

Lessons from Northern Ireland

Recovering stolen assets

Training Afghan businesswomen

A strategic framework for policing



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On the cover: Members of the OSCE Community Security Initiative team and a local police officer speak with women at a market in Isfana, Kyrgyzstan, March 2012. (OSCE/Eric Gourlan)



"Hands Across the Divide", situated at the west end of Craigavon Bridge in Derry, Northern Ireland, UK (copyright Martin Melaugh/CAIN)

An encouragement, not a blueprint: Passing on the experience of the Northern Ireland peace process

by Ambassador Eoin O'Leary

Building trust is not easy. Where conflict has endured for a long period of time, and parties to that conflict may not wish even to be in the same room as their perceived enemy, never mind talk to them, solutions can seem like impossibilities. The absence of trust between political leaderships, communities and individuals leads to situations in which hope is in short supply. The social, economic and humanitarian effects of this can be devastating.

As Chair-in-Office of the OSCE since January of this year, Ireland has been working to draw on our own national experience to assist and encourage those engaged in seeking lasting settlements to conflicts in the OSCE region.

We in Ireland have our own unique story of the impossible made possible. The Good Friday Agreement, agreed in 1998, transformed relations within and between Ireland and Britain. The Agreement was reached at the conclusion of multi-party negotiations between Northern Ireland's political parties and the British and Irish governments. It envisages a future based on the acceptance of diversity and on the principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect, clearly committing the participants to "the achievement

of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust, and to the protection and vindication of the human rights of all".

As the 15th anniversary of the Agreement approaches next year, we can reflect on the work that has gone into its implementation and the benefits that it has brought to the people of this island. Thanks to the continued efforts of those who continue to work for peace, progress has been made in the intervening years in a number of important areas, such as human rights, equality, community relations and policing and justice.

Ours is by no means a blueprint for success. Nor is it a complete example of conflict resolution. Peace can only be secured by continuously taking small steps forward and there will always be some, as we tragically continue to see on occasions in Northern Ireland, who strive to undermine the peace process and seek a return to the dark days of violence. However, having benefited from the support of others in our own troubled years, Ireland has a responsibility to draw upon its experience in offering encouragement to those working for peace in other parts of the world.

Nelson Mandela famously stated that 'If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.' President

Mandela and others were very active in sharing this important message, inviting politicians from both sides of the political divide in Northern Ireland to come to South Africa to hear of their experiences in the early 1990s. In turn, Ireland has been active in sharing its own experience.

As OSCE Chair, Ireland formally heads the talks on the settlement of the conflict over Transdniestria and, along with the United Nations and the European Union, co-chairs the Geneva Discussions on the aftermath of the 2008 war in Georgia. In relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Chairmanship supports the negotiation efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, with whom it keeps in close contact via the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus. The Chairperson-in-Office, Ireland's Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) Eamon Gilmore, visited Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan in June to meet with key stakeholders.

In order to complement these formal Chairmanship roles, we have organized a number of events this year to present Ireland's experience of conflict resolution as a case study. The Tánaiste hosted an international conference in Dublin on 27 April, entitled "Shared Future: Building and Sustaining Peace, the Northern Ireland case study".

The conference brought together senior political figures with first-hand experience of the peace process in Northern Ireland and representatives of the participating States, Partners for Co-operation, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Institutions.

This was a landmark event: the first time the Irish Government has ever hosted an international conference of this kind on the subject of the Northern Ireland peace process. The speakers included Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness, whose working relationship as First and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland is a powerful symbol of what can be achieved through peace, as well as former Finnish President and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Martti Ahtisaari, United States Senator George Mitchell, and the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Owen Paterson.

The conference did not draw formal conclusions, present a template of lessons learned or prescribe blueprints for action. Instead, it brought to the fore a number of universal experiences that provided food for thought.

Speakers focused on the need for leadership in peace processes, for leaders to take risks in searching for compromise and forging the political will for settlement. It was highlighted that, when this political will is brought to bear on discussions, new partnerships can be formed and the seemingly impossible can be achieved.

Speakers at the conference also drew attention to the important contribution of civil society. For any peace agreement to be sustainable, it must be able to draw on the broad support of the community as a whole. Civil society groups can play a vital role in this regard, building trust and preparing the ground for compromise from the bottom up. A number of speakers also

highlighted that peace cannot be imposed from outside: while the support of external actors can play an important supportive role, ultimately the impetus for peaceful settlement must come from within communities.

In the same regard, speakers underlined that implementation of agreements is every bit as important as reaching them. Unless the work of putting political settlements into practice is carried out, both their popular endorsement and practical worth are severely limited. It was stressed that peace is a process which only begins with the signing of an agreement. This ongoing process requires patience and perseverance.

The economic benefits of peace were also highlighted. Just as lack of opportunity can be a driver of conflict, peaceful settlements can be the drivers of economic growth, prosperity and better life for people on both sides of political divides. Economic opportunity creates the conditions in which conflict resolution efforts and long-term political stability can flourish.

To follow up on this conference, we organized two study visits to Dublin and Belfast in the context of the Transdniestrian settlement process. The first, in May, brought together the chief negotiators from the two sides for informal roundtable discussions with elected representatives, government officials and civil society figures with direct experience of the peace process in Northern Ireland.

In early October, a similar visit for a group of Moldovan and Transdniestrian civil society and media representatives elicited lively and thought-provoking discussions. Not every aspect of Ireland's experience was directly relevant or applicable to participants. They did not return to their communities with recipes for success or guidelines to follow. The point was rather to listen, to share, and to gain fresh perspectives on seemingly insurmountable problems.

We who have experienced conflict, and benefited from the support of others during these troubled years, have a responsibility to draw upon our experiences in offering encouragement to those working for peace elsewhere. Where requested, Ireland will continue to do whatever it can to advance this work during the remainder of our Chairmanship. We will also continue to support those working for peace in other parts of the world when this year is over.

The phrase "you don't make peace with your friends" was used frequently during the Northern Ireland peace process. By sharing what we have experienced, the Irish Chairmanship has hopefully been able to offer some encouragement to those searching for peaceful solutions in thinking of their enemy as their future partner.

Ambassador Eoin O'Leary is Ireland's Permanent Representative to the OSCE.

Read more at: www.osce.org/buildingpeace2012



Radicalization towards democracy

by Catherine Morgan

In Northern Ireland there seems to be a notion that segregation is equal to peace. It is the idea that if we live our lives separately, Protestants (Unionists) on one side and Catholics (Nationalists) on the other, we can maintain a peaceful environment. Unfortunately, this nurtures a sense of protectiveness and defensiveness in our communities. It creates a habitual fear of the other that spills over to any unknown or unfamiliar groups, fuelling racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination.

Young people in Northern Ireland have an acute awareness that certain areas are safe and others unsafe. Physical markers of territory, such as flags and murals, are a constant reminder of this. Barriers between communities are evident in our so-called “peace walls”, which separate Catholic from Protestant neighbourhoods, generally in urban areas. Why are they called peace walls, I wonder? Their stated purpose is to minimize inter-communal violence. Originally, they were meant to be temporary structures, but, ironically, since the peace agreement in 1998, many more barriers have been built. At that time there were 24 peace walls; now we have 82.

Is it enough to just separate people to obtain a quieter environment? The idea unsettles me. It means that thoughts and attitudes don't need to be questioned. If something were to disrupt the stability in these communities, would they revert back to past violent behaviour, without question or thought?

I work for YouthAction Northern Ireland, focusing specifically on peace building among young women. Young women's experiences are often different from those of young men, and therefore the approaches to working with them need to be different.

Young women tend to have a strong sense of loyalty or compliance with family and tribe. The segregation in communities, the lack of exposure to the other, means that attitudes and stories passed on within families and peer groups go unquestioned.

Their movement is restricted. They are considered vulnerable and almost become bubble wrapped. They learn to perceive crossing over into unfamiliar territory as a threat. This impacts other areas of their lives as well, and can quash their aspirations.

In the wish to avoid conflict and confrontation, young women become passive. They keep their heads down, choose not to get

“Fitted and Tailored”, an exhibition created by young women of Northern Ireland, organized by YouthAction Northern Ireland in Belfast (Bethany Stevenson)



Peace wall in Belfast seen from an upper-story window in Clonard Monastery, site of clandestine peace talks between Catholic and Protestant militia leaders during the Troubles, the darkest time of the conflict in Northern Ireland (Alison Leigh Lilly)

involved, don't question and stay silent. "What is the point in getting involved?" is a statement I often hear. "It won't make any difference. That's just the way it is. Nothing will ever change. Who would listen to me?"

In my role as a development worker, I try to build young women's political consciousness and open their minds to the future. I hope to create a fire in their bellies!

I challenge them to question long held opinion, and they start to rethink their own preconceptions and hear the opinions of others. Once you become aware of a discrepancy it is harder to just ignore it or let it go. Young women become more open and hungry for positive change. They begin to see alternative futures and start to think how their decisions can influence their futures.

Currently, I am exploring the concept of radicalization towards democracy: young women realizing the need to break politeness and silence; young women willing to show leadership; young women taking up opportunities to engage with political representatives and key decision makers in the discussions that affect them and their communities!

YouthAction Northern Ireland recently organized an exhibition called "Fitted and Tailored" in a small art gallery in Belfast. One hundred young women from across Northern Ireland created miniature torsos, each representing a need, attitude or experience that they felt was relevant to their lives and communities. The

collective exhibition of torsos sent a powerful message to those who attended about the range of challenges and achievements young women feel are important. Without the Fitted and Tailored project, they would hardly have been asked about their experiences, never mind having the chance to express them with such a strong display.

"The exhibition has given me comfort, it has shown me that my worries and anxieties are shared by others," said one young artist, aged 17 years. "But it also shows the hope that young women in Northern Ireland have for their future."

Catherine Morgan is a youth development worker with YouthAction Northern Ireland, a project supported by the PEACE III Programme managed for the Special EU Programme Consortium. She was a keynote speaker at the recent OSCE expert roundtable meeting organized by the Transnational Threats Department and the ODIHR entitled "Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism and Prevent Radicalization that Leads to Terrorism", held in Vienna on 23 and 24 October 2012.

Read more at: www.osce.org/vert

Voices

Ambassador Zoran Dabik
A yurt for all



OSCE/COURTIS SUDDEN

Upon assuming the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in September, I received from my predecessor three interesting and, at first sight, unusual items: a beautiful Icelandic life ring, a leather horse-riding whip from Kyrgyzstan and a small replica of a Kazakh yurt. The life ring is meant to rescue the Chairperson from troubled waters if needed, the whip to speed up and increase the productivity of the Forum and the yurt is the end state we all strive for.

Having been a competitive swimmer in my youth, the first thing that came to my mind was that I would need no personal flotation device. Moreover, no matter how troubled the waters might seem and how strong the wind might appear, I believe that the OSCE's boat will keep its direction towards the desired destination.

Accepting the steering oar of the FSC's boat from our esteemed Latvian predecessors, we knew that the Macedonian Chairmanship would need to take over co-ordinating the rowing and navigating the sails.

As the OSCE is entering a challenging era, the yurt needs to be further expanded to encompass the need for new relationships and adequate mechanisms, a consequence of the new security paradigm in Europe. The Astana Commemorative Declaration calls for the indivisibility of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. Under these circumstances, the Forum should manifest the dynamism and constructive approach that is much needed to enhance our confidence- and security-building measures. Although the modalities of the transformation of the Organization's security portfolio

are subject to an open-ended debate, modernizing and updating some of the existing security mechanisms may be perceived as a possible answer to these questions.

Thus, we see the recently adopted Vienna Document Plus Decision on Prior Notification of Major Military Activities* under the Macedonian Chairmanship as a tangible contribution to the process of constant improvement of our Organization. For us, this Decision represents a confidence-building mechanism in itself and we remain hopeful that its adoption will represent a stepping stone for the ongoing discussions on the updating of the Vienna Document, as one of the most significant pillars of our common security. Strengthening our confidence through more transparent and predictable arms control regimes is of vast importance for the future security community. Greater confidence leads to improved relations and a collaborative approach in tackling challenges of joint concern, and the latter is a necessity in this era of globalization and intertwined relations.

Despite the existing challenges and different perspectives, I am convinced that neither the Macedonian nor future FSC Chairmanships will need the whip, let alone the life ring, in order to preserve the envisaged course towards the desired destination – security community, a yurt for all.

Ambassador Zoran Dabik has been the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE since October 2009. He currently serves as the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Read more at: www.osce.org/fsc-chair

*The adoption of Vienna Document Plus Decision No. 9/12 on Prior Notification of Major Military Activities is part of the process currently underway to update the Vienna Document, the OSCE's main document of military security- and confidence-building measures. The Decision requests participating States, in the absence of any notifiable military exercise or military activity in a calendar year, to provide notification of one major military exercise or military activity, which is below the thresholds provided for in the Vienna Document, held on their national territory in the zone of application for CSBMs. Participating States will be guided, at their own discretion, by the criterion of military significance in determining the specific military exercise or military activity for which notification will be provided.

For an account of first steps to update the Vienna Document see: Pierre von Arx, "Vienna Document 2011: Achievements and prospects for further updates", OSCE Magazine Issue 1/2012.

Stolen asset recovery: making crime pay back

by Ursula Froese



The trend started when ousted President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and his associates made off with US\$5 to 10 billion in stolen assets in 1986. The Swiss government set a precedent by taking spontaneous action to freeze their Swiss bank accounts and subsequently assist the Philippine authorities in tracing and recuperating the funds. They were able to do that because they had passed a new law permitting mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to countries even if they did not have a bilateral agreement with Switzerland.

Ever since then, more and more states that have been pilfered by corrupt leaders or high officials are taking the step of knocking at each other's doors to recover their lost wealth. In the OSCE context, the subject has recently become particularly pertinent in light of the Arab Spring, with several Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation seeking to repatriate assets stolen by overthrown former regimes.

Since 2005, an international provision has been in force that deals specifically with the recovery of stolen assets as a fundamental principle of the fight against corruption. Chapter 5 of the United National Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) lays down mechanisms for co-operation on the identification, recovery and return of stolen assets to their country of origin. (All OSCE participating States have ratified the Convention, with the exception of Andorra, the Czech Republic, Germany, Holy See and San Marino.)

Unfortunately, clear as the UNCAC provisions may be, the percentage of stolen assets that are actually returned to the states that are their rightful owners remains small. The Stolen

Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), a partnership between the World Bank and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime that was established in 2007 to advise and assist governments with effectively recovering stolen assets, calculated that over the past 15 years, only \$US5 billion in illegally held assets were returned. By contrast, \$US20 to 40 billion in state revenues are lost by developing countries through corruption annually, StAR estimates. An OSCE Seminar entitled "Identifying, Restraining and Recovering Stolen Assets in the OSCE Region" was held from 3 to 5 September 2012 in Vienna to explore ways of narrowing this gap.

"Corruption and theft of public assets are now recognized to be among the world's greatest challenges that impair economies, weaken democracy, fuel public distrust and undermine rule of law," declared Goran Svilanović, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, whose office organized the seminar.

"We have realized that, while procedures of due process are very important and need to be respected, the current process by which asset recovery is being pursued does not really seem to deliver that much of an outcome in terms of returned assets," said Oliver Stolpe, Senior Advisor in the StAR Initiative, a key contributor to the seminar.

"The big challenge has become how to translate the objectives of the UNCAC into practice, and of course the first step is its ratification and legal implementation, putting into place the laws, followed by putting into place a proper institutional framework and co-ordination mechanisms. One thing that makes asset recovery very complicated both at the national and international levels is that you have a multiplicity of actors and therefore communications and co-ordination challenges. You have police and specialized law enforcement institutions such as anti-corruption agencies, as well as financial intelligence units, which have an important role to play. You also have prosecutors, judges and central authorities designated by the country to issue and receive mutual legal assistance requests for the purpose of tracing, seizing, confiscating and returning assets, and all of

these need to work together,” Stolpe explained.

One of the difficulties discussed in the seminar was the need for speed in going after stolen money and how to overcome obstacles that delay the handling of mutual legal assistance requests. Another question discussed was how to identify and treat politically exposed persons, prominent figures that by virtue of their position and influence present a higher risk for potential involvement in bribery and corruption and thus require special attention. Many countries have recognized the problem and introduced asset declaration and conflict of interest systems.

Heather Lowe, Legal Counsel and Director of Government Affairs at Global Financial Integrity, a US-based NGO, remarked that both civil society and the media have an important role to play in raising awareness of the challenges involved in recovering stolen assets: “Often in countries where corrupt leaders have been moving money abroad, you do not have a strong civil society, so something we do is to try to amplify those voices, push forward some of their ideas and what they are trying to accomplish.” She stressed the usefulness of international organizations like the OSCE for tackling issues of international corruption. “With globalization, money can move freely and easily around the world, but laws stop at borders, and the integration of legal systems that deal with this is so far behind as to be essentially ineffective. So you really need these international forums, the OSCE, UNODC, the World Bank, to promote the type of collaboration that is necessary to tackle the issues that stem from the ease with which money is moved around the world today,” she said.

Oleksiy Feshchenko, First Deputy Head of the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine remarked on the usefulness of meeting foreign counterparts at such meetings: “Our agency is an analytical centre for anti-money laundering; we do a lot in the area of tracing criminal assets, both domestically and also in co-operation with agencies in other countries. This event is quite interesting for me because it is an opportunity to establish direct contacts, which is important in the area of asset recovery

where time is pressing. If you just send a request for documentation by mail, it will land in some mailbox and maybe in a couple of weeks you will get a formal answer — or maybe not. But if the counterpart on the other side of the phone line knows who is speaking, you can solve the problem in a day. We have seen this happening in our office. So I think building trust is really important, and that is what the OSCE has been designed for,” he said.

The OSCE meeting, many participants concurred, was particularly useful because it united a broad range of different actors: representatives of participating States and Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, national financial intelligence units, international regulatory bodies, civil society organizations and also the banking sector.

In one of the most interesting discussions of the seminar, Shane Riedel, Director of Compliance at CITI Group, reflected on the responsibility of the banking sector to detect and report suspected cases of corruption. He noted that one challenging aspect is that different countries have different thresholds for filing suspicious transaction reports. The relevant country representatives and heads of regulatory bodies present participated in the ensuing exchange.

“This sort of exchange is an opportunity to be welcomed,” commented Stolpe. “What does the financial sector need from the public sector, what does the public sector want from the financial sector? There is a communications gap that needs to be met and the only way is to start having people sit much more frequently together and developing a shared understanding of the difficulties they are facing. We see quite some readiness within the private sector in its own co-ordination mechanisms to invite the public, but perhaps not likewise to honour the invitation of the public sector to come to the table when they are discussing. The two parties really need to come together and understand what the challenges are on both sides in terms of making the anti-money laundering machine work, preventing the influx of illegal funds in the first place, making the paper trail work so that there is a good chance of detection when suspicious transactions occur,” he said.



Mohamed Askri, Advisor to the Ministry of Justice of Tunisia, addresses the OSCE Seminar, Identifying Restraining and Recovering Stolen Assets in the OSCE Region, Vienna, 3 September 2012. (OSCE/Ursula Froese)

ARAB SPRING

The events of the Arab Spring, and the efforts that are being undertaken by the new governments in Tunisia and Egypt to recover assets that have been removed from their respective countries by the former regimes gave urgency to the discussions of mutual legal assistance for the return of stolen assets in the OSCE area.

“Tunisia has made several requests for mutual legal assistance, with precise and exhaustive information concerning the assets, bank accounts and account holders and also real estate or company shares. We have provided proof that these are shell companies providing money laundering services to the ex-president and his entourage,” recounted Mohamed Askri, Advisor to the Ministry of Justice of Tunisia.

“We have encountered two types of problems,” he said. “Firstly, legal problems: some states from which we have requested mutual legal assistance have opted for applying internal legislation which is incompatible with the UNCAC. Also, we have encountered excessive recourse to decisions. For instance, when we ask for bank documents in order to be able to trace assets, the decision to release them can be appealed, even before the Supreme Court, which takes a lot of time and blocks the situation,” he said.

“The second problem is the absence of political will. Some states, including some in the European Union, have refused to respond to our request at all. These states have invoked neither lack of information, nor incorrect

formulation of the request, nor non-compliance with the required procedures. That is to say, implicitly the request is accepted. But there has been no response. Other states provide information bit by bit, but the co-operation is very slow and we are not able to reconstruct the spider’s web of transactions to be able to arrive at a confiscation order and formulate the request for recovery of these assets,” he added.

Heba Negm of the Egyptian delegation to the OSCE also spoke of the challenges encountered in the practical implementation of UNCAC: “We found the provisions of UNCAC are clear enough but what really needs to be done is to foster international co-operation on those provisions. We submitted two draft resolutions on international cooperation on asset recovery at the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC in Marrakech in October 2011 and both were adopted by consensus,” she said. “Also at the Human Rights Council in Geneva we submitted a draft resolution through the African group calling for money in the banks of some countries to come back to the country of origin to be used for reconstruction and development. Egypt, but also other countries like Tunisia are now suffering from the economic crisis and they are badly in need of having this money back, also for their development, especially after the revolutions,” she said.

Like Askri, Negm stressed the importance of political will. “This is actually what we really need. Some countries are more responsive than others, so when you interpret that and you see

that both are party to the UNCAC and sometimes their legal fabric is almost the same, the only difference between them is political will,” she said.

“We need to harmonise the procedural rules of the fight against corruption and we must not stop with the recommendations and non-binding rules of international law as in UNCAC. The Convention’s implementation should be evaluated with respect to particular cases such as the case of Tunisia’s efforts to recover the assets stolen by the ex-president,” recommended Askri.

“It is important that these problems are brought to the attention of international forums like the OSCE. Meetings like these are beneficial and positive because we can raise the problems that hinder the good functioning of the system of fighting against corruption and restitution of assets and we can reflect on possible solutions to solve these problems and to make the international measures more effective and more rapid,” he added.

“The recent uprisings in North Africa are a powerful reminder that failure to curb corruption can directly affect the legitimacy and stability of political regimes. Fighting corruption should be in the interest of every government

as a means to enable sustainable development, ensure social peace and avoid internal conflicts,” said Svilanović. “For these reasons, the fight against corruption, including the recovery of corruption-related assets, is so high on the agenda of a regional security organization like the OSCE,” he concluded.

Ursula Froese is editor of the OSCE Magazine.

Read more at: www.osce.org/stolenassets

Expert Conclusions

The expert discussions during the first two days of the OSCE Seminar on Identifying, Restraining and Recovering Stolen Assets in the OSCE Region resulted in the formulation of eight recommendations, which were presented to OSCE participating States at the political segment of the meeting on the third day. Participants were asked to consider:

1. Advancing the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular its Chapter V on Asset Recovery, bearing in mind the upcoming second cycle of its review mechanism which will focus, inter alia, on the implementation of the respective chapter;
2. In this context, establishing asset recovery as a policy priority and develop specific asset recovery strategies, including the creation of institutional frameworks dedicated to the recovery of assets and their effective management and disposal, as well as the design of multi-stakeholder co-ordination mechanisms;
3. Developing effective seizure and confiscation regimes in line in particular with the requirements of article 31 of the UNCAC, and considering introducing non-conviction based forfeiture as well as allowing for the enforcement of non-conviction based forfeiture orders issued by other jurisdictions;
4. In co-operation with the OSCE, facilitating networking, exchanges of experience and peer learning among asset recovery practitioners within the region;
5. With the support of the OSCE and its field presences and in co-ordination with other relevant organizations, conducting training programmes on asset recovery and related topics for law enforcement, judicial authorities and financial intelligence units;
6. The creation of public-private partnerships for the effective implementation of UNCAC in general and advancing measures for the identification of politically exposed persons and beneficial owners of assets;
7. Establishing or strengthening income and asset declaration systems and promoting their use for the purpose of identifying politically exposed persons.
8. Making full use of the existing knowledge materials and technical services provided by international actors in order to inform policy-making and development of legal and institutional frameworks and practices.



ABDULVAHAP FILIZ

Afghan businesswomen in search of new markets

by Ursula Froese

Afghan women who run businesses manufacturing jewellery and textiles came to Istanbul last September to join counterparts from Azerbaijan and Tajikistan for an OSCE business training programme.

The guide to the jewellery production and sales centre Wedding World that sprawls over 180,000 square metres on the outskirts of Istanbul finished his explanations and opened the floor for questions. I was touring the centre with 24 women entrepreneurs and their instructors as part of an OSCE training course. They showed no hesitation as they began probing possibilities for selling their own handcrafted jewellery through the centre and plugging the quality of the precious stones they used as raw materials. By the end of the exchange, they had struck a deal to place advertisements at an advantaged rate in the company newsletter.

The women had come to Istanbul to participate in a five-day business management and training programme organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) last September

in co-operation with UNDP Afghanistan, the Turkish Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) and the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO).

For me as an outside observer, it was surprising to see them engaging so freely with a male business representative from a foreign country speaking an unfamiliar language. But Sharmistha Dasbarwa, Manager of the UNDP Gender Equality Project in Kabul, who helped to plan and teach the course, warned against false preconceptions. "When speaking about women's entrepreneurship in Afghanistan one must keep in mind that what is meant by gender equality here is not what most of the world or even any other country in the world means. It is considered a kind of complementarity between the roles of men and women and any reform in this context is regarded as

a community issue. There are very slow but important developments taking place. Women are coming out more and more,” she explained.

Dasbarwa and her colleagues selected the Afghan participants for the course from the capital city Kabul and from four different provinces, Bamyan in the Central Highland Region, Herat to the west, Balkh to the north and the more conservative Nangarhar to the east. The main criterion was that they were running an established, profitable business manufacturing textiles or jewellery. The desire to explore international markets and a high degree of literacy were also important, although knowledge of English was not.

With the help of the interpreters that accompanied us, I was able to converse with the participants, most of whom spoke Farsi. Some of them told me they had returned to Afghanistan from Iran and other neighbouring countries after the end of the Taliban rule to revive old family businesses. Others had been active within the country for decades. Laila Omar Gal from Kabul, for instance, has run an enterprise specializing in baby clothes for more than 25 years. One characteristic all displayed was a dogged optimism that had allowed them to overcome what would seem like insurmountable obstacles: finding start-up financing where investment money is rare, arranging logistics where infrastructure is worse than poor, setting up production facilities in a country where women are traditionally not supposed to leave their homes.

For most of them, an important aspect of their work, either within their business or in association with an NGO, was providing vocational training to other women in handcraft skills and sometimes in reading and writing. For the trainees, earning a little money through needlework or stringing jewellery often means the chance to lift their families out of destitute poverty — adding additional impetus to these entrepreneurs’ motivation to make their marketing of high-quality laboriously crafted Afghan products succeed despite the stiff competition from cheaper quality wares from abroad.

The government of Afghanistan, an OSCE Partner for Co-operation, strongly supports women’s entrepreneurship, and the training programme offered in Istanbul was developed in response to a proposal by the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the OSCE, Ambassador Abdul M. Shoogufan. “Afghan women are hard-working and open to new ideas. In order to engage them in economic activities, it is essential to provide them with short-term technical support and an environment with at least a minimum of security.

I therefore made the suggestion to include this training programme into the latest set of OSCE projects for Afghanistan,” he explains. The project was the first to be implemented in a set of projects the OSCE is undertaking to assist Afghanistan in coping with its security concerns in view of the planned withdrawal of NATO troops in 2014. (The projects provide support and training to Afghan citizens, but not within the territory of Afghanistan — that would require a decision by consensus on the part of the participating States.)

“This is an appropriate and important initiative by the OCEEA because contributing to women’s academic empowerment will help alleviate poverty and significantly contribute to sustainable economic growth, democratic development, inclusion, security and stability in Afghanistan and by extension in the OSCE region,” says Amaia Sotes-Linares Rivas, Economic Affairs Officer in the OCEEA, who conceptualized and led the course. Three days of classroom instruction were followed by tours of the Wedding World jewellery complex, the Istanbul Bazaar and the Aziz Bebe and Sabra textile factories.

Istanbul was chosen as the venue, because of Turkey’s strong traditional textile and clothing sectors and because of Istanbul’s easy accessibility by air from Kabul, Baku and Dushanbe. In addition to the entrepreneurs from Afghanistan, women from Azerbaijan and Tajikistan running jewellery or textile production businesses were invited to join the course. The OSCE was able to draw on its field operations in these countries to select candidates that were likely to benefit.

The social and business conditions under which the women from the three countries work often differed, yet they shared common concerns: how to procure good quality raw materials at competitive prices, how to provide efficient work facilities for their employees, how



Fatima Zamin Ali of Bamyan Province started a business producing handicrafts when she came to Afghanistan from Iran 12 years ago, using skills she had learned as a girl from her mother and other Iranian women.



to acquire new customers and assert themselves in difficult markets. The fact that a woman producing traditional handicrafts in the Pamir mountains of Tajikistan, another specializing in collectible dolls in Baku and another spinning and weaving silk in northern Afghanistan could compare notes made for the richness of the classroom discussions.

The instruction focused on the nuts and bolts of making a business work. Sotes Linares-Rivas provided expert advice on financing: computing variable and fixed costs, evaluating cost structures, understanding the break-even point, setting competitive prices and calculating profit. Dasbarwa taught analysis of the business environment and formation of business associations. Necla Haliloglu, Entrepreneurship Development Director of KOSGEB, provided lessons in product innovation and marketing strategies, and communications expert Andrew Watson shared tools and techniques to enable the group to recognize social styles, appreciate differing business positions adopted by suppliers, clients and employees and communicate accordingly to achieve effective outcomes. “The participants’ willingness and ability to adopt and adapt new communication strategies and techniques was impressive,” said Watson.

One of the most innovative aspects of the course was the collaboration with the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO). Fair Trade expert Michael Muchilwa spoke directly to the interest of all the women when he explained how the WFTO helps economically disadvantaged producers in developing countries gain access to international markets by providing market information, helping with export logistics and shipping costs and offering no-interest loans. “We have seen the Fair Trade principles transforming markets in South America and Africa, and there is no reason why the same thing cannot be done for the Caucasus or

Central Asia,” Muchilwa said. In return, Fair Trade producers are held accountable to certain Fair Trade standards by the buyers and other stakeholders.

On the evening of the third day, the participants had the opportunity to display their wares. The austere hotel seminar room was transformed into a colourful bazaar, with glistening necklaces and earrings, shining silk scarves, artfully hooked carpets, deep velvet and soft cotton clothes decorated with embroidery and beads, bags, belts, dolls and paintings. The classroom sessions had been lively, but now the business acumen of the participants really came to light as they competed to show their wares. A lucky group of American tourists who had arrived at the hotel that evening were in for an unexpected treat!

The display was an opportunity to receive constructive feedback from the trainers. “It is important to target the right market sector,” commented Haliloglu. “When traditional techniques and high quality materials are employed, it may be best to enter the luxury end of the market.” This was a step already taken by some, for instance Mukarrama Kayumova from Tajikistan, who sells her embroidered belts in the Louvre in Paris, or by Mehriban Sadigova from Azerbaijan, who has developed a very personal collection of filigreed silver jewellery.

Some of the Afghan producers had also begun modifying their traditional products in anticipation of marketing them abroad. Rabya Maryam Joma Khan from Balkh province, for instance, whose silk scarves were outstanding for the strong simplicity of their design, explained that she had recently invested in state of the art equipment for dyeing silk. For others, the exercise was a somewhat sobering introduction to the requirements of foreign markets. “Some of the garments were beautiful, but too colourful or intricate for Western tastes. Precious stones in the necklaces should not be mixed with plastic, because that will devalue the product,” Muchilwa commented.

At present, the number of women working as entrepreneurs in Afghanistan is still so small as to be almost negligible,” says Dasbarwa. But it is part of working in Afghanistan to fight against incredible odds. The OSCE course was a first step in opening access to important marketing networks outside the country. Given the opportunity, these intrepid Afghan businesswomen will know how to grasp it.

Ursula Froese is editor of the OSCE Magazine.

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Seamstresses prepare for work, Herat Province, Afghanistan



JAMILA ABDUL HAQ



OSCE/URSULA PROSE

Nadia Abdul Aziz Kabul

"My father had a knitting factory when we were in Kabul before the Taliban, before the war. When we came back nine years ago, I took the machinery out of storage and started it again. I hired women and brought them wool to make sweaters. For one year it went well, but the next year the China market started in Kabul and this was hard to manage. The Chinese products are very cheap and of poor quality but still people want to buy them. Our products are good quality, but we cannot buy good quality material and sell for the Chinese price.

"So I had to close the factory. I started to do handicrafts and opened a shop in the women's garden in Kabul. This is a government place, only for women. In the morning there is a bazaar in the garden, with 23 shops, with only women working in them — no man is allowed to come to this garden, only women and boys up to seven years. In Afghanistan most families don't allow women to stay outside the home, but in this place there is no man, so they can come and feel comfortable here.

"I also just started a new business, a marble business. I am going to hire women to make marble jewellery, because there is a market for it abroad. With handicrafts, it is hard to find an international market, because of the cost of quality materials and because of the sizes. We will give the women small machines to work with at home, collect the jewellery they make and export it from our country. I was looking for a product that would sell abroad, and I think this product makes sense. It is difficult to do market research when you don't know the culture. I went to some cities in China, in India and also in European countries, and I found places where I can sell these things."



OSCE/JOURNALA FROESE

Rabya Maryam Joma Khan (left) and Shakiba Shakib Mohammad Azim from Balkh Province at the training course in Istanbul

Rabya Maryam Joma Khan Balkh Province

"I was a teacher before I started my business. At that time, I started some handicraft courses in tailoring and embroidering and I trained many students. Because I was interested in business and also in creating good working conditions for women, I formally established my own company in 2007, under the name of Rabya Maryam Handicraft Company. Our products have been shown in national exhibitions in Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz, Herat and Kabul and international fairs in India, Tajikistan, Russia, and Germany.

"We have trained around 2,500 young girls and women in silkworm rearing and silk processing and another 2,210 in textured carpet production in the provinces of Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab and Sari Pul and are currently busy with production. I am planning to further develop my business with the installation of modern silk production machinery, and initial work has been started on this."



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Zahra Awaz Ali on a hilltop overlooking the Bamyán cliffs

Zahra Awaz Ali Bamyán Province

"I started a company almost 14 years ago, located in Kabul. Since coming to Bamyán I have been working with a branch of that company. I also direct an NGO by the name of Bamyán Women's Social Association. I work with a group of 85 women to produce handicraft, carpets and embroidered scarves and clothes. Most have them have come to Bamyán from various parts of Afghanistan due to the war. These are disadvantaged women, who have lost their husbands, lost their homes, many of them are living in tents or cardboard shacks. I try to improve their working conditions, arrange child care, give them a place to work where they can bring their children.

"I have five people working for me who are trainers and help with design. My husband is a salaried staff member, he helps me with logistics, purchasing, finances and dealing with administrative charges such as licensing. One of our customers is a woman in Canada. She buys carpets — I send carpets to her from Kabul to Peshawar and from Peshawar to Canada by ship."



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OSCE/JURSULA FROESE

Zahedh Fizan Fiz Muhammad Nangarhar Province

"I am a gynaecologist by training and I direct the NGO Rubia Organization for Development of Afghanistan (RODA). RODA was the initiative of a group of Afghan experts and scholars, mostly women, in 2007. It aims to benefit and serve needy people through their knowledge and experience, by seeking resources to reduce poverty and promote self-reliance, social justice, stability and prosperity for the people of Afghanistan.

"The Rubia Handicrafts project develops economic opportunities through crafts heritage, to support education and promote health and wellbeing for Afghan women and their families. The project has trained more than 300 women in fine embroidery skills in the tradition of the Darrai Noor region, and also provides literary education courses. Embroidered pillows and bags are sold in the USA. Proceeds support other Rubia projects including community schools for girls, boys and women. Each woman signs her work with a unique design and her name in Persian lettering, a demonstration of newly acquired writing skills."



OSCE/JURSULA FROESE

Jamila Abdul Haq Herat Province

"I produce textiles and clothes and am head of the Herat Women's Council. It was established in 2001 and has 350 members. I joined the Council because I felt they needed working women. We have activities in education, professional capacity building, legal assistance and also work to combat discrimination against women. Around 3,000 women have graduated from our courses. So we have been able to increase the level of knowledge of many women.

"Things have changed in Herat since the Council was founded. At first, the men did not allow women to work outside of their homes. We have been able to show men that women can work outside the home. In my case, I have been able to raise my children at home and work outside the home — with good planning it was possible. In fact, it was my children who persuaded me to do it."



Jamila Abdul Haq (right) and Wahida Samadi, head of the Tahmina Women's Association, both from Herat

Gender budgeting: the Austrian experience

by Claudia Stadler and Sarah Hurtes

“**Y**es, we do gender budgeting, and no, it does not cost us an arm and a leg. On the contrary, as part of our performance-oriented budgeting concept, we expect it will increase value for money,” Gerhard Steger, Director General for Budget and Public Finances of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, told an audience of OSCE delegates and budget experts at an event ahead of the OSCE Advisory Committee on Management and Finance meeting on 12 October.

Among OSCE participating States, Austria has taken the idea of using the state budget as a lever for promoting gender equality the farthest. Each Austrian ministry has to define a maximum of five outcomes per budget chapter which are part of the annual budget decision in the parliament. At least one of these outcomes has to be a gender outcome. Each ministry has to define concrete measures to support the respective gender outcomes and define appropriate indicators.

Since 2007, the requirement to apply gender budgeting has been written into the Austrian Constitution. This was a major achievement, but only a beginning, Steger underlined. “The rules were set out clearly on paper, yet many still viewed the mainstreaming of gender with skepticism and treated it as a mere add-on.” Not so Mr. Steger and his office. “We see gender budgeting as a doorway to facilitating targeted policy-making on a political level and enabling the administrative level to present its results and achievements,” he explained.

In a budget reform process which will be put into effect from 2013, the Federal Finance Ministry made gender mainstreaming an integral part of a new budgeting procedure based on performance. “Performance-oriented budgeting means that to the usual question, ‘who gets what?’, we add the question, ‘who delivers which results and when?’. This way, citizens are provided a better insight into what their tax money is being used for.”

“Don’t make it too easy for them,” Steger advised those in his audience looking to introduce a gender perspective into the budgets of their own governments. “It is essential to focus on external sociopolitical outcome objectives. Offering special training for female staff of

ministries might be a nice additional activity, but not at all sufficient for making a real difference. Furthermore, gender is not only a women’s issue, it concerns men as well. Improving the health of males over 50 by launching a campaign for free preventative medical check-ups could be an outcome objective,” he said.

The decision on budget reform, including gender budgeting, was adopted unanimously by the Austrian parliament — an exceptional occurrence, according to Steger, the result of years of hard work and careful planning. In this respect, he had more salient advice. First, incorporate gender budgeting into a package. “Introducing gender budgeting on its own would maybe not have worked as a single issue,” he said. “It was part of a package, which spoke to a variety of interests. What ultimately sold it was that it was part of a strategy to modernize the country.”

Second, start with a pilot project to win over all stakeholders. The pilot project for the Austrian budget reform was designed to help ministries save money, which they were then free to use as they saw fit. “You should have seen how the attitude of the people in the ministries changed when they were told they could keep unspent money for their own purposes,” he laughed.

At the end of the discussion, one OSCE delegate asked Steger how the administrative staff had been trained to implement the new gender budgeting provisions. “The best decision we made was not to hire consultants,” Mr. Steger answered. “We trained one staff member in each unit, who was then in charge of training the rest. This way, we created a sense of ownership. Many of the designated trainers had never presented in public before, and they were shaking like leaves before their first presentations. But afterwards, they were three metres tall!” Doing a good thing, empowering staff and having fun: that is how Steger summarized the achievement of the budget reform, an achievement of which he, his colleagues and indeed Austria is extremely proud.

Since April, the OSCE Gender Section has been organizing debates on gender issues in parallel to key OSCE events. Topics discussed have included: Combating Discrimination against Women in Sports, Enhancing Women’s Participation in Democratic Elections, Inclusion of Women in Good Governance and Anti-corruption Activities and Gender Considerations in Policing.

Claudia Stadler and Sarah Hurtes work in the OSCE Gender Section.

Read more at www.osce.org/gender



A surfer paddling by a wind farm off Colwyn Bay, North Wales, UK (Adrian Trendall)

Anniversaries in the second dimension

20 years OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

15 years Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

The OSCE celebrated two important milestones for its work in the second — economic and environmental — dimension of security this year. From 12 to 14 September, it held the annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague for the twentieth time. And at the opening session of the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) on 16 October, all five Co-ordinators of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, past and present, addressed the audience to take stock and chart the way ahead as they commemorated the 15-year anniversary of that office.



Thomas L. Price
Co-ordinator from 1997 to 2001

“As I said during my brief remarks at the recent EEDIM in Vienna, history will judge us not so much by the promises we make as by the promises we keep. When I was appointed to what was then the newly created office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, there was a lot of opposition among participating States to the very existence of such an office, let alone to the presumption that the OSCE should take commitments made in the so-called second dimension as seriously as it took commitments made in the other two dimensions.

“But the commitments were already there, in black and white. The Helsinki Final Act outlined a very ambitious programme in terms of the economic and environmental aspects of security; the Bonn Document of 1990 further refined and elaborated the vision of the founders. Since then, the Maastricht Document and other documents have continued this process. What the OSCE needs to do now, in my opinion, is to take these commitments — as well as the commitments made in the other dimensions — seriously, and to make their full implementation a real priority. To do this, it needs to establish processes and institutions that actually have some teeth, and transform these visionary commitments into realities on the ground.”



OSCE/CURTIS BUDDEN

Marc Baltes

Co-ordinator a.i. in 2001, Deputy Co-ordinator from 2000 to 2011

“Before reflecting on the way forward for the OSCE’s economic and environmental dimension, it is important to put things into perspective and remind ourselves of how far we have come. Until 2003, there were no projects conducted in the second dimension, neither by the Secretariat nor by field operations. When the theme of good governance was chosen as the theme of the Economic Forum 11 years ago, some delegations opposed the mere mentioning of the word “corruption” in the agenda. This year, corruption was a major theme, with one of the two preparatory meetings devoted to the topic.

“Progress has often been slow, modest and uneven within and amongst participating States. Nonetheless those years have seen a constant evolution and increase of awareness of the importance of potential economic and environmental security threats. The 2003 Maastricht Document was only adopted after very lengthy and difficult negotiations, and it was the first attempt to put the second dimension on par with the two other dimensions, as already foreseen in the Helsinki Final Act.”



OSCE/CURTIS BUDDEN

Marcin Świącicki

Co-ordinator from 2002 to 2005

“The 1990 Bonn Document and the 2003 Maastricht Document set up important commitments in the economic and environmental basket. The Economic and Environmental Forum should review the implementation of those commitments in a more rigorous way, perhaps not all commitments every year but each commitment every few years.

“Economic discrepancies are source of security threats since they contribute to illicit migrations, international crime and uncontrolled spread of diseases. The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities could elaborate a system of monitoring economic and social discrepancies on the territory of OSCE countries as a kind of early warning system on threats stemming from the economy.”



OSCE/CURTIS BUDDEN

Bernard Snoy

Co-ordinator from 2005 to 2008

“During my tenure as Co-ordinator, the Economic Forum was transformed into the Economic and Environmental Forum. The justification for the broadening of its scope was fully demonstrated by the interest raised in 2007 for the security implications of environmental issues under the Spanish Chairmanship, which proposed the themes of land degradation, soil contamination and water management, and gained the adoption of the “Madrid Declaration on Security and the Environment”. I remain also convinced of the relevance, from an OSCE security and regional co-operation point of view, of the themes of migration management, selected under the Slovenian and the Greek chairmanships, and of transport, selected under the Belgian and Finnish chairmanships. I am pleased that after my departure, the themes of energy security and of good governance have also reemerged.

“Perhaps the best moment of my tenure was leading the Assessment Mission in fire-affected areas in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 2006. This represented the OSCE’s second dimension at its best, turning an environmental issue from a potential or actual source of conflict into an opportunity for confidence building measures.”



Goran Svilanović
Co-ordinator since December 2008

“Since assuming the position of Co-ordinator, I have always seen the economic and environmental dimension as a field of opportunity for co-operation among participating States and with relevant stakeholders, a belief that is widely shared by participating States and colleagues. The imbalance between the three OSCE dimensions cannot be denied, however. I have called several times for the necessary reinvigoration of our basket. I think that we are progressing in the right direction, and the existing OSCE frameworks for dialogue and co-operation have played an enormous role in the progress made so far.

“The most representative and highest-level of these frameworks, the Economic and Environmental Forum, has recently turned twenty. The Forum covers a wide range of OSCE economic and environmental issues and gathers all relevant stakeholders — from representatives of civil society to ministers, field officers, academics and experts. The active engagement of participating States in the numerous preparatory, concluding and follow-up meetings of the Forum process has contributed profoundly to the identification of potential areas for co-operation and to the reinforcement of our mandate.

“Another positive result of the efforts made to strengthen the second dimension was the establishment in 2011 of the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM). Together with the Forum, the EEDIM ensures the continuity of our approach in the second dimension, as it offers an opportunity to assess the implementation of economic and environmental commitments and to gather ideas for future activities. I am convinced that in the future it will become one of the keystones of our dimension.

“Finally, I would like to highlight the impact that the thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings — devoted to water management, equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere, good governance, energy security, environmental governance and sustainable development this year — have had in providing delegations with a better understanding of what has been done and what can be still achieved in the second dimension. Experts from partner organizations and OSCE capitals, field officers and OCEEA staff members have contributed with in-depth analyses in these areas. I am confident that with this deeper insight into our activities, together with the inclusion of a cross-dimensional perspective in all our events and projects, we have guaranteed our second — economic and environmental — dimension a more solid basis upon which to further build our future.”

Themes of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

The annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum gathers government, business and civil society representatives to discuss a theme chosen by the Chairmanship. Two preparatory meetings are followed by a culminating meeting in the autumn in Prague.

The 1st Forum in 1993 was held under the Swedish Chairmanship on the theme: “Transition to democratic market economies”.

This year, under the Irish Chairmanship, the 20th Forum was held on the theme “Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance”.

The theme chosen by the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship for the 21st Forum in 2013 is: “Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region”.

Read more at: www.osce.org/eeforum



A democratic vision of policing

by Thorsten Stodiek

In a long-awaited decision, the OSCE has adopted a strategic framework for its police-related activities.

Over the past 13 years, the OSCE participating States agreed some 24 separate Permanent Council and Ministerial Council decisions on very specific aspects of policing, ranging from the improvement of the situation of Roma and Sinti, the promotion of gender equality, the fight against transnational organized crime, including trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors, trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, to the fight against terrorism. Now they have given them a conceptual context. On 26 July 2012, the Permanent Council adopted the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities.

The Strategic Framework puts on paper what has long been the OSCE's important role in policing in the international context and, on the basis of this, defines priorities for police-related activities within the wider context of the Organization's work.

It confirms that the guiding principle of the OSCE's police-related activities is the promotion of democratic policing: "The OSCE's police-related activities shall be guided by the norms, principles and standards defined by documents of the United Nations and the OSCE, such as the Charter of the United Nations, relevant United Nations conventions on police-related activities, the Helsinki Final Act, the Copenhagen Document, and various OSCE decisions on police-related activities. These documents emphasize, inter alia, the importance of the rule of law; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including gender and minority issues; police-public partnerships; effective and accountable criminal justice systems; and enhanced cooperation among participating States and international and regional organizations. The development of high standards of professional skills and the sharing of best practices are among the key elements of the OSCE's police-related activities. The promotion of these principles and elements of democratic policing is the foundation of the OSCE's police-related activities. They should be taken into account constantly

Members of an OSCE team assessing the OSCE Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan engage in discussion with Neighbourhood Inspectors in Ak-Buura in the Osh region of Kyrgyzstan, September 2011. (OSCE/Bostjan Malovrh)

in the process of police development and in the comprehensive approach to reform of criminal justice systems, as well as in the fight against transnational threats.”

The OSCE operates on the premise that the rule of law and a strong justice sector are fundamental to a well-functioning modern democracy. Good policing serves the people rather than just the state. It is vital for providing a safe and secure environment conducive to sustainable economic development. The OSCE is there to help participating States reach these goals. It assists participating States on policing matters through needs assessment, capacity-building, institution-building, training and evaluation.

The new policing strategy recognizes the OSCE’s support to participating States’ law-enforcement agencies as an integral part of its wider efforts to prevent conflict, manage crises, assist with post-conflict rehabilitation and maintain the primacy of law.

ADDED VALUE OF THE OSCE

What makes the OSCE’s role in policing unique? The Strategic Framework underlines three points. Firstly, its cross-dimensional and comprehensive approach to security: the OSCE’s police-related activities pertain not only to enforcing the letter of the law, but also to economic issues such as tackling corruption and money laundering, and to ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Secondly, the OSCE’s extensive field presence: currently, it has 16 field operations in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. They have developed an expertise and a network of government and a civil society partners in their host countries that make it possible to customize policing programmes in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Thirdly, the OSCE has a strong framework and well-functioning mechanisms for co-operation at the national, international level and expert level.

The new policing framework places great emphasis on achieving unity of purpose and action and avoiding duplication, within the OSCE and with respect to external partners. Within the OSCE, the Strategic Police Matters Unit of the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD/SPMU) serves as the main focal point for ensuring co-ordination and coherence of police-related activities by providing conceptual and operational guidance. Externally, the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security provides the basis for the OSCE’s co-operation with the United Nations and its structures and other international, regional organizations and sub-regional organizations.

“The promotion of these principles and elements of democratic policing is the foundation of the OSCE’s police-related activities. They should be taken into account constantly in the process of police development and in the comprehensive approach to reform of criminal justice systems, as well as in the fight against transnational threats.”



Crime scene investigation training at the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development (OSCE/Mission in Kosovo)



A member of the OSCE Police Monitoring Group (PMG) in Croatia (left) liaises with a Croatian police officer outside the ruins of the Vukovar railway station, September 1999. The PMG was one of the OSCE’s early success stories in policing. It ceased operations on 31 October 2000. (OSCE/Andy Burrridge)



Children accompany police officers in measuring speed using radar, as part of the OSCE-supported project Child-Police Officer for a Day in Kumanovo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, November 2011. (OSCE/Jure Rejec)

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities sets clear priorities for the OSCE's work in general police development and reform:

- community policing/police-public partnerships: this is at the very core of what policing is. The OSCE works for good relations, better communication and joint problem-solving among police, government agencies and all segments of society;
- exchange of best practices: the OSCE assists with the development of training strategies, modern teaching methods (e-learning and multimedia) and delivers training in democratic policing;
- victim protection: the OSCE provides advice on protecting victims and witnesses to crime;
- multi-ethnic policing and gender mainstreaming within police forces;
- guidelines: the SPMU publishes guidelines on police reform, education, training, strategic planning, human resources management, police accountability, and assists participating States in implementing them;
- anti-corruption: in line with the UN

Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) the OSCE develops strategies and instruments to fight corruption;

- co-ordination and synchronization of police reform within the reform of the wider criminal justice system.

The document includes special mention to activities to fight organized crime:

- implementation of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UNCAC. The OSCE assists participating States in implementing these conventions in close co-operation with UNODC.
- law enforcement co-operation: the OSCE strengthens international, regional and national law-enforcement co-operation.
- investigation: the OSCE provides specialized investigation training for law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice system institutions.
- countering extremism: The OSCE promotes policing strategies and capacities in addressing the fight against radicalization, extremism and terrorism.

THE TNTD/SPMU PUBLICATION SERIES

The OSCE has collaborated with hundreds of criminal justice system experts to collect and analyse good policing practices, resulting in the development of ten guidebooks so far. Upon request from participating States and in support of OSCE field operations and OSCE Institutions, the Transnational Threats Department's Strategic Police Matters Unit promotes these guidebooks at regional roundtable and training events. It has also started developing training curricula on the basis of the good practices detailed in the books.

Guidebook on Democratic Policing

The foundational document of the TNTD/SPMU Guidebook Series, the guidebook articulates the objectives of democratic police agencies; the importance of their commitment to the rule of law, police powers, police ethics, and human rights standards; the essential nature of police accountability; and the need for police co-operation with communities. Available in Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, English, French, Macedonian, Russian and Serbian (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 1, 2nd Edition, 2008)

Reference Guide to Criminal Procedure

Produced by the High Level Working Group on Criminal Procedure under the Belgian OSCE Chairmanship, the guide synthesizes a vast body of international procedural law and standards to provide practical support to the reform of criminal procedure in OSCE participating States. Available in English and Russian (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 2, 2006)

Enhancing co-operation among police, prosecutors and judges in the fight against transnational organized crime - Albania and Montenegro

The report contains information on systems, structures, practices and mechanisms at the national and bilateral/international levels in Albania and Montenegro, followed by conclusions and recommendations. Available in English (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 3, 2007)

Good Practice in Building Police-Public Partnerships

This overview of the basic principles and good practices of community policing

analyses the different steps of its implementation, potential challenges and ways to address them. Furthermore it describes a variety of specific community policing activities and the requirements for successful and sustainable police-public partnerships. Available in Albanian, English, Russian, Serbian (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 4, 2008)

Good Practices in Basic Police Training — Curricula Aspects

The book presents the results of a comprehensive analysis of basic police training models in the OSCE participating States, with the aim of sharing good training practices among police training institutions. It covers curricula aspects including general ethical values, theory of policing and practical policing skills. Available in English and Russian (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 5, 2008)

Прекурсоры наркотических средств [Precursors Handbook]

This illustrated pocketbook guide, initially developed by the French National Precursors Control Board, provides law enforcement personnel with a basic tool for the preliminary visual identification of chemical substances which can be used for illicit

- **fighting drug trafficking:** The OSCE assists participating States in developing strategies to fight trafficking in drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors.
- **combating trafficking in human beings:** The OSCE enhances prevention and combating strategies and capacities and promoting the broader involvement of stakeholders in identifying and referring victims and reaching out to vulnerable groups.
- **financial investigation:** The OSCE assists police with building capacities for prosecuting traffickers through financial investigations, seizure of proceeds of crime and activities targeting corruption and money-laundering.
- **cybercrime:** The OSCE develops regional and national capacity and exchanging information and best practices in investigating cyber crime and dealing with cyber evidence, with special focus on fighting hate and the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes in conformity with human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

With their adoption of the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities, participating States have reaffirmed their acknowledgement of the key role police-related activities play with respect to organized crime, conflict prevention and the rule of law. They have committed themselves to a democratic vision of policing for the whole OSCE region and provided the OSCE TNTD/SPMU and the other relevant executive structures with a robust mandate and a clear set of guiding principles as they put that vision to work. And, as new threats and challenges are sure to develop, they have decided to subject the Strategic Framework to regular review.

Thorsten Stodiek is Police Affairs Officer/Adviser on Research and Analysis in the Strategic Police Matters Unit of the Transnational Threats Department in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

Read more at: www.osce.org/policestrategicframework



An OSCE seminar on the role of the police in crime prevention, Tashkent, September 2009 (Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan)

drug production. It includes a description of precautionary measures to be taken when handling these chemicals. Available in Russian (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 6, 2008)

Implementation of Police-Related Programmes. Lessons Learned in South-Eastern Europe

The report describes and compares challenges faced by the OSCE field operations when they implemented the OSCE's police training and reform projects in the post-conflict environment in South-Eastern Europe. Available in English (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 7, 2008)

Controlled Delivery Manual for South-East European Countries

The manual details the legislation and rules governing controlled deliveries and provides contact details in the relevant states. Controlled delivery is an investigative technique whereby the recipients of shipments of drugs or other contraband are identified and the delivery monitored to secure the arrest of the perpetrators. English, not publically available (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 8, 2009)

Police and Roma and Sinti: Good Practices in Building Trust and Understanding

The book provides a compilation of good practices in improving relations between the police and Roma and Sinti communities, to assist participating States in implementing their commitments under the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area. Available in Albanian, English, Romanian, Russian, Serbian (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 9, 2010)

Trafficking in Human Beings: Identification of Potential and Presumed Victims: a Community Policing Approach

This book provides policing practitioners with clear guidance for the identification of trafficked persons and promotes multi-agency co-operation between law enforcement agencies, public institutions and civil society in the fight against trafficking in human beings. Available in English and Russian (TNTD/SPMU Publication Series Vol. 10, 2011)

Coming soon!

Currently, the TNTD/SPMU is working on a new guidebook entitled Police Reform within the Reform of the wider Criminal

Justice System. Police reform cannot be successful if it is not complemented and synchronized with the reform of other institutions of the criminal justice system. This guidebook will provide a compilation of good practices from the OSCE area in a holistic approach to police reform. It will detail steps to enhance the collaboration of the police with other criminal justice institutions as well as with civil society and non-state security and justice providers to make the entire criminal justice process more effective and efficient.

The guidebooks can be ordered directly from the TNTD/SPMU (spmu@osce.org) or downloaded from the Policing OnLine Information System (POLIS) website at: <http://polis.osce.org/library>.





Isfana, Kyrgyzstan: arriving here from there

by Darren Kowalchuk

In January of this year, I arrived in the Kyrgyz Republic's capital of Bishkek to be officially introduced to the OSCE's Community Security Initiative (CSI). I had been nominated as the lone Canadian police officer to participate in this hands-on community policing project. Near the end of the orientation, we new arrivals were advised of our postings, with most receiving assignments in and around the southern municipalities of Osh and Jalal-Abad. Knowing that I possess a penchant for being something of an exception to the rule, it came as no surprise to me when I learnt of the whereabouts of my forthcoming adventure: Isfana.

While in Canada I would certainly have been hard put to conjure a reasonable guess as to where Isfana lies in the grand scheme of things.

I have a large framed map of the world hanging on a wall of my downtown Ottawa loft, adorned with pins marking the many places I have visited on this little blue planet. Isfana had never made it onto my self-styled bucket list!

In the first week of February, in the midst of one of the longest and most severe winters on record — our departure from Osh had already been delayed several days due to severe weather — my Russian colleague, Arsen Boskhaev, and I endured the eight-hour trek on snow-packed roads to this far-away place at the extreme western end of Batken province, on the southern fringe of the Fergana Valley. Set against a backdrop of majestic mountains and bordered on three sides by Tajikistan, Isfana and the nearby villages are largely cut off from the rest

◀ The Isfana CSI team and police officers on foot patrol

▶ The Mobile Police Reception (MPR) units donated by the Community Security Initiative (CSI) have progressively improved public confidence in police professionalism and accountability. Their ability to penetrate even remote areas and establish a dialogue across ethnic groups and gender with the police has been highly praised by local residents. In some districts, citizens will wait in advance of visits to lodge complaints or talk with their police officers about community concerns. (Photos: OSCE/Eric Gourlan)



of the country. The town has a mixed, mostly Kyrgyz and Uzbek population of approximately 28,000 and serves as the administrative centre of Leylek District. The district is an ethnic quilt of villages where Kyrgyz, Uzbek, and Tajik peoples have lived in separate communities since the times of Tsarist Russia. During the twentieth century, Joseph Stalin’s “divide and rule” policy contributed to further reinforcing this divide.

Underlying interethnic tensions erupted into large-scale violence in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010. Clashes between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in the provinces of Osh and Jalal-Abad resulted in an estimated 470 persons dead, more than 100,000 displaced to Uzbekistan and another 300,000 internally displaced. The OSCE’s CSI Project was launched in November 2010 in response to these events. It was mandated by the 56 participating States to support Kyrgyzstan’s police in taking a community policing approach to dealing with the still-fragile security situation, identifying hot spots and mitigating potential conflict.

Isfana remained relatively untouched by the violence experienced in Osh and Jalal-Abad, as did Leylek as a whole. The principle sources of potential conflict in the district are environmental disputes among residents over access to drinking water or arable land, since both of these commodities are in short supply. But personal disputes can readily take on an ethnic overtone. In fact, such an episode did occur in late December 2011, in the village of Andarak, where a minor physical confrontation between ethnic Tajik and Kyrgyz men rapidly escalated into a community-wide encounter. My

colleagues and I dedicated considerable effort to bridging that community divide and restoring calm.

A second security concern in the district is the prevailing shadow economy of fuel and narcotics smuggling — Leylek lies squarely on the route between Tajikistan and Russia. Our task here was to engage the local communities in dialogue and sensitize them to the negative consequences of these illegal activities.

What did we do? First and foremost, we set out to identify and develop relationships with as many key resource persons as possible, in order to assimilate into our new environment, to truly “arrive here from there”. Inserting ourselves into the daily work regimen of the police was not as simple as we might have hoped. We needed to prove our own policing credentials. We started by literally “walking the talk”, initiating a regime of joint foot patrols in which we modelled the effectiveness of simply putting oneself out there. We complemented this traditional community policing practice by introducing the CSI-donated Mobile Police Reception (MPR) units, outfitted vans that bring the police to the people directly, even in remote locations.

The breakthrough in building relations with the police came when I donned my ceremonial Royal Canadian Mounted Police uniform during the police celebrations on Victory Day on 9 May. This one simple exercise struck a substantial chord that resonated all the way to the Batken Provincial Police Headquarters, where I was requested to participate as a guest speaker in the provincial Local Crime Prevention Center (LCPC) Governance Forum. I addressed

several hundred police and LCPC members with an historical account of the Canadian community policing model and the points it has in common with the LCPC concept operating in Kyrgyzstan. Months later, the Batken Provincial Police Chief of Staff informed me that he refers to the main points of that very presentation whenever he speaks of community policing in both the police and public domains.

If we have contributed to a more stable security environment in Isfana and its surroundings, it is because we were able to improve the relationship between governmental institutions and the local population. Bridging this gap is an arduous task in any nation. My experience in Canada as well as abroad has reinforced my belief that a civilian police entity must act as a key pillar in the construction of this bridge. In Isfana, relations between government and citizens typically have a tribe or clan affiliation. Once one becomes aware of these, one can use this knowledge to create a path for dialogue and understanding. Participation in public events and personal activities such as birthday or wedding celebrations proved a good way for us to create conduits for meaningful information sharing. We coupled this with an ongoing appraisal of how the Kyrgyzstan Police engages with both government and the population.



Victory Day celebration honouring World War II veterans, Isfana, 9 May 2012 (OSCE/Eric Gourlan)



Our engagement has been vastly assisted by our Kyrgyz Community Security Assistant, Erali Paiziev. His knowledge of the unique customs, the local governmental authorities and the influential personalities of the Leylek district have helped us to fine-tune our approach to the point where the District Administrator and the Mayor of Isfana routinely liaise with our team, seeking both advice and extending invitations to participate in a host of activities. On such occasions, enduring contacts have been developed in a multitude of spheres.

One such sphere is youth engagement. Together with our police counterparts, we initiated the highly successful CSI Youth Reach Initiative, under which we have organized numerous police-youth cinema evenings and football matches with multi-ethnic participation - nearly 20 events in the past two months. The public recognition which we have received from the District Administrator and the Mayor for our carriage of these events validates the worth of embedding CSI teams within the communities they service. It was a proud moment for the CSI team when I was named "top goalkeeper" and my Russian colleague "top fan" during the district football championships! It appears that the CSI Project has indeed arrived here in Isfana.

Many in Kyrgyzstan, nationals and internationals alike, have an impression of Isfana as a cold and distant place with limited public infrastructure. I, however, have come to know this as being more fiction than reality. The charm of Isfana lies not only in its abounding natural beauty but also, and more importantly, in its wealth of genuinely committed and openhearted people. These folks are the reason the CSI Project has experienced the success it has here and this international team can with utmost certainty attest that it is in fact the warmest location in Kyrgyzstan. On a final note, it goes without saying that a particular pin on a faraway map will occupy an extraordinary place in the heart of one Canadian police officer.

Darren Kowalchuk is a sergeant in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He has served as the Senior Consultant for the OSCE Community Security Initiative team in Isfana, Kyrgyzstan since February 2012.

Read more at: www.osce.org/communitysecurity

The author and Community Security Assistant Erali Paiziev over Andarak village, March 2012 (OSCE/Eric Gourlan)



OSCE Talks in Dublin

By Lorcan Clarke and Eoin O'Liathain

The Philosophical Society of Trinity College Dublin, known to students simply as “the Phil”, is Trinity’s oldest and largest student society, and has been a place for discourse and debate in the college for over 325 years.

In October, the Phil hosted an “OSCE Talks” seminar on the role communication plays in a peace process. Experts on communication in conflict resolution spoke with our undergraduate and postgraduate students from Trinity and other Dublin-based universities. The discussion was divided into two panels: “Reporting on negotiation, shaping public opinion” and “New media in conflict resolution”.

As an introduction, Eamon Gilmore, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, spoke about Ireland’s OSCE Chairmanship. This was the first time we had welcomed the Tánaiste to the Phil and the first opportunity Trinity students had had to see the Tánaiste in his role as OSCE Chairperson. He spoke about the importance of consensus in conflict resolution and the difficulties that it entails. He also said he was looking forward to the OSCE Ministerial Council in December, which will be the largest event of its kind ever held in Ireland.

The first panel was moderated by Trinity’s own Iain Attack, Assistant Professor in International Peace Studies and Director of Research. We heard from speakers involved in reporting and mediating peace processes, including the veteran BBC Northern Ireland Correspondent Denis Murray. Ambassador Erwan Fouéré talked about his experiences of chairing the Transdniestrian Settlement Process and as a diplomat in South Africa during the country’s transition.

Social media was the focus of the second session. Researcher Anand Varghese of the United States Institute of Peace set the tone with his opening presentation. Anand talked about the opportunities changes in online activity are providing for peace building. With one in seven people worldwide now on Facebook, he focused on the question “How do we harness this for peace building?”

One of the standout parts of Anand’s presentation was data from bit.ly (a tool for shortening URL links that people use when tweeting), which shows that nearly all the tweets about the Arab Spring were consumed in North America and Europe, not in the Middle East. This contradicts the popular misconception about the Arab Spring being a “Twitter revolution”.

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ireland’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Eamon Gilmore opens the seminar OSCE Talks, Trinity College, Dublin, 24 October 2012. (OSCE/Sonya Yee)



The Graduates Memorial Building, Trinity College, Dublin, venue of the OSCE Talks seminar.

UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Leonard Lidov of Morningside Analytics analysed data from Twitter to show how in numerous cases people link between pro-government and anti-government tweets. This shows that people using Twitter tend to have exposure to views different from theirs, so the notion that social media users only seek out similar views to their own is untrue. Leonard said that this provides grounds for optimism in conflict resolution, as greater exposure to different views could surely be used to build mutual understanding among peoples.

Journalist Onnik Krikorian, who follows the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Caucasus region, criticized the media for framing the conflict as ethnic rather than political in nature, thereby perpetuating it. Onnik showed that there is a trend for Armenians and Azerbaijanis to become friends on Facebook despite not being able to physically cross the border. When a critical article about Azerbaijani journalists who had Armenian Facebook friends was published in an online news site in March, the effect of this virtual crossing of borders became clear: instead of an uproar, nothing happened. Onnik praised the tendency for people to behave respectfully on social network sites (partially due to abuse rules), which sets a positive tone online.

The range of expertise, perspectives and backgrounds of the speakers made for a compelling session, and gave students a flavour of the OSCE and its work. This was also a chance for students to establish contacts with some of the experts as they think about their future

careers. We invited the speakers to join students in Trinity's eighteenth century dining hall, where they experienced some of our more unusual traditions, as well as the traditional glass of Guinness.

Lorcan Clarke is studying Economics at Trinity College Dublin and is the President of the Philosophical Society. Eoin O'Liathain is a final-year English student and was the President of the Philosophical Society from 2011 to 2012.

A collection of articles by the speakers will be presented at the OSCE in Vienna in December and will be available in hard copy and online on the OSCE website at: www.osce.org/oscetalks

osce Announcements

From Partner to Participating State

Mongolia joins the OSCE

Mongolia, an active and engaged OSCE Partner for Co-operation since 2004, has become the 57th country to join the Organization. In a Ministerial Council (MC) Decision adopted by consensus through a silence procedure that ended at midnight on 20 November 2012, participating States welcomed Mongolia as a participating State of the OSCE.

“On behalf of the entire OSCE family I am delighted to welcome Mongolia as our newest OSCE participating State,” said the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ireland’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore. “Mongolia has been a long-standing Asian Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE. The OSCE is addressing the many transnational

security challenges we face across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region and Mongolia’s desire to join fully in our efforts underlines the importance of our Organization’s work.”

As stated in the MC Decision, in becoming a participating State Mongolia accepts all commitments and responsibilities contained in OSCE documents, notably the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Paris Charter. Mongolia’s accession has been adopted on the understanding that the zone of application for confidence- and security-building measures as defined in Annex I of the Vienna Document will not extend to Mongolia’s territory unless the Ministerial Council determines otherwise.



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Peter Burkhard of Switzerland assumed the post of Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia on 1 December 2012. He is no stranger to the OSCE, having been Head of the OSCE Office in Baku from 2002 to 2004 and Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine from 1999 to 2002. A career diplomat, Ambassador Burkhard was Swiss Ambassador to Cuba from 2009 to 2012 and Swiss Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan from 2004 to 2008. He led the task force charged with investigating Switzerland’s role during World War II from 1996 to 1999 and headed the policy planning group of the co-ordination unit responsible for Switzerland’s OSCE Chairmanship in 1996. He speaks all six OSCE official languages.



MICHAEL ENSTÄTTER

Lubomir Kopaj from Slovakia was appointed Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro as of 1 December 2012. He was OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine from 2008 to 2012. Prior to that, he held senior posts in the Slovakian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, including Ambassador in the Analysis and Foreign Policy Planning Department from 2003 to 2008 and Director General of the Administrative Section from 2002 to 2003. He was Ambassador of Slovakia to The Netherlands from 1997 to 2000. Ambassador Kopaj has headed or been a member of a number of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) election observation missions and was a member of his country’s delegation to the 1992 CSCE Summit in Helsinki. He speaks English, Russian, Polish, Swedish and German.



GOHAR AVAGYAN

Sergey Kapinos, a career diplomat from the Russian Federation, took up the post of Head of Mission of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek on 14 October 2012. Ambassador Kapinos was Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan from 2007 to 2011. He was Deputy Director of the Caucasian Department in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2007. He was Senior Counsellor in the Department of International Security and Disarmament at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1997 to 1999 and Minister-Counsellor at the Russian Embassy in Armenia from 1999 to 2003. Prior to that, he held several diplomatic posts in India and Pakistan. He speaks English, French, Polish, Ukrainian, Urdu and Hindi.

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