



Deutschland 2016



OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP
IN 2016

WITH YOUTH
FOR YOUTH



“We acknowledge the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development, and that they can support participating States in the implementation of commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.”

OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on Youth, 5 December 2014



The German OSCE Chairmanship

The motto of the German Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2016 is “Renewing dialogue, rebuilding trust, restoring security”.

In these turbulent times, dialogue is needed not only between governments but, above all, between individuals.

In his speech to the OSCE Permanent Council in July 2015, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier stated: “Right now, when political alienation has increased so much in the OSCE area, civil society connections have become all the more important. (...) I am speaking, for example, of youth exchanges.”

The German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016 is focusing in particular on the young generation by:

- giving young people in the OSCE a stronger voice
- promoting exchange and dialogue among young people in the entire OSCE region
- offering young people an opportunity to get to know the OSCE better



Participants of the youth conference on the future of the OSCE with Foreign Minister Steinmeier © Federal Foreign Office

Special Representatives of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security

Milena Stošić, Paul Steiner and Anna-Katharina Deininger advise the Chairmanship on youth issues. They voice the views of young people on issues such as countering radicalization and terrorism, migration or human rights at OSCE events and actively champion the concerns of young people in the OSCE.

The three Special Representatives come from the OSCE Troika countries Serbia, Germany and Austria (last year's, the current and the future Chairmanships).

Milena Stošić from Serbia:

“Young people are, despite their potential to be agents of positive change, one of the groups at highest risk of social exclusion. We all need to start walking the talk more actively and in line with many high-level political commitments – from giving more real opportunities to youth to take part in a dialogue, to – in the long run – ensuring permanent mechanisms of youth participation in peace building, promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination and security on all levels.”



Panel discussion with Minister of State Roth © Federal Foreign Office

Paul Steiner from Germany: “The OSCE has a great impact on the consolidation of democratic reforms and the strengthening of civil society through its work on the ground. It is imperative to let youth lead the way when defining what their future society looks like.”

Anna-Katharina Deininger from Austria:

“Youth engagement is the cornerstone of many practices to counter violent extremism, as young people can engage their peers on par, relying on their own life stories. However, often efforts remain invisible, unrecognised

or are even undermined due to a lack of adequate participatory and inclusive mechanisms. Creating an enabling environment and opportunities for youth to participate and engage in public life contributes not only to more just and inclusive societies, but also to security and cooperation across the OSCE area.”

This is what is happening in 2016:

- **Two international fora of the European Youth Parliament in Vienna and Belgrade:** 150 young people from all over the OSCE region discuss current security challenges and look for solutions together (in cooperation with the Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe).

www.schwarzkopf-stiftung.de



Young delegates at work © Federal Foreign Office



European Youth Parliament in Vienna © Schwarzkopf Foundation

- **A final youth conference in Berlin:** Young people from all over the OSCE region look back at the youth activities carried out in 2016 and discuss with policy-makers how these activities can be taken forward in the future (in cooperation with the Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe).

- **Nine panel discussions in different cities around Germany:** More than 600 young people discuss with experts and policy-makers and learn more about the OSCE (in cooperation with the Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe).

- **A two-part conference on the future of the OSCE in Berlin and Vienna:** 60 young decision-makers from the world of politics, the public sector, business and the media from more than 25 OSCE states put forward proposals on how the OSCE's capacity to respond to security challenges can be enhanced (in cooperation with the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius).
www.zeit-stiftung.de



Youth conference on the future of the OSCE © Federal Foreign Office

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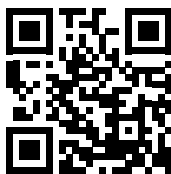
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Imprint

Publisher:

Federal Foreign Office

Task Force for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016

Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin

Internet: www.diplo.de/GER2016OSCE

Design: www.kiono.de