

OSCE Newsletter

OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network*

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2009 Annual National Focal Point Network Meeting

OSCE Secretariat OS/Borders Team

On 4 November 2009, the Conflict Prevention Centre's OS/Borders Team organized and conducted a meeting of the representatives of the OSCE National Focal Point Network (NFP Network) in Vienna. The meeting brought together members of the NFP Network, as well as officials from OSCE field operations, the OSCE Secretariat, the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe/Tajikistan and FRONTEX.

This year 37 representatives from 25 OSCE participating States took part in the meeting. The participants had the possibility to discuss OSCE border related activities, the state of play of the OSCE Border Management Staff College, various approaches to risk analysis and management in the OSCE area and the potential of the NFP Network.

Based on earlier recommendations, the NFP Network Web Platform, developed by the OS/Borders Team, was introduced during the meeting.

The participants approved of the idea to include thematic issues in the agenda of future meetings and discussed possible next steps regarding the further development of the NFP Network. They also agreed to consider addressing regional matters. Moreover, possible solutions for improved information exchange were discussed, among others, the idea to develop standardized forms for open information exchange and the development of a Russian language interface for the NFP Web Platform.

Finally, possible ways to improve the co-ordination between OSCE field operations, the Secretariat and the NFPs, with regard to the implementation of OSCE border related activities was discussed.

The meeting confirmed the increased interest and involvement of the NFPs in the development of the Network and in planning future NFP events. ■



**Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe**

**This Newsletter covers OSCE border related activities in the Eastern European region and follows a series of previous 'regional' NFP Newsletters which focused on Central Asia, the South Caucasus and South Eastern Europe.*

OSCE border related activities in Moldova

OSCE Mission to Moldova

Co-operation, co-ordination and facilitation are the hallmarks of the involvement of the OSCE Mission to Moldova in border related activities. Though the Mission has no specific border projects, it supports related OSCE activities in this field.

When talking about border security and management in Moldova, the work of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) is of particular importance. As the main task of the OSCE Mission to Moldova is to facilitate the settlement of the Transdniestrian question, the contribution of EUBAM's work at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, including the segment controlled by the de facto authorities of the breakaway Transdniestrian region, is highly relevant to the Mission's mandate. It is not surprising, therefore, that the OSCE Mission and EUBAM enjoy a close working relationship. The Head of Mission is a member of the EUBAM Advisory Board and the Mission members keep in regular contact with their EUBAM colleagues.

EUBAM was established in late November 2005 and is working with the customs and border guard services of Moldova and Ukraine to build their border security and management capacities. Its activities have brought much needed transparency to the situation on the border between Moldova and Ukraine, especially also on the movement of goods across its Transdniestrian segment. A joint declaration on the customs regime between Moldova and Ukraine has also been implemented since March 2006 with EUBAM's technical advice

and assistance. As a result, the companies operating in the breakaway Transdniestrian region, which is situated between the rest of Moldova to the West and Ukraine in the East, now have to register and clear goods for export with Moldovan customs thus legalizing their activities and improving their opportunities for profitable trade.

Building capacity to provide for effective border security and management is also a crucial element in combating trafficking in human beings, a field in which the Mission is intensively engaged in Moldova. Though the Mission's Anti Trafficking and Gender Teams engage in a wide range of activities related to their work, one of their key tasks is the technical co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts in Moldova. Every month, members of local and national authorities, representatives of national and international NGOs, international organizations, and officials of Moldovan border and customs services are invited by the Mission to meet and share information, exchange ideas and promote best practices and strategies designed to curb trafficking in human beings and to provide victims with dignified treatment. These technical co-ordination meetings take place both in Chisinau and in the districts of Moldova, including in the Transdniestrian region, and play a key role in strengthening the country's anti-trafficking capacity.

Moldova's ability to counter the illegal use of stolen and forged travel documents has been enhanced by a joint OSCE - Interpol project which supplied the technical means to provide a real time link to the Interpol stolen and lost travel documents database. This project was implemented from 2007 to 2009 in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat's Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Border Guard Service of Moldova. ■

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine assists in reforming risk and criminal analysis systems

Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

In 2009, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) completed the implementation of two projects to reform and increase the efficiency of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGSU).



The overall goal of these projects was to assist, at the request of the SBGSU, in the provision of IT equipment and capacity building training on risk and criminal analysis. Both projects were implemented almost simultaneously and their implementation was divided into two phases.

As a result of the first phase, the Analytical Centre at the SBGSU's Administration, five risk and criminal analysis units and 29 regional level risk analysis units were equipped with office and IT equipment and specialized "i-2" software.

During the second phase, from May to July 2009, four one-week trainings and a one-day training on operational risk analysis were provided by two international experts at the Bohdan Khmelnytsky National Academy of the SBGSU as well as in regional border guard detachments for their commanders, heads and personnel from risk analysis units.

In the field of criminal analysis, two one-month trainings on operational criminal analysis were



organized in 2009 at the Polish Border Guard Training Centre in Kętrzyn.

In addition, with the support of the PCU, two SBGSU risk analysts participated in a risk analysis training organized by the OSCE Office in Minsk in January 2009. The OSCE PCU also supported the participation of two Ukrainian State Customs Service officials and one SBGSU official in seminars of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe.■

OSCE assistance in enhancing operative capacities of the State Border Guard Committee of the Republic of Belarus

OSCE Office in Minsk

From 2008 to 2009, in co-operation with the State Border Guard Committee of the Republic of Belarus (SBGC), the OSCE Office in Minsk implemented a project to develop a system for recording and analyzing illegal activities across the state border of the Republic of Belarus. The purpose of the project was to assist the Republic of Belarus in strengthening its capacity to prevent and fight organized crime while enhancing the capacity of SBGC personnel to identify and analyze possible risks and apply the results of risk analysis in decision taking.

The project contributed to the development of an information system for registering and analyzing illegal activities at the state border, equipping the relevant units of SBGC (including its information centre) with modern computer and data registration technologies, and upgrading the IT equipment and databases. Such a database system enables the operational level of the staff members of the SBGC to collect, process, analyze, collate and use information on illegal activities at the state border.

A three-day seminar on risk analysis in border security and management for 20 SBGC analysts from the local and regional levels was held by a Finnish expert in Minsk in February 2009. Two high-level Ukrainian officials also participated in the seminar.

The Office assisted the SBGC in organizing an International Conference of the Working Group of the Heads of Border Guard/Border Police agencies from 28 September to 1 October 2009 in Minsk. Also in 2009 the Office supported the participation of SBGC officials at training seminars for senior border officials at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe.■

Aligning with Schengen standards through improved border management

IOM Mission in Ukraine

The Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine supports the Government of Ukraine's commitment to align with EU and Schengen standards in border security and management and migration management, and facilitates the transformation of its State Border Guard Service (SBGSU) into a law enforcement agency.

A comprehensive EU- and U.S.-funded project to improve integrated border management by reinforcing the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine's human resources management system (HUREMAS) has been implemented since 2006. Within this project, the IOM, together with the Polish Border Guard and National Police of Hungary, assisted the SBGSU in adopting a system of EU-compliant two-stage recruitment procedures and introducing a six-month basic training course in line with the Common Core Curriculum for European border guards. Upon the recommendation of HUREMAS experts, the SBGSU ceased the recruitment of conscripts and became a fully professional law enforcement body in 2008.

In the project's second phase (2008-2010), EU experts assisted the SBGSU in drafting the Law on Border Control, which was adopted by the Ukrainian Verhovna Rada (Parliament) in October 2009. The Law introduced provisions of the Schengen Borders Code (Regulation (EC) No. 562/2006) and Schengen Handbook (EC recommendation of 06/XI/2006) into Ukrainian legislation, thus aligning Ukrainian border control, risk analysis, and organization of border crossing points to EU norms.

Furthermore, HUREMAS allowed for the introduction of EU best practices in human resources management into Ukrainian normative acts. Thus, in December 2009, the President of Ukraine signed the decree on "Instructions for the Career Development of Citizens of Ukraine in the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine". The decree entitles the SBGSU to independently recruit, train and craft a career development plan for its personnel and introduces a competitive system of merit-based appointments and promotions to managerial positions as well as



short-term officer courses for experienced non-commissioned personnel.

HUREMAS fostered the introduction of a three-month border management officer training course for SBGSU non-commissioned officers (NCOs) holding bachelors degrees as a cost-effective, modern alternative to standard four-year officer training. The project impacts on the development of career opportunities and professional development of SBGSU NCOs as well as leadership and managerial training for mid- and high-ranking SBGSU personnel.

During the project's lifecycle, SBGSU officials were trained in different aspects of EU border security and management as well as human resources management. In this context, HUREMAS has prioritized the creation of an EU-compliant professional training system in the SBGSU. This is the main objective of the follow-on, U.S.-funded integrated training project (ITP) which will be implemented in 2010 and 2011 and seeks to build upon the gains of HUREMAS.

One more vital component of the HUREMAS project is enhancing the SBGSU's foreign language training capacity, symbolized by the IOM-developed three-month intensive English for professional purposes course at the SBGSU National Academy that engages SBGSU officers who work directly at the border. In this context, the project developed beginner and intermediate books specially tailored to the needs of the SBGSU entitled 'English Without Borders' and trained four academy instructors in modern methods of foreign language teaching and testing.

Finally, HUREMAS provided more than EUR 500,000 in training equipment to SBGSU training centres and SBGSU human resources management units. The combined budget of the HUREMAS and ITP projects is EUR 6 million. ■