

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe **Mission to Serbia**



Who we are

The Mission to Serbia is an OSCE field operation based in Belgrade, with two field outlets – in Bujanovac, south Serbia and in Novi Pazar, southwest Serbia.

The Mission was established on 11 January 2001 at the invitation of the Government of the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Its mandate sets out the key areas of activity: Assisting the host country and Serbia's society in promoting and strengthening democratic institutions, consolidating human rights and rights of national minorities, fostering the rule of law, reforming the police force into a police service and supporting the development of free media and professional journalism at the service of the citizens.

The Mission, originally named 'OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia' was renamed 'OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro' in 2003. With the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in 2006, the Mission changed its name to the 'OSCE Mission to Serbia'. In fulfilling its mandate the Mission works in close co-ordination and partnership with other international organizations.



Among the OSCE Mission's activities is publishing best practices to raise awareness about mechanisms for dealing with various aspects of the protection against double jeopardy in criminal proceedings.



The OSCE Mission assists the host country's police in transitioning to a more effective, representative and accountable police service.



Gender equality is a key area of the Mission's activities. The Mission supports a women's mentorship programme to help women mentees reach their potential.



The Mission works on promoting child and youth safety. The Basics of Child Safety handbook, a guideline for school children, teachers and parents has become accessible as a digital version - for now in Serbian, and very soon in eight minority languages.



Youth engagement is one of the areas the OSCE Mission is devoted to. Through various regional forums and workshops, digital skills and media literacy are being promoted.

What we do

Based on the ownership and engagement of the Serbian authorities and institutions, the Mission provides assistance and expertise to Serbia towards the country's goal of further developing a fully functioning democratic system with solid accountability mechanisms, including an independent, free, professional, and responsible media. The Mission's and Government's shared objective is a system rooted in the separation of powers, governed by a well-harmonized set of rules, enforced by a fair and equitable justice system, with no space for discrimination or privilege.

Rule of law and human rights

The Mission promotes an independent and accountable judiciary, a human rights-based criminal justice system, administrative justice, and international standards and norms, by:

- Building a merit-based appointment and career system in the judiciary and prosecution, and promoting fair and transparent accountability mechanisms;

- Following up constitutional changes related to judicial independence and improving substantive and procedural legislation;
- Strengthening mechanisms for preventing and effectively tackling corruption;
- Improving access to justice, professionalism and the quality of service to citizens by training judges, prosecutors, lawyers, notaries and investigators;
- Enhancing civil society's capacity to participate in rule of law reforms;

- Fostering the protection of human rights of people deprived of liberty and establishing a system of post-release care;
- Promoting equal justice for women, youth and vulnerable persons in the justice system and building a victim and witness support network;
- Monitoring war crimes trials proceedings and providing recommendations to institutions.

Security co-operation

The Mission assists the host country in achieving a sustainable and accountable security sector, able to address serious threats and crimes, ensure public safety and protect the human rights of citizens by focusing on the following areas:

- Supporting the implementation of the community policing strategy and development of a sustainable community-policing model across the country;
- Stimulating regional co-operation in combating transnational and organized crime, including cybercrime;
- Enhancing inter-agency co-operation to increase and improve the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, economic crimes, including money-laundering cases;
- Developing a holistic approach in dealing with violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT);
- Supporting the implementation of the Strategy for the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW);
- Promoting the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security that includes a variety of stakeholders;

- Supporting the implementation of the Strategy to prevent and suppress human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and children, and to protect victims.

Democratization

The Mission works to strengthen democratic processes, partnering with national and local legislative, governmental and independent institutions, national minority representatives, civil society and academia.

Activities include:

- Strengthening the legislative oversight role of parliament and independent institutions;
- Supporting institutions and civil society in combating discrimination and hate crimes and furthering gender equality;
- Assisting institutions in public administration reform and on good environmental governance;
- Promoting security sector governance and accountability, including gender equality, emergency management and cybersecurity;
- Empowering Serbia's national minority communities to exercise their rights regarding culture, media, education, and use of language as well as contributing to greater integration in Serbia's diverse society;
- Ensuring respect for the rights of refugees and displaced persons, identifying durable housing solutions;
- Promoting increased regional co-operation among parliamentarians, CSOs and youth.

What we do

(continued)

Media

The Mission supports the development of a regulatory framework and media environment in which media outlets and journalists can safely inform citizens on issues of public importance in a timely, professional and objective manner, by:

- Assisting the relevant institutions in adopting and implementing policies and legislation that contribute to developing unbiased media;
- Buttressing the journalistic profession's self-regulatory efforts against hate speech, and protecting the personal safety of journalists and their sources;
- Supporting quality and ethical journalism capable of reporting objectively on issues of public interest;
- Promoting digital and media literacy and empowering all to deal with violations of media freedom;
- Fostering the right to freedom of information and media diversity in national minority languages;
- Promoting media freedom and freedom of expression in line with 2018 Milan MC Decision No. 3 on safety of journalists;
- Empowering media and civil society to deal with violations of media freedom and freedom of expression.



The Mission promotes digital and media literacy that enables citizens to be informed and to use technology to impact their communities at the local, national and global level.



The Victor monument, the most recognizable symbol of Belgrade.



The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, in Belgrade.

Head of Mission

Ambassador Jan Braathu of Norway

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