Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities 2024

OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the world's largest regional security organization, working to ensure peace, democracy and stability for more than a billion people between Vancouver and Vladivostok.

This report is submitted in accordance with Decision 9, Paragraph 6, of the Bucharest Ministerial Council Meeting of 4 December 2001.

© OSCE 2025

OSCE 2025 All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may be freely used and copied for educational and other non-commercial purposes, provided that any such reproduction be accompanied by an acknowledgement of the OSCE as the source.

OSCE Secretariat
Transnational Threats Department
Strategic Police Matters Unit
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria

E-mail: TNTD/SPMU@osce.org
www.osce.org/secretariat/policing

Table of Contents

Foreword by the Secretary General 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4

1. POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE OSCE SECRETARIAT 6

1.1 Transnational Threats Department/ Strategic Police Matters Unit (TNTD/SPMU) 8

1.2 Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit (TNTD/ATU) 26

1.3 Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU) 38

1.4 Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) 51

1.5 Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) 57

2. POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF FIELD OPERATIONS 61

2.1 South-Eastern Europe 62

2.1.1 Presence in Albania 62

2.1.2 Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina 66

2.1.3 Mission in Kosovo 75

2.1.4 Mission to Montenegro 94

2.1.5 Mission to Serbia 98

2.1.6 Mission to Skopje 109

2.2 Eastern Europe 115

2.2.1 Mission to Moldova 115

2.3 Central Asia 117

2.3.1 Programme Office in Astana 117

2.3.2 Programme Office in Bishkek 121

2.3.3 Programme Office in Dushanbe 126

2.3.4 Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan 129

3. POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF OTHER OSCE INSTITUTIONS 131

3.1 OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) 132

3.2 OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) 139

4. OTHER RELEVANT PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES 140

4.1 Support Programme for Ukraine 141

5. APPENDICES 145

APPENDIX I 146

Decisions, Declarations and Action Plans with a Focus on Police-Related Activities 146

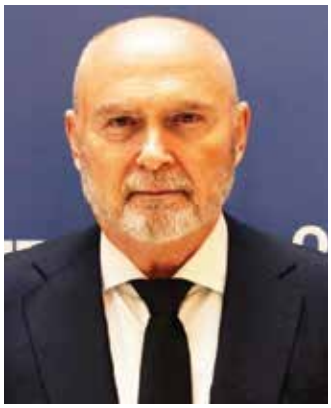
APPENDIX II 153

Abbreviations and Acronyms 153

APPENDIX III 157

Contact Details 157

Foreword by the Secretary General



I am pleased to present the 2024 edition of the Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities. In 2024, the OSCE has provided practical, impactful and tailored support to participating States - strengthening the rule of law, enhancing public trust in policing and building capacity to respond effectively to evolving security threats. Across the OSCE region, we have provided hands-on assistance to law enforcement authorities to modernize policing practices and ensure alignment with international standards and commitments, including on human rights.

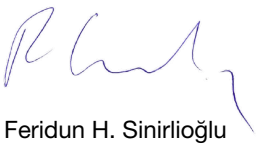
These efforts are carried out through the combined work of the Secretariat, the OSCE institutions and its field operations, providing support across the three dimensions of security. I am particularly encouraged by the strengthened close co-operation between different OSCE structures: national, regional and cross-regional activities were designed to ensure complementarity and deliver greater impact. In South-Eastern Europe, for example, we jointly carried out a series of training courses for cadets on victim-centred approaches for addressing gender-based violence. In Central Asia, we developed pilot programmes bringing together police, social services and local communities to strengthen resilience and promote a culture of lawfulness among young people.

These examples illustrate how the Secretariat's technical expertise and cross-regional co-ordination, combined with the deep understanding of local realities of OSCE field operations, creates complementarity that maximizes the impact of OSCE police-related activities. The field operations' trusted relationships with authorities and communities and their ability to adapt OSCE support to national contexts act as a powerful multiplier of our efforts to strengthen security and uphold human rights across the OSCE area. Their engagement also enables delivery at scale: one national anti-drug campaign involved over 5,000 young people, in sports tournaments, award ceremonies and educational workshops.

As criminal threats facing our societies continue to evolve - from the increasingly sophisticated exploitation of emerging technologies to new routes for trafficking of people and illicit goods - the Organization remains essential in shaping, supporting and adapting practical and sustainable responses to these new challenges. In 2024, the OSCE trained 600 police officers and prosecutors across Central Asia to conduct effective cybercrime investigations. It further supported participating States in responsibly leveraging new technologies to improve police effectiveness, accountability and transparency.

Strengthening responses to criminal threats requires resilient and effective law enforcement. In 2024, the OSCE's police-related activities supported sustainable cultural and institutional change and contributed to more robust and independent oversight. Through initiatives on community policing, tackling hate crime, women's participation and leadership in the security sector as well engagement with minority communities and vulnerable groups, the OSCE has remained at the forefront of efforts to ensure that policing reflects and responds to the needs and rights of all members of society.

Looking ahead, the Secretariat, the OSCE institutions and field operations will continue working together to ensure that law enforcement authorities are equipped to meet current and future challenges. In an increasingly complex security environment, this report shows that the OSCE remains an essential platform to facilitate dialogue and co-operation, enabling participating States to advance comprehensive security and stability across the OSCE region.



Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu
Secretary General of the OSCE

Executive Summary

The 2024 Annual Report of the Secretary General on Police-Related Activities offers a detailed overview of the projects, training activities and partnerships undertaken by the OSCE Secretariat, OSCE field operations and OSCE institutions to strengthen policing across the OSCE's participating States.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with Decision 9 of the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Council and reflects a comprehensive set of mandates stemming from Ministerial Council and Permanent Council decisions. The activities detailed herein encompass a broad spectrum of security priorities, including combating transnational organized crime, cybercrime, trafficking in human beings and terrorism, while advancing gender equality, human rights and community trust in law enforcement.

Gender-responsive policing remained a cross-cutting priority. The OSCE organized training courses in multiple locations to equip cadets and serving officers with the skills to respond effectively and sensitively to gender-based violence. The Organization also produced pioneering research on the role of women in organized crime and promoted international dialogue on how to strengthen prevention and exit strategies.

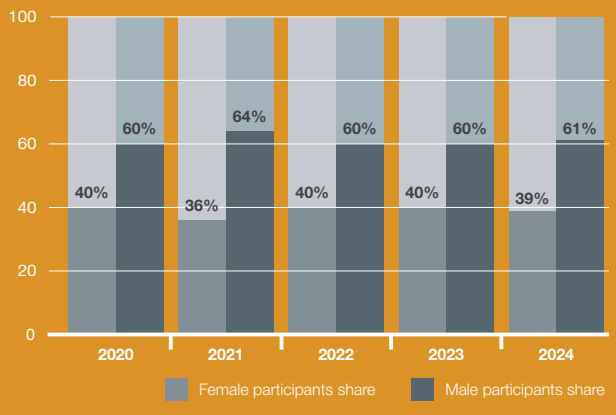
The OSCE field operations continued to play an essential role in aligning assistance with national priorities. The field operations play a crucial role in implementing police-related activities, particularly in capacity-building, by supporting host countries in strengthening rule-of-law institutions and enhancing community security. Through tailored training programmes, technical assistance and mentoring, OSCE field operations help improve the professionalism, accountability and human rights compliance of police forces, particularly in post-conflict and transitional societies. These efforts contribute to more effective, transparent and community-oriented policing, fostering public trust and stability. Additionally, OSCE field operations facilitate regional

co-operation, promote good practices, and support the alignment of national policing standards with international norms, ensuring the sustainability of security sector reforms. By addressing both operational and institutional challenges, the OSCE enhances the capacity of law enforcement agencies to combat crime, terrorism and corruption, while upholding democratic policing principles.

Across all activities, the OSCE maintained strong partnerships with INTERPOL, Europol, UNODC and other international organizations to leverage expertise and resources. Through such collaboration, the OSCE ensured that its work remained relevant and complementary to broader international efforts.

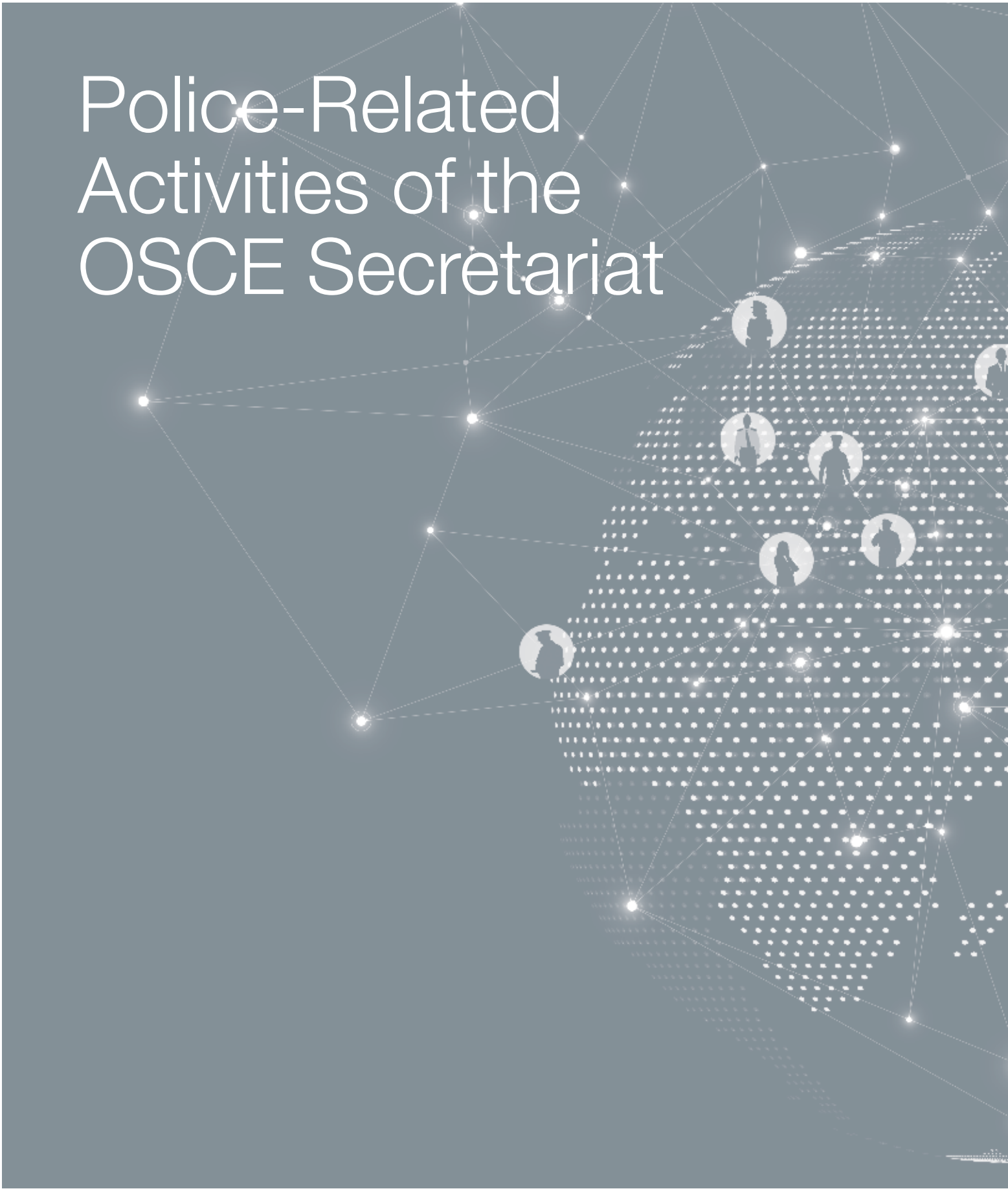
Overall, the report illustrates the OSCE's commitment to helping law enforcement authorities in its participating States to deliver effective, accountable and rights-respecting services to their communities. With the support of donors and partners, the Organization will continue to innovate and respond to emerging security challenges in the years ahead.

Police-related activities implemented across the OSCE area involved more than 82,000 individuals in 2024, which highlights the significant impact the OSCE continues to have. The share of women and men participating in police-related activities has remained more or less constant over the last five years. In 2024, women accounted for 39 per cent of participants, while men made up 61 per cent of the participants. This is in part a reflection of the gender distribution within the law enforcement services in many OSCE participating States.



Share of female and male participants of police-related actvities organized by the OSCE.

Police-Related Activities of the OSCE Secretariat



1

Transnational Threats Department (TNTD)

The Transnational Threats Department is led by the Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats. The Department works to ensure better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of OSCE resources in addressing these threats. It is comprised of four units—Strategic Police Matters, Action against Terrorism, Border Security and Management, and the Co-ordination Cell. The department also deals with cross-cutting topics, such as cyber/ICT security.

1.1 Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit (TNTD/SPMU)

Spotlight on

▸ Promoting structured and sustainable training for law enforcement on combating cybercrime in Central Asia and beyond

In August 2024, the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) successfully concluded implementation of the extrabudgetary (ExB) project Capacity-Building on Combating Cybercrime in Central Asia[1], funded by Finland, Germany, the United States and the Republic of Korea. The project established the OSCE as the only international actor providing systematic capacity-building support to law enforcement on combating cybercrime at the regional level in Central Asia.

Working closely with law enforcement education institutions across the region, the project addressed previous knowledge gaps by training almost 600 police officers and prosecutors across the five Central Asian participating States. The training courses concentrated on the everyday skills frontline officers require to effectively combat cybercrime. Participants gained practical knowledge of how to handle electronic evidence at a crime scene, request electronic evidence from abroad, investigate cryptocurrencies and the dark web, conduct open-source intelligence and online investigations, and better understand the basics of digital forensics. Under the project, the OSCE also provided IT equipment and training materials to educational institutions in each State, enabling on-going and locally-directed education on cybercrime.

A key focus across all project activities was highlighting the critical importance of human rights compliance to effective cybercrime investigations. Recognizing that investigators and prosecutors sometimes struggle to translate the rights set out in international standards into practice at the different stages of criminal proceedings, the project developed a dedicated training guide[2], one of the first of its kind, to provide actionable guidance to criminal justice practitioners across the OSCE area on how to uphold human rights in their daily work.

Beyond skills and equipment, this project moved the regional conversation on cybercrime education and training forward by helping to build new professional networks and partnerships between police and prosecutorial academies across Central Asia. Crucially, these activities also triggered wider institutional reforms, including the establishment of new training centres and departments in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

There is still much to do to address the rapidly evolving threat of cybercrime. As such, the second phase of the regional cybercrime project for Central Asia[3] kicked off in late 2024 thanks to funding from Germany and the United States. It is structured around the four main pillars that reflect the ongoing challenges experienced by practitioners in the region: education, electronic evidence, regional co-operation and awareness. The importance of upholding international human ▷

1 For more information, please visit https://www.osce.org/project/capacity-building-on-combating-cybercrime-in-central-asia

2 OSCE 2023, *Ensuring Human Rights Compliance in Cybercrime Investigations*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/secretariat/554901

3 For more information, please visit https://www.osce.org/project/capacity-building-on-combating-cybercrime-in-central-asia-Phase-2

- rights commitments when investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes and other crimes involving electronic evidence will remain a cross-cutting priority.

Beyond Central Asia, in October 2024, SPMU—working closely with the OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe—delivered the introductory e-learning course for law enforcement on open-source intelligence and online investigations that it had developed in 2023. The regional training course was delivered to practitioners from South-Eastern Europe in fully online mode, consisting of self-paced e-learning, live webinars, and practical assignments and tests. The course's ten modules cover topics such as the open-source intelligence process and information theory, web and internet fundamentals, operational security in online investigations, analysis of websites, emails, social networks, images and other open sources, preservation of online evidence, and human rights in the context of online investigations. In addition to its use by SPMU and other OSCE executive structures, law enforcement educational institutions in several participating States have requested access to the course to support their own training activities.

Participants in the open-source intelligence course (OSCE/Juraj Nosal)

Activities

38th meeting of the co-ordination group between the Council of Europe (CoE) and the OSCE; Strasbourg, France (26 April 2024)

TNTD/SPMU was invited to participate in the 38th meeting of the co-ordination group between the CoE and the OSCE. TNTD/SPMU delivered a short presentation showcasing existing the collaboration between the OSCE and the CoE on cybercrime and gender-based violence, and highlighting the potential for additional collaboration on youth crime prevention and gender aspects of transnational organized crime.

International conference "Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation"; Vienna, Austria (29–30 April 2024)

At the invitation of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, TNTD/SPMU and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) participated in the conference "Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation". The aim of the conference was to raise international awareness of the issue of autonomous weapons systems and the legal, moral, ethical and security policy challenges they pose, as well as to build momentum and highlight the urgent need to create an international legal and regulatory framework. The event was an opportunity for the CPC and TNTD/SPMU to exchange views with national and international experts, as well as NGOs, and to become aware of the dangers of artificial intelligence (AI) without any international regulation.

2024 OSCE South-Eastern Europe Regional Meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments on Police-related Activities; Kotor, Montenegro (9–10 May 2024)

The OSCE South-Eastern Europe (SEE) Regional Meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments on Police-related Activities facilitates the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned between the Secretariat and OSCE field operations based in SEE, and enables stronger co-ordination and mutual support for each other's activities. The 2024 meeting focused on discussions on intelligence-led policing (ILP), environmental crime and enhancing engagement between the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE field operations.

2024 OSCE annual meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement/Security Co-operation Departments on Police-related Activities; Vienna, Austria (30 October–1 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized the annual meeting of Heads of Law Enforcement and/or Security Co-operation Departments of the OSCE field operations. These meetings serve as a platform to strengthen co-ordination and collaboration between the OSCE Secretariat, field operations, institutions and executive structures. They are an opportunity to discuss common challenges and concerns, and to share advice and suggestions to strengthen support to law enforcement authorities in the OSCE area. This year's sessions focused on fundraising, collaborating with NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as the criminal exploitation of AI and other emerging technologies.

General police development and reform

Presentation of the "Public Survey on the Perceptions of Police Reform" and of the "Concept Paper and Action Plan on Community Policing"; Yerevan, Armenia (20 February 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a high-level meeting to present the Public Survey on Perceptions of Police Reform and the Concept Paper and Action Plan on Community Policing. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, and the Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Defence and Security. The discussions highlighted the need to use community policing to increase public trust, and underlined the importance of ensuring inclusiveness and transparency. The Concept Paper, the Action Plan and the Public Survey were developed within the framework of the project "Accountable Institutions and Human Rights Protection in Armenia", implemented by the OSCE jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund.

Regional gender and security conference; Skopje, North Macedonia (7–8 March 2024)

At the invitation of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, TNTD/SPMU participated in the "Regional Gender and Security Conference" organized by the Mission and ODIHR. The event facilitated the exchange of experience, good practices, and challenges on promoting gender equality among law enforcement institutions in the South-Eastern European region, drawing on the expertise of ODIHR, SPMU, the OSCE field

operations in the region and the OSCE Gender Issues Programme.

Results of the situational analysis on women's participation in policing in Uzbekistan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (24 July 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, together with the CPC and the OSCE Gender Issues Programme, presented the final report of the project "Women's Participation in Policing in Uzbekistan" to the project's steering committee. The report is based on interviews with 72 law enforcement professionals from the police and the national guard of Uzbekistan regarding working conditions of female professionals within these services. The report points to several factors that limit female participation and retention within the services, and presents a number of recommendations to improve the current situation. The project builds on a similar initiative implemented by the OSCE in Montenegro from 2018 to 2020.

Training-of-trainers course on community policing; Yerevan, Armenia (25 November–6 December 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a training-of-trainers (ToT) course on community policing for 16 trainers from the Educational Complex of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Armenia. During the course, participants improved their teaching skills and deepened their knowledge of community policing principles, community engagement and partnership building, cultural sensitivity, as well as how to respond to domestic violence cases. The training course was delivered using training modules developed by OSCE experts for the Community Policing Comprehensive Educational Program at the Educational Complex.

Combating gender-based violence (GBV)

JUSTICE round table on reporting on gender-based violence: A victim/survivor-centred approach; Tirana, Albania (27 February 2024)

In co-ordination with the OSCE Presence in Albania, TNTD/SPMU organized an event to promote the principles of gender-sensitive and victim/survivor-centred approaches to reporting on gender-based violence (GBV). The round table contributed to increased understanding among law enforcement officers and media professionals of the importance of sensitive reporting on GBV. Participants exchanged approaches and good practices for reporting on GBV cases, emphasizing ethics, sensitivity and accuracy. The round table benefited police officers, prosecutors, judicial professionals, journalists, editors, legal experts, gender advocates, NGO representatives, academics, students and researchers.

Training courses for Sarajevo police academy cadets on fighting gender-based violence; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (13–16 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized training courses with a victim-centred approach for police cadets. A team of actors engaged in roleplay scenarios, and a family member of a femicide victim spoke to the cadets about their experience, emphasizing how the police and other authorities could have handled the case differently to prevent the crime.

Basic training course for police cadets of the Police Training Center in Idrizovo; Skopje, North Macedonia (18–24 September 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a training course for more than 500 cadets underlining the importance in GBV cases of a victim-centred approach and a comprehensive and multi-sectorial effort. The trainers brought extensive expertise in law enforcement, legal practice, psychiatry and NGO work supporting victims of GBV. As part of the training course, professional actors performed a role-play based on true stories of online GBV, highlighting cases in which teenagers were exploited via social media.

Presentation of the OSCE-developed mobile phone application "JUSTICE GBV" to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of North Macedonia; Skopje, North Macedonia (20 September 2024)

TNTD/SPMU presented a mobile application that has been developed for police officers handling cases of GBV. The application provides information on criminal law, a risk assessment tool and contact details for shelters. It also features tailor-made content for each country where it is used. The application was presented to the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Assistant Minister and Director of the Police Training Center, the Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, and an audience of representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Training course for police cadets on gender-sensitive and victim-centred responses to GBV; Podgorica, Montenegro (25–28 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, in collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Police Academy of Montenegro, organized three training courses for police cadets. The courses focused on gender-responsive policing to address violence against women and girls with a victim-centred approach. The courses equipped police cadets with basic skills to handle cases of violence against women and girls, with a heightened sensitivity for the trauma that victims have endured, in some cases for many years. During the training course, the Centre

for Youth Education from Bosnia and Herzegovina presented the play "Lullaby Goodbye", a dramatization inspired by the true story of a teenage girl who was a victim of online exploitation that had devastating consequences on her life. Police cadets also attended the screening of "Domestic Violence", a film showcasing real-life examples of GBV cases in the United States, produced by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Training course for police cadets on gender-sensitive and victim-centred responses to GBV; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (9–12 December 2024)

TNTD/SPMU delivered a training course for police cadets of the *Republika Srpska* Police Academy on gender-sensitive and victim-centred responses to GBV. The training emphasized a multisectoral approach. A police officer, a prosecutor, a judge and a psychologist shared their knowledge and experience.

Intelligence-led policing (ILP)

Meeting with the head of the Criminal Police Department of the Albanian State Police, and donation of analysis software; Tirana, Albania (26 February 2024)

TNTD/SPMU discussed future co-operation with the Head of the Criminal Police Department and donated two analysis software licenses to the Albanian State Police. Donation of analytical software tools is part of the project's capability-enhancement initiative. This initiative combines enhancing the analytical expertise of the newly established Information Analysis Sector within the Intelligence and Criminal Archives Directorate of the Albanian State Police, as well as the provision of tools to ensure the Sector's full potential for crime analysis.

Advanced training programme on ILP and crime analysis; Tirana, Albania (26 February–8 March 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, the Albanian State Police and the Albanian Security Academy, conducted two advanced training courses for junior analysts from the Intelligence and Criminal Archives Directorate of the Albanian State Police. The analysts learned about strategic risk assessments and advanced crime analysis, complementing the knowledge they gained in the introductory courses held in December 2023 on ILP and crime analysis. This multi-stage capacity-building initiative aligns with the recent restructuring of the Albanian State Police Intelligence and its Criminal Archives Directorate.

Support for the law enforcement agencies in Moldova

Training on behaviour detection at airports; Chișinău, Moldova (27–29 February 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the Airport Police Network (AIRPOL) conducted a training course titled "Behaviour Detection at Airports". Bringing together officers from the Moldovan Border Police, Customs Service, and Airport Administration, the course provided Moldovan border and law enforcement officers with advanced techniques and methods for effective behaviour detection at airports. During the course, participants engaged in discussions and practical exercises designed to deepen their understanding of the behaviour detection process. The course covered four essential steps in behaviour detection, and focused on improving interview techniques, conducting effective interviews, and applying risk-based security assessments.

Meeting with the Head of Analysis Directorate, Head of International Relations and Deputy Head of Moldova's General Police Inspectorate; Chișinău, Moldova (18–19 March 2024)

TNTD/SPMU presented the Moldova project workplan to the Head of the Criminal Analysis Directorate in Moldova, and presented analytical software licenses and computer hardware as part of the project's capacity-building. This effort combines technical advancement with the adoption of ILP methodologies and the use of analytical practices by deploying cutting-edge software tools and harnessing open-source intelligence.

Round table on strengthening the canine (K9) service capabilities of Moldova's General Police Inspectorate; Chișinău, Moldova (18 April 2024)

TNTD/SPMU convened a roundtable meeting at Moldova's General Police Inspectorate (GPI). The aim of the meeting was to identify and evaluate models for potentially enhancing the K9 service capabilities as part of a wider OSCE project on supporting law enforcement agencies in Moldova in response to the security challenges in the region. During the meeting, the participants devised a new master plan for comprehensive K9 services at the GPI. The plan offers focused assistance to the GPI in bolstering the capacity, working conditions and capabilities of their K9 service.

High-level meeting for establishing the Moldova project steering board; Chișinău, Moldova (24 July 2024)

TNTD/SPMU held a meeting with project stakeholders to agree on the terms of reference for a Moldova project steering board, convened to ensure the co-ordination among the beneficiaries of all aspects of project implementation. The board is composed of representatives from the governments of France, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States (donor countries), as well as from Moldova's Ministry of Internal Affairs, GPI and General Border Police Inspectorate (beneficiaries). The board will provide guidance and direction to the project team.

Meetings of the national working group on enhancing the K9 capabilities of the Moldovan national police; Chișinău, Moldova (27–31 August 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a series of meetings at the GPI of the national working group on enhancing the K9 capabilities of the Moldovan police. The meetings focused on developing the first draft of a masterplan titled "Development of the K9 Directorate of the Republic of Moldova General Police Inspectorate".

Training course "Strategic approaches to enhancing the K9 capabilities of the Moldovan General Police"; Sibiu, Romania (3–4 September 2024)

TNTD/SPMU facilitated a training course for representatives of the Moldovan General Police. The event was organized in co-operation with the OSCE's CPC and its Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit (CPC/FSC SU), the K9 Operational Service of the Romanian Police and the Romanian K9 National Center "Dr. Aurel Greblea". The course provided a platform to discuss the transformation of the Moldovan GPI K9 service in line with international standards and requirements, particularly by facilitating the sharing of experiences and good practices between the K9 services of Romania and Moldova.

First meeting of the inter-institutional working group on detection, search, seizure and investigation of trafficking in illicit goods; Chișinău, Moldova (24 September 2024)

TNTD/SPMU convened the first meeting of the inter-institutional working group on detection, search, seizure and investigation of trafficking in illicit goods at the headquarters of the Moldovan GPI. The activity aimed at reviewing the related departmental and sectoral laws and bylaws on detection, search, seizure, confiscation and investigation of trafficking in illicit goods, with a focus on small arms and light weapons (SALW), ammunition and explosives.

Assessment visit; Chișinău, Moldova (25–27 September 2024)

The Moldova project facilitated a series of meetings with key representatives of the Moldovan National Police, National Inspectorate for Investigations, Public Order Inspectorate, Border Police, Customs Service and local/municipal police departments aimed at the assessment of equipment needed for the detection, search, seizure and investigation of trafficking in illicit goods, with a focus on trafficking in SALW. These assessment visits will contribute to the development of the capacities of the law enforcement agencies of Moldova to detect and investigate trafficking in illicit goods, especially SALW.

Equipment donation ceremony for the General Inspectorate of Border Police of Moldova (GIBP); Chișinău, Moldova (3 October 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a donation ceremony at the GIBP headquarters. During the event, TNTD donated three specialized vehicles to the GIBP's dog handling unit (also referred to as the K9 unit) and two analysis software licenses to the GIBP's risk analysis unit. These donations will improve the Moldovan Border Police's rapid response capabilities, as well as its overall capacity to detect and prevent cross-border crimes.

Meetings to assess the capacities of Moldovan law enforcement agencies to detect illicit trafficking, with a focus on SALW; Chișinău, Moldova (5–8 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU conducted various on-site assessments at the GPI's Forensic and Judicial Expertise Centre as well as regional police stations to evaluate detection and investigation capacities of illicit trafficking, particularly SALW-related trafficking, focusing on the equipment needed for effective operations. Additional co-ordination meetings were conducted with international partners, including Frontex and the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Meeting of the Moldovan national inter-institutional working group on detection, search, seizure and investigation of illicit trafficking, with a focus on SALW; Chișinău, Moldova (6 November 2024)

The second meeting of the inter-institutional working group on detection, search, seizure and investigation of illicit trafficking, with a focus on SALW, included representatives of

Moldova's Ministry of Internal Affairs, GPI, GIBP, Customs Service, and Prosecutor's Office for Combating Serious Organized Crime and Special Cases. Established as part of Moldova's National Action Plan for EU Accession (2024–2027), the working group aims to align the national legal framework with EU standards. Insights from this meeting will guide legislative and regulatory analyses and support amendments to bolster the operational efficiency of relevant authorities. Discussions included proposed amendments to the legislative framework, and assessments of training and equipment needs of Moldovan law enforcement. These enhancements are expected to improve detection, search and seizure operations, which will elevate the quality of investigations and evidence-gathering in SALW trafficking cases.

Assessment of the strategic analysis and intelligence-led policing capacities of Moldova's GPI; Chișinău, Moldova (11–15 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU gathered representatives of Moldova's Ministry of Internal Affairs and GPI in a series of meetings on ways to strengthen national policing strategies through an ILP framework. The discussions helped identify skill and knowledge gaps critical to the effective implementation of ILP and the use of strategic analysis, such as data collection, trend analyses, resource planning and the legal aspects of intelligence work. To understand the effectiveness of current training programmes and explore opportunities to integrate international good practices, national stakeholders reviewed the GPI's organizational structures, procedures and available tools. This assessment laid the groundwork for a roadmap to enhance Moldova's law enforcement capabilities in combating crime, fostering a proactive and intelligence-driven approach.

Study visit for officers from the K9 units of Moldova's GIBP, GPI and Customs Service; Paris and Gramat, France (25–29 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a study visit on K9 capabilities to France for representatives of Moldova's GIBP, GPI and Customs Service. The visits to Paris and Gramat took place at the operational and training facilities of the French Gendarmerie and National Police. The participants explored strategic approaches to advancing K9 services in line with European standards and good practices. Discussions focused on strategic management and operational frameworks shaping modern K9 operations. During the visit, participants engaged in practical demonstrations of French K9 training methods for detection, search and rescue, and operations related to organized crime. Hands-on sessions provided opportunities to implement lessons learned, while discussions and feedback exchanges offered actionable insights into integrating international standards into Moldova's K9 services.

Consultation meetings with Moldovan authorities on 2025 airport security capacity-building activities; Chișinău, Moldova (17 December 2024)

TNTD/SPMU conducted a series of consultation meetings with Moldovan authorities to discuss and plan capacity-building activities that will take place in 2025, focusing on simulation exercises on crisis management at international airports, training courses on insider threats, and others. Based on the findings of these consultation meetings, TNTD has designed a series of training courses in co-operation with the Network for Police and Border Guard Units at EU airports (AIRPOL), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC).

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

OSCE training course on organized crime and the role of women in criminal networks; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (29–31 January 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek organized a training programme dedicated to combating organized crime, including the often-overlooked role of women in criminal networks, for OSCE Academy students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. The participants identified and discussed key security challenges concerning organized crime across the region. The discussions led to the development of concrete policy recommendations and ideas on how to effectively combat and prevent organized crime in the long term by addressing the involvement of women in criminal networks across Central Asia and beyond. During the programme, students also discussed the main findings of the new OSCE assessment report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*, analysing the recruitment, roles and reasons behind women's involvement in criminal networks in Central Asia, and learning from international good practices on gender-sensitive organized crime prevention.

OSCE side event on gender equality in organized crime prevention and exit at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68); New York, United States (11 March 2024)

On the margins of the 68th UN Commission on the Status of Women, TNTD/SPMU co-organized a side event together with the OSCE Chairpersonship of Malta titled "Empowering Women for Justice: Advancing Gender Equality in Organized Crime Prevention and Exit Strategies". The event was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations, and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Albania,

Canada, Italy, Sweden and Tajikistan. Drawing on the findings and recommendations of the OSCE assessment report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*, the side event was an opportunity to discuss the various roles played by women in organized crime groups and what is needed to develop a more gender-sensitive criminal justice response to transnational organized crime. Reflecting the whole-of-society approach that supports gender-inclusive responses to organized crime, the side event brought together policymakers, criminal justice practitioners and representatives from civil society.

European Crime Prevention Conference; Tallinn, Estonia (17–18 April 2024)

At the invitation of the European Crime Prevention Network, TNTD/SPMU presented its assessment report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime* to focal points on crime prevention of EU Member States. TNTD's presentation focused on how women and girls are recruited into organized crime, their roles inside criminal networks, and gender-sensitive good practices for organized crime prevention. The conference gathered criminal justice practitioners, as well as representatives from civil society and academia from across the EU working on crime prevention.

UNODC regional event on gender and human rights mainstreaming in preventing and combating organized crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus; Samarkand, Uzbekistan (31 May 2024)

At the invitation of UNODC, TNTD/SPMU participated in the above event, which explored and promoted the importance of gender-responsive and human rights-compliant responses to organized crime, and brought together policymakers and legislative drafters with experience in organized crime-related matters from Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus—including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—as well as practitioners specializing in preventing and countering organized crime, and representatives of agencies tasked with mainstreaming gender and human rights dimensions in law and policy. TNTD/SPMU's presentation highlighted the OSCE's approaches and tools in mainstreaming gender and human rights in its activities against organized crime.

Regional workshop "Fostering a Better Understanding of the Role of Women in Organized Crime to Enhance Disruption and Prevention Efforts"; Belgrade, Serbia (2–3 July 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a regional workshop gathering criminal justice practitioners and policymakers from South-Eastern Europe and Moldova. The workshop provided a regional platform to discuss emerging trends, associated challenges and the impact of organized crime. The participants shared good practices on gender-sensitive organized crime prevention, and examined how women are recruited into organized crime, their roles within these networks, as well as why and how they exit them.

UNODC regional multi-stakeholder event for South-Eastern Europe on strategies against organized crime, including gender and human rights mainstreaming in preventing and combating organized crime; Vienna, Austria (23–25 July 2024)

TNTD/SPMU attended the UNODC Regional Multi-Stakeholder Event and delivered a presentation during the panel discussion "Achieving Gender and Human Rights Mainstreaming to Effectively Prevent and Combat Organized Crime – the Role of International and Regional Organizations", focusing on the work of the OSCE on advancing gender equality and protecting human rights in security/criminal justice-related matters.

Review workshop for the OSCE course "Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and Online Investigations: Intermediate Level"; Vienna, Austria (28–30 August 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized the above workshop to review a new online training course for law enforcement on OSINT and online investigations. Participants reviewed the draft training materials for the intermediate course, and identified further refinements to ensure that the course materials are operationally adequate for law enforcement practitioners. The workshop was attended by law enforcement experts from the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime, as well as representatives from Germany, Ireland, Lithuania and the United Kingdom.

Workshop on illicit firearms trafficking; Tirana, Albania (3–4 September 2024)

TNTD/SPMU participated in a workshop on illicit firearms trafficking organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania, in collaboration with the US Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP). The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacities of Albanian law enforcement in combating the growing threat of illicit trafficking in firearms, with a focus on transnational organized crime groups. In addition to expert practitioners from the Ger-

man Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt, BKA) and the Dutch National Police (online), TNTD/SPMU gave a presentation on OSCE support to reduce firearms trafficking and related transnational threats in the OSCE area.

International conference on trafficking in human beings, organized by the Council of Baltic Sea States; Tallinn, Estonia (11–12 September 2024)

At the invitation of the Estonian Ministry of Justice and Presidency of the Council of Baltic Sea States, TNTD/SPMU together with the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) presented a talk titled "Understanding Female Agency in Organized Crime and Trafficking in Human Beings" at the above conference. The OSCE presented its research findings on the role of women in organized crime[4], highlighting the victim-offender overlap and the importance of applying the non-punishment principle.

Side event "Women in organized crime: Understanding their role to strengthen prevention and exit initiatives" at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; Vienna, Austria (15 October 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and the OSCE Office of the OSR/CTHB, with the support of the delegations of Kyrgyzstan and Sweden, organized the above side event, focusing on the findings of the OSCE assessment report *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*. The event explored the role of women within organized crime groups and how they can be better identified in order to support prevention and exit initiatives. The discussion highlighted how addressing gender stereotypes can strengthen the detection of organized crime cases by criminal justice authorities. The event brought together diverse perspectives, including those of criminal justice and law enforcement officials, researchers, survivors from organized crime groups and NGOs.

Expert discussion on harnessing new technologies to enhance crime analysis; Vienna, Austria (22–23 October 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized the first event of a series of expert roundtable discussions on the use of new and emerging technologies by law enforcement. This first event was dedicated to the topic of harnessing new technologies to enhance crime analysis. The capability to analyse criminal trends and patterns is increasingly important as law enforcement agencies seek to address ever more complex security challenges in an environment of limited resources. Such analysis can contribute significantly to evidence-based and more proactive operational and strategic planning, which helps to make policing both more effective and more efficient. The meeting benefited from the input of expert contributors from law enforcement, academia and the private sector.

Seminar on addressing trafficking in persons from minority communities through enhanced police–public partnerships; Vienna, Austria (30 October 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and the OSR/CTHB hosted the above event, which addressed the fight against trafficking in persons from minority communities, with a particular focus on strengthening partnerships between police and communities. The seminar highlighted the specific challenges faced by trafficking victims who are members of minority groups in accessing protection services, assistance and legal remedies, emphasizing the need for human rights-based police responses. The event brought together over sixty participants, including representatives from OSCE field operations, delegations from participating States, national anti-trafficking authorities, law enforcement members, criminal justice actors, civil society representatives and survivors. The discussions drew on the recent OSCE publication *Addressing the Dynamics of Trafficking in Persons Belonging to Minorities, including National Minorities*[5], as well as the OSCE guide *Good Practices in Building Police–Public Partnerships*[6], underlining the necessity of cross-institutional co-operation to improve identification, prevention and response efforts.

Asset recovery

Support to prosecutor's offices in drafting updated standard operating procedures for financial investigations; throughout Montenegro (throughout 2024)

At the request of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA provided expert support to Montenegro for the development of new standard operating procedures (SOPs) for conducting financial investigations. The asset recovery project provided expertise and consultations with international experts to a working group set up for this purpose, composed of prosecutors from Montenegro's Supreme, Special, High and Basic Prosecutor's Offices. New

4 OSCE 2023, *Understanding the Role of Women in Organized Crime*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/secretariat/560049

5 OSCE 2024, *Out of the Shadows: Addressing the Dynamics of Trafficking in Persons Belonging to Minorities, including National Minorities*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/secretariat/574475

6 OSCE 2022, *Good Practices in Building Police–Public Partnerships*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/spmu/32547

SOPs were highlighted by the working group as a key requirement in Montenegro for more effective approaches in the fight against organized crime and corruption.

Online and in-person meetings with Asset Management Agencies and the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network (BAMIN) on ongoing and future support; online (January 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA organized online meetings with key asset recovery project beneficiaries to discuss the project implementation throughout the year. Meetings with beneficiaries in Serbia were held with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The discussions helped prioritize and tailor activities to the requests and needs of the beneficiaries, as well as ensure their continued ownership of the project.

Round table on asset recovery and money-laundering for practitioners; Tirana, Albania (27 February 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA organized a round table in Albania to identify challenges and capacity-building gaps, with the aim of unifying efforts against organized crime. Designed to catalyse in-depth discussions on the application of asset seizure and confiscation provisions, it brought together criminal justice stakeholders from Albania's General Prosecutor's Office, District Prosecutor's Offices, Judicial Police Officers and District Courts. Participants stressed the urgency of updating training programmes to cover emerging challenges and tools in financial crime, including the handling of cryptocurrencies and leveraging technology in investigations.

BAMIN steering group meeting; Skopje, North Macedonia (27–28 February 2024)

The steering group of BAMIN, composed of the asset management agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, North Macedonia and Ukraine, gathered to discuss the strategic priorities of 2024, as well as areas of common concern that the network can address. In addition to the steering group meeting, an informal peer review was initiated to assess the effectiveness of the North Macedonian Asset Management Office (AMO).

Training on asset recovery and anti-money laundering for judges and prosecutors; Podgorica, Montenegro (26–27 March 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in co-operation with the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro, organized a two-day training course for judges and prosecutors. The discussions raised awareness of the importance of applying asset recovery provisions in the fight against organized crime, corruption, money laundering and other crimes. Conducted by a national expert and a representative from the Italian Guardia di Finanza, the training enhanced practitioners' knowledge and promoted a common understanding of financial investigations, identification and recovery of assets acquired through illegal activities, money laundering, and cross-border tracing of illicit financial flows. Interactive sessions required participants to apply their acquired knowledge to case scenarios involving complex money laundering schemes and illicitly acquired property, including across national borders.

Publication of the comparative study *Good practices in asset recovery legislation in selected OSCE participating States*; online (25 March 2024)

The above comparative study[7], drafted under the OSCE's implementing partnership agreement with the Basel Institute's International Centre for Asset Recovery, identifies legislative mechanisms in OSCE participating States that empower States to confiscate suspected or proven proceeds of crime. The overall objective is to showcase established good practices with regard to the design of such legislative mechanisms, and any unique approaches that particular countries have that could be replicated and tested in other jurisdictions.

Support for participation in an international conference on asset management; Kyiv, Ukraine (25–28 March 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA facilitated the participation of representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina's Federal Agency for the Management of Confiscated Assets and from Romania's National Agency for the Management of Confiscated Assets at a conference on asset management held in Kyiv. The conference was organized by the Ukrainian National Agency for Finding, Monitoring and Managing Assets acquired through organized crime and other criminal offenses. The conference represented a further step forward in strengthening international and regional co-operation in the fight against illicit activities.

Training course on asset recovery and anti-money laundering; Podgorica, Montenegro (26–27 March 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA organized a training course in Montenegro to enhance the knowledge and skills of judges and prosecutors on asset recovery and money laundering. The training course gathered practitioners from various courts and prosecutor's offices across Montenegro, who dis-

7 OSCE 2024, *Good practices in asset recovery legislation in selected OSCE participating States*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/secretariat/566329

cussed national challenges and existing good practices related to financial investigations, asset identification and seizure/confiscation, and stand-alone money laundering cases. An expert from the Italian Guardia di Finanza elaborated on the complex dynamics of illicit financial flows and money laundering, with a particular focus on the challenges associated with the confiscation of criminal assets located abroad.

Presentation at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; Vienna, Austria (14 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU took the floor during a thematic discussion on promoting international co-operation and technical assistance—such as extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery—to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and other types of crime. TNTD/SPMU outlined the OSCE's efforts in promoting asset recovery as a modern approach to security by supporting criminal justice practitioners with specialized training and policy development, as well as facilitating the functioning of multilateral platforms.

TNTD-OCEEA-UNODC regional conference on asset recovery in Central Asia; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (20–21 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA organized a regional conference on asset recovery in co-operation with UNODC that aimed at raising awareness of asset recovery among law enforcement officers, prosecutors and asset managers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It provided a platform to discuss latest trends in asset recovery, as well as good practices in developing asset recovery strategies and managing seized and confiscated criminal assets. The second day of the conference focused on the challenges of tracing and confiscating crypto-assets.

BAMIN steering group meeting; Skopje, North Macedonia (27–29 May 2024)

The BAMIN steering group, supported by TNTD and OCEEA, met in Skopje, where North Macedonia assumed the current presidency of the network. Participants discussed thematic priorities for the upcoming presidency and the annual general meeting, which then took place in September 2024.

International Anti-Corruption Conference; Vilnius, Lithuania (18 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, jointly with the CiO Special Representative on Anti-Corruption, organized a panel discussion on asset recovery at the International Anti-Corruption Conference. This served as an opportunity to present the comparative paper produced by the Basel Institute on Governance as part of the project "Good practices in asset recovery legislation in selected OSCE participating States". The panel featured speakers from Italy and Romania, as well as from the Basel Institute on Governance and UNHCR. It was moderated by the CiO Special Representative on Anti-Corruption.

Central Asia regional conference on asset recovery; Almaty, Kazakhstan (18–20 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in co-operation with UNODC, held a Central Asia regional conference on asset recovery. The event served as an opportunity to bring together anti-corruption experts and government officials from the five Central Asian participating States, as well as anti-corruption and asset recovery experts from OSCE, UNODC and other international organizations, to discuss the establishment of the Central Asian Regional Component of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network). Also discussed were good practices in information exchange related to money laundering, transnational organized crime and asset recovery cases. Also experts from South-Eastern Europe who have been beneficiaries since 2019 of TNTD-OCEEA capacity-building on asset recovery shared their knowledge and experiences with practitioners from Central Asia.

Participation in the Sixth Financial Action Task Force plenary session; Singapore (23–28 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA participated in the sixth Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary session as well as in the working group meetings to discuss key issues related to money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing, which are closely related to the OSCE's efforts to promote asset recovery. Delegates from the FATF's Global Network of over 200 jurisdictions and observers from international organizations identified ways to enhance transparency of beneficial ownership globally, and prevent criminals and terrorists from hiding their activities and funds behind complex corporate structures or legal arrangements such as trusts.

Roundtable conference on the challenges of judicial police officials in executing court decisions and orders regarding property confiscation; Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (1–3 July 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, jointly with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Seized Property Management Agency (FAZUOI), organized a roundtable conference on the challenges related to executing court decisions and orders regarding property confiscation. The event brought together officials from FAZUOI and the Judicial Police, and concluded with the

signing of the interagency Co-operation Agreement on the Implementation of the Law on Confiscation of Illegally Acquired Property through Criminal Offences in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under this Agreement, the parties have committed to exchange up-to-date information to duly, efficiently and securely enforce court decisions related to temporary or permanent confiscation of illegally acquired property.

Annual general meeting of BAMIN and training event on the management of crypto-assets; Struga, North Macedonia (18–19 September 2024)

The 9th Annual General Meeting of BAMIN took place with the financial and organizational support of the asset recovery project. The meeting brought together asset management agencies from across the OSCE area to discuss various aspects of asset management. During the meeting, France and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute were introduced as new members of BAMIN. After the meeting, a training event was held that focused on the comprehensive management of crypto-assets. The training agenda included cryptocurrency basics, pre-seizure planning, good seizure practices, short- and long-term asset management and realization of assets. The event presented case studies and offered practical training on how to transfer cryptocurrency into the custody of an asset management office.

Conference on the social use of confiscated assets; the Vatican (19–20 September 2024)

At the invitation of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, TNTD/SPMU attended a conference on developing and implementing strategies for the social use of assets confiscated from organized crime. At a session titled "International Regulations and Prospects for Collaboration in Asset Recovery and in their Administration and Destination", the OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats gave a presentation on the OSCE's continuing work to facilitate cross-border co-operation among participating States in asset recovery. On the margins of the conference, bilateral meetings were held, including with INTERPOL.

Peer exchange visit to Italy's Anti-Mafia Investigations Directorate of Albanian criminal justice practitioners; Rome, Italy (4–7 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, jointly with the OSCE Presence in Albania, organized a study visit to Italy's Anti-Mafia Investigations Directorate for senior prosecutors, judges and police officers from Albania. The visit focused on Italy's asset recovery strategies and integrated law enforcement model, which combines the efforts of the Carabinieri, Polizia di Stato and Guardia di Finanza. The peer exchange contributed to strengthening the efforts of the Albanian institutions to develop practices and capabilities to fight organized crime and corruption through asset recovery, such as by establishing an Asset Recovery Office.

Roundtable discussion "Application and Challenges in Initiating and Implementing Financial Investigations for Contact Persons"; Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (7–8 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in co-operation with the Agency for the Management of Confiscated Assets of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, facilitated a roundtable discussion on financial investigations in criminal cases. Attending the event were practitioners from the State Investigation and Protection Agency, the Cantonal Prosecutor's Offices of Sarajevo, Tuzla, Una-Sana, Central Bosnia, Zenica-Doboj, Neretva, West Herzegovina, Canton 10, and Posavina, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina's Tax Administration, Securities Registry, Securities Commission, and Chamber of Notaries. Also representatives from the banking sector and the asset management agencies of *Republika Srpska* and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the event. To support the fight against organized crime, corruption and economic crime, the roundtable discussion backed efforts of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels to step up internal co-ordination mechanisms between agencies involved in financial investigations. The participants discussed the development of concrete tools for more effective financial investigations, as well as prompt identification, freezing and seizure of illegally acquired assets.

Open-source investigation (OSINT) training for Kazakhstan's Asset Recovery Committee; Astana, Kazakhstan (12–14 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in co-operation with UNODC, Kazakhstan's Asset Recovery Committee and the Law Enforcement Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan, conducted a training course on OSINT techniques and tools to counter illicit financial activity associated with corruption and organized crime. Prosecutors, investigators and analysts of the Asset Recovery Committee participated in the event, which was designed to help strengthen their skills in using OSINT investigative tools and techniques when addressing transnational organized crime.

Roundtable discussion on asset recovery challenges in *Republika Srpska*; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (13 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a roundtable discussion on asset recovery challenges, bringing together 30 legal professionals, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and representatives (17 women, 13 men) of the Ministry of Justice and asset management agencies of *Republika Srpska* and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also attending the event were representatives from the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the US Department of Justice.

Regional co-ordination meeting of donors providing assistance on asset recovery in South-Eastern Europe; online (24 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA took part in the annual South-Eastern Europe regional co-ordination meeting for major technical co-operation donors providing support in South-Eastern Europe for advancing policies and capacities to counter and fight transnational organized crime and corruption. The focus of the meeting was asset recovery.

Workshop on navigating asset recovery: Preserving the value of frozen, seized and confiscated assets; Podgorica, Montenegro (28–29 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA organized a workshop in Montenegro on navigating asset recovery, with a focus on preserving the value of frozen, seized and confiscated assets. The workshop was tailored for prosecutors, and focused on recent developments in Montenegro regarding asset recovery, including new provisions in Montenegro's Law on Confiscation of Property Benefits. Also discussed was the management of seized and confiscated criminal assets, the application of temporary security measures, and the importance of inter-institutional co-operation to ensure value preservation of frozen and confiscated assets. The workshop concluded with a set of practical recommendations on how to bring the asset recovery agenda forward in Montenegro and align the application of existing legal tools with EU and international standards.

Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors; Vienna, Austria (17–18 December 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA hosted the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors, which brought together senior prosecutors, judges and legal experts from 14 participating States to enhance informal and formal international collaboration in the fight against transnational organized crime. The participants discussed emerging criminal trends, including encrypted communications, dark web-related crimes, and the use of virtual assets such as cryptocurrencies. Sessions also focused on digital evidence and strategies to dismantle criminal networks. The meeting highlighted the need for improved cross-border co-operation, informal networking, and integration with frameworks such as Eurojust and INTERPOL. Also examined by the participants was the sustainability of the permanent conference and proposals for a strategic operational roadmap.

Cybercrime

Development workshop for the intermediate level of the e-learning course "Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and Online Investigations"; Vienna, Austria (31 January–2 February 2024)

TNTD/SPMU held a development workshop with experts from Germany, Ireland and Lithuania to initiate work on a new intermediate level of the e-learning course "OSINT and Online Investigations". Building on the introductory-level course developed in 2023, the intermediate-level course is also being designed as a modular, self-paced e-learning course. When finalized, it will be offered to TNTD's key partners in its capacity-building efforts to combat cybercrime, including the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group, CEPOL, INTERPOL, UNODC and other relevant national institutions in the OSCE area.

E-learning course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level"; online (21 & 28 February 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized two webinars to present the introductory level "OSINT and Online Investigations" course to the OSCE executive structures and external partner organizations, including Europol, CEPOL, the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group, and the Council of Europe. During the webinars, TNTD briefed the audience on the background of the course development and demonstrated the functionality of the course on the OSCE e-learning platform. Several organizations have since requested permission to integrate the OSCE course into their e-learning management system, including CEPOL and two police academies in Germany (in Baden-Württemberg and North Rhine-Westphalia).

National training course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level"; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (22–26 April 2024)

TNTD/SPMU delivered the introductory level OSINT training course to representatives of Uzbekistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Law Enforcement Academy. The training course was delivered at the Law Enforcement Academy of Uzbekistan in Tashkent by expert trainers from Georgia and Lithuania. The training event was based on the OSCE e-learning course "OSINT and Online Investigations" developed by TNTD in 2024. It covered the following ten thematic areas: introduction to OSINT and information theory, web and internet fundamentals, operational security in online investigations, search engines and search operators, website and email analysis, social networks, sources of OSINT for investigators, image-based OSINT, preserving online evidence, and human rights in OSINT.

National training course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level"; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (13–17 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU delivered the introductory level OSINT training course to representatives of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The participants completed the course and received certificates. The course was delivered at the premises of Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan in Kosshy by three expert trainers from Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Uzbekistan.

National training course "Introduction to Cybercrime and Digital Evidence"; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (21–24 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU supported the Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan in the delivery of the course "Introduction to Cybercrime and Digital Evidence". This was the fifth national training course in Kazakhstan organized within the framework of the cybercrime project. The course was delivered by two staff members of the Law Enforcement Academy, together with an international expert from Moldova. It was the first time the course was delivered by national experts from one of the beneficiary institutions in the country.

Concluding event of the project "Capacity-Building on Combating Cybercrime in Central Asia (phase I)"; Vienna, Austria & Budapest, Hungary (11–12 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a concluding event for the project "Capacity-Building on Combating Cybercrime in Central Asia (phase I)", which consisted of two parts: a review conference in Vienna, Austria, on 11 June and a study visit to CEPOL in Budapest, Hungary, on 12 June. The review conference took stock of the project's implementation and reflected on its main achievements and lessons learned. Participants discussed the key outcomes and impact of the project, and identified their further capacity-building needs amid the continuously evolving cybercrime landscape across the region. The conference was attended by around 50 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (all men), including 20 senior representatives of law enforcement/prosecutorial authorities and their educational institutions. The next day, TNTD organized a one-day study visit to CEPOL's Training Hub in Budapest, Hungary, for the senior representatives from Central Asia who attended the conference. The objective of the study visit was to present good practices in professional training and capacity-building for law enforcement on combating cybercrime and dealing with electronic evidence.

Third regional co-ordination meeting of the cybercrime project; Vienna, Austria (13 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized the third (and final) regional co-ordination meeting under the cybercrime project. The purpose of the meeting was to identify and discuss which capacity-building needs on cybercrime remain in Central Asia and how they would be addressed in the second phase of the OSCE's regional initiative on cybercrime. The meeting was attended by senior representatives of law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The participants discussed the implementation of the project's second phase, which is planned from September 2024 to December 2027.

National training course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level"; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (24–28 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU delivered the introductory OSINT training course to representatives of Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Office of the Prosecutor General. The participants completed the course and received certificates. The course was delivered at the premises of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Bishkek by two expert trainers from Georgia and Lithuania. The event was based on the OSCE e-learning course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level" that was developed by TNTD in 2023. It covered the same thematic areas as the above-mentioned courses held in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This was the fifth national training course in Kyrgyzstan organized under the cybercrime project.

External evaluation of the project "Capacity-Building on Combating Cybercrime in Central Asia"; Vienna, Austria (July & August 2024)

A decentralized external evaluation of the project "Capacity--Building on Combating Cybercrime in Central Asia" was conducted by an independent consultant from Kazakhstan. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews (both in-person and online) with key stakeholders from the five beneficiary countries of the region, as well as with relevant OSCE staff, external experts, and representatives from the key donor participating States. The project officially concluded on 31 August. On 1 September, a second phase began, ExB project No. 1102674 "Capacity-Building on Combating Cybercrime in Central Asia: Phase II". The new project builds upon the achievements of the first phase and expands the OSCE's assistance to several new areas to address the primary gaps identified during the implementation of the first project from 2020 to 2024.

Training course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level" for law enforcement representatives from South-Eastern Europe; online (7–31 October 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with the OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe, delivered the introductory OSINT training course online to law enforcement representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The training course consisted of an e-learning element (in ten modules) hosted on the OSCE e-learning platform, and six recorded webinars that took place over the month of October. To successfully pass the course, participants had to complete the e-learning modules, watch the recorded webinars, successfully pass four knowledge-check quizzes and a final post-training test, and complete three practical assignments.

Training course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level" for the Border Service of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan; Astana, Kazakhstan (11–15 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU supported the OSCE Programme Office in Astana in delivering the introductory OSINT training course to representatives of the Border Service of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan. TNTD provided the course materials and one staff member to serve as the trainer.

Webinar on the misuse of AI for criminal purposes for Uzbekistan's Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; online (26 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, jointly with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, delivered the above webinar to around 40 cadets and lecturers from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan. The webinar provided the participants with a theoretical introduction to AI and its role in criminal activities, as well as two practical case studies on the misuse of generative AI to facilitate trafficking in persons, and AI in the context of counter-terrorism.

Regional workshop on developing competency frameworks and training strategies on cybercrime and electronic evidence; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–6 December 2024)

TNTD/SPMU organized a regional workshop for law enforcement representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, focusing on developing competency frameworks and training strategies on cybercrime and electronic evidence for law enforcement practitioners. These two strategic areas will serve as the foundation for further OSCE activities under the cybercrime project's pillar on education.

Illicit drugs and chemical precursors

Intersessional meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; Vienna, Austria (2 February 2024)

TNTD/SPMU participated as an observer in an intersessional meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The thematic discussions, organized in accordance with the multi-year workplan adopted by the Commission in 2019, focused on scheduling recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board and a presentation of the organizational arrangements for the high-level segment of the 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, subsequently held in Vienna on 14 and 15 March 2024.

67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and bilateral talks; Vienna, Austria (14–22 March 2024)

TNTD/SPMU attended the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. During the high-level segment on 14 and 15 March, TNTD made a statement underlining the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and the added value of the work being done by its 12 field operations in the

fight against trafficking in drugs and precursors. During the Session's regular segment from 18 to 22 March, TNTD made a statement on interagency co-operation in the fight against the world drug problem. In addition, two written contributions from TNTD and OCEEA were published online. The first focused on the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, the second, on confiscating proceeds of crime connected to money laundering resulting from drug trafficking.

Meeting of the Paris Pact Initiative's expert working group on cross-border co-operation in support of Pillar I of the Vienna Declaration; Vienna, Austria (17–18 April 2024)

TNTD/SPMU hosted a meeting of the Paris Pact Initiative's expert working group focused on strengthening and implementing regional initiatives to combat illicit trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan. The meeting was opened by the OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats and the Director of the UNODC Division of Policy Analysis and Public Affairs. The TNT Co-ordinator emphasized the OSCE's ongoing work with its Central Asian participating States to address the security impact of the situation in Afghanistan. This includes a cross-dimensional OSCE project, implemented in close co-ordination with UNODC, which focuses on preventing youth crime and drug use through education on legality, and on awareness-raising campaigns addressing the threats of organized crime and corruption.

Commemorative event "Evidence to Impact – Powering Effective Drug Policy with Data Collection and Research"; Vienna, Austria (26 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU participated in the event "Evidence to Impact" organized by the Chair of the 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to mark the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. During the event, TNTD made a statement emphasizing the importance of data collection and research in formulating effective drug policies. The event launched the UNODC *2024 World Drug Report*, which highlights global trends and in-depth analyses of drug issues around the world. TNTD reaffirmed the OSCE's commitment to supporting the UNODC and enhancing international co-operation to tackle drug-related challenges.

UNODC expert working group meeting on mapping criminal networks involved in drug trafficking along the Balkan Route 2.0; online (22–24 September 2024)

TNTD/SPMU participated in the above expert working group meeting at the invitation of UNODC. The discussions explored drug trafficking routes, methods and links to other criminal activities, including human and firearms trafficking. TNTD emphasized the need to strengthen regional co-operation between law enforcement agencies, and contributed insights on challenges related to border management in the region.

Regional workshop on preventing drug and new psychoactive substance use among youth in Central Asia; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (2–3 October 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, in collaboration with the Programme Office in Dushanbe and the European Action against Drugs and Organised Crime, organized a workshop on preventing drug and new psychoactive substance use among youth in Central Asia. The participants included law enforcement officials and healthcare professionals, who discussed current challenges, shared good practices and explored preventive measures. Key topics included international co-operation in drug monitoring and early warning systems, risk factors related to drug supplies, and the impact on youth.

Youth crime and drug use prevention

Study visit on youth crime prevention for criminal justice practitioners from Albania and Tajikistan; Düsseldorf, Germany (24 January 2025)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA organized a study visit for a delegation of representatives of law enforcement agencies from Albania and Tajikistan to "Kurve Kriegen", the youth crime prevention initiative of the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. The visit allowed practitioners from Albania and Tajikistan to learn about good practices to promote a culture of lawfulness and integrity among youth, and how to prevent at-risk youth from becoming involved in illegal activities, especially by strengthening early identification and prevention.

Workshop on youth crime prevention awareness-raising using social media; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (23–24 April 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in co-operation with the Programme Office in Dushanbe, held multi-stakeholder workshops with youth, influencers and governmental practitioners to discuss social media as a means for raising young people's resilience to involvement in crime. During the workshop, participants discussed youth crime trends and challenges, as well as the opportunities social media can offer to increase resilience among young people. Other topics included target audiences, styles, effective key messages, and the platforms

that can be used for awareness-raising and youth crime prevention. A cross-cutting theme at the workshop was how to use social media to effectively engage youth and their voices to promote a culture of integrity.

Multi-stakeholder workshop on youth crime prevention; Tirana, Albania (7–8 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA gathered criminal justice practitioners and representatives of social services, municipalities and civil society to discuss how to strengthen interagency co-operation on youth crime prevention. Participants discussed risk factors for youth recruitment into crime, how to effectively identify and prioritize such cases, and how to strengthen multi-stakeholder co-operation to address underlying root causes of youth criminality.

Side event on youth crime prevention on the margins of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; Vienna, Austria (13 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, jointly with the Permanent Missions of Albania, Germany, Italy and Kyrgyzstan to the OSCE, organized the above side event on how to effectively promote youth engagement in prevention as part of a whole-of-society response to youth crime, drawing on the OSCE's experience in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

South-Eastern Europe Youth Dialogue Forum on youth crime prevention; Durres, Albania (21–24 May 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA and the OSCE Presence in Albania held the South-Eastern Europe Youth Dialogue Forum, gathering young people from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. It provided a platform for young people to discuss the threat of organized crime and corruption among their peers across the region, and empowered them to develop concrete policy recommendations on how to effectively address and prevent these security challenges.

Multi-stakeholder workshop on youth crime prevention; Chișinău, Moldova (25–26 June 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA organized a multi-stakeholder workshop to discuss current challenges and needs related to strengthening youth crime prevention efforts in Moldova. Participants also examined international good practices on enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement to effectively prevent at-risk young people from becoming involved in illicit activities. The event further explored ways to establish effective youth crime prevention models that support early identification and prioritization of at-risk youth.

Guest lecture for OSCE Academy students on youth crime prevention; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (30 September 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE Academy, organized a guest lecture on youth crime prevention, focusing on the root causes of criminal and corrupt behaviour. The event gathered students from Central Asia and Afghanistan enrolled in the OSCE Academy's master's programmes in human rights and sustainability, politics and security, as well as its bachelor programme in economics. The lecture enabled the attendees to explore international good practices for preventing at-risk youth from engaging in criminal activities, with a focus on early intervention and multi-stakeholder co-operation and support. Also included were insights from "Kurve Kriegen", the youth crime prevention initiative of the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

Multi-stakeholder workshop on youth crime prevention; Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan (1–3 October 2024)

TNTD/SPMU, in co-operation with OCEEA, conducted a workshop on youth crime prevention aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of effective collaboration between agencies to prevent at-risk young women and men from becoming involved in criminal activities. The event gathered participants from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration, including law enforcement and social services practitioners, and offered an opportunity to discuss real-life youth crime cases, assess current strategies, and develop new approaches to address the root causes of youth crime.

Expert webinar "Fighting Transnational Organized Crime: The Role of Gender-sensitive Prevention and Exit Programmes"; online (15 November 2024)

TNTD/SPMU hosted a webinar on the occasion of the first International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime. The webinar highlighted the need to understand the complexity and duality of women's roles in organized crime as both victims and active agents. It emphasized the importance of gender-sensitive approaches to prevention and exit strategies. The event brought together policymakers, law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners, as well as representatives of CSOs and academia from across the OSCE area and beyond. It included speakers from government institutions and research institutes from Albania, Germany, Serbia and Sweden, and also featured insights from the experience of a Canadian woman who is an organized crime survivor. The speakers discussed the current context of women's involvement in organized crime, the consequences of failing to recognize

their roles, and the challenges to delivering gender-inclusive prevention and exit programmes.

Training course for police officers and social workers on youth crime prevention; Tirana, Albania (2–5 December 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, organized a training session to support the launch and implementation of a pilot youth crime prevention programme in Kamza municipality, Albania. The training course brought together police officers and social workers from Kamza municipality and Tirana to strengthen their ability to identify youth at risk of recruitment into crime, prioritize youth crime cases effectively, and address the root causes of youth criminality through strengthened co-operation between police and social services. The sessions included case studies and practical exercises on preventing the escalation of criminal behaviour among young offenders. The course laid the foundation for law enforcement and social services to implement a one-year pilot youth crime prevention programme in Kamza municipality.

Presentation of the preliminary findings of the TNTD-OCEEA report "From Risk to Resilience: The Role of Financial Literacy in Youth Crime Prevention"; online (23 December 2024)

TNTD/SPMU and OCEEA released the preliminary findings of a new research paper[8] that assesses an underexplored area of organized crime. It finds that criminal groups strategically target and recruit young people under the age of criminal liability as a means to evade prosecution. It also addresses how a lack of financial literacy can create or exacerbate the vulnerabilities that make young people more susceptible to involvement in criminality, and examines how financial literacy can strengthen the resistance of young people to recruitment into organized crime.

8 OSCE 2024, From risk to resilience: The role of financial literacy in youth crime prevention – Preliminary findings [webpage], accessible at https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/d/c/584598.pdf

1.2 Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit (TNTD/ATU)

Spotlight on

▸ Regional workshop “Protecting soft targets from terrorist attacks”; Astana, Kazakhstan (27–28 May 2024)

All citizens in every OSCE participating State share a common experience: they spend a great deal of time in public spaces, including schools, houses of worship, bazaars, shopping malls, concert venues and the like. These are places where people learn, pray, eat, shop, relax and pass time with loved ones. They play a key role in community building. It is likely for these reasons that terrorists and violent extremists attack public spaces, seeking to strike a sense of fear and insecurity in the general public.

Since public spaces often lack access controls or other security measures, attacks on such “soft targets” have become an increasingly common modus operandi for violent actors across the ideological spectrum. Better protection of soft targets while retaining their open character is an ongoing challenge for all OSCE participating States. As noted by Irfan Saeed, former Head of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, “we have seen attacks on students while they study, worshippers while they pray, fans while they attend a sporting event and commuters while they make their way to work during rush hour.”

Regional workshop on “Protecting soft targets from terrorist attacks” (OSCE)

▷ **As the first of its kind, the regional workshop "Protecting soft targets from terrorist attacks" brought together over fifty security and counter-terrorism professionals from across Central Asia and beyond to discuss measures and methods to enhance the protection of soft targets from terrorist threats, while protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Thematic sessions involved expert presentations by officials from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, and the United States, as well as from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Centre for Sport Security, Strong Cities Network, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).**

Why did such a diverse group of experts participate in this workshop? Because there is no one-size-fits-all solution for protecting soft targets from terrorist attacks. Instead, each participating State, together with each community therein, must determine an approach that best aligns with local customs, laws and their communities' needs. The event provided an opportunity for key stakeholders from across the region and the OSCE area to compare notes, experiences and perspectives, all in pursuit of making their communities safer and more secure.

A public report of the event is available in English and Russian[9]. Project PROTECT is an ExB initiative of the OSCE's Action against Terrorism Unit. It is funded by the Governments of Germany and the United States.

Counter-terrorism activities

Open briefing of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee; New York, United States (28 February 2024)

At the invitation of the UN Security Council (UNSC) Counter-Terrorism Committee, the OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats delivered remarks during the second segment of the open briefing, which was dedicated to the activities of the UN and other international and regional organizations in the area of providing technical assistance to South-East European States in countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The Co-ordinator also held several bilateral meetings with various UN agencies on the margins of the meeting.

UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee visit to Montenegro; Podgorica, Montenegro (18–22 March 2024)

TNTD/ATU contributed to an assessment visit to Montenegro at the invitation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate (UNCTED). The visit assessed the implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions and other international counter-terrorism commitments by Montenegro, providing recommendations for areas of improvement, as well as noting good practices. It also gave the OSCE representative an opportunity to assess current and future needs of technical assistance, such as in the area of countering terrorism financing, that could be tailored to national needs, and to identify avenues for continued TNTD support in collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

9 OSCE 2024, *2024 Central Asia Soft Targets Workshop Report*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/secretariat/575686

OSCE Scholarship for Peace Programme; online (13 June 2024)

TNTD/ATU facilitated a session for the Scholarship for Peace Programme organized by the OSCE's CPC. During the session, participants were introduced to the developing challenges of AI being used in connection with terrorism and violent extremism. Means for responding to these challenges using investigative tools that build on AI were discussed, as well as effective online responses to hate and incitement to violence as part of related prevention efforts.

Launch of the European Union Knowledge Hub on the Prevention of Radicalisation; Brussels, Belgium (17 June 2024)

TNTD/ATU participated in the high-level conference on the EU Knowledge Hub on the Prevention of Radicalisation. During the conference, the Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats highlighted how TNTD/ATU was already implementing an innovative agenda regarding violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism through several thematic projects, as well as the importance of supporting South-Eastern European participating States in their ongoing reform path. Convened by the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, the EU Knowledge Hub on the Prevention of Radicalisation brings together practitioners, policymakers and researchers working on terrorism prevention across Europe as well as in priority third countries. The Hub will help EU Member States and priority third countries to develop and implement policies and strategies on the prevention of radicalisation based on shared knowledge and expertise.

Side event on the margins of UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Week on the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and associated family members; New York, United States (24 September 2024)

TNTD/ATU, in conjunction with the Government of Albania and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, co-organized a side event at the 2024 UNGA High-Level Week titled "Effective Rehabilitation and Reintegration of People Returning from Northeast Syria". The event was designed to highlight the set of distinct challenges and solutions associated with such returnees and associated women and children. It raised awareness of lessons learned and good practices within the OSCE area, with a particular focus on the work being done by national institutions and partners in Albania.

High-Level Conference "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms – The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process"; Kuwait City, Kuwait (4–5 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU was invited to attend and deliver keynote remarks at the high-level opening session of the above conference, which was co-organized by Kuwait, Tajikistan and UNOCT. In her remarks, the Co-ordinator underscored the front-runner role of the OSCE in supporting Central Asia's border security through specialized training for national institutions and by fostering inclusive regional security dialogue through the OSCE Border Management Staff College based in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Co-ordinator also emphasized that effective multilateralism leads, *inter alia*, to open trade and economic connectivity, while protecting lawful freedom of movement.

Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT)

Meeting of the Council of Europe (CoE) working group on the "Guidelines on Strategies for the Prosecution of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism"; Strasbourg, France (30–31 January 2024)

At the invitation of the CoE's Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT), TNTD/ATU took part in the first meeting of the working group developing the "Guidelines on Strategies for the Prosecution of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism". The event brought together prosecutors and representatives of international organizations with the objective to discuss and agree on the substantive issues to be covered by the guidelines.

Workshop "Co-operation of Law Enforcement and Civil Society to Prevent Violent Extremism – Lessons Learned in Protecting Children and Engaging Women"; Almaty, Kazakhstan (14–16 February 2024)

At the invitation of the EU-funded Law Enforcement in Central Asia project "Co-operation of Law Enforcement and Civil Society to Prevent Violent Extremism – Lessons Learned in Protecting Children and Engaging Women", TNTD/ATU contributed to a workshop on the topic of law enforcement and civil society co-operation in P/CVERLT. TNTD/ATU delivered a session on whole-of-society and community policing approaches to P/CVERLT to a multi-stakeholder audience from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The event included a focus on

engaging and empowering women in P/CVERLT, protecting children and youth, trust-building, and preventing online radicalization to violence.

Meetings of the networks for women professionals in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia working on P/CVERLT; online (27 & 28 February 2024)

TNTD/ATU, together with the Women and Men Innovating and Networking for Gender Equality (WIN) project of OSCE Secretariat's Programme for Gender Issues, conducted the first of a series of meetings with the networks for women professionals in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia working on P/CVERLT. By facilitating regular online meetings every two months as well as in-person gatherings, TNTD/ATU is creating a sustainable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and capacity-building among women professionals in this crucial security domain. The February meetings focused on the year's planning, with the Central Asia meeting also discussing investigations and prosecutions of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) based on input from a representative of the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL.

Training course "Defence against Terrorism"; Ankara, Türkiye (5 March 2024)

At the invitation of Türkiye's Centre of Excellence – Defence against Terrorism institution, TNTD/ATU delivered a session on the role of AI in terrorism and counter-terrorism during a course titled "Defence against Terrorism". The participants included counter-terrorism specialists from military and law enforcement, including border officials and police, as well as judiciary and international experts, including from the UN, EU and the African Union.

Expert seminar "Artificial Intelligence in the Context of P/CVERLT: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities"; The Hague, the Netherlands (14 March 2024)

In co-operation with the RFoM and the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, TNTD/ATU organized an expert seminar on the challenges and opportunities associated with the use of AI in the context of P/CVERLT. Experts also discussed relevant topics for an upcoming OSCE webinar series related to P/CVERLT in connection with AI and other emerging technologies. The outcomes of the seminar have helped inform the development of the e-learning course "Using OSINT Tools to Enhance Media and Information Literacy Skills within Non-Law Enforcement Actors in the Context of P/CVERLT".

Expert seminar "Challenging Extremism and Hatred in Schools"; Forest Row, East Sussex, United Kingdom (26–27 March 2024)

At the invitation of the UK Commission on Countering Extremism and the Department of Education, TNTD/ATU contributed to the seminar "Challenging Extremism and Hatred in Schools" with the presentation "Media and Information Literacy Education Approaches to Preventing Violent Extremism at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe". The event was attended by international experts, as well as UK practitioners from various professional sectors.

Meetings of the networks for women professionals in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia working on P/CVERLT; online (16 & 17 April; 19 & 26 June 2024)

TNTD/ATU, together with the OSCE's WIN project, conducted further meetings with the networks for women professionals in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia working on P/CVERLT. These meetings focused on AI and P/CVERLT, mental health and prevention of burnout for P/CVERLT professionals, as well as P/CVERLT and gender in educational settings.

Regional conference "Addressing the Prevailing Digital Information Disorder: Countering the Use of the Internet by Terrorists and Violent Extremists"; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (23–24 April 2024)

In co-operation with the National Counter-Terrorism Council of Mongolia, TNTD/ATU organized an expert-level conference for the host country and countries in Central Asia to discuss challenges related to the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, specifically VERLT, stemming from the "digital information disorder"—that is, misinformation, disinformation and malign information in the digital realm. With more than 70 participants, the event aimed at formulating effective approaches to P/CVERLT in the digital space in an inclusive, gender-sensitive and human rights-based manner, and focused regional policy recommendations on enhancing media and information literacy in the context of P/CVERLT. In the framework of the conference, TNTD/ATU, together with the RFoM, held a side event titled "Addressing the Linkages between Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism Online while Protecting Fundamental Freedoms".

Multi-stakeholder training course "Media and Information Literacy in the Context of Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: Addressing Challenges in the Digital 'Information Disorder'"; Tirana, Albania (5–6 June 2024)

In co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, TNTD/ATU organized the above training course for participants representing government and non-government stakeholders, including the security sector, media regulatory agencies, educators, civil society and social workers.

Webinar series "Facing Division: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremist and Terrorist Content Online Human Rights-Based, Age- and Gender-Sensitive Approaches"; online (throughout 2024)

The above webinar series is part of TNTD/ATU's efforts to address radicalization to violence in the online space and the role of P/CVERLT stakeholders. It is aimed at an expert-level audience from international organizations, civil society and specialized bodies relevant to the respective topics.

- On 11 July, TNTD/ATU organized the first expert-level webinar in the series, titled "Addressing Violent Extremism in the Online Space: Human Rights-Based Approaches to the Use of Artificial Intelligence by Law Enforcement and Communities". The webinar took stock of existing examples of good practices that leverage digital technologies in P/CVERLT efforts, and identified opportunities for P/CVERLT stakeholders to engage proactively with technologies, including AI, in their work to address violent extremist and terrorist content in the online space. Three expert speakers delivered remarks, followed by a question-and-answer session. Eighty persons attended the webinar.

- On 12 September, TNTD/ATU organized the second expert-level webinar in the series, titled "'Awful but Lawful' – Addressing Hateful Content in the Digital Space from the Perspective of Preventing Online Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism". The webinar addressed challenges related to the moderation of and exposure to borderline content in the context of VERLT. The webinar aimed to address issues related to ensuring freedom of expression and safeguarding a healthy online information environment in the context of content moderation guidelines and regulations, as well as offline engagement aimed at P/CVERLT. Four expert speakers, including an adviser from the Office of the OSCE RFoM, delivered remarks followed by a question and answer session. Sixty-five persons attended the webinar.

INDEED final event and 2nd International Policy and Practitioners Forum "Advancing Evidence-Based Policy, Practice and Evaluation in P/CVE, De-radicalisation and Crime Prevention Fields & Shaping the Future"; Warsaw, Poland (11–13 September 2024)

TNTD/ATU participated in the above conference, which was the final event of the EU-funded INDEED project[10], which aims to use evidence-based approaches to strengthen first-line practitioners' and policymakers' knowledge, capabilities and skills for designing, planning, implementing and evaluating, in an effective and proven manner, initiatives on preventing violent extremism (PVE), countering violent extremism (CVE) and de-radicalization. Such approaches include policies and strategies, long-term programmes, short-term actions and ad hoc interventions. TNTD/ATU gave two presentations, including one titled "Addressing the Evolving Landscape of Radicalization and Violent Extremism in Europe".

Meetings of the networks for women professionals in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia working on P/CVERLT; online (18 & 19 September 2024)

TNTD/ATU, together with the OSCE's WIN project, conducted two respective meetings with the networks for women professionals in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia working on P/CVERLT to plan the in-person meeting held mid-October in Vienna, Austria.

Second in-person meeting of women professionals in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia working on P/CVERLT; Vienna, Austria (17–18 October 2024)

TNTD/ATU, together with the OSCE's WIN project, hosted the above meeting. Established in February 2023, the two regional networks comprise women professionals from diverse sectors, including government agencies, civil society, academia, media and OSCE field operations. The in-person meeting reaffirmed the OSCE's commitment to enhancing the capacity of women professionals in the critical field of P/CVERLT.

Multi-stakeholder training course on addressing violent extremism online through increased gender awareness; Skopje, North Macedonia (7–8 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje, organized a training course on addressing challenges related to "digital information disorder" in the context of

10 More information is available here: https://www.indeedproject.eu/

P/CVERLT. The event focused on addressing challenges in the digital landscape as they relate to violent extremism and violent misogyny. The participants discussed the links between gender, violent misogyny and violent extremism online, with the aim to advance comprehensive approaches to P/CVERLT.

Policy round table "Advancing Justice Responses for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Linked to Terrorism" at the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law; Valetta, Malta (18 November 2024)

At the invitation of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law to the above round table, TNTD/ATU presented its work on P/CVERLT as part of the session "Closing the Justice Gap: Universal Mechanisms and Regional Powerhouses Uniting for Accountability".

Training sessions and talk shows on P/CVERLT for journalists, bloggers and civil society representatives; Karshi, Namangan and Fergana, Uzbekistan (October & November 2024)

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, in co-operation with the NGO "In-Service Training Centre for Journalists of Uzbekistan" and with support from TNTD/ATU, organized three training seminars on P/CVERLT, taking place on:

- 3–4 October 2024 in Karshi;
- 19–20 November 2024 in Namangan;
- 21–22 November 2024 in Fergana.

The seminars, attended by local journalists, bloggers and civil society representatives, aimed to raise the level of professionalism in preventing violent extremism and terrorism, as well as to develop skills in using new multimedia technologies and fact-checking tools.

Workshop "The Use of AI in P/CVERLT"; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (16 December 2024)

TNTD/ATU, in co-operation with Meta, conducted the above-mentioned workshop, which brought together 12 experts and civil society representatives to explore the opportunities and challenges of using AI in P/CVERLT, including the need for ethical frameworks, unbiased algorithms and fair outcomes.

Training course on media and information literacy skills in P/CVERLT; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (17–18 December 2024)

TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan held the above training course aimed to address the challenges posed by the "digital information disorder", as well as combating the misuse of the internet for violent extremist purposes while upholding fundamental human rights, including freedom of expression. Participants included 24 policymakers, officials from the security and education sectors, representatives of CSOs and media professionals.

Countering the financing of terrorism

Introductory meeting on the training programme "Countering the Financing of Terrorism"; Podgorica, Montenegro (8 February 2024)

At this meeting, TNTD/ATU introduced its comprehensive training programme "Countering the Financing of Terrorism" to officials from all relevant agencies in Montenegro. A detailed presentation delivered by TNTD explained the planned technical assistance, as well as the expected benefits for the national agencies involved. Benefits include improved inter-agency co-operation and enhanced methodologies for conducting financial investigations in counter-terrorism cases. These will be aligned with international commitments and standards, including human rights considerations. An agreement was reached on the forthcoming steps for implementing the training programme.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) working group and plenary meeting; Paris, France (19–23 February 2024)

TNTD/ATU and OCEEA contributed to the FATF working group and plenary meetings by providing input regarding their work on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CTF). Delegates from over two hundred jurisdictions and observers from international organizations participated in the discussions.

Training course "Financial Disruption Strategies in Counter-Terrorism Efforts"; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo[11] (16–18 April 2024)

With the support of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and in partnership with UNODC, TNTD/ATU conducted a training course in Pejë/Peć aimed at enhancing the capacities of local entities in countering the financing of terrorism (CFT). During the course, participants explored various techniques, including functional and vulnerability analysis and auditing aimed at disrupting terrorist networks by examining their "business model". By applying these methods to hypothetical local scenarios, interagency teams developed effective financial disruption strategies. In preparation for this training course, the local trainers presented anticipated impacts of the programme on CFT to their agencies' senior management.

Launch of training programme on countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) for Montenegro; Vienna, Austria (7–9 May 2024)

In collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and UNODC, TNTD/ATU delivered a ToT course in Vienna aimed at equipping experts from Montenegro with skills and knowledge on CFT, marking the start of a comprehensive training initiative for this participating State. Trainers from key Montenegrin governmental agencies acquainted themselves with the international, regional and national threat landscapes, the terrorist funding cycle, financial needs of terrorist organizations, and related information. With the guidance of international experts, they tailored course material and developed practical exercises to fit Montenegro's context.

Briefing: "UNSCR Sanctions for Banking and Law Enforcement Officials"; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (9–10 May 2024)

TNTD/ATU, jointly with UNODC, delivered an awareness-raising briefing focused on further enhancing the capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina to combat the financing of terrorism. The workshop was organized in partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ministry of Security of and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The initiative gathered representatives of the public and private sectors for a comprehensive discussion on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1373. Participants explored the intricacies of the domestic application of sanctions measures, gaining detailed insights into the mechanisms to identify, nominate and designate terrorist organizations under the UN sanctions regime.

First module of a training programme on CFT; Budva, Montenegro (4–6 June 2024)

TNTD/ATU, jointly with UNODC, organized the first module of a training programme on CFT. The module was led by a team of international experts and five national trainers who had been prepared in an OSCE-UNODC ToT programme. Participants included 16 experts (5 women, 11 men) from the Montenegro Customs Administration, National Security Agency, Tax Administration, and the Police Directorate's Sector for the Fight against Crime and Financial Intelligence Unit. During the course, participants worked through country- and region-specific scenarios, focusing on international, regional and national threats, the financial requirements of terrorist organizations, sources of financial information, and related money flows. Participants also assessed the risks associated with informal value transfer systems (such as Hawala) and virtual assets.

Train-the-trainers course on CFT; Vienna, Austria (10–12 September 2024)

TNTD/ATU, in collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and UNODC, delivered a ToT course, bringing together trainers from key government agencies of Montenegro involved in CFT. The course explored critical aspects of intelligence work, including how information is collected and processed (the intelligence cycle), how to rate its reliability, and how to share information with others. Guided by international experts, national trainers customized the course materials and practical exercises to specifically suit the context of Montenegro.

Course on co-operation with the private sector in the context of CFT; Durres, Albania (24–26 September 2024)

TNTD/ATU, in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, piloted a course aimed at further enhancing co-operation between the public sector and financial institutions to counter the financing of terrorism. The course gathered representatives of governmental agencies, civil society, banks and fintech companies, with the aim of strengthening partnerships to detect and disrupt terrorist financing networks. Through group discussions and case studies, participants explored key topics such as regulatory frameworks, forms of co-operation, and the human rights implications of such partnerships. They also reviewed existing forms of co-operation in Albania and identified possible ways to enhance them further.

11 All references to Kosovo in this text, whether to the territory, institutions or population, should be understood as being in full compliance UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

Training course on CFT; Bar, Montenegro (15–17 October 2024)

TNTD/ATU, in collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and UNODC, delivered a training course for Montenegrin officials on using financial intelligence to effectively cut off terrorism financing channels. The sessions were facilitated by a team of five national trainers, previously trained by the OSCE, and supported by international experts, who presented investigative methods for collecting, managing and using financial intelligence in counter-terrorism efforts. The course convened representatives of the Montenegro Special State Prosecutor's Office, the Police Directorate's Financial Intelligence Unit and Organized Crime Department, and the Tax and Customs Administrations, providing them with valuable knowledge on proactive and reactive analytical techniques, as well as tools for analysing cryptocurrency transactions.

"Empowering Women Leaders: Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in AML/CFT"; Vienna, Austria (5–7 November 2024)

At the invitation of UNODC, TNTD/ATU participated in the above event, which brought together around 55 representatives of law enforcement agencies, financial intelligence units, prosecuting authorities, ministries of finance and other relevant government agencies active in AML/CFT, as well as private sector representatives, NGOs, and independent and international gender experts, including from UN Women. The event aimed to identify challenges, share good practices and gather lessons learned on practical solutions in response to the evolving nature of financial crime, with a focus on addressing gender-specific risks.

Countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes

Expert-level workshop on leveraging AI in the counter-terrorism context; Prague, Czech Republic (27–28 February 2024)

TNTD/ATU participated in a workshop organized by the Communications & Narratives Working Group of the European Commission's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) titled "Artificial Intelligence: Understanding and Opportunities for Practitioners on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism". The main objective of the event was to obtain a deeper understanding of how AI can be used in positive ways in the area of preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and to identify practical means of doing so. The meeting brought together experts and first-line practitioners with experience in integrating AI into both online and offline P/CVE work. TNTD/ATU was invited to share its expertise and experience on the potential use of AI tools within the context of counter-terrorism, and to moderate a session on the ethical and legal boundaries of using AI in the context of P/CVE.

Needs assessment mission on requesting electronic evidence across borders for investigating online criminal matters, including terrorism; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (22–24 July 2024)

TNTD/ATU, jointly with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, facilitated a needs assessment mission to Uzbekistan, focusing on requesting electronic evidence across borders for investigating online criminal matters, including terrorism. A key component of the mission was an expert-level meeting held on 23 July. The meeting brought together representatives of Uzbekistan's parliament, law enforcement, and judiciary, as well as members of academia and international organizations. The participants discussed the legal and regulatory aspects of electronic evidence, focusing on the challenges and opportunities in national and international contexts. The expert-level meeting supported ongoing national efforts to harmonize Uzbekistan's regulatory frameworks related to electronic evidence, enhance scientific research on digital forensics being conducted by the Law Enforcement Academy of Uzbekistan, and introduce good international practices for requesting electronic evidence from internet service providers based in other jurisdictions in a manner compliant with human rights standards and international law.

Preparatory meeting for a table-top exercise on preventing and countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (24–25 October 2024)

TNTD/ATU, jointly with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, facilitated the above preparatory meeting aimed to tailor the exercise scenarios of the planned table-top exercise to the local context, as well as to identify key issues to address and to determine which stakeholders to involve. The preparatory meeting brought together representatives from law enforcement, the judiciary, other relevant national agencies and academia.

Table-top exercise on preventing and countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (18–20 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized the above table-top exercise, which brought together participants from government agen-

cies, civil society, media outlets and international organizations. The exercise entailed interactive, scenario-based discussions aimed at addressing online terrorist threats through practical, human rights-centred solutions. Facilitated by local and international experts, including representatives from ODIHR, the Office of the RFoM and Europol, the exercise explored strategies aligned with Bosnia and Herzegovina's security objectives. Participants examined global and gender-sensitive good practices for countering violent extremism and terrorism online, while respecting fundamental rights such as privacy and freedom of expression.

Training course on requesting electronic evidence across borders; Koshy, Kazakhstan (20–22 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU supported the OSCE Programme Office in Astana in delivering a training course on cross-border electronic evidence requests for law enforcement officers and judicial authorities of Kazakhstan. TNTD/ATU conducted a one-day session on investigating online crimes, including terrorism-related cases, using real-world examples and detailed exercises on drafting various types of requests, including data preservation requests, voluntary disclosure requests, emergency requests, etc. The training course concluded with a discussion on needed next steps, including updating the legal framework and developing SOPs to effectively request electronic evidence from online service providers based in other jurisdictions.

Presentation of the outcomes of the needs assessment mission on requesting electronic evidence across borders for investigating online criminal matters, including terrorism; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (3–5 December 2024)

As part of the launch of the second set of activities of the Project E-VIDENCE, TNTD/ATU, in close co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, hosted a three-day expert-level programme in Tashkent. This phase of activities focused on supporting the development of SOPs for cross-border requests of electronic evidence in criminal investigations, including those related to terrorism. A central component of the launch was an expert-level meeting held on 4 December 2024, which convened representatives from the Parliament of Uzbekistan, law enforcement bodies, the judiciary, academia, and international organizations. The event served as a platform to present and discuss the outcomes of the OSCE needs assessment mission conducted in July 2024 under Project E-VIDENCE. Participants engaged in substantive discussions on legal and procedural challenges, and explored relevant international good practices tailored to Uzbekistan's national legal and institutional context.

OSCE Central Asian Summer Media School on AI and media literacy; Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan (17–21 June 2024)

By invitation of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, TNTD/ATU participated in the OSCE Central Asian Summer Media School titled "Info Savvy: AI-Expedition and Media Literacy". The summer school aimed to strengthen the media literacy skills of its participants by utilizing AI tools and employing cutting-edge technologies for identifying misinformation, disinformation and fake news. The summer school hosted 22 young journalists and bloggers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. TNTD/ATU contributed to the event by delivering three practical sessions demonstrating how to responsibly use OSINT methods and AI tools to verify various types of media, including images, audio, video and text messages, within the context of media and information literacy.

Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) 2024 Global Multistakeholder Forum; Singapore (27 June 2024)

TNTD/ATU attended the GIFCT's annual high-level Global Multistakeholder Forum, which brings together social media and tech-industry experts, civil society, government officials and practitioners to discuss emerging trends and the dynamics that shape online terrorist and violent extremist threats. The Forum provided an important opportunity for stakeholders to inform GIFCT's work and activities, contributing to the development and refinement of cross-platform solutions.

Training-of-trainers course "Human Rights and Gender-Sensitive Approaches to Investigating Online Terrorist-Related Crimes"; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (28–31 May 2024)

TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan organized the above ToT course, bringing together participants from Uzbekistan's State Security Service, Academy of the State Security Service, Law Enforcement Academy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutor General's Office, Supreme Court and Supreme School of Judges, which is part of the Supreme Judicial Council involved in delivering training courses for law enforcement and judicial personnel. The participants received an overview of human rights obligations, as well as issues that can arise when investigating and prosecuting online terrorism-related crimes, such as dark web use, encrypted channels, anonymous sharing portals, and AI, as well as digital financial transactions. The aspect of gender stereotypes was also addressed as a possible obstacle to effective investigations.

Critical infrastructure and vulnerable target protection

Project PROTECT national awareness-raising workshop on vulnerable target protection from terrorist attacks; Astana, Kazakhstan (27–28 March 2024)

TNTD/ATU, jointly with the Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan and the Programme Office in Astana, gathered participants to build a common understanding of the need to protect vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks in a human rights-compliant manner, identifying good practices for dissemination and needs for future technical assistance under Project PROTECT. Attendees joined from the Kazakhstan Ministry of Emergency Situations, Anti-Terrorism Centre, State Security Service, Law Enforcement Academy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Office of the Mayor (*akim*) of Astana, and the Border Service. Discussions ranged from risk assessment and mitigation to insider threat management, identification of infrastructure interdependencies, public–private partnerships, human rights and privacy considerations, and business continuity planning. The event also benefited from the participation of officials from UNOCT and the French Government's Agency for French Education Abroad.

Project PROTECT first expert advisory group meeting on the "Technical Guide on the Physical Security of Critical Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks"; online (24 April 2024)

TNTD/ATU held the first online meeting of the expert advisory group, established to support the development of the forthcoming publication "Project PROTECT Technical Guide on the Physical Security of Critical Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks". The advisory group is comprised of governmental experts, as well as representatives from the private sector and international and regional organizations. At the meeting, members of the advisory group reviewed the proposed structure of the Guide, offered feedback, and provided resources for inclusion.

Annual high-level conference of the Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) and strategic counter-drone exercise; London, United Kingdom (14–15 March 2024)

At the invitation of the CTPN, TNTD/ATU participated in the annual CTPN high-level conference, held on 14 March with the 2024 focus "Protecting and Preparing our Cities". TNTD/ATU presented its efforts to protect vulnerable targets across the OSCE area, including through Project PROTECT. On 15 March, TNTD/ATU joined a strategic counter-drone exercise organized by the CTPN, INTERPOL, UNOCT, the UK National Police Chiefs Council and Metropolitan Police Service. Both events enabled TNTD/ATU to expand its network as well as its efforts to address new and evolving threats to vulnerable targets, including unmanned aerial systems.

Third Parliamentary policy dialogue on the protection of religious sites, symbols and objects; Istanbul, Türkiye (9 May 2024)

At the invitation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, UNOCT and the Shura Council of Qatar, TNTD/ATU presented the OSCE framework for the protection of religious sites, as well as relevant initiatives and good practices from participating States. The event offered an opportunity for parliamentarians from around the world to learn about the OSCE's longstanding commitment to addressing hate crimes, including those targeting faith-based communities, and to strengthening the protection of religious sites.

United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, in-country consultations; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (15–17 May 2024)

At the invitation of UNOCT and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, TNTD/ATU joined as an expert and facilitated consultations on the protection of vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks. Additionally, TNTD outlined its current work on the protection of vulnerable targets, including activities under Project PROTECT, which has several ongoing initiatives in Central Asia.

Project PROTECT Central Asia regional workshop on the protection of soft targets from terrorist attacks; Astana, Kazakhstan (27–28 May 2024)

TNTD/ATU, together with the Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan, organized a regional workshop for participants from Central Asian participating States focused specifically on the protection of public spaces and other soft targets from terrorist attacks, including schools, houses of worship, sporting events and tourist sites. The event facilitated a dialogue between regional and international experts, including representatives from TNTD/ATU and ODIHR, on effective policies and practices in this area, with case studies and national experiences shared. The event built on a regional workshop organized by TNTD/ATU and international partners in 2022 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where national delegations called for regular dialogue on the protection of soft targets.

12th European Union Forum on the Protection of Public Spaces; Brussels, Belgium (4 June 2024)

TNTD/ATU presented the Project PROTECT, including its recent achievements and activities, at the above European Union Forum. The event allowed TNTD to co-ordinate with partners working on similar matters, including in South-Eastern Europe, and to increase its roster of public and private sector experts.

Project PROTECT national awareness-raising workshop on vulnerable target protection from terrorist attacks; Skopje, North Macedonia (21–22 October 2024)

TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Mission to Skopje organized the first workshop under Project PROTECT in North Macedonia. At the workshop, government and private sector representatives from North Macedonia's Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Crisis Management Centre, Intelligence Agency, Agency for National Security and Chamber for Private Security explored effective practices for protecting vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks. Included were discussions about processes for identifying and prioritizing critical infrastructure, assessing and managing risks, engaging in public–private partnerships, enacting security measures, building resilience frameworks and communicating effectively with the public during emergency situations. During the workshop, a simulation exercise was organized in which participants worked through several stages of a response to a terrorist attack at a hospital. The practical exercise allowed participants to discuss multi-stakeholder co-ordination and effective incident response practices. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre also joined the event, and provided several technical presentations on the threat posed by unmanned aerial systems (drones) and ways to mitigate terrorist threats to buildings.

Conference on critical infrastructure protection and resilience in Europe; Madrid, Spain (12–14 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU participated in the above annual conference on critical infrastructure protection and resilience in Europe, and delivered a presentation on the activities of Project PROTECT. The conference gathered government officials, technical experts, and academic and private sector stakeholders in the field of infrastructure protection to discuss emerging trends and challenges. It thus served as a valuable forum for identifying emerging priorities for OSCE initiatives in this field.

Regional conference on critical infrastructure protection in Central Asia: "Strengthening Resilience, Enhancing Security"; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (22 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU, together with the Government of Turkmenistan, OCEEA and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, organized the first cross-dimensional conference on enhancing the security and resilience of critical infrastructure in Central Asia. In her opening remarks, the Co-ordinator highlighted the challenges faced by participating States regarding critical infrastructure protection, as well as the responses supported by the OSCE through capacity-building and practical guidance, such as the forthcoming Project PROTECT "Guide on Enhancing the Physical Security of Critical Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks", planned to be published in 2025. Participants included government officials and experts responsible for energy security, infrastructure protection, counter-terrorism and climate adaptation from governmental institutions, academia, international organizations and the private sector. They discussed critical infrastructure resilience, including physical security considerations, long-term climate variability and its impact on energy security, and how to enhance connectivity and international collaboration. The Co-ordinator also held several bilateral meetings on the margins of the conference. The Government of Turkmenistan also facilitated a site visit for participants to a Ministry of Energy facility.

Workshop on building city-level resilience in Sarajevo to online violent narratives and offline violence; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (26–28 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a workshop for government and civil society representatives in Sarajevo focused on building community resilience against all forms of VERLT. Participants at the event discussed the ways in which VERLT manifests online (including through mis-, dis- and malign information) and offline (including through attacks on soft targets and public spaces).

Workshop on protecting vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks in the Kyrgyz Republic; online (18 December 2024)

At the invitation of UNOCT, TNTD/ATU provided a virtual presentation on its planned efforts in Kyrgyzstan. At the event, UNOCT and the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate presented conclusions and recommendations identified in the national roadmap, which has been designed to strengthen the capabilities of Kyrgyzstan to protect vulnerable targets

against terrorist attacks. The event facilitated a strategic-level exchange with Kyrgyzstan on further actions. In its remarks, TNTD/ATU provided an overview of its efforts to enhance the protection of vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks, as well as its Project PROTECT, especially regarding upcoming deliverables and activities in Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan.

Rule of law and counter-terrorism

Council of Europe (CoE) Committee on Counter-Terrorism plenary and conference on the investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences committed in the context of armed conflict; Strasbourg, France (13–15 May 2024)

TNTD/ATU participated in a plenary meeting of the CoE's Committee on Counter-Terrorism and contributed to an international conference focused on the intersections between terrorism offences and war crimes. TNTD/ATU showcased its training course on requesting electronic evidence from foreign service providers (Project E-VIDENCE), and its new project on the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs and associated women and children.

First Central Asia regional expert council meeting on the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (14 May 2024)

TNTD/ATU contributed to a panel titled "The Need for a Comprehensive and Tailored Whole-of-Government Approach in the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees" during the above CoE event. It was the inaugural meeting of a new Regional Expert Council, initiated by Uzbekistan and UNOCT, with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan serving as co-organizer of this first meeting.

Meeting of the CoE working group on prosecuting violent extremism; Strasbourg, France (24–25 September 2024)

TNTD/ATU participated in the second meeting of the working group working on the draft text of the CoE's "Guidelines on Strategies for the Prosecution of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism". The CoE Committee on Counter-Terrorism began work on the guidelines in January 2024, with the support of the OSCE, which is a member of the related working group. It is planned to publish the Guidelines in early 2025.

High-level event "Effective Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from North-Eastern Syria – Uzbekistan's Experience"; Geneva, Switzerland (11 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU participated in the above event organized by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN Office in Geneva. The event aimed to demonstrate the regional experience of Central Asian participating States in rehabilitating and reintegrating returnees from war zones, and promote their approach to other UN Member States.

Second Central Asian regional expert council meeting on the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (27 November 2024)

TNTD/ATU organized the above meeting jointly with the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, as well as Uzbekistan's State Security Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Committee on Family and Women under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan, as well as the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, UNOCT and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. The meeting gathered representatives from Central Asian participating States, OSCE executive structures, UN entities and CSOs. It focused on the role of civil society, including women and youth groups, in pursuing comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration processes in Central Asia.

1.3 Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU)

Spotlight on

Supporting the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (throughout 2024)

In 2024, TNTD/BSMU organized one full-training cycle (basic, advanced and ToT) for Ukraine's State Border Guard Service (SBGS), as well as five study visits. The training cycle was conducted by two forensic document experts from the Main Forensic Centre of the SBGS who had completed the 2023 TNTD/BSMU ToT. First-line document inspectors at the courses noted the importance of these training opportunities, since there is currently limited capacity for the SBGS to conduct regular training within their national service. One participant stated, "I gained important experience that allowed me to better navigate document verification procedures and strengthened my attention to detail skills. This has become useful for improving work efficiency and ensuring accuracy." In the weeks and months after the March 2024 training, thanks to skills developed during the training, border officers reported detecting forgery of a pension certificate, partial forgery of a driver's license, a fake vehicle registration certificate, and fake travel documents from Israel and Italy.

TNTD/BSMU supported enhanced co-operation and networking for the Main Forensic Centre of the SBGS. The study visits resulted in five new co-operation and information-sharing agreements between Ukraine and international partners, including the UK National Document Fraud Unit

Detecting counterfeit, false and falsified passports (OSCE/Paweł Zacharewicz)

and the Home Office International Operations, the Spanish National Police, the Passport Service Ireland, and the Forensic Science Ireland. TNTD/BSMU also supported an Observer Membership, a speaking engagement at the Biometrics Congress in London in October 2024, participation in the European Passport Expert Group Meeting in Dublin in November 2024, as well as aiding efforts of the SBGS to join the New Technologies Working Group of the ICAO, and the European Document Experts Working Group of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes.

Learning to inspect identity documents effectively (OSCE)

Detection of fraudulent documents and impostors

Study visit for the promotion and exchange of good practices and modern standards in border controls and document security for Bosnia and Herzegovina; Amsterdam, the Netherlands (20–22 March 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a visit to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee for representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina's Agency for Education and Professional Development and the Border Police. The visit marked the completion of a training cycle on detection of forged documents and impostors organized for the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2019 to 2024. Participants also included persons who had completed the OSCE's ToT course on this topic in December 2022. With guidance from Dutch document experts, they further enhanced their understanding of latest forgery trends, the basics of chip technology, and new security features incorporated into travel documents. The participants also visited Amsterdam Schiphol

Airport, one of Europe's largest and busiest airports, to observe first-hand good practices in managing document checks of passengers.

Study visit for Ukraine's SBGS to the UK Border Force; London, United Kingdom (7–10 May 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, with support of the UK Delegation to the OSCE, facilitated a study visit for Ukraine's SBGS to the UK Border Force to London, United Kingdom. The aim of the visit was to support the exchange of good practices and modern standards with the UK Home Office, UK Border Force, and HM Passport Office in the area of border controls and document security, with a focus on detecting forged documents and impostors. In addition, avenues for future co-operation with the United Kingdom were explored. A visit to London Gatwick Airport was organized to share practices in implementing automated border control e-gates and other technology at airports. The visit finalized the 2024 training cycle for this cohort from the SBGS. As a result of the study visit, representatives of Ukraine's Main Forensic Centre established new co-operation with their UK counterparts and initiated enhanced information-sharing on travel document fraud.

Training-of-trainers course on the identification of forged documents and impostors; Tirana, Albania (3–7 June 2024)

TNTD/BSMU delivered a ToT course on identifying forged documents and impostors for representatives of the Albanian State Police and the Albanian Border and Migration Police. The course refreshed participants' knowledge of various document types, personalization and security techniques, and international standards for developing travel documents. It also strengthened their technical expertise and practical skills in detecting counterfeit documents through hands-on exercises with both genuine and forged travel and identification documents. In addition, the training enhanced participants' competencies in training methodologies, enabling them to organize and deliver national training courses on this topic within their respective services.

Assessment visit to Ukraine on training needs in detecting forged documents and impostors; Kyiv, Ukraine (17–21 June 2024)

TNTD/BSMU conducted an assessment visit of Ukraine's SBGS on training needs for detecting forged documents and impostors, as well as improving efficiency and expediency of travel document checks aboard passenger rail systems. TNTD/BSMU also met with the SBGS administration, the Main Forensic Centre in Kyiv, as well as with the Lviv Border Guard Detachment. During the meetings, it was agreed to conduct an additional training activity on the technical components of travel documents, in particular biometric passport chips, as well as further courses on detecting forged documents.

Training-of-trainers course on the identification of forged documents and impostors for Ukraine's SBGS; Warsaw, Poland (19–23 August 2024)

TNTD/BSMU delivered a ToT course for border guards from Ukraine's SBGS to develop a new cohort of trainers to conduct training on identifying forged documents and impostors within their national service. The hands-on training course was delivered by two experts from the Main Forensic Centre of the SBGS.

Basic and advanced training courses on the identification of forged documents and impostors; Chișinău, Moldova (2–13 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in partnership with the Spanish National Police, delivered basic and advanced training courses on the identification of forged documents and impostors for officers from the Moldovan Border Police. Participants were briefed on new trends in document forgery, refreshed their knowledge on international regulations for issuing travel documents, and learned new techniques for verifying the identity of impostors in operational settings such as at border crossing points. The participants also examined genuine travel and identification documents to analyse forgery techniques used to facilitate travel under a stolen identity.

Advanced training course on identifying forged documents and impostors; Sofia, Bulgaria (14–18 October 2024)

TNTD/BSMU conducted two consecutive advanced training courses for representatives of the Bulgarian Border Police and instructors from the Academy of the Ministry of Interior of Bulgaria. The course was delivered by two experts from the Police of Greece, who guided participants on substrates, security inks and printing techniques. The sessions also included an overview of new trends in document forgery and a refresher on international regulations for issuing travel documents. The course concluded with an in-depth session on biometric chip technology in passports and methods for comparing travellers' facial features with the biometric data in passports. To strengthen practical skills, participants analysed genuine and forged travel and identification documents using special magnifiers, donated by the OSCE.

Study visit on the promotion and exchange of good practices and modern standards in border control and document security; London, United Kingdom (21–25 October 2024)

TNTD/BSMU organized a study visit to the United Kingdom for senior officers from Ukraine's SBGS. Participants attended the annual congress of the Biometrics Institute, visited London Heathrow Airport and an Immigration Removal Centre, and conducted a follow-up visit to the UK's National Document Fraud Unit. Discussions included biometric chip evaluation certification, use of the "Golden Reader Tool" and training strategies for border police. They also met with UK Visas and Immigration at the Home Office to learn about risk analysis and vetting tools for visa issuance.

Study visit on the promotion and exchange of good practices and modern standards in border control and document security; Madrid, Spain (4–7 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the Spanish National Police, organized a study visit for senior officers from Ukraine's SBGS. The visit focused on enhancing the SBGS's expertise in national travel document security by examining Spain's passport issuance and printing processes, techniques for detecting forgeries at borders, advancements in digital identity systems, and methods of risk analysis for identifying trends in the use of fraudulent travel documents.

Study visit on the promotion and exchange of good practices and modern standards in information sharing and the use of technology in border control and document security; Milan, Italy (13–15 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE and the Border Police working at Malpensa Airport, organized a study visit for representatives of the Albanian State Police. The visit focused on airport document checks for Schengen and non-Schengen arrivals, as well as border control operations. It emphasized collaboration between first- and second-line officers for detecting criminals using forged documents. The visit concluded the 2024 training cycle with the Albanian State Police, which also included the ToT course in June 2024 described above.

Study visit on forensic document examination; Dublin, Ireland (18–22 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU organized a study visit for forensic experts from the Main Forensic Centre of Ukraine's SBGS. The delegation attended a two-day international passport expert group meeting hosted by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs. They also visited Dublin Airport and the Passport Office in Balbriggan, where they reviewed Ireland's Facial Recognition Software for passport issuance, observed passport personalization printing, and discussed future joint training courses under the temporary protection scheme for displaced Ukrainian civilians.

OSCE-Led mobile training team (MTT) on the identification of cross-border movement of suspected foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and other cross-border crimes

Training courses on behavioural analysis, interview techniques and countering trafficking in human beings (CTHB); Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (11–15 March 2024)

TNTD/BSMU delivered the above specialized courses in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and in co-ordination with the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, the UN and other international organizations in Vienna, to Bosnia and Herzegovina border police officers as well as representatives from the Agency for Education and Professional Training in Mostar. The objective of these intensive training courses was to further strengthen the capacity of the country's border police to effectively screen passengers at entry and exit border checkpoints and conduct interviews with suspected FTFs and perpetrators of cross-border crimes. The training also addressed the identification of potential victims of such crimes, including human trafficking, based on human rights principles and approaches that are gender and age sensitive.

MTT deployments to North Macedonia; Skopje, North Macedonia (1–5 April 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje and with the support of the Permanent Mission of North Macedonia to the OSCE, the UN and other international organizations, facilitated the deployment of the MTT to deliver specialized courses on behavioural analysis, interviewing techniques and crisis management at borders. The training targeted first- and second-line border police officers, as well as senior border commanders operating at land, lake and airport border crossing points across the country. The courses equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed to better identify and prevent the movement of suspected FTFs and criminals in a human-rights compliant and gender-responsive manner.

MTT deployment to Tajikistan; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (23 April 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the CPC/FSC SU, contributed to the month-long 36th Staff Course at the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe with a one-day MTT training course on combating illicit trafficking of SALW as well as conventional arms. Participants included 26 officers and managers from border guards, drug control, customs, immigration, and seaport and airport security services from 16 participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The course included a combination of theoretical insights and practical exercises from the newly developed training curriculum in this subject. It marked the first deployment of the MTT to the BMSC.

MTT courses for Ukraine border authorities; Krakow, Poland (27–31 May 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with Ukraine's SBGS and with the support of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, conducted MTT courses on behavioural analysis, interviewing techniques, and combating trafficking in human beings (CTHB) at borders. The training brought together border guards from across Ukraine and representatives from Ukraine's National Training Academy, along with experts from INTERPOL, Frontex, and the OSCE OSR/CTHB. The courses aimed at fostering in-depth exchange on cross-border threats related to CTHB and the movement of suspected FTFs and high-risk individuals, and emphasized the need for using interviewing techniques in line with human rights commitments. This initiative laid the foundation for three additional MTT courses for the SBGS planned for 2025.

MTT courses for border authorities of Kyrgyzstan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (1–5 July 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and with the support of the Permanent Delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic to the OSCE, facilitated the deployment of the MTT to deliver courses on behavioural analysis, interviewing techniques and crisis management at borders to representatives from the Border Service of the State Committee for National Security, State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance, State Committee for National Security, and border and customs training institutions. The training aimed to strengthen officers' skills in managing potential border and to refine their interview techniques for identifying and preventing cross-border movement of suspected FTFs and other high-risk individuals during routine entry and exit checks.

MTT courses for Moldovan border authorities; Chișinău, Moldova (10–13 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU facilitated the deployment of the MTT to deliver specialized training courses on identity management, travel security and crisis management at borders to representatives from Moldova's General Inspectorate of Border Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Custom Services of Moldova, as well as representatives from border and customs training institutions. The training aimed to strengthen officers' skills in identity management, travel security, API systems and crisis management principles, while also covering risk assessment, crisis typology, and strategies and techniques for effectively preventing and responding to potential crises situations at the borders. At the request of participants, a follow-up MTT course will be considered for 2025.

MTT courses for Kazakh customs and border authorities; Astana, Kazakhstan (7–11 October 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana and with the support of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna, conducted two courses for border and customs officers from Almaty and Astana. The training sessions focused on enhancing crisis response capabilities and improving skills in understanding human behaviour and passenger screening techniques. The participants engaged in interactive scenarios, risk assessment exercises and discussions to exchange experience and good practices. Expert contributions from INTERPOL and Kazakhstan's National Profiling Unit added valuable insights.

Second MTT annual review meeting; Tirana, Albania (11–13 November 2024)

The TNTD/BSMU's MTT annual review meeting gathered MTT members from Albania, Algeria, Italy, Georgia, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye, alongside experts from Frontex, INTERPOL and UNOCT. The meeting focused on assessing the achievements of 2024, developing the 2025 training plan, and facilitating the exchange of lessons learned from the eight MTT deployments conducted during the year. Participants identified corrective measures, planned future activities, and discussed strategies to ensure the long-term impact and sustainability of efforts. A refresher ToT session, featuring interactive discussions and practical exercises, further enhanced participants' skills and strengthened the MTT programme. These annual year-end meetings serve as a cornerstone of the MTT project, offering a unique opportunity for the entire team to reflect and strategize on goals and actions.

MTT mentoring training course; Tirana, Albania (14–15 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-ordination with the OSCE Presence in Albania, facilitated a mentoring course for the Albanian Border and Migration Police and the Albanian Security Academy. The initiative aimed to integrate key elements of the MTT's training curriculum on interviewing techniques into Albania's national training programme for border police, marking the conclusion of a series of mentoring efforts. The course focused on ensuring sustainable knowledge transfer, strengthening local expertise, and fostering long-term ownership of skills. By embedding MTT training content into the national curriculum, the initiative enhances the lasting impact of capacity-building efforts and supports the professionalization of border security in Albania.

Strengthening the resilience of Uzbekistan to address cross-border challenges emanating from Afghanistan

Co-ordination meeting with the Uzbek national mobile training team (NMTT); Istanbul, Türkiye (12–13 March 2024)

The above co-ordination meeting was conducted by TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, members of the OSCE MTT as well as the NMTT of Uzbekistan, and representatives from UNOCT and OSCE structures. The aim of the meeting was to discuss three planned deployment missions in 2024 focused on various aspects of border security and management for first- and second-line border and customs officers at selected border checkpoints of Uzbekistan. A tailored training programme and table top exercise on identification management were developed, these addressing CTHB, trafficking of SALW, crisis management and risk indicators of FTF travel. The NMTT members enhanced their knowledge of presentation techniques, including effective non-verbal communication with target audiences, in preparation for its first deployment mission and training session in April 2024.

Deployment of the NMTT on identifying cross-border movement of FTFs to Uzbekistan; Termez, Uzbekistan (22–26 April 2024)

TNTD/BSMU facilitated the deployment of the NMTT of Uzbekistan for its first training mission at the Uzbekistan––Afghanistan Ayritam border checkpoint in Termez. The deployment, which brought together border and customs officers from Uzbekistan, focused on identity management, crisis management at borders, detection of illicit trafficking of SALW and techniques for CTHB. The course was organized by TNTD/BSMU in close co-operation with the Government of Uzbekistan, and included support and mentoring from the MTT on its course on crisis management at borders. This co-operation between two projects reflects the compatibility of OSCE efforts and the synergies aimed at maximizing the cost-efficiency of donor funds and fostering the exchange of expertise, thereby laying the groundwork for ongoing and future NMTT initiatives.

Training on behavioural detection and analysis; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (24–28 June 2024)

TNTD/BSMU organized a training course on behavioural detection and analysis for border and customs officers of Uzbekistan with the aim to equip first- and second-line officers with knowledge and skills in behavioural analysis of passengers crossing borders, to better identify not only potential criminals but also victims of cross-border crimes.

Assessment mission to the National K9 Training Center of the Customs Committee of Uzbekistan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (1–2 July 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the CPC/FSC SU and supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of the Surrey Police Dog Training Centre (PCC Surrey DTC), conducted an assessment of Uzbekistan's National K9 Training Center facilities under its State Customs Committee. The mission resulted in an agreement to donate four service dogs, and to send four mid- and senior-level Uzbek K9 instructors to a one-month training course at the PCC Surrey DTC in Guilford, United Kingdom. The assessment was implemented within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the area of combating trafficking in SALW, conventional ammunition and explosives that was signed between the OSCE Secretariat and the PCC Surrey DTC in 2024.

High-level familiarization visit of the Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan; Gatwick & London, United Kingdom (2–6 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-ordination with the CPC/FSC SU and with the support of the UK Permanent Delegation to OSCE, organized a high-level visit of the Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan to London Gatwick Airport, the West Midlands Police Training and National Breeding Centre, and the City of London Police. Additionally, the visit launched a K9 training course for four K9 instructors from Uzbekistan at the PCC Surrey DTC. During the familiarization visit to London Gatwick Airport, the parties exchanged information on the work and current challenges of border and

customs agencies at airports, the importance of K9 services, as well as the use of new technologies such as AI in their operations.

Training course for instructors from the K9 Training Center of the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan; Guildford, United Kingdom (2–26 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, the CPC/FSC SU and the Office of the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, in partnership with the PCC Surrey DTC, held a training course for instructors from the National K9 Training Center under the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan. The course was aimed at strengthening the capacity of Uzbek K9 instructors to effectively use dogs for countering transnational threats through better detection of drugs, cash and firearms at border checkpoints. The sessions included advanced training techniques and methods for service dogs in accordance with UK standards and efficient practices. Four service dogs were donated to Uzbekistan's Customs Committee. During the graduation ceremony, the trained instructors and their service dogs demonstrated their skills in searching for drugs, cash and firearms. The instructors subsequently integrated their newly acquired methodologies and skills into the K9 training programmes of Uzbekistan's State Customs Committee.

Training on SALW identification, post-seizure record-keeping, and intelligence sharing and tracing; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (12–15 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU and the CPC/FSC SU organized a training course at the Faculty for Advanced Training of Uzbekistan's State Customs Committee in Tashkent, bringing together mid-level officers from Uzbekistan's customs services. International experts from the German Verification Centre, INTERPOL and the Small Arms Survey contributed with presentations and hands-on exercises, focusing on the illegal trafficking in SALW and related control measures. The training course provided a platform for participants to exchange good practices and explore ways to integrate international standards into their operations. The course aimed to strengthen the ability of customs and border officers to identify and address cross-border security challenges, with a particular focus on threats emanating from Afghanistan.

Second training deployment mission of Uzbekistan's NMTT on addressing cross-border challenges in the identification of suspected FTFs and other criminals at the borders; Samarkand, Uzbekistan (25–28 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU conducted a second training deployment of Uzbekistan's NMTT, delivering a specialized course on border security and management for first- and second-line border and customs officers. The course delivery was supported by an international expert and mentored by the MTT. As a part of the programme, participants visited the Jortepa Uzbekistan–Tajikistan border checkpoint, where they observed live demonstrations of specialized equipment and operational procedures for passenger and cargo inspections.

Promotion of information exchange and support for establishing advance passenger information (API) systems in the OSCE area

Co-ordination meeting of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia informal working group on passenger data (EECA IWG); online (1 February 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT and OSCE field operations, organized the above online meeting for representatives relevant national agencies involved in API system implementation in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. During the meeting, EECA IWG members provided national updates on their travel security efforts and adopted the 2024 Activity Plan, which established a strategic framework to guide the EECA IWG's actions through the year.

Meeting of the EECA IWG – Virtual tour of the passenger information units (PIUs) of Albania and Mongolia; online (27 February 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT, organized a meeting for representatives from relevant agencies involved in API system implementation from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Tajikistan. During the meeting, Albania and Mongolia conducted virtual tours of their fully operational PIUs, showcasing real-time passenger data processing. The meeting also served as a platform for the exchange of information and experiences on the establishment and operationalization of national PIUs. In addition, the Chair of the South African informal working group Botswana was invited

to observe and learn from the EECA IWG's approach to conducting virtual PIU tours.

Meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data; online (26 March 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT, facilitated a meeting to present Montenegro's experience in amending its national legislation within the process of establishment and the development of a national PIU. The meeting gathered 34 participants from law enforcement, border police, customs services and state security agencies from 11 of the 18 EECA IWG member states: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

Meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data; online (16 April 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT, facilitated a presentation by Georgia, the EECA IWG Vice-Chair for the Operational Pillar, on operational aspects of establishing API systems based on their national experience. The event provided a forum for sharing good practices and lessons learned in introducing SOPs and workflows when establishing national PIUs. The meeting was attended by representatives from border police, customs services, state security agencies and other relevant API-implementing authorities from six EECA IWG member states: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan.

Mid-year plenary meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data; Tirana, Albania (22–23 May 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Albanian State Police, organized the fourth plenary meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data in Tirana, Albania—the current Chair of the EECA IWG on passenger data. For the first time, the meeting was held outside Vienna, hosted by the chairing country. The event brought together law enforcement officials engaged in the development of national API systems, along with experts, PIU representatives, and personnel regularly engaged in the activities of the EECA IWG. As part of the UNOCT's Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, the EECA IWG on passenger data supports participating States in sharing information and experience on the effective use of API to strengthen capacities for detecting and countering terrorist and criminal movement.

Study visit to the premises of the PIU of Albania; Tirana, Albania (24 May 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, facilitated a study visit to Albania's PIU for representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand insights into the structure, organization, workflows and establishment of a functioning PIU. Two representatives from Ukraine's State Security Service and its SBGS also participated. The study visit served as a unique learning opportunity for gaining practical knowledge on the operational and technical requirements for establishing and managing a national PIU. The visit contributed to advancing national API system projects in both Tajikistan and Ukraine.

Meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data; online (24 June 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT, organized an online meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data focused on engaging with the travel industry in the context of establishing national API systems. Kyrgyzstan, in its role as thematic Vice-Chair, delivered a presentation and two interventions on the topic. The meeting brought together representatives from law enforcement and PIUs from nine members of EECA IWG on passenger data: Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. Representatives from OSCE field operations, IOM and UNODC also attended the event. Organized as part of the 2024 EECA IWG Activity Plan, the event contributed to strengthening regional co-operation and information exchange among the respective OSCE participating States, and further reinforced the partnership between TNTD and UNOCT.

Meeting of the EECA IWG; online (17 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT, organized an online meeting of the EECA IWG focused on ICT and interoperability aspects of establishing national API systems. Mongolia, in its role as the second thematic Vice-Chair of the EECA IWG, presented its experience in establishing a national API system and a PIU. The event was attended by representatives of border police, customs cervices, state security agencies and other relevant API-implementing authorities from from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, as well as Israel and representatives from OSCE field operations, UNODC and IOM.

Meeting of the EECA IWG; online (11 October 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with UNOCT, facilitated an online meeting focused on data brokerage service providers and the experiences of North Macedonia's PIU. It also served to prepare for the in-person meeting of the EECA IWG planned for November in Vienna, Austria. The event brought together representatives from national border police, customs services, state security and other API-implementing authorities in Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, as well as representatives from OSCE field operations, INTERPOL, UNODC and IOM.

Annual plenary meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data; online & Vienna, Austria (6 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, jointly with UNOCT, organized the fourth annual plenary meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data for representatives from law enforcement, border police, customs services, and the state security agencies of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan as well as Israel. The meeting provided a platform to share good practices and lessons learned, passenger data collection methodologies, and security analysis across different travel modalities.

8th Passenger Data Seminar; online & Vienna, Austria (7–8 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, jointly with UNOCT, organized the 8th Passenger Data Seminar back-to-back with the fourth annual plenary meeting of the EECA IWG on passenger data. The event provided a unique forum for discussions about recent API developments between representatives from border police, customs services, and state security agencies from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The event was organized to foster the implementation of MC.DEC/6/16 as well as relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property (TCP) in the OSCE area

Participation in the Brussels' Art Fair; Brussels, Belgium (29–30 January 2024)

At the invitation of the EU's External Action Service and Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, TNTD/BSMU attended the Brussels' Art Fair and presented at the EU-wide symposium "Cultural Property Protection, Law Enforcement Co-ordination and the European Art Market". On the margins of event, TNTD/BSMU also facilitated meetings with NATO training points of contact to discuss the development of training on combating trafficking in cultural properties for NATO's Southern Neighbourhood Partners, which includes several OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Meetings were also held with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to discuss possible future co-operation.

Facilitation of co-operation between the OSCE-led Heritage Crime Task Force (HCTF) and OSCE participating States; Madrid, Spain (21–23 February 2024)

TNTD/BSMU facilitated the engagement of the HCTF regarding information exchange and co-ordination with the US Homeland Security in the context of an ongoing investigation of a case involving the dismantling of a transatlantic heritage trafficking network. In addition, TNTD/BSMU supported Spain's Guardia Civil and Ministry of Culture by enabling the HCTF to contribute expertise and facilitate international co-operation on several heritage crime cases involving antiquities trafficked from neighbouring regions.

Fifth regional training workshop on combating TCP; Valetta, Malta (11–15 March 2024)

TNTD/BSMU held a regional workshop for customs, border and law enforcement officers, financial investigators, and representatives from the Ministries of Culture of Cyprus, Egypt, Malta, Spain and Ukraine. The workshop was led by the HCTF, with participation, for the first time, of OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The main focus of the workshop was to map financial networks used in North Africa by sanctioned individuals and criminal networks, and to discuss the implications of these networks for the OSCE area. As a direct outcome, new and trusted north–south co-operation channels in policing and border management have begun to emerge. Discussions at the workshop also led to the development of a new work plan, including the organization of a follow-up event planned for October 2024.

Balkan Museums Network conference on combating TCP; Tivat, Montenegro (18–19 April 2024)

At the invitation of the Balkan Museums Network, TNTD/BSMU delivered a keynote speech at the Balkan Museums Network conference on the impact of cross-border law enforcement co-operation in the fight against TCP. TNTD/BSMU's participation in the conference helped establish a

foundation for future co-operation in the region and a better understanding of the HCTF's expertise and the support it can offer to OSCE participating States.

Conference on the protection of war graves underwater heritage, and on the removal of dumped munitions; Valletta, Malta (22–24 April 2024)

At the invitation of UNESCO, TNTD/BSMU delivered a presentation at the above conference on challenges to combating TCP from marine heritage sites. The conference was organized by UNESCO jointly with Heritage Malta.

Conference on the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property; The Hague, the Netherlands (13–14 May 2024)

At the invitation of UNESCO and the Dutch National Police, TNTD/BSMU delivered remarks at the above conference regarding the impact of law enforcement cross-border co-operation in the fight against TCP. The conference focused on enhancing international co-operative efforts in times of conflict to protect cultural heritage against looting, illicit cross-border trafficking and purposeful destruction. TNTD/BSMU presented the work of the HCTF and ongoing activities under the OSCE programme to combat TCP in the OSCE area. Additional side meetings were organized with France, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as with partners from Blue Shield International, Eurojust, Europol and UNESCO to discuss planning for operational training workshops to be held later in 2024 in Malta, Serbia and Türkiye.

Symposium "Protecting Ukrainian Cultural Heritage and Enhancing National Response Capabilities"; Budapest, Hungary (23–24 May 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-ordination with the HCTF, hosted a symposium in Budapest, Hungary, focused on protecting Ukrainian cultural heritage and enhancing Ukraine's national response capabilities. Participants included representatives from Ukrainian law enforcement, border management, State Prosecutor's Office, museums and Ministry of Culture. The symposium was held in response to Ukraine's request for assistance in establishing co-ordinated national responses to heritage crimes and trafficking, with the aim of establishing a national heritage crime task force in Ukraine. Discussions were supported by Blue Shield International, the Hungarian National Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum (United Kingdom). As a result, a focused training plan is being negotiated to identify gaps and critical needs in supporting Ukraine's operational and investigative capacities across the police, border authorities, customs, state security, Ministry of Culture and Office of the Prosecutor General.

Presentation: "Sea-Land Borders Security and Refugees/Arms/Dual-Use Goods Control"; online (3 July 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, at the invitation of the Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center, delivered an online presentation of the OSCE's approach to border security and management in connection to combating TCP.

37th Staff Course of the Border Management Staff College (BMSC); Vienna, Austria (8 July 2024)

TNTD/BSMU contributed to the month-long 37th Staff Course of the BMSC by conducting a full-day session on combating illicit TCP. The 24 participants included mid- and senior-level officers from border, customs, immigration, police, drug control, phytosanitary and trade/transport services and agencies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Operational training workshop on combating illicit TCP; Antalya, Türkiye (2–4 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU facilitated the delivery of a training workshop conducted by the HCTF for law enforcement and border management officials, financial investigators and representatives of the Ministries of Culture of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The aim of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of frontline officers in identifying and preventing the cross-border trafficking of cultural property, as well as to build cross-border partnerships to directly address trafficking routes running through the Black Sea and Mediterranean regions. A series of side meetings during the training workshop resulted in new and more detailed operational plans for future training for the Ukrainian customs services, security services, police services and other relevant entities.

Cultural heritage repatriation ceremony; Rome, Italy (19 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU and members of the HCTF participated in a cultural heritage repatriation ceremony, in which an original signed print of Youssef Karsh's photograph of Winston Churchill known as the "Roaring Lion" was returned to Canadian authorities after being stolen from Ottawa in 2022 and found/recovered in Genoa, Italy, in early 2024. Throughout the course of the cross-border criminal investigation, the Canadian authorities were assisted by members of the HCTF and representatives of law enforcement agencies from

OSCE participating States, resulting in the identification and repatriation of the stolen print.

Cultural property protection course; Krems, Austria (25 September 2024)

At the invitation of Donau University Krems, TNTD/BSMU delivered an in-depth presentation on its programme to combat TCP and activities of the HCTF as part of the university's International Cultural Property Protection course. Participants included mid- and senior-level police, as well as military, border management and customs officers from the OSCE area. TNTD and Donau University Krems collaborate as partners within the framework of the HCTF and are currently developing a post-graduate university course on cultural property protection and counter-trafficking.

First operational training workshop on combating illicit trafficking in underwater cultural heritage; Valetta, Malta (28 October–1 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, together with experts from Heritage Malta and the HCTF, delivered the first-of-its-kind operational training workshop on combating illicit trafficking in underwater cultural heritage. Participants from Croatia, Denmark, France, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine and the United Kingdom discussed the importance of the preservation of underwater cultural property, the management of historic wrecks, underwater archaeology, satellite mapping, 3D photogrammetry, harbour security and patrolling, as well as training on investigations and national/international law enforcement co-ordination.

Training course on combating illicit TCP, artworks and archaeological artifacts; online & Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (31 October 2024)

TNTD/BSMU contributed online to a training course on combating illicit TCP, artworks and archaeological artifacts organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in co-operation with the Agency for Education and Professional Training and the Centre against Trafficking in Works of Art of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Participants included representatives of national government organizations, as well as representatives and experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina's law enforcement, Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Culture and academia. TNTD/BSMU delivered remarks on strategic approaches to combating this area of crime, as well as various project activities and the work of the HCTF.

International conference "Cultural Property Protection in the 21st Century: Meeting Requirements across the Forces"; Vienna, Austria (11–13 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU participated in and contributed to an expert panel at the above conference, sharing insights on the OSCE's work in the field of combating TCP. The conference served as a platform for exchange of experiences, common security challenges and ideas. It was organized by the Austrian Armed Forces/National Defence Academy and supported by UNESCO, the University for Continuing Education Krems, the Austrian Society for Cultural Property Protection and Blue Shield Austria.

Conference on cultural property protection; Budapest, Hungary (25–26 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU delivered a keynote speech and participated in the panel discussion at a conference on cultural property protection organized by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. TNTD/BSMU's contribution focused on ongoing efforts to assist participating States and Partners for Co-operation in combating TCP, strengthening regional cross-agency law enforcement partnerships, facilitating cross-border investigations, and mapping and disrupting trafficking networks. Efforts also aim to repatriate cultural property and build cases for national and international prosecution. Successful cases to date were highlighted, along with plans to expand the geographic focus in 2025.

Gender mainstreaming in border security management

Global Conference on Gender Equality in the Police; Budva, Montenegro (26–27 March 2024)

At the invitation of the Association of Policewomen of Montenegro and the European Network Policewomen, TNTD participated in the Global Conference on Gender Equality in the Police. At the conference, TNTD showcased its efforts to incorporate gender perspectives, as well as various initiatives it is undertaking to prevent and counter gender-based violence and to empower female law enforcement officers across the OSCE area. TNTD presented the OSCE Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management, and encouraged the conference participants to consider joining the platform. Also highlighted by TNTD was the work of the OSCE BMSC in Dushanbe, which actively mainstreams a gender perspective through all its educational programmes. The event elevated the visibility and impact of TNTD's efforts towards gender-inclusive and -sensitive security.

Webinar on gender aspects of crisis management at borders; online (14 May 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, in co-operation with the MTT, developed and delivered a webinar titled "Gender Aspects of Crisis Management at the Border", which gathered members of the OSCE Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management, as well as representatives of border agencies from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The webinar aimed at raising awareness of the importance of integrating a gender perspective into border agencies' preparedness and response to security crises at borders. It also presented gender-sensitive practices for upholding human rights and addressing vulnerabilities during border controls, highlighting how considering gender dynamics leads to more inclusive and effective border management.

International seminar on the establishment of a regional network for women in border management and law enforcement in Central Asia; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (15–16 October 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, together with the OSCE Gender Issues Programme, the CPC Security Sector Governance and Reform and the OSCE field operations in Central Asia, organized a seminar to kick off discussions and preparations for establishing a regional network of women in border management and law enforcement in Central Asia. The event brought together thirty female representatives of the Ministries of Internal Affairs, State Committees of National Security, Border Guard Services, Police Services and Prosecutors General's Offices of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The participants developed a concept and workplan for the network, which will be shared with their national authorities in 2025 for consideration and further action. The participants also networked and shared knowledge, strengthening connections with each other and their respective agencies.

Training course on gendered aspects of cross-border crimes and gender-responsive border security and management; Madrid, Spain (30–31 October 2024)

TNTD/BSMU, together with the Spanish National Police, organized an interactive training course for 26 first- and second-line border security officers from Albania, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Spain and Tunisia to address the nexus between organized transnational crimes and gender. The participants engaged in discussions on the role of women and men in terrorism and violent extremism, and were introduced to gender-sensitive and trauma-informed interviewing techniques to improve the identification of victims and potential perpetrators of cross-border crimes. Representatives from the European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine and the OSCE OSR/CTHB contributed to the course as trainers.

Co-operation in the field of border security

OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) curriculum writing workshop; online (27 February 2024)

At the invitation of the OSCE BMSC, TNTD/BSMU, together with experts from IOM, UNOCT and other international organizations, contributed expertise and shared good practices in developing a training curriculum on border security and management. The discussion focused on lessons learned from creating the new 2023 training programme for the MTT on identifying cross-border movements of suspected FTFs and other cross-border crimes in the OSCE area. The curriculum integrates human rights principles as well as gender- and age-sensitive approaches in border controls.

World Border Security Congress; Istanbul, Türkiye (24–26 April 2024)

TNTD/BSMU contributed to the World Border Security Congress held in Istanbul, Türkiye, by presenting the OSCE's efforts to promote information exchange and support the establishment of API-systems in the OSCE area.

UNCTED follow-up visit to Kazakhstan; Astana, Kazakhstan (20–24 May 2024)

At the invitation of UNCTED to represent the OSCE, TNTD/BSMU contributed expert input during a follow-up visit to Kazakhstan to assess the country's progress in implementing the recommendations related to UN Security Council Resolutions on counter-terrorism that were issued in 2016 by the Committee. The visit also aimed to collect information, identify good practices, and propose areas where Kazakhstan could benefit from further technical assistance. Discussions also addressed the gender dimension of counter-terrorism, including the role of women in P/CVERLT.

2024 Forum of the OSCE Secretary General and five Central Asia border commanders; Vienna, Austria (4–5 June 2024)

TNTD/BSMU organized the 2024 Forum in close co-operation with the Office of the Secretary General, the CPC, OCEEA, the five OSCE Central Asia field operations and the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe. The event featured discussions regarding the use of AI in border securi-

ty and management, as well as the need to further strengthen capacity-building and infrastructure development initiatives to efficiently prevent and address cross-border transnational threats. The border commanders also agreed to support the establishment of the Regional Association of Women in Law Enforcement in Central Asia, planned for the third quarter of 2024. In co-operation with the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, TNTD organized a visit to Vienna International Airport to examine its operations and systems. During bilateral meetings with the Secretary General, the border commanders outlined current challenges in the Central Asia region and the support needed from the OSCE.

Co-ordination meetings with the national border security and management points of contact liaising with OSCE field operations; online (7-8 February; 28 May and 17-19 September 2024)

TNTD/BSMU facilitated regular co-ordination meetings with the BSM points of contact liaising the OSCE field operations to discuss activities planned for implementation by the end of the year and to explore opportunities for co-operation and joint actions. The meetings provide a valuable platform for exchanging good practices and identifying synergies, ensuring that OSCE efforts are aligned and resources are used effectively across the OSCE area.

Annual co-ordination meeting of the border security and management focal points from OSCE field operations; Vienna, Austria (26–27 November 2024)

TNTD/BSMU organized the annual co-ordination meeting for BSM focal points from the OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The meeting reviewed current and emerging trends in transnational threats and cross-border crimes across the OSCE area, and provided a platform for networking and sharing good practices to address such threats. Additionally, the meeting identified opportunities for strengthening co-ordination between TNTD, the OSCE field operations, ODIHR and international partners active in BSM, including Frontex, INTERPOL, UNODC, UNOCT, IOM, the EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine, and others. Also examined were opportunities for synergizing efforts in 2025.

1.4 Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

Introduction

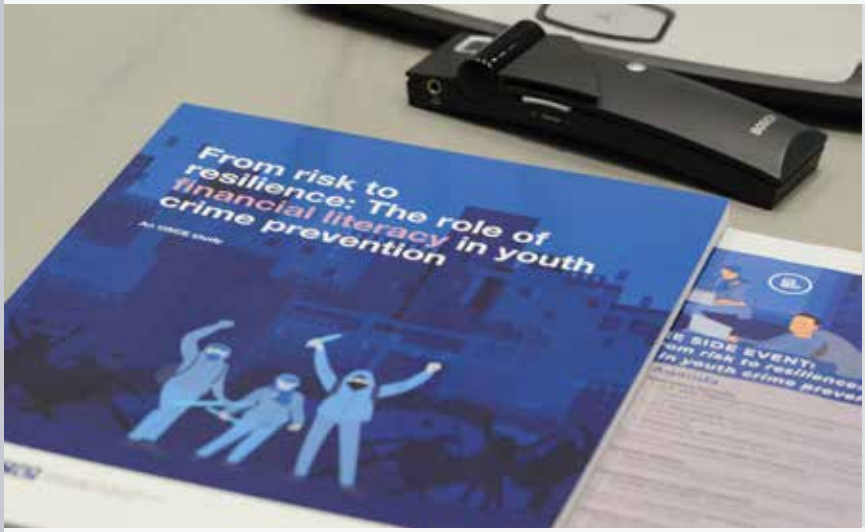
Within the Secretariat, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) addresses security-related economic and environmental issues as part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

Spotlight on

▸ Developing a key OSCE study: Exploring financial literacy as a tool for preventing youth engagement in crime (throughout 2024)

In co-operation with TNTD, the OCEEA undertook a pioneering study[12] exploring the critical role played by financial literacy in preventing youth engagement in crime. The study, *From risk to resilience: The role of financial literacy in youth crime prevention*, gathered data from 21 participating States. The findings show that there is a strong link between low financial literacy and the vulnerability of young people to criminal exploitation.

The study has shown that financial illiteracy exacerbates various risk factors—from family financial stress and debt burdens, to the influence of social media glamorizing criminal lifestyles. Gender-specific vulnerabilities are evident: young men are more prone to involvement in violent crime and debt-based recruitment, while young women face increased risks of sexual and financial exploitation.



OSCE study on the role of financial literacy in youth crime prevention (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

12 OSCE 2024, *From risk to resilience: The role of financial literacy in youth crime prevention*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/c/588529.pdf

The study further highlights financial literacy as a key factor in strengthening the resilience of young people to such risks. As one practitioner contributing to the study stated, "financial literacy equips young people with the tools to make informed financial decisions, manage risks and avoid the vulnerabilities that organized crime groups exploit, fostering resilience and helping them pursue safer, lawful opportunities."

Recognizing financial education as a powerful prevention tool, the study outlines practical cross-sectoral recommendations for policymakers, law enforcement officials, social service workers and educators to strengthen youth resilience against crime. By embedding financial literacy into crime prevention strategies, OSCE participating States can equip youth with the tools they need to build resilient, secure and independent futures, reducing their vulnerability to criminal exploitation

Anti-corruption activities

Training course on investigative techniques and international co-operation in corruption cases; Chișinău, Moldova (4–5 July 2024)

The training course aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Moldovan criminal justice practitioners in investigations of corruption cases. The course was delivered by experts from Italy's Guardia di Finanza, Moldova's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office and Romania's National Anti-Corruption Directorate. It covered various investigative models, legal frameworks and mechanisms. A key focus was the Guardia di Finanza's "follow-the-money" approach, which traces financial flows to identify illicit funds. The second part of the course emphasized international co-operation, including formal and informal channels for information exchange. Through practical exercises, the participants applied their newly acquired knowledge to real-world case studies. "These training courses strengthen our skills and allow us to exchange experiences with colleagues from other countries," said an investigative officer from Moldova's National Anti-Corruption Centre.

Study visit of Moldovan practitioners to the Guardia di Finanza and the Italian National Anti-Corruption Authority; Rome, Italy (12–14 November 2024)

The OCEEA organized a study visit of Moldovan law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners to Italy's Guardia di Finanza and the Italian National Anti-Corruption Authority. Part of the project "Supporting Anti-Corruption Efforts of the Government of Moldova", the visit built upon a previous training course held in Chișinău. Participants visited the Guardia di Finanza's General Command, its specialized units, and the National Anti-Corruption Authority, gaining insights into Italy's investigative tools, anti-corruption strategies and public procurement monitoring. The visit emphasized interagency and international co-operation. "Italy's extensive experience makes it an ideal setting for learning good practices in corruption investigations," said a Moldovan participant. The visit was implemented with the Guardia di Finanza Liaison Officer in Vienna and funded by France, Germany, Italy and Romania. The study visit directly contributed to the upcoming Memorandum of Understanding with the Moldovan National Anti-Corruption Centre, scheduled for signing in early May 2025.

Addressing the use of virtual assets

National Risk Assessment of virtual assets in Moldova, Chisinau, Moldova (throughout 2024)

At the request of the Moldovan authorities, the OCEEA supported a National Risk Assessment (NRA) on the use of virtual assets in the Republic of Moldova. The process began with stakeholder meetings in Chisinau in August 2024 and was finalized in the first quarter of 2025. An OSCE expert, working with national counterparts, prepared analytical materials that assessed the virtual asset ecosystem, identified risks and regulatory gaps, and proposed recommendations aligned with international standards. The completed NRA provides a strategic foundation for strengthening Moldova's regulatory and supervisory framework in line with evolving FATF guidance.

Workshops for supervisory bodies on the regulation of virtual assets and virtual assets markets; Warsaw, Poland (5–9 February 2024)

Ukrainian supervisory agencies and regulators engaged in workshops on addressing the most common risks associated with money laundering and supervisory processes governing virtual asset service providers (VASPs). The event brought together participants from Ukraine and Poland, who

joined both in-person and online to discuss practical cases, regulatory frameworks, and innovative strategies for combating illicit activities within the virtual asset and cryptocurrency space.

Study visit for representatives from the National Bank of Georgia; Riga, Latvia (19–23 February 2024)

OCEEA organized a study visit to Riga for representatives from the National Bank of Georgia. Facilitators and participants from Georgia and the Baltic countries discussed VASP licensing processes and risk assessments, monitoring and supervision of such entities, practical cases, regulatory frameworks, and innovative strategies for combating illicit activities within the virtual asset and cryptocurrency space.

Training in financial crime investigation for law enforcement; Chișinău, Moldova (26–28 February 2024)

The training covered basic and advanced techniques and practical tools for investigating financial crimes involving virtual assets, including tracing criminal transactions across different blockchains, analysing case studies and good practices, and using specialized analytics software. The training course was attended by practitioners from Moldova's General Prosecutor's office, Intelligence Service, State Tax Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Office for Prevention and Combating Money Laundering.

Basic investigation training for law enforcement; Tbilisi, Georgia (11–13 March 2024)

The training covered basic and advanced techniques and practical tools for government officials from Georgian law enforcement and related agencies investigating financial crimes involving virtual assets, including tracing criminal transactions across different blockchains, analysing case studies and good practices, and using specialized analytics software.

Awareness-raising workshop for relevant government officials; Yerevan, Armenia (11–13 March 2024)

The workshop was aimed at Armenian government officials to enhance their understanding of virtual assets, raise awareness of the associated criminal risks, and outline urgent measures to mitigate these risks.

Workshop on taxation of virtual assets; Yerevan, Armenia (14–15 March 2024)

Through interactive case studies and practical examples, participants explored the complexities of taxing different types of virtual asset transactions—from crypto mining and staking to the taxation of digital art and virtual real estate in the metaverse. The workshop also addressed key regulatory frameworks, including international standards and upcoming regulations shaping the future of virtual asset taxation.

Workshop on a regulatory framework for VASPs; Tbilisi, Georgia (25–27 March 2024)

The workshop gave officials from the anti-money laundering and virtual assets department of the National Bank of Georgia an opportunity to discuss registration rule requirements for VASPs in Georgia. During the workshop, OSCE experts and National Bank officials analysed the regulatory landscape and explored compliance measures to mitigate the risks of money laundering and financial crime involving virtual assets.

Study visit for representatives of the National Bank of Moldova; Tbilisi, Georgia (27–29 March 2024)

OCEEA organized a study visit for representatives of the National Bank of Moldova to Tbilisi, Georgia. The visit promoted the exchange of insights and experiences between representatives of the National Bank of Moldova and its Georgian counterpart. The study visits focused on leveraging Georgian expertise in regulating virtual assets and VASPs, with a particular emphasis on addressing money laundering and terrorism financing risks.

Workshop for supervisory bodies on the regulation of virtual assets and virtual assets markets; Tbilisi, Georgia (15–18 April 2024)

A workshop organized by the OCEEA brought together participants from the National Bank of Georgia to strengthen the country's capacity to identify and address "red flag indicators" of virtual asset misuse. The event offered a platform to discuss red flags such as transaction size and frequency, transaction patterns, technological features that enhance anonymity and geographical risks. During the workshop, OSCE experts and officials from the National Bank of Georgia examined the regulatory landscape and explored compliance measures to mitigate the risks of money laundering and financial crime involving virtual assets.

Basic training course on investigations involving crypto-assets; Yerevan, Armenia (24–26 April 2024)

OCEEA conducted a basic training course on investigations involving crypto-assets, gathering representatives from various law enforcement agencies in Armenia. During the course, participants learned about fundamental techniques and practical tools for conducting effective crypto investigations. Drawing on real-world cases, the sessions examined basic methods for tracing criminal transactions across various types of blockchain networks.

Advanced training course on investigations involving crypto-assets; Tbilisi, Georgia (29 April–1 May 2024)

OCEEA conducted an advanced training course on investigations involving crypto-assets, equipping the participants with advanced techniques and practical skills, including sophisticated methods for tracing criminal transactions across multiple blockchains, real-world case studies, good practices from other law enforcement agencies, and familiarization with specialized analytics software and open-source tools.

Advanced training course on investigations involving crypto-assets; Yerevan, Armenia (12–14 June 2024)

OCEEA gathered representatives of law enforcement and supervisory agencies for an advanced training course on investigations involving crypto-assets to enhance participants' capacities in investigating financial crimes committed with virtual assets. Participants were familiarized with advanced techniques and practical skills in the field, including methods for tracing criminal transactions across multiple blockchains, real-world case studies, and good practices from other law enforcement agencies.

Workshop on navigating the virtual asset landscape; Warsaw, Poland (18–20 June 2024)

OCEEA organized a workshop hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Poland and targeting Ukrainian supervisory agencies and regulators in their efforts to implement the FATF Recommendations 15 and 16. The event gathered representatives responsible for overseeing and implementing the national anti-money laundering regulatory framework from the National Bank of Ukraine, as well as Ukraine's National Securities and Stock Market Commission, State Financial Monitoring Service and Ministry of Digital Transformation. The workshop offered a platform for discussions on how supervisory authorities can effectively oversee VASPs and mitigate the risks of money laundering and other financial crimes.

Workshop on a regulatory framework for virtual assets and VASPs; Yerevan, Armenia (25–27 June 2024)

OCEEA organized a workshop on regulatory frameworks for virtual assets and VASPs for participants from three agencies: the Central Bank of Armenia, and Armenia's Financial Monitoring Centre and Prosecutor General's Office. The workshop focused on the operational dynamics and business models of VASPs, as well as the complex legal frameworks governing crypto-assets. A team of OSCE experts provided an in-depth analysis of the current regulatory environment for virtual assets, including the applicability of existing regulatory measures to cryptocurrency transactions and the challenges of verifying ownership transfers on blockchain platforms.

Workshops on managing seized and confiscated virtual assets; Yerevan, Armenia (18–19 July 2024), Tbilisi, Georgia (15–16 July 2024), and Chișinău, Moldova (22–23 July 2024)

The workshops emphasized the importance of developing skills in managing virtual assets, a critical capability for supervisory agencies and law enforcement officials to ensure the seamless handling of assets following seizure or confiscation.

Workshop for the National Bank of Georgia: Customer risk assessments and preventive measures, and guidance for VASPs; Tbilisi, Georgia (6–9 August 2024)

At the request of Georgian authorities, the OSCE convened a workshop to assist the National Bank of Georgia to develop customer risk assessment guidelines, risk prevention measures, and guidance for VASPs. The event provided a platform to discuss know-your-customer (KYC) measures for virtual assets. OSCE experts and officials from the National Bank of Georgia analysed the regulatory landscape and developed compliance solutions to mitigate money laundering and financial crime risks involving virtual assets.

Training courses on investigating blockchain obfuscation techniques; Warsaw, Poland (7–9 August & 12–14 August 2024)

OCEEA, together with UNODC, developed a new training course on investigating blockchain obfuscation techniques and conducted two sessions, the first for participants from Ukraine and Moldova, the second for participants from Georgia and Armenia. The course familiarized investigators with criminal techniques used to obfuscate cryptocurrency transactions and, through practical exercises, helped them develop key investigative skills to uncover such methods.

Participants gained hands-on experience in identifying and countering various tactics used to disguise criminal activities in the cryptocurrency space.

Awareness-raising workshop for supervisory and law enforcement bodies; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (27–28 August 2024)

An awareness-raising workshop for supervisory and law enforcement bodies in Mongolia enhanced the participants' understanding of virtual assets, raised awareness of the associated criminal risks, and outlined urgent steps to mitigate these risks.

Advanced workshop on virtual asset regulatory frameworks; Riga, Latvia (4–6 September 2024)

OCEEA conducted an advanced workshop on virtual asset regulatory frameworks for Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Hosted by the Latvian Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, the workshop brought together participants to share good practices from Latvia and the EU on building national compliance frameworks for VASPs.

Inception workshop for supervisory and law enforcement bodies; Astana, Kazakhstan (16–17 September 2024)

OCEEA initiated activities addressing the use of virtual assets in Kazakhstan with an inception workshop attended by representatives from various Kazakh supervisory agencies. During the workshop, participants were introduced to basic blockchain tracing techniques and informed about the potential risks posed by crypto-assets.

Training-of-trainers course; Gdansk, Poland (25–27 September 2024)

OCEEA conducted a ToT course for current and future OSCE experts, along with participants from Georgia and Moldova. The course provided advanced teaching and presentation techniques, including public speaking, adult learning methodologies, and other key skills essential for effective training.

Basic training course on investigations involving crypto-assets; Chișinău, Moldova (30 September–2 October 2024)

OCEEA conducted a basic training course on crypto-asset investigation, introducing the participants to the fundamental aspects of crypto-assets. The course gathered participants from Moldova's Border Police, Criminal Assets Recovery Agency, National Anti-Corruption Centre, National Integrity Authority and Office for the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering.

Workshop on regulation support framework for VASPs; Vienna, Austria (9–11 October 2024)

OCEEA organized a workshop in Vienna titled "VASPs regulation support frameworks" for practitioners from the national banks of Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Workshop on cryptocurrency investigations; Astana, Kazakhstan (22–27 October 2024)

OCEEA conducted a workshop on cryptocurrency investigations for practitioners from Kazakhstan's Asset Recovery Committee, Financial Monitoring Agency, Anti-Corruption Agency and Prosecutor's General Office. The workshop offered an introduction to crypto investigations, including identifying perpetrators, gathering evidence and reporting suspicious transactions related to cryptocurrencies.

Advanced training course on investigations involving crypto-assets; Chișinău, Moldova (6–8 November 2024)

OCEEA implemented an advanced training course in Moldova on investigations involving crypto-assets, introducing participants to specialized investigation techniques involving virtual assets.

Training course on investigating blockchain obfuscation techniques; Chișinău, Moldova (13–15 November 2024)

OCEEA delivered a training course in Moldova on investigating blockchain obfuscation techniques, introducing relevant practitioners to coin joins, mixers, and other transaction-masking methods.

Introductory workshops for Kazakhstan's General Prosecutor's Office and Agency for Financial Monitoring; Astana, Kazakhstan (19 & 20 November 2024)

OCEEA organized two successive specialized training sessions on how criminals use virtual assets, the first session for practitioners from Kazakhstan's Prosecutor General's Office, the second for its Agency for Financial Monitoring.

Basic training course on investigations involving crypto-assets for Ukraine's National Securities and Stock Market Commission (20–22 November 2024)

An online basic training course on investigations involving crypto-assets was held for practitioners from the National Securities and Stock Market Commission of Ukraine, introducing them to the fundamentals of blockchain technology, the taxonomy of crypto-assets and investigative techniques for analysing blockchain transactions.

Introductory workshop on preventing and investigating the criminal use of virtual assets and blockchain-based finance; Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (27–28 November 2024)

OCEEA kickstarted activities addressing the use of virtual assets in Turkmenistan with an introductory workshop on preventing and investigating the criminal use of virtual assets and blockchain-based finance. Participants included practitioners from Turkmenistan's Prosecutor General's Office, Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, Financial Monitoring Agency and Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Preventing and investigating the criminal use of virtual assets and blockchain-based finance; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (17–18 December 2024)

OCEEA implemented an activity focused on preventing and investigating the criminal use of virtual assets and blockchain-based finance for practitioners from Kyrgyzstan's Prosecutor General's Office, State Financial Intelligence Service, National Bank, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Committee for National Security.

1.5 Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB)

Introduction

The OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) is mandated to support OSCE participating States in addressing all forms of human trafficking, co-ordinating efforts across all three OSCE dimensions, and serving as the focal point for the Organization's anti-trafficking initiatives. In 2024, the OSR/CTHB continued to help participating States and Partners for Co-operation to prevent trafficking, prosecute its perpetrators and protect its victims, in line with OSCE commitments, including the 2003 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the Action Plan's 2005 and 2013 Addenda, and related Ministerial Council decisions. Much of the Office's work involves policy guidance and capacity-building.

Spotlight on

▸ International conference "Strengthening criminal justice responses to and detection of trafficking in human beings amid refugee flows from Ukraine"; Vienna, Austria (19–20 June 2024)

In an effort to help fortify defences against one of the potentially most pressing challenges of our time, OSR/CTHB co-organized the high-level international conference "Strengthening criminal justice responses to and detection of trafficking in human beings amid refugee flows from Ukraine", in partnership with INTERPOL. The conference brought together over 100 criminal ▷

International conference "Strengthening criminal justice responses to and detection of trafficking in human beings amid refugee flows from Ukraine" (OSCE)

justice stakeholders, including heads and deputy heads of national police, heads of anti-trafficking departments and units, heads of cyber-crime police departments and units, and specialized anti-trafficking prosecutors from 33 countries (including from Ukraine). The participating countries, many of which host significant numbers of refugees from Ukraine, reflected on emerging trends.

The conference provided an opportunity for participants to exchange information on current trafficking cases involving Ukrainian refugees. They discussed ongoing interventions to address human trafficking threats, including those encountered online. Participants also shared good practices and operational challenges in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting cases identified during the first two years of the crisis.

The event underscored the importance of vigilance and of keeping the issue of human trafficking of refugees from Ukraine high on the agenda, including the need to strengthen co-operation among participating States to ensure cases are promptly detected, investigated and prosecuted. In the feedback survey, participants confirmed that they will share the knowledge gained in their countries and plan actions to strengthen the overall response based on the conference findings.

Participants unanimously confirmed that the opportunity to strengthen personal and professional contacts will enhance co-operation efforts to combat human trafficking in the OSCE area. As stated by one stakeholder, "the conference will increase the effectiveness of the fight against human trafficking. It will also intensify communication between criminal justice stakeholders of various countries. This will enable sharing good practices in criminal investigations and thereby strengthen international security."

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

"Be Safe" digital awareness campaign; throughout the OSCE area (throughout 2024)

To promote the anti-trafficking resources available to Ukrainians in OSCE participating States, including country-specific helplines and contacts to victim aid agencies, as well as to provide them with information on the risks of trafficking, OSR/CTHB partnered with Thomson Reuters to develop and disseminate the "Be Safe" digital awareness campaign (helpforukrainians.info). The campaign is being broadly supported by participating States and technology and communication companies. In 2024, the "Be Safe" website was updated to reflect new and evolving risks of human trafficking for Ukrainian refugees as they settle in destination countries. Contact details of further anti-trafficking hotlines were added, bringing the total number of countries to 35.

National workshops on unconditional access to services for trafficking victims; Tallinn, Estonia (10–11 January 2024); Budapest, Hungary (24–25 January 2024); Athens, Greece (14–15 February 2024)

OSR/CTHB conducted a series of training workshops on trafficking victim identification and unconditional access to services. The workshops focused on OSCE participating States hosting particularly large numbers of Ukrainian refugees. They brought together national anti-trafficking authorities, social protection services, criminal justice practitioners, and NGOs working in the areas of CTHB and refugee protection. The workshops promoted a "social path" to identification and long-term assistance for all trafficking victims, regardless of their willingness or ability to participate in criminal proceedings. The workshops assisted participating States in developing practical steps and policy options for implementing the "social path" model, in line with the OSR/CTHB report *Putting victims first: The "social path" to identification and assistance*[13].

13 OSCE 2023, *Putting victims first: The 'social path' to identification and assistance*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/cthb/538452

"Financial Intelligence against Human Trafficking" (FIAHT) initiative; Bern, Switzerland (24 January & 25 November 2024)

To strengthen national capacities for proactively identifying THB cases, including through financial investigations, OSR/CTHB partnered with the Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland, Swiss Government representatives, cantonal authorities, financial intelligence and investigation bodies, financial regulators, criminal justice practitioners, and anti-trafficking authorities to exchange promising practices, lessons learned from other participating States, and models of public–private partnerships for sharing strategic and tactical data. This engagement paved the way for drafting Switzerland's strategic human trafficking analysis report (FIAHT), which was officially launched on 25 November 2024. The report serves as an operational alert to guide financial institutions in identifying and reporting presumed cases of human trafficking, with concrete guidance on indicators of human trafficking risks.

National workshops on recommendations on enhancing anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows; Paris, France (31 January 2024); Washington, D.C., and Chicago, United States (1 & 4 March 2024); Ottawa, Canada (8 March 2024); Madrid, Spain (12 December 2024)

In response to the heightened risks of human trafficking among those fleeing Ukraine, OSR/CTHB organized national workshops to strengthen anti-trafficking prevention during mass migration. Policymakers and practitioners discussed the current situation—including challenges and opportunities—to prevent a humanitarian crisis from escalating into a trafficking crisis. Participants worked to identify and scale up necessary responses. The implementation team analysed the discussions to pinpoint good practices and areas for improvement, resulting in letters to each country recommending actions and offering OSR/CTHB support for their implementation.

National workshop on technology-facilitated trafficking; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (5 June 2024)

OSR/CTHB, in collaboration with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and national authorities of Kyrgyzstan, hosted a ground-breaking workshop on addressing technology-facilitated human trafficking. Focused on the role of AI and machine learning, the event aimed at exploring the risks and opportunities posed by AI and machine learning in combating trafficking. The workshop provided authorities of Kyrgyzstan with valuable insights for strategies to tackle this issue. As the first known practical workshop held by an international organization on AI and machine learning as related to trafficking, it positioned the OSCE as a leader in integrating technology to combat human trafficking. Following the workshop, the government of Kyrgyzstan issued a national roadmap on AI and THB.

Workshop on trauma-informed, multi-disciplinary responses to trafficking in human beings; Tbilisi, Georgia (24–27 June 2024)

As a follow-up activity to the national simulation-based training exercise held in Georgia in 2023, OSR/CTHB conducted a workshop on the importance of multi-agency collaboration when investigating trafficking cases and of adopting trauma-informed approaches when dealing with suspected victims of THB. The interactive training, organized in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, brought together Georgian anti-trafficking practitioners to work together in small groups on practical exercises, strengthening their ability to investigate and prosecute perpetrators while ensuring appropriate victim support and reducing the risk of re-traumatization.

Round table on human trafficking risks and the role of financial intelligence; Vilnius, Lithuania (24–25 September 2024)

A round table on human trafficking risks and the role of financial intelligence was held by the OSR/CTHB, jointly with Lithuania's Centre of Excellence in Anti-Money Laundering. The round table brought together key representatives from the public and private sectors, including government agencies, financial units, financial institutions, VASPs, and criminal justice organizations. The aim was to enhance awareness of the private sector's role in identifying and responding to trafficking-related financial flows, particularly amid the migration from Ukraine. Also featured was a practical exercise focused on developing financial indicators and red flags for reporting suspicious transactions in Lithuania. The event highlighted the risks of human trafficking associated with illicit financial flows, especially in light of the over 600 crypto companies operating in the country. Following the workshop, the Centre committed to conducting a strategic analysis of trafficking-related risks, and developing guidance for financial services in partnership with the OSR/CTHB.

Side-event on the margins of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (WHDC); Warsaw, Poland (2 October 2024)

The WHDC side-event "Enhancing human rights-based and victim-centred approach to identification of and assistance to victims of human trafficking" highlighted promising practices. In particular it emphasized the importance of ensuring that trafficking victims have immediate and unconditional

access to protection and long-term assistance, including in the context of the ongoing humanitarian crisis related to the war in Ukraine. It also provided an opportunity to consider further measures needed to strengthen identification and assistance efforts, and to turn promising practices into standard procedures across the OSCE area.

First Mediterranean regional simulation-based training exercise; Vicenza, Italy (7–11 October 2024)

Anti-trafficking practitioners from Italy, Malta and Spain, as well as Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, gathered to examine simulated complex human trafficking cases in the Mediterranean region. The training scenario reflected diverse migratory flows across multiple States, demonstrating how criminal groups exploit the vulnerability of migrants and displaced persons for labour or sexual exploitation, or forced criminality. The training brought together a wide range of anti-trafficking professionals, including prosecutors, labour inspectors, social workers, criminal and financial investigators, lawyers, NGO representatives and migration officers. In addition, the simulation used a ToT approach, enabling trainers from participating States and Partners for Co-operation to strengthen their ability to conduct similar simulation training in their home countries.

Policy brief on the misuse of generative AI to facilitate trafficking in persons; Vienna, Austria (1 November 2024)

The OSCE and the Bali Process Regional Support Office launched the first-ever policy brief on the misuse of generative AI in human trafficking. Law enforcement and technology industry experts from across the globe gathered to discuss the growing risks posed by AI-driven trafficking. Traffickers use AI to automate recruitment, create fake personas and co-ordinate cross-border criminal activities, among other methods discussed in the brief. Highlighted was the urgent need for enhanced law enforcement co-operation to address such emerging threats. The findings and recommendations spurred significant engagement with technology companies. In particular, the policy brief paved the way for several high-level discussions with key stakeholders in the technology and law enforcement sectors, including the Tech Against Trafficking Summit in London on 13 November 2024, and the Tech Coalition's EU Generative AI Industry Briefing in Brussels on 21 November 2024.

Central Asia regional workshop on vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings; Istanbul, Türkiye (12–13 November 2024)

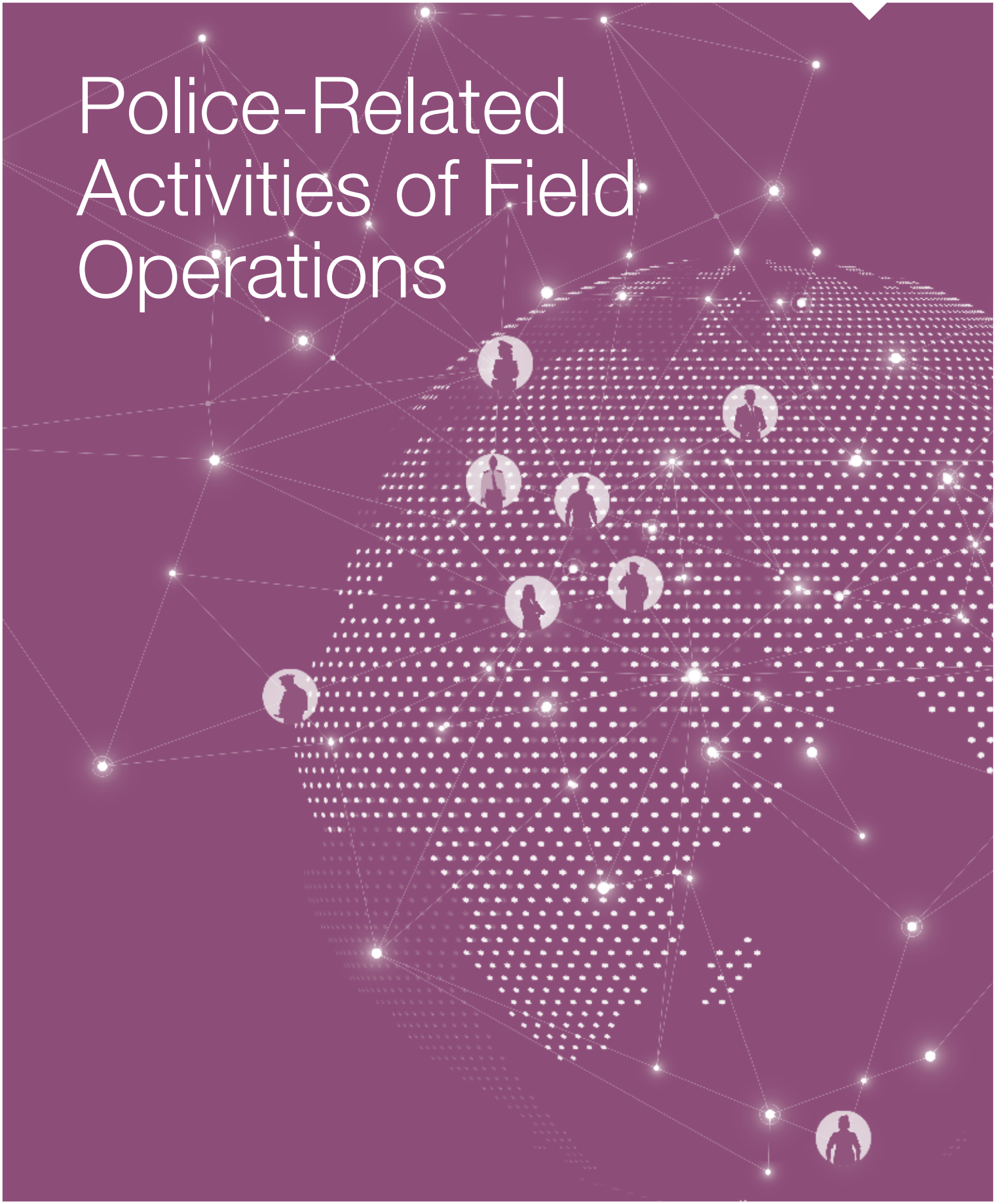
OSR/CTHB conducted a regional workshop in Istanbul, bringing together practitioners from across Central Asia to examine the key vulnerability factors contributing to human trafficking. The event fostered in-depth discussions on how intersecting factors—such as gender, age, ethnicity, disability and socio-economic status—heighten trafficking risks. These exchanges deepened the participants' understanding of the complex, overlapping vulnerabilities underlying trafficking, and enhanced their skills in designing victim-centred responses tailored to the risks faced by specific groups.

Hackathon "Operation CyberProtect" on the use of digital platforms for recruitment and exploitation; Lyon, France (19 November 2024)

OSR/CTHB supported INTERPOL's "Operation CyberProtect" hackathon, which focused on detecting, disrupting, and dismantling criminal networks exploiting digital platforms for recruitment and exploitation. The event helped national authorities identify online human trafficking indicators that could trigger investigations, and fostered stronger co-operation among affected countries, enhancing detection mechanisms. One participant noted: "The most valuable outcome was identifying a new platform for the recruitment of Brazilian victims to the UK—we weren't aware of this and will ensure it's shared with UK law enforcement to improve victim identification." The hackathon successfully strengthened international efforts to combat online human trafficking, offering vital insights and collaborative opportunities for all involved.

2

Police-Related Activities of Field Operations



2.1 South-Eastern Europe

2.1.1 Presence in Albania

Introduction

The OSCE Presence in Albania (the Presence) was established in 1997 with a mandate to promote democratization, the rule of law and human rights, as well as to consolidate democratic institutions in line with OSCE principles, standards and commitments. The Presence's activities focus on the following key priority areas: combating human trafficking; democratization; elections; good governance; gender equality; human rights; media freedom and development; policing; border management; rule of law; youth safety and security; counter-terrorism; and reform and co-operation in the security sector.

Spotlight on

▸ Raising awareness to fight gender-based violence; throughout Albania (throughout 2024)

The Presence in Albania, with the support of the Ministry of Interior and the State Police, implemented two awareness-raising campaigns focused on the fight against gender-based violence and on the risks of the misuse of firearms. The digital awareness-raising campaign reached more than three million citizens via TV, radio and social media platforms. The campaign rap song "Leji armet" (Leave the weapons) produced in collaboration with the artist Big Basta had about 400,000 views on YouTube.

The Presence completed a three-month outreach tour in targeted cities in Albania, including Tirana, Elbasan, Lezhe and Shkoder. In co-operation with CSOs and local municipal safety councils, awareness-raising activities were organized with hundreds of participants, including students, teachers and academics. These activities highlighted the importance of engaging and partnering with local community actors in raising awareness.

The campaign song "Leji armet" played a key role in delivering campaign messages to young people. Street installations of "gun violence memory walls" conveyed powerful messages of peace through art. Six "Unheard Voices" video testimonials were created by young people in collaboration with CSOs and shared on social media platforms. A local artist painted an art mural in central Tirana, depicting the devastating consequences of gun violence on families.

A post-campaign survey showed that 77.27 per cent of respondents felt more informed and aware of the consequences of firearm misuse than before the campaign. The outreach activities were co-organized by and part of the project "Assisting the national authorities of the Republic of Albania to decrease the risk of weapon proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW)", implemented by OSCE Presence in Albania with the financial support of the European Union, France and Germany.

General police development and reform

Information sessions on P/CVERLT for community policing officers and border police; Durrës, Shkodra, Kukës, Korça and Pogradec, Albania (October–November 2024)

Police officers from the police directorates in Durrës, Shkodra, Kukës, Korça and Pogradec attended a series of training sessions aimed at preventing radicalization and violent extremism. Organized in partnership with Albania's National Coordination Center on Countering Violent Extremism, the sessions equipped law enforcement officials from border, community policing and general patrol departments with the knowledge and strategies needed to identify, prevent and respond to threats related to violent extremism and radicalization. Early identification, red flags, inter-institutional collaboration and children's safety were the main topics of discussion.

Support to the Joint Cross-border Co-operation Mechanism in the region; Pogradec, Shkoder and Korca, Albania (throughout 2024)

A series of cross-border meetings were held at the regional level, as well as one meeting at the central level of the region's Border Police Directors, as part of the Joint Cross-border Co-operation Mechanism supported by the Presence in Albania. The Mechanism brings together regional border police directors from Albania and neighbouring jurisdictions to discuss and share experiences on irregular migration, information exchange, border controls, joint patrolling, and managing seasonal passenger and vehicle influx at crossing points.

Capacity-building for employees of the Police Oversight Agency; Tirana, Albania (8 April 2024)

To address integrity, public ethics and human rights, the Presence delivered a training course for representatives of the Police Oversight Agency, covering anti-corruption, ethics, human rights, and communication with the media and the public.

Workshop to improve co-operation between law enforcement and media; Tirana, Albania (18 September 2024)

In celebration of #DemocracyWeek, the Presence in Albania hosted a workshop for journalist and police media spokespersons. A news reporter emphasized the role of journalists

Mural in Tirana (OSCE)

and the impact of their interactions with law enforcement on public perception, while a media professional and a security expert discussed the need for a code of ethics and security considerations.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Advanced training sessions on information analysis; Tirana, Albania (26 February–1 March; 4–8 March 2024)

The Presence in Albania, in collaboration with TNTD/SPMU, conducted two advanced training sessions on information analysis to strengthen ILP and enhance the analytical capacities of the Albanian State Police. The participants received hands-on training in advanced data analysis, intelligence gathering and risk assessment. The training introduced good practices for processing and interpreting complex information, enabling analysts to provide more accurate and actionable intelligence. It also reinforced intelligence-driven approaches and strengthened collaboration among analysts, ensuring a more strategic and co-ordinated response to emerging challenges.

Support to the Albanian State Police Informant Management Unit; Tirana, Albania (4–12 April 2024)

An international expert worked closely with the Albanian State Police Intelligence and Informant Management Unit to review, refine and integrate a new SOP for informant handling. The expert prepared a comprehensive report outlining key findings, conclusions and recommendations for the Albanian State Police to consider for strengthening its intelligence management processes.

Training-of-trainers course on forged documents and imposters; Tirana, Albania (3–7 June 2024)

TNTD/BSMU and the Presence in Albania organized a ToT course on identifying forged documents and impostors at border-crossing points for officers from the Albanian State Police and the Albanian Border Police. Led by experts from Italy's Polizia di Frontiera, the training refreshed the participants' knowledge of document security features and international standards, strengthened their technical expertise through hands-on exercises with genuine and forged travel and identification documents, and taught participants to draft alerts on fraudulent documents. Participants also developed training agendas to train fellow border officers. The course concluded with a study visit to Milan Malpensa Airport in November 2024 to observe good practices and new detection technologies.

Regional exhibition of the police service dogs; Tirana, Albania (5–7 June 2024)

The Presence in Albania, in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior and the Albanian State Police, organized a regional exhibition of police service dogs to showcase their capabilities in detecting narcotics and firearms. K9 units from Tirana, Sarajevo, Podgorica, Skopje and Pristina demonstrated obedience and detection skills during practical sessions open to the public. Attended by the Minister of the Interior, the General Director of the Albanian State Police, the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania as well as donors and international organizations, the exhibition highlighted the role of K9 teams in enhancing security and served as a platform for sharing good practices and experiences across South-Eastern Europe.

Peer exchange regarding trafficking in illicit firearms; Tirana, Albania (3–4 September 2024)

The Presence in Albania, in collaboration with the ICITAP of the US Department of Justice, organized a workshop on illicit firearms trafficking for members of the Albanian State Police Directorate for the Fight against Illicit Trafficking, prosecutors from the General Prosecution Office and the Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK), and investigators from the National Bureau of Investigation. Experts from the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) and the Dutch National Police shared case studies, good practices, and advanced investigative techniques, equipping participants with practical skills to combat firearms trafficking. Interactive discussions strengthened co-operation among law enforcement agencies, improving intelligence gathering, joint investigations and the application of special investigative techniques for effective case-building and prosecution. The workshop led to a joint criminal investigation between Albania and the Netherlands related to explosives trafficking, resulting in the seizure and confiscation of a large quantity of explosives by the Dutch National Police in close co-operation with the Albanian State Police.

Financial analysis training; Tirana, Albania (23–27 September 2024)

The Presence in Albania trained police officers and investigators in financial analysis and profiling to strengthen proactive financial investigations. Participants from the Albanian State Police and the National Bureau of Investigation gained practical experience through real cases and simulated financial crime scenarios. Facilitated by the ICITAP of the US Department of Justice, the training improved participants'

ability to detect suspicious transactions, trace illicit funds and build stronger cases. These skills support more effective investigations, crime prevention and successful prosecutions, reinforcing Albania's capacity to combat economic and organized crime while enhancing financial security and accountability.

Training course on covert human intelligence sources; Tirana, Albania (21–23 October 2024)

The Presence in Albania conducted a training course on informant management for the Albanian State Police Informant Management Unit, as well as for participants from the National Bureau of Investigation and the Police Oversight Agency. Developed in close collaboration with the experts from Dutch National Police and the ICITAP of the US Department of Justice, the course provided practical guidance on informant selection, management and operational handling. Participants gained practical experience in good practices for intelligence gathering, successful operations and cross-border investigations. The training contributed to more effective investigations, increased operational security and better co-ordination in fighting crime.

Peer exchange on financial investigations; Rome, Italy (4–7 November 2024)

Organized by the Presence in Albania and hosted by the Italian Anti-Mafia Investigation Directorate, prosecutors from SPAK and senior officials of the Albanian State Police conducted a study visit to Italy on operational aspects of financial investigations. The visit supported the State Police and SPAK's Special Prosecution Office in combating money laundering and implementing asset recovery measures to strengthen the fight against transnational organized crime. In his welcome address, the Commander General of the Guardia di Finanza emphasized the importance of strengthening co-operation and identifying illicitly-gained assets. The visit was part of the OSCE Presence's project "Supporting Albanian law enforcement agencies to tackle serious and organized crime effectively and improve regional co-operation V" and linked to the OSCE regional project "Strengthening asset recovery efforts in the OSCE region", funded by Austria, Germany, Italy and the United States.

Cyber awareness training for law enforcement; Tirana, Berat and Durrës, Albania (16 & 20 December 2024)

Police officers are on the frontline of protecting their communities as well as their own services from cyber threats. To address the growing challenges posed by cyber threats and the safe use of internet, the Presence in Albania organized cyber awareness training for members of the Berat and Durrës Regional Police Directorates. The sessions covered the identification and prevention of cyber threats, good practices for safe internet use, the protection of sensitive data and systems, and responses to cybercrime incidents.

Presentation of artwork (OSCE)

2.1.2 Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introduction

Based in the capital city of Sarajevo, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Mission) relies on its network of nine field offices to fully engage citizens and authorities at all levels—municipal, cantonal and entity, as well as the State. To adapt as necessary to social and political developments, the structure of the Mission's field work and activities remains flexible. Six focus areas comprise the Mission's approach: human rights; education; rule of law; gender equality; democratic governance; and security co-operation.

The 1995 General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina shapes the work of the Mission. The Dayton Agreement established the Mission as one of the bodies responsible for helping to secure lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and thus to build a stable, secure and democratic State.

Spotlight on

▸ Back to school – 10th Brčko District Police Summer School; Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina (20–23 August 2024)

The Mission supported the 10th Brčko District Police Summer School, which was held at the Police's premises. The Mission is a long-standing partner of the annual summer school, offering workshops and presentations. The summer school included theoretical and practical training on topics such as THB, cyber security, first aid, fundamental freedoms and hate crimes. The Mission delivered workshops on fundamental freedoms and combating hate crimes, and distributed reading material about the OSCE's role in promoting the respect for human rights and the rule of law.

10th Brčko District Police Summer School (OSCE)

General police development and reform

Supporting the implementation of intelligence-led policing (ILP); across Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2024)

In May and June 2024, the Mission met with representatives of law enforcement authorities to assess their needs for implementing the ILP roadmap. A report followed, outlining recommendations for each agency, with a particular focus on key issues, such as the lack of an electronic cross-cantonal data-sharing platform and the need to organize regular regional and cross-cantonal meetings on criminal intelligence and analysis.

In July and August 2024, the Mission expanded its outreach, meeting with law enforcement authorities and institutions across Bosnia and Herzegovina. These discussions gathered feedback on the use of donated analysis software licenses and on recommendations for the development of a rulebook on criminal intelligence affairs.

Between September and November 2024, the Mission held a series of consultations with beneficiary agencies and law enforcement authorities, including the *Republika Srpska* Ministry of Interior, to strengthen criminal intelligence and analytical processes. Initial meetings in September focused on developing or improving internal instructions, followed by October and November sessions assessing needs in intelligence management, interagency co-ordination, human resource management, investigations and analytical work. To identify areas for improvement, these discussions also examined legal frameworks, organizational structures, staffing, technology and analytical culture.

Comprehensive response to gender-based violence (GBV); throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2024)

The Mission continues to promote a comprehensive approach to GBV by supporting institutions, particularly law enforcement, and engaging with decision makers, notably parliamentary committees. It hosted the Third Review Conference on GBV, opened by the OSCE Secretary General, and co-organized a side event at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw, Poland. The Mission developed a standardized police response and updated Bosnia and Herzegovina police guidelines on GBV, and supported training courses on domestic violence response across the country. These efforts led to the approval of the Federation's Strategy for Prevention and Fight against Domestic Violence and contributed to ongoing deliberations on a new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women as well as Criminal Code amendments affecting police and judiciary practices.

Network of Safety of Journalists Focal Points; Sarajevo and Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (throughout 2024)

Throughout 2024, the Mission strengthened institutional responses to incidents and attacks against journalists by building the capacities of the Network of Safety of Journalists Focal Points within prosecutors' offices and police agencies. These activities were carried out in co-ordination with the Council of Europe's PROFREX project, which, with support from the Mission and the European Union, organized three training sessions for the Network.

Held in Sarajevo (February and December) and Neum (October), the sessions gathered participants from police agencies, the judiciary, relevant ministries and the media community. They focused on strengthening knowledge of international standards and national legislation on freedom of expression, media freedom and journalist safety, improving co-ordination among key stakeholders, and fostering proactive investigations and prosecutions of attacks and threats against journalists.

Support to the adoption of human rights-compliant laws on peaceful assembly in cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bihać, Livno, Ljubuški and Orašje Bosnia and Herzegovina (January–October 2024)

- Bihać, Una-Sana Canton (23 January 2024)
  The Una-Sana Canton Assembly adopted the Law on Peaceful Assembly, following nearly a year of continuous support from the Mission. This included technical assistance, facilitation of meetings, legal reviews, and advocacy to ensure harmonization with international human rights standards.
- Livno, Canton 10 (16 April 2024)
  The Canton 10 Assembly adopted the Law on Peaceful Assembly, concluding a collaborative process with the Mission that began in 2021. The Mission provided technical and legal support, contributed to public consultations, and advocated for alignment with international standards.
- Ljubuški, West-Herzegovina Canton (31 July 2024)
  On 31 July, the West-Herzegovina Canton Assembly adopted new laws on peaceful assembly, developed

through ongoing co-operation with the Mission since 2022. The Mission welcomed this as a key step towards full compliance with international human rights and OSCE commitments.

- Orašje, Posavina Canton (16 October 2024)
  The Posavina Canton Assembly adopted a new Law on Peaceful Assemblies, following extensive consultations with the Mission. The law is fully aligned with international human rights standards and OSCE human dimension commitments.

Promotion of newly adopted legislation on peaceful assembly in cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Zenica, Bihać, Vitez and Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina (March–November 2024)

- Zenica, Zenica-Doboj Canton (6 March 2024)
  Following the adoption of the Laws on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Public Events in November 2023, the Mission organized a presentation in Zenica and conducted training for 31 police officers on the international standards that were incorporated into the new legislation. Additionally, the Mission supported the printing of 500 leaflets and 50 posters to be distributed across police stations in the Canton. The adoption followed a two-year drafting process involving the Mission and international partners, including the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office of the High Representative, and the UN.
- Bihać, Una-Sana Canton (14 March 2024)
  To promote the newly adopted Law on Peaceful Assembly, the Mission produced and distributed promotional materials, including posters and leaflets. It also joined the TV show *Aktuelno* on Una-Sana TV, together with the Cantonal Ministry of Interior and a law professor, to further raise public awareness about the new legislation[14].
- Vitez, Central Bosnia Canton (26 September 2024)
  The Mission supported a presentation to police officers of the new Laws on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Public Events. The laws, adopted on 30 July 2024, were the result of a two-year drafting process involving the Cantonal Ministry of Interior and the Mission, as well as international partners. In addition to the presentation, 400 leaflets and 50 posters were printed for dissemination to all police stations in the canton.
- Livno, Canton 10 (21 November 2024)
  The Mission delivered promotional materials on the Law on Peaceful Assemblies to the Canton 10 Ministry of Interior, in line with the Ministry's Annual Training Plan and ongoing collaboration with the Mission.

14 See the TV show here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jYoOFG1i-M

Training of police officers on newly adopted laws on freedom of peaceful assembly in cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bihać, Livno and Orašje, Bosnia and Herzegovina (May–December 2024)

- Bihać, Una-Sana Canton (16 May 2024)
  In co-operation with the Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, the Mission conducted training for mid-management police officers. The session focused on the new legislative provisions introduced in the recently adopted Law on Peaceful Assembly, using practical examples related to the policing of assemblies.
- Livno, Canton 10 (23 July 2024)
  The Mission, together with the Canton 10 Ministry of Interior, organized a training for 27 mid-management police officers to support the implementation of the newly adopted Law on Peaceful Assembly. The session highlighted legal novelties and their practical application in operational policing.
- Orašje, Posavina Canton (4 December 2024)
  A one-day training session was held in collaboration with the Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior on the new Laws on Peaceful Assembly and Public Events. The training focused on familiarizing police officers with the content and implementation of the new legal framework, which was developed with the Mission's support to align fully with international standards.

Meeting with the Ministry of Interior of *Republika Srpska* on police data recording; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (7 February 2024)

The Mission held a working-level meeting with technical staff of the Ministry of Interior of *Republika Srpska* to discuss improvements to police data recording, specifically in the area of hate crimes. This was a follow-up activity to a workshop organized in collaboration with OSCE/ODIHR in April 2022 that focused on the issue of hate crime data recording. During the meeting, participants reviewed the ODIHR draft report with specific recommendations, informing the final proposals for improving the recording and reporting of hate crimes.

Project cycle management training course for representatives from the Canton 10 police administration; Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina (27–28 February 2024)

The Mission organized a project cycle management training course for the police administration of Canton 10. The police administration had expressed a need for such a training course and delegated police officers and civil servants to participate in it. The Mission delivered a comprehensive training course with in-house trainers focusing on two objectives:

preventing domestic violence and improving communication services and tools.

Local cohesion plans and response protocols for bias-related incidents; Konjic and Čapljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina (February–March 2024)

The mayor of Konjic adopted a local three-year Community Cohesion Action Plan and a protocol for responding to bias-related incidents. Both documents, prepared by the local multi-stakeholder Action Plan working group, which includes the local police, define specific roles for the police and establish co-ordination mechanisms with the city administration to strengthen community cohesion and address bias-related cases. Using the same model, OSCE-led dialogues in Čapljina engaged members of its Community Cohesion Action Plan working group, which includes the local police and elementary school directors.

Advanced training-of-trainers course on SALW control and management for law enforcement agencies; Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina (25–28 March 2024)

The Mission organized an advanced ToT course on SALW control and management, covering safe SALW storage, risk assessments and mitigation strategies. The course gathered participants from various law enforcement agencies from across Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as national and international experts, including from the Austrian Ministry of Defence. The course took place at the SALW storage site of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior. It combined theoretical sessions with practical exercises, and featured the presentation of newly published *Guidelines for SALW Management in Police Organizations*, which was prepared with the help of the Mission.

Co-ordination meeting with Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministries of Interior on issues of fundamental freedoms; Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (24 April 2024)

The Mission and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministries of Interior hosted a co-ordination meeting with all Ministers of Interior, police commissioners and police directors to discuss the current state of affairs regarding freedom of peaceful assembly legislation across the Federation.

Field visit of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Assembly Citizens' Complaint Board to border-crossing points; Čapljina, Neum and Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina (22–23 May 2024)

The Mission facilitated a field visit by the Parliamentary Assembly Citizens' Complaint Board to six border crossing points near Čapljina, Neum and Trebinje, including the Joint Police Co-operation Centre. The Board collected information on staffing, infrastructure and procedures, with findings and recommendations shared with the Parliamentary Assembly to take action for improving professional work standards. The activity formed part of the Mission's broader efforts to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the security sector and improve the operational and management capacities of law enforcement agencies.

Meeting of the Working Group on Inter-institutional Dialogue and Gender Analysis on SALW; Teslić, Bosnia and Herzegovina (12–14 June 2024)

The Mission organized a meeting of the Working Group on Inter-institutional Dialogue and Gender Analysis on SALW. Representatives from women's police associations and the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina discussed ways to raise awareness of firearms misuse in gender-based violence and to support women's leadership in law enforcement. The meeting emphasized the urgent need for co-ordinated action among law enforcement authorities in response to the rising number of cases involving femicide and domestic violence. It also highlighted key barriers to women's career advancement in police forces, including sexual harassment and workplace discrimination.

Training of police officers in Canton 10; Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 September 2024)

In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior of Canton 10, the Mission delivered a training course to police officers on international human rights standards and the legal framework governing freedom of media. The new model for the protection of journalists was presented, and an operating protocol for police in cases of attacks against journalists was published. Guidelines for co-operation between the media and police were also introduced to enhance collaboration and ensure mutual understanding of their respective roles.

Training for police officials on proactive criminal investigations; Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina (29 October & 18 November 2024)

In co-operation with the Cantonal Prosecutor Office in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, the Mission offered two training courses for police officials from three police administrations

on good practices in proactive investigations. The training aimed to improve investigation quality and strengthen co-operation between police and prosecution. It featured three core panels: proactive evidence collection techniques; the duties and responsibilities of police investigators, including their legal obligations during investigations; and evidence collection with a focus on legality and admissibility in court.

Co-ordination meeting between police officers and social welfare centres on child begging referral mechanisms in Zenica-Doboj Canton; Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina (25 September 2024)

The Mission facilitated a co-ordination meeting between police officers and social welfare centres in Zenica-Doboj Canton to discuss child begging as a form of THB. Organized after consultations with Roma NGOs and relevant social welfare centres, the meeting emphasized the need for stronger police involvement and improved mechanisms to combat organized exploitation in connection with child begging. Participants agreed on the need for intensified stakeholder co-operation, as well as regular training on street begging as a form of THB and organized crime.

Training for civil servants and law enforcement authorities in *Republika Srpska* on public sector audits; Trebinje, Istočno Sarajevo and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (11–14 November 2024)

Building on its earlier initiatives—developing the Glossary of Audit Terminology in 2022 and conducting training workshops in 2023—the Mission organized a series of advanced training sessions titled "Public Sector Audit: The Role and Importance of Audit Reports for Corruption Prevention". The sessions, held in Trebinje, Istočno Sarajevo and Banja Luka, aimed to strengthen stakeholders' practical application of the Glossary and enhance institutional capacity to combat corruption. Participants included civil servants, law enforcement officers, tax administration officers, and judiciary representatives, who reflected on their experience with audit reports, improved their understanding of public audit documents, and developed practical skills in using the Glossary. The training sessions emphasized the role of public audit reports in identifying potential corruption and bridging the gap between prevention and enforcement.

Competition between national K-9 units; Konjic and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15–19 December 2024)

In partnership with the Mine Detection Dog Center, the Mission organized a training session and competition for law enforcement K9 units from across Bosnia and Herzegovina. The initiative enhanced the capabilities of K9 detection of small arms, ammunition and explosives, fostered interagency collaboration and raised public awareness. Fifteen K9 teams underwent intensive training, culminating in a public competition in Sarajevo showcasing their skills in narcotics, firearms and explosives detection, as well as obedience. The event emphasized the need for on-going capacity-building. The recently published *Guidelines and Training Manual*, prepared with Mission support, will help standardize practices across law enforcement.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Strengthening the analytical capacities of law enforcement in criminal intelligence processes; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (4–9 March 2024)

The Mission facilitated hands-on training on the use of the analysis software for analysts from cantonal police administrations, the Indirect Taxation Agency, and the *Republika Srpska* Ministry of Interior's Administration for Police Education. This initiative was part of the Mission's broader efforts to increase the analytical capacity of law enforcement authorities and institutions.

Training on the misuse of SALW in the context of GBV; Tarčin, Bosnia and Herzegovina (12–14 March 2024)

The Mission organized a training session on the misuse of SALW in the context of GBV, aiming to promote gender mainstreaming in SALW control, raise institutional awareness on the relationship between SALW and GBV, and discuss strategies to prevent firearm misuse in GBV cases. Participants included members of Women in Police Associations from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and *Republika Srpska*, along with representatives from the Ministry of Security.

Official handover of IT equipment for criminal intelligence analysis; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (26 March 2024)

The Mission donated 42 computers and 14 analysis software licenses to law enforcement authorities and institutions across Bosnia and Herzegovina. This equipment and software will strengthen the capacities of criminal intelligence departments and support the establishment of sustainable capacities at two entity-level and one State-level law enforcement training institutions.

Workshop on investigations into THB; Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina (9 May 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop on THB investigations for middle-management officers and investigators of the Canton 10 Ministry of Interior. Participants learned about the work of the Cantonal co-ordination team on THB, the relevant legal framework, elements of the criminal offence and key indicators of THB. The practical segment included real cases, covering the full process from investigation to final court decisions, with a special focus on victims.

Police training on migration issues, including CTHB; Trebinje, Foča and Gorazde, Bosnia and Herzegovina (21–23 May 2024)

The Mission, together with UN agencies (IOM, UNDSS, UNICEF, UNHCR) and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs within Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ministry of Security, organized workshops for local police officers on issues related to migration. The training improved the knowledge of police officers of applicable legal frameworks on CTHB in the context of migration.

Training course on detecting terrorist travel; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (21–23 May 2024)

To strengthen the capacity of authorities to disrupt terrorist travel, the Mission organized a specialized training course for border police officers. The training focused on detecting forged travel documents through relevant databases, profiling potential terrorists (including FTFs), and preventing their movement. Case studies highlighted the importance of multi-agency co-operation and timely information exchange in countering terrorist travel.

Workshops for police officers from the Zvornik police administration; Zvornik and Šekovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5, 6 & 12 June 2024)

The Mission facilitated three workshops on hate crime processing for police officers under the Zvornik police administration, primarily aimed at field officers and station shift leaders. Prosecutors from the Bijeljina public prosecutor's office provided practical guidance on reporting bias incidents. The sessions, presented by the Police Station Commander and the Mission, covered the legal framework, police operational standards and bias indicators, and included interactive discussions on case studies.

Conference on the prevention of juvenile delinquency in Tuzla Canton; Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina (20 to 21 June 2024)

The Mission supported the International Conference on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, hosted by Tuzla University. The event included a multisectoral round table and panel sessions, attracting participants from law enforcement, the judiciary, correctional and disciplinary institutions, education, healthcare, cantonal ministries, youth-focused NGOs and international organizations.

Training course on the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act in Brčko District; Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina (28–30 August 2024)

The Mission supported the Judicial Commission of Brčko District to organize a training course for representatives from the police, social and health services, judiciary, and defence counsels on implementing the Juvenile Justice Act, a law on the protection and treatment of children and juveniles in criminal proceedings.

High-level conference on the effective prosecution of terrorism cases; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (25–27 September 2024)

The Mission organized a high-level conference on the prosecution of terrorism cases, gathering judges, prosecutors, and legal associates from the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Prosecutor's Office, as well as experts from the OSCE Secretariat, Eurojust, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States. Discussions covered key elements of terrorism-related offenses, evidence collection, terrorism financing, and links to international core crimes, with a focus on procedural and substantive complexities in conflict-related cases. The conference formed part of the Mission's broader efforts to strengthen the capacities of authorities and the judiciary to prosecute terrorism cases, emphasizing the need for on-going international co-operation and expertise.

Support for the finalization of the "Rulebook for the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism"; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (October–December 2024)

The Mission provided support to Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the working group to finalize the draft "Rulebook for the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism". The working group brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including State-level Ministries, institutions of Brčko District, as well as banking agencies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and

Republika Srpska, the State Investigation and Protection Agency, and notaries.

Mediterranean simulation-based anti-trafficking training exercise; Vicenza, Italy (7–12 October 2024)

The Mission and a national expert participated in a Mediterranean regional simulation-based training exercise on CTHB at the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units in Vicenza, Italy. The Mission contributed its expertise to the course, which brought together participants from Mediterranean countries to strengthen victim-centred skills.

Co-ordination meetings on seized property management; West Herzegovina Canton & Sarajevo Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina (8 & 22 October 2024)

The Mission supported two round tables organized by the Federal Agency for the Management of Confiscated Property, gathering representatives from the Agency and the Bosnia and Herzegovina judicial police, as well as, at the first round table, the West Herzegovina Cantonal Prosecutor's Office, the Municipal and Cantonal Court in Široki Brijeg and, at the second, judges and prosecutors from Sarajevo Canton and a judge from Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde. The event served as a platform to discuss the challenges in executing judicial asset confiscation orders, improving pre-seizure planning, and strengthening the Agency's co-operation with the above judicial institutions.

UNHCR training-of-trainers course on mixed migration flows for the Sarajevo Police; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (17 October 2024)

The Mission participated in a UNHCR ToT course on mixed migration flows, aimed at familiarizing senior police officers with international and national legal and human rights standards for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The Mission's presentation highlighted the distinction between human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as challenges in identifying, protecting and supporting trafficking victims along migration routes.

Multi-disciplinary workshop for stakeholders on addressing domestic violence; Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina (17 October 2024)

The Mission facilitated a multi-disciplinary workshop on addressing domestic violence, bringing together police, social services and the judiciary to discuss their approaches to the issue. The workshop highlighted the complexity of multi-sector responses to domestic violence and prompted discussions on current practices.

Training course on preventing and combating the illegal trade in art, cultural goods and archaeological artifacts; Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (29–31 October 2024)

In co-operation with Bosnia and Herzegovina's Agency for Education and Professional Development of Personnel, and the Centre Against Trafficking of Works of Art, the Mission facilitated a training course on preventing and combating illegal trade in art, cultural goods and archaeological artifacts. Members of customs, border officers as well as representatives of the judiciary, academia and civil society learned about illicit trafficking and cultural property protection.

Workshop for police officers and social workers on early phases of domestic violence investigations; Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 November & 3 December 2024)

The Mission organized two workshops for police officers and social workers on the early phases of domestic violence investigations. Discussions focused on the importance of collecting corroborative evidence and conducting substantive risk assessments to enable effective protective measures and prevent escalation. Led by an experienced police officer and a judge (former prosecutor), the workshops also addressed key challenges faced by law enforcement and prosecutors in handling such cases.

Workshop on the intersection of counter-terrorism, human rights and fundamental freedoms; Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina (15 November 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop on the intersection of counter-terrorism, human rights and fundamental freedoms, gathering representatives from various sectors, including security, education, social welfare, healthcare, judiciary and civil society. Discussions focused on the impact of laws and security policies on freedoms such as religion, belief and expression, as well as on other universal human rights, enhancing the participants' understanding of international obligations and commitments.

Training course for police officials of Tuzla Canton on conducting criminal investigation of domestic violence cases; Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina (22 November 2024)

The Mission facilitated a training course for police officers in Tuzla Canton on the criminal investigation of domestic violence cases, with participation from cantonal prosecutors and judges of the Tuzla Municipal Court. The course emphasized a co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary and victim-centred approach, covering the legal framework, institutional roles,

evidence collection and victim protection. Discussions highlighted the need for systematic risk assessments, stronger collaboration between police, prosecutors, social services and NGOs, and harmonized interpretations of procedural rules and the law on protection against domestic violence.

Hate crimes training course for junior police officers from Canton 10; Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina (26 November 2024)

The Mission organized a training course on identifying and processing hate crimes for junior police officers from Canton 10. The course covered the concept of hate crimes, the legal framework, indicators, reporting and processing, as well as key findings on the underreporting of such crimes. Participants also shared their experiences with prejudice, bias incidents and hate crimes in their local communities.

Multi-sectoral workshop on victim-centred approaches in response to domestic violence in Canton Sarajevo; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (28–29 November 2024)

The mission organized a multisectoral workshop which gathered police officers, social services, prosecutors, judges and NGOs from Sarajevo Canton. The first day was focused on introducing police officers to key aspects of collecting evidence in domestic violence cases, with a focus on the protection of victims of violence in the initial stages of proceedings. The second day was dedicated to discussions on the response of criminal justice to domestic violence.

10th Brčko District Police Summer School (OSCE)

Round table on executing judicial confiscation orders; Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (3 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Federal Agency for the Management of Seized Assets in organizing a round table that brought together judiciary representatives from the Herzegovina Neretva Canton and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Judicial Police. Representatives of the Herzegovina Neretva Canton Prosecutor's Office, the Cantonal Court in Mostar, the Municipal Court in Mostar, the Municipal Court in Čapljina and the Municipal Court in Čitluk discussed the challenges in enforcing asset seizure orders. They also explored ways to enhance co-operation between the Agency and the courts in implementing the Law on the Seizure of Illegally Acquired Assets through Criminal Acts.

Hate crimes workshop for police officers from Zvornik police administration; Zvornik, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 December 2024)

The Mission facilitated a workshop on hate crimes for first-line police responders from Zvornik, focusing on community-based prevention to reduce bias-motivated incidents. Targeting areas such as Srebrenica, Vlasenica, Milići, Kozluk, Šekovići and Osmaci—where such incidents were previously common—the workshop presented the concept and legal framework of hate crimes. Participants discussed priority activities, unanimously agreeing that preventive work with young people is essential.

Training course on war crime investigations for Prijedor District Public Prosecutor's Office and Police Administration; Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 December 2024)

Facilitated by the Mission, an experienced prosecutor of Public Prosecutor's Office of *Republika Srpska* delivered a training course on investigative techniques and methods in war crimes investigations for Prijedor's District Public Prosecutor's Office and Police Administration. The training covered indictment preparation, co-operation between prosecutors and police, working with and protecting vulnerable witnesses and evidence collection. Participants reviewed adjudicated cases, discussed challenges in processing war crimes, and examined practical examples and strategies to overcome obstacles.

2.1.3 Mission in Kosovo

Introduction

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (the Mission) was established on 1 July 1999, and was tasked with a leading role in institution- and democracy-building, rule of law and human rights in Kosovo. It is mandated with the protection and promotion of human and community rights, as well as to support democratization and the development of the public safety sector. Building on past support and achievements, the Mission continues to prioritize capacity-building and strategic improvements of the public safety and security sector, in line with good international practices.

Spotlight on

- **Training programme for anti-narcotics police investigators; Pristina region, Kosovo (September 2024–February 2025)**

  The Mission, in partnership with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the Kosovo Police, conducted a specialized training programme for anti-narcotics investigators. The initiative focused on boosting operational safety and effectiveness in narcotics-related investigations, following a joint needs assessment and in response to a tragic 2020 explosion that killed one officer and injured several others. The programme began with a formal exchange of letters between the OSCE and EULEX in June 2024, confirming their joint commitment to enhancing the Kosovo Police's capacity to operate in high-risk environments.

Training highlights

The first module, launched in September, involved 40 Kosovo Police officers split into two groups. Delivered by experts from the two missions, the course covered:

- Improvised explosive device awareness and countermeasures;
- Safe handling of hazardous materials;
- Facility and vehicle search techniques;
- Tactical shooting in hostile environments.

Participants also trained with both professional and improvised tools during practical exercises hosted by the Kosovo Police Special Operations Unit, ensuring a hands-on, immersive learning experience.

Later in September, a second module trained 33 officers in operational first aid, focusing on managing gunshot wounds, blast injuries and stabbings—risks common in high-profile anti-drug operations. Officers were certified in the use of automated external defibrillators and trained in advanced airway management techniques. To support operations in the field, the Mission donated 3,000 narcotics test kits and professional scales to the Kosovo Police's Directorate for Investigation of Trafficking in Narcotics, enabling rapid on-site drug identification and efficient evidence handling. Additional training on tactical medicine expanded the officers' expertise in trauma care, life-saving interventions, and battlefield first aid for high-threat scenarios.

The final module included the handover of twelve tactical backpacks containing mission-essential gear such as paracord rope, a multi-tool, a telescopic mirror, a headlamp, a power bank, and a comprehensive first aid kit. Officers were also trained on the effective use of this equipment in the field.

A trusted partnership

"The Mission has been a key partner in strengthening our efforts against narcotics trafficking," said Major Reshat Murseli, Head of the Kosovo Police Directorate for Investigation of Trafficking in Narcotics. "This training wasn't just about new skills—it was a response to past losses. We now feel better prepared to protect ourselves and our communities. The equipment and expertise provided, especially the test kits and tactical backpacks, are helping us work more efficiently and safely."

Major Murseli also acknowledged the OSCE's role in shaping Kosovo's Strategy Against Narcotics 2025–2027, emphasizing the value of continued co-operation in the fight against drug-related crime across the country.

General police development and reform

Local public safety committee (LPSC) initiatives to increase community safety; Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Skënderaj/Srbica, Junik, Gjakovë/Đakovica, and Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Kosovo (concluded on 14 February 2024)

The Mission implemented six impactful LPSC projects with the aim to increase safety, security and liveability across Kosovo. Specifically, it helped:

- Two LPSCs from Vushtrri/Vučitrn in equipping a primary school with laptops and furniture, and in installing security cameras at the town youth centre;

Firearms training (OSCE/Leurina Mehmeti)

- LPSC Komoran/Komorane (Gllogoc/Glogovac municipality) in installing 200 meters of safety barriers on the road near the local school, as well as the LPSC Junik, (Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality) in installing 23 traffic convex mirrors, along with the donation of IT equipment and office supplies;

- An LPSC from Gjakovë/Đakovica with installation of traffic signs, speed bumps, as well as replacement of convex traffic mirrors for increased traffic safety;

- An LPSC from Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North with construction of 70 metres of asphalt and 45 metres of sewage pipe laid in the area of the village Brdjani/Kroi i Vitakut where Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb communities live together.

Advanced training course on strengthening institutional integrity; Pristina, Kosovo (26–27 February 2024)

The Mission delivered an advanced training course on strengthening institutional integrity for participants from the Kosovo Police, Tax Administration, and Agency for Prevention of Corruption. The course addressed the comprehensive integrity framework, covering concepts applicable to both personal and institutional integrity. Case studies, practical exercises and questionnaires encouraged constructive debate and the exchange of experiences, ideas and opinions among the participants.

LPSC round tables to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings; Prizren, Pejë/Peć, Pristina, and Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kosovo (26 February–18 October 2024)

The Mission supported four round tables facilitated by the Kosovo Police in close co-operation with LPSCs from six police regions, bringing together participants from different communities. These discussions strengthened co-operation between LPSCs, the Kosovo Police and relevant institutions, including local NGOs. The participants learned about legal frameworks on CTHB, early identification of potential victims, risks of recruitment via social networks, and access to local victim support services.

Workshops for new sectorial police officers on the risk of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT); Pejë/Peć, Pristina, Gjilan/Gnjilane, and Prizren, Kosovo (27 February–7 March 2024)

The Mission and Kosovo Police experts delivered training workshops to frontline police officers on the risks of VERLT, focusing on community policing concepts, guiding principles and strategies to strengthen police–public partnerships in preventing and response. Participants also learned about the factors driving youth exposure to extremism, recruitment and radicalization processes, as well as the dangers and characteristics of VERLT and their role in countering it.

Support for implementing the TAHCLE programme (Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement); Pristina, Kosovo (27 February & 25 November 2024)

The Mission, in co-operation with ODIHR, supported the Kosovo Police in organizing two working group meetings to review the results of the TAHCLE programme, bringing together representatives from various Kosovo Police units, the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, the Ombudsperson Institution, prosecution bodies, CSOs and others. The programme included a letter of exchange, signed by all parties, outlining obligations for the Kosovo Police to cascade the training to all officers. During the meetings, the Kosovo Police reported that nearly 1,200 officers had attended hate crime response training programmes and workshops in 2023 and 2024. Recommendations for 2024 included supplementing the training curriculum, expanding modules on hate speech, and delivering awareness-raising lectures for young students, among other measures.

Second Regional Meeting of Experts on Advancing the Canine Regulatory Framework; Durrës, Albania (28–29 February 2024)

The Mission accompanied two officers of the Kosovo Police Canine Unit to the Second Regional Meeting of Experts on Advancing the Canine Regulatory Framework, organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania. The meeting gathered representatives from South-Eastern Europe jurisdictions to exchange insights and good practices on canine medical care and behavioural development. Each jurisdiction presented its methods for selecting dogs across various police disciplines, with particular focus on training challenges related to SALW and explosives.

Round tables on youth involvement in community safety initiatives; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pristina, Prizren, and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Kosovo (28 February–4 April 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in organizing four round tables to foster inter-ethnic community relations and strengthen co-operation through trust-building initiatives focused on police–youth relations. The events brought together young people from different communities, members of LPSCs and municipal community safety councils (MCSCs), as well as representatives from the Ministry of Youth,

Kosovo Police, an NGO and EULEX. Participants learned about youth-related legislation and strategic documents at both local and central levels, aimed at improving opportunities and support for young men and women.

Workshop to review evaluation protocols for newly admitted prisoners; Pristina, Kosovo (5–7 March 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop to facilitate the revision of the Kosovo Correctional Service assessment and re-assessment tools for newly admitted prisoners, in accordance with international good practices. During the workshop, the participants discussed the SOPs of the Unit for Evaluation and Classification of Convicts. They discussed the tools and methods used to evaluate convicts, officers' responses, sources of information for professional evaluations, and the factors underlying risk assessments.

Meeting to exchange experiences and good practices in internal police investigations; Pristina, Kosovo (7 March 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police Internal Investigation Unit in organizing a working meeting that gathered officers from internal investigation units of all eight regional police directorates. The workshop served as a platform to discuss current challenges and share information and experiences regarding internal investigations among the participating police officers.

Information session for non-majority communities on reporting mechanisms for domestic and gender-based violence; Ferizaj/Uroševac, Kosovo (7 March 2024)

The Mission, together with the Kosovo Ashkali-led youth NGO BRAN, the Kosovo Police and the USAID Justice Activity, organized an information session on mechanisms for reporting domestic and gender-based violence and accessing services for victims and survivors. Held as part of the Mission's activities marking International Women's Day, the event gathered women from the Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Roma communities.

Training course on ILP for integrated financial investigations to combat organized crime; Pristina, Kosovo (18–19 March 2024)

The Mission conducted a training course on ILP analytics for integrated financial investigations to combat organized crime. Participants from key institutions—including Kosovo's Police Directorate for Investigation of Economic Crimes and Corruption, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, prosecution service, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), tax administration, customs and Agency for Management of Sequestrated and Confiscated Assets, as well as the Basic Court of Pristina—learned about ILP and the collection and analysis of open-source data.

Workshops to enhance information-gathering capacities of regional police traffic units; Pejë/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pristina, and Prizren, Kosovo (19–28 March 2024)

The Mission facilitated four workshops to enhance the information gathering capacities of officers from the Kosovo Police Regional Traffic Units in accordance with the Integrated Intelligence-led and Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025. The training sessions addressed the need for all Kosovo Police structures and other relevant units to participate in intelligence processes. They covered better resource planning and utilization, the use of analytical products, proactive measures, event anticipation over intervention, and strategies for addressing criminal trends.

Participation of the Association of Women in Kosovo Police in the Global Conference on Gender Equality in the Police; Budva, Montenegro (25–28 March 2024)

The Mission facilitated a visit to Montenegro for members of the Association of Women in Kosovo Police, who participated in the Global Conference on Gender Equality in the Police.

Workshop for sharing good regional practices on the protection and reintegration of victims; Pristina, Kosovo (27 March 2024)

The Mission facilitated a workshop on good regional practices for victim protection and reintegration, bringing together representatives from Centres for Social Work across Kosovo. Recognizing common challenges faced by regional jurisdictions in supporting trafficking victims and other vulnerable victim groups, the workshop provided a platform for focused discussions on various relevant topics. Experienced social service practitioners engaged in presentations, case studies and discussions to compare legal frameworks and practices with North Macedonia.

Workshop to review the Regional and Community Risk Assessments for Natural and Other Disasters; Pristina, Kosovo (16–18 April 2024)

The Mission supported the Pristina Directorate for Security and Emergencies to organize a workshop for 18 participants to review or draft municipal Community Risk Assessments for Natural and Other Disasters. Locally identified risks were

added to the central document to ensure that all significant hazards and threats with potential for substantial impact or critical incidents are catalogued, with corresponding mitigations and contingencies.

Training on community policing for new LPSCs; Pristina, Kosovo (16 April–16 May 2024)

The Mission facilitated a series of training sessions on community policing for members of three new LPSCs from Skënderaj/Srbica municipality and one from Ranilug/Ranillug. New LPSC members received guidance on key components of developing project proposals for the Mission to later implement in support of LPSC community safety initiatives. In addition, the Mission facilitated community meetings to strengthen members' capacity to identify and effectively address safety issues, fostering relationships with local communities, municipal officials, police and other partners.

Kosovo Correctional Service international donors meeting; Pristina, Kosovo (17 April 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Correctional Service (KSO) in organizing its first large-scale donor co-ordination meeting to promote the work of the KSO and to explore avenues for funding the newly approved Kosovo Correctional Service Strategic Development Plan 2023–2027. The meeting gathered senior representatives from the Ministry of Justice, diplomatic missions, EULEX, the EU Office in Kosovo, the Council of Europe, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, and the NGO HELP. KSO representatives presented current needs and challenges, emphasizing the importance of advancing the correctional system to effectively address contemporary demands.

Training courses on dealing with perpetrators of domestic violence with substance addictions; Pristina, Kosovo (18–19 & 29–30 April 2024)

The Mission conducted two training courses for officers of the Kosovo Probation Service on managing domestic violence perpetrators with substance addictions. The courses focused on developing comprehensive rehabilitation and prevention approaches of domestic violence perpetrators, identifying the intersection of domestic violence and substance abuse, and strengthening risk assessment and management skills. Participants also discussed good practices for probation supervision and treatment, as well as the importance of collaboration with other agencies and service providers.

Advanced training course on investigating migration cases; Pristina, Kosovo (22 April 2024)

The Mission conducted an advanced training course for Kosovo Police officers on investigating migration cases. The goal of the training was to increase the participants' knowledge on migrant smuggling, especially on the modus operandi of organized crime groups typically using Western Balkan routes, with an emphasis on early identification of trafficking victims among the migrants.

Training courses on emergency responses for community safety forums; Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Kosovo (22–26 April & 21–25 October 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Emergency Management Agency in delivering two training courses for participants from LPSCs, MCSCs and community members from nine municipalities to enhance community risk resilience. The training covered emergency management principles, first aid, firefighting equipment, wildfire response, emergency evacuations, and the use of fire extinguishers. Practical exercises included hands-on training with firefighting equipment during live fire scenarios.

Awareness-raising activity on domestic violence; Gjakovë/Đakovica, Kosovo (23 April 2024)

The Mission supported the Gjakovë/Đakovica Municipal Coordination Mechanisms Against Domestic Violence in organizing an awareness-raising activity for social studies teachers and school psychologists of upper elementary schools. Presentations by Mechanism members and a Mission representative addressed domestic and gender-based violence and related legal frameworks. The activity also included information sessions on the new Law on Domestic Violence (adopted in September 2023) and the *Guidelines for Effective Performance of the Mechanisms*, published by the Mission in 2023.

Round tables to increase community awareness on the dangers of VERLT; Pejë/Peć, Prizren, and Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kosovo (23 & 25–26 April 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in facilitating three round tables to raise awareness of VERLT for representatives of religious communities, senior Kosovo police officers, municipal education directors, and community safety forum members from across Kosovo. The discussions emphasized the complexity and unpredictability of terrorism and violent extremism, underlining the need for tailored central and local action plans and a "whole of society" approach involving civil society.

Training course on crisis communication for police and media; Lipjan/Lipljane, Kosovo (24–30 April 2024)

The Mission, together with the Association of Journalists of Kosovo and the Kosovo Police, organized a crisis management training course for journalists and media workers from diverse communities. The hands-on training aimed to improve collaboration between police and media professionals—including journalists, camera operators and support staff—to enhance their safety while performing their duties. It also strengthened joint efforts to ensure accurate and swift dissemination of critical information.

Dragash/Dragaš Municipal Coordination Mechanism Against Domestic Violence hosts Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo; Dragash/Dragaš, Kosovo (29 April 2024)

The Municipal Coordination Mechanism Against Domestic Violence in the Dragash/Dragaš organized a meeting between the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and key stakeholders, including the regional prosecutor's office, Kosovo Police's domestic violence unit, social services, legal aid providers, healthcare representatives, and the local Islamic council. The meeting highlighted municipal-level efforts being undertaken to combat domestic and gender-based violence. In particular, the efforts of the Dragash/Dragaš Mechanism were commended for hosting members from other municipalities to share good practices. Emphasis was placed on strengthening inter-institutional co-ordination to improve victim support and ensure effective implementation of the legal framework.

Support in rolling out the TAHCLE programme for Kosovo Police; Pristina, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Prizren, and Gjakovë/Đakovica, Kosovo (2–29 May 2024)

Within the TAHCLE programme, the Mission supported the Kosovo Police in conducting six training sessions to strengthen police capacities in investigating hate crimes and treating victims with dignity. The sessions enhanced participants' skills in identifying bias-motivated elements during investigations, under consideration of aggravated circumstances as found in the Criminal Code. In addition, they addressed individual needs assessments, the importance of adequate victim support, and referrals to protection mechanisms. The sessions also emphasized prevention as a core element of community policing in responding to bias-motivated incidents.

Training workshops on psychological aspects of domestic violence; Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Kosovo (2 May–14 June 2024)

The Mission facilitated three training workshops for domestic violence officers from all eight regional police directorates of the Kosovo Police, focused on addressing the psychological needs of domestic violence victims and the psychological well-being of police officers handling such cases. Participants learned to identify vulnerable elements, understand the impact of victimization, and apply practical communication techniques. Discussions also covered the legal framework and the role of community policing in combating domestic violence, with particular emphasis on supporting the mental health of officers involved in such investigations.

Advanced training course on investigating virtual assets; Pristina, Kosovo (7–8 May 2024)

The Mission conducted an advanced training course on investigating virtual assets, including the tracking and analysis of cryptocurrency-related crimes. The course enhanced the knowledge and skills of participants from the Kosovo Police, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, prosecution service, FIU, Tax Administration, customs, Agency for Management of Sequestrated and Confiscated Assets, and the Pristina Basic Court. Case studies and practical exercises encouraged constructive debate and exchange of experiences, and motivated participants to advance inter-institutional co-operation in their daily work.

Revitalization and training workshops for LPSCs; Pristina and Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kosovo (7 May & 4 September 2024)

The Mission assisted the Kosovo Police in conducting two training workshops on partnership development and problem-solving for new members of existing LPSCs. Collaborative discussions with LPSCs and Kosovo Police officers from two regions focused on effective community safety initiatives and their impact on improving residents' quality of life.

Workshop on seizing, freezing and confiscating virtual assets related to crimes; Pristina, Kosovo (10 May 2024)

Subsequent to the above advanced training course on investigating virtual assets, the Mission conducted an additional workshop focusing on expert support in seizing, freezing, and confiscating virtual assets related to crimes for participants from the Kosovo Police, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Prosecution Service, FIU, Kosovo Tax Administration, customs, Agency for Management of Sequestrated and Confiscated Assets, and the Pristina Basic Court.

Supporting the participation of university students in the Western Balkans Cyber Camp; Gjiri i Lalëzit, Albania (10–12 May 2024)

The Mission facilitated the participation of students from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty of the University of Prishtina in the Western Balkans Cyber Camp. The camp gathered students from the region for training on cyber hygiene, policies and threats, with the aim of encouraging interest in cyber security careers.

Training course to improve bilingual training services for Kosovo Academy for Public Safety; Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Kosovo (13–14 May 2024)

The Mission delivered training to language professionals and proof-readers of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety on using the computer-assisted translation software, while ICT staff received training on its functions. The Mission also equipped the Academy with software and four end-user licenses. Participants learned how the tool supports bilingual services and increases productivity through predictive typing and proofreading.

Meetings between religious communities and Kosovo Police on preventing security incidents; three in Pristina, two in Obiliq/Obilić, and one in Ferizaj/Uroševac and in Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (20 May 2024)

The Mission organized meetings on preventing security incidents, bringing together representatives of religious bodies, Kosovo Police and MCSCs from municipalities across Kosovo to introduce the hate crime provisions in the Criminal Code and indicators of hate incidents. Discussions also focused on improving the reporting of hate crime incidents targeting religious communities or sites.

Training course on undercover investigations into official position abuse; Pristina, Kosovo (20–21 May 2024)

The Mission delivered a training course on undercover investigations into the criminal offense of "abuse of official position" for the Kosovo Police, Prosecution Service, Tax Administration and Agency for Prevention of Corruption. Participants learned investigative techniques, methods used for concealing corruption proceeds, and the importance of a sustainable framework for co-operation and knowledge exchange.

Workshops on the consequences of drug misuse and prevention measures; Pristina and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Kosovo (21 & 23 May 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in organizing two workshops to raise awareness among representatives from Municipal Directorates of Education, social workers and new officers involved in patrol, investigation and school safety duties on the consequences of drug misuse and related prevention measures. The workshops examined the risks of drug abuse, its impact on health, behaviour and learning, as well as prevention policies and strategies currently in place.

Training-of-trainers course on financial investigations; Pristina, Kosovo (22–23 May 2024)

The Mission delivered a specialized ToT course on financial investigations to participants from the Kosovo Police, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Prosecution Service, FIU, Tax Administration, customs, Agency for Management of Sequestrated and Confiscated Assets, and the Basic Court of Pristina. The training prepared attendees to serve as effective trainers in integrated financial investigation techniques.

Round table with police and prosecutors on applying diversion measures; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (23 May 2024)

The Mission organized a round table with representatives of the police and prosecution from the Pejë/Peć region to discuss implementing provisions from the Juvenile Justice Code on the use of police warnings as a diversion measure.

Training sessions on handling victims of THB for Centres for Social Work; Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac, and Pristina, Kosovo (27–28 & 30 May 2024)

The Mission conducted three training sessions on handling victims of trafficking for officials from Centres for Social Work across Kosovo. As key actors in supporting victims of THB—from identification to reintegration—the social workers received training to strengthen their knowledge and skills, with a particular focus on assisting child victims through referral, protection, accommodation and reintegration measures.

On-the-job training on enhancing internal quality assurance resources for Kosovo Academy for Public Safety; North Carolina, United States (27 May–01 June 2024)

The Mission supported the visit of a delegation of senior officials of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety and public safety agencies to the North Carolina Justice Academy.

Training course on protecting human rights when countering terrorism; Pristina, Kosovo (29–30 May 2024)

The Mission supported ODIHR in delivering a foundational training course on protecting human rights while countering terrorism to Kosovo Police officers and prosecutors. The course highlighted the link between human rights and operational effectiveness, addressing human rights standards, risks of violations in the context of counter-terrorism, and the impact of violations on both suspects and law enforcement officials. It also included interviewing techniques that build trust and respect, complemented by practical examples and case studies from counter-terrorism operations.

Workshops on addressing cases of sexual violence and GBV; Prizren, Pristina, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (29 May–6 June 2024)

The Mission organized regional workshops for police officers from across Kosovo to enhance their understanding of various forms of violence against women and GBV, as defined by the 2023 Law on Prevention and Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Gender-based Violence. The workshops emphasized co-ordination and cross-sectoral responses to GBV, along with the challenges faced by police as first responders.

Seminar on community safety for non-majority communities; Pristina, Kosovo (3 June 2024)

The Mission facilitated a seminar on community safety together with the Kosovo Police from the municipalities of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, and Obiliq/Obilić. The seminar focused on identifying and addressing community safety issues affecting marginalized non-majority communities facing cultural and social challenges. Kosovo Police officers presented community safety mechanisms, including LPSCs, MCSCs and community policing, and outlined their benefits. Speakers from the police, LPSCs and CSOs emphasized the promotion of LPSCs and the importance of increasing membership from non-majority communities to enhance safety for all.

Workshops for police and prosecutors on hate crime response; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Pristina, Prizren, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, and Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (4 June–16 July 2024)

The Mission facilitated workshops for Kosovo Police officers and prosecutors to discuss responses to hate crimes. The Mission delivered a presentation on the concept of hate crimes and the legal framework, encouraging the Kosovo Police to carefully assess and present bias indicators to prosecutors. Discussions also covered relevant Criminal Code provisions that recognize aggravated circumstances for bias-motived crimes and allow for enhanced penalties upon conviction.

Seminar to raise awareness of environmental crime prevention; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (5 June 2024)

On World Environment Day, the Mission and the Kosovo Police facilitated a seminar to raise awareness of environmental crime prevention for LPSC and MCSC representatives from the Pejë/Peć and Gjakovë/Đakovica regions. These areas are affected by illegal logging, riverbed sand and gravel extraction, and the resulting severe impacts on natural landscapes, ecosystems and community well-being. Participants highlighted key challenges, including insufficient environmental officials, limited knowledge and expertise among existing staff, difficulties in achieving successful prosecutions, and very low penalties for perpetrators, which fail to deter organized crime due to the high profits involved.

Training workshops on crime scene investigation and digital evidence data collection; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Prizren, Pristina, Pejë/Peć, and Gjakovë/Đakovica, Kosovo (7–26 June 2024)

The Kosovo Police Forensic Directorate and the Mission organized training workshops for participants from all regional Kosovo Police directorates. The workshops for first responders and investigators aimed at enhancing their knowledge and practical skills in lawfully and properly responding to and investigating crime scenes, as well as in collecting and preserving digital evidence.

Training on open-source intelligence (OSINT) analysis; Pristina, Kosovo (11–13 June 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in training intelligence analysts from the Department for Intelligence and Analysis, Anti-Terrorism Directorate, and other Kosovo Police intelligence cells on OSINT analysis. The course covered various tools, including search engines, social media analysis tools, web scraping tools and geospatial analysis software, as well as techniques and ethical guidelines for gathering and analysing data from both online and offline sources.

Workshop to identify institutional needs of Kosovo's Police Inspectorate; Pristina, Kosovo (12 June 2024)

In accordance with the identified needs of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, the Mission organized a workshop with officials from the Inspectorate, the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety and the ICITAP of the US Department of Justice to

finalize a training needs assessment for 2024–2027. The document identifies skill gaps and capacity-building priorities to ensure the continuous professional development of personnel.

Workshop for reviewing the SOPs of the Kosovo Police K9 Unit; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (20–21 June 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop and supported the Kosovo Police Specialized Division in a review of the SOPs of the K9 Unit. During the workshop, Kosovo Police members incorporated latest advancements in K9 handling techniques, equipment and legal standards.

Round table with the Kosovo Prison Service and judiciary on the use of alternative punishments; Pristina, Kosovo (21 June 2024)

The Mission organized a regional round table at the Kosovo Prison Service directorate to promote co-operation with judiciary actors and encourage the use of alternative punishments. Participants included representatives of the Prison Service, judiciary, Prosecution Service and Kosovo Police. The workshop raised awareness within the judiciary about the positive impacts of alternative punishments and encouraged their application.

Intercultural youth forums; Prizren, Kosovo (21–23 June & 20–22 September & 13–15 December 2024)

The Mission facilitated three intercultural youth forums with participants from Kosovo Albanian, Kosovo Serb, Kosovo Bosniak and Kosovo Roma youth, Kosovo Police, and members of eight LPSCs from seven municipalities. The events included presentations by the Kosovo Police and LPSCs on preventing negative phenomena such as VERLT, as well as sessions on youth-led initiatives against bullying, tackling fake news, victim protection, cyber security, and the use of advocacy and negotiation skills for problem solving.

Training workshops on strategic communication and public relation skills; Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Prizren, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and Pristina, Kosovo (June & July 2024)

The Mission conducted a comprehensive capacity-building training programme on strategic communication and public relations for senior officials of the Kosovo Police across seven regional directorates. The training aimed to enhance the skills of senior management in strategic communication, public relations, and the use of social media and other online tools, in line with the Kosovo Police Public Relations Strategy. Key elements included the role of internal communication as a basis for effective public messaging, strategies to build community trust, communication during crises, and practical exercises in public speaking and effective language use.

Advanced training course on forensic imaging software for Kosovo Police investigators; Pristina, Kosovo (2–4 July 2024)

The Mission delivered an advanced training course on forensic imaging software to five Kosovo Police forensic investigators to advance their technical capacities in handling digital images and videos. The course combined theory and practical activities, covering integrity and authenticity, image generation processes and image manipulation. Participants enhanced their technical skills, including their ability to analyse processing histories and extract information on integrity, authenticity and source devices. Forensic imaging software supports forensic video analysts in addressing challenges related to the authenticity and integrity of digital image evidence.

Meeting on improving co-operation and communication with judicial institutions of the Agency for Management of Sequestrated and Confiscated Assets; Pristina, Kosovo (4 July 2024)

The Mission organized a site visit to the Agency for Management of Sequestrated and Confiscated Assets warehouse and a workshop on the importance of inter-institutional co-ordination and communication between judicial institutions and the Agency. The event brought together representatives from the Basic Court and Basic Prosecution Office in Pristina, the Special Prosecution Office, the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the Agency and the Mission. During a brainstorming session, participants discussed the processes of sequestration, confiscation and management of criminal assets stored at the Agency's facilities, as well as the challenges and potential interventions to ensure sustainable, effective and efficient asset management.

Bi-annual review workshops on the implementation of the Integrated Intelligence-Led and Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025; Pristina, Kosovo (5 July & 19 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in conducting two bi-annual reviews of the implementation of the Integrated Intelligence-Led and Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025. During the workshop, the Kosovo Police General Director emphasized the need for stronger monitoring and supervision of the Strategy, while the workshop conclusions outlined challenges and proposed recommendations for future actions. Participants acknowledged the Mission's significant contribution to the development and

implementation of the Strategy, and highlighted the strong collaboration between the Kosovo Police and their partners.

Regional round table on sequestration practices; Istog/Istok, Kosovo (18 July 2024)

The Mission supported the Pejë/Peć Basic Court in organizing a round table on sequestration practices for representatives of regional courts, prosecution offices, bar association branches and Kosovo Police from the Pejë/Peć and Gjakovë/Đakovica regions. Participants engaged in interactive discussions on temporary sequestrations following police searches, temporary and final restraint orders, and the roles and responsibilities of all entities involved, and also identified gaps and proposed recommendations.

Round table on the importance of synergy between human resources and recruitment; Pristina, Kosovo (19 July 2024)

A round table brought together recruitment professionals from public safety institutions and the Prime Minister's Adviser on non-majority communities to discuss the importance of synergies between human resources and recruitment functions. The discussion highlighted the benefits of a cohesive approach to staff attraction, selection and retention. The Prime Minister's Adviser presented the legal framework and strategies and policies developed by the Office of the Prime Minister to ensure transparent recruitment practices and an inclusive culture, introducing participants to affirmative measures applicable to job vacancies, particularly those targeting non-majority communities.

Awareness-raising activities for young people from non-majority communities to join the police; Vushtrri/Vučitrn and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North, Kosovo (23–24 July 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in the recruitment process for new cadets by facilitating awareness activities targeting non-majority communities. The sessions informed and prepared interested candidates on the recruitment procedures outlined in a recent vacancy announcement. Participants received presentations from the Kosovo Police Human Resources Department and specially prepared materials designed to streamline the recruitment process and help candidates to succeed.

Round tables with community safety forums and civil society to co-ordinate fundraising for LPSC initiatives; Obiliq/Obilić, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, and Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kosovo (11 September–5 November 2024)

With the Mission's support, the Kosovo Police facilitated four round tables to encourage greater investment in LPSCs and community safety initiatives. The events brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including LPSCs, MCSCs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Youth, Culture, and Sports, and local CSOs. Discussions focused on improving understanding of LPSCs, promoting youth participation in community safety, and strengthening collaboration between the Kosovo Police and civil society. Participants also explored the potential for creating civil society networks

First aid training (OSCE/Leurina Mehmeti)

to bolster co-operation between local NGOs and LPSCs in supporting community safety efforts.

Visit of the Association of Women in the Kosovo Police to North Macedonia for gender-sensitive policing and partnership building; Skopje, North Macedonia (17 September 2024)

In close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje, the Mission facilitated a visit to Skopje for board members of the Association of Women in the Kosovo Police. The visit enabled open dialogue with the Women's Section in the Police Union of North Macedonia, where both groups exchanged experiences and insights on gender-sensitive policies and practices. They also explored opportunities for joint initiatives, mentorship programmes, and the establishment of strong professional networks.

Round table with women in uniform and the Association of Women in the Kosovo Correctional Service; Pristina, Kosovo (20 September 2024)

The Mission facilitated a round table providing a platform for women in the Kosovo Correctional Service and women in uniform from other institutions in Kosovo and beyond to share their experiences, challenges and needs. The discussion promoted dialogue among women in the security sector, particularly those in correctional services, identifying common challenges and exploring strategies to address them. The Minister of Justice called on the Kosovo Correctional Service senior management to support the empowerment of women working in correctional services, and encouraged women to apply for managerial and leadership positions within the sector. Participants outlined recommendations to address issues and challenges encountered by women, including the development of gender equality strategies, closer collaboration between management and the Association of Women in the Kosovo Correctional Service, and enhanced capacity-building initiatives.

Specialized training course on fighting high-level and political corruption; Pristina, Kosovo (23–24 September 2024)

The Mission conducted a specialized training course on fighting high-level and political corruption for 22 participants from the Kosovo Police Directorate for Investigation of Economic Crimes and Corruption, prosecution bodies, the Tax Administration and the Agency for Prevention of Corruption. The training strengthened interagency co-operation and information sharing, while enhancing the participants' knowledge of the concepts, forms and consequences of high-level and political corruption. Attendees examined the differences between high-level corruption and petty corruption, typical examples of political corruption, lobbying versus illicit political party financing, electoral corruption, nepotism and cronyism. Practical exercises on investigative techniques encouraged constructive debate and exchange of experiences among the participants.

Training on statistics for officers of the Kosovo Police Inspectorate; Pristina, Kosovo (23–27 September 2024)

The Mission delivered a training course on the practical application of statistics and data extraction to ten officers of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo. Participants learned to present numbers clearly, analyse complex data, and identify patterns and trends. The training strengthened the capacity of the Police Inspectorate staff to use statistical information in investigations and apply it effectively in reports.

Round tables on anti-violence policies in schools; Pristina, Kosovo (24 & 26 September 2024)

The Mission supported the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in facilitating two round tables on implementing anti-violence policies in schools. The events gathered representatives from the Ministry, Kosovo Police, Centres for Social Work and the education community, including school directors, deputy directors, psychologists and teachers. The Ministry presented anti-violence policies, while the Centres for Social Work explained their approach to cases reported by schools and the Kosovo Police outlined their methods of handling such cases and their role in violence prevention.

Equipping the Youth Centre of Obiliq/Obilić with graphic design and ICT tools for job training; Obiliq/Obilić, Kosovo (26 September 2024)

The Mission supported the LPSC of Obiliq/Obilić in its initiative to equip the Youth Centre with graphic design and ICT equipment, aiming to prepare local youth for the evolving job market in information technology. Through the joint efforts of the Mission, LPSC members, the Kosovo Police and the local community, the initiative seeks to inspire and equip youth from all backgrounds with essential skills. The initiative also reflects the broader positive impact of LPSC initiatives, particularly those promoting youth development and community safety in Obiliq/Obilić.

Workshop for preparing the Pristina MCSC 2025 Annual Action Plan and drafting a school safety plan; Pristina, Kosovo (30 September–2 October 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop to support the Pristina Directorate for Security and Emergencies in finalizing the

MCSC's 2025 annual action plan and drafting a comprehensive School Safety Plan aimed at preventing crime, increasing public safety awareness, and fostering a peaceful society for all communities. The workshop brought together 27 representatives from LPSCs, the Directorate for Security and Emergencies, municipal officials, Kosovo Police, power companies and the Fire Service. Experts from the Directorate highlighted the role of MCSCs in advising municipalities on public safety and addressing community concerns. Participants discussed challenges and developed an action plan for March through December 2025.

Advanced training course on defensive tactics for correctional officers; Istog/Istok, Kosovo (30 September–4 October 2024)

The Mission conducted a training course on defensive tactics for Kosovo Correctional Service officers at Dubravë/Dubrava Prison. The training focused on improving participants' proficiency in control techniques, defensive tactics and the use of restraint equipment. It also covered the force continuum, principles of force application, and compliance with human rights standards, as required in their duties.

Workshops on economic, sexual, physical and psychological violence in cases of domestic violence and GBV; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pristina, Pejë/Peć, and Prizren, Kosovo (1–8 October 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in organizing four workshops for new police officers from various regions on the complexities of domestic violence and GBV. The workshops familiarized officers with the elements of economic, sexual, physical and psychological violence, as well as violence against women and domestic violence, with a focus on the latest provisions of the new Law on Prevention of and Protection from Domestic Violence. Discussions addressed duties and responsibilities, along with Kosovo Police priorities under the current SOPs, emphasizing the need for a professional and empathetic police response.

Formalizing the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety co-operation with the US North Carolina Justice Academy; Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Kosovo (4 October 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety in hosting the Deputy Director of the US North Carolina Justice Academy for the signing of an official co-operation protocol with the Academy. The protocol reinforces the Mission's commitment to integrating international good practices into the Academy's professional training programmes for public safety institutions. It also outlines future co-operation on joint training and education initiatives, scientific research, and the exchange of expertise and curricula for specialized and advanced training of Academy staff and affiliated public safety students.

Training course on research and analysis in the area of police discipline; Pristina, Kosovo (7–11 October 2024)

The Mission conducted a comprehensive training course to enhance the skills of Kosovo Police officers in research and analysis, with a focus on police discipline and background verification. The training, based on real cases handled by the Kosovo Police, expanded participants' understanding of applied research in the context of police integrity. It covered the structure of research and analytical reports, emphasizing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Participants also learned to formulate clear research objectives and questions to guide their analysis and produce meaningful findings.

Open forum discussion on inter-municipal co-operation between MCSCs; Pristina, Kosovo (9 October 2024)

The Mission facilitated an open forum discussion between the MCSCs of Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ranilug/Ranillug and Parteš/Partesh to explore ways of strengthening inter-municipal co-operation on shared safety and security issues. Inter-municipal co-operation is a key priority for MCSCs and is reflected in relevant administrative instructions and the Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality annual work plan. Participants discussed common safety issues, including the physical safety of children in and around school premises, the impact of social media on the psychological safety of children, illegal dump sites and littering in public spaces, stray dogs, and natural disasters such as wildfires and flooding.

Workshop to review the functionality of the Unified Statistical Reporting System of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Prizren, Kosovo (9–11 October 2024)

The Mission facilitated a workshop for 14 representatives of public safety agencies under the Ministry of Internal Affairs to discuss and evaluate the functionality of the Unified Statistical Reporting System, a model and method for extracting, organizing, formatting, and presenting safety and security-related data from various sources. The Head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Administration of Systems and Communications and the system implementer outlined its use, achievements, and challenges faced by some agencies in providing real-time data to the system. Experts attending the workshop emphasized its value as a critical tool for data collectors and service providers.

Training course on investigating corruption and conflict of interest for officers of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo; Pristina, Kosovo (14–18 October 2024)

The Mission delivered a training course on investigating corruption and conflict of interest for 15 officers from the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo. Participants were introduced to the fundamental concept of corruption as a pervasive criminal and socio-economic phenomenon. The training covered the characterization of corruption within various legal systems and major international conventions, as well as approaches to investigating corruption cases in different contexts, emphasizing the need for efficient enforcement mechanisms.

Training and equipping the Kosovo Police with tactical first aid kits; Pristina, Kosovo (16 October 2024)

The Mission and the Kosovo Police conducted a comprehensive first aid training session for officers of specialized Kosovo Police units. The training covered trauma assessment, wound management and basic life support techniques, ensuring participants are prepared to handle medical emergencies in high-stress situations. To complement the training, the Mission equipped the specialized units with tactical first aid kits designed for quick access and ease of use in the field. The kits contain supplies such as tourniquets, dressings and antiseptics to enable immediate aid during operations.

Mayoral visit to Prilužje/Prelluzhë and MCSC meeting; Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Kosovo (21 October 2024)

The Mission facilitated a visit by the mayor of Vushtrri/Vučitrn to the mixed-community Prilužje/Prelluzhë village. The mayor and municipal representatives met with four Kosovo Serb and two Kosovo Roma MCSC members to discuss security issues, lack of compensation for the MCSC members, and youth activities, among other things. Community members noted that political developments in northern Kosovo have affected intercommunity relations at the local level. Following the visit, the Mission supported the municipality in hosting the fourth regular MCSC session, chaired by the mayor, where representatives from the municipality, communities, the Kosovo Police and others discussed the local security situation.

Workshops to launch the *Manual to Prevent Human Trafficking*; Pristina, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (21–29 October 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in facilitating four workshops for 161 representatives of the pre-university education community, including school directors, deputy directors, teachers, psychologists and pedagogues, to launch the Ministry's *Manual on the Prevention of Human Trafficking*. The events introduced the *Manual*, developed by the Ministry in line with its obligations and responsibilities under the Action Plan of the Strategy Against THB 2022–2026.

Workshops on the application of protection orders in domestic violence cases; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pristina, Pejë/Peć, Prizren, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, and Gjakovë/Đakovica, Kosovo (21 October–18 November 2024)

The Mission facilitated eight workshops across Kosovo on the application of protection orders in domestic violence cases for Kosovo Police investigators, prosecutors and judges. The workshops addressed challenges in implementing protection orders, clarified roles and responsibilities, and promoted a multi-sectoral approach in line with the 2023 Law on Prevention and Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women and Gender-based Violence. Prosecutors and judges explained key legal provisions to enhance a better understanding of the topic among police officers.

Training on public relations and media communication for local emergency directorates and Fire and Rescue Units; Pristina, Pejë/Peć, Prizren, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kosovo (28 October–4 November 2024)

The Mission supported Kosovo's Emergency Management Agency by delivering comprehensive public and media relations training for local-level officials, including representatives from regional Emergency Directorates, Emergency Operations Centres, and Fire and Rescue Units across six Kosovo regions. The sessions provided practical skills for managing public and media relations in emergency contexts, and emphasized the strategic use of social media as a communication tool for emergency responses, particularly within the Fire and Rescue sector.

Training course on procurement and contract management for officers of the Kosovo Police Inspectorate; Pristina, Kosovo (11–15 November 2024)

The Mission conducted a training course on procurement and contract management for ten officials of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo. The course introduced key concepts and good practices in procurement, along with expertise in procurement legislation relevant to law enforcement. It emphasized compliance, ethical considerations, and identification and management of potential risks in procurement pro-

cesses. The training also covered the full procurement cycle, from pre-tendering to contract signing, including challenges related to technical specifications and tender placement criteria.

Workshop for the annual review of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Communication Strategy and Action Plan; Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kosovo (13–15 November 2024)

The Mission facilitated a workshop to conduct the annual review of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Communication Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2024. The event brought together representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, Kosovo Police, Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, and Emergency Management Agency to assess achievements, challenges and overall progress in implementing the Strategy. Participants reported on the implementation of activities, particularly those targeting non-majority communities, aimed at fostering transparency, building public trust, and delivering essential information to diverse audiences.

Implementation of community safety initiative; Skënderaj/Srbica, Kosovo (15 November 2024)

The Mission concluded the implementation of an LPSC initiative in Skënderaj/Srbica municipality with the handover of 36 wall-mounted whiteboards to two elementary schools, with the aim to improve learning conditions for around 550 pupils. The need for this support was identified by LPSC members using skills gained during Mission-led problem-solving training. In collaboration with the local community, the LPSC worked closely with the Skënderaj/Srbica municipality to complete the initiative. The school principals expressed gratitude to the Mission for its continued support through LPSC initiatives.

Training course on the management of correctional institutions for senior Kosovo Correctional Service leaders; Lipjan/Lipljane, Kosovo (18–22 November 2024)

The Mission delivered a training course on the management of correctional institutions to strengthen the management skills of Kosovo Correctional Service leaders in key areas of correctional administration. Participants explored ethics and organizational values, with a focus on integrity and fairness in leadership. The course examined leadership styles to improve staff and inmate management, including transformational and situational approaches. Sessions on managing difficult situations and inmates provided strategies for handling conflicts and emergencies, while communication modules addressed barriers and offered techniques to improve communication within institutions.

Training workshops to enhance police and media co-operation during crises; Pristina, Kosovo (19–22 November 2024)

The Mission conducted training workshops on police–-media co-operation and crisis management to strengthen collaboration between police officers and media professionals during high-risk situations. Two intensive two-day sessions brought together fifty participants from key operational police units for in-depth discussions and activities clarifying the roles and operational realities of both sectors in critical incidents. Guided by two media experts, the sessions focused on strategic approaches to crisis management, adherence to information dissemination protocols, and the media's role in shaping public perception during emergencies.

Conference on internal police investigations; Pristina, Kosovo (20–21 November 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police in organizing a conference on internal police investigations, bringing together police officers from internal investigations units, the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, and law enforcement professionals from various jurisdictions. The conference addressed current challenges faced by internal control units in maintaining and strengthening community trust in the police. It provided a platform for exchanging ideas, experiences and good practices, fostering collaboration on common issues and enhancing co-operation in police accountability.

Workshop for drafting the new Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan; Prizren, Kosovo (25–27 November 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs in drafting the new Community Safety Strategy (2025–2029) and Action Plan (2025–2027). The event brought together representatives from relevant government ministries, the Kosovo Police, the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, MCSCs and others to begin developing the action plan using a template based on categories from the previous action plan. The strategy emphasizes strengthening community safety through the establishment of a solid legal framework for community safety forums, ensuring their functionality and co-operation with local and central institutions in addressing safety issues.

Workshop to promote the role of uniformed women in preventing domestic violence, violence against women and femicide; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (26–27 November 2024)

The Mission, in collaboration with the Kosovo Police, Kosovo Correctional Service, Ministry of Justice, and the wom-

en's associations of both institutions, organized a two-day workshop to strengthen the role of women in uniform in preventing domestic violence, violence against women, and femicide. The event focused on empowering women and fostering intersectoral collaboration among key institutions, including law enforcement, healthcare, social services, and the judiciary, to prevent and combat all forms of GBV. Discussions highlighted the importance of leveraging the capacities of women in law enforcement and increasing gender sensitivity within institutions handling such cases.

Workshop for the annual review of the Kosovo Prison Service Development Strategy; Pristina, Kosovo (26–27 November 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop to review the Kosovo Prison Service Development Strategy 2023–2025, providing probation service officers a platform to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategic plan and its implementation to date. Participants discussed completed activities and assessed progress at the Kosovo Prison Service level, supported by a detailed analysis of performance data and ongoing plans, as well as the upcoming activities for the next year. As an outcome of this review, the working group drafted a comprehensive progress report to guide future actions and ensure that the Kosovo Prison Service's strategic objectives are met effectively and efficiently.

Awareness-raising workshops during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV and Domestic Violence; Pristina, Pejë/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane, and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Kosovo (26 November–5 December 2024)

The Mission facilitated four workshops to raise awareness and promote discussions on the challenges and solutions related to accessing justice for victims of GBV and domestic violence. Aligned with the goals of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV and Domestic Violence, the workshops aimed to mobilize local communities, strengthen partnerships with the police, and address key security issues in handling such cases.

Workshop for the annual review of the Kosovo Correctional Service Development Strategy; Pristina, Kosovo (2–3 December 2024)

The Mission conducted a workshop to support the Kosovo Correctional Service in reviewing its Development Strategy 2023–2027. Participants assessed the current strategy to identify areas in need of improvement and addressed key challenges, including difficulties in reporting on the implementation of activities, to ensure more effective tracking and transparency. The review also focused on aligning the Strategy with long-term goals of the Kosovo Correctional Service, ensuring that it remains relevant, forward-thinking, and responsive to both internal and external factors.

Workshop for the annual review of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo Development Strategy and drafting of the new Strategy; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (4–6 December 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop to review the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo Development Strategy 2022–2024, and to develop the new Development Plan and Action Plan 2025–2027. Senior officers of the Police Inspectorate, together with representatives from the Mission and other institutions, assessed the implementation of the current strategy by reporting on achievements and identifying gaps. Participants also discussed key challenges in implementation and emphasized the need to strengthen co-operation between the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo and international partners.

Project management training for public safety institutions; Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Kosovo (5 December 2024)

The Mission conducted a training workshop for senior representatives of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety and other public safety institutions on drafting project proposals to help them secure donor support. Delivered by in-house Mission experts, the workshop brought together senior officials from the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, Kosovo Police, Police Inspectorate, customs, Kosovo Correctional Service, and Emergency Management Agency. Participants learned how to effectively plan project ideas, manage project implementation, seek internal funding, and collaborate with external partners.

Workshop for the annual review of the Association of Women in the Kosovo Police Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2024 and drafting of the new Strategy; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (5–6 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Association of Women in the Kosovo Police in reviewing its Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2024, by organizing a workshop with Kosovo Police officials to evaluate progress and establish future priorities. Particular emphasis was placed on collaborating with non-majority representatives to support recruitment initiatives aimed at increasing the number of female candidates.

Workshop for annual revision of the Kosovo Agency on Forensics Development Strategy and Action Plan; Pristina, Kosovo (6 December 2024)

The Mission conducted a workshop to support the Kosovo Agency on Forensics in reviewing its Development Strategy 2022–2026. Attended by 12 representatives, the workshop analysed progress in achieving the strategic objectives through the implementation of 2024 activities and identified key areas for improvement in the coming years. Forensic experts and policymakers discussed ongoing challenges, including the need for advanced training, expansion of forensic capabilities and integration of new technologies into their work. The discussion also focused on strengthening international co-operation and enhancing the overall effectiveness of forensic investigations.

Annual Executive Council Meeting of LPSCs; Pristina, Kosovo (6 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Police and LPSCs in organizing the 22nd Annual LPSC Executive Council Meeting, attended by representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Police, the Mission, Pristina municipality, Ministry of Youth and Emergency Management Agency. Speakers emphasized good practices, information sharing, and stronger partnerships between LPSCs, the police and other institutions. LPSCs across Kosovo showcased their achievements and discussed future initiatives. Presentations highlighted successful community projects supported by the Mission and other organizations, underlining the value LPSCs bring to public safety and security. Volunteerism, a key element of LPSC work, was also underscored, along with the need for greater support from local and central governments, particularly through the forthcoming Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan.

Training course on strengthening co-operation between police and prosecution in combating corruption; Pristina, Kosovo (9–10 December 2024)

To mark International Anti-Corruption Day, the Mission conducted a training course to strengthen co-operation between the Kosovo Police and the Prosecution Service in investigating and combating corruption. Participants included representatives from the Kosovo Police, the basic and special prosecution, and the Agency for Prevention of Corruption. The course enhanced the investigative and prosecutorial skills of police officers and prosecutors handling corruption cases, and promoted effective communication and collaboration between the two institutions.

Training course on assessing compliance risks in police work; Pristina, Kosovo (9–13 December 2024)

Through a training course delivered to officers of the Police Inspectorate, the Mission enhanced their skills in police oversight, with a focus on assessing compliance risks in police work. The course included real-life case studies and practical scenarios, enabling participants to apply newly acquired knowledge to real-world situations. Good practices for conducting performance inspections were also shared to further improve the participants' ability to monitor and evaluate police work effectively.

Domestic violence training course focusing on vulnerable victims; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Kosovo (10–12 December 2024)

The Mission delivered a training course on domestic violence, with a focus on vulnerable victims, to newly assigned domestic violence investigators and first responders from the Kosovo Police Regional Directorate of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. Conducted by the Mission's in-house experts, the training emphasized police roles and responsibilities under the newly enacted Law on the Protection and Prevention of Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence. Special attention was given to understanding and addressing the psychological needs of vulnerable victims.

Round tables with the Parents Council on child protection; Pristina, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Kosovo (11–17 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in organizing three roundtable sessions focused on child protection as part of an interagency effort to safeguard children from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, and other risks to their well-being. The round tables aimed to ensure sustainability in child protection efforts, and equipped members of the Ministry, the Parents Council, Municipal Directorates of Education, and schools with the knowledge and tools to protect children. Participants were familiarized with ongoing efforts within the educational system from all levels to implement child protection policies, which aim to create a safe environment for all children in Kosovo's public and private pre-university institutions.

Workshop for reviewing the Kosovo Police procedures and guidelines on handling hate crimes; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (17–19 December 2024)

In co-operation with the Kosovo Police, the Mission facilitated a workshop to review the Kosovo Police SOPs on

inter-ethnic and hate crimes, as well as the Kosovo Police Manual on handling hate crimes. Members of relevant police units reviewed both documents and agreed to merge them into a single guide. The workshop also focused on updating the manual to include all key instructions for identifying, investigating and recording bias-motivated crimes.

Workshop on introducing a new environmental crime investigation module for law enforcement and the judiciary; Pristina, Kosovo (18 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety in organizing a workshop to foster inter-institutional dialogue on environmental crime for law enforcement and the judiciary. The workshop brought together participants from the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, the Academy of Justice and the Kosovo Police to discuss the integration of a specialized environmental crime module into the curricula of both academies to strengthen professional capacities in tackling this issue. Representatives from both institutions emphasized the importance of the module, noting its direct impact on community health and safety, as well as the protection of flora and fauna.

Workshop for revising the SOPs of special police operation units; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (23–25 December 2024)

The Mission, in collaboration with the Kosovo Police, conducted a workshop with officers from the Department of Specialized Units and provided in-house expertise to review the SOPs for the Bomb Squad, and the K9 and Special Operations Units. The workshop aimed to align SOPs with international good practices, improve operational efficiency, and address emerging security challenges.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Workshop on empowering women in P/CVERLT; Prizren, Kosovo (28 February 2024)

The Mission supported a capacity-building training event delivered by the Kosovo Police and Mission experts for representatives of local NGOs and women from remote and rural areas of the Prizren region. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, identify and counter VERLT, recognizing women's pivotal role in influencing families and communities.

Workshop on finalizing the Strategy against Narcotics and Action Plan 2024–2028; Pristina, Kosovo (1 March 2024)

Building on a series of workshops and meetings held throughout 2023 to draft the new Strategy and Action Plan against Narcotics, the Mission assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs in organizing a final meeting to complete the document. The meeting brought together 11 members of the working group, including representatives of the Ministry's Secretariat for Strategies and Drug Observatory Office, Kosovo Police, Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, FIU, and the Mission. Discussions focused on finalizing comments and suggestions from various stakeholders, including the EU Drugs Agency, to strengthen the strategic document prior to approval. The Mission's in-house expertise and technical support were considered instrumental throughout the drafting process.

Workshop on inter-institutional co-ordination for combating organized crime and money laundering; Pristina, Kosovo (11 September 2024)

Building on previous training and following the recommendations of the Central Bank, the Mission conducted a workshop on inter-institutional co-ordination for combating organized crime and money laundering. The event brought together 22 participants from the Kosovo Police, prosecution, FIU, Kosovo Tax Administration and various financial institutions (both bank and non-bank). The workshop promoted stronger collaboration and co-ordination of activities among these entities in addressing organized crime, money laundering and terrorist financing.

Training course for police analysts on strategic, operational and tactical assessments; Pristina, Kosovo (17–19 September 2024)

An in-house expert from the Mission delivered a training course to Kosovo Police intelligence analysts aimed at developing their skills in producing strategic, operational and tactical assessments. The course included an overview of ILP, demonstrating how such assessments help identify priorities, support planning, improve policy development and guide decision-making. Participants also learned about the key differences between these assessments and the critical role that analysts play in assisting senior management through tasking and co-ordination, ensuring appropriate resource deployment and providing essential intelligence to operational officers across the Kosovo Police.

Advanced training course for forensic officials on new psychoactive drugs; Pristina, Kosovo (21–25 October 2024)

The Mission delivered a training course on new psychoactive drugs to forensic officials of the Kosovo Agency on Forensics and the Kosovo Police. Participants were introduced to the international and EU legal frameworks, as well as the key international bodies active in this field and their roles. The course covered the main characteristics of the illicit drug market, including dark web structures, differences between new psychoactive substances and traditional drugs, and emerging trends and future perspectives. Recent advancements in analytical chemistry for detecting new psychoactive substances in seized samples, both on site and in forensic laboratories, were discussed, along with health and safety measures for workplaces where such substances may be present, with particular attention to synthetic opioids.

Specialized training course on drug investigations; Pristina, Kosovo (11–13 November 2024)

The Mission organized a training course for newly appointed investigators of the Kosovo Police Anti-Drugs Directorate. Delivered by the Mission's expert and a prosecutor, the training focused on procedural and legal frameworks for drug investigations, with an emphasis on updated provisions of the revised Criminal Procedure Code. The programme also provided participants with the latest tools and knowledge to combat narcotics-related crime and offered an overview of investigative procedures, including case preparation, resource allocation, risk assessment and interagency co-ordination.

Training workshop on proactive investigations of THB; Pristina, Kosovo (12–14 November 2024)

The Mission organized a training workshop on planning and conducting proactive investigations in the area of THB, with a focus on organized crime groups. Delivered by the Mission's in-house expert, the workshop brought together participants from the Kosovo Police Directorate for Investigation of Human Trafficking, as well as the Public Prosecutor's Office and its professional associates. Tailored for investigators and prosecutors handling THB cases, the training combined case studies and practical exercises to enhance participants' knowledge on proactive investigations, global trends and digitalization, technologies used to combat THB, co-ordination and communication, and financial investigations related to THB.

On-the-job training for operational planning and deployment of the K9 and special operations unit of the Kosovo Police; Schloß Holte-Stukenbrock and Brühl, Germany (25–29 November 2024)

The Mission organized intensive on-the-job training for members of the Kosovo Police K9 and Special Operations Unit with the North Rhine-Westphalia State Police in Germany. Officers participated in complex real-life training exercises designed to improve the integration of K9 teams into tactical operations. The training focused on the specialized capabilities of K9 teams, including searches for SALW, cadavers and missing persons, as well as digital detection.

Workshop for the annual review of the Strategy against Human Trafficking; Pristina, Kosovo (3–5 December 2024)

The Mission organized a workshop to conduct the annual review of the 2022–2024 Action Plan of the Strategy against Human Trafficking in Kosovo 2022–2026. The workshop brought together 25 participants representing the Kosovo Anti-trafficking Authority, the Ministry of Internal Affairs Office of the Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator and Secretariat for Strategies, Kosovo Police, Public Prosecutor's Office, Victims' Advocacy and Assistance Office, Centres for Social Works, shelters for victims of trafficking, the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, and other relevant government ministries, institutions and organizations.

Workshop for evaluating the Action Plan of the Strategy against Narcotics; Prizren, Kosovo (4–6 December 2024)

The Mission facilitated a workshop to conduct the first evaluation of the Action Plan of the Strategy against Narcotics 2024–2028. The workshop gathered participants from the Kosovo Coordinator's Office against Narcotics, Secretariat for Strategies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Kosovo Police, Police Inspectorate, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, FIU, Kosovo Correctional Service, Kosovo Medicines Agency and customs, as well as local and international organizations actively engaged in combating narcotics in Kosovo.

Workshop for the annual review of the Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (9–11 December 2024)

The Mission facilitated the first annual review of the Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2027. The workshop gathered working group members representing the Ministry

of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Police, Regulatory Authority for Electronic and Postal Communications, Agency for Information Society, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Economy, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, and the private sector. During the sessions, participants reported on the implementation status of activities carried out during the year.

Workshop on developing the procedures for the destruction of confiscated illicit narcotics; Pristina, Kosovo (12–13 December 2024)

The Mission facilitated a workshop for drafting the SOP for the destruction of confiscated illicit narcotics, in line with objectives of the Action Plan against Narcotics 2024–2028, to which the Mission contributed. The event gathered 15 representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, prosecution bodies, the Kosovo Police, Agency for Medical Products, and the EU Home Affairs Programme of European Union in Kosovo. Discussions focused on key aspects of the narcotics destruction process, including operational procedures, legal and regulatory frameworks, environmental considerations, and mechanisms for effective interagency co-ordination.

Training sessions for the police to detect environmental crimes enabled by organized crime; Pristina and Prizren, Kosovo (16–17 December 2024)

The Mission organized two training sessions on environmental crime, co-delivered by the Mission's in-house expert on organized crime. Attended by police officers from various stations, the sessions provided an overview of the challenges and strategies in addressing these offenses, with a focus on prevention, investigation and collaboration. Participants examined the definition and types of environmental crimes under the Criminal Code, reviewed case studies and relevant legislation and regulations, and discussed evidence-gathering techniques, the role of prosecutors, and ways to strengthen co-operation between law enforcement and environmental protection agencies.

Workshop for the annual review of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy's Action Plan; Pejë/Peć, Kosovo (16–18 December 2024)

The Mission facilitated a workshop to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs in evaluating the progress of the Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Terrorism 2023–2028. The event brought together participants from relevant institutions, as well as local and international experts, to jointly analyse achievements, challenges and opportunities to enhance counter-terrorism efforts. Discussions focused on strengthening inter-institutional co-operation and refining mechanisms to safeguard residents and maintain peace.

On-the-job training for Kosovo Police on handling and investigating bombs and explosives; Ankara, Türkiye (17–18 December 2023)

With Mission's support, members of the Kosovo Police Bomb Unit and Training Division attended on-the-job training delivered by the Turkish National Police on handling and investigating bombs and explosives. The training provided hands-on experience and insights into advanced techniques used by Turkish authorities in managing bomb threats, explosive disposal and post-blast investigations. Participants gained practical knowledge in key areas, including bomb disposal operations, advanced methods for detecting and neutralizing explosives, and good practices for post-blast investigations.

2.1.4 Mission to Montenegro

Introduction

The OSCE Mission to Montenegro (the Mission) was established in June 2006, with the aim to support the host country with the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, as well as facilitate Montenegro's co-operation with the OSCE in all three dimensions of security, particularly the politico-military and human aspects of security and stability. The Mission supports Montenegro with developing a more accountable security sector capable of addressing serious threats and crimes, while ensuring public safety and the protection of the human rights. The Mission's Security Co-operation and Governance Programme continued supporting the authorities of Montenegro in advancing reform processes.

Participants at the regional conference "Human Rights Due Diligence: Building Ethical Supply Chains to Combat Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation" (OSCE/Mission to Montenegro)

Spotlight on

▸ Due diligence in protecting human rights and combating human trafficking for labour exploitation; Budva, Montenegro (16–17 September, 2024)

The Mission, in collaboration with the SR/CTHB and Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro, hosted a regional conference titled "Human Rights Due Diligence: Building Ethical Supply Chains to Combat Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation", the first major regional conference in Montenegro to address THB for labour exploitation within supply chains. The conference brought together key stakeholders—including government officials, law enforcement officers, labour inspectors, representatives of public procurement agencies, CSOs and trade unions—to tackle this critical issue.

Participants gained insights into good practices from Germany, Norway, and Slovenia. As one participant, a labour inspector from Montenegro, said, "the conference was not just a learning opportunity; it was the beginning of a new approach to tackling human trafficking in the region." The conference enhanced collective efforts and strengthened co-operation between the public and private sector, with a particular focus on safeguarding human rights in procurement processes. With the publication of the new EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive in July 2024, the initiative represented a timely step toward aligning regional policies with European standards.

This event marked a significant milestone, empowering stakeholders to address this complex issue and take meaningful action to protect potential and existing victims of THB for labour exploitation.

General police development and reform

Further development of the e-learning platform for the Ministry of the Interior and the Police; Podgorica, Montenegro (16–17 May; 7–11 October; 14–16 October 2024)

The Mission supported three training sessions for content creators of the Ministry of Interior's e-learning platform, which was developed with the Mission's assistance. The first session familiarized Ministry officials with the platform's use. The second session trained additional officials to create and upload training content, while the third session provided advanced training on integrating video materials and developing interactive courses. These sessions were followed by a six-week mentorship programme with Mission experts, during which participants designed a police training course in their respective areas of expertise. These activities enhanced the police training capacities, while significantly reducing government training and education costs.

Development of the "virtual police station" application; Podgorica, Montenegro (throughout 2024)

The Mission provided support for the development of a "virtual police station" application designed to improve direct communication between citizens and the police. The application enables citizens to report incidents, seek assistance, submit complaints about police services, locate police stations in Montenegro with directions, and access real-time traffic updates at border crossings, among other features. By simplifying interaction with the police, it also fosters stronger police–community relations. In 2024 the application was approved by Google and Apple for inclusion in their app stores.

Conducting the 2024 Police Perception Survey; throughout Montenegro (throughout 2024)

For the fifth consecutive year, the Mission supported an annual public opinion survey assessing Montenegrin citizens'

attitudes toward the work of the police, perceptions of personal safety, safety issues at local and national levels, views on corruption, gender equality, trust in institutions, and the progress of police reform. Preliminary findings indicate that fewer residents felt completely safe in 2024 compared to 2023, and that citizens' trust in the police continues to decline, with the average trust rating showing a year-to-year decrease from 2022 to 2024. However, the percentage of citizens who believe men and women are equally capable of performing police duties increased in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Campaign for more women in the police and to encourage young people to seek a career in policing; Danilovgrad, Montenegro (May & June 2024)

The Mission supported the public awareness campaign "I Choose the Police", aimed at encouraging young people, especially women, to pursue careers in policing. A working group composed of representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the Police Academy and the Mission developed a communications and visual plan. As a result of the campaign, there was a notable increase in the number of female applicants to the Police Academy.

Support to the Montenegrin Women Police Association in hosting the Global Conference on Gender Equality in the Police; Budva, Montenegro (26–27 March 2024)

The Mission supported the Montenegrin Women Police Association in organizing and hosting the Global Conference on Gender Equality in the Police, which brought together participants from over 23 countries. During the two-day event, participants exchanged good practices and experiences related to female empowerment in the security sector, as well as ways to promote and strengthen women's representation across all areas of policing. Shortly before the conference, the Montenegrin Women Police Association became an official member of the European Network of Policewomen. This milestone coincided with the Association's 35th anniversary, marking its long-standing commitment to empowering women in law enforcement.

Annual Meeting of Police Persons of Trust; Budva, Montenegro (19–20 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Annual Meeting of the Persons of Trust, organized by the Montenegrin Police Department. Persons of trust are experienced and reliable colleagues to whom police officers can confidentially turn for advice and support. The meeting provided served as a platform to present guidelines on anti-discrimination and strategies for addressing gender-based harassment and bullying. In addition, the police gender and integrity team raised awareness among colleagues on these critical issues.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Evaluation of the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2019–2024, and development of the new gender-responsive National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2025–2028 and the 2025 Action Plan; Podgorica, Montenegro (throughout 2024)

The Mission supported the evaluation of the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2019–2024 and contributed to the development of a new gender-responsive National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2025–2028, together with the accompanying 2025 Action Plan. In addition to conducting desk research and data analysis, the Mission organized and facilitated in-person interviews and workshops to support the drafting process. An expert engaged by the Mission interviewed representatives of key stakeholder groups, while two working group workshops, supported and facilitated by the Mission, brought together representatives from all relevant national authorities to strengthen multisectoral and institutional co-operation.

Training on interviewing potential THB victims for police officers, judiciary and social workers; Budva and Kolašin, Montenegro (25–29 March 2024)

The Mission supported the training of border police officers based on guidance developed for law enforcement when interviewing potential THB victims. During two training sessions, participants learned how to conduct interviews using a gender-sensitive approach and a standardized set of questions, developed with the Mission's support. The sessions enhanced officers' capacities to identify THB victims, ensure legal protection and prevent secondary victimization.

Training course for special investigative methods, including secret surveillance; Podgorica, Montenegro (17–24 April; 18–22 November 2024)

The secret surveillance training for police officers focused on enhancing their knowledge, skills and techniques to improve effectiveness in combating serious and organized crime. The first session introduced the fundamentals of clandestine surveillance, while the second course addressed advanced surveillance techniques.

Regional meeting of experts in the field of special investigative methods for combating serious and organized crime; Budva, Montenegro (8 May 2024)

The Mission organized a regional meeting of the Heads of the Departments for Special Investigative Methods from eight countries—Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia—as well as representatives from the Montenegrin Special Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court. The discussions placed particular emphasis on safeguarding human rights when applying special investigative measures.

Ninth Annual Forensic Conference; Budva, Montenegro (3–4 October 2024)

The Mission hosted the above conference, which brought together representatives from forensic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Serbia. The event focused on strengthening regional co-operation and sharing good practices in forensic science, a critical component of evidence collection in serious and organized crime cases. Key topics included the use of AI in forensics, DNA analysis, and the presentation of forensic evidence in court. The core message of the conference emphasized that "co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations, as well as with the police services and forensic centres of neighbouring countries, is of great importance in the investigation and prosecution of transnational organized crime."

Regional workshop on the online exploitation of women and children by organized criminal groups; Podgorica, Montenegro (11–13 September 2024)

The Mission supported the workshop "Cryptocurrency and Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation", organized by the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA), the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre, the Council of Europe, and the Criminal Intelligence Service of Austria. The event brought together police managers and investigators of cybercrime units from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia. Participants enhanced their knowledge of tools, techniques and good practices for investigating virtual currencies and online sexual exploitation and abuse.

Roundtable meetings on environmental crime and the regional workshop "Fighting Environmental Crime in Montenegro and the Balkans region"; Plavnica Eco Resort, Skadar Lake, Montenegro (5 June; 8–10 October 2024)

The Mission facilitated a round table on environmental crime, bringing together representatives from State institutions, judicial and prosecutorial services, as well as NGOs to discuss ways to enhance co-operation and co-ordination in promoting environmental protection and combating environmental crime. During the event, the Mission presented its analysis "Environmental Crime in Montenegro" along with recommendations for addressing this issue. The follow-up regional workshop "Fighting Environmental Crime in Montenegro and the Balkans region" was organized by the Environment Protection Agency of Montenegro, the French Embassy in Podgorica and the Mission. The workshop brought together representatives from the police, judicial and prosecutorial institutions, international organizations and NGOs from across the region.

2.1.5 Mission to Serbia

Introduction

The OSCE Mission to Serbia (the Mission) was established in 2001 with a mandate to help Serbia build strong, independent, accountable and effective democratic institutions.

The Mission runs a variety of programmes to assist Serbia in its police reform processes and to support national strategies and priorities. These include fighting organized crime, particularly economic crime and corruption, as well as supporting the recruitment of members of minorities into the police service, the prevention of juvenile delinquency, and the strengthening of police accountability and transparency. To increase mutual trust and confidence in the police service, the Mission helps develop community policing principles and works on strengthening the partnership between the police and the public.

Spotlight on

▸ Data protection outreach campaign; throughout Serbia (4 April–16 December 2024)

The Mission supported the Serbian Ministry of Interior in strengthening data protection by improving the enforcement of the Law on Personal Data Protection within police operations.

In 2024, the Mission assisted the Ministry in implementing an outreach campaign, during which a dedicated team visited all 27 police districts and delivered training to 1,550 police commanders and their deputies, who regularly handle and manage large volumes of personal data. The campaign also fostered closer co-operation between the Ministry with the Office of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, as a representative of Commissioner's office was part of the team.

These efforts enhanced the protection of citizens' personal data, reducing the risk of misuse or unauthorized access to sensitive information. As a result, people in Serbia can feel more confident that their privacy is safeguarded through improved police procedures. Strengthening data protection within law enforcement also helps build greater public trust, encouraging citizens to engage more openly with authorities, knowing their personal information is handled responsibly and transparently.

General police development and reform

Results of the 2024 Public Perception Survey; throughout Serbia (November–December 2024)

The Mission conducted the 2024 Public Perception Survey on a nationally representative sample of 1,010 citizens, examining trends in trust, safety concerns, and institutional performance in Serbia.

The survey findings provide valuable insights for decision makers, enabling both the Mission and the Ministry of Interi-

or to analyse long-term trends and align them with ongoing reform efforts.

Lecture on the Mission's work at the National Defence School; Belgrade, Serbia (29 February 2024)

To raise awareness of the Mission's activities and its contribution to security, the Head of Mission delivered a lecture to the eighth class of the "Advanced Security and Defence Studies" course at the Department of Strategy, National Defence School, University of Defence. The lecture outlined the OSCE's role in European security, its institutional structure, and its core principles and commitments, with a particular focus on the Mission to Serbia and its support for their implementation. Course participants included high-ranking officials of the Serbian Ministry of Defence, Army, Ministry of Interior, and Members of the National Assembly, as well as the defence ministries of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Hungary.

Training seminars on juvenile crime prevention; Srebrno Jezero, Šabac, Serbia (20–22 March & 3–5 April 2024)

To strengthen a multi-stakeholder approach to preventative work with youth and vulnerable groups, the Mission, in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior, organized training seminars for junior police officers from the districts of Novi Sad, Smederevo, Sombor, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica, Šabac and Zrenjanin. The seminars focused on international standards related to youth crime, the appropriate application of police powers to minors, methods for contacting and interviewing juvenile offenders, and procedures for securing evidence in cases involving narcotics, terrorism, extremism or cybercrime.

Lectures on OSCE's comprehensive approach to security for students of Belgrade University's Law Faculty; Belgrade, Serbia (20–21 March 2024)

To explain and promote the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, representatives from the Mission delivered five lectures at the Department of Theory, Sociology and Philosophy of the Law Faculty at University of Belgrade. The lectures addressed corruption from a sociological perspective and highlighted the Mission's efforts to strengthen national capacities for fighting corruption.

Women Police Officers Network members exchange experiences on gender equality; Budva, Montenegro (25–28 March 2024)

To further strengthen advocacy efforts and expertise on gender equality within the police service, the Mission supported three members of the management board of the Serbian Women Police Officers Network to attend the Global Conference on Gender Equality in Police, co-organized by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the Montenegrin Women Police Officers Network, the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime and the European Network of Policewomen.

Learning about data protection (OSCE)

Workshop on the role of young people in local safety councils (LSCs); Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia (28–29 March 2024)

As part of its broader efforts to introduce the concept of local safety and strengthen preventative work with young people, the Mission, in co-operation with the National Association of Local Youth Offices, organized a workshop for representatives of local youth offices and LSCs from across Serbia. A representative from the Ministry of Interior highlighted the crucial role of young people in shaping and strengthening LSCs, as well as the challenges they encounter in this process. The workshop aimed to promote LSCs as the key mechanism for developing police–public partnerships at the local level and to encourage shared responsibility between all stakeholders in addressing local safety issues.

Presentation of the 2023 annual survey findings to Ministry of Interior officials; Belgrade, Serbia (3 April 2024)

The Mission presented the findings of the 2023 Annual Public Perception Survey of Police Work and Citizens' Perceptions of Safety to the Ministry of the Interior. The presentation highlighted both positive trends and areas requiring improvement within the police service, focusing on public trust in institutions, perceptions of corruption, political influence on operational work, and reluctance to report criminal acts. In 2023, trust in the police increased overall, with 44 per cent of respondents expressing confidence. However, distrust also grew, with 27 per cent reporting a lack of confidence. Trust levels were notably lower among young people, at 33 per cent. The survey was conducted on a nationally representative sample of 1,007 respondents using a structured questionnaire designed for face-to-face interviews.

Kick-off activities for the development of a case management system; Belgrade, Serbia (8–12 April & 28–31 May 2024)

The Mission facilitated structured meetings between the Ministry of the Interior and the company contracted to develop the Ministry's case management system. Discussions focused on application's planned features, enabling the company to draft detailed software specifications tailored to the existing workflow and operational needs of the Criminal Investigation Directorate.

Youth crime prevention workshops for students; Belgrade, Serbia (12, 15, 16, 19 & 23 April 2024)

The Mission supported a series of workshops for students as part of the youth crime prevention programme "My Right to Know my Rights and Obligations". Held at the Mission's premises, the workshops informed high school students about their rights and responsibilities during encounters with the police. Participants included students from 20 Belgrade high schools. Experts from the Ministry of the Interior facilitated sessions covering various aspects of youth crime prevention. Through practical exercises, students learned to recognize and address different forms of violence in both real and virtual environments. Special attention was given to developing skills for resisting peer pressure and identifying socially acceptable activities as alternatives to risky behaviour.

Regional workshop on effective communication for women police officers; Vršac, Serbia (16–18 April 2024)

The Mission and the Serbian Ministry of the Interior—this year's chair of the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA)—organized a regional workshop on effective communication for women police officers. Participants included officers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia, as well as the SEPCA Regional Coordinator. The event was co-organized with the ICITAP of the US Department of Justice.

Assessment of screening tests for police recruit selection; Belgrade, Serbia (19 April 2024)

The Mission organized the presentation of an analysis of the psychological screening tests used for basic police training enrolment. The event gathered representatives from the General Police Directorate, Directorate for Police Training and the Basic Police Training Center, Human Resources Department, and Psychological Department. The expert assessment focused on the predictive validity of psychological testing in determining the suitability of recruits.

Enhancing police competencies in addressing discrimination and hate crimes; Kopaonik and Belgrade, Serbia (9–10 May & 26–27 December 2024)

The Mission, in co-operation with the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and the Ministry of the Interior, organized training events on recognizing and responding to discrimination and hate crime. Police officers from Niš, Novi Pazar, Leskovac and Prokuplje (in May) and Belgrade (in December) attended the sessions, which aimed to train officers to identify and address discrimination. Participants also learned about the role and mandate of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, international standards for protection against discrimination, and communication aspects of the police mandate. Special attention was given to specific areas of police work with a heightened risk of discrimination, such as cases of domestic violence, interactions with minors

and vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities, and members of the LGBT community.

Project management workshop for police officers; Belgrade, Serbia (29–31 May 2024)

The Mission organized a project management workshop for officers from the Ministry of the Interior's Criminal Investigations Directorate. Through interactive sessions and hands-on exercises, participants learned to apply the logical framework methodology to effectively plan, monitor and evaluate projects. The training was particularly valuable for participants with no prior experience in project writing, equipping them with essential tools to define objectives, analyse problems, and develop successful project proposals.

Advocating the concept of LSCs with local officials; Bač and Bačka Palanka, Serbia (5 June 2024)

The Mission advocated for the establishment of LSCs in visits to municipal officials in Bač and Bačka Palanka. Representatives of both municipalities expressed their willingness to continue the work of the LSC. They also informed the Mission about the outcome of a recent capacity-building activity: the Municipality of Bač purchased and donated equipment to the local police station. The equipment will support the police in performing their daily duties, including preventive measures for traffic safety.

Training on corruption risk assessment for the Ministry of the Interior; Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia (10–12 June 2024)

The Mission, in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior's Sector for Internal Control and the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, organized a training workshop on corruption risk assessment for members of the Ministry's working group. The workshop introduced participants to the methodology and procedures for conducting corruption risk assessments.

Study visit to Italy on good practices in case management systems; Rome, Italy (11–14 June 2024)

The Mission, in co-operation with the Italian Guardia di Finanza, organized a study visit to Rome to support the Serbian police in designing its case management system. During the visit, Serbian police officers were introduced to the Guardia's MOLECOLA software and its practical application in daily operations.

Project cycle management (PCM) workshop for police officers from national minorities; Belgrade, Serbia (18–19 June 2024)

To promote an inclusive police service with fair representation of officers from national minorities, the Mission facilitated a PCM workshop for officers who are members of the police association European Police Officers of National Minorities. The workshop equipped participants with the skills to design projects and apply result-based thinking.

Support for modernizing the community policing curriculum at the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies; Srebrno Jezero, Serbia (1–4 July 2024)

The Mission supported the Ministry of the Interior and the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies in updating and modernizing the community policing curriculum "Crime Prevention through Problem-Oriented Policing". The working group responsible for the update consisted of eight members—seven from the Uniform Police Directorate and one from the University. The revised curriculum focuses on equipping officers with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for effective problem-oriented policing and project development.

Technical assessment of the case management system; Belgrade, Serbia (9–12 July 2024)

The Mission organized the technical assessment workshop for the design and development of the case management system software within the Criminal Investigation Directorate. Representatives from the company responsible for developing the software visited the Ministry of the Interior to discuss the detailed design of the system's features.

Presentation of evaluation on inclusive police recruitment; Belgrade, Serbia (17 July 2024)

As part of its efforts to support inclusive police recruitment, the Mission presented to the Ministry of the Interior the recommendations from an external evaluation, commissioned in 2023, on the Mission's support to the vocational police association "Police Officers of National Minorities – Europe Polis". The Mission also hosted a discussion on further improving the Ministry's recruitment and selection process. Special attention was given to addressing language gaps, particularly how to test the knowledge of Serbian as a non-mother tongue, as well as to enhancing professional orientation.

Training for school police officers on preventing substance abuse among youth; Belgrade, Serbia (12–27 August 2024)

To foster drug prevention and improve safety in schools, the Mission, in co-operation with the Ministries of the Interior and Education, organized three training courses to strengthen the skills and knowledge of school police officers in preventing substance abuse among youth. The officers learned more about their role in drug abuse prevention, how to provide reassurance and a sense of safety within school communities, and how to become more approachable and supportive for children and young people. This activity directly supports the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse.

Training courses for police officers implementing the project "Together and Safely through Childhood"; Belgrade, Serbia (21–26 August 2024)

To strengthen a multi-stakeholder approach to preventative work with youth and vulnerable groups, the Mission supported the Ministry of the Interior in organizing four training seminars for police officers involved in the project "Together and Safely through Childhood". The seminars brought together officers from various branches of the police, including juvenile delinquency units, fire brigades, traffic police and uniformed police.

Development of a mid-term action plan on national minority inclusion in the police; Srebrno Jezero, Serbia (23–25 August 2024)

To promote inclusive recruitment practices, the Mission organized an event to support the police association European Officers of National Minorities in developing its Action Plan for the period 2025/2026.

Launch of the second year of the project "Together and Safely through Childhood"; Belgrade, Serbia (6 September 2024)

The Mission supported the launch of the second year of the project "Together and Safely through Childhood", implemented in all elementary schools in Serbia during the 2024–2025 school year. The Head of Mission, together with the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Education and the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, addressed the audience at the event. Other project partners, including the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, the Road Traffic Safety Agency, CARITAS Serbia, the International Rescue Committee and the Women Police Officers Network were also present. For the second consecutive year, the Mission supported the project by providing online platform licenses for educational workshops, promotional materials, and assistance in organizing training events for police officers from various branches involved in the project's implementation.

Case management system assessment presentation; Belgrade, Serbia (24–27 September 2024)

The Mission organized a presentation for the Ministry of the Interior's Criminal Investigation Directorate on the results of the assessment and the proposed design features of the case management system application. The company designing the system presented the detailed software functionalities, features and workflow processes.

Training-of-trainers workshop for the "Strong Families" programme for preventing drug abuse and youth violence; Belgrade, Serbia (16–17 October 2024)

In partnership with Serbia's Ministry of Education and the UNODC, the Mission organized a ToT workshop titled "Strong Families" for school psychologists and specialists from eight school districts. The "Strong Families" programme focuses on improving parenting skills, child well-being and family mental health to prevent drug abuse, violence, crime, and poor educational outcomes among children. Participants learned strategies to foster positive family interactions and support parents in helping their children make informed decisions.

Training seminar on juvenile crime prevention; Vrdnik, Serbia (28–30 October 2024)

The Mission supported a training seminar for police officers from the districts of Belgrade, Kikinda and Pančevo, focusing on addressing juvenile crime. The seminar covered international standards in juvenile justice, the appropriate application of police powers to minors, methods for contacting and interviewing juvenile offenders, and guidelines for the treatment of this group of society. It also included sessions on securing evidence in cases involving narcotics abuse, suspected terrorism and extremism, cybercrime and other related offenses.

Outreach to national minority candidates for police recruitment; throughout Serbia (3–9 October 2024)

The Mission enabled a delegation from the police association European Officers of National Minorities to visit various locations across the country ahead of the call for basic police training. The outreach included face-to-face discussions with national minority candidates in towns and cities across the country, including Belgrade, Bor, Bujanovac, Dimitro-

vgrad, Čačak, Kikinda, Kraljevo, Leskovac, Niš, Novi Sad, Novi Pazar, Pančevo, Pirot, Požarevac, Preševo, Prokuplje, Sombor, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica, Tutin, Užice, Vranje, Zaječar and Zrenjanin. Among other topics, the association informed potential recruits about updates to the application criteria, including an increase in the age limit from 24 to 30.

Police competencies in addressing discrimination and hate crime; Pirot, Serbia (6–7 November 2024)

The Mission, in co-operation with the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and the Ministry of the Interior, organized a second seminar on recognizing and responding to discrimination and hate crime. Police officers from Dimitrovgrad, Niš, Pirot and Zaječar attended the session. These seminars aim to train officers who regularly interact with citizens to identify and address discrimination. The training covers techniques for recognizing and appropriately responding to discrimination incidents, as well as strategies for mitigating implicit bias in their professional duties. Additionally, the sessions raise awareness of the challenges faced by vulnerable groups, fostering greater empathy and understanding in interactions with diverse communities.

Round tables on the implementation of the Law on prevention of domestic violence; Niš and Kragujevac, Serbia (5 & 13 November 2024)

The Mission, together with the Ministry of Justice, organized two round tables for prosecutors, judges, police and centres for social work to discuss challenges in implementing the Law on prevention of domestic violence. These events provided a platform for members of the co-ordination groups established under the law to engage in professional discussions aimed at identifying practical challenges and procedural shortcomings.

Workshop for gender focal points on gender analysis; Belgrade, Serbia (20 November 2024)

The Mission supported the Ministry of the Interior's Person for Gender Equality in convening an initial workshop for gender focal points. At the workshop, participants conceptualized and outlined the steps required to complete the Ministry's gender analysis, in line with the Law on Gender Equality.

Seminar for the Ministry of Defence on combating discrimination; Vrdnik, Serbia (25–26 November 2024)

The Mission supported the Commissioner for Protection of Equality in organizing the first seminar on recognizing and responding to discrimination for staff of the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Army. Participants learned from the Commissioner's expert team about the policies, practices and procedures for recognizing and reporting discrimination.

Informative sessions for minority applicants to basic police training; Novi Sad, Subotica, Kikinda Sremska Mitrovica, Pančevo, Zaječar, Pirot, Niš, Leskovac, Novi Pazar, and Vranje, Serbia (25 November–4 December 2024)

The Mission supported the police association European Police Officers of National Minorities in conducting informative sessions across the country for applicants from national minorities interested in basic police training.

Training course on police assets declaration as part of anti-corruption measures; Belgrade, Serbia (25 November–9 December 2024)

The Mission supported the organization of seminars for officers from the Belgrade Police District, the Border Management Directorate and the Sector for Emergency Situations on the asset declaration process as part of anti-corruption measures. The workshops were also attended by final-year students of the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies. The seminars focused on the legal responsibility of police officers to declare their property and the obligation of the Ministry of the Interior to monitor changes in the asset registry.

Impact assessment of the case management system on data protection; Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia (26 November–29 November 2024)

The Mission, in co-operation with the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, organized a workshop to develop an impact assessment of the case management system on personal data protection. The workshop was moderated and led by a local expert specializing in human rights and personal data protection.

Conference on hostage negotiation teams; Belgrade, Serbia (3–4 December 2024)

The Ministry of the Interior and the Mission organized the conference "Police Negotiation – Adapting to New Challenges", marking the twentieth anniversary of the Ministry's Negotiating Team in Serbia. The conference brought together domestic experts and participants from nine countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Slovenia.

Basic police training qualification exam tests available in national minority languages; Belgrade, Serbia (1 November–22 December 2024)

The Ministry of the Interior revised the Regulation on the Professional Development of Police, introducing several key changes to attract more applications for basic police training. These include raising the age limit to 30, extending the duration of open calls to give potential applicants more time to apply, and redesigning Serbian language tests to assess functional language proficiency. The Mission continues to advocate for the enrolment of national minorities in the police force by ensuring that entry tests are available to candidates from these communities. To this end, the Mission facilitated the translation of the tests into Albanian, Slovak and Hungarian, further supporting the development of a police force that is more representative of Serbia's diverse population.

Expert meeting of traffic police and misdemeanour judges; Sokobanja, Serbia (11–12 December 2024)

The Mission supported the fourth expert meeting of representatives of the traffic police and misdemeanour courts. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives from both institutions to exchange views and share relevant data on the implementation of the Law on Road Traffic Safety. Participants discussed existing challenges, as well as anticipated issues related to the upcoming adoption of the new law, expected next year.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Steering committee meetings of the SALW project; Belgrade, Serbia (4 March, 3 October, 6 November & 2 December 2024)

The Mission's SALW team organized four project steering committee meetings for the project "Strengthening the capacities of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior to more effectively reduce, prevent, and counter illicit trafficking and misuse of SALW, ammunition and explosives". The meetings were attended by designated representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the Serbian Proofhouse, and the project's donors (the EU and France). The sessions provided an opportunity for the SALW project team to present project activities, results and implementation plan, as well as to discuss the request and process for amending the project.

Sub-regional training event on ICT and security; Belgrade, Serbia (13–14 March 2024)

To strengthen understanding of cyber and ICT security as an international policy field, and to promote the effective implementation of the OSCE cyber/ICT security confidence building measures, the Mission, in co-operation with OSCE TNTD and Serbia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized the "Sub-regional training on the role of ICTs in the context of regional and international security". The event enhanced national preparedness, crisis management and co-ordination mechanisms at both the technical and policy levels, while also fostering effective regional communication and co-operation. Representatives from participating States in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe took part in panel discussions on the impact of confidence building measures in strengthening national resilience and regional co-operation.

Development of a handbook on parallel and proactive financial investigations; Belgrade and Vršac, Serbia (22 March & 6–7 November 2024)

To strengthen capacities for implementing recommendations from the global FATF report on money laundering and terrorist financing, the Mission supported two meetings of a multi-stakeholder expert group to develop a handbook for conducting parallel and proactive financial investigations. The expert group focused on the development of the handbook with particular emphasis on addressing FATF Recommendation No. 30, which calls for enhancing the ability to conduct complex financial investigations in parallel with criminal investigations. The group consisted of representatives from the Tax Administration, the Ministry of the Interior (Financial Investigations Unit, Anti-Corruption Department, and Service for Combating Organized Crime), the Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering, and the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Offices (including the Public Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Departments).

Dialogue between the cybercrime unit of the Ministry of the Interior and leading online platforms; Dublin, Ireland (25–27 March 2024)

The Mission organized an exchange between Serbian officials and representatives of the online platforms Meta and TikTok. The meetings focused on communication protocols and exploring ways to enhance co-operation in emergencies, particularly those involving terrorism and direct threats to life.

Participation of Serbian youth teams in cybersecurity competition; Belgrade, Serbia (4–5 April 2024)

The Mission supported the Cybersecurity Network Foundation in inviting members of the Serbian youth team, who qualified to participate in the 2024 Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge. The challenge required participants to demonstrate knowledge of various aspects of cybersecurity, including technical components, international legal frameworks and communication strategies. The competition was designed for students at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels.

Co-ordination meeting among police liaison officers in Serbia; Belgrade, Serbia (25 April 2024)

The Mission organized a co-ordination meeting between the Organized Crime Unit and police liaison officers in Serbia. The meeting focused on providing updates and discussing recent initiatives, as well as exploring opportunities for co-operation in combating organized crime, financial crimes and corruption, migrant smuggling and human trafficking, drugs and firearms trafficking, terrorism, and issues related to cyber--crime and cyber security.

Strengthening the oversight mechanism of the Anti-Corruption Department; Belgrade, Serbia (9 May 2024)

To support police investigators in resolving unsolved cases and provide recommendations for future actions, the Mission organized a meeting to assist the Ministry of the Interior's Anti-Corruption Department Working Group in developing methodologies and procedures for overseeing ongoing cases across Serbia. This initiative aligns with the Police Directorate's objective to ensure effective guidance and oversight of police departments and units, as mandated by the Law on Police.

Youth participation at the Western Balkan Cyber Camp; Durres, Albania (10 to 12 May 2024)

The Mission supported the Serbian delegation's participation in the Western Balkan Cyber Camp. The camp is a platform for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, enhancing skills in cybersecurity, and enabling participants a dynamic learning environment and connecting with peers across the region. The delegation included students studying ICT, as well as two representatives from the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad and the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services. The participation of the Serbian delegation was further supported by the Cybersecurity Network Foundation and the Regulatory Authority. The Cyber Camp covered cyber hygiene, governance and cyber threats, and participants gained practical experience through a hands-on cyber-attack simulation using the Cyber Drill platform. This activity forms part of the Mission's ExB project "Strengthening the Republic of Serbia's National Capacities on Cybersecurity", funded by Italy and Norway.

Serbian Cybersecurity Challenge 2024 and annual meeting of the Cybersecurity Network Foundation; Belgrade, Serbia (14 May 2024)

The Mission supported the 2024 National Cybersecurity Challenge Finals, held at the Serbian-Korean Information Center in Belgrade. Organized jointly with the Mission and the Cybersecurity Network Foundation, the event brought together students and pupils competing for top prizes. Sponsors awarded the winning teams, and businesses in information and network security presented their work and career opportunities. The event concluded with a meeting of the Foundation, where public and private sector representatives and academia discussed strategic cybersecurity issues, including the government's vision under the Cybersecurity Strategy 2021–2026, the harmonization of the EU NIS 2 Directive 2016/1148 with Serbia's new Law on Information Security, upcoming Foundation activities, and education and career pathways for youth in cybersecurity.

Drafting of a guidebook on the management of electronic devices and evidence; Belgrade and Kosmaj, Serbia (16 May & 18–19 September 2024)

The Mission supported the Ministry of Interior's Anti-Corruption Department in drafting a guidebook on managing electronic devices and electronic evidence for investigators handling corruption cases. The guidebook aims to strengthen their abilities to address risks associated with virtual assets, including cryptocurrencies, in the context of money laundering and corruption cases.

Police capacities to handle human sources; Vrdnik and Bajina Basta, Serbia (27–30 May & 28–31 October 2024)

The Mission and the Ministry of the Interior organized a workshop for officers from the Criminal Intelligence Service and the Police Training Directorate to develop a training curriculum on handling human sources. The curriculum, including multiple modules and practical exercises, is designed to build essential skills for future officers. A mock training session was conducted at which newly trained trainers from the Criminal Intelligence Service practiced delivering materials, receiving feedback from Mission staff and a mentor from the Ministry's Police Training Directorate. Once approved, completion of this training will become mandatory for all investigators

applying to the Criminal Intelligence Service, including active informant handlers and controllers.

Training on advanced financial investigations in cryptocurrencies and the dark web; Vrnjačka Banja and Belgrade, Serbia (3–7 June 2024)

The Mission organized consecutive training events on conducting advanced financial investigations involving cryptocurrencies and the dark web. Participants included police officers from the Ministry of the Interior's Sector for Internal Control, and prosecutors. The sessions were delivered by Mission experts, high-tech crime specialists from the Ministry of the Interior, and representatives of the Italian Guardia di Finanza. The training focused on the practical implementation of investigations and the legal processing of cases.

Working group meetings for K9 unit SOPs and the K9 General Plan; Belgrade, Serbia (6 June, 4 July, 22 August, 26 September, 4 November & 18 December 2024)

The Mission's SALW team hosted meetings of the Ministry of the Interior's working group to develop SOPs for the use of K9 capacities and to finalize the K9 General Plan. The working group collaborated closely with an international expert to compile, discuss and review feedback on the General Plan. Following thorough deliberation and careful assessment of all recommendations, the General Plan was successfully finalized during the last meeting.

Support for Serbian students to attend preparations for the European Cybersecurity Challenge 2024; Vienna, Austria (6–9 June 2024)

To support Serbia's participation in international cybersecurity competitions, the Mission facilitated the involvement of Serbian students in preparatory activities for the European Cybersecurity Challenge 2024. The preparations aimed to help participants learn, refine and apply new cybersecurity concepts and techniques, network with peers from other countries, and build teams for the upcoming Challenge. This activity was part of the ExB project "Strengthening the Republic of Serbia's National Capacities on Cybersecurity", funded by Italy and Norway.

Enhancing capacities in investigation and seizure of cryptocurrencies; Niš (12–14 June 2024) and Belgrade, Serbia (27–29 August & 24–26 September 2024)

The Mission collaborated with the Ministry of the Interior's Service for Combating High-Tech Crime and the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Programme Office to organize advanced training courses on investigating and seizing cryptocurrencies. Trainers from the Service for Combating High-Tech Crime covered techniques for monitoring, investigating and analysing cryptocurrency transactions, conducting darknet investigations, understanding various types of cryptocurrencies and wallets, and the fundamentals of money laundering in cyberspace.

Tri-lateral operational meetings on human smuggling; Skopje, North Macedonia (18 June 2024) and Budapest, Hungary (27 November 2024)

Continuing its support for regional co-operation in combating human smuggling, the Mission organized an operational meeting for task forces from Hungary, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Police and prosecutors shared latest trends in irregular migration and the current modus operandi of organized criminal groups in their respective countries. They also exchanged information and intelligence on ongoing cases of mutual interest. The meeting in Budapest brought together key partners from Austria, Germany, Hungary and Türkiye. Given their critical role in migrant smuggling activities along the Balkan route, the task forces of Serbia and North Macedonia explored ways to build on Hungary's operational experience. Each country presented the results of recent operations, assessed the current migrant-smuggling landscape, and discussed potential areas for closer future co-operation.

Support for a Serbian representative to attend the annual EU cyber exercise; Athens, Greece (19–20 June 2024)

The Mission supported a representative of the Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services to attend the visitor programme of Cyber Europe 2024, organized by the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity. Participants learned about the EU Agency's capacity-building activities, discussed the resilience and criticality of energy and digital infrastructure sectors, and explored new opportunities for cybersecurity research and innovation.

Organization of two executive board meetings; online (27 June & 24 October 2024)

To enhance regional co-operation, information-sharing and the efficiency of transnational organized crime investigations, the Mission supported two online executive board meetings of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors (PCOCP), with members from Bulgaria (as PCOCP Secretariat), Greece, Montenegro and Romania. The meetings provided a platform to agree on logistical matters and the topics to be addressed at the annual PCOCP meeting.

Presentation of the report *Understanding the role of women in organized crime*; Belgrade, Serbia (2–3 July 2024)

The Mission supported TNTD/SPMU in convening a workshop to present the report *Understanding the role of women in organized crime*. The workshop aimed to enhance criminal justice practitioners and policymakers' understanding of how women are recruited into organized crime, their roles inside criminal networks, as well as how and why they exit these organizations. It further showcased good practices from across the OSCE area on gender-sensitive organized crime prevention initiatives.

Participation of Serbian Ministry of the Interior representatives at the annual OSCE-wide ICT conference; Valletta, Malta (15–16 July 2024)

As part of its efforts to strengthen the capacities of Serbia's authorities to prevent and counter cybersecurity threats, the Mission supported the participation of a representative from the Ministry of the Interior Computer Emergency Response Team and one Mission member in the annual OSCE-wide Chairperson-in-Office conference on cyber/ICT security, "Strengthening national cyber resilience". The conference brought together relevant national cyber policymakers to discuss the OSCE's ongoing work and explore ways to further enhance resilience against emerging threats.

Meetings to discuss amendments to Serbia's Law on Organized Crime; Belgrade, Serbia (24 September, 29 October & 18 November 2024)

The Mission co-hosted meetings of an expert group tasked with discussing potential amendments and addendums to Serbia's Law on Organized Crime. At the request of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, the Mission supported a group of practitioners comprising prosecutors, judges and representatives from the Ministries of Interior and Justice. Divided into sub-groups (police, prosecutors, and judges), participants worked on concrete solutions to strengthen current legislation. Their proposals, supported by the Ministry of Justice, may be included in the final law revisions. This process forms part of the 2023–2028 National Anti-Corruption Strategy and is expected to be completed by 2025. During three subsequent meetings, the group addressed topics such as creating a catalogue of criminal offenses under various jurisdictions.

Workshop of the Cybersecurity Network Foundation on strategic cybersecurity-related matters; Kragujevac, Serbia (24–26 September 2024)

The Mission supported Serbia's Cybersecurity Network Foundation in organizing a workshop for its members from the public and private sectors and academia to discuss strategic cybersecurity matters. Topics included the government's vision and activities outlined in the Cybersecurity Strategy for the period 2021–2026, the harmonization of the cybersecurity-related EU NIS 2 Directive 2016/1148 with the new Law on Information Security, the Foundation's upcoming activities, and education and career opportunities for youth in cybersecurity.

Support for the Serbian youth team to participate in the EU Cybersecurity Challenge 2024; Turin, Italy (7–12 October 2024)

Mission support enabled the participation of the Serbian youth team in the EU Cybersecurity Challenge (ECC) 2024. Following the Serbian Cybersecurity Challenge (SCC) 2024, the Cybersecurity Network Foundation launched a mentoring programme with the winners to select ten students to represent Serbia at the ECC. The Serbian delegation at the ECC 2024 consisted of ten students, one team coach, two members of the ECC Steering Committee from Serbia, and one representative from the SCC Initiative, alongside two Mission members. The ECC, organized by the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity, serves as a platform for top cyber talents from participating countries to meet, network, collaborate and compete. Contestants solved security-related tasks in areas such as web and mobile security, crypto puzzles, reverse engineering and forensics.

Awareness-raising seminars on VERLT; Palić and Pirot, Serbia (13–14 & 25–26 November 2024)

The Mission organized and facilitated seminars for local educational advisors, school psychologists, social workers, and representatives from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy. Participants learned about the pathways and risks of radicalization, violent extremism, terrorism, and the misuse of the internet for terrorist purposes in Serbia. Trainers from the Ministry of the Interior's Service for Combating Terrorism and Uniformed Police shared practical experience and expertise, emphasiz-

ing the importance of mutual trust, close co-operation and information-sharing among all local institutions.

SALW round tables with Ministry of the Interior and hunting associations; Niš (4 October), Kragujevac (11 October), Užice (29 October), Novi Sad (12 November) and Belgrade, Serbia (13 November 2024)

The Mission initiated a series of round tables with the Ministry of the Interior and hunting and shooting associations on the safekeeping and safe use of weapons. These events provided an opportunity for the Ministry of the Interior to present the legal framework on firearm safekeeping and to showcase the awareness campaign developed under the ExB project "Support to designing and implementing awareness raising campaigns on SALW control in Serbia", funded by the European Union, France, Germany and Slovakia.

Workshop for establishing a team for initial assessments of individuals at risk of radicalization; Vrdnik, Serbia (9–12 December 2024)

To support the national working group tasked with creating a mechanism to identify, assess and assist individuals at risk of or on the path to radicalization or violent extremism, the Mission organized a workshop for the multi-agency working group developing a national team for initial assessments of individuals at risk of radicalization (the Initial Assessment Team).

Second SEPCA General Assembly under the Serbian Presidency; Belgrade, Serbia (12 December 2024)

The Mission supported the organization of the second SEPCA General Assembly under the Serbian Presidency. The high-level event gathered police chiefs and law enforcement professionals from the SEPCA region, along with representatives from organizations such as INTERPOL, EU4FAST WB, and others. The event was opened by the Acting Head of Mission, the Serbian Minister of Interior, the President of INTERPOL and a representative from the US Embassy in Serbia. Discussions focused on enhancing the region's capacity to combat human trafficking, migrant smuggling and cybercrime. A representative of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior presented the SEPCA Threat Assessment developed during Serbia's presidency, which was subsequently adopted by SEPCA members. At the conclusion of the event, Serbia handed over the 2025 presidency to Albania.

Support to the 10th PCOCP Annual Meeting in 2024; Vienna, Austria (17–18 December 2024)

The Mission supported the OSCE Secretariat in organizing the 10th Annual Meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors (PCOCP), which brings together prosecutors' offices from Austria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. The annual meeting provides a platform for participating prosecutors to exchange views, share challenges and discuss good practices. The 2024 meeting focused on criminal typologies related to virtual assets, encrypted communications, crimes connected to the dark web and digital evidence.

Learning about data protection (OSCE)

2.1.6 Mission to Skopje

Introduction

The work of the OSCE Mission to Skopje (the Mission) and its Police Development Unit is rooted in the Mission's original policing mandate from 1992 and further guided by OSCE Ministerial Council and Permanent Council decisions arising from the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) of 2001. A key priority for the Mission is monitoring and supporting the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, focusing on decentralization, non-discrimination, language and education rights, as well as equitable representation of all citizens. The Mission's mandate additionally covers police and legislative reforms, rule of law and different areas of good governance.

Spotlight on

▸ Breaking barriers and strengthening detection capacities—OSCE Support to the Police K9 Unit in North Macedonia: Introducing the first woman police dog handler; Skopje, North Macedonia (throughout 2024)

In 2024, the OSCE Mission to Skopje made significant strides in strengthening the detection capacities of the Police K9 Unit as part of its ongoing support for SALW control in SEE. These efforts ▷

Shikova and her K9 partner Ada (OSCE/Annie Engstroem)

were implemented through the ExB project, "Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of SALW.

A key highlight of 2014 was the appointment of Kristina Shikova, the country's first female police dog handler, marking a milestone in the professionalization and gender mainstreaming of the Police K9 Unit. A police officer with six years of service, Shikova joined the K9 Unit in early 2024, fulfilling a long-held personal aspiration. Together with her K9 partner, Ada—a 5-month-old Belgian Shepherd (Malinois)—she is undergoing intensive training in socialization, detection techniques, obedience and operational deployment protocols.

Shikova's appointment reflects the Mission's broader objective of promoting gender equality and diversity in policing. Her role in a traditionally male-dominated field is already inspiring other women to consider careers in specialized police units. The Mission has supported this effort through infrastructural improvements, including gender-sensitive renovations of K9 facilities in Ilinden, Hipodrom, and Gjorche Petrov, where separate changing and sanitary areas for women and men were introduced for the first time in the Unit's history.

Beyond individual achievements, the project has advanced institutional reforms within the K9 Unit. SOPs, training manuals and legal frameworks were developed and aligned with international good practices. Women now participate more actively in working groups, training sessions and regional study visits, strengthening inclusive participation in SALW control efforts.

General police development and reform

Regional Gender and Security Conference; Skopje, North Macedonia (7–8 March 2024)

The Mission and ODIHR organized the Regional Gender and Security Conference, bringing together police representatives, security agencies, and women's police associations from South-Eastern Europe and beyond. The event facilitated dialogue, experience-sharing, and the exchange of good practices to advance gender equality in law enforcement. It highlighted North Macedonia's achievements during its 2023 chairpersonship, particularly efforts to foster inclusive security by engaging women and youth in peace and security initiatives. Participants discussed challenges and opportunities for gender equality in law enforcement, explored gender mentoring programmes, and examined practical steps to empower women in the security sector. The Gender Mentoring Programme for Police in North Macedonia was praised for enhancing gender sensitivity and fostering a cultural change within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. ODIHR presented research on the role of women's police associations in advancing gender equality, emphasizing their effectiveness. The conference concluded with the adoption of the Skopje Recommendations, which outline concrete steps to further gender equality in the security sector.

Engaging women and young people on issues related to local security concerns; Skopje, North Macedonia (20 March–15 October 2024)

The Mission organized four workshops across seven Skopje municipalities—Aerodrom, Kisela Voda, Gazi Baba, Čair, Butel, Čučer Sandevo and Šuto Orizari—bringing together women from diverse social, occupational and ethnic backgrounds. Supporting the implementation of the Community Engagement and Communication Strategy (2024–2026) action plan, the workshops created a platform for women to discuss local security concerns, propose solutions, and engage directly with police prevention officers. This initiative strengthened women's participation in community security, enabling them to influence safety provisions by sharing their perspectives and priorities.

Enhancing the Police and Prosecution Protocol; Skopje, North Macedonia (April–December 2024)

The Mission convened representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Police and the Office of the Prosecutor on five occasions to implement the Police and Public Prosecution Office Protocol for Cooperation. During these working

group meetings, Commission members discussed ways to improve the existing Protocol and agreed to draft a new version. They also decided to develop a communications strategy and to compile and prioritize ten SOPs relevant to the Protocol.

Training on decision-making in disciplinary proceedings; Strumica, North Macedonia (1–5 & 8–12 April 2024)

The Mission organized two training courses on decision-making in disciplinary proceedings for staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Department for Disciplinary Procedures and Court Hearings. A national legal expert led the courses, supported by two guest presenters: a judge from the Basic Civil Court of Skopje and a lawyer. They delivered sessions titled "Judicial Aspects of Disciplinary Procedures" and "The Role of Attorneys in Disciplinary Proceedings". The training combined theoretical discussions, group work and case studies, fostering in-depth engagement with key disciplinary procedures.

External evaluation of the Further Professionalization portfolio 2019–2023; Skopje, North Macedonia (1 April–20 May 2024)

The Mission commissioned two external consultants to evaluate the Further Professionalization portfolio for the period 2019–2023. The assessment examined the Mission's interventions in three key areas: human resources management, police training and career development, and disciplinary practices. The evaluation concluded that the portfolio's ongoing shift toward strategic programming offers the greatest opportunity for driving positive change. To mitigate potential risks, it recommended a monitoring and evaluation system focused on long-term outcomes.

External evaluation of the Democratic Policing portfolio 2019–2023; Skopje, North Macedonia (1 April–20 May 2024)

The Mission commissioned two external consultants to evaluate the Democratic Policing portfolio for the period 2019–2023. The assessment reviewed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of five phases of Democratic Policing projects, focusing on how interventions with the Ministry of Internal Affairs upheld the core principles of democratic policing. The evaluation concluded that the Mission's support added significant value by strengthening the Ministry's capacity to maintain an acceptable level of democratic policing.

Supporting Ministry of Internal Affairs' Training Centre to implement the Manual for Planning Priority Training; Skopje, Veles, Ohrid and Kavadarci, North Macedonia (8 April–15 December 2024)

The Mission assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs in developing and drafting:

a) a methodology to identify priority training;
b) a manual for planning priority training; and
c) an action plan for piloting their implementation.

In 2024, the Mission moved from development to implementation by supporting the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Training Centre working group in piloting the methodology and manual across four key organizational units. Key achievements included:

- Clarifying roles and responsibilities of each organizational unit at different process stages;
- Delivering training courses and mentoring sessions to provide hands-on support;
- Introducing the Ministry of Internal Affairs' first-ever structured approach to training needs assessment and priority planning;
- Strengthening regional and departmental capacity for strategic training management;
- Establishing a scalable model for the Ministry of Internal Affairs' long-term training development.

Through this initiative, the Mission has supported the transformation of institutional training planning from an ad hoc, reactionary process into a structured, data-driven process, ensuring that Ministry of Internal Affairs' human resources office and training priorities align with institutional learning requirements and operational needs.

Support for the Ministry of Internal Affairs in developing training capacities and organizing training-of-trainers courses on mid-level management; Skopje, North Macedonia (15 April–8 November 2024)

The Mission collaborated with trainers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Training Centre to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to deliver a new mid-level management training programme for Ministry staff. The curriculum was based on the 2023 Mid-Level Management Training Needs Analysis conducted by a Mission-commissioned expert and two Centre trainers. This initiative strengthened leadership development within Ministry, ensuring a high-quality, sustainable training programme for future mid-level managers.

Supporting the Training Centre to enhance skills of the newly appointed staff on training needs analysis and training-of-trainers; Skopje, North Macedonia (24 April–15 June 2024)

To address the trainer gap at the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Training Centre, the Mission delivered ToT courses for newly appointed trainers who lacked experience in training delivery, pedagogical knowledge and methodology. To build their skills, the Mission contracted an external consultant to design and deliver a five-day ToT course, equipping trainers with practical methodologies and training materials. The consultant also provided advanced instruction on training needs analysis and introduced innovative training methods, with a particular emphasis on role play.

7th Annual Prevention Workshop; Ohrid, North Macedonia (8–10 October 2024)

The 7th Annual Prevention Workshop advanced prevention efforts within the police and supported the implementation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Strategy on Community Engagement and Communication 2024–2026. The event brought together key prevention officers and senior management representatives from the police and the Ministry. Discussions focused on prevention, community engagement, women and security, addressing nationwide challenges and refining the strategy's execution.

Assessing crime-scene investigation and forensic capabilities; Skopje, North Macedonia (17 October 2024)

The Mission conducted a comprehensive assessment of crime scene investigation and forensic capabilities to identify gaps and enhance interagency co-operation. As part of this effort, the Police Development Unit organized a discussion forum on crime scene investigations and forensics within a broader project assessing national capacities in these fields. The forum brought together representatives from eight Sectors of Internal Affairs, the forensic laboratory and the Public Prosecutor's Office. Discussions focused on findings from desk research on current national legislation and interviews with representatives of Crime Scene Investigation Units and Heads of Crime Police conducted during the project's first phase.

Study visit to the Dutch National Police; Rotterdam, the Netherlands (28–31 October 2024)

The study visit of a North Macedonia delegation to the Dutch National Police focused on exchanging experiences and good practices in human resources management within police organizations. Following recent amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs, which emphasize a merit-based career development system, the visit to the Dutch National Police offered valuable insights for the delegation. Discussions covered the organizational structure of human resources management units, engagement with the labour market, and the Dutch Police's approaches to recruitment, selection, training, career development and promotion. Participants also identified opportunities for ongoing collaboration and comparative analysis of the legal and practical aspects of human resources management development within the Dutch Police.

Revision of the Protocol for Co-operation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs/Public Safety Bureau and the Ministry of Finance/Customs Administration; Skopje, North Macedonia (22 November 2024)

The Mission hosted and facilitated the official ceremony for signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. A Protocol of Implementation of the Memorandum was also signed between the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Bureau of Public Security and the Customs Administration. The Mission supported an inclusive, locally driven revision of the border security protocol, ensuring institutional ownership despite leadership changes. Institutions managed the process independently, building on previous Mission-supported initiatives and reinforcing sustainable regulatory development. The updated protocol aligns with contemporary legal frameworks and addresses evolving border security risks.

Creating internal regulations for ILP implementation within the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Skopje, North Macedonia (November 2024)

The Mission supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs in strengthening its ILP framework, building on the ILP Action Plan 2023–2025 and previous assessments. A working group comprising representatives from key Ministry sectors revised and consolidated six interrelated SOPs into a legally binding ILP rulebook. This document enhances procedural clarity, ensures legal compliance, and aligns national ILP practices with international standards. A key achievement was the integration of anti-corruption measures into the rulebook, including mandatory reporting, periodic audits, and oversight mechanisms to improve transparency and accountability in intelligence operations. Additionally, a struc-

tured monitoring and evaluation framework was developed, incorporating measurable indicators and streamlined reporting mechanisms.

IT donation to Ministry of Internal Affairs to enhance the ILP implementation process; Skopje, North Macedonia (December 2024)

To enhance information management and support the implementation of ILP at the Sector for Internal Affairs (SIA) level, the Mission donated IT equipment to all eight SIAs (24 units in total, 3 per SIA). This contribution significantly improves data management, systematic data tracking and intelligence analysis, streamlining information flow between central and regional levels, ensuring that intelligence reports and strategic insights reach decision makers in a timely manner. The upgraded digital infrastructure has enabled standardized storage and organization of information, aligning with the newly developed SOPs for ILP implementation. Moreover, the improved digital system has enhanced the capacity to track and measure data collection, enabling more efficient intelligence production and further strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms across law enforcement agencies.

Workshop on conflict of interest in policing; Berovo, North Macedonia (1–6 December 2024)

The Mission organized the workshop "Conflict of Interest in Policing: Risks, Practices, and Prevention" for staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Internal Control and Professional Standards Department. Moderated by in-house experts of the Ministry, it covered the legal framework, management of private interests conflicting with police duties, ethical dilemmas, and the importance of effectively addressing conflicts of interest in policing. Two guest presenters from the Dutch National Police highlighted the role of leadership in promoting integrity and fostering a safe working environment, and also led a panel discussion focusing on the role of middle management in addressing unprofessional behaviour and ethical challenges. The workshop facilitated interactive discussions on prevention strategies and challenges related to conflicts of interest. The active participation of female police officers ensured that gender-related aspects, including consensual relationships and sexual harassment, were examined. This initiative reinforced the Ministry's commitment to professionalism, integrity, ethical policing, and maintaining a safe working environment.

Workshop on the selection system and procedures at the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ohrid, North Macedonia (10–13 December 2024)

The Mission continued to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs in strengthening its human resources management system by assisting with the development of by-laws and an internal regulatory framework for a merit-based approach. As part of these efforts, the Mission supported the Ministry's human resources working group in organizing a two-day workshop on recruitment systems and procedures. The workshop focused on key aspects of the promotion process and internal job organization, with particular emphasis on establishing a General Competencies Framework for promotion candidates to enhance transparency and fairness in selection and ranking. The working group also recommended creating a "List of Associated Working Tasks" to clarify roles and facilitate the implementation of the amended Law on Internal Affairs. It concluded that an appeal procedure for promotion results is not currently necessary, while ad hoc commissions for job deployment and promotion processes should continue in alignment with the amended Law on Police Affairs.

Workshop on regional good practices of police women associations; Skopje, North Macedonia (10 December 2024)

The Mission convened representatives from six police women associations across South-Eastern Europe for a regional knowledge-sharing session aimed at supporting the establishment of a police women association in North Macedonia. Discussions focused on the legal and regulatory framework required for its formation, emphasizing the importance of inclusive stakeholder engagement to create a sustainable and effective association.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Simulation exercise on protecting soft targets against terrorism in North Macedonia; Skopje, North Macedonia (24–25 October 2024)

The Mission supported law enforcement and security agencies in strengthening national resilience against terrorist threats to soft targets and public spaces. In co-operation with the National Co-ordinator for Counter-Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, the Mission facilitated efforts to address interagency co-ordination and preparedness gaps. The Mission organized a dedicated workshop to examine deficiencies in communication channels, operational responsibilities and interagency interoperability during live terrorist incidents. Key recommendations included formalizing joint operating principles, developing structured communication protocols, and establishing unified response guidelines. The event brought together representatives from key institutions, laying the groundwork for a multi-agency working group tasked with finalizing strategic recommendations and creating a national response protocol. Scenario-based training exercises tested current capabilities and introduced international good practices. Additionally, initial steps were taken to establish formal regulations, including protocols and SOPs based on the “Gold, Silver, and Bronze” command structure, ensuring consistent and co-ordinated interagency responses to terrorist threats.

2.2 Eastern Europe

2.2.1 Mission to Moldova

Introduction

The OSCE Mission to Moldova (the Mission) works to facilitate a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict in all its aspects, aimed at strengthening the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, while providing a special status for Transdniestria. Since 2012, all 57 OSCE participating States have endorsed these principles of a final settlement through annual Ministerial Council Statements.

Spotlight on

- **Technical equipment provided to Moldovan Police Academy for use in counter-trafficking; Chișinău, Moldova (4 September 2024)**

  Building on the success of the first national anti-trafficking simulation exercise conducted by the Mission in the fall of 2023, the Ștefan cel Mare Police Academy in Chișinău received a donation of critical technical equipment necessary to apply the skills gained during the exercise. In co-operation with the SR/CTHB, the Mission worked to strengthen the capacity of the police and other State and civil structures to investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking. With the support of the Norwegian Government, the Mission provided the necessary equipment to enable the Police Academy to expand its activities.

Donation of equipment to the Moldovan Policy Academy (OSCE/Mission to Moldova)

Donation of equipment to the Moldovan Policy Academy (OSCE/Mission to Moldova)

2.3 Central Asia

2.3.1 Programme Office in Astana

Introduction

The OSCE Programme Office in Astana (POiA), based in Kazakhstan's capital, addresses a broad range of security issues, including arms control, border management, counter-terrorism, THB, arms and drugs control, as well as economic, environmental, human rights, rule of law and media freedom topics.

On 23 September 2022, following the capital's renaming, the Programme Office in Nur-Sultan officially became the Programme Office in Astana, as recorded in the Journal of the 1390th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. The mandate of the Office remains unchanged. Established in 1998 as the Centre in Almaty, the POiA supports the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, fosters co-operation and information exchange, and assists the Government of Kazakhstan on police-related matters.

Training-of-trainers course on women's leadership in the security sector (OSCE)

Spotlight on

▸ From trainee to trailblazer: A woman's journey to leadership in Kazakhstan's security sector; Kosshy, Kazakhstan

Marina Yugay, a dedicated police officer committed to justice and the empowerment of women in law enforcement, is an alumna of a ToT course on women's leadership in the security sector, organized in previous years by the POiA. During the most recent ToT, co-hosted with the Law Enforcement Academy under the Office of the Prosecutor General, an all-female team of trainers—comprising experts from academia and various law enforcement agencies—shared invaluable insights on international and national gender equality frameworks, coaching methodologies and effective communication strategies.

This training was transformative in Yugay's career, inspiring her to become a leading advocate for women's leadership in law enforcement. Reflecting on the training, she noted: "The ToT was a revelation. It not only strengthened my professional skills in leadership but also significantly raised my gender awareness. The practical knowledge I gained has been instrumental in my personal development, preparing me for effective leadership and decision-making in my profession."

Motivated by the training, Yugay returned to her alma mater, the Almaty Academy of the Ministry of the Interior, with a clear mission: to turn inspiration into action. She quickly became a driving force behind initiatives to advance gender equality and women's leadership within the institution. "The training didn't just inspire me—it empowered me to actively implement ideas around gender equality and women's leadership at my own academy," she shared.

Her efforts culminated in a pivotal role organizing the Academy's annual Women's Forum, which led to the establishment of a Women's Committee under the Association of Military and Specialized Educational Institutions—a milestone achievement demonstrating both her leadership and the power of collective effort.

Yugay's journey from trainee to trailblazer exemplifies the transformative impact of education, mentorship and collaboration. Her unwavering commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment is not only reshaping her own career, but also creating new pathways for future generations of women leaders in Kazakhstan's security sector.

General police development and reform

Raising awareness of protecting critical infrastructure and public spaces from terrorist attacks in Kazakhstan; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (27–28 March 2024)

The POiA, together with TNTD/ATU and the Law Enforcement Academy, co-organized a national awareness-raising workshop on protecting vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Anti-Terrorist Centre and Border Service of the National Security Committee, State Security Service, Law Enforcement Academy and Astana City Administration. Discussions covered a wide range of topics, including risk assessments and mitigation for insider threats, the identification of inter-dependencies within critical infrastructure, public–private partnerships, human rights and privacy considerations, and business continuity planning. Three independent international experts—officials from UNOCT and the Government of France's Agency for French Education Abroad—shared expertise and good prac-

tices on safeguarding critical infrastructure and soft targets against terrorist attacks.

Promoting gender-sensitive and -responsive personnel policies for human resources specialists across the security sector; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (4–5 April 2024)

The POiA, together with the Law Enforcement Academy, delivered a training course for human resources departments from Kazakhstan's Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Defence, National Guard, Anti-Corruption Agency, Financial Monitoring Agency, Supreme Court, State Revenue Committee and the National Security Committee. Led by international and national experts, the course provided heads and deputy heads of human resources departments with insights into global and local standards on gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Special attention was given to the challenges women encounter in advancing their careers within the security sector. The training further aimed to promote gender-sensitive strategies for professional growth across law enforcement, judicial authorities, the military, civil defence, and the wider security and judicial sectors.

Enhancing the leadership potential of future senior managers in law enforcement bodies; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (9 September–4 October 2024)

The POiA, together with the Law Enforcement Academy, delivered a training course to prepare senior law enforcement managers for critical roles in national security. The course covered a wide range of topics aimed at strengthening leadership and management competencies, including communication, crisis and conflict management, project management, and leadership development, with an emphasis on integrating gender equality principles. As part of the intensive four-week programme, three key training modules were delivered by POiA-supported national experts. These modules further enhanced participants' knowledge and practical skills in these critical areas, ensuring alignment with the demands and challenges of Kazakhstan's law enforcement system.

Advancing women's leadership in the security sector; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (8–10 October 2024)

The POiA, together with the Law Enforcement Academy, delivered a course on women's leadership in the security sector. Trainers from academia and educational centres of law enforcement, the military, civil protection, and specialized government agencies focused on both international and national gender equality provisions, as well as on using coaching as a leadership tool to unlock potential and support career growth. The sessions were led by national experts who were themselves alumni of earlier iterations of this course. They shared their experiences and good practices for conducting training within their own institutions. This collaboration demonstrates the POiA's commitment to fostering sustainable professional impact and effective knowledge transfer by engaging individuals who have gained practical knowledge from past training activities.

Advancing the women, peace and security agenda: Shaping of policies and women's role in peacekeeping; Astana, Kazakhstan (5 December 2024)

The POiA, together with the Law Enforcement Academy, organized an international conference on the role of women in promoting peace and security. Participants included representatives from Kazakhstan's Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Culture and Information, other law enforcement agencies, the National Center for Human Rights in Kazakhstan, the diplomatic corps, international organizations, CSOs and academia. Discussions addressed women's rights, opportunities for participation in political life and decision-making, the role of women in peacekeeping and humanitarian aid, as well as their contribution to public security and sustainable development. Participants also explored initiatives to advance gender equality and women's leadership in peace and security.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Strengthening Kazakhstan's capacity to combat drug-related crimes; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (22–26 April 2024)

The POiA, together with the Law Enforcement Academy and the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, conducted a simulation exercise focusing on combating drug-related crimes for law enforcement officers from Almaty and the provinces of Akmola, Karaganda and North Kazakhstan. The simulation exercise included practical demonstrations of online criminal activities to develop participants' skills in addressing drug trafficking and money laundering. It also emphasized fostering interagency co-operation between financial intelligence units and law enforcement agencies.

Workshops series on applying modern technologies to address trafficking in human beings; Almaty, Kazakhstan (28–30 May & 4–6 November 2024)

The POiA organized two training workshops in Almaty on investigating technology-facilitated THB. The workshops targeted police officers from the Ministry of the Interior's Departments on Combating Organized Crimes from North, East and West Kazakhstan, and were implemented in co-operation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development. The curriculum, based on pilot courses held in 2023, was updated with modules on web scraping, machine learning tools and cyber infiltration techniques. These advancements enhance the identification of control elements used by criminal networks and strengthen evidence collection and proactive safeguarding operations. The training also covered strategies for conducting covert online operations, including investigation of sexual and gender-based exploitation, illegal recruitment, advertising for forced labour and organ removal, money laundering and child trafficking.

Strengthening Kazakhstan's international commitments to combating drug trafficking; Almaty, Kazakhstan (10–14 June 2024)

The POiA, in partnership with the Law Enforcement Academy and the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, organized a simulation exercise on detecting drug crimes online and investigating money laundering. The exercise was held at the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre in Almaty. Participants included officers from the Law Enforcement Academy and law enforcement representatives from Astana and the provinces of Abay, East Kazakhstan, and Zhetisu. The training enhanced their skills in identifying, suppressing and investigating criminal activities on the internet. The activity was conducted by an international expert alongside specialists from the Law Enforcement Academy, the Agency of Financial Monitoring, the Ministry of the Interior and an IT company.

Enhancing Kazakhstan's capacities in cybercrime investigations; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (21–24 October 2024)

The POiA and the Law Enforcement Academy conducted a training course for prosecutors involved in cybercrime investigations. The course introduced key concepts and good practices for investigating cybercrime and handling digital evidence. Participants received practical training on documenting and collecting digital evidence as part of cybercrime casework.

Strengthening law enforcement's operational capacities to combat terrorism and extremism in Kazakhstan; Kosshy, Kazakhstan (20–22 November 2024)

The POiA, in partnership with the Law Enforcement Academy, conducted a workshop for representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Agency of Financial Monitoring, and the Ministry of the Interior. The workshop focused on balancing counter-extremism measures with freedom of speech principles within the framework of national criminal law, international practices for addressing terrorism financing, the use of OSINT tools for operational and analytical activities, and international approaches to requesting and handling electronic evidence.

2.3.2 Programme Office in Bishkek

Introduction

The OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB), formerly known as the Centre in Bishkek, was established in 1998 (and became operational in 1999) to promote the implementation of OSCE commitments across all three dimensions of comprehensive security. It also serves to facilitate information exchange, foster contacts with local authorities, academia and civil society institutions, and provide support in line with the evolving needs and priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Spotlight on

► Breaking free: How collaborative efforts are transforming lives in Kyrgyzstan's anti-drug fight; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (throughout 2024)

The fight against youth drug addiction is gaining momentum in Kyrgyzstan, driven by a strong partnership between the POiB and the Service for Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Their joint annual prevention initiatives are producing tangible results, with a noticeable decline in adolescent substance abuse in Bishkek—and inspiring personal stories of transformation along the way.

A teen's journey from risk to resilience

Take 15-year-old Aibek (name changed), whose life took a dangerous turn when he drifted away from school and into the grip of harmful influences. Through the 2024 campaign's targeted outreach, inspectors and psychologists stepped in, offering Aibek regular counselling and support. Just as crucially, his parents became active partners in his recovery, attending workshops on fostering open communication and building a nurturing home environment.

"It wasn't just about saying 'no' to drugs," explains one project co-ordinator. "It was about giving Aibek—and teens like him—a reason to say 'yes' to a better future."

More than prevention: Building pathways to purpose

The initiative goes beyond crisis intervention; it focuses on empowerment. The POiB and the Service for Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking have launched sports leagues, creative arts clubs, and volunteer programmes as vibrant alternatives to risky behaviour. These spaces are more than just activities—they're communities where teens like Aibek discover confidence, forge friendships and unlock hidden talents.

Months later, the impact speaks volumes: Aibek is back in school and competing in regional sports events. His story underscores the power of a *holistic approach*—one that weaves together family, mentors, schools and peer networks.

The numbers: A nationwide movement

What began as a goal to reach 1,500 young people has exploded into a national wave of change:

- **9,739 young people** engaged in 2024 anti-drug campaigns
- **4,900+ students** attended workshops promoting healthy lifestyles
- **4,800+ participants** joined marathons and bike races advocating drug-free living
- **60+ events** nationwide, fuelled by OSCE-provided educational materials

Why this works

"Success lies in addressing the *whole ecosystem*," says a POiB staff member. "When we equip parents to support their kids, provide positive outlets, and celebrate progress—even small wins—we create lasting change." From motivational prizes to book grants, every detail is designed to reinforce hope and resilience.

As Kyrgyzstan's youth rewrite their stories, this collaboration proves that ending addiction is not only about stopping drugs—it's about starting futures.

General police development and reform

POiB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs sign 2024 Co-operation Plan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (20 February 2024)

The POiB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs signed the 2024 Co-operation Plan, reviewing the successful implementation of the previous year's plan and discussing the further development of bilateral relations, ongoing reforms and expanded co-operation with international partners.

POiB and the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector sign 2024 Co-operation Plan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (27 February 2024)

The POiB and the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector signed the 2024 Co-operation Plan, outlining key joint activities to be implemented across the country. During the signing ceremony, the Chairperson of the Association emphasized the importance of the POiB's support in empowering women in law enforcement agencies, combating gender-based and domestic violence, and preventing crimes against youth.

Seminar on maintaining the mental health of police staff; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (17–19 April 2024)

To support the professional development and networking of psychologists working for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the POiB, in co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Saint Petersburg University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, conducted a working seminar titled "Maintaining mental health of staff" at the Republican Training Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The seminar brought together participants from six regions of Kyrgyzstan and was led by an international expert, who shared theoretical and practical approaches to psychology within internal affairs bodies.

Support for Mobile Police Reception (MPR) monitoring and co-ordination centres; throughout Kyrgyzstan (10–28 June 2024)

The POiB conducted visits to territorial police stations operating MPR vehicles to monitor and assess the effectiveness of MPR work in the cities of Bishkek and Osh, as well as in the regions of Batken, Chüy, Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Naryn

and Osh. During the visits, the monitoring team held interviews with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and MPR teams. The monitoring team also evaluated MPR operations during community visits and reviewed relevant reporting documents.

Establishment of the Crime Prevention Centre at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Republican Training Centre; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (25–27 June 2024)

The POiB supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs in conducting a training course on crime prevention, led by international experts. Police officers from various Ministry departments enhanced their knowledge of traffic safety and petty crimes. The course was launched with the official opening of the Crime Prevention Center at the Republican Training Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was equipped with IT equipment provided with the POiB's support.

Local Public Councils Association organizes Mobile Police Reception co-operation meeting; Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan (20 June 2024)

The Mobile Police Receptions (MPR) Local Public Councils Association organized a co-ordination meeting to discuss challenges and opportunities in the development of the MPR activities throughout the country. The meeting brought together participants from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, local government authorities, MPR teams and members of the MPR Local Public Councils Association.

Training session on democratic policing principles and maintaining community security; throughout Kyrgyzstan (12–23 August & 17–28 September 2024)

The POiB and the Public Safety Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted educational seminars at the regional police departments in the regions of Batken, Chüy, Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Naryn and Osh. The seminars brought together community policing officers, juvenile delinquency inspectors, local government authorities, active members of civil society and Mobile Police Reception teams to discuss community policing principles, the prevention of domestic violence, and VERLT.

Introduction of a new Mobile Police Reception (MPR) team; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (30 October 2024)

The POiB donated a fully equipped MPR vehicle to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and assisted in conducting an induction

Painting over advertisements for illegal drugs (OSCE)

training course for new MPR team members of the Oktyabr District Police Department in Bishkek. Currently, 60 MPR vehicles are operating in 53 police departments throughout the country, 47 of which were introduced with the support of the OSCE.

Training seminar on peace-building for law enforcement officers; Bishkek, Kadamjay, and Osh, Kyrgyzstan (26–28 November 2024)

The POiB, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector conducted a series of seminars in the cities of Bishkek, Kadamjay and Osh for police officers, representatives of various Ministry services, and city and territorial police departments. The seminars aimed to enhance the participants' understanding of peacebuilding by strengthening the rule of law, protecting human rights, and highlighting the role of police in peacekeeping processes.

Information session for schoolchildren on the rights, duties and responsibilities of minors, countering transnational threats and preventing domestic violence; throughout Kyrgyzstan (9–21 September & 29 September–6 October 2024)

The POiB supported an initiative of the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector to conduct information sessions on the rights, duties and responsibilities of minors, countering transnational threats and preventing domestic violence. The sessions were held in 28 schools in all seven regions of the Kyrgyzstan, reaching 2,830 high school students (1,556 young women, 1,274 young men), who strengthened their understanding of juvenile rights, transnational threat prevention and domestic violence prevention. The sessions were successfully organized with the active support of local Juvenile Delinquency Inspectors in the regions, as well as local representatives of the Association.

Football tournament for young people in Osh (OSCE)

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (5 December 2024)

The POiB and the Kyrgyz Association of Women in the Security Sector organized a round table to support the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign. Representatives from the Presidential Administration, the Ombudsperson's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration, and civil society discussed the importance of developing legislative and practical tools to strengthen women's capacity and role as active participants in preventing violence against women and girls. On the same day, participants attended a performance by students of the Kyrgyz State University addressing the eradication of gender-based and domestic violence.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Donation of portable fingerprint scanners and laptops, and training courses for police officers conducting forensic investigations; Bishkek and Osh, Kyrgyzstan (12 September & 26 November 2024)

The POiB donated nine portable fingerprint scanners and nine laptops to the territorial police departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This equipment has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of forensic investigations conducted by the territorial police departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The POiB also supported training sessions on the use of the fingerprint scanners, during which participants learned about the devices' key functions and exchanged practical experiences in fingerprint and palm data collection.

Establishing a national notification mechanism on the emergence of new synthetic drugs and psychoactive substances; Kyrgyzstan (2 July & 19 December 2024)

The POiB supported interagency meetings of the State Coordinating Committee for the Control of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, and Precursors to review the implementation of the Action Plan for the Anti-Drug Programme. The meeting also addressed the enforcement of the Cabinet of Ministers' instruction "On the Operational Consideration of Adding New Psychoactive Substances to Controlled Lists" and the protocol on measures to counter the illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. The meeting also served as a platform for discussing the new anti-drug programme (2027–2031), which is in development by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Implementing the "Antinar" project; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (1 July 2024) and St. Petersburg, Russian Federation (10–15 December 2024)

The POiB supported an interagency meeting to prepare for the implementation of the "Antinar" project in Kyrgyzstan. "Antinar" is a State information system used in St. Petersburg for comprehensive analysis of the drug situation across all sectors. The meeting brought together representatives from the Kyrgyz Service for Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking and a delegation from St. Petersburg, who presented the "Automated Information System 'Antinar'". A system demonstration was held with the participation of representatives from multiple ministries of Kyrgyzstan. In addition, a presentation titled "Social and Psychological Testing in the Russian Federation on the Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Practical Experience and Results" was delivered. A follow-up visit to St. Petersburg for representatives from State and municipal institutions of Kyrgyzstan enabled them to gain hands-on knowledge and strategies for adopting a similar model, aimed at improving the effectiveness and co-ordination of drug prevention efforts in Kyrgyzstan.

2.3.3 Programme Office in Dushanbe

Introduction

The OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (POiD), originally established as the OSCE Bureau in Tajikistan in 1994, is mandated to assist the Republic of Tajikistan in developing modern approaches to security issues and emerging threats. In line with the existing OSCE concept on policing, the POiD undertakes measures to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies in the Republic of Tajikistan, and assists the Government in developing and reforming internal affairs bodies.

Spotlight on

▸ Rallying a nation: How youth in Tajikistan are leading the charge against drug abuse; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (throughout 2024)

In June 2024, the POiD and Tajikistan's Drug Control Agency (DCA) joined forces to empower a generation through the *"Youth Against Drugs"* campaign. Spanning 24 days and six regions—Khorog, Kulyab, Bokhtar, Tursunzade, Khujand and Dushanbe—this nationwide movement combined sports, education and community action to combat drug addiction and ignite hope.

More than a campaign: A catalyst for change

Kicking off on June 5, the initiative brought together over **5,000 participants**—ranging from competitive athletes to grassroots organizers—for a series of high-energy sports tournaments, award ceremonies, and educational workshops. But this was no ordinary event series: every soccer

Football tournament awards ceremony (OSCE/Khaydar Mahmadiev)

match, every race, and every unfurled banner carried a powerful message—*healthier choices mean brighter futures*.

"Drug addiction isn't just a statistic; it's a thief of potential," emphasized Mr. Dilshod Barotiyon, Head of the DCA's Prevention Unit. "By uniting stakeholders, equipping communities, and amplifying youth voices, we're building walls against this threat—one town, one school, one family at a time."

The numbers: A grassroots revolution

- **5,000+ energized participants** across Tajikistan's diverse regions
- **20+ days** of action, from 5 to 26 June 2024
- **Critical support:** the POiD provided sports gear, educational materials and branded prizes to drive engagement
- **Strategic alignment:** Directly advancing Tajikistan's National Drug Control Strategy (2021–2030)

The game plan: Sports, education, community

The campaign's success hinged on a three-pronged approach:

1. **Awareness**: Banners and workshops educated youth on the devastating ripple effects of drug abuse.
2. **Alternatives**: Soccer matches, races and competitions channelled energy into teamwork and healthy rivalries.
3. **Advocacy**: Local leaders, parents, and educators were mobilized to sustain momentum long after the final whistle.

In Bokhtar, a teen volleyball team raised banners reading "Our Goals Are Drug-Free"; in Khujand, marathon winners received medals alongside pamphlets on peer support networks. Even souvenirs—water bottles, notebooks and shirts branded with anti-drug slogans—became tools for everyday advocacy.

Martial arts competition for young people (OSCE/Bahrom Alimov)

General police development and reform

Strengthening police–community dialogue; throughout Tajikistan (March–November 2024)

As part of a community policing project, the POiD supported Public Councils on Police Reform and Ensuring Public Order in Dushanbe, as well as in the regions of Khatlon, Sughd and Kulyab. These Public Councils foster stronger interaction between communities and the police, build trust, and expand outreach efforts. The Public Councils conducted 28 awareness-raising campaigns targeting youth, held nine round tables with local officials and media, and organized six experience-sharing trips across Tajikistan. In three regions, the Public Councils, together with local police departments and units, held 129 meetings that allowed territorial police inspectors to report directly to the public. Additionally, ten monthly information bulletins (2,000 copies each) were distributed, nine media articles were published, six TV reports aired, and two radio shows were produced. Seven talk shows highlighted the work of police inspectors, while more than 50 Facebook posts promoted activities. These efforts strengthened police–community dialogue, increased public awareness, and advanced law enforcement initiatives in Tajikistan.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Strengthening Tajikistan's Drug Control Agency's online investigation capabilities; Dushanbe, Tajikistan (8–10 October 2024)

The POiD organized the hands-on training course "OSINT and Online Investigations: Introductory Level" for officers from Tajikistan's Drug Control Agency (DCA). Led by an international expert, the course strengthened the participants' ability to gather, analyse and use publicly available online information as a tool for criminal investigations. This training is essential for the DCA, equipping officers with the skills needed to investigate cybercrimes linked to illicit drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime. By enhancing their OSINT capabilities, the officers are now better prepared to address the growing challenges of online criminal activities. The knowledge and techniques gained during the course will significantly improve their ability to safeguard public safety and conduct more effective law enforcement operations in Tajikistan.

2.3.4 Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Introduction

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz), established in 2006, supports the host country's authorities in implementing OSCE commitments in the politico-military field, socio-economic development, environmental security, and in strengthening good governance, democratization, human rights and the rule of law. The PCUz assists the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in improving educational processes, with a particular emphasis on training and professional development for specialists and cadets. Special focus is placed on combating violent extremism and terrorism, as well as on enhancing cybersecurity.

In 2024, the PCUz continued to implement project activities agreed upon by the host Government, in line with the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan 2022–2026.

Spotlight on

▸ Training course "Human Rights Compliant Policing of Assemblies"; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (24–26 September 2024)

The PCUz, in co-operation with ODIHR, held a three-day in-person training course titled "Human Rights Compliant Policing of Assemblies". The event brought together 17 law enforcement officers (15 men and 2 women) from various agencies. The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officials to facilitate and manage public assemblies in line with international human rights standards, while sharing good practices from across the OSCE area. Key topics included public order management, threat assessment, minimum use of force and accountability mechanisms. The course was based on ODIHR's *Human Rights Training Guide to Policing Assemblies*, which has already been successfully implemented in participating States such as Moldova and Mongolia. This was the first time such a training course on human rights-compliant policing of assemblies was organized in Uzbekistan by the OSCE.

Training course "Human Rights Compliant Policing of Assemblies" (OSCE/Andrew Yurkovsky)

General police development and reform

Training-of-trainers course on torture prevention in closed institutions based on the Nelson Mandela Rules; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (30 April–3 May 2024)

The PCUz, jointly with the National Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan and the Department of Penal Correction under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, conducted a ToT course on torture prevention in penitentiary institutions. Participants acquired knowledge of the fundamental aspects of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and on the core provisions of the Nelson Mandela Rules. The course offered guidance on implementing minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, while encouraging the adoption and development of higher standards of prison management, prisoner treatment and detention conditions.

Training on the analysis of digital evidence and study visit to the National Forensic Service under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Security of the Republic of Korea; Seoul, Republic of Korea (2–6 September 2024)

The PCUz, in co-operation with the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Security of the Republic of Korea, organized a training course on digital evidence analysis, complemented by a study visit to the National Forensic Service under the Korean Ministry for representatives from Uzbekistan's Law Enforcement Academy. This initiative provided an opportunity to exchange good practices and establish scientific and practical co-operation in digital forensics.

Roundtable discussion on gender-sensitive prison management strategies; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (31 October 2024)

The PCUz, jointly with the National Center for Human Rights and the Department of Penal Correction under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, organized a roundtable discussion with representatives of the penitentiary services of Norway and Uzbekistan on gender-sensitive prison management strategies, good practices and challenges. Officers from both countries took part in a virtual discussion focusing on the management of women's prison facilities in Uzbekistan and Norway. During the round table, participants reviewed current good practices for supporting women in detention and discussed gender-specific needs, as well as possible areas for collaboration between the two countries. The dialogue emphasized the importance of implementing international human rights protection practices in correctional settings.

Training course "Intelligence-Led Policing – From Theory to Practice"; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (21–22 November 2024)

The PCUz, in co-operation with the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, organized a two-day training course titled "Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) – From Theory to Practice". The course introduced representatives of the Academy with ILP as a modern, proactive law enforcement model and a viable alternative to traditionally reactive policing approaches used in OSCE participating States.

International conference "Global Challenges and Threats in Law Enforcement: Problems and Solutions"; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (21–22 November 2024)

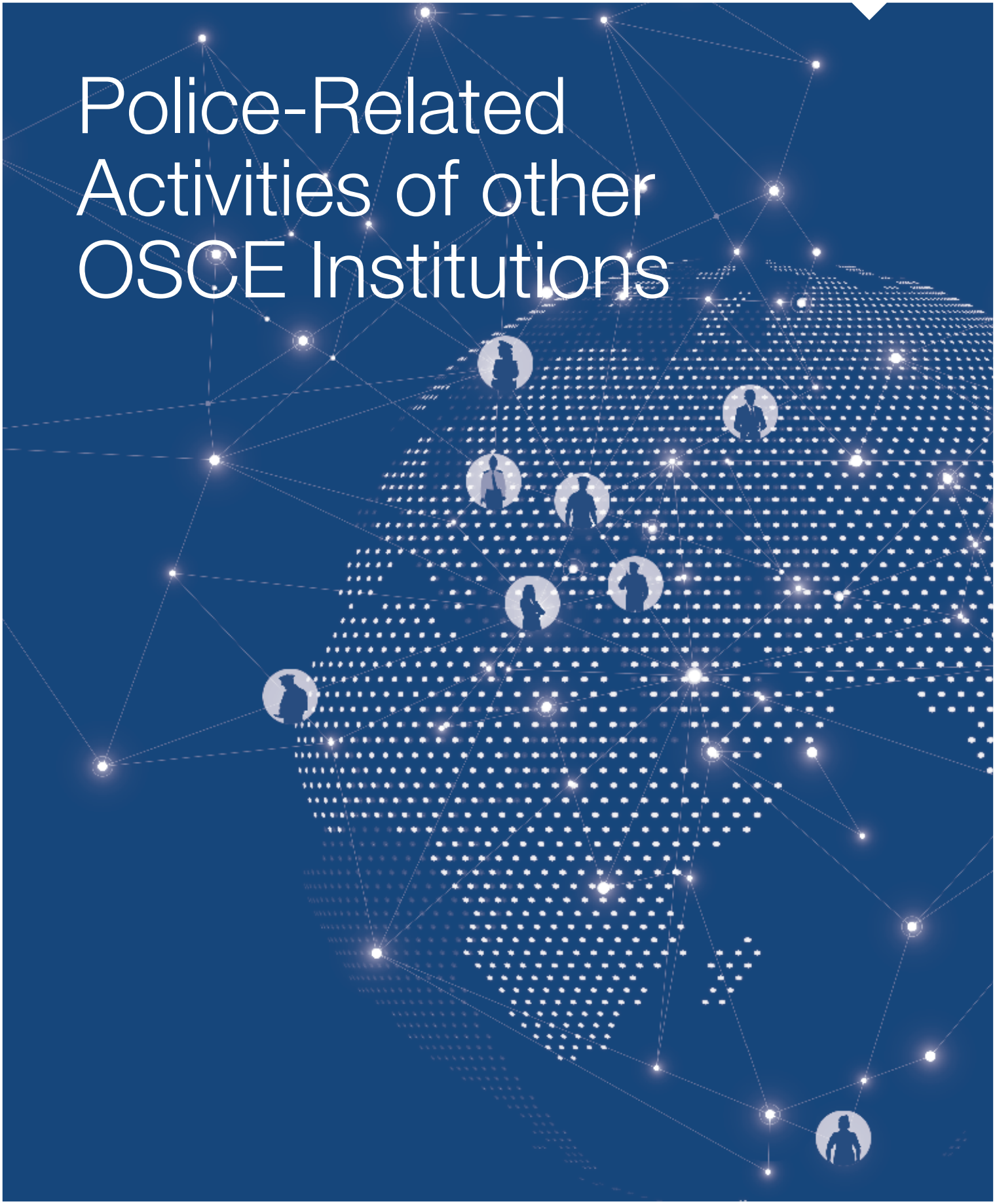
The PCUz supported the international conference "Global Challenges and Threats in Law Enforcement: Problems and Solutions", organized by the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The conference provided a platform to discuss and analyse innovative approaches in law enforcement education, exchange experiences in training personnel for investigative and operational activities in response to modern challenges, and explore current issues in crime investigation.

Webinar on the misuse of AI for criminal purposes; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (26 November 2024)

The PCUz and TNTD/SPMU organized a webinar on contemporary policing trends at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The event aimed to raise awareness of key developments in modern policing, with a particular focus on the misuse of AI for criminal purposes.

3

Police-Related Activities of other OSCE Institutions



3.1 OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Introduction

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provides assistance to OSCE participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments. In this role, ODIHR works with governments and civil society—in close co-operation with other OSCE executive structures and international organizations—to promote the compliance of policing practices with the fundamental principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and tolerance and non-discrimination.

Spotlight on

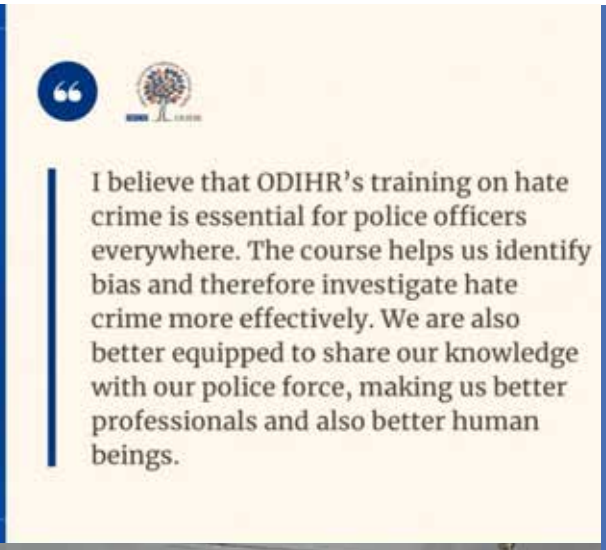
▸ Icelandic Police deliver hate crime training throughout Iceland; Reykjavik, Iceland (14–16 May 2024)

ODIHR held a three-day ToT course to equip eight police professionals in Iceland with the practical tools and knowledge needed to deliver ODIHR's hate crime training across the police force. The aim was to ensure a consistent approach to implementing recent amendments to Iceland's hate crime legislation and to strengthen support for hate crime victims. As a result, Icelandic Police now has eight fully trained hate crime trainers who will cascade the training nationwide over the following months and years, ensuring that police officers at all levels across Iceland can better recognize, record and investigate hate crime cases, ultimately improving access to justice and support for hate crime victims.

"As an inspector in the police in Iceland I believe that ODIHR's training on hate crime is essential for police officers everywhere, said Símon Geir Geirsson, Community Police Officer on the Westman Islands. "The course helps police officers better detect bias indicators in hate crime and assists with investigations of such crime. I believe the training will also help us share our experience with our police force, making us a better officers and human beings."

"This training was very helpful and opened my eyes to the fact that hate crimes are something we can actually act on, without creating extra work for police officers, if only they ask the right questions," said Arndís Soffía Sigurðardóttir, lawyer at the Police Chief's Office of the Police District of Southern Iceland.[15]

15 See more at https://fb.watch/seZx_NuUxc/ OSCE 2024, Hate Crime Training for Icelandic Police: Train-the-trainer course [webpage], accessible at https://www.osce.org/odihr/568240



Statement of a participant (OSCE/ODIHR)

Role-playing exercise (OSCE/ODIHR)

General police development and reform

TAHCLE (Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement) training-of-trainers for Romanian Police; Sibiu, Romania (6–8 February 2024)

ODIHR, in co-operation with the Inspectorate General of Romanian Police, delivered a ToT course for police focal points on hate crime in Romania under ODIHR's TAHCLE programme. The course followed the standard TAHCLE curriculum, adapted to meet local needs, and introduced new modules on the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims as well as addressing unconscious bias. This updated course built upon the previous curriculum developed for Romania in 2017.

Effective and human rights-compliant policing in Roma and Sinti communities; Sibiu, Romania (20–23 February 2024)

ODIHR, together with the Inspectorate General of the Romanian Police, delivered the ToT course "Effective and human rights-compliant policing in Roma and Sinti communities". The course was attended by police officers from the Criminal

Investigation Directorates and Hate Crimes Investigation Offices from across Romania. The ToT course strengthened the capacity of police officers working in Roma, Sinti and mixed communities by promoting effective policing strategies that are fair, responsive to the needs of the people they serve, and compliant with human rights standards. It also increased participants' knowledge of, and sensitivity to, gender-specific issues faced by Roma and Sinti women.

Regional Gender and Security Conference – Session III: Associations, networks and mechanisms for equality, anti-discrimination and empowerment of women in law enforcement; Skopje, North Macedonia (7–8 March 2024)

The objective of the Session III of the Regional Gender and Security Conference was to explore how women police associations and other networks of policewomen can be effective mechanisms to increase the representation of women in law enforcement, including at mid- and senior management levels. The session also provided an opportunity to reflect on the findings of an ODIHR-commissioned research paper on policewomen associations in the OSCE area, as well as the experiences of SPMU and other stakeholders.

Police Hate Crime Conference; Bern, Switzerland (8 March 2024)

ODIHR participated in a conference co-organized by the Bern Cantonal Police, the University of Bern and the Swiss Police Institute on hate crime data collection and co-operation with affected communities. During the event, ODIHR presented key findings of the 2022 Hate Crime Report, shared key observations on Switzerland, and emphasized the importance of hate crime data recording and collection to raise awareness and strengthen Switzerland's response to hate crime.

Establishing a victim-centred and intersectional approach in tackling hate crime; Vilnius, Lithuania (15–16 March 2024)

The final conference of ODIHR's Counter Hate project brought together representatives of CSOs and academia, as well as the Lithuanian Police, Ministry of Justice and Ombudsperson's Office. ODIHR presented findings from the latest Hate Crime Report, key observations on Lithuania, and the essential elements of an effective hate-crime victim support system, along with the available ODIHR tools and guidance in this field.

Regional training course for detention monitoring; Skopje, North Macedonia (26–27 March 2024)

ODIHR delivered an in-depth training course for Albanian- and Macedonian-speaking detention monitors titled "Detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization to terrorism (VERLT) in prisons". The course gathered participants from national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, and civil society detention monitors from Albania and North Macedonia as well as Kosovo. Based on ODIHR's practical guidance[16], the course strengthened participants' understanding of the key human rights issues in the context of preventing and countering VERLT in prisons, and trained them to assess prison-based security strategies for compliance with human rights standards. The sessions were led by ODIHR human rights and counter-terrorism experts, together with an expert in detention monitoring.

Conference on hate crime at CEPOL and Joint Meeting of European Commission Working Groups on Hate Crime and Hate Speech; Budapest, Hungary (24–25 April 2023)

At a joint meeting of the three working groups under the European Commission High Level Group on Combating Hate Crime and Hate Speech, organized by CEPOL, ODIHR contributed to sessions addressing the resurgence of hate speech and hate crime in Europe following the 7 October 2023 attacks, the challenges of effective investigations and prosecution of hate crime and hate speech, and addressing discrimination and racism in policing. ODIHR also led a breakout group discussion on strengthening transnational law enforcement co-operation in combating hate crime. Additionally, ODIHR presented details of its project being implemented with the European Commission on hate crime victim support.

Training sessions on the identification and referral of victims and potential victims of human trafficking; Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and Vienna, Austria (24 April & 23 July 2024)

ODIHR conducted training sessions for mid-to-senior level officials from border, migration, internal affairs, customs, maritime security, and drug control agencies from fourteen participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The sessions focused on countering human trafficking, practical tools

16 OSCE 2021, *Protecting Human Rights in Prisons while Preventing Radicalization Leading to Terrorism or Violence: A Guide for Detention Monitors*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/odihr/492934

to enhance participants' understanding of victim vulnerabilities, proactive identification strategies and the importance of survivor-informed indicators in detecting victims and potential victims of trafficking. In addition to these tools, the training emphasized the critical distinction between human trafficking and migrant smuggling, offering guidance on applying this knowledge in practice. Beyond technical expertise, the sessions also fostered essential soft skills, enabling participants to better identify potential victims, assess vulnerabilities, and recognize the push factors that increase the risk of trafficking and exploitation. A trafficking survivor leader contributed short sessions on the importance of a trauma-informed, survivor-centred approach to identifying both adult and child victims, sharing lived-experience insights on improving the detection of potential trafficking cases.

Study trip to Poland of Dutch Police; Warsaw, Poland (21 May 2024)

ODIHR attended a meeting of Dutch police officers and representatives of the Polish police to exchange experiences on combating discrimination and hate crimes, and to discuss related challenges. Following a presentation by the Polish police, ODIHR provided an international perspective, highlighting common challenges faced by law enforcement in addressing hate crimes and explaining how ODIHR's training programmes help address some of these issues. The visit was organized by the Dutch Jewish Police Network in co-operation with the Anne Frank House in the Netherlands.

Training-of-trainers course on policing and human rights in the framework of the Women, Peace and Security agenda; Warsaw, Poland (27–30 May 2024)

ODIHR, jointly with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, organized a ToT course on policing and human rights within the framework of the Women, Peace and Security agenda for women law enforcement officers and representatives of women police associations from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The course provided participants with an overview of ODIHR's work on policing and human rights and offered practical recommendations for integrating the Women, Peace and Security agenda into their daily work. Participants were also introduced to various human rights topics and trained on how to deliver the content to the staff of their respective institutions.

TAHCLE hate crime training for Polish Police; Legionowo, Poland (4 June & 18 October 2024)

ODIHR contributed to training courses on preventing and addressing hate crimes organized by the Polish Police Training Centre in Legionowo. The sessions were a part of a nationwide course for representatives of the Polish Police. ODIHR presented the definition of hate crime, key bias indicators, approaches to assessing the individual needs of hate crime victims, and methods for ensuring their sensitive and respectful treatment. The courses were based on materials adapted from the standard TAHCLE curriculum.

Webinar on the role of independent detention monitoring and protecting human rights in prisons while preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization to terrorism (VERLT); online (11 June 2024)

ODIHR and Penal Reform International organized a webinar to launch the French translation of *Protecting Human Rights in Prisons while Preventing Radicalization Leading to Terrorism or Violence: A Guide for Detention Monitors*[17]. The event featured a moderated panel discussion with national and international experts and detention monitors from French-speaking countries. The webinar provided a platform to promote independent detention monitoring across the OSCE area, aiming to strengthen the protection of the rights of persons deprived of liberty while effectively preventing and countering VERLT in prisons. The webinar brought together national and international experts, as well as detention monitors from National Human Rights Institutions, National Preventive Mechanisms, and civil society in French-speaking participating States, Partners for Co-operation and beyond. The event also included French-speaking representatives of relevant authorities, including policymakers, penitentiary staff and counter-terrorism practitioners from the region.

Regional training course for detention monitors from selected European countries; Warsaw, Poland (2–3 July 2024)

ODIHR organized a regional training course for detention monitors from selected European countries titled "Detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization to terrorism (VERLT) in prisons", bringing together independent detention monitors from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom. The course aimed to improve participants' understanding of key human rights issues related to preventing and countering VERLT in prisons and to strengthen their ability to assess related prison-based security strategies for human rights compliance. Participants included practitioners from national human rights institutions, national torture prevention mechanisms, CSOs, as well as lawyers specializing in detention monitoring, penitentiary reform and criminal justice. The diverse

17 OSCE 2021, *Protecting Human Rights in Prisons while Preventing Radicalization Leading to Terrorism or Violence: A Guide for Detention Monitors*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/odihr/492934

professional backgrounds of the participants, their respective practical experience of prison conditions across Europe and the trainers' use of concrete examples and case studies contributed to a highly conducive learning environment.

Exchange of views on training law enforcement and other criminal justice actors on hate crimes; Strasbourg, France (3 July 2024)

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance invited ODIHR to participate in an *in camera* session of its plenary for an exchange of views on training law enforcement officials and other criminal justice actors in countering hate crime, as well as addressing racism and intolerance within law enforcement agencies. ODIHR shared insights from its twenty years of experience in training and capacity-building on hate crimes for law enforcement and other criminal justice actors through its flagship TAHCLE and PAHCT programmes. It also outlined key lessons learned and considerations for ensuring that such training is both impactful and sustainable.

Training on human rights-compliant policing of assemblies; Tashkent, Uzbekistan (23–27 September 2024)

ODIHR organized a law enforcement commander's training course on the human rights-compliant policing of public assemblies for law enforcement officers in Uzbekistan. The training curriculum was based on internationally recognized good practices outlined in ODIHR's *Human Rights Handbook on Policing Assemblies*[18].

CEPOL course on hate crime; online (2 October 2024)

ODIHR was invited to contribute to a course on hate crimes organized by the Hellenic Police Academy, in co-operation with the Hellenic Police State Security Directorate and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), for representatives of police forces from across Europe. The course aimed to strengthen law enforcement responses to hate crime. ODIHR's session focused on the principles of sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims. Trainees discussed the impact of unconscious bias on their performance as police officers when dealing with victims, and explored practical ways to ensure victim-sensitive and respectful treatment.

Addressing racially motivated crimes against Roma, Sinti and Travellers: Towards effective and non-discriminatory policing; Kutna Hora, Czech Republic (28 October–1 November 2024)

A course on addressing racially motivated crimes against Roma, Sinti and Travellers, as well as effective and non-discriminatory policing, was implemented by ODIHR and the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic. Based on a joint training portfolio, the course aimed to strengthen the capacity of police officers working in Roma, Sinti and mixed communities. Participants learned how to apply effective policing strategies that are responsive to the needs of these communities while complying with human rights standards. They also studied European non-discrimination standards and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights on preventing and investigating racially motivated crimes, while increasing their understanding of gender-specific issues faced by women in these communities.

Diagnostic workshop for assessing national structures and services for hate crime victim support; Prague, Czech Republic (31 October–1 November 2024)

ODIHR, in co-operation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Justice, organized a diagnostic workshop for assessing national structures and services for hate crime victim support in the Czech Republic. The workshop aimed to evaluate the current system, identify gaps and shortcomings, and develop a priority action plan with recommendations for improvement. Thematic sessions focused on individual needs assessment procedures, the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims, and the overall functioning of the hate crime victim support system.

Training-of-trainers course on hate crimes for the Gendarmerie Nationale in France; Paris, France (6–7 November 2024)

ODIHR contributed to a ToT course on hate crimes for the French Gendarmerie Nationale, organized by the OCLCH (Office central de lutte contre les crimes contre l'humanité). The programme covered the concepts of hate crime and hate speech, police and judicial co-operation in addressing these crimes, procedural issues, relevant jurisprudence, victim support and investigation techniques. ODIHR shared its expertise and tools to help national authorities provide effective support to hate crime victims.

18 OSCE 2016, *Human Rights Handbook on Policing Assemblies*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/odihr/226981

Inaugural meeting of the EU network of law enforcement contact points on hate crime and hate speech; Vienna, Austria (13 November 2024)

ODIHR was invited to participate in the inaugural meeting of a new EU-wide network of law enforcement contact points on hate crime and hate speech. The network was established by the European Commission following a 2023 communication calling for the creation of a "network of national law enforcement contact points specialized in criminal investigations of hate speech and hate crime, to enhance co-ordination with EU level activities such as under the High-Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime, cross-border support to investigations, and exchange of good practices and tools." During the meeting, facilitators from the Facing Facts Network led sessions to identify the needs and challenges faced by participants. ODIHR presented its available tools and resources on hate crime training for law enforcement and on hate crime victim support.

Using virtual reality for police training on hate crimes and victim support; online (18 November 2024)

ODIHR invited researchers from the Hamburg Police University of Applied Sciences to present their pilot project on using virtual reality technology to professionalize and sensitize police officers to the experiences of hate crime victims. During the session, the speakers introduced their virtual reality training approach, which enables experience-based learning and has significant potential for police training, particularly in addressing hate crime. They discussed how immersive technologies can help law enforcement better understand victims' needs, uphold their rights, and improve reporting, support and protection mechanisms. The session was part of the "Under the Spotlight" series of online expert meetings, organized within the framework of the ODIHR–European Commission co-operation initiative "Strengthening targeted assistance and response structures for hate crime victims in the OSCE region".

Training-of-trainers workshop for law enforcement officials from Ukraine on human rights-complaint policing of public assemblies; Warsaw, Poland (2–6 December 2024)

ODIHR organized a ToT workshop on human rights-compliant policing of public assemblies for law enforcement officers from various regions of Ukraine. The course aimed to prepare participants to deliver training on facilitating assemblies in line with human rights standards, while taking into account the challenging context in which Ukrainian police officers operate.

Regional training course for detention monitoring; Belgrade, Serbia (4–5 December 2024)

ODIHR organized a fourth regional training course titled "Detention monitoring and the protection of human rights while preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization to terrorism (VERLT) in prisons", again held to promote independent detention monitoring and strengthen oversight to ensure the protection of the rights of persons deprived of liberty while effectively addressing VERLT in prisons. The course brought together independent detention monitors from South-Eastern Europe, namely, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. Participants included practitioners from national human rights institutions, national torture prevention mechanisms, and CSOs involved in detention monitoring, penitentiary reform, migration detention and criminal justice. The training aimed to improve participants' understanding of key human rights issues in the context of preventing and countering VERLT in prisons, and equipped them with the skills to assess prison-based security strategies for compliance with human rights standards.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Legislative assistance in the field of criminal and public security reform; throughout the OSCE area (throughout 2024)

Throughout 2024, ODIHR continued to provide expert advice on proposed reforms of criminal and other legislation that may affect police work, ensuring that responses to criminal activity remain compliant with human rights standards. In particular, ODIHR published several legal reviews offering concrete recommendations to improve draft or existing legislation related to public security reform, the criminalization of certain forms of expression or online communication, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, including aspects related to the policing of assemblies[19].

19 Further reading: OSCE 2024, ODIHR Urgent Opinion on Draft Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Cyprus, accessible at https://legislationline.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/2024-10-03 Final Urgent Opinion_Criminal Offences_FOE_Cyprus_0.pdf; OSCE 2024, ODIHR Urgent Interim Opinion on Article I of the Draft Act on "Some Measures to Improve the Security Situation in the Slovak Republic", accessible at https://legislationline.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/2024-06-25 FINAL ODIHR Urgent Interim Opinion on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly_Slovak Republic_ENGLISH.pdf; OSCE 2024, ODIHR Opinion on Certain Provisions of the Bill no. 1660 Relating to Countering Terrorism, Public Security, Protection of Personnel in Service and Prison Regulations in Italy, accessible at https://legislationline.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/2024-05-27 - Opinion _Italy_Draft Law on Public Security - final.pdf

Law enforcement training course on "Protecting human rights while countering terrorism effectively"; Samarkand and Tashkent, Uzbekistan (22–27 February 2024)

ODIHR and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan organized two workshops for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and national guards on protecting human rights while effectively countering terrorism. For the third consecutive year, ODIHR engaged national trainers from law enforcement education institutions of Uzbekistan in delivering these workshops. By co-delivering the training course with national trainers, ODIHR continues to build their capacity and confidence to conduct such training courses independently in the future. Notably, the national trainers have taken on an increasingly active role, both in the preparation and delivery of the workshops.

Law enforcement training "Protecting human rights while countering terrorism effectively"; Pristina, Kosovo (29–30 May 2024)

For the first time, ODIHR organized a training course for local law enforcement officers in Pristina on protecting human rights while countering terrorism. The course, co-organized with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, brought together mid- to senior-level officers from local and specialized police branches dealing with counter-terrorism and organized crime, as well as representatives of prosecution services. The training was delivered by ODIHR trainers and a former counter-terrorism police officer from Northern Ireland. Participants explored human rights standards, the risks of violations in counter-terrorism contexts, the impact of such violations on both suspects and law enforcement officials, and interview techniques that foster trust and respect, among other topics. Participants expressed strong interest in taking part in a potential advanced course in the future.

Law enforcement training "Protecting human rights while countering terrorism effectively"; Brussels, Belgium (16–17 October 2024)

For the first time, ODIHR delivered a training course on protecting human rights while countering terrorism for Belgian law enforcement and intelligence officers. The training course was organized at the request of the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs and brought together mid- to senior-level officers from federal police branches on counter-terrorism in Brussels and Antwerp, the Coordination Unit for Terrorism and Extremism, and the military intelligence service. Several months prior to the course, ODIHR conducted a three-day pre-training assessment visit to Brussels. This visit provided contextualized information on terrorism-related challenges and the security sector, including competencies of relevant law enforcement authorities and their education systems, as well as key human rights issues in Belgium, which informed the development and delivery of the training.

3.2 OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)

Introduction

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM), established in 1997, is the world's only intergovernmental media freedom watchdog. The current and sixth RFoM, Jan Braathu of Norway, was appointed in December 2024. Based in Vienna, Austria, the RFoM monitors relevant media developments across all participating States and advocates for full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments on freedom of expression and free media. The RFoM also addresses serious challenges, including obstruction of media activities and adverse working conditions for journalists.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Regional conference "Addressing the prevailing digital information disorder: Countering the use of the internet by terrorists and violent extremists"; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (23–24 April 2024)

At the regional conference, the Office of the RFoM co-organized the session "Addressing Online Terrorist Content – Striking Balance between Regulation and Freedom of Expression", the side-event "Upholding Fundamental Freedoms while Addressing Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism", and participated in the session "AI in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism". These sessions facilitated discussions on the importance of balancing security interventions with the protection of freedom of expression in the online space, and the need to develop a transparent, responsible and human rights-based approach to P/CVERLT and law enforcement. The discussions also highlighted the human rights implications of using AI in decision-making processes, and recognized that technology and insufficient regulation of online platforms can negatively affect freedom of expression, particularly for already marginalized groups.

Expert seminar "Artificial Intelligence in the context of preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism: Challenges, risks and opportunities"; The Hague, the Netherlands (14 March 2024)

This joint expert seminar, organized by TNTD/ATU, the Office of the RFoM and the International Center for Counter-Terrorism, provided participants with a deeper understanding of how new technologies are used both by violent extremist and terrorist groups for criminal activities and by law enforcement for counter-terrorism purposes. The discussions emphasized that P/CVERLT and law enforcement efforts cannot be sustainable if they undermine freedom of expression, highlighting the need for a risk- and rights-based approach to leverage AI for counter-terrorism objectives without negatively impacting human rights, such as privacy and freedom of expression in the digital space. A brief outcome report, published in September 2024, outlines the key human rights-based and gender-sensitive policy guidance for OSCE participating States[20]. This seminar was the first of a series of events on P/CVERLT and the role and impact of AI and emerging technologies organized in 2024.

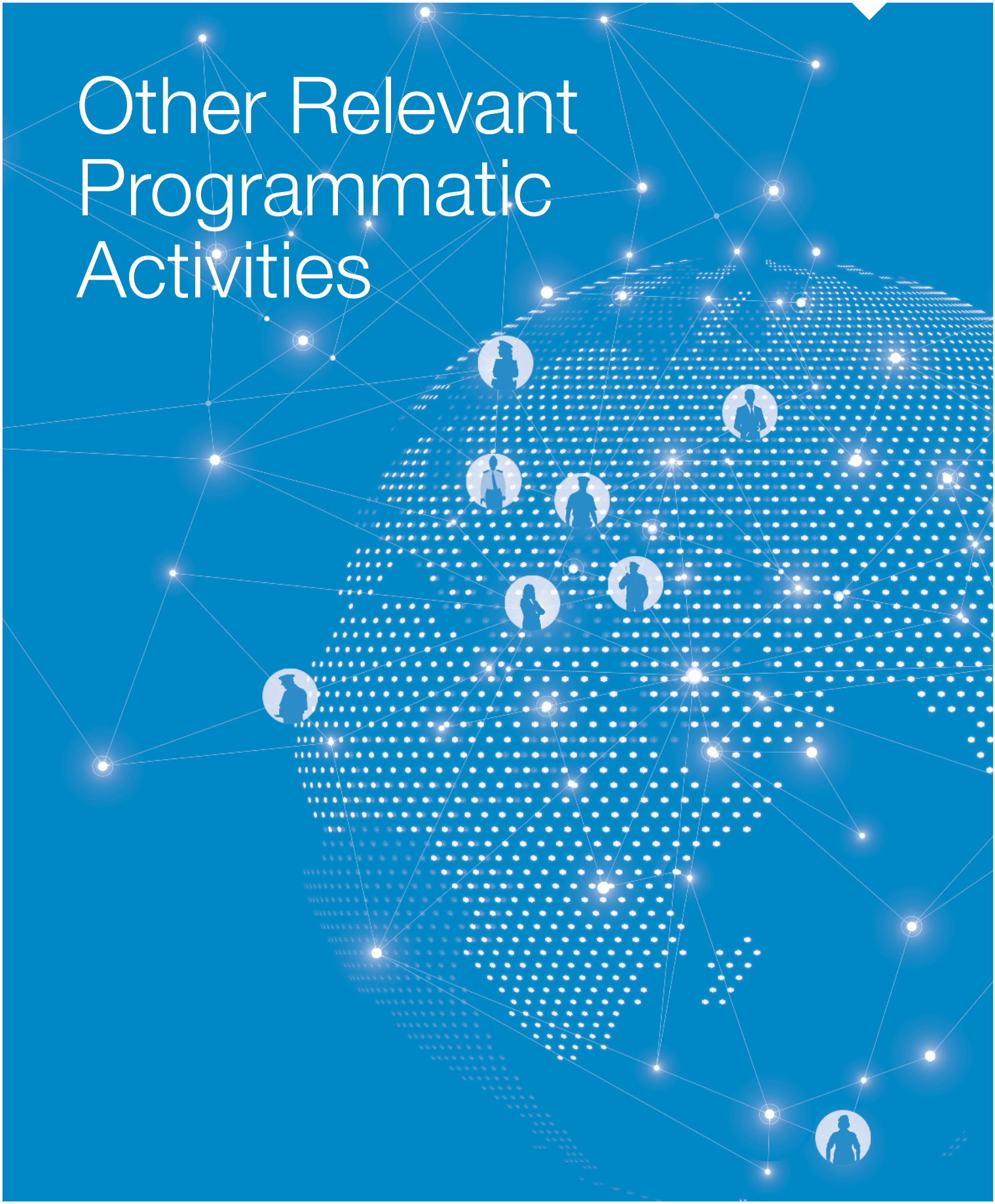
Webinar "'Awful but Lawful' – Addressing Hateful Content in the Digital Space from the Perspective of Preventing Online Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism"; Vienna, Austria (12 September 2024)

The Office of the RFoM participated in the first webinar of the series "Facing Division: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremist and Terrorist Content Online – Human rights-based, age- and gender-sensitive approaches". The webinar aimed to foster discussions on the challenges of moderating and exposure to borderline content linked to VERLT. It particularly focused on safeguarding freedom of expression and maintaining a healthy online information environment in the context of content moderation and platform regulation, as well as the importance of offline engagement to prevent VERLT.

20 OSCE 2024, *Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities*, accessible at https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/4/f/575877.pdf

4

Other Relevant Programmatic Activities



4.1 Support Programme for Ukraine

Introduction

The OSCE Secretariat ExB support programme for Ukraine (SPU) was launched on 1 November 2022.

Spotlight on

▸ Strengthening cyber resilience: Cyber hygiene training and digital security; Kyiv, Ukraine (November 2024)

In today's digital world, human error remains one of the greatest vulnerabilities in cybersecurity. Studies indicate that approximately 82 per cent of data breaches are linked to human factors, including falling for phishing scams and other cyber threats[21]. This alarming statistic underscores the importance of comprehensive training and awareness programmes on cyber hygiene to mitigate risks and safeguard digital systems.

The SPU has taken significant steps to enhance cybersecurity awareness and resilience within the educational institutions of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs. In response to the persistent threat of cyber-attacks, particularly in the context of the ongoing war, SPU has developed both in-person and online training modules, conducted specialized ToT sessions, and equipped dedicated classrooms at education institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. These initiatives have helped enhance cybersecurity awareness and resilience, and strengthen staff knowledge and practices in cyber hygiene.

Training course for the Ukraine Ministry of Internal Affairs staff on cyber hygiene (Kostiantyn Chernichkin)

21 Verizon 2022, *Data Breach Investigations Report*, accessible at https://www.verizon.com/business/resources/reports/2022-dbir-data-breach-investigations-report.pdf

National stakeholders have reported a significant shift in the approach to cybersecurity, with a more structured and comprehensive strategy now in place. This has led to heightened awareness, consistent application of cyber hygiene measures, and improved co-ordination in implementing cybersecurity protocols.

One participant reflected on their experience, stating that "during the training, we learned how crucial proactive security measures are—regularly updating software, using strong and unique passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication, and staying alert to phishing attempts. Beyond my own learning, I have adopted a more interactive teaching style, incorporating real-life examples and hands-on activities to help students grasp the practical implications of cyber hygiene. This shift not only enhances the learning experience but also ensures that students are better prepared to apply these skills in both their personal and professional lives."

Through these initiatives, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness, ensuring that staff are not only knowledgeable but also equipped to apply good practices in their daily work. As cyber threats continue to evolve, these efforts are vital in strengthening the Ministry's overall cyber resilience and creating a more secure and informed digital environment.

General police development and reform

Training sessions for hotline personnel of the National Police of Ukraine and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine; Kyiv, Vinnytsia, and Lviv, Ukraine (January–February & September–November 2024)

To improve the handling and referral of calls received from children during times of war—especially those from children reporting gender-based violence and domestic violence—the SPU conducted six training sessions for 102 hotline operators and dispatchers of the National Police of Ukraine, as well as eight similar training sessions for the newly-established 112 Emergency Hotline Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. These sessions focused on managing calls from children, with particular emphasis on domestic violence—a significant concern, since approximately 25 per cent of all child-related calls involve such cases according to data from the National Police of Ukraine. Participants were equipped with skills to recognize signs of distress and trauma in young callers, perform initial assessments, and quickly transfer cases to the appropriate emergency services. Role-playing exercises allowed participants to practice responding to calls in real-time scenarios, strengthening their ability to assess urgency and co-ordinate responses effectively.

Training sessions for senior personnel of the Ukraine National Police on designing and carrying out awareness-raising campaigns; Kyiv, Ukraine (26 July 2024)

The SPU organized a training session for the senior management of the Cyberpolice Department's regional units of the National Police of Ukraine. The session focused on enhancing communication skills and developing proposals for future awareness-raising campaigns to improve the detection of THB, particularly cases facilitated by ICT. The training aimed to equip the Cyberpolice Department's leadership with practical tools for conducting effective public outreach. It also strengthened their capacity to communicate THB-related risks to the public and to improve co-operation with other stakeholders in addressing this evolving crime.

Addressing threats posed by criminal activity

Winter and autumn schools on CTHB; Ivano-Frankivsk region, Ukraine (20–22 February & 10–12 September 2024)

The SPU further expanded its efforts to equip future law enforcement officers with essential skills to combat THB by

organizing winter and autumn schools for cadets from Ministry of Internal Affairs Universities. The schools followed a structured format, combining theoretical discussions with practical simulation exercises that allowed cadets to apply their knowledge in realistic scenarios. A key focus was on multi-agency co-operation, victim-centred approaches and gender-sensitive investigations. One dedicated session addressed the complexities of interviewing sexually abused minor survivors of THB, emphasizing trauma-informed techniques and gender considerations.

Training for forensic investigators on operating electronic total stations; Legionowo, Poland (15–19 April 2024)

SPU conducted a training session on operating electronic total stations (modern measuring equipment for crime scene examinations) for forensic investigators from Ukraine's State Bureau of Investigations at the Police Training Centre in Legionowo, Poland. The practical skills gained during the training are applied in crime scene inspections, particularly for conducting precise ground measurements, recording trace information, and creating diagrams, plans and other documentation.

Training course on ultimate beneficial ownership; Kyiv, Ukraine (22–25 April 2024)

Representatives of national law enforcement authorities enhanced their practical skills during a training course organized by SPU in co-operation with the State Financial Monitoring Academy and UNODC. The course provided a comprehensive approach to the issue of beneficial ownership, combining theoretical and practical aspects. Special emphasis was placed on legislative and law enforcement components, detection methodology, and international standards on beneficial ownership. Targeting participants from the National Police, Security Service, Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine, and the State Bureau of Investigation, the training aimed to equip them to effectively address challenges in verifying beneficial ownership data and to contribute to the development of an effective verification system in Ukraine.

Simulation exercises to combat trafficking in human beings; Lviv, Ukraine (23–25 April, 30 April–2 May, 21–23 May, 28–30 May 2024)

The SPU conducted a series of simulation exercises on CTHB. These country-tailored simulations involved representatives from social services, NGOs, the police, prosecutor's offices and labour inspectorates, with observers assessing interagency co-ordination and adherence to victim-centred approaches. The exercises offered participants a hands-on experience in identifying and assisting trafficking victims while safeguarding their rights and preventing re-traumatization. They also clarified roles and responsibilities among agencies, strengthened co-operation, and improved information-sharing mechanisms, all while ensuring the protection of victims' privacy.

Training course on financial investigations; Kyiv, Ukraine (13–16 May 2024)

"Follow the money" is the main principle of any financial investigation and was central to a joint training course on financial investigations organized by the SPU in co-operation with UNODC. Experienced trainers from the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine and other institutions shared their knowledge and expertise with participants from various law enforcement agencies. The course employed an interactive approach, covering topics such as Criminal Code Article 209, international co-operation, financial document analysis, evidence evaluation, and types of confiscation.

Training on criminal analysis tools and approaches to investigating serious crime; Kyiv, Ukraine (20–24 May 2024)

SPU conducted an in-depth training course for officials of the State Bureau of Investigations on criminal analysis tools and approaches to investigating serious crimes. The course covered the ILP model, OSINT methodologies and software tools, as well as the processes and methodology used to structure, analyse and visualize information for effective criminal analysis.

Study visit to support the development and implementation of national policy on API/PNR in Ukraine; The Hague, the Netherlands (25–29 June 2024)

To support the development and implementation of national policy on advance passenger information (API) and passenger name records (PNR) in Ukraine, the SPU facilitated a study visit for officials from the Security Service of Ukraine to The Hague, the Netherlands. During the visit, participants took part in Informal Working Group on PNR and held bilateral meetings with Europol, the Passenger Information Unit of the Netherlands, as well as Latvian and independent API/PNR experts.

Workshop on the legal aspects of investigating serious crime; Kyiv, Ukraine (4–5 July 2024)

To strengthen efforts to combat serious crime in Ukraine, the SPU organized a workshop on the legal aspects of investigating serious crime for officials from the Security Service

of Ukraine, the State Bureau of Investigations, the Border Guard Service and the National Police. Key topics included the application of international humanitarian law principles in the context of effective investigation of serious crimes, modern paradigms of counter-intelligence, operational search activities, and addressing serious breaches of state information security.

10th Lviv Criminal Justice Forum; Lviv, Ukraine (19–20 September 2024)

The SPU organized the 10th Lviv Criminal Justice Forum, which provided a platform for criminal justice stakeholders to discuss the challenges of investigating serious crime. The Forum also featured the presentation of the volume *Draft of the New Criminal Code of Ukraine: Background and Preparation Stages, Conceptual principles, Main Provisions*, followed by a discussion of the working group's report on the Development of Criminal Law for the Period 2019–2024.

Advanced training course for cyber investigators on responding to cyber-enabled crimes; Lviv, Ukraine (24–26 September, 22–24 October & 17–19 December 2024)

The SPU conducted advanced training sessions for investigators of the Cyberpolice Department on responding to cyber-enabled crimes. The sessions focused on strengthening investigators' skills in obtaining, securing and processing digital evidence, as well as leveraging mechanisms to collect digital forensic data for ongoing investigations. International good practices in cybercrime prevention and detection were also shared during the training.

Study visit of Ukrainian officials and experts to the Financial Intelligence Unit of Canada; Ottawa, Canada (25–30 November 2024)

To support the Ukrainian Government in building robust partnerships and achieving strategic goals, the SPU organized a study visit for Ukrainian officials to the Financial Intelligence Unit of Canada. The visit brought together anti-money laundering practitioners from the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Finance and Security Service of Ukraine, as well as the representatives from the Financial Intelligence Units of Canada and the United States. Participants discussed good practices and challenges related to risk assessment, beneficial ownership identification, financial investigations and the regulation of virtual assets.

Providing specialized software to the National Police of Ukraine; Kyiv, Ukraine (December 2024)

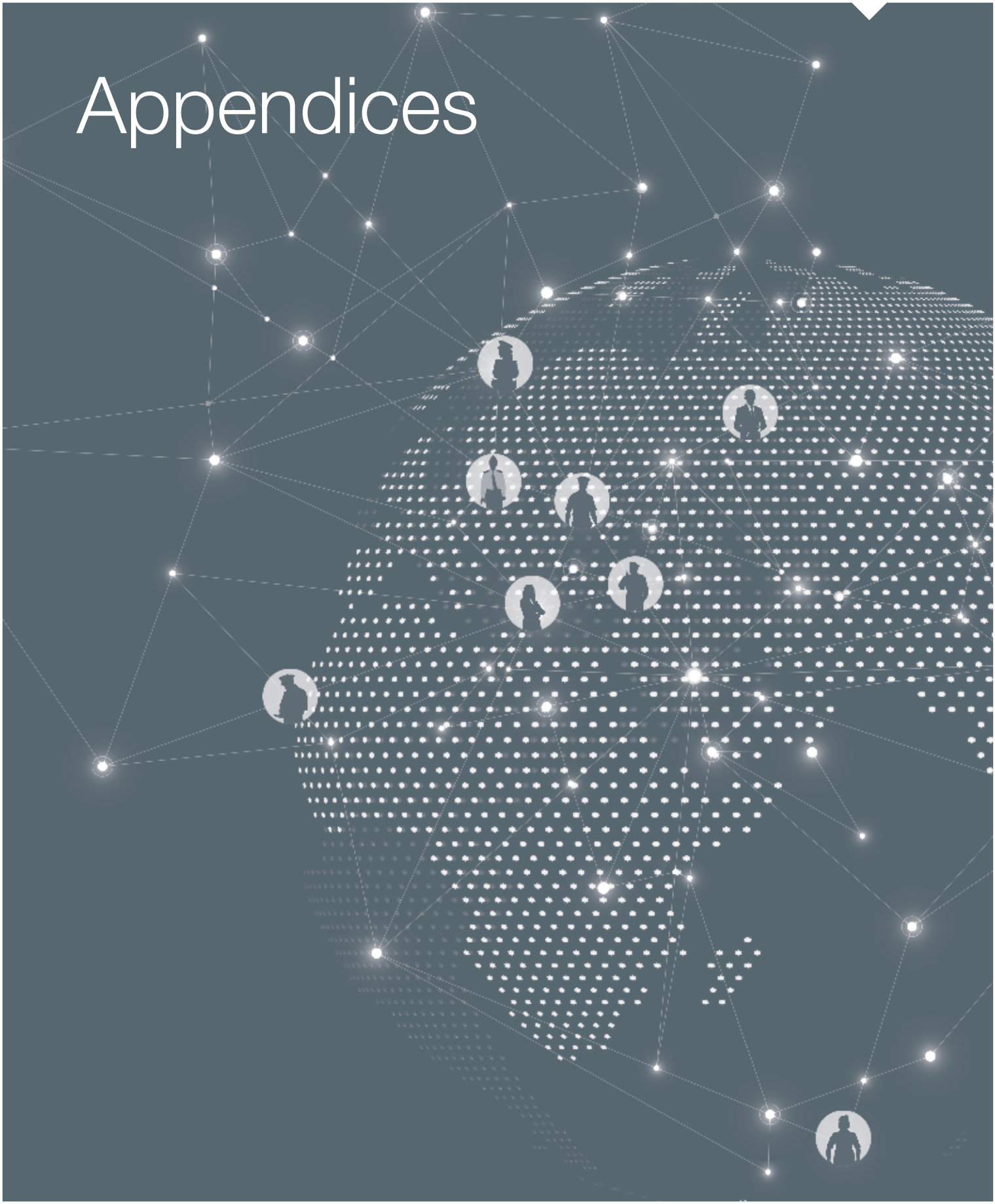
The SPU procured and donated a license for a specialized investigative software to strengthen the capabilities of the National Police of Ukraine, most notably its capacity to combat human trafficking and related crimes. The software uses AI to assist law enforcement in locating victims of sex trafficking and dismantling organized criminal networks. By extracting data from open sources, it compiles databases of images, phone numbers and location data, enabling the identification of patterns and key evidence.

International Forum on Financial Monitoring 2024; Zakarpattia, Ukraine (18–20 December 2024)

The SPU, together with the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine, the Council of Europe, Pro-Integrity, and the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative, organized the international forum "Financial Monitoring 2024". The forum provided a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing and collaboration among representatives of international institutions, policymakers, and practitioners engaged in AML/CFT. Panel discussions addressed key challenges in financial monitoring, while international experts shared insights on issues such as the 6th round of MONEYVAL assessments, changes in international policy, risks of money laundering and terrorism financing, public–private partnerships, and the use of new technologies as vital tools in detecting money laundering, terrorism financing and other sophisticated crimes.

5

Appendices



APPENDIX I

Decisions, Declarations and Action Plans with a Focus on Police-Related Activities

Mandates on police-related issues are contained in OSCE Summit Decisions, as well as in the growing list of Decisions of the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Council, including several OSCE Action Plans.

The latest comprehensive set of OSCE mandates on police-related activities was adopted in 2012 with the Dublin MC Decision No. 4/12 on the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, which endorsed four PC Decisions from 2012, including the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC.DEC/1049) and the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC.DEC/1048). With the adoption of these Decisions, the participating States reaffirmed the key role that police-related activities play in the Organization's efforts to address threats to security and stability posed by criminal activity, as well as its efforts in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation in the OSCE area.

The Charter for European Security adopted by the Istanbul Summit Meeting (1999) represents the platform for the OSCE involvement in policing. It contains the commitment of the OSCE participating States to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Such activities may comprise the following: (1) police monitoring, including preventing police from discriminating based on religious or ethnic identity; (2) police training, aimed at, *inter alia*, improving the operational and tactical capabilities of local police services, reforming paramilitary forces, providing new and modern policing skills such as community policing and anti-drug, anti-corruption and anti-terrorist capacities, creating police services with a multi-ethnic and/or multireligious composition to enable them to enjoy the confidence of the entire population; and (3) promoting general respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Ninth Ministerial Council in Bucharest (2001) declared the OSCE's decision to increase and promote co-operation among participating States in countering new security challenges, including by providing advice or arranging for the provision of expert advice on requirements for effective policing (needs assessments) and how to meet them, and encouraging where appropriate the exchange of information among and between participating States regarding lessons learned and best policing practices in countering new security challenges.

The Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001), adopted on the same occasion as the above Decision on police-related activities, recognized the need to assist participating States, on their request, through measures to combat trafficking in human beings, drugs, and small arms and light weapons, in accordance with relevant Permanent Council decisions. This assistance could also include provision of advice and assistance on restructuring and/or reconstruction of police services; monitoring and training of existing police services, including human rights training; and capacity-building, including support for integrated or multi-ethnic police services. To this end, the plan of action acknowledged the need for reinforcing existing police-related activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

In its Decision No. 448 (2001), the Permanent Council decided to establish the seconded post of Senior Police Adviser at the OSCE Secretariat.

In the Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted by the Tenth Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Porto 2002), its members called on participating States to enhance international co-operation in combating criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, and the smuggling of migrants. They emphasized the need to include in this co-operation international law enforcement bodies such as Europol and INTERPOL, as well as the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), with a view to investigating and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking in human beings in accordance with domestic law and, where applicable, international obligations. In this regard, they also asked the Senior Police Adviser to devote increased attention to the fight against trafficking in human beings.

This tasking was further detailed in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which requested TNTD/SPMU to further promote the concept of community

policing and facilitate the exchange of information between participating States on good practices to be used by relevant investigating units to evaluate the possible criminal and trafficking-related origin of suspicious assets. TNTD/SPMU was also tasked to continue developing training materials for law enforcement on the investigation of trafficking and sex crimes, to provide law enforcement trainers to conduct training, and to facilitate the funding of training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States.

The policing of ethnic minorities was addressed by the OSCE Action Plan for Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (2003). TNTD/SPMU was tasked to assist participating States in developing programmes and confidence-building measures, such as community policing, to improve the relations between police and Roma and Sinti populations, particularly at the local level, and to produce a compilation of police good practices in the OSCE area with respect to policing and Roma and Sinti communities. Another established task was to assist the participating States in developing codes of conduct to prevent racial profiling and improve inter-ethnic relations.

The OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted by the 11th Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003, states that TNTD/SPMU was set up to improve the capacity of participating States to address threats posed by criminal activity and to assist them in upholding the rule of law. The aim was to enhance key policing skills, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted by the 12th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Sofia 2004), urged the OSCE's participating States, Secretariat, institutions and field operations to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into OSCE activities, programmes and projects. The aim shall be to promote the practice of gender equality in the OSCE area, which is essential for comprehensive security. In this context, TNTD/SPMU was specifically tasked to enhance its project development to assist participating States to react to offences of sexual violence. This involves including elements in police training curriculum such as special investigation techniques, interview skills designed for use with victims of sexual assault, including children, and information on referral mechanisms for victim assistance.

The fight against organized crime came to the forefront of OSCE priorities during 2005 and was recognized in the Decision on Combating Transnational Organized Crime adopted by the 13th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Ljubljana 2005). It tasked the OSCE Secretary General with providing support, upon request from participating States, to mobilize technical assistance, including the necessary expertise and resources from relevant competent international organizations, for implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. The Decision also tasked the OSCE Permanent Council to work on designing, with the support of the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE institutions, possible measures and forms of assistance that could be made available to requesting participating States with a view to improving and promoting the functioning of criminal justice systems.

The Ljubljana Ministerial Decision No. 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women urged participating States, with the support and assistance of the OSCE, to take all necessary legislative, policy and programmatic monitoring and evaluation measures to promote and protect women's full enjoyment of human rights, and to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against them. The Decision also tasked the Permanent Council to encourage relevant OSCE institutions and structures to develop programmes, projects and policies to assist participating States, at their request, in combating violence against women and girls, and in providing assistance to victims.

The Ljubljana Ministerial Council also adopted the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept. Above all, this provides participating States with a political framework for co-operation on border-related issues. It provides objectives and principles for this co-operation, and defines modalities for OSCE activities in this area. The OSCE "acts upon the request of participating States" to ensure dialogue on border-related issues through, *inter alia*, "exchange of information, experience and best practices", the establishment of National Focal Point Networks, and the holding of workshops and conferences.

Permanent Council Decision No. 758 Enhancing International Anti-Drug Co-operation (2006) tasked the Secretary General and relevant OSCE institutions with providing participating States, upon their request and in close consultation and co-ordination with UNODC, assistance/advice on antidrug issues through, *inter alia*, awareness-raising activities, organization of regional workshops and facilitation of training.

The Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children adopted by the 14th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Brussels 2006) encouraged relevant OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to devote attention to the area of sexual exploitation of children, including its links to trafficking in persons. It emphasized the need for the OSCE structures and participating States to co-operate with other international organizations, NGOs, and civil society in combating the sexual exploitation of children.

The 14th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Brussels 2006) adopted the follow-up Decision on Organized Crime, reaffirming the importance that the OSCE was giving to this subject. The Decision tasks the OSCE Secretary General and the relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates, with giving enhanced attention to the key role of criminal justice systems in institution-building and in the promotion of the rule of law, as well as co-operating and co-ordinating more closely in order to take the interaction between the components of those systems better into account. A further major task was to build on and consolidate knowledge and experience on criminal justice and organized crime, and to continue co-operating with UNODC in various matters, including combating organized crime and illicit drugs.

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 3/05 (Ljubljana) on combating transnational organized crime, and 5/06 (Brussels) on organized crime, Permanent Council Decision No. 810 (2007) on Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime tasked the Secretary General to support the implementation of the UNTOC convention in co-operation with UNODC, and to organize workshops in co-operation and co-ordination with the Secretariat of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC.

Permanent Council Decision No. 813 (2007) on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and Precursors emphasized the continuing spread of illicit trafficking of opiates from Afghanistan and chemical precursors throughout the OSCE area. The Permanent Council called on the Secretary General to further develop co-operation in the field of anti-drug matters with UNODC, the Paris Pact and other relevant international structures and organizations by, *inter alia*, organizing joint regional and sub-regional workshops and other activities. Furthermore, the Secretary General was tasked with continuing training activities on drug-related matters.

The need for continued training of Afghan police officers in addition to providing assistance to Afghanistan in the fields of border security and combating drug trafficking was also a core topic of the Ministerial Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan (Madrid). Participating States tasked the Secretary General to provide support for intensifying the involvement of Afghan counterparts in OSCE activities related to the fields of border security and management, policing, and the fight against drug trafficking. For this, training facilities in Central Asia as well as in the rest of the OSCE area were to be used. While tasked to avoid unnecessary duplication of existing efforts of other international actors, the Secretary General was also mandated to explore all possible co-operation options, in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant regional and international organizations and other actors.

At the Helsinki Ministerial Council in December 2008, the participating States turned their attention once again to the issue of trafficking in human beings. Decision No. 5/08 on Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings Through a Comprehensive Approach emphasized the need for training on combating trafficking in human beings for law enforcement personnel and urged the participating States, *inter alia*, to ensure co-operation between law enforcement agencies and other relevant actors at the national and international level, and "to intensify measures to disrupt trafficking networks, including by means of financial investigations, investigations of money laundering connected to human trafficking and the freezing and confiscation of the assets of human traffickers".

Reaffirming the participating States' commitment to proactively implement the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and recalling Ljubljana MC Decisions on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, and on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, the 17th Ministerial Council of the OSCE (Athens 2009), in its Decision on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life, called on the participating States to consider providing for specific measure to achieve the goal of gender balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, including police services.

Acknowledging the "[…] diverse and multifaceted OSCE work, experience and lessons learned in the policing field, in particular the work of TNTD/SPMU and the field operations within their respective mandates", the Permanent Council, in its Decision 914/09 adopted in Athens, expressed its conviction that the time had come to take stock of what had been undertaken so far in policing and to "[…] initiate a thorough dialogue on how to further enhance police-related activities within the OSCE." The Permanent Council tasked the Secretary General, "[…] within existing resources and in consultation with relevant OSCE executive structures, to prepare a report on police-related activities of the OSCE executive structures up to the end of 2009". The report was to be based partly on annual reports on police-related activities, reflecting existing mandates and OSCE commitments, and was "[…] to include an assessment of those activities and a forward-looking perspective, offering long-term strategic recommendations". Moreover, the Permanent Council decided that this report would be further discussed during the next Annual Police Experts Meeting in May 2010, as well as at the 2010 Annual Security Review Conference.

The Athens MC Decision No. 2/09 on Further OSCE Efforts to Address Transnational Threats and Challenges to Security and Stability took note of, *inter alia*, the OSCE's contribution to international efforts to fight organized crime through the provision of relevant law enforcement expertise and assis-

tance to participating States, and called for exploring further ways to strengthen synergies in OSCE activities against transnational threats, for addressing them in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, and for focusing on areas where the OSCE has a comparative advantage and can complement the work of other international organizations.

"Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the UN and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation", the participating States, in the 2011 Vilnius MC Decision No. 3/11 on Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE's Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, reiterated "[…] that the OSCE's ability to deploy civilian, police or unarmed military expertise rapidly is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation". It also expressed the expectation for "[…] the OSCE Chairmanship and the executive structures to take full advantage of their respective mandates to address all phases of the conflict cycle", and urged "the Chairmanship and participating States to use, swiftly and to the greatest extent possible, all available tools and procedures as applicable to a particular crisis or conflict situation […]."

"Reiterating the determination expressed by Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings", the Vilnius Ministerial Council, in Decision No. 9/11 on Strengthening Co-ordination and Coherence in the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, welcomed "the proposals by the Secretary General included in the 2012 Unified Budget Proposal for the creation of a department to address transnational threats, consistent with the OSCE's mandates and within available resources, with a view to ensuring better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE's resources in addressing transnational threats […]."

To further strengthen the OSCE's efforts to address transnational threats, the Dublin Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 4/12 in December 2012. This so-called "chapeau" Decision endorses four Decisions that had been adopted in 2012 by the Permanent Council on the development of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (PC Decision No. 1039), the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC Decision No. 1048), the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC Decision No. 1049) and finally, the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (PC Decision No. 1063).

In PC Decision No. 1039 on the Development of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies, the Permanent Council decided "to step up individual and collective efforts to address security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner in accordance with OSCE commitments and in co-operation with relevant international organizations. The PC further tasks the OSCE Chairmanship to establish an open-ended, informal OSCE working group under the auspices of the Security Committee to elaborate a set of draft CBMs to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability, and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation, and conflict that may stem from the use of ICT; and to help build consensus for the adoption of such a set of CBMs in 2012."

The OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC Decision No. 1048) identifies areas and activities requiring sustained efforts for short-, medium- and long-term engagement in combating the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors. It establishes a political framework for comprehensive action by the OSCE participating States and the OSCE executive structures to combat this threat. The Concept stresses the participating States' commitments to support the implementation of the respective international obligations in this area, with a particular focus on the related UN Conventions and Decisions. It also sets principles and major objectives of co-operation, and provides a platform for OSCE's co-operation with international organizations and partners in recognition of the important role played by civil society, including the media and NGOs, in addressing drug-related crimes, as well as preventive measures aimed at reducing drug abuse and dependence, and drug-related harm to health and society, especially to children and young people. According to the Concept, the participating States' co-operation will include, *inter alia*, the exchange of good practices and scientific evidence-based information on combating the threat of illicit drugs. It will also include the facilitation and promotion of cross-border interaction between relevant criminal justice agencies and other competent national structures of the participating States in the prevention, identification, suppression, detection and investigation of drug-related crimes, and the apprehension and extradition of criminals in accordance with existing legal frameworks.

The OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities defines the Organization's priorities in this area, within a wider OSCE approach to security, such as police development and reform, and the fight against organized transnational crime, including trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors, trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation of children on the internet, and cybercrime. Through needs assessment, capacity-building, institution building, training and evaluation, the OSCE will assist the law enforcement agencies of participating States to address the threats posed by criminal activity. All of these activities will be done in line with the promotion of the principles of democratic policing, such as the importance of the rule of law; due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including gender and minority issues; police–public partnerships; effective and accountable criminal justice systems; and enhanced criminal justice co-operation among participating States and international and regional organizations. The Decision highlights the importance of co-operation with governmental authorities as well as civil society in a long-term approach that fosters local commitment to and ownership and sustainability of police-related programme achievements.

The OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (PC Decision No. 1063) further strengthens the profile of the Organization in the struggle against terrorism. The Decision builds on relevant Decisions of the Ministerial Council and highlights the OSCE's anti-terrorism profile, listing the comparative advantages of the Organization. The Decision provides guidance for the Organization, outlining strategic focus areas for counter-terrorism activities. Therewith the Decision is a roadmap for any further OSCE action to be taken in the area of countering terrorism.

In the 2012 Dublin Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the participating States encourage the OCEEA and TNTD "within their respective mandates to assist the participating States, at their request, in their efforts to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism, including through the development, adoption and implementation of legislation and practices to improve interagency and external co-ordination mechanisms in this area."

In 2013, the participating States, with PC Decision No. 1106 adopted the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later. This Decision amends the 2003 Action Plan. It provides participating States with an updated toolkit to combat all forms of THB, and helps to address current and emerging THB trends and patterns, as well as the most pressing challenges related to the prosecution of the crime, its prevention and protection of trafficked persons.

In 2013, the participating States adopted the Initial Set of OSCE Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (PC Decision No. 1106) in order to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation and conflict that may stem from the use of information and communication technologies. According to the Decision, the participating States will voluntarily facilitate co-operation among competent national bodies; share information on measures that they have taken to ensure an open, interoperable, secure and reliable internet; and use the OSCE as a platform for dialogue, exchange of good practices, awareness-raising and information on capacity-building regarding security of and in the use of ICTs, including effective responses to related threats.

The 2014 Basel Ministerial Council adopted several Decisions and declarations related to policing activities.

The Basel Ministerial Decision No. 5/14 on the Prevention of Corruption underlines, *inter alia*, "the central role played by law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions in preventing and combating corruption" and encourages the relevant OSCE executive structures to facilitate the exchange of good practices in the prevention of corruption among participating States upon their request.

The Basel Ministerial Decision No. 7/14 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women reaffirms earlier commitments to prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence. It calls on participating States to improve their legal frameworks for preventing and combating such violence, and to collect and make public data and statistics regarding all forms of violence against women. It encourages participating States to enhance awareness-raising and other prevention programmes, to ensure the protection of victims of all forms of violence against women, and to "strengthen the efforts to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and provide victims with protection and appropriate remedies." The Decision tasks the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States, at their request, to facilitate the exchange of information, improve co-ordination and provide technical assistance and training to help participating States fulfil these goals.

The Basel MC Declaration No. 5/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) calls upon the OSCE executive structures, *inter alia*, "to offer assistance in capacity-building activities to the requesting participating States, in accordance with PC Decision No. 1063, and

to organize, where appropriate, regional and sub-regional events to identify potential weaknesses in international legal and operational co-operation mechanisms in order to foster better co-operation and co-ordination nationally and internationally"; "to continue to promote OSCE efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including through community policing approaches to preventing terrorism, in particular at the local level"; and "to support requesting participating States in the implementation of their commitments regarding travel document security and border management and to facilitate technical assistance in this field by INTERPOL and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States."

The Basel Ministerial Council Declaration No. 6/14 on the OSCE Role in Countering Kidnapping and Hostage-Taking Committed by Terrorist Groups in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2133 (2014) calls upon the OSCE executive structures to continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, to explore ways to exchange information between intelligence agencies and the criminal justice systems, and to promote capacity-building for managing, investigating and prosecuting cases of terrorist kidnapping and hostage-taking.

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 2/15 on the OSCE Activities in Support of the Global Efforts Tackling the World Drug Problem states the need for a balanced and integrated approach to tackling the world drug problem, for further co-operation between the OSCE with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, and other relevant multilateral organizations, especially with the emergence and spread of dangerous new psychoactive substances and the diversion of chemical precursors, and for further co-operation in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016).

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 3/15 on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of the Recent Terrorist Attacks condemns all terrorist attacks and reaffirms the OSCE's commitments to remain united in combating terrorism, while underscoring respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law as complementary to effective counter-terrorism measures.

The Belgrade Ministerial Council Declaration No. 4/15 on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism calls upon participating States to strengthen and adapt their efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and to support a multi-dimensional approach, including community policing, to counter VERLT within the OSCE area.

The Hamburg MC Decision No. 1/16 on Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism underscores the central role of the UN in preventing and countering terrorism, including the importance of OSCE commitments to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It states that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, while stressing the need for participating States to take appropriate steps to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism. The decision also positively appreciates the implementation of the #UnitedCVE campaign, and welcomed the activities by OSCE executive structures in the area of preventing and countering terrorism.

Hamburg MC Decision No. 3/16 on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees encourages participating States to use the OSCE platform for improving dialogue on migration-related matters by developing effective measures and common approaches to address such matters. It also encourages OSCE executive structures to reinforce the exchange of good practices and to enhance dialogue and co-operation with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

With MC Decision No. 6/16 on Enhancing the Use of Advanced Passenger Information, the OSCE participating States commit to: 1. Establish national advance passenger information (API) systems in accordance with the provisions contained in ICAO's Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention) and aligned with the WCO/IATA/ICAO Guidelines on Advance Passenger Information (API), including those on privacy and data protection, in order to effectively collect passenger and/or crew data from airlines operating in their territories; 2. Consider establishing at the national level an interactive system to exchange API data (iAPI) in order to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters in line with UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2309 (2016); 3. Adhere to ICAO Document 9082 "ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services" in the context of establishing an API system, recognizing that States are responsible for ensuring the implementation of adequate security measures at airports; 4. Collaborate with all relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of national level API systems, and consider establishing one authority to receive, on behalf of all other authorities, all forms of passenger data through a single window data entry point; 5. Increase the added value of API data by seeking to establish automated cross-checking of this data against relevant national, regional and international watch lists, in particular INTERPOL databases and UN Sanctions Lists; and 6. Provide assistance to support other requesting participating States in establishing API systems.

The Tirana Ministerial Council Declaration No. 1/20 on Strengthening Co-operation in Countering Transnational Or-

ganized Crime underlined the importance of strengthening national co-ordination and international co-operation in countering transnational organized crime through direct contact and engagement between relevant authorities, and by exchange of information and good practices, as well as by using the tools provided by the OSCE, UNODC and other relevant international organizations. It recommitted to maintaining the countering of transnational organized crime among the priorities of the OSCE by enhancing implementation of the respective international obligations and the OSCE's existing commitments. It also reaffirmed the tasking of the relevant OSCE executive structures to regularly brief the participating States on OSCE activities related to the implementation of existing OSCE commitments to address transnational organized crime, and encouraged continued discussions on this topic among the participating States.

APPENDIX II

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AI	artificial intelligence
AIRPOL	Airport Police Network
AML/CFT	anti-money laundering/countering financing of terrorism
AMO	Asset Management Office (of North Macedonia)
API	advance passenger information (systems)
ARC	Asset Recovery Committee (of Kazakhstan)
ATU	(OSCE) Action against Terrorism Unit
BAMIN	Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network
BMSC	(OSCE) Border Management Staff College
BSM	border security and management
BSMU	(OSCE)Border Security and Management Unit
CBM	confidence building measure
CDCT	(CoE's) Committee on Counter-Terrorism (Comité Directeur sur le Contre-Terrorisme)
CFT	countering the financing of terrorism
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CiO	chairperson-in-office
CoE	Council of Europe
CPC	(OSCE) Conflict Prevention Centre
CPC/FSC SU	(OSCE) Conflict Prevention Centre Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit
CSO	civil society organization
CTHB	combating trafficking in human beings
CTPN	Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network
CVE	countering violent extremism
DCA	Drug Control Agency (of Tajikistan)
DIA	Anti-Mafia Investigations Directorate (of Italy)
ECAC	European Civil Aviation Conference
EECA IWG	Eastern Europe and Central Asia informal working group (on passenger data)

EU4FAST WB	EU Support to Strengthen the Fight against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans
EULEX	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
Europol	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
ExB	extrabudgetary
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIAHT	(Switzerland's) Financial Intelligence against Human Trafficking (initiative)
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit (of Kosovo)
FTF	foreign terrorist fighter
GBV	gender-based violence
GIBP	General Inspectorate of Border Police (of Moldova)
GIFCT	Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism
GlobE Network	Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities
GPI	General Police Inspectorate (of Moldova)
HCTF	(OSCE-led) Heritage Crime Task Force
HCNM	(OSCE) High Commissioner on National Minorities
iAPI	interactive advance passenger information (system)
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICITAP	(US Department of Justice's) International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program
ICT	information and communication technology
ILP	intelligence-led policing
IOM	International Organization for Migration
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
K9	canine (dog handling unit)
KSO	Kosovo Correctional Service
LGBT	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender
LPSC	local public safety committee
LSC	local safety council
MC	(OSCE) Ministerial Council
MCSC	municipal community safety council
MPR	Mobile Police Reception (in Kyrgyzstan)
MTT	mobile training team
NGO	non-governmental organization
NMTT	national mobile training team

OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
ODIHR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OFA	Ohrid Framework Agreement
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	open-source intelligence
OSR/CTHB	(OSCE) Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
PC	(OSCE) Permanent Council
PCC Surrey DTC	Police and Crime Commissioner of the Surrey Police Dog Training Centre
PCM	project cycle management
PCOCP	Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors
P/CVE	preventing and countering violent extremism
P/CVERLT	preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
PIU	passenger information units
PNR	passenger name record
PVE	preventing violent extremism
RFoM	(OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media
SALW	small arms and light weapons
SBGS	State Border Guard Service (of Ukraine)
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SEPCA	Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association
SIA	Sector for Internal Affairs (of North Macedonia)
SOP	standard operating procedure
SPAK	Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime (of Albania)
SPMU	(OSCE) Strategic Police Matters Unit
TAHCLE	Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (OSCE programme)
TCP	trafficking in cultural property
THB	trafficking in human beings
TNTD	(OSCE) Transnational Threats Department
ToT	training-of-trainers
UN	United Nations
UNCTED	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly

UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VASP	virtual asset service provider
VERLT	violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism
WCO	World Customs Organization
WIN	(OSCE project) Women and Men Innovating and Networking for Gender Equality

APPENDIX III

Contact Details

Thematic Subdivisions in the OSCE Secretariat Dealing with Police-Related Issues

Subdivisions	Contact person	Email	Phone
TNTD	**Ambassador Alena KUPCHYNA** OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats	Alena.Kupchyna@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6947
TNTD/SPMU	**Umberto SEVERINI** Head of Strategic Police Matters Unit	Umberto.Severini@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6872
	Jeni DIMITROVA Administrative Assistant	Jeni.Dimitrova@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6941
TNTD/ATU	**Daniel GOLSTON** Associate Programme Officer	Daniel.Golston@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6772
TNTD/BSMU	**Siv-Katrine LEIRTROE** Head of Border Security and Management Unit	Siv-Katrine.Leirtroe@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6662
	Dragica VUCINIC Border Management Officer	Dragica.Vucinic@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6662
TNTD/CC	**Alicia HARTMANN** Analysis and Co-ordination Officer	Alicia.Hartmann@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6844
OCEEA	**Ralf Uwe ERNST** Deputy Co-ordinator, Head of Economic Governance Unit	Ralf.Ernst@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6206
Programme for Gender Issues	**Clara FRIEDRICH** Adviser on Gender Equality	Clara.Friedrich@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6682
OSR/CTHB	**Marianne ANGVIK** Executive Programme Officer	Marianne.Angvik@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6611

OSCE Institutions Dealing with Police-Related Issues

Institution	Contact person	Email	Phone
ODIHR	**Beata Bislim OLAHOVA** Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues	Beata.BislimOlahova@odihr.pl	+48 22 5200 796
HCNM	**Fernando BURGES** Project Officer	Fernando.SouzaBurges@osce.org	+31 6 2152 3186
RFoM	**Julia HAAS** Adviser	Julia.Haas@osce.org	+43 1 514 36 6805

Other Relevant Programmatic Activities

	Contact person	Email	Phone
Support Programme for Ukraine	**Liliya GRUDKO** Associate Co-ordination Officer (Human Security Programme)	Liliya.Grudko@osce.org	+380 6 7239 3630

OSCE Field Operations Dealing with Police-Related Issues

Eastern Europe

Field operation	Department	Contact person	Email	Phone
Mission to Moldova	Conflict Prevention/ Resolution	**Izabela Sylwia HARTMANN** Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova	Izabela.Hartmann@osce.org	+373 69 30 3600
		Vitalie SAVIN National Programme Officer	Vitalie.Savin@osce.org	+373 69 87 1663

South-Eastern Europe

Field operation	Department	Contact person	Email	Phone
Presence in Albania	Security Co-operation	**Darko ANGELOV** Head of Security Co-operation Department	Darko.Angelov@osce.org	+355 69 401 0065
		Sasho TRPCHEVSKI Law Enforcement Development Officer	Sasho.Trpchevski@osce.org	+355 4 224 0001

Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Security Co-operation	**Mateusz LEMPKOWSKI** Head of Security Co-operation	Mateusz.Lempkowski@osce.org	+387 33 95 2230
		Nadina HODZIC Office Assistant	Nadina.Hodzic@osce.org	+387 33 95 2221
Mission in Kosovo	Security and Public Safety	**Bertram WELSING** Director of the Department for Security and Public Safety	Bertram.Welsing@osce.org	+381 28 270 008
		Apollon HOXHA National Programme Co-ordination Officer	Apollon.Hoxha@osce.org	+383 38 2401 0020 15
Mission to Montenegro	Security Co-operation and Governance	**Stephen Robert HARMON** Programme Manager, Security Co-Operation and Governance	Stephen.Harmon@osce.org	+382 20 406441 8
		Milos ULJAREVIC Project Assistant	Milos.Uljarevic@osce.org	+382 20 406404 4404
Mission to Serbia	Security Co-operation	**Valentin MIKHAILOV** Head of Security Co-operation Department	Valentin.Mikhailov@osce.org	+381 11 360 6207
		Natasa RISTOVIC National Programme Officer	Natasa.Ristovic@osce.org	+381 11 360 6253
		Jovan PAVLOVIC Senior Programme Assistant	Jovan.Pavlovic@osce.org	+381 11 360 6210
Mission to Skopje	Public Safety and Community Outreach	**Edward ANDERSON** Head of Public Safety and Community Outreach	Edward.Anderson@osce.org	+389 70 358524
		Gordana MITROVIC Senior Police Adviser	Gordana.Mitrovic@osce.org	+389 70 358940
		Meri DIMIROVSKA National Programme Co-ordination Officer	Meri.Dimirovska@osce.org	+389 70 358495

Central Asia

Field operation	Department	Contact person	Email	Phone
Centre in Ashgabat	Conflict Prevention and Confidence and Security Building	**Guncha NEPESOVA** Senior Programme Assistant	Guncha.Nepesova@osce.org	+993 6503 3942 7321
Programme Office in Astana	Politico-Military Activities	**Assel KARATAEYVA** Senior Politico-Military Officer	Assel.Karatayeva@osce.org	+7 701 727 9772
		Aidyn ALIMBEKOV Project Associate	Aidyn.Alimbekov@osce.org	+7 701 698 0086
Programme Office in Bishkek	Politico-Military Activities	**Konstantin Victorovich BEDAREV** Head of Politico-Military Department	Konstantin.Bedarev@osce.org	+996 312 612445 7129
		Milica IVANOVA Police Matters Adviser	Ivanova.Milica@osce.org	+996 755 750020
		Irina GLUSHCHENKO Programme Associate	Irina.Glushchenko@osce.org	+996 312 612445 7148
Programme Office in Dushanbe	Political and Military Aspects of Security	**Jukka TUONONEN** Head of Politico-Military Department	Jukka.Tuononen@osce.org	+992 98 7601758
		Miroslav MILOJEVIC Police Issues Adviser	Miroslav.milojevic@osce.org	+992 98 7601788
		Bakhrom ABDULLAEV National Police Assistance Officer	Bakhrom.Abdullaev@osce.org	+992 98 7830017
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	Politico-Military Activities	**Sergei SIZOV** Senior Project Officer	Sergei.Sizov@osce.org	+998 71 140 0470 7204
		Mirza Ulugbek Qodir Ugli ABDULLAEV National Project Officer	Mirza.Abdullaev@osce.org	+998 71 140 0470 7232

The Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Wallnerstrasse 6
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: +43 1 514 360

pm@osce.org
www.osce.org

Follow OSCE

Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe