



# **DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE**

**Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Programme (1300433)**

**FUNDED THROUGH  
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Warsaw, September 2012

# Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Programme (1300433)

Current budget: EUR 467,350<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Background

The United Nations Security Council, the OSCE Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001) and the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (2002) have affirmed that responses to the threat of terrorism must not unlawfully infringe upon, damage or destroy the very standards, principles and values that we are trying to defend and protect, namely human rights, the rule of law and pluralistic democracy. Counter-terrorism measures which violate international human rights standards are counter-productive. Perceived as unjust and discriminatory, they undermine the rule of law, and the credibility and ability of public authorities to address the threat, in a manner which diminishes participating States' long term security. ODIHR assists participating States in the development of effective counter-terrorism measures which are multi-dimensional and human rights compliant, in line with the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

## 2. Approach

The programme's objectives are to promote and strengthen participating States' compliance with international human rights standards in preventing and combating terrorism; and to assist government authorities and other stakeholders in developing, facilitating and implementing effective, human-rights compliant approaches to preventing and combating terrorism. In the medium-term, the programme aims for increased understanding and awareness of senior public policy makers, law enforcement, other state officials, prosecutors, judiciary, and civil society about the crucial role of protecting human rights in order to effectively prevent and counter terrorism, with the expectation that these lead to longer-term institutional change.

### 2.1 *Planned activities for 2012-2013 (funds permitting)*

#### Promoting ODIHR's manual "*Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights*"<sup>2</sup>

ODIHR will continue to promote the manual in both English and Russian as a reference for national training programmes in national police academies, judicial institutions or other relevant institutions of participating States.

#### National training modules for public officials working in the area of counter-terrorism

General training modules on protecting human rights while countering terrorism will be delivered to national level officials dealing with counter-terrorism in participating States. Specific training modules on human rights compliant investigation of terrorism, as well as human rights in counter-terrorism and border security will also be conducted. ODIHR will develop trainer tools for its general training modules and will continue promoting these training modules as a sustainable component of national training programmes in police academies, judicial institutions or other relevant institutions of participating States.

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<sup>1</sup> For the period of 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Please see <http://www.osce.org/odihr/29103>.

## Human rights and international co-operation in counter-terrorism

ODIHR will continue researching approaches and experience of participating States in developing/implementing counter-terrorism programmes, including through workshops that enable participants to gain direct insight into and deeper understanding of, the advantages and disadvantages of particular practices and experiences in the area of protecting human rights while countering terrorism.

An evaluation of the programme so far will be carried out and the findings will inform future strategy.

### 2.2 *Indicators of achievement (examples)*

- Wider knowledge of ODIHR's manual "*Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights*" amongst relevant policy- and decision-makers; plans are underway within participating States' structures to apply the knowledge and principles it contains in practice;
- Greater numbers of senior public policy makers, law enforcement, other state officials, prosecutors and judiciary are aware of applicable human rights standards in measures to counter terrorism after ODIHR training.

### 2.3 *Strategy/methodology*

By delivering and integrating ODIHR's training module in national institutions, and promoting ODIHR's manual "*Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights*," ODIHR will embed knowledge and local ownership and thereby build sustainable capacity with counter-terrorism practitioners and officials to understand and protect human rights while they prevent and combat terrorism. The combination of comparative research, practical tools and sharing national experiences in workshops and dissemination activities, is more sustainable than many other approaches because it permits concrete learning, better co-operation and co-ordination between local, national and international stakeholders. ODIHR emphasizes peer exchange of national practices and experience which particularly facilitate understanding about why protection of human rights is necessary.

### 2.4 *Assumptions and risks*

It is assumed that ODIHR can maintain sufficient capacity to conduct these activities (despite staff turnover, additional taskings, etc.), and that there is political will and co-operation on the part of participating States and other stakeholders (including OSCE field operations) to pursue planned activities.

### 2.5 *Quality factors*

Participating States share the challenge and responsibility of devising effective counter-terrorism strategies. While national laws and situations may differ, international human rights standards afford a common baseline and this is where ODIHR is best placed to assist. This common baseline is a good basis for establishing the level of international co-operation and co-ordination needed to address terrorism and establish security effectively. ODIHR is also uniquely placed to assist participating States at expert level by complementing the more country-specific activities of OSCE field operations.