already reported steps taken to integrate the course content into their own work in law enforcement education. Feedback from participants indicated that their understanding of human rights issues that arise when countering terrorism had increased significantly, as had their skills to deal with such issues.

Advanced training workshop for law enforcement: Human rights in counter-terrorism investigations; Bosnia and Herzegovina (21–22 September 2022)

Together with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), ODIHR hosted an advanced training workshop for law enforcement that examined how the protection of human rights can increase the effectiveness of counter-terrorism investigations. The training workshop followed a real-life case scenario and discussed human rights considerations and safeguards related to, among other things, intelligence and information gathering and analysis, special investigation techniques, arrest and detention, searches, and interviewing techniques. The workshop, delivered by an ODIHR human rights expert together with a former police officer and counter-terrorism expert from Northern Ireland, was interactive, dynamic and practice-oriented. The workshop curriculum was developed jointly with the OSCE TNTD/SPMU in 2016. Since then, the course has formed a core part of ODIHR's human rights and counter-terrorism capacity-building programme for law enforcement. It has been delivered in a number of OSCE participating States. This was the first time it had been presented in BiH. Course participants recognized the value of the training, with an overwhelming majority confirming a significant increase in their knowledge and skills. Moreover, most participants stated that their commitment towards human rights in conducting investigations had increased as a result of the training.

ODIHR side event at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference “Counter-terrorism and shrinking civic space: The misuse of counter-terrorism measures against dissenting voices” (4 October 2022)

ODIHR organized a side event in the margins of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (WHDC) on 4 October 2022. Against the background of the rapidly expanding scope of counter-terrorism laws and practices, the event discussed the growing misuse in the OSCE area of counter-terrorism measures against dissenting voices. The event comprised panel presentations by representatives from the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, and civil society. The panel presentations and the subsequent discussion highlighted growing concerns about the misuse of measures to counter terrorism and so-called “extremism” against critical voices. Specific reference was made to a number of examples from OSCE participating States.

Discussed were ways to promote stronger support for civil society and human rights defenders, political activists, journalists and bloggers who are targeted by such measures. Speakers and participants emphasized the timeliness and importance of raising this subject at the WHDC, and agreed that there is an urgent need to confront this growing trend. As a follow-up to the event, ODIHR prepared a submission to the UN Special Rapporteur for her global study on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on civil society and civic space.

Regional workshop in Central Asia on detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering VERLT in prisons (29–30 November 2022)

ODIHR held a regional workshop in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering VERLT in prisons. The aim of the workshop was to promote dialogue and co-operation between state authorities and detention monitors for enhanced oversight in this area. Participants included law enforcement and penitentiary practitioners from relevant state authorities, experts from national human rights structures and civil society from all Central Asian countries, as well representatives of international organizations, academia and OSCE field operations. The workshop took stock of international and regional efforts, as well as national policies for dealing with terrorist offenders and (suspected) violent extremist prisoners and the respective human rights implications. It also looked into international and national detention monitoring mandates and practices, as well as experiences and practical challenges faced by detention monitors in assessing human rights implications of measures to prevent and combat VERLT in prisons. Participants confirmed the importance of independent detention monitoring in this context. The majority found that using the ODIHR and Penal Reform International detention monitoring guide on this subject beneficial for their work, and emphasized that the workshop was a good opportunity to improve co-operation for enhanced oversight. Several requests were made for ODIHR to provide training for detention monitors on this subject.

Trafficking in human beings

ODIHR National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: A Practical Handbook, Second Edition launch events (24 January 2022 and 28–29 November 2022)

The two launch events of the second edition of the handbook *Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons*, one online in January 2022 and one in a hybrid for-

mat in November 2022, in Bucharest, for the Eastern and Central European region, brought together 664 participants representing survivor leaders, international and national experts, as well as members of the ODIHR National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) Advisory Group, state authorities, civil society and international organizations. Promoting a multi-disciplinary approach, the NRM handbook launch events also targeted representatives of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges. The events proved to be an excellent forum for exchanging national promising practices and lessons learned on strengthening efforts to implement the four NRM pillars, including Pillar 4: Access to Criminal Justice and Redress. The second edition of the handbook has been improved and highlights the importance of a human rights-based, gender-sensitive, trauma-informed and survivor and victim-centered approach.

Training session on child protection in the digital environment for law enforcement representatives; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (13–15 December 2022)

ODIHR organized a two-and-a-half-day training session on child protection in the digital environment for law enforcement representatives in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The event brought together 25 participants, including representatives from cybercrime and anti-trafficking police units, prosecutors, judges, the ombudsperson's office and civil society. The event aimed at enhancing criminal justice responses, in particular the identification of child victims of trafficking and online sexual abuse, responses that are child-friendly and victim-centred, human-rights based, gender sensitive and trauma informed. The training session incorporated selected child-appropriate investigation, identification and interview techniques, including forensic interviewing/hearing techniques involving a trauma-informed and children-centred approach. Practical sessions focused on open source investigative tools (OSINT) on child trafficking and child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), as well as digital evidence collection in relation to child trafficking and CSAM in cyberspace. The event covered both theoretical and practical aspects. Parallel sessions focused on the importance of improving national referral mechanisms (NRM) that are focused on assisting and protecting child victims of THB, as provided by the principles and pillars in the NRM *Handbook*. Promising practices promoting the best interests of children (BIC) were widely shared among participants, such as the Barnahus and Lundy models. At the core of the training were survivor leaders. One such trainer provided a story about her lived experiences and her expertise in preventing child sexual exploitation. Also discussed was importance of working with youth to raise awareness about the risks of the internet for trafficking in children, child abuse and exploitation.

Border security and management/ customs

Training session: Human Rights, Anti-Terrorism and Border Management; Dushanbe, Tajikistan, online at the Border Management Staff College (14 March 2022)

On invitation by the OSCE's Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to the 31th Border Management Staff Course, ODIHR delivered the remote training session "Human Rights, Anti-Terrorism and Border Management". After outlining the main challenges related to structural and definitional issues of terrorism, the session focused on human rights implications of counter-terrorism measures related to borders. These include information collection, processing and sharing of personal data, privacy and data protection, behavioural and discriminatory profiling, and the use of new technologies in the context of counter-terrorism and freedom of movement. The presentations were based on ODIHR's policy brief Border Management and Human Rights. ODIHR regularly contributes to the BMSC with its expertise on human rights and counter-terrorism.

Webinar: Border Management and Human Rights: Information Sharing and New Technologies in the Counter-Terrorism and Freedom of Movement Context (25 May 2022)

The webinar "Border Management and Human Rights: Information Sharing and New Technologies in the Counter-Terrorism and Freedom of Movement Context", co-organized by ODIHR and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), raised awareness among participants on the human rights risks related to increased data-gathering and the use of data-driven technologies in border security and international police co-operation. It explored steps for mitigating these risks in practice, and underlined the need for strong human rights safeguards. The webinar was based on the ODIHR policy brief on human rights and border management in the context of counter-terrorism and freedom of movement. Following a short presentation by an ODIHR representative of the policy brief, panel speakers highlighted human rights risks related to collecting and using biometrics in the counter-terrorism context. Recent relevant cases in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel/Palestine and Somalia were presented. Also discussed were the human rights implications of using artificial intelligence (AI) in risk assessments related migration management, as well as the proposed EU AI Act.

3.2 Police-Related Activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

Introduction

The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) provides “early warning” and, as appropriate, “early action” at the earliest possible stage with regard to tensions involving national minority issues. To fulfil this conflict prevention mandate, the HCNM addresses short-term triggers of inter-ethnic tension and conflict as well as long-term structural concerns. Drawing on over thirty years of experience, successive High Commissioners have identified certain recurrent issues which either cause or are linked to tensions involving national minorities. These issues are addressed in the HCNM’s nine thematic Recommendations and Guidelines, which aim to assist the OSCE participating States in their efforts to define a comprehensive approach towards developing policies that promote the integration of their diverse societies.

In 2022, the HCNM contributed to the second edition of *The Guidelines for OSCE Staff on Security Sector Governance and Reform*, which provides reflections on conflict cycles as they relate to security sector governance and reform (SSG/R). The *HCNM Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies* (2006) and *The Graz Recommendations on Access to Justice and National Minorities* (2017) are referenced here as valuable resources on mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) projects, as well as within the overall framework

of security governance. This is especially the case vis-à-vis groups that are in a situation of vulnerability when engaging with security sector institutions, including the police.

In 2022, the HCNM, together with the OSCE Secretariat, conducted a broad baseline study on the intersectionality of gender and national minorities. The study looked into the situation of minority women in several participating States, focusing specifically on (minority) women in relation to peace and security.

Appendices





APPENDIX 1

MC and PC Decisions, Declarations and Action Plans with a Focus on Police-Related Activities

Mandates on police-related issues are contained in OSCE Summit Decisions, as well as in the growing list of Decisions of the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Council, including a number of OSCE Action Plans.

The latest comprehensive set of OSCE mandates on police-related activities was adopted in 2012 with the Dublin MC Decision No. 4/12 on the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, which endorsed four PC decisions from 2012, including the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC.DEC/1049) and the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC.DEC/1048). With the adoption of these decisions, the participating States reaffirmed the key role that police-related activities play in the Organization's efforts to address threats to security and stability posed by criminal activity, as well as its efforts in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation in the OSCE area.

The Charter for European Security adopted by the Istanbul Summit Meeting (1999) represents the platform for the OSCE involvement in policing. It contains the commitment of the OSCE participating States to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Such activities may comprise the following: (1) police monitoring, including preventing police from discriminating based on religious or ethnic identity; (2) police training, aimed at, *inter alia*, improving the operational and tactical capabilities of local police services, reforming paramilitary forces, providing new and modern policing skills such as community policing and anti-drug, anti-corruption and anti-terrorist capacities, creating police services with a multi-ethnic and/or multi-religious composition to enable them to enjoy the confidence of the entire population; and (3) promoting general respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Ninth Ministerial Council in Bucharest (2001) declared the OSCE's decision to increase and promote co-operation among participating States in countering new security challenges, including by providing advice or arranging for the provision of expert advice on requirements for effective policing (needs assessments) and how to meet them, and encouraging where appropriate the exchange of information among and

between participating States regarding lessons learned and best policing practices in countering new security challenges.

The Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001), adopted on the same occasion as the above Decision on police-related activities, recognized the need to assist participating States, on their request, through measures to combat trafficking in human beings, drugs, and SALW, in accordance with relevant Permanent Council decisions. This assistance could also include provision of advice and assistance on restructuring and/or reconstruction of police services; monitoring and training of existing police services, including human rights training; and capacity-building, including support for integrated or multi-ethnic police services. To this end, the plan of action acknowledged the requirement for reinforcing existing police-related activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

In its Decision No. 448 (2001), the Permanent Council decided to establish the seconded post of Senior Police Adviser in the OSCE Secretariat.

In the Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted by the Tenth Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Porto 2002), its members called on participating States to enhance international co-operation in combating criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants. They emphasized the need to include in this co-operation international law enforcement bodies such as Europol and INTERPOL, as well as the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), with a view to investigating and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking in human beings in accordance with domestic law and, where applicable, international obligations. In this regard, they also asked the Senior Police Adviser to devote increased attention to the fight against trafficking in human beings.

This tasking was further detailed in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which requested TNTD/SPMU to further promote the concept of community policing and facilitate the exchange of information between participating States on best practices to be used by relevant investigating units to check the possibly criminal and trafficking-related origin of suspicious assets. TNTD/SPMU was also tasked to continue developing training materials for

law enforcement on the investigation of trafficking and sex crimes, to identify law enforcement trainers to conduct training, and to facilitate the funding of training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States.

One aspect of policing of ethnic minorities was addressed by the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (2003). TNTD/SPMU was tasked to assist participating States in developing programmes and confidence-building measures, such as community policing, to improve the relations between the police and Roma and Sinti people, particularly at the local level, and to produce a compilation of police best practices in the OSCE region with respect to policing and Roma and Sinti communities. Another established task was to assist the participating States in developing codes of conduct to prevent racial profiling and improve inter-ethnic relations.

The OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted by the 11th Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003, states that TNTD/SPMU was set up to improve the capacity of participating States to address threats posed by criminal activity and to assist them in upholding the rule of law. The aim was to enhance key policing skills, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted by the 12th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Sofia 2004), urged the OSCE's participating States, Secretariat, institutions and field operations to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into OSCE activities, programmes and projects. The aim shall be to promote the practice of gender equality in the OSCE area, which is essential for comprehensive security. In this context, TNTD/SPMU was specifically tasked to enhance its project development to assist participating States to react to offences of sexual violence. This involves including elements in police training curriculum such as special investigation techniques, interview skills designed for use with victims of sexual assault, including children, and information on referral mechanisms for victim assistance.

The fight against organized crime came to the forefront of OSCE priorities during 2005 and was recognized in the Decision on Combating Transnational Organized Crime adopted by the 13th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Ljubljana 2005). It tasked the OSCE Secretary General with providing requesting participating States support to mobilize technical assistance, including the necessary expertise and resources from relevant competent international organizations, for implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. The Decision also tasked the OSCE Permanent Council to work on designing, with the support of the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE institutions, possible measures and forms of

assistance that could be made available to requesting participating States with a view to improving and promoting the functioning of criminal justice systems.

The Ljubljana Ministerial Decision No. 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women urged participating States, with the support and assistance of the OSCE, to take all necessary legislative, policy and programmatic monitoring and evaluation measures to promote and protect women's full enjoyment of human rights, and to prevent and combat all forms of GBV against them. The decision also tasked the Permanent Council to encourage relevant OSCE institutions and structures to develop programmes, projects and policies to assist participating States, at their request, in combating violence against women and girls, and in providing assistance to victims.

The Ljubljana Ministerial Council also adopted the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept. Above all, this provides participating States with a political framework for co-operation on border-related issues. It provides objectives and principles for this co-operation, and defines modalities for OSCE activities in this area. The OSCE "acts upon the request of participating States" to ensure dialogue on border-related issues through, *inter alia*, "exchange of information, experience and best practices", the establishment of National Focal Points Networks, and the holding of workshops and conferences.

Permanent Council Decision No. 758 Enhancing International Anti-Drug Co-operation (2006) tasked the Secretary General and relevant OSCE institutions with providing participating States, upon their request and in close consultation and co-ordination with UNODC, with assistance/advice on antidrug issues through, *inter alia*, awareness-raising activities, organization of regional workshops, and facilitation of training.

The Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children adopted by the 14th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Brussels 2006) encouraged relevant OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to devote attention to the area of sexual exploitation of children, including its links to trafficking in persons. It emphasized the need for the OSCE structures and participating States to co-operate with other international organizations, NGOs, and civil society in combating the sexual exploitation of children.

The 14th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Brussels 2006) adopted the follow-up Decision on Organized Crime, reaffirming the importance that the OSCE was giving to this subject. The Decision tasks the OSCE Secretary General and the relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates, with giving enhanced attention to the key role of criminal justice systems in institution-building and in the promotion of the rule of law, as well as co-operating and

co-ordinating more closely in order to take the interaction between the components of those systems better into account. A further major task was to build on and consolidate knowledge and experience on criminal justice and organized crime, and to continue co-operating with UNODC in various matters, including combating organized crime and illicit drugs.

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 3/05 (Ljubljana) on combating transnational organized crime, and 5/06 (Brussels) on organized crime, Permanent Council Decision No. 810 (2007) on Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime tasked the Secretary General to support the implementation of the UNTOC convention in co-operation with UNODC, and to organize workshops in co-operation and co-ordination with the Secretariat of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC.

Permanent Council Decision No. 813 (2007) on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and Precursors emphasized the continuing spread of illicit trafficking of opiates from Afghanistan and chemical precursors throughout the OSCE area. The Permanent Council called on the Secretary General to further develop co-operation in the field of anti-drug matters with UNODC, the Paris Pact and other relevant international structures and organizations by, *inter alia*, organizing joint regional and sub-regional workshops and other activities. Furthermore, the Secretary General was tasked with continuing training activities on drug-related matters.

The need for continuing training of Afghan police officers in addition to providing assistance to Afghanistan in the fields of border security and combating drug trafficking was also a core topic of the Ministerial Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan (Madrid). Participating States tasked the Secretary General to provide support for intensifying the involvement of Afghan counterparts in OSCE activities related to the fields of border security and management, policing, and the fight against drug trafficking. For this, training facilities in Central Asia as well as in the rest of the OSCE area were to be used. While tasked to avoid unnecessary duplication of existing efforts of other international actors, the Secretary General was also mandated to explore all possible co-operation options, in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant regional and international organizations and other actors.

At the Helsinki Ministerial Council in December 2008, the participating States turned their attention once again to the issue of trafficking in human beings. Decision No. 5/08 on Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings Through a Comprehensive Approach emphasized the need for training on combating trafficking in human beings for law enforcement personnel and urged the participating States, *inter alia*, to ensure co-operation between law enforcement agencies and other relevant actors at the national and international

level, and “to intensify measures to disrupt trafficking networks, including by means of financial investigations, investigations of money laundering connected to human trafficking and the freezing and confiscation of the assets of human traffickers”.

Reaffirming the participating States’ commitment to proactively implement the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and recalling Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decisions on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, and on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, the 17th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Athens 2009), in its Decision on Women’s Participation in Political and Public Life, called on the participating States to consider providing for specific measure to achieve the goal of gender balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, including police services.

Acknowledging the “[...] diverse and multifaceted OSCE work, experience and lessons learned in the policing field, in particular the work of TNTD/SPMU and the field operations within their respective mandates”, the Permanent Council, in its Decision 914/09 adopted in Athens, expressed its conviction that the time had come to take stock of what had been done so far in policing and to “[...] initiate a thorough dialogue on how to further enhance police-related activities within the OSCE.” The Permanent Council tasked the Secretary General, “[...] within existing resources and in consultation with relevant OSCE executive structures, to prepare a report on police-related activities of the OSCE executive structures up to the end of 2009”. The report was to be based partly on the annual reports on police-related activities, reflecting existing mandates and OSCE commitments, and was “[...] to include an assessment of those activities and a forward-looking perspective, offering long-term strategic recommendations”. Moreover, the Permanent Council decided that this report would be further discussed during the next Annual Police Experts Meeting in May 2010, as well as at the 2010 Annual Security Review Conference.

The Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on Further OSCE Efforts to Address Transnational Threats and Challenges to Security and Stability took note of, *inter alia*, the OSCE’s contribution to international efforts to fight organized crime through the provision of relevant law enforcement expertise and assistance to participating States, and called for exploring further ways to strengthen synergies in OSCE activities against transnational threats, for addressing them in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, and for focusing on areas where the OSCE has a comparative advantage and can complement the work of other international organizations.

“Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the UN and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, is

a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and postconflict rehabilitation”, the participating States, in the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE’s Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, reiterated “[...] that the OSCE’s ability to deploy civilian, police or unarmed military expertise rapidly is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation”. It also expressed the expectation for “[...] the OSCE Chairmanship and the executive structures to take full advantage of their respective mandates to address all phases of the conflict cycle”, and urged “the Chairmanship and participating States to use, swiftly and to the greatest extent possible, all available tools and procedures as applicable to a particular crisis or conflict situation [...].”

“Reiterating the determination expressed by Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings”, the Vilnius Ministerial Council, in Decision No. 9/11 on Strengthening co-ordination and Coherence in the OSCE’s Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, welcomed “the proposals by the Secretary General included in the 2012 Unified Budget Proposal for the creation of a department to address transnational threats, consistent with the OSCE’s mandates and within available resources, with a view to ensuring better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE’s resources in addressing transnational threats [...].”

To further strengthen the OSCE’s efforts to address transnational threats, the Dublin Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 4/12 in December 2012. This so-called “chapeau” decision endorses four decisions that had been adopted in 2012 by the Permanent Council on the development of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (PC Decision No. 1039), the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC Decision No. 1048), the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC Decision No. 1049) and finally, the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (PC Decision No. 1063).

In the PC Decision No. 1039 on the Development of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies, the Permanent Council decided “to step up individual and collective efforts to address security in the use of

information and communication technologies (ICTs) in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner in accordance with OSCE commitments and in co-operation with relevant international organizations. The PC further tasks the OSCE Chairmanship to establish an open-ended, informal OSCE working group under the auspices of the Security Committee to elaborate a set of draft CBMs to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability, and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation, and conflict that may stem from the use of ICT; and to help build consensus for the adoption of such a set of CBMs in 2012.”

The OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC Decision No. 1048) identifies areas and activities requiring sustained efforts for short-, medium- and long-term engagement in combating the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors. It establishes a political framework for comprehensive action by the OSCE participating States and the OSCE executive structures to combat this threat. The Concept stresses the participating States’ commitments to support the implementation of the respective international obligations in this area, with a particular focus on the related UN Conventions and decisions. It also sets principles and major objectives of co-operation, and provides a platform for OSCE’s co-operation with international organizations and partners in recognition of the important role played by civil society, including the media and NGOs, in addressing drug-related crimes, as well as preventive measures aimed at reducing drug abuse and dependence, and drug-related harm to health and society, especially to children and young people. According to the Concept, the participating States’ co-operation will include, *inter alia*, the exchange of best practices and scientific evidence-based information on combating the threat of illicit drugs. It will also include the facilitation and promotion of cross-border interaction between relevant criminal justice agencies and other competent national structures of the participating States in the prevention, identification, suppression, detection and investigation of drug-related crimes, and the apprehension and extradition of criminals in accordance with existing legal frameworks.

The OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities defines the Organization’s priorities in this area, within a wider OSCE approach to security, such as police development and reform, and the fight against organized transnational crime, including trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors, trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation of children on the internet, and cybercrime. Through needs assessment, capacity-building, institution building, training and evaluation, the OSCE will assist the law enforcement agencies of participating States to address the threats posed by criminal activity. All of these activities will be done in line with the promotion of the principles of democratic policing, such as the importance of the rule of law; due respect for human rights and fundamental

freedoms, including gender and minority issues; police–public partnerships; effective and accountable criminal justice systems; and enhanced criminal justice co-operation among participating States and international and regional organizations. The decision highlights the importance of co-operation with governmental authorities as well as civil society in a long-term approach that fosters local commitment to and ownership and sustainability of police-related programme achievements.

The OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (PC Decision No. 1063) further strengthens the profile of the Organization in the struggle against terrorism. The Decision builds on relevant decisions of the Ministerial Council and highlights the OSCE’s anti-terrorism profile, listing the comparative advantages of the Organization. The Decision provides guidance for the Organization, outlining strategic focus areas for counter-terrorism activities. There-with the Decision is a roadmap for any further OSCE action to be taken in the area of countering terrorism.

In the 2012 Dublin Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the participating States encourage the OCEEA and TNTD “within their respective mandates to assist the participating States, at their request, in their efforts to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism, including through the development, adoption and implementation of legislation and practices to improve interagency and external co-ordination mechanisms in this area.”

In 2013, the participating States, with PC Dec. No. 1106 adopted the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later. This Decision amends the 2003 Action Plan. It provides participating States with an updated toolkit to combat all forms of THB, and helps to address current and emerging THB trends and patterns, as well as the most pressing challenges related to the prosecution of the crime, its prevention and protection of trafficked persons.

In 2013, the participating States adopted the Initial Set of OSCE Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (PC Decision No. 1106) in order to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation and conflict that may stem from the use of information and communication technologies. According to the decision, the participating States will voluntarily facilitate co-operation among competent national bodies; share information on measures that they have taken to ensure an open, interoperable, secure and reliable internet; and use the OSCE as a platform for dialogue, exchange of best practices, awareness-raising and information on capacity-building regarding

security of and in the use of ICTs, including effective responses to related threats.

The 2014 Basel Ministerial Council adopted several decisions and declarations related to policing activities.

The Basel Ministerial Decision No. 5/14 on the Prevention of Corruption underlines, *inter alia*, “the central role played by law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions in preventing and combating corruption” and encourages the relevant OSCE executive structures to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the prevention of corruption among participating States upon their request.

The Basel Ministerial Decision No. 7/14 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women reaffirms earlier commitments to prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence. It calls on participating States to improve their legal frameworks for preventing and combating such violence, and to collect and make public data and statistics regarding all forms of violence against women. It encourages participating States to enhance awareness-raising and other prevention programmes, to ensure the protection of victims of all forms of violence against women, and to “strengthen the efforts to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and provide victims with protection and appropriate remedies.” The decision tasks the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States, at their request, to facilitate the exchange of information, improve co-ordination and provide technical assistance and training to help participating States fulfil these goals.

The Basel Ministerial Council Declaration No. 5/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) calls upon the OSCE executive structures, *inter alia*, “to offer assistance in capacity-building activities to the requesting participating States, in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 1063, and to organize, where appropriate, regional and sub-regional events to identify potential weaknesses in international legal and operational co-operation mechanisms in order to foster better co-operation and co-ordination nationally and internationally”; “to continue to promote OSCE efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including through community policing approaches to preventing terrorism, in particular at the local level”; and “to support requesting participating States in the implementation of their commitments regarding travel document security and border management and to facilitate technical assistance in this field by INTERPOL and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States.”

The Basel Ministerial Council Declaration No. 6/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering Kidnapping and Hostage-Taking Committed by Terrorist Groups in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2133 (2014) calls upon the OSCE executive structures to continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, to explore ways to exchange information between intelligence agencies and the criminal justice systems, and to promote capacity-building for managing, investigating and prosecuting cases of terrorist kidnapping and hostage-taking.

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/15 on the OSCE Activities in Support of the Global Efforts Tackling the World Drug Problem states the need for a balanced and integrated approach to tackling the world drug problem, for further co-operation between the OSCE with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, and other relevant multilateral organizations, especially with the emergence and spread of dangerous new psychoactive substances and the diversion of chemical precursors, and for further co-operation in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016).

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 3/15 on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of the Recent Terrorist Attacks condemns all terrorist attacks and reaffirms the OSCE's commitments to remain united in combating terrorism, while underscoring respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law as complementary to effective counter-terrorism measures.

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 4/15 on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism calls upon participating States to strengthen and adapt their efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and to support a multi-dimensional approach, including community policing, to counter VERLT within the OSCE region.

The Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/16 on Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism underscores the central role of the UN in preventing and countering terrorism, including the importance of OSCE commitments to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It states that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, while stressing the need for participating States to take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism. The decision also positively appreciates the implementation of the #UnitedCVE campaign, and welcomed the activities by OSCE executive structures in the area of preventing and countering terrorism.

The Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/16 on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Mi-

grants and Refugees encourages participating States to use the OSCE platform for improving dialogue on migration-related matters by developing effective measures and common approaches to address such matters. It also encourages OSCE executive structures to reinforce the exchange of best practices and to enhance dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for co-operation.

With MC Decision No. 6/16 on Enhancing the Use of Advanced Passenger Information, the OSCE participating States commit to: 1. Establish national advance passenger information (API) systems in accordance with the provisions contained in ICAO's Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention) and aligned with the WCO/IATA/ICAO Guidelines on Advance Passenger Information (API), including those on privacy and data protection, in order to effectively collect passenger and/or crew data from airlines operating in their territories; 2. Consider establishing at the national level an interactive system to exchange API data (iAPI) in order to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters in line with UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2309 (2016); 3. Adhere to ICAO Document 9082 "ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services" in the context of establishing an API system, recognizing that States are responsible for ensuring the implementation of adequate security measures at airports; 4. Collaborate with all relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of national level API systems, and consider establishing one authority to receive, on behalf of all other authorities, all forms of passenger data through a single window data entry point; 5. Increase the added value of API data by seeking to establish automated cross-checking of this data against relevant national, regional and international watch lists, in particular INTERPOL databases and UN Sanctions Lists; 6. Provide assistance to support other requesting participating States in establishing API systems.

The Tirana Ministerial Council Declaration No. 1/20 on Strengthening Co-operation in Countering Transnational Organized Crime underlined the importance of strengthening national co-ordination and international co-operation in countering transnational organized crime through direct contact and engagement between relevant authorities, and by exchange of information and best practices, as well as by using the tools provided by the OSCE, UNODC and other relevant international organizations. It recommitted to maintaining the countering of transnational organized crime among the priorities of the OSCE by enhancing implementation of the respective international obligations and the OSCE's existing commitments. It also reaffirmed the tasking of the relevant OSCE executive structures to regularly brief the participating States on OSCE activities related to the implementation of existing OSCE commitments to address transnational organized crime, and encouraged continued discussions on this topic among the participating States.

APPENDIX 2

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AI	artificial intelligence
AIRE	Advice on Individual Rights in Europe Centre
AMSCA	(Kosovo) Agency for the Management of Sequestered or Confiscated Assets
AML/CFT	anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism
API	advance passenger information
AWKP	Association of Women in Kosovo Police
BAMIN	Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network
BIC	best interests of children
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BMSC	OSCE Border Management Staff College
BSM	border security and management
BSM NFP	(OSCE) Border Security and Management National Focal Points
CABMI	Central Asian Border Management Initiative
CAMS	Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CFE	certified fraud examiner
CFT	combating the financing of terrorism
CISS	Center for Intelligence and Security Studies (Universität der Bundeswehr, Munich, Germany)
CoE	Council of Europe
CoM	Council of Ministers
CPC	(OSCE) Conflict Prevention Centre
CPCD	(Sarajevo) Center for Civil Society Promotion
CSAM	child sexual abuse materials
CSO	civil society organization
CTHB	combating trafficking in human beings
CVE	countering violent extremism
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
EE IWG	Eastern European informal working group

EU	European Union
Europol	European Union Law Enforcement Agency
ExB	(OSCE) extra-budgetary (project)
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSC	(OSCE) Forum for Security Co-operation
FTFs	foreign terrorist fighters
GBV	gender-based violence
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
GE	gender equality
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPML	UNODC's Global Programme against Money Laundering
HCNM	(OSCE) High Commissioner for National Minorities
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBM	integrated border management
ICITAP	(United States) International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program
ICT	information and communications technology
ILP	intelligence-led policing
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPA	implementing partner agreement
IT	information technology
KAWSS	Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector
KCS	Kosovo Correctional Service
KP	Kosovo Police
KP DITN	Kosovo Police Department for Investigating Trafficking in Narcotics
KRIPOS	Norwegian National Criminal Investigation Service
LPSC	local public safety committees
MC	(OSCE) Ministerial Council
MCSC	municipal community safety council
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoU	memorandum of understanding
MPR	mobile police reception
MPSOTC	Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center
MTT	mobile training team
NGO	non-governmental organization
NRM	national referral mechanism
OCEEA	(OSCE) Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities
ODIHR	(OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OFA	Ohrid Framework Agreement
OSINT	open source investigative tools
OSR/CTHB	(OSCE) Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
PAN	(OSCE) Police Academies Network
P/C VERLT	preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
PC	Permanent Council
PCOCP	Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors
PCU	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
PCUz	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
PDE	passenger data exchange
PDU	Police Development Unit
PIK	Police Inspectorate of Kosovo
PoC	Points of Contact (Network)
POiA	OSCE Programme Office in Astana
POiB	OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek
PR	public relations
RACVIAC	Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre
RAI	Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative
RFoM	(OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media
RS	Republika Srpska
SALW	small arms and light weapons
SAR	suspicious activity report

SCIDT	(Kyrgyz MoI) Service on Combatting Illicit Drug Trafficking
SOCTA	Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment
SOP	standard operating procedure
SR/CTHB	(OSCE) Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
SSG/R	security sector governance and reform
STR	suspicious transaction report
TAHCLE	Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement
TCP	trafficking in cultural property
THB	trafficking in human beings
TNTD	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department
TNTD/ATU	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit
TNTD/BSMU	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit
TNTD/CC	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Co-ordination Cell
TNTD/SPMU	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit
UAS	unmanned aerial system
UB	(OSCE) unified budget
UN	United Nations
UN CND	UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCTED	UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VAT	value-added tax
VAWG	violence against women and girls
VERLT	violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHDC	Warsaw Human Dimension Conference
YCP	youth crime prevention

APPENDIX 3

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