

**12th Annual Meeting
of the OSCE Border Security and Management
National Focal Points Network**

**Vienna, Austria
12 – 13 April 2018**

Thematic focus: Modern approaches to border security and management in the face of emerging transnational threats and challenges.

BACKGROUND

The Border Security and Management Concept (BSMC), adopted by the OSCE participating States (pS) at the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in 2005, represents a key document comprising border-related activities within the OSCE and encompasses political commitments and obligations of pS concerning border security and cross-border co-operation.

The OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Points (NFP) Network, mandated by Permanent Council Decision No. 757 (2006), has the primary objective to serve as an instrument for co-operation among pS on border security and management issues, centred on facilitation of regular border-specific information sharing among pS and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation (PfC). The OSCE maintains the National Focal Points Network by developing opportunities for sharing practice, information and ideas through the annual NFP meeting, multi-media conferencing, and activities for smaller working groups.

The Annual NFP Meeting aims at providing the NFPs with an opportunity to discuss about emerging threats, risks, and available cross-border co-operation mechanisms to address them with consideration to the OSCE current and planned activities in the area of border security and management (BSM). The NFP network members will have the opportunity to discuss further developments of the network and future activities and to propose initiatives to be supported by the OSCE. In addition, this year's meeting will include the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation's network of points of contact, which provides a forum for discussion and brainstorming on new and innovative ways to further advance the implementation of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept by the OSCE pS.

The meeting will be organized by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU), in Vienna, Austria. The event will focus on the conclusions of previous Annual Meetings and is in line with the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship's priorities.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Promote cross-border co-operation and information exchange;
- Explore innovative approaches to investigation and prosecution of cross-border corruption cases;

- Identify ways forward how to overcome gender-related challenges in BSM, both internally (within services level) and externally, by sharing best practices in gender equality mainstreaming in BSM;
- Discuss current trends and challenges in combating illicit trafficking in cultural property;
- Analyze emerging threats and risks related to BSM issues and assess available international, regional and cross-border co-operation mechanisms to address them;
- Examine and propose ways of improving co-operation on BSM at the national, regional, and international levels;
- Discuss on-going initiatives and agree on future activities.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting is open to officially designated NFPs, and points of contact, relevant national experts, representatives of the OSCE field operations that address border security and management issues in their host country, and officials from international and regional organizations dealing with relevant issues that are willing to contribute to the discussions.

The Italian OSCE Chairmanship is planning to invite suitable border security and management experts from the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to take part in some sessions of the meeting.