

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE OSCE/ODIHR CORE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE FOUR-YEAR TERM EXPECTING TO COMMENCE IN JANUARY 2025

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) assists OSCE participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments. According to paragraph 7.6 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, OSCE participating States committed to *“respect the right of individuals and groups to establish, in full freedom, their own political parties or other political organizations and provide such political parties and organizations with the necessary legal guarantees to enable them to compete with each other on a basis of equal treatment before the law and by the authorities.”* Other OSCE commitments under the Copenhagen Document include the protection of the freedom of association (paragraph 9.3), of the freedom of opinion and expression (paragraph 9.1) and obligations on the separation of the State and the party (paragraph 5.4). ODIHR is also promoting its work on political parties through the Guidelines on Political Party Regulation developed in collaboration with the European Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council of Europe (the Venice Commission).

In this work, ODIHR has been assisted by a Core Group of Experts on Political Parties (the Core Group). The Core Group was established under the auspices of ODIHR in 2011 – following the publication of the first edition of the ODIHR-Venice Commission Guidelines on Political Party Regulation in 2010. Since then, the Core Group has been acting as a *pro bono* advisory and consultative body to ODIHR to assist OSCE participating States in developing and maintaining, as well as promoting, legislation on political parties that is in line with key international standards and OSCE human dimension commitments. In this capacity, Core Group experts, among others, conduct legal analysis, and take part in events to promote the Guidelines. The second edition of the ODIHR-Venice Commission [Guidelines on Political Party Regulation](#) was adopted by the Venice Commission at its 125th online Plenary Session (11–12 December 2020).

The Core Group consists of up to twelve experts, appointed by the Director of ODIHR or ODIHR Director’s Alternate/First Deputy Director for a renewable four-year term. ODIHR is hereby inviting applications from suitably qualified nationals of OSCE participating States with an expertise in the field of political party regulation and democratic governance, to join the Core Group. **Interested individuals are requested to fill in the Application Form and provide an up to three-page resume (CV) summarizing their experience in the area of political party regulation. In the Application Form, please include a statement of motivation, not exceeding 300 words, expressing an interest to serve on this body, setting out your motivation, how you envisage contributing to the Core Group’s work, including the particular expertise, capacities and skills you believe you can bring to this important role.** When selecting members for appointment to the Core Group, ODIHR will strive to ensure that

gender balance is maintained and that the background of the membership of the Core Group is diverse and represents a reasonable geographical cross-section of the OSCE region.

Applications will be considered in the strict confidence and should be submitted no later than 23:59 hrs CET on 10 November 2024 to nadiya.sirenko@odihr.pl. Candidates found suitable during the selection process will be placed on the ODIHR roster of experts for a period of three years and may be contracted to support the work of ODIHR with respect to political party regulation, democratic governance, constitutional and human rights law, legislative and policy analysis, remunerated in line with applicable ODIHR rates.

ODIHR encourages dissemination of the call to qualified candidates.

A brief description of the work of the Core Group, including qualifications and requirements of membership, is provided below. For further information about the role and the application process, please contact Ms. Nadiya Sirenko, ODIHR Legislative Support Officer, on +48-695808815 or by email at nadiya.sirenko@odihr.pl.

OSCE/ODIHR CORE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON POLITICAL PARTIES

The role of the Core Group is to:

- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to ODIHR, and through ODIHR, to OSCE participating States, on matters pertaining to political party regulation, including on:
 - Compliance of (draft) legislation with OSCE human dimension commitments and international norms;
 - Ongoing trends, policies and state practices in this area, implementation of relevant OSCE commitments;
- Engage in research, drafting and/or reviewing of materials related to the international normative framework in the area of political party regulation;
- Participate in educational and capacity-building efforts undertaken by ODIHR to promote the ODIHR-Venice Commission Guidelines on Political Party Regulation and advance political party regulation that is in line with key international standards and OSCE commitments in the OSCE region;
- Working on revision and improvement of the Guidelines on Political Party Regulation;
- Other tasks agreed with ODIHR.

The Core Group is expected to contribute to ODIHR's efforts to mainstream gender in all its activities pertaining to political party regulation by fulfilling its functions and tasks in a gender-sensitive manner and in line with the OSCE's 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and OSCE commitments and regulations on ensuring equality of men and women in all spheres of life.

Meetings of the Core Group take place at least annually, and is expected to be held in person (hybrid meetings may be considered on a case by case basis); additionally, meetings of the full Core Group or groups of its members may be called, as and when necessary.

The Core Group members, appointed by the Director of ODIHR or ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director, will be selected on the basis of their proven expertise and practical experience in the area of political party regulation.

Expertise and experience in related areas such as political science, democratic governance, constitutional and human rights law, legislative and policy analysis, international affairs, and relevant work experience with international organizations or academia are considered highly desirable. Gender balance and geographical distribution of membership across the OSCE region will also be important elements when composing the Core Group. Solid command of English, the working language of the Core Group, is required.

Members of the Core Group are expected to make every effort to attend meetings and to fulfil their tasks in an independent and impartial manner, and to notify ODIHR of any potential conflict of interests that may arise.

The Core Group acts as a *pro bono* body and its members are not remunerated for their service, but all travel, accommodation and subsistence costs in connection with participation in meetings and other activities as requested by ODIHR will be covered. ODIHR may engage members on a contractual basis to assist with specific projects or activities that go beyond the core roles and responsibilities of the Core Group. This will always be regulated by Terms of Reference and a consultancy contract subject to applicable ODIHR rates.