

ISSUE 2 | 2015

SECURITY COMMUNITY

THE OSCE MAGAZINE



Overview »



1 Helsinki Kurt Tudyka traces the history of the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension from its origins in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act to the present day. p.6

2 Amsterdam Community police officer Rob Out has brought Europe-wide innovations in preventing terrorism back to the Netherlands and expanded them into an inter-agency approach. p.18

3 Cologne The German NGO 180° Wende is helping marginalized young people turn their lives around before they become victims of radicalization that leads to terrorism. p.22

4 Ukraine; Moldova The Dniester River, which winds from the Ukrainian Carpathians to Moldova and back to Ukraine, is being made resilient to pressures of economic development and climate change. p.12

5 Kosovo In a move from response to prevention, the Kosovo government has adopted a new strategy for preventing violent extremism. p.26

6 Bosnia and Herzegovina Nineteen Coalitions against Hate are fighting intolerance with demonstrations of inclusiveness, making sure that the country does not become a fertile breeding ground for terrorism. p.24

7 Tajikistan "Parents against Terrorism" is a project of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan to educate communities about the perils of recruitment to violent extremism that leads to terrorism. p.28



Contents »

Issue 2, 2015



4

#OSCE

6

Helsinki +40
Whither the Second Basket?

10

Security Community
Moving on Climate Change

12

Focus
Managing the Dniester

16

Special Section
Radicalization to Terrorism:
What to do?

30

Percolations



Security Community is published by the OSCE Secretariat
Communication and Media Relations Section
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: +43 1 51436 6267
oscemagazine@osce.org

Available in print in English and Russian and online in
English, Russian, German, French, Italian and Spanish at
www.osce.org

The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors
and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the
OSCE and its participating States.

Editor

Ursula Froese

Editorial Board

Miroslava Beham, Ursula Froese, Alexey Lyzhenkov,
Marcel Pesko, Sandra Sacchetti, Desiree Schweitzer

Artwork

AVD

Print

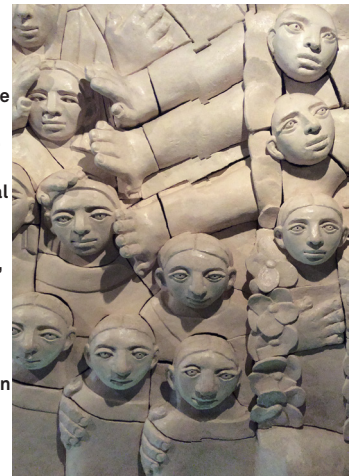
Riedeldruck GmbH
Fonts: LeMonde Journal; Akkurat

Security Community nurtures the development of a
community of people committed to furthering trust and
stability across the OSCE area. Written contributions on
aspects of politico-military, economic and environmental
or human security are welcome. Texts are subject to
editing.

All materials published at the OSCE's discretion. No fees
are paid for published work. Please write oscemagazine@
osce.org. The OSCE thanks all authors and artists
for their contributions.

Front Cover

Cover image: detail
from "The Story of
Life" by Lorraine
Malach, completed
after the death of the
artist by Janet
Grabner. © Lorraine
Malach 2003
Created for the Royal
Tyrrell Museum of
Palaeontology in
Drumheller, Alberta,
Canada. In the clay
mural, the artist
used human-based
figures to tell the
story of the evolution
of life, intending
visitors to develop
their own personal
interpretations.



Water

The 2015 Serbian Chairmanship made good water governance and how it contributes to security and stability the focus of the **OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum** this year. Discussions culminated in Prague from 14 to 16 September.

Chairperson-in-Office Ivica Dačić stressed the urgency, in today's world of economic hardships and social turmoil, of intensifying the OSCE's work on water-related matters in particular and economic and environmental issues in general: "Taking into account the crisis in and around Ukraine and its economic underpinnings, as well as today's migration challenges which are happening at our very doorstep in the OSCE region, the economic and environmental dimension's potential is more than obvious," he said.

See also, in this issue, Kurt Tudyka's article on the history of the OSCE's "economic and environmental basket", p. 6.

The OSCE and UNSCR 1540

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation decided on 22 July to strengthen the OSCE's support in facilitating the implementation of **United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540** on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Conflict Prevention Centre will assist participating States, upon their request, with national implementation measures and maintain and develop the OSCE network of points of contact on UNSCR 1540 as an integral part of the UN 1540 Committee network. This support for the UN 1540 Committee's global efforts is one way in which the OSCE is strengthening its role as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Read the decision here: [osce.org/fsc/175471?](https://www.osce.org/fsc/175471?)

National Dialogue in Ukraine

"Constructive dialogue means that various stakeholders are able to hear each other and be ready for very sobering discoveries. This kind of reality check is difficult for everyone, but in the end it is how the people stop arguing and start co-operating," said Vaidotas Verba, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, in Severodonetsk on 24 September at the closing of the two-day forum his office organized as part of its keystone **project to facilitate Ukraine's national dialogue on reform**. Representatives of local communities in Lugansk oblast and decision-makers in Kiev – more than 120 participants – tackled difficult problems: reform of budgetary relations, energy security, agricultural issues, humanitarian questions, including issues of internally displaced persons, the education and healthcare systems and relations between the military and law enforcement and local communities.

The forum followed similar events in Krasnoarmiysk in July and Kramatorsk in May. The project, National Dialogue, is financed by the governments of Austria, Denmark, Italy, Lithuania, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Japan.

Security Days

“Climate Change and Security - Unprecedented Impacts, Unpredictable Risks” was the topic of a Security Day in Vienna on 28 October. “From the largest nations in the world to the smallest, no one can win, unless everybody wins in this particular world scale challenge,” said panelist Dr. Wendell Chris King. See, in this issue, “Moving on Climate Change”, page 10.

On 13 November, a Security Day was held in Vienna on the topic, “In Pursuit of Peace and Security - How Gender Makes a Difference”.

OSCE Security Days, launched by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier in 2012, look at select security issues from many different viewpoints in line with the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security.

Youth and Radicalization

It was a conference with and for youth. Half of the 155 participants in the conference **Working with Youth for Youth, Protection against Radicalization** in Belgrade on 3 and 4 September were young people: researchers specializing in violent extremism, grassroots NGO practitioners working with youth at risk, youth organizations, especially from the Western Balkans, and OSCE Youth Ambassadors. They brainstormed about how to protect their peers from the drawing power of radicalization and violent extremism by including them in the development of solutions. The Serbian Chairmanship, together with Special Representatives on Youth and Security Milena Stosic and Anna-Katharina Deininger, organized the meeting. Watch out for the report with recommendations: www.osce.org.



The OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE Serbian Chairmanship have launched the campaign OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#UnitedCVE) to underscore that we must all rise to the challenge of responding to the corrosive appeal of violent extremism by promoting tolerance, mutual respect, pluralism, inclusion and cohesion. See in this issue the Special Section “Radicalization to Terrorism: What to Do?” p. 16.

Whither the Second Basket?

Evolution of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE

By Kurt P. Tudyka

The economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE originated in the second so-called “basket” of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act: “Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment”. From our present-day perspective it may seem surprising how large this basket was and how much it included.

One finds provisions on the promotion of mutual trade in goods and services, elimination of obstacles to the development of

trade, improvement of working conditions of representatives of foreign organizations, enterprises, firms and banks, encouragement of industrial co-operation between national enterprises and firms, development of road networks and co-operation aimed at establishing a coherent navigable network in Europe; co-operation in standardization, exchange and dissemination of scientific and technological information, control of air and water pollution and protection of the marine environment.

There was of course a specific, historical reason for this multiplicity of wishes, promises and agreements. It was the necessary and difficult task of strengthening the connection between two fundamentally different economic systems, that of the market economy countries on the one hand and the state trading countries on the other. Already in the preamble, the participating States confirmed their will to intensify their co-operation irrespective of the diversity of their social and economic systems. This was relativized, however – also in the preamble – with the reference to a principle of reciprocity, “permitting, as a whole, an equitable distribution of advantages and obligations of comparable scale.” In the course of the co-operation, there was to be an attempt to compensate for one-sided market advantages and imbalances.

In this context, it proved difficult to include the according of most favoured nation status in the Helsinki Final Act, as desired by some states which did not belong to the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, today the World Trade Organization (WTO)]. Still, agreement was reached on the formulation: ‘The participating States... recognize the benefits that can ensue from the application of most favoured status for the development of trade.’

It is worth noting that already at that time, for many Western European countries, the negotiated elements of “basket two” fell within the exclusive jurisdiction of the European Economic Community (today the European Union). The European Commission, although not formally a participant in the conference, was therefore substantially involved in the consultations. The Italian Prime Minister, Aldo Moro, signed the Helsinki Final Act not only in the name of the Republic of Italy but also in his capacity as President in office of the Council of the European Communities.

“Basket two” also figured prominently in the concluding documents of the Madrid and Vienna Follow-up Meetings in the 1980s. The participating States declared their willingness to strengthen their economic co-operation and a special conference was convened to this end in Bonn for the spring of 1990. However, with the sudden disintegration of the eastern economic system, the agenda changed. With the overcoming of system boundaries – not only in the economic sphere – the task originally set for the Bonn gathering had become obsolete by the time it was held.

Transformation

The political upheavals of the years 1989/90 heightened and changed the significance of economic and social factors for security policy. New challenges emerged, among them the transformation of the planned economies into functioning and environmentally sustainable market economies. This became the centre of attention at the Bonn Conference, which marked the beginning of an – albeit short-lived – appreciation of the significance of the “economic and environmental dimension”, as the “second basket” came to be called in the 1990s. In the concluding document, the participating States emphasized the connection between political pluralism and a market economy and agreed on a series of principles for the process of reform: free elections, multi-party democracy, rule of law, protection of private property, environmental sustainability of economic growth and development, the right to freely establish independent trade unions and expanding the free flow of trade and capital.

In 1992, the Committee of Senior Officials (later renamed the Senior Council) was given the function of an Economic Forum. Its task was to stimulate dialogue on the transition to and development of free market economies as well as on economic co-operation and to encourage activities already underway within specialized international organizations. For example, the fifth meeting of the Economic Forum in 1997 was dedicated to the topic “Market economy and the rule of law”. The participants discussed the importance of reliable legal norms for the economy; it was stressed that tolerating statutory violations such as bribery, money laundering or corruption undermines public support for democracy and the market economy. There was always agreement that the OSCE should avoid overlap with the work of other organizations and institutions and that its task in the economic dimension consisted in promoting interaction between the private and public sectors.

Differing conceptions

The general assertion that security involves economic components is undisputed. Therefore, the economic dimension of the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive security has never been openly and directly challenged. The recommendation that the OSCE should give political impetus to economic

co-operation has repeatedly been tabled at various OSCE meetings and is reflected in numerous documents. However, the economic elements of security, as parts of a comprehensive security architecture, have never been developed in such a way as to result in an operational function for the OSCE.

The governments of OSCE participating States have different notions of the scope of the economic and environmental dimension of security and even of its meaning and purpose within the OSCE. The representatives of some countries have put the emphasis on legal and contractual security, protection of economic property and stable, reliable and predictable parameters of economic policy; several have referred to early warning systems. Others have named promoting environmentally sustainable conditions of production and countering economic espionage and international economic criminality as tasks for the OSCE.

It is striking how little reference has been made to the economic and environmental security of people in their roles as citizens, employees and consumers. The focus during the first decade after the end of the Cold War was on instabilities, crises, threats and risks for the economy, i.e. for national economies, enterprises, production or the market. Security, or rather resilience of the economy, economic policy and entrepreneurial activity was the goal. Economic security measures were meant to win the trust of entrepreneurs. It was in this context that measures to counter discrimination against migrant workers or social exclusion were mentioned, already in a chapter entitled "Economic and social aspects of migrant labour" in the Helsinki Final Act and reiterated in the concluding documents of the Madrid and Vienna Follow-up Meetings (1983 and 1989, respectively).

What role today?

Today, securing the economy is no longer the OSCE's main concern in the second dimension. Nor, certainly, is providing protection from it. Rather, it is dangers and risks that arise from economic activity that have increasingly attracted attention. These include the production, distribution and export of dangerous substances, the transportation of hazardous waste, corruption, trade in and transport of reactor fuel, drugs and weapons, trafficking in human beings and money laundering. The environmental and social aspects of economic security have also been more strongly brought to the fore.

The economic and environmental dimension of security now also extends to economic factors and circumstances that play or could play a role in hotspots and crisis areas, such as energy supply, water resources, natural resources and environmental damage. Addressing these issues is part of the mandate of several of the OSCE field operations. The Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, situated in the OSCE Secretariat, has organized seminars on such topics. Most notably, the above-mentioned Economic Forum, which since 2007 has been called the Economic and Environmental Forum, has dealt with these problems extensively, as the following overview shows. However, given the many specialized international – and to some extent financially powerful – organizations and institutions or “clubs” that are active in these areas, the role which the OSCE should play in the economic and environmental dimension remains unclear.

Kurt P. Tudyka is Professor emeritus of the University of Nijmegen/Netherlands and Honorary Professor at the University of Osnabrueck/Germany; he was Editor-in-Chief of the OSCE Yearbook, Hamburg.

The second chapter of the Helsinki Final Act, entitled Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment, contains a preamble and six substantive parts:

Commercial Exchanges;
Industrial co-operation and projects of common interest;
Provisions concerning trade and industrial co-operation;
Science and technology;
Environment;
Co-operation in other areas (Development of transport, Promotion of tourism, Economic and social aspects of migrant labour, Training of personnel).

Themes of OSCE Economic and Environmental Forums

1993 Transition process to democratic market economies

1994 Transition process to democratic market economies

1995 Regional, subregional and transborder co-operation, and the stimulation of trade, investment and development of infrastructure

1996 Economic aspects of security and the OSCE role

1997 Market economy and the rule of law

1998 Security aspects of energy developments in the OSCE area

1999 Security aspects in the field of the environment

2000 Economic aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation: the challenges of transformation

2001 Transparency and good governance in economic matters

2002 Co-operation for the sustainable use and the protection of quality of water in the context of the OSCE

2003 Trafficking in human beings, drugs, small arms and light weapons: national and international economic impact

2004 New challenges for building up institutional and human capacity for economic development and co-operation

2005 Demographic trends, migration and integrating persons belonging to national minorities: ensuring security and sustainable development in the OSCE area

2006 Transportation in the OSCE area: secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability

2007 Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: land degradation, soil contamination and water management

2008 Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: increasing security and protecting the environment

2009 Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region

2010 Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region

2011 Promoting common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport

2012 Promoting security and stability through good governance.

2013 Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region

2014 Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area

2015 Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through co-operation

2016 Strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance

Moving on Climate Change

References to climate change in OSCE policy documents

Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Security Issues (Madrid, 2007)

Ministerial Council Decision on Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-related Activities in the OSCE Region (Kyiv, 2013)

Ministerial Council Decision on Protection of Energy Networks from Natural and Man-made Disasters (Kyiv, 2013)

Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction (Basel, 2014)

OSCE activities on climate change

“Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE region”, Chairmanship conference, Bucharest, 5-6 October 2009

“Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE region”, project in partnership with the European Environment Agency and adelphi, 2010 - 2013

“Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus”, OSCE-led ENVSEC project funded by the European Union Instrument for Stability and the Austrian Development Agency, ongoing since 2013. Under the project, national stakeholders and international experts are identifying and mapping security implications of climate change in all three regions. This will be followed by awareness-raising on required adaptation measures.

In Conversation with Jeffrey Sachs

Climate change used to be considered a “threat multiplier”, it is now a “threat catalyst”,¹ said Guardian journalist Suzanne Goldenberg, speaking at the Security Day “Climate Change and Security - Unprecedented Impacts, Unpredictable Risks” hosted by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier in Vienna on 28 October 2015.

No one denies any more that climate change affects security. The question panelists at the OSCE event tried to answer was: What can an organization like the OSCE do?

“To my mind, the OSCE has an extremely pertinent role to play,” said Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals and Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, speaking via webcast with Secretary General Zannier.

Here are excerpts from their conversation:

Lamberto Zannier: The approach we have to security in the OSCE area is based on soft security and confidence building; would such an approach be able to help to overcome energy nationalism, for instance?

Jeffrey Sachs: I think it’s essential. Doing this partly by shorter term measures of trust and confidence and partly by an OSCE-wide engagement in low carbon energy security would be extremely valuable, because if you did OSCE-wide planning then the inter-dependencies of the different regions would become clearer.

We constantly, in everyday life and in all of the security issues that we face, have a choice between confrontation and co-operation. And, of course, the OSCE is built on the concept that co-operation is the positive sum approach to all of this, which I think is the fundamental truth for us. If we end up in any kind of new Cold War on the Ukraine border or in the South China Sea, we’re never going to solve these problems of sustainable development.

The local level is where the impact of climate change is felt the most. Do you see room for bottom-up approaches involving civil society?

I think one thing that is extremely important is for people everywhere to understand what the vulnerabilities are, not only in general terms and on a global scale, but also locally, since the vulnerabilities differ in different regions.

Developing tools so that in each place people can look on a map and say, “I understand what this challenge means for me and for my community,” and then to help give systematic voice to proper planning for what can be done is extremely important.

One network that I am putting together for Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon is the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). I would say we would have quite a practical opportunity for the OSCE and the SDSN to work together, to say: “let’s mobilize the university network within the OSCE, to work together also with the security community and the foreign policy community to look at how local and regional environmental risks can be mitigated.”

Do you see a role for us to develop partnerships with actors that go beyond the inter-governmental sector, engaging with industry, corporate and private sector in the climate security nexus?

Absolutely. You know, because it is the core work of the OSCE, that organization and networking are very time consuming, very complicated and very expensive, so it is a huge public good to create this kind of networking.

One network that I partner with closely is the World Business Council on Sustainable Development, which is the preeminent business group worldwide working on the challenges of bringing the business community into sustainable development.

If the OSCE and the World Business Council could connect and say: “look, we’re working in the same places and now on similar problems, but from a slightly different point of view, how can we make our mutual work better?” – I think it would be very fruitful.

View the Security Days discussion at: www.osce.org/sg/secdays.

1. Citing a report of the United States Military Advisory Board of the Center for Naval Analysis updated in 2015.



Managing the Dniester

By Leonid Kalashnyk and Ursula Froese

Ukraine and Moldova are united not just by common borders and a long history of friendly ties, but also by the Dniester River basin, whose waters serve as a life-giving resource for more than ten million people in the two countries. The Dniester River is one of the largest transboundary rivers in Eastern Europe. It originates in the Ukrainian Carpathians and flows through the Republic of Moldova before it again reaches Ukraine near the Black Sea.

About seven million people live within the Dniester basin, and more than five million of them are in Ukraine. The Dniester and its tributaries are the principal source of water supply for agriculture, industry and population centres in both countries, including Moldova's capital city, Chisinau. Outside the basin itself, another 3.5 million people use water from the river, including residents of the Ukrainian port city of Odessa.

Managing waters in a transboundary basin is rarely an easy task. It requires an approach that considers the problems and needs of the basin as a whole, regardless of geographical location or the jurisdiction of individual agencies. At the same time, mechanisms and agreements need to be equitable and context-specific, taking local traditions and conditions into account. Trust, political will and national ownership are important factors.

At the present time, thanks to the Dniester, there is no shortage of water in the region as a whole, although during low rainfall and droughts the demand for water in some areas may be difficult to meet. But with the economies developing in Moldova and Ukraine and climate change putting additional stress on the water resources, the future looks less certain. Already today, the river is suffering from pollution, declining biodiversity, floods and sometimes conflicting

water needs. The unresolved Transnistrian conflict adds further complexity. According to the recently endorsed Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin, the uncertainty is compounded by the fact that a shift in climatic conditions is expected to affect the volume and seasonal distribution of the river flow, increase the frequency and intensity of floods and droughts and lead to the challenges associated with water scarcity, including the deterioration of water quality and ecosystems in the Dniester basin. Such impacts pose a potential risk to the security of millions of people living in the river basin or otherwise relying on water from the Dniester.

A basin-wide approach

In Soviet times the Dniester River basin was managed as a united system, but after independence Moldova and Ukraine regarded their parts separately until 1994, when they signed a bilateral agreement on the use and protection of water resources in the basin. However, the agreement concerned only water use in the boundary area and did not cover biological river resources or ecological systems. Its implementation, in the main, involved only a small group of state officials from the water sector.

Basin-wide management of the Dniester began to develop as of 2004. In that year, Moldova and Ukraine requested the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to facilitate transboundary co-operation in the Dniester River basin. Since then, within the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) the two organizations have conducted a whole series of projects in the areas of flood management, protection of biodiversity, including fish diversity, transboundary monitoring, information and data sharing and public awareness raising, supported in part by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also an ENVSEC member. The projects have been implemented jointly with the Ministries of Environment of Moldova and Ukraine, water agencies and other relevant authorities of both countries.

A milestone achievement was the Transboundary Diagnostic Study of the Dniester River Basin in autumn 2005. This assessment of the basin's geography, natural resources, ecological status and priority environmental issues led to the

development and implementation of a Programme of Action for improving water resources management.

Most importantly, the evolving co-operation resulted in the negotiation and signing by Moldova and Ukraine of the bilateral Treaty on Co-operation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (Dniester Treaty) on 29 November 2012 in Rome. The Treaty has already been ratified by Moldova and its ratification by Ukraine is expected in the nearest future.


The Dniester Treaty broadens the existing co-operation to cover the entire river basin and all major sectors. It is also an important instrument for Moldova and Ukraine for implementing their obligations under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and their commitments within the framework of relevant OSCE policy documents. These include: the 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security; Ministerial Council (MC) Decision No. 7/07: Follow-up to the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum: Water Management; MC Decision No. 9/08: Follow-up to the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum on Maritime and Inland Waterways Co-operation; and MC Decision No. 6/14: Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction. The Treaty will also contribute to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive by both countries.

Climate change adaptation

Improving resilience to climate change has been an important part of the OSCE/UNECE projects within the framework of ENVSEC. The Working Group on Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Dniester River Basin was established in 2010 to review their progress, recommend further activities, decide on project-related measures and communicate achievements nationally and internationally.

The Working Group is notable for its inclusivity. Members are nominated by Moldova's Ministry of Environment, Ukraine's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and water agencies and hydro-meteorological services of both countries. The group includes representatives of sectoral agencies dealing, for instance, with hydroenergy and emergency management, the scientific community and civil society. Representatives of relevant regional and international organizations also take part in the meetings.

One tree at a time



In an OSCE/UNECE project to adapt the banks of the Dniester River to climate change, 14,000 seedlings were planted on both sides of the Ukraine/Moldova border, one by one. It was just one episode in the OSCE's decade-long work to strengthen trans-boundary co-operation in the Dniester basin. Patience and persistence are paying off for the endeavour, which is led by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and facilitated by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the OSCE Mission to Moldova. A success story, OSCE style.

From 2010 to 2014, at the request of both countries, the Working Group oversaw the implementation of measures under a major project to reduce vulnerability to extreme floods and climate change: detailed flood risk modelling and mapping in selected vulnerable areas, flood risk communication as well as installation of several monitoring stations in the upper part of the Dniester River. A basin-wide vulnerability assessment, also prepared under this project, made it possible to plan for climate change adaptation measures that span the area as a whole.

These are now being implemented under the ambitious multi-regional climate change project, Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus. It is an OSCE-led ENVSEC project funded by the European Union Instrument for Stability and the Austrian Development Agency. Basin-wide measures agreed by the countries are improving data and information exchange for climate change adaptation, restoring and conserving ecosystems and, importantly, raising awareness of the implications of climate change.

An example is reforestation, which helps to restore ecosystem productivity, protect watersheds and reduce the likelihood of flooding. A total of 14,000 seedlings have been planted: near the village Glinnoye on Turunchuk Island in Transdnistria/Moldova and on the banks of the Kuchurgan, the Hlybokyy Turunchuk and the Lower Dniester in Ukraine.

Not only is this project generating measures that are benefiting the whole basin, it has also produced, thanks to the joint work of experts from both sides of the border facilitated by the OSCE and the UNECE, the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin.

There are currently only a few such strategies existing in the world. It was endorsed by Moldova and Ukraine and launched at the High-Level Event on Climate Change and Transboundary Co-operation in the Dniester River Basin on 23 April 2015 in Kyiv.

Disaster risk reduction

Under another ENVSEC project jointly implemented by the OSCE and UNEP, a group of 16 representatives of environmental authorities and environmental experts from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine visited Switzerland in September 2015 to learn about this country's good practices in restoring ecosystems in flood-prone areas. This valuable experience will help to increase the potential for ecosystem restoration in order to mitigate

flood risks in the transboundary river basins in Eastern Europe, including the Dniester basin. As part of the broader efforts undertaken by the OSCE to address various aspects of water governance, this project also contributes to the implementation of the Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted at the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel.

What's next?

These successes, brought about by patience and perseverance, will require nurturing. A lot has been done, but there is still a lot to do, first and foremost by the countries directly concerned, Ukraine and Moldova. Once it enters into force, the Dniester Treaty will need to be implemented. This means establishing a bilateral river basin commission to facilitate the sustainable use and protection of the river basin and to support flood protection. It also means finding funding to support the operation of the commission and its working groups.

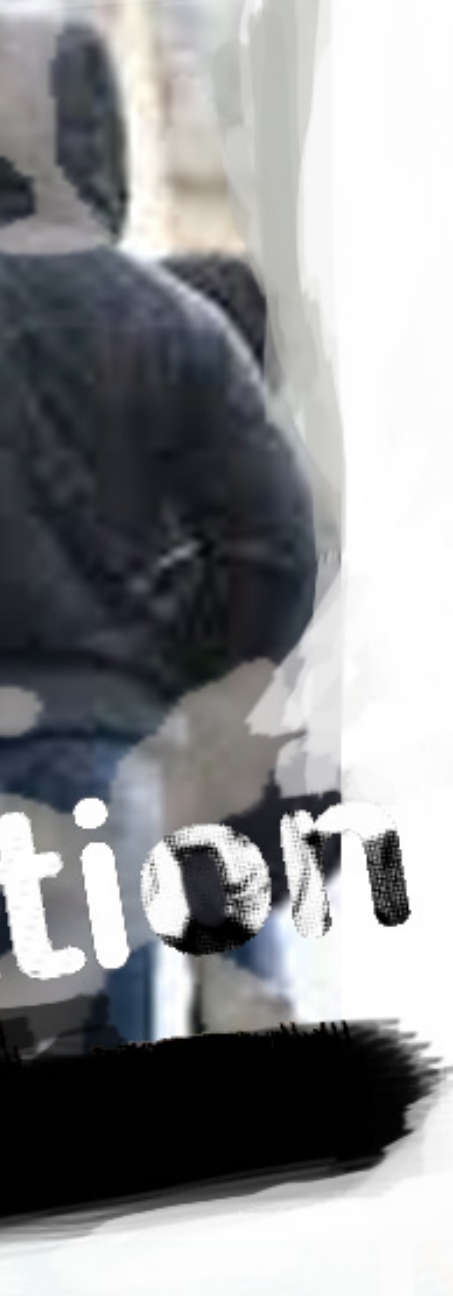
The Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change will also need to be implemented, according to a plan that the OSCE and UNECE are currently developing with the two countries. Its translation into action will significantly enhance the adaptive capacity of the Dniester basin, contribute to the implementation of the new Dniester Treaty following its entry into force and facilitate the implementation of the European Union Water Framework Directive and other relevant international commitments of both Moldova and Ukraine.

The OSCE-supported long-term work in the Dniester River basin supports global endeavours to address climate change, advance sustainable development and reduce disaster risks. It contributes to a sustainable and secure future for millions of people and precious ecosystems in this unique region and beyond.

Leonid Kalashnyk is an Environmental Programme Officer in the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Ursula Froese is the Editor of Security Community.



Recent events leave no doubt about the urgency of countering the odious processes of radicalization often in our midst that win people for violent extremist ideas and can lead them to commit terrorist acts. All participating States and Partners for Co-operation, west, east, north and south, are affected. The OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE Serbian Chairmanship have launched the campaign OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#UnitedCVE) to underscore that we must all rise to the challenge of responding to the corrosive appeal of violent extremism by promoting tolerance, mutual respect, pluralism, inclusion and cohesion. Five stories from five countries tell about what the OSCE and its government and civil society partners are doing to build strategies and make societies resilient against terrorist radicalization.



What to Do?

Reach out Early

Disarm by Helping

Accept Diversity

Strategize for Prevention

Support Dialogue



Reach Out Early

Talking with Rob Out

Community policing can do a lot to protect the vulnerable against radicalization and violent extremism that lead to terrorism (VERLT), but it cannot work alone, explains Rob Out. An expert consultant for the OSCE and an officer of the Netherlands police force, he helped to develop the Community Policing Preventing Radicalization and Terrorism (CoPPRa) programme used by police forces throughout the European Union for detecting of signs of violent radicalization at an early stage. He is a member of the European Union's Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN POL) and an expert/trainer for the Centre of Excellence of the RAN.

Please tell us about your community policing work to prevent terrorism.

I'm currently a project manager for countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization in the national Netherlands police department of North Holland. My responsibility there is two-fold: firstly, to develop and implement our multi-agency approach to violent radicalization and, secondly, to raise awareness based on the CoPPRa programme. I worked on this EU project for two years in Belgium – the project leader was from the Belgian federal police. It was a very successful project. We developed a comprehensive train-the-trainer programme, offered to more than 150 participants all over Europe, and a pocket guide for first line police officers to help them detect signs of violent radicalization at an early stage – tell-tale behavior like changing names, clothing styles or peers. Community police officers are engaged within local communities, so they are among the first to notice such signs. The earlier we can identify them, the better we can prevent terrorist radicalization. That's my core business.

What in your experience draws people to engage in terrorist activities?

There is a great variety of possible reasons and it is always a composition of more than one factor. One of them is that youngsters in their adolescent period are looking for their identity, looking for their purpose in life and sometimes struggling with all the complex problems in the world. They don't want to repeat what their parents have done; they want to go their own way. They are in a period of life in which they are most vulnerable, 12 to 20 years old. And if someone has come up with a very simple solution for all these problems, then that can appear very attractive. This could be one of the reasons why young people are so receptive to the rhetoric from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and similar groups, but also from violent right-wing or left-wing organizations.

Looking at people who want to leave for Syria, who want to help ISIL or their brothers fighting there, we have to realize there are also victims among them. Of course, some people really want to go fight and kill those they consider to be unbelievers. But among them are also people who have hardly any knowledge of the Koran, who are more or less lured into going there, especially young women. I remember a girl – she was 16 or 17 – who, in her mind, wanted to go to “the Caliphate” to help “the fighters” over there, get married to “a warrior” and have children. But just before she left for Syria, we were able to stop her, and when we opened her suitcase, we found a bikini. That shows that she really had no clue as to what she would have been confronted with over there.

Does the police need to work together with other sectors of society?

Violent radicalization is not only a police issue. If you are a policeman or policewoman and you detect signs of radicalization at an early stage, there may be little you can do. The person in question might not have broken any law. You have to be very careful because of fundamental rights.

After all, having radical thoughts is not forbidden in the Netherlands. If we didn't have people with radical thoughts in our history, we wouldn't have achieved the progress that took us where we are now. We have to be very careful with that. A teacher, for instance, unlike a police officer, has contact with pupils every day and may be in a much better position to identify and maybe even constructively react to changes in vulnerable youngsters.

That's why in the Netherlands we are taking an inter-agency approach to preventing violent radicalization. When I brought the CoPPRa programme to the Netherlands and translated it into Dutch, I adapted it so that it could be used not only for police officers but also for other first line workers. We will be offering this training to first line professionals working in the municipalities, prisons and schools. They will be given information that helps them understand the process of violent radicalization, what the signs may be, what is common among violent extremist groups irrespective of their particular ideological brand, and where to go when they encounter these signs.

Is it hard for different agencies to work together?

It is not always easy, not because they are not willing, but because of the differences in structure, ‘language’, goals and agendas. If I'm part of the police force, my objective is for people not to commit terrorist attacks in the future, but if I'm a teacher, my goal is for people to be able to finish their studies. If I'm a mental health worker, my objective is to cure mental illnesses. We don't all have the same starting position. Nor do those involved always have the same authority within their own organizations to put initiative into action.

One of the most important aspects is information sharing. Police cannot share police information with everybody, and people who work in mental health cannot share all information about their patients. In the Netherlands we have set up an information house, or safety house, where we have a written legal agreement signed by each agency that allows us to exchange information case by case on people about whom we are concerned.

The Matrix integrated approach is a tool developed in the Netherlands to help practitioners on an operational level to

deal with these difficulties. More information on this good practice can be found in the OSCE guide Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach.

What role do social media play in terrorist radicalization and for preventing it?

Within the RAN we have nine working groups, and one of them is the RAN Communication and Narratives working group. Practitioners from different EU countries (governments and NGO's) together with representatives from Google and YouTube for instance do what they can to prevent messages from terrorist groups from being posted on the Internet. The Netherlands police and police in many other countries are doing the same. As soon as they know of an Al-Qaeda-inspired or ISIL-inspired website or Twitter account, they try to get it off the Internet. Usually, however, a new account is quickly created, which makes it a bit difficult. But I think we are having some success. My impression is that for the past few months we have been seeing fewer messages from those accounts. Foreign terrorist fighters in Syria use Twitter accounts to encourage their friends back home to come join them. But they know that the authorities are also reading their Twitter feeds and that if they return to their home country, they will be arrested. So, I think that in the last few months, they have been using those strategies less than they used to a year ago. It is more underground now and restricted to closed groups that you can only join by invitation, for instance whatsapp groups.

Another activity we are doing on a European and global scale is to spread counter-narratives. You can find some videos on YouTube in which we explain why you shouldn't join ISIL and why the members of ISIL are misinterpreting and wilfully exploiting the Koran to further their agenda.

In Estonia and in Finland, community policing officers have a Facebook page on which they talk to youngsters about subjects like violent radicalization and terrorism. In the Netherlands community policing officers have their own Twitter account for two-way communication with their communities.

What can be done once a person has been radicalized to violence?

For someone who is too far radicalized it is almost impossible to be de-radicalized. The experience all over Europe is that de-radicalization is maybe too ambitious. We now use the word disengagement. People might keep their extremist ideas, but will not be in favour (anymore) of the use of violence to achieve them. To connect and try to talk to people is the best thing that we can achieve. We are trying to engage people, but not by going to them and saying "we heard that you have radical thoughts, sit down and let's talk". We try to find another entry point, get in touch with the person for other reasons. Maybe he



or she has social problems; maybe a mental illness, such as depression, trauma, or impulse control problems. Helping them with these problems might already do the trick. That's the great advantage of having a multi-agency approach, because you assemble all kinds of parties who can help people who are at school, using social services or on probation. We see who is best at establishing contact with the person to determine in which way he or she can be best engaged and helped. A good practice in this respect is the use of specially chosen and trained mentors, as is being done with success in Aarhus, Denmark, and also in Amsterdam. Other good examples are the EXIT programme in Germany, which was



developed to de-radicalize right-wing extremists and has been adapted to other forms of violent extremism, and the initiative Sisters Against Violent Extremism (SAVE) in Vienna, Austria, in which women, in particular mothers, use their influence to prevent youngsters from succumbing to terrorist radicalization.

We cannot reach everybody. If people are too far radicalized, then maybe they have already conducted activities that are against the law. In such cases, we get our law enforcement system to take matters over and to conduct surveillance, start investigations, or other activities. That is not my job, as it already lies outside of the preventive approach.

Read more

Information on the OSCE guidebook *Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach* can be found at: www.osce.org/secretariat/116516

EXIT – Germany: www.exit-deutschland.de/english/

SAVE – Sister Against Violent Extremism: www.women-without-borders.org/save/

Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN): http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/index_en.htm

Contact Rob Out: mail.robout@gmail.com



Disarm by Helping

By Mimoun Berrissoun

180° Wende (*180° Turn*) is a pilot project in Cologne, Germany, for the prevention of violent radicalization and de-radicalization. The initiative has been helping young people in the city change their lives for the better since the beginning of 2013.

Young people radicalized to violence usually come to public attention only through reports of their departure to fight in in Syria and Iraq or threatening videos that circulate for days on end in the Internet. The shock is enormous, and the biographies of these men and women are combed for clues to a possible cause. In response, these individuals often point their fingers at society. While such finger pointing can hardly be justified, we must admit that we, as a society, are not entirely free of responsibility for the failure of its individual members. The experience we at 180° Wende have gained in our work confirms this.

When schoolteachers react to pupils' expression of extremist views, even in casual conversation, with an immediate threat of expulsion, a threat that in many cases is acted upon, - that is already a failure of society. While dealing with the phenomenon of violent radicalization on an institutional level can be challenging, expulsion from school is the worst option. It diminishes career prospects, fuels the radicalization process and can drive young sympathisers into the hands of violent extremist groups. A central finding of extremism research is that if young people get social recognition and appreciation through their occupation, family or friends, there is a very high probability that they will not be susceptible to extremist ideas and the notion that violence is justified.

We need to better understand radicalization processes and their causes. Understanding them cannot and must not mean euphemizing their ideology. But it will give us the ability to better tackle such phenomena. From years of experience in the field, we can say that this work requires sensitivity and tact. It must be carried out with sincerity and authenticity.

The following story of a young man whom our network picked up from the street clearly illustrates the extent to which we, as members of society, can play a part, both in helping and in hindering an individual. The young man is in his early twenties, the son of a single mother. For reasons of anonymity we will call him Mustafa. A 180° Wende coach happened to meet him in the subway and asked about his wellbeing. They only knew each other passingly, but since the coach felt responsible for young people in his district and was actively engaged in street working, he inquired about the youth's situation. Mustafa was frustrated, completely devastated. Throughout the conversation he kept repeating the narrative of the "clash of civilizations": "they just don't want us to get any job at all! They just don't want us to make it".

We invited him to our centre. When he wrote down his resume, the gaps became obvious. The young man had a two-year odyssey behind him: after having applied for numerous jobs and completing three internships, to which he was always "lured" with promises of employment, he finally tried his luck in the navy. Away from family and friends, he became a victim of constant bullying by his colleagues. He repeatedly found his prayer mat, which his mother had given him and which had more symbolic than religious meaning for him, in the garbage bin. He constantly had to listen to insults, was called a "camel driver" and a "terrorist". After much pondering he decided to go back home. Unfortunately, he was unaware at the time of the possibility of disciplinary complaints or of anti-bullying centres in public institutions and had no previous experience in pro-actively dealing with the experience of discrimination.

On his way home he was hit even harder. In a train station, he was controlled by police officers. They found that the jack-knife he was carrying in his pocket was not closed properly. This earned him a large fine. He

arrived home at last – to a sad and dejected mother. The frustration which he carried within himself and the free time he now had led him to frequent sympathizers of violent extremism. The first step on the way to violent radicalization was taken.

When 180° Wende met Mustafa in the subway, it was not too late to help him to find a hold in society. All the stops were pulled. He was invited to participate in counselling groups and got to know other young people with similar problems. This helped him to realize that he was not alone. Older coaches assisted him during the counselling. The work experience he had gathered over the years was extracted from his mess of papers and repackaged into a presentable and detailed CV, which he could use for job applications. At his request, 180° Wende managed to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and use its institutional contacts to provide him with the opportunity to earn his high school diploma and, at the same time, complete a technical training course. His thoughts and prejudices were discussed with him.

Today, Mustafa's view of the world is no longer bleak. He has newfound courage and takes time, while pursuing his education, to help other young people in the network. For this young man, the 180 degree turn for the positive has succeeded. He started into the new school year in August fully motivated. 180° Wende will continue to offer him a place where he can come with his worries and concerns.

This time we, as a society, were lucky again. But there are many stories like Mustafa's. In the past three years, we have been able to help more than 900 young people, advise families and provide support to schools. There is a lot more to be done, however. 180° Wende, too, must continue to grow and contribute to a comprehensive change in society towards active awareness and assistance.

The society in which we live is of our making. We cannot afford to remain passive. The values for which we stand must be actively defended. We cannot leave young people alone. That is why we are all needed more urgently than ever.

Mimoun Berrissoun is the leader of the initiative 180° Wende. 180° Wende has won several prizes for its innovative approach, most recently in June 2015, when it was the national prize winner in the "startsocial" competition under the auspice of Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel. It is a member of the European Commission's RAN (Radicalization Awareness Network). For more information see: www.180gradwende.de



Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

With athletic, cultural and artistic events in 17 cities, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted a one-month campaign against hate that concluded on the International Day of Tolerance on 16 November. Through its Super Citizens crowdsourcing platform, its monthly Hate Monitor, and 19 local Coalitions against Hate, the Mission co-ordinates an extensive network of initiatives against hate crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These activities at the same time represent an important support structure to the government's new counter-terrorism strategy, which places significant emphasis on prevention. Sladjana Milunović, National Programme Officer at the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, explains how.

How does combating hate prevent violent radicalization?

Many people who commit hate-motivated acts are young people. They were born mostly after the war in Yugoslavia, yet the legacy of that conflict seems to have shaped their values and beliefs.

Unfortunately, violent extremist groups can speak to the needs of these young people, provide them with the feeling of belonging to a group and subsequently instrumentalize them to commit hateful acts. The Mission supports citizens in their efforts to prevent of hate. It encourages the generation of positive narratives through the network of Coalitions against Hate, which it initiated in 2013. This network has now grown to 19 Coalitions, comprising more than 120 different citizen organizations, all dedicated to the same goal - setting a positive example of respect for diversity and showing young people that a different and better world is theirs for the making.

How do the Coalitions against Hate function and what is their role?

In part, activities of the Coalitions against Hate are preventive in nature. For instance, their members conduct workshops promoting respect for diversity and building common narratives based on shared values. They organize joint sporting activities, literary events and art competitions. A second set of activities is reactive. It is very important not to remain silent when bias-motivated incidents occur in a community. To calm a situation down and prevent tensions from building, the Coalitions issue public statements and condemnations of incidents. Moreover, if they notice radicalized groups or individuals, Coalition members try to introduce alternatives to hate. For example, in one city, a group of radical supporters of the local football club was writing offensive graffiti against an ethnic group and desecrating graves at cemeteries. The local Coalition against Hate approached the football club and got them to issue a public statement distancing themselves from such acts and the people that commit them. The Coalition and the football club subsequently organized a special football match for tolerance, where they presented messages against hate.

However, what is also important is to ensure that young people are not made to feel excluded from their community and peers. The Coalition in this same town used an opportunity offered by another project to repair a children's playground to reach

out to the radicalized group. It worked to include the group in their efforts – in spite of objections on the part of some– in order for them to realize that they are a part of society and can make a positive contribution in their communities. It is crucial to present positive alternatives and to not push young people further into isolation and violent radicalization.

Do you use social media to spread positive messages?

All of the Coalitions against Hate use social media, including the Super Citizens platform, Twitter and Facebook. At the OSCE's Social Media Camp, held from 22 to 24 July 2015, the Mission had the opportunity to work with approximately 20 young people who want to use social media to promote alternatives to hate narratives. We talked to them about violent radicalization and extremism, and had little idea as to how they would react to such topics. Yet they understood the problem and the danger that bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes represents to communities, especially when they bring about the marginalization of young people that can then be targeted and approached by radical groups. If young people are troubled and have no one to talk to, they are more susceptible to stumbling upon very inappropriate and dangerous information on the Internet.

Is Bosnia and Herzegovina a special case when it comes to the danger of violent radicalization?

I would not say that violent radicalization is specific to Bosnia and Herzegovina; you can see violent extremism and hate incidents and crimes increasing throughout Europe and the world. What makes Bosnia and Herzegovina unique is its response to hatred, especially at the local level, and people's realization of how dangerous hate and violent radicalization can be for the stability of this country. This comes of course in large part from the experience of the Yugoslav war, but also from the strong tradition of good neighbourly relations in communities. Even the devastating war did not fully deconstruct our social cohesion. I find the network of Coalitions against Hate to be a very unique and valuable tool in the fight against hatred, and I believe that it should be replicated throughout the South-East European region.

Read more!

"Innovate against Hate" by Will Richard, Security Community, Issue 3, 2014.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina: Life Beyond Politics - Tolerance Upfront" by Zlatan Music. osce.org/bih/195641

S

trategize

for Prevention

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Kosovo has not been blessed when it comes to risk factors for violent extremism. During the 1990s, its residents experienced a difficult period of armed conflict, which fueled hatred and intolerance. Geographically, it lies on a trafficking route to Europe that puts it at risk for the spread of terrorism from Central Asia and the Middle East. Religiously, many Kosovo Albanians identify themselves as Muslims, an element that can be exploited for violent radicalization in the current Middle-Eastern context. And socio-economically, according to the World Bank, around one third of Kosovo residents live below the poverty line, roughly one eighth in extreme poverty, which can be a condition conducive to recruitment by terrorists.

Naim Hoxha has been an adviser with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo's Organized Crime Advisory Section since it first began supporting the government in countering violent extremism in 2009. He tells about recent developments.

Who are the vulnerable groups today?

Youth from poor socio-economic backgrounds coming from either semi-urban and/or rural areas are especially vulnerable. But you can also find educated youth involved in violent extremist activities. One important risk factor is social isolation experienced by a young person, who is then lured towards violent extremism by individuals or groups outside his/her family circles.

It should also be said that open issues and competing visions for Kosovo may further contribute to an increase of violent radicalization, both among Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs.

Violent radicalization is currently a localized phenomenon affecting a limited number of individuals. The most serious threat comes from groups affiliated with or inspired by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Violent extremist actions by current or former Kosovo residents are predominantly performed outside of Kosovo. According to statistics from central institutions in Prishtinë/Priština, approximately 250 to 300 Kosovo residents are fighting in Syria or Iraq. The majority reportedly joined in 2013.

What is the government doing to counter terrorist radicalization?

In September, Kosovo adopted a strategy and action plan on violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism for the years 2015 to 2020. This is a move from a reactive to a more preventive approach. The drafting group was quite inclusive, with several government ministries, religious, political and international institutions and media participating.

The Office of the Prime Minister, based on our past support and co-operation, invited two representatives of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo to join and support the consultation and drafting process.

What did the OSCE Mission in Kosovo contribute?

The OSCE dispatched experts to all proceedings of the drafting group, who provided on-the-spot advice. We also organized a two-day roundtable discussion in Prishtinë/Priština at the end of April, which offered the involved officials access to a broad range of potential partners: businesses, national, international and local institutions, civil society, academia, local health care providers, teachers and the media.

A second roundtable discussion was held in the form of a retreat in Tirana, Albania, from 8 to 11 August, where we prepared the first draft of the strategy and action plan. A third workshop took place in Prishtinë/Priština.

Now that the strategy has been adopted, the Mission is preparing to support the authorities in its implementation.

The Mission in Kosovo has otherwise assisted the authorities in countering violent extremism since the Kosovo Police first conducted a threat assessment in 2009. The Mission has provided specialized training for some five hundred people and organized local and regional seminars, mainly for Kosovo Police officers but also for prosecutors, judges and participants from the financial intelligence unit, customs, and different civil society organizations. It works closely with the Transnational Threats Department in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

Support dialogue

Office in Tajikistan

Every society has its own vulnerability to the threat of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). In Tajikistan, labour migration is one of the factors that puts families at risk. Hundreds of thousands of Tajik men are working abroad. If they fall into dire straits they can be an easy target for terrorist recruiters. Meanwhile, mothers back home are left alone to raise the children increasing the vulnerability of the youth.

Effective prevention needs to occur at an early stage, before either the pernicious ideology takes hold, or individuals are duped into travelling to conflict zones.

“One mother approached us and was very concerned about her son. He was promised €1,000 and told he had to buy a ticket and fly to Turkey. Obviously this was very late in the game, possibly a case for law enforcement. People need to be addressed early, and receive some guidance on how to recognize possible warning signs,” said Zebuniso Sharifzoda, a national programme officer in the OSCE’s Office in Tajikistan.

Together with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Migration, the OSCE Office is providing knowledge about VERLT to families like this. From November 2014, around two hundred potential trainers, government employees and civil society representatives, were trained about VERLT. They then went into communities where, together with volunteers and supported by OSCE staff and national experts, they delivered one-day education sessions, in particular to mothers. More than 50 training sessions were held so far, benefitting over 2,500 people across the country. This number is expected to increase threefold thanks to the international NGO Save the Children, which has an extensive women’s network in the south of the country and agreed to cooperate with the OSCE in the implementation of the project.

Violent extremism is a very delicate issue, not normally discussed publically in the rural communities where the training sessions took place. To speak about it in the presence of men, especially government representatives, is new for many women. So at first they are not so open, but slowly they begin to respond to questions like: “Are you in touch with your family member abroad?”; “Do you think there are signs of radicalization in your community?” – and a discussion ensues.

They identify early-warning signs such as sudden anti-social attitudes; an interest in particular websites; increasing misogynist views. The trainers provide information on terrorist groups and violent extremism as well as tactics used to gain influence, further helping participants develop understanding to help resist potential recruiters’ approaches.

The reasons for terrorist radicalization in Tajikistan are many. The OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the OSCE Secretariat’s Transnational Threats Department organized the first expert workshop on foreign terrorist fighters in February of this year involving all central Asian participating States. Sensitive topics, including, for instance estimates of the number of terrorist fighters abroad, were discussed at the workshop.

In parallel to the “Parents against Terrorism” project, the OSCE Office conducted field research on violent radicalization trends in Tajikistan in co-operation with the government earlier this year. The findings highlighted the necessity of preventive action and some of the recommendations have been taken on board by the government. For instance, from September, secondary school pupils in grades 10 and 11 are being taught history of religions.

The response that “Parents against Terrorism” has received is inspiring. One woman in a southern area, for instance, volunteered as a trainer because she lost her son to the conflict in Syria. “Stay in touch with your family members,” she said. “Many people are radicalized while they are abroad, so make sure you stay in touch.”

Act of solidarity in Tunis

In a symbolic act of solidarity with the victims of the bloody terrorist attack at the Bardo National Museum in Tunis last March, the French Goncourt Academy chose this Tunisian cultural icon as the place from which to announce the four finalists for this year's Prix Goncourt, France's oldest and most prestigious literary award. The Bardo Museum houses one of the world's largest and richest collections of Roman mosaics and other antiquities of interest from Ancient Greece, Tunisia and the Islamic period. One of the award finalists was the French-Tunisian author Hédi Kaddour, nominated for his novel *Les Prépondérants*. The novel recreates the world of the non-Arab, non-Jewish ruling class in the Mahgreb of the 1920s, whose sense of entitlement, as the name evokes, carried with it blindness to the possibility of the changes to come. All four finalist authors touch on European-Arab relations in their writings. In the final selection, announced in Paris on 3 November, the Prix Goncourt for 2015 went to the Arabic and Persian scholar Mathias Énard for his novel *Boussole*.



Coming of Age: the OSCE Asian Partnership

OSCE-Asian co-operation began when Japan attended the CSCE Summit in Helsinki in 1992, joined by the Republic of Korea in Budapest in 1994, the year the CSCE became the OSCE. The introduction of the term “Partners for Co-operation” in 1995 cemented the relationship with the two Asian countries and paved the way for others to join. Thailand did so in 2000, Afghanistan followed in 2003, Mongolia in 2004 (Mongolia is a participating State since 2012) and, finally, Australia in 2009.

Two further milestones were the establishment of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation in 2003, which remains the main forum for regular informal dialogue, and the OSCE Partnership Fund in 2007, which supports practical co-operation activities. The relationship has been one of mutually beneficial exchange, with the Asian Partners contributing substantially to the OSCE’s dialogue and also backing OSCE activities financially, including generous contributions by several to the establishment of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Asian Partnership, the External Co-operation Section of the OSCE Secretariat, with the generous contribution of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, Chair of the Asian Contact Group in 2015, has published a brochure that pays tribute to the close and productive association. It contains a useful collection of all relevant official documents, an overview of current activities and thematic chapters, including on the special engagement with Afghanistan. Available in print and on the OSCE public website: www.osce.org.

Recent OSCE Publications

The OSCE Asian Partnership for Co-operation: Reflections and Perspectives Published by External Relations, OSCE Secretariat (English)

Report: Human Rights Situation of Detainees at Guantánamo Published by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (English)

The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area: Background Paper 2015 Published by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (English, Russian)

Handbook for Monitoring Administrative Justice Published by the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (English, Russian, Albanian)

Counteraction to Counterfeit and Contraband Pesticides: Methodology Published by the OSCE Secretariat (English, Russian)

The World in the Armenian Media: Means and Sources Published by the OSCE Office in Yerevan (English, Armenian)

Handbook on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Central Asia Published by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (English, Russian)

Combating Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Progress and Challenges (2004-2014) Published by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (English, Bosnian)

Secretary General's Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality- 2014 Published by the OSCE Secretariat (English).

Report on Economic and Environmental Activities: 2013-2014 Published by the OSCE Secretariat (English, Russian)

