

## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Factsheet

# OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension

### Overview

Economic and environmental matters have always been an integral part of the OSCE agenda, reflecting the Organization's comprehensive approach to security.

In the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the States participating in the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the OSCE's forerunner, expressed with conviction that:

*...efforts to develop co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, science and technology, the environment and other areas of economic activity contribute to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe, and in the world as a whole.*

These economic and environmental issues made up the so-called Basket II of the Helsinki Final Act and have since become known as the OSCE's second dimension or more specifically the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

At the Ministerial Council meeting in Maastricht in December 2003, participating States adopted the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. In doing so, they committed themselves to co-operate on economic, good governance, sustainable development and environmental protection issues in order to tackle the threats and challenges to security that had emerged over the previous decade.

In the Strategy Document, the participating States expressed their concern that *"economic and social disparities, lack of the rule of law, weak governance, corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment are among the factors that contribute to global threats such as terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organized crime, and also to illegal economic activities, including money-laundering, trafficking of all kinds, and illegal migration"*. In addition, the participating States recognized that *"environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources and mismanagement in the processing and disposal of wastes have a substantial impact on the health, welfare, stability and security of our countries"*. Bearing these concerns in mind, the OSCE is committed together with relevant partners to transform such risks into avenues for co-operation.

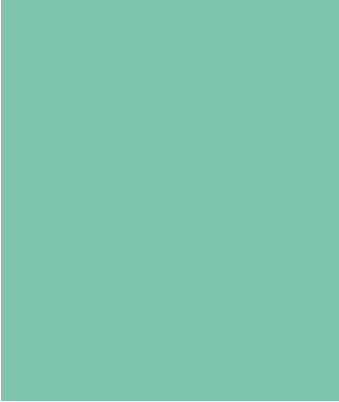
### OCEEA

In November 1997, the participating States agreed to establish the position of a Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities within the OSCE Secretariat. The Co-ordinator, who works under the direct supervision of the Secretary General, is currently supported by a team of 18 staff members.

Based on the Organization's comprehensive concept of security, the overarching objective of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) is to strengthen security and stability in the OSCE region by promoting international co-operation on economic and environmental issues.

Guided by the Permanent Council, the Economic and Environmental Committee, and working closely with Economic and Environmental Officers in OSCE field operations, the OCEEA assists in identifying, monitoring and counteracting threats and challenges to security and stability stemming from economic and environmental factors.

Activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator include monitoring economic and environmental developments in line with the OSCE's early-warning role, as well as facilitating the design and implementation of economic and environmental policies and projects aimed at



promoting security and co-operation in the OSCE region.

OCEEA activities seek, *inter alia*, to:

- Promote good governance and transparency with a focus on combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism;
- Strengthen co-operation among participating States on investment and business development, migration management and transport security as well as facilitate the exchange of best practices in the field of border crossing procedures, transport and trade facilitation;
- Facilitate dialogue on energy security issues;
- Advocate sustainable development through increased public awareness and policy development on environment and security issues, including water management, land degradation, hazardous waste and climate change;
- Develop and implement the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative in co-operation with other international organizations.

## Economic and Good Governance Activities

Based on the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of 2003 and Ministerial Council decisions, the OCEEA has strengthened its economic activities in the areas of good governance, business development, transport and migration management.

### Good Governance

In the area of improving good governance and transparency, and fighting corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the OCEEA assists participating States in the following activities:

- Promoting the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and the Financial Action Task Force's 40 + 9 Recommendations on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism;
- Organizing national and regional seminars and capacity building workshops, on request, in the areas of prevention, detection, financial investigation, criminalization, co-operation and stolen asset identification and tracing for public officials and representatives of civil society and the private sector;
- Supporting money laundering national risk assessments
- Distributing OSCE good governance-related publications such as the handbook on *Best Practices in Combating Corruption* (available in seven languages).

In close co-operation with the UNODC, the OECD, the Council

of Europe, the World Bank, the Egmont Group, MONEYVAL and other partners, the OCEEA has developed a range of activities aimed at strengthening national capacity to combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. As many of the issues are cross-cutting, the OCEEA also works closely with the Politico-Military and Human Dimensions of the OSCE.

### Transport

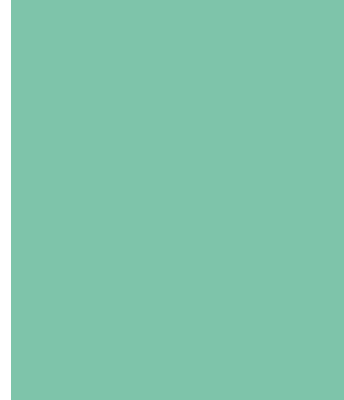
To increase transport security and facilitate the exchange of best practices in the field of border crossing procedures, transport and trade facilitation, the OCEEA engages in the following activities:

- Identifying and tackling inland transport security challenges across the OSCE region and improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of national and international efforts in addressing these challenges;
- Strengthening good governance in customs and at border crossings by supporting the development of public-private partnerships;
- Facilitating dialogue on sustainable transport to promote the development of more effective national policies for cleaner and more energy-efficient transportation;
- Promoting the establishment of multimodal transport and logistics systems, including further development of Euro Asian transport links and corridors;
- Distributing the *OSCE-UNECE Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective* and organizing capacity building events related to the Handbook.

### Migration management

The OCEEA promotes a comprehensive, gender-sensitive and effective approach to migration management that supports legal migration and reduces irregular migration by facilitating regional dialogue, co-operation, capacity building activities and the exchange of good practices. The Office has engaged in the following activities:

- Developing a number of policy guides, handbooks and training materials aimed at assisting OSCE participating States in improving their migration legislation and implementing more effective and gender-sensitive national migration policy frameworks. These tools have been promoted through capacity building seminars and workshops organised in the OSCE region. They are all available in English and Russian on the OSCE website.
- Promoting the harmonized collection of reliable and comparable data on migration for evidence-based policy making in the OSCE region.



## Business development

To facilitate economic growth and business development, the OCEEA supports activities which:

- Promote the establishment of an attractive investment and business climate through the dissemination of the *OSCE Best-Practice Guide on Investment and Business Climate*;
- Encourage public-private dialogue on fostering a favourable business environment;
- Empower women to successfully develop and manage small and medium-sized enterprises as a poverty reduction measure.

## Environment

The OSCE aims to secure peace and stability by enhancing the sustainable management and use of natural resources, by fostering the sound management of hazardous waste and by promoting environmental awareness, public access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision making.

### The ENVSEC Initiative

The ENVSEC Initiative provides a framework for co-operation on environmental issues across borders and for promoting peace and stability through environmental co-operation and sustainable development. The Initiative focuses on four regions: Central Asia, South Caucasus, Eastern Europe and South Eastern Europe. In this Initiative, the OSCE co-operates with UNDP, UNEP, UNECE and REC, and NATO as an associate partner. For more information please go to [www.envsec.org](http://www.envsec.org)

### Water management

Water and security is at the focus of the OCEEA in all OSCE sub-regions. The OCEEA works in close partnership with the UNECE Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, promotes co-operation on transboundary water management, facilitates the development of legal and institutional frameworks among riparian countries, and supports data collection and

monitoring. The Chu-Talas river basin in Central Asia, Kura-Aras river basin in South Caucasus, Dniester river basin in Eastern Europe, and Sava river basin in South Eastern Europe are some of the water bodies that have benefitted from the OCEEA's and its partners' work.

### Climate change

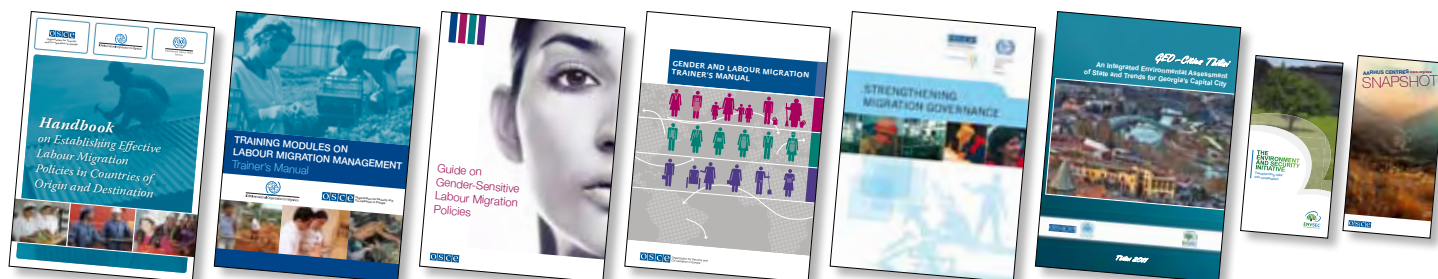
The OCEEA supports the development of scenarios for different OSCE sub-regions to quantify the security implications of climate change. The scenario study assesses the impact of climate change on natural resources, energy and food availability, and their repercussions on security by 2050.

### Hazardous waste

The OCEEA, in close co-operation with its partners in the ENVSEC Initiative, conducts capacity-building activities targeting border guards and customs officials to detect the illegal trafficking of hazardous waste. Implemented initially in Eastern Europe, capacity building activities are to be extended to other regions.

### Civil society

The OCEEA supports its participating States in implementing their commitments under the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The Aarhus Centres Network comprising over 30 centres in 10 countries in all four OSCE sub-regions, is a major tool for the OCEEA to facilitate environmental dialogue between countries and within countries among a wide array of stakeholders. In close partnership with the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat and the OSCE field operations, the OCEEA supports the Aarhus Centres in promoting a well-informed and vigorous civil society that is able to take part in environmental decision-making. Furthermore, in South Caucasus and Central Asia, the OCEEA through its small grants programme for civil society organizations - Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) – advances understanding of environment and security linkages among the civil society.





---

## Energy Security Dialogue

The OCEEA promotes energy security dialogue among its participating States with a view to facilitating the exchange of best practices, and building capacity in the areas of energy efficiency, sustainability and transparency. The OCEEA, through active participation in the Vienna Energy Club (VEC), interacts with other Vienna-based organizations active in the field of energy, benefits from their technical expertise and experiences, and provides its expertise in the security field.

## The Economic and Environmental Forum

In tandem with its ongoing activities, the OCEEA holds an annual high-level Economic and Environmental Forum, which gives political impetus to the dialogue in the second dimension and contributes to recommendations and follow-up activities. The Forum usually attracts the participation of more than 400 representatives of governments, civil society, the business community and international organizations. Forum participants exchange views and identify practical solutions to specific issues related to a chosen theme, which is proposed by the Chairmanship and agreed upon by the 56 participating States. The Forum also reviews the implementation of the participating States' commitments in the economic and environmental area.

Recent themes of the Economic and Environmental Forum have been:

- 2011:** 19<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum: Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport.
- 2010:** 18<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum: Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region.
- 2009:** 17<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum: Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

Launched in October 2011, the annual Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting aims to assess the implementation of economic and environmental commitments by the OSCE participating States and to identify priorities for future work.

## Economic and Environmental Officers in OSCE field operations

Economic and Environmental Officers in the field operations play a vital role in developing and implementing project activities aimed at supporting participating States in addressing economic and environmental problems that pose a threat to security. The OCEEA co-operates closely with the field officers.

## Economic and Environmental Committee

In addition to the tasks set out in the Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 (2001) on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue, the Economic and Environmental Committee:

- Discusses economic and environmental issues, including implementation of the commitments of OSCE participating States;
- Supports the preparation of the Economic and Environmental Forum and other meetings;
- Upon the request of the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, considers cross-dimensional issues with a strong link to economic and environmental aspects of security.

## Contact details

Office of the Co-ordinator of  
OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities  
OSCE Secretariat  
Wallnerstrasse 6, 1010 Vienna, Austria  
Tel.: (+43-1) 514 36 6151, Fax: (+43-1) 514 36 6996  
E-mail: pm-ceea@osce.org, [www.osce.org/eea](http://www.osce.org/eea)  
Photo Credit: [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)