



# Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Centre in Tashkent Newsletter

## Main Events

### Official Visit



(Photo: UzA)

From 15 to 17 March, President Karimov made an official visit to Slovenia at the invitation of the Slovenian President Janez Drnovšek.

During the visit Uzbek President had also talks with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dmitrij Rupel. The OSCE's role in ensuring stability and security in Central Asia was one of the main topics of talks.

The OSCE Chairman informed the Uzbek leader about his recent address to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, in which he stressed the importance of respect for human rights and outlined OSCE projects on the human dimension.

"I warmly welcome the fact that President Karimov opposes implementation of the death penalty and I hope we will see further steps towards its abolition in Uzbekistan," he said. President Karimov expressed support for Slovenia's efforts to reform the OSCE.

### UNODC-RATS-OSCE Workshop

On 5-7 April, a workshop on the legislative implementation of universal anti-terrorism instruments was held in Tashkent. It was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in collaboration with the OSCE Centre in Tashkent and the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The event was designed to provide the SCO members and neighboring countries with a forum for reviewing their progress towards the ratification and legislative implementation of the 12 universal conventions and protocols against international terrorism as well as UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), which requires all states to take measures to suppress terrorism.

UNODC, OSCE and RATS agreed to jointly provide legal advisory services and trainings in the area of counter terrorism, and rule of law upon request of the participating states.



### Handbook for Entrepreneurs



A new handbook - "Modern Trends of Entrepreneurship Development in Uzbekistan", prepared by the Chamber of Trade and Industry of Uzbekistan with the support of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, was presented on 4 March in Tashkent.

The presentation was opened by Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent Ambassador Miroslav Jenča. "I think, this book will be useful for entrepreneurs, because it provides up-to-date information about the legislative changes in the field of entrepreneurship and guidance on private business and farming," said Mr. Jenča.

"Providing access for entrepreneurs to regularly updated information is one of the preconditions of private business development in a country. Based on this, I hope, this book will serve as a manual to entrepreneurs," added Ambassador.

A new publication aims to help both beginning and experienced entrepreneurs identify the current business climate and assess the dynamics of private sector development in Uzbekistan.

The Centre believes that access to information will support the development of private businesses in Uzbekistan. The handbook written in Uzbek will be distributed free-of-charge during training courses organized by the Centre and through networks of its local partners.

## Head of Centre Activities

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### Addressing the Permanent Council



(Photo: OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

On 14 April, Ambassador Miroslav Jenča presented his first report to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna as Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent with detailed information about the activities of the Centre in Tashkent.

“The recent statements made by President Karimov on the importance of regional cooperation, promotion of a market economy, and development of civil society are encouraging. The Centre in Tashkent stands ready to support the government in this positive direction and policies in this regard,” said Ambassador.

Ambassador Jenča outlined the activities of the Centre in Tashkent in all dimension of the OSCE and expressed the readiness of the Centre to continue cooperation with Uzbekistan on politico-military, economic and environmental and human rights issues with an emphasis to promote the implementation of

OSCE commitments and principles.

### Legal Cooperation

On 6 April, Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent Miroslav Jenča was received by the Prosecutor-General of Uzbekistan Rashidjon Qodirov. The Prosecutor-General expressed his satisfaction on consistently developing and boosting legal cooperation between the Prosecutor-General's Office and the Centre in Tashkent. The prospects for legal cooperation in the fight against corruption, terrorism, and human trafficking were the main focus of talks.



(Photo: Prosecutor General's Office)

The Procuracy Training Centre under the Prosecutor's Office has been assisting the Centre in Tashkent in the organization of training seminars for prosecutors and in the selection of participants. This year-long project is being implemented jointly with the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) and the US Embassy in Uzbekistan.

Two prosecutors from the Prosecutor-Generals Office are included in the inter-agency working group on anti-trafficking in human beings, which was established by the initiative of the Centre in Tashkent and US Embassy in Uzbekistan and is supported by the Uzbek law enforcement agencies.

### Penitentiary System Assistance

On 8 April, Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent Ambassador Miroslav Jenča had a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Interior, Head of the Central Penitentiary System Administration Major-General Rajab Kadirov. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the perspectives of further cooperation between the Centre in Tashkent and the Central Penitentiary System Administration and possibility of implementation of a Programme on rendering support to reformation of the Criminal-Executive System of Uzbekistan.

Since last year the Centre in Tashkent has been assisting for groups of the non-governmental organizations in monitoring three penitentiary establishments.

## Documents

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### OSCE/ODHIR Final Report

The OSCE/ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) Limited Election Observation Mission presented its final report on 7 March, stating that “although there have been some minor improvements to the legislative framework, further significant improvements are necessary in order for Uzbekistan to be in compliance with its OSCE commitments, and other international standards for democratic elections.” Complementary to this report, ODIHR published its assessment of the “Law on Elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan” on 21 February 2005.

In the report the OSCE/ODIHR reiterated its readiness to co-operate with the Uzbek authorities, political parties and civil society, to address the concerns raised in the report, and offered its support to the authorities in follow-up to the recommendations. The full text of the report can found at [http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2005/03/4355\\_ru.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2005/03/4355_ru.pdf) and [http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2005/03/4374\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2005/03/4374_en.pdf).

## Politico-Military Dimension

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### Legal Clinic for Journalists

In May 2002, the Centre in Tashkent jointly with the Internews Network established a Legal Clinic for Journalists. Since then, two experienced lawyers have been providing free of charge consultations on a variety of legal issues related to the professional activities of journalists. On an average basis, 40 journalists receive consultations per month. Additionally, the lawyers have been representing journalists and media outlets free of charge at court. Currently, they are running six cases.

The Legal Clinic for Journalists is part of the Centre's comprehensive Media Programme aiming at contributing substantially to media development in Uzbekistan. Through its Media Programme, the Centre hopes to facilitate and achieve better compliance with the international principles and OSCE commitments regarding the freedom of media. The primary objectives to this end are the improved professional capacity and increased awareness of legal rights for media representatives in Uzbekistan, as well as more transparent and accessible governmental structures for both journalists and citizens.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension

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### Promoting entrepreneurship and environmental awareness in local communities



Mahallas (local self-governing community organizations) are traditional structures of Uzbek society, and intricately involved in the activities and needs of the community. Approximately 10,000 mahallas in Uzbekistan can play a leading role in helping to resolve the communities' social, economic and environmental problems.

In this context, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent and the National Mahalla Foundation have been organizing the series of workshops entitled "Mahallas: Promoting Entrepreneurship and Environmental Protection" in all provinces of Uzbekistan since last year. These workshops aim to enhance the role of mahallas in environmental protection activities, including legal education and social-economic development.

Recent workshop series were held in Termez, Bukhara and Namangan. Upcoming workshop is planned to be held in Samarkand in May. Discussions focused on how mahallas can be more involved in fostering a favorable atmosphere for entrepreneurship and environmental protection at the local level.

## Human Dimension

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### Workshop for Uzbek law teachers

Thirty teachers from law faculties of various Uzbek universities participated in a three-day workshop that was held from 2 to 4 March in Tashkent. The event, organized by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, aimed to identify main goals and primary challenges of legal education in Uzbekistan.

The participants discussed teaching methods and exchanged experience. Marta Johansson from Orebro University, Sweden, conducted the workshop. She also held several lectures on human rights and global developments at law faculties of Uzbek universities. The workshop is a part of the legal education support programme of the Centre in Tashkent.



### Joint Training for Prosecutors



Twelve prosecutors from different regions of Uzbekistan participated in a second three-day training, which was held from 6 to 8 April in Charvak, Tashkent Region. The year-long project is being organized by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent jointly with the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) and the US Embassy in Uzbekistan.

The training focused on practical skills needed for effective investigation and trial preparation. In addition, the training is meant to build capacity for mentoring and leadership.

Nine participants were selected to conduct the training sessions for their colleagues using gained skills and knowledge. They will be responsible for arranging and leading the trainings in regional Prosecutor offices. Organizers will observe and monitor the progress of this component and provide supplemental assistance as the need arises.



## Cross Dimensional Activities

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### Uzbek delegation's visit to Skopje and Rome



The OSCE Centre in Tashkent organized a study trip for members of the Uzbek inter-agency working group on anti-trafficking in human beings and representatives of the country's civil society to Skopje and Rome from 5 to 14 March.

During the trip the Uzbek delegation met with counterparts from governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as representatives of international organizations.

These contacts are expected to help in developing better co-operation, joint anti-trafficking activities and in sharing experience in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking.

The inter-agency working group was established by the initiative of the Centre in Tashkent and US Embassy in Uzbekistan and the initiative was supported by the Uzbek law enforcement agencies. Working group consists of officers of the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor's Office and the National Security Service of Uzbekistan.

## Upcoming Events

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### Politico-Military Dimension

Technical Experts Workshop on Suicide Terrorism (Vienna, 20 May)

Opening of Internet Cafes for Journalists (Sarmarkand and Nukus, May-June)

Annual Security Review Conference (Vienna, 21-22 June)

### Economic-Environmental Dimension

“Women and Business in Uzbekistan” - training in conjunction with Women Committee of Uzbekistan (Termez 3-4 May; Jizzak, 23-24 June)

Water Donors Meeting (Tashkent, 5 May)

“Promoting Farming Development in Uzbekistan” - training in partnership with the Association of Dekhkan and Farmers of Uzbekistan (Sarmarkand, 11-12 May; Urgench, 17-18 May; Jizzak, 25-26 May)

“Youth Entrepreneurial Training” - in partnership with Youth Social Movement “Kamolot” (Tashkent, 16-21 May; 27 June - 2 July; Samarkand and Karshi, 6-11 June; Termez 15-17 June)

Workshop “Mahallas: Promoting Entrepreneurship and Protecting the Environment” (Samarkand, 27-28 May)

“Environmental Security and Civil Initiative” - workshop conducted under the OSCE supported Project: “Promoting Civil Initiative in Environmental Risks Assessment” (Jizzak, 14-17 June)

International Anti-Drug Day. Presentation of OSCE supported “Information Bulletin on Drug Situation in Central Asia” (Tashkent, 26 June)

### Human Dimension

Seminar on International Best Practices in Criminal Prosecution - jointly with the UNDP, the US Embassy in Uzbekistan, ABA/CELLI and IRIS (Tashkent, 25-26 May)

Workshop for Prosecutors on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Tashkent, 27 May)

Training for law teachers (Law faculties of Uzbek universities, June)

For more information, please contact Marie-Carin von Gumpfenberg, Political Officer  
Afrosiyob 12B, Mirobod District, Tashkent 700015, Uzbekistan; Tel.: (998 71) 1400470; Fax: (998 71) 1400466  
E-mail: [OSCE-CiT@osce.org](mailto:OSCE-CiT@osce.org); <http://www.osce.org/tashkent/>