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OSCE Presence launches project to further advance electoral reform and processes in Albania

18 October 2023



Launching event of the OSCE Presence in Albania's project "Support to electoral reform and processes in Albania" financed by the governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Poland, Tirana, 17 October 2023. (OSCE/Ioana Karapataqi) [Photo details](#)

On 17 October 2023, the OSCE Presence in Albania presented a project on electoral reform and processes, aiming to contribute to an all-inclusive and participatory electoral process in Albania in line with OSCE commitments and OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.

The OSCE project "Support to electoral reform and processes in Albania" is financed by the governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Poland. It will run until November 2026. The project's overarching goals include support to the authorities with expertise and assistance for the implementation of the out-of-country voting in the upcoming parliamentary elections; contribution towards the improvement and de-politicization of electoral administration through a systematic and professional electoral training and enhancement of direct

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Successful Completion of OSCE Mission's Project: “Tabletop Exercises on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism”

12 October 2023



Over the course of the past two years, the OSCE Mission has conducted twelve Tabletop Exercises (TTX) that convened more than 500 participants from diverse backgrounds across the entire country. (OSCE) [Photo details](#)

The OSCE Mission to BiH organized today in Sarajevo a closing ceremony to mark the successful completion of one of the OSCE's key projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Tabletop Exercises on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism (VERLT).

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OSCE Mission publishes court reporting guidelines for journalists in Kosovo

21 September 2023

Prishtinë/Priština, 21 September 2023 –The OSCE Mission published today a set of guidelines for reporting on courts to assist journalists in Kosovo in their work and contribute to responsible and informed journalism. The guidelines offer comprehensive support for journalists navigating the Kosovo court system and emphasize ethical and legal considerations in reporting on the judiciary.

The document covers three key areas: court reporting, privacy and protection standards, and legal and normative frameworks. The guidelines also include quick-reference dos and don'ts, highlighting the importance of maintaining ethical standards, respecting privacy, and upholding the presumption of innocence.

"Journalists reporting on legal proceedings in any democratic society have a duty and responsibility to provide accurate information, while at the same time upholding and respecting the integrity of the judicial system," said Ambassador Michael Davenport, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

"It is our sincere hope that these Guidelines will contribute to freedom of expression being safeguarded and justice being served, both inside and outside the courtroom," he added.

The document urges journalists to exercise caution when reporting on minors and vulnerable adults, obtaining consent and protecting identities when necessary. It also emphasizes the significance of adhering to codes of conduct and self-regulatory tools, such as the Independent Media Commission's Code of Ethics for Media Service Providers and the Press Council of Kosovo's Press Code.

As follow-up, the OSCE Mission will distribute the guidelines in various mock trial workshops to students of law and journalism in November.

The OSCE Mission has been supporting the development of free and independent media since

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Eighth regional conference of forensic centres in Montenegro

12 October 2023



(c) Head of OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Dominique Waag, with (r) Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia in Montenegro, Zečir Ramčilo, and (l) director of the Forensic Centre of Montenegro Sandra Kovačević, at the opening of the 8th Regional Conference of Forensic Centres, organized with the support of the Mission, Budva, 12 October 2023. (OSCE/Marina Živaljević) Photo details

The Forensic Centre is a healthy bond between the police and judicial authorities; while support to the Forensic Centre means support to both the police and judiciary in combatting criminal activities and for the benefit of all citizens. This was one of the messages sent at the opening of the Eighth Regional Meeting of Forensic Centres, organized with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro on 12 and 13 October in Budva.

Over the two days of the conference, around 20 representatives – heads and chiefs of the forensic centres of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, along with participants from Slovakia and Turkey, discuss, among others, current

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OSCE Mission to Serbia and Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue mark the completion of the 2023 Professional Practice Programme for young professionals from south and southwest Serbia

28 September 2023



OSCE Mission to Serbia and Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue mark the completion of the 2023 Professional Practice Programme for young professionals from south and southwest Serbia, Belgrade, 28 September 2023 (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

[Photo details](#)

On 28 September in Belgrade, seven participants of the 2023 Professional Practice Programme for young professionals from south and southwest Serbia received certificates of completion and presented the projects they designed and implemented during their 10-month

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OSCE-UNHCR conference in Skopje aims to end statelessness in South-Eastern Europe

18 October 2023



Participants attending the OSCE-UNHCR conference on preventing the statelessness and accessing the civil documentation in South-Eastern Europe, Skopje, 17 October 2023. (UNHCR) Photo details

On 17 October 2023, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) with the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), under the auspices of the 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia, organized a one-day Conference on Statelessness. The Conference was intended as an exchange forum for over eighty participants representing national authorities, civil society and international organizations, to facilitate practical and informative discussions aimed at sharing good practices to prevent and address statelessness in the South-Eastern Europe region.

In his Opening Remarks, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister of North Macedonia Bujar

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OSCE Mission to Moldova enhances dialogue between art students from both banks of Dniester/Nistru River and promotes culture of peace among youth

21 June 2023



Art students and teaching staff of "Alexandru Plamadeala" Republican College of Fine Arts from Chisinau and "Victor Postoiukin" Higher Education Art College in Bender took part in a four-day plein air, held in Old Orhei, 13-16 June, 2023. (OSCE/Asthis Israelian)

[Photo details](#)

Between 13 and 16 June, art students and teaching staff of "Alexandru Plamadeala" Republican College of Fine Arts from Chisinau and "Victor Postoiukin" Higher Education Art College in Bender took part in a four-day plein air, held in Old Orhei.

Over the four days of the plein air activity, 20 young women and men had the opportunity to

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Modernization of customs mechanisms in focus of OSCE seminar in Turkmenistan

5 October 2023



Participants at an OSCE-organized seminar on the modernization of customs mechanisms and strengthening export procedures, Ashgabat, 5 October 2023 (OSCE) [Photo details](#)

An OSCE-organized seminar on the modernization of customs mechanisms and strengthening export procedures took place in Ashgabat from 3 to 5 October 2023.

Held in a blended format, the three-day event brought together representatives of the State Customs Service, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Affairs, the Central Bank and commercial banks, Turkmenbashi International Sea Port, and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs as well as other relevant institutions.

The seminar presented best practices of the OSCE participating States in aligning customs mechanisms with relevant international standards, and facilitated discussions on advancing regulatory mechanisms governing export procedures.

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Enhancing women's participation in law enforcement across Central Asia: OSCE-supported regional conference concludes in Astana

20 September 2023



Lyazzat Ramazanova, Deputy Chair of the National Commission on Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, addressing the participants of the conference. (OSCE) [Photo details](#)

The regional conference on [Promoting Women's Participation in Law Enforcement in Central Asia](#), held on 14 and 15 September 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan, marked a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to empower women in the region's law enforcement agencies. It brought together representatives of national authorities, including the Ministry of Interior, Police Academies, Prosecutor Offices, Policewomen Associations, and other relevant law enforcement

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Opening Ceremony of the Young Border Guard Classroom in Toguz-Bulak village: Shaping a Safer Future Together

12 October 2023



Toguz-Bulak village, 12 October 2023 - Ambassador Alexey Ragov, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Visited the Young Border Guard Classroom Organized by The Border Service of the State Committee on National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic in Co-operation with the OSCE POB (OSCE/Chyngyz Zhanybekov) [Photo details](#)

Toguz-Bulak village, 12 October 2023 - The Border Service of the State Committee on National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek announced the grand opening of the Young Border Guard classroom in Toguz-Bulak village, Kyrgyzstan. This milestone event underscores the joint commitment to address critical border security needs and transnational threats.

In an interconnected world, transnational problems, such as organized crime, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, trafficking of human beings, and the

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[OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe](#) [Environmental activities, Disaster risk reduction](#)

OSCE concludes EU-funded training course on surface water rescue operations

14 October 2023

On 14 October 2023, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (Office) completed a two-week training course on "Surface Water Rescue Operation" for representatives of Tajikistan's Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoESCD). The course was held in Levakand city (Khatlon region) and aimed at improving the skills and capacities of rescuers in conducting surface water rescue operations by using motorboats and other techniques.

A total of 20 rescuers from across Tajikistan were able to practice and enhance their skills including in operating a motorboat, providing first medical aid to a rescued/drowned person, applying various types of rescue equipment during search and rescue operations on water and conducting on-water operations using two boats simultaneously. Theoretical sessions were held in the CoESCD's Office in Bokhtar and practical courses were conducted in water areas of the Vakhsh River as well as the Levakand reservoir.

The event was conducted as part of the OSCE project on the Stabilization of Tajikistan's southern borders with Afghanistan, funded by the European Union. The project aims to strengthen the professional capacities of both Tajikistan's Border Troops and the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence to combat illicit activities in border regions and respond to natural disasters.

Contacts

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Addressing cross-border travel of suspected foreign terrorist fighters and criminals in focus at joint OSCE and UNODC advanced training of trainers

13 October 2023



Officers from border and customs services attending a capacity-building training, Tashkent, 5-12 October 2023. (OSCE) [Photo details](#)

From 5 to 13 October, the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit jointly with UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch, delivered capacity-building training for twenty officers from border and customs services in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Within the framework of the advanced training of trainers (ToT), the event served to enhance capacities of the first OSCE-led National Mobile Training Team (MTT), equipping them with the

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OSCE and IOM help Ukrainian officials and experts to build practical skills for handling human trafficking cases

18 October 2023



Scene of a trafficking case simulation at the exercises organized by the OSCE and IOM for Ukrainian officials, experts and practitioners in Lviv. 4 October 2023. (Volodymyr Cheppel/OSCE) [Photo details](#)

A series of four three-day simulation exercises organized jointly by the OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine and IOM Mission in Ukraine in September and October helped officials, experts, and practitioners from 12 regions of Ukraine to enhance their practical skills in investigating cases of trafficking in human beings and assisting survivors of the crime.

The training imitates labour and sexual exploitation scenarios using the methodology developed by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (CTHR). "It is highly rewarding to see that States find the format of

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