

Transnational threats

Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats: **Rasa Ostrauskaite**
Budget: €2,955,500 (Unified budget), €2,221,361 (Extrabudgetary pledges)
Staff: 33 (including 6 under extrabudgetary projects)
www.osce.org/secretariat/cyber-ict-security
www.osce.org/secretariat/terrorism
www.osce.org/secretariat/policing
www.osce.org/secretariat/borders
polis.osce.org

Throughout 2017, the OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) supported the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, upon their request, in their efforts to counter transnational threats. The Department provided assistance in translating political commitments into effective and sustainable activities such as convening expert meetings, sharing information and best practices, and co-ordinating the implementation of projects and plans of action. TNTD consists of a Co-ordination Cell dealing inter alia with security issues in cyber/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and three thematic units: the Action against Terrorism Unit, the Border Security and Management Unit and the Strategic Police Matters Unit.

CYBER/ICT SECURITY

The focus of many states on developing cyber capabilities has added a complex layer to international peace and security. To reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs, in 2017, TNTD helped the OSCE participating States develop crisis communication mechanisms to prevent escalation, including the use of the OSCE Communications Network to raise concerns with other states.

TNTD continued to support the participating States, upon their request, in implementing the OSCE cyber/ICT security confidence-building measures (CBMs). This support included the commissioning of an analysis of the challenges states face in implementing the CBMs and the facilitation of the development of a work plan to tackle these challenges. In addition, an interregional conference on cyber/ICT security enabled OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation to contribute to efforts designed to promote cyber stability between states. Subregional training events promoted co-operation on ICT-related challenges between policymakers and technical experts, focusing on national preparedness, strategies and resilience.



Afghan border police officers practise masking techniques by using camouflage netting during a four-week OSCE patrolling and leadership training course, Gissar, Tajikistan, 26 July 2017. (OSCE/Daler Khamidov)

COMBATING TERRORISM

Anti-terrorism activities continued to receive high priority. Preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) was the focus of the OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference, which highlighted the importance of a multifaceted approach in addressing terrorism and its root causes. The event gathered more than 500 high-level participants, practitioners, academics and civil society representatives, from the majority of OSCE participating States as well as all Partners for Co-operation, 35 international and regional organizations and over 95 civil society organizations.

Underscoring the importance of their engagement, youth representatives reiterated that they are part of the solution to the threat of terrorism. They presented recommendations elaborated at four subregional youth workshops held under the umbrella of the #UnitedCVE social media campaign, which reached more than 40 million individuals online.

In support of national efforts to counter terrorist financing, a series of advanced training and train-the-trainer courses focusing on analysis, investigation, financial disruption of terrorist networks, and UN sanctions listing cases was started in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in joint co-operation with the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering.

In response to renewed interest from participating States, four national risk assessment and crisis management exercises on the protection of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks emanating from cyberspace were held in Belgrade, Bratislava, Skopje and Tirana. To prevent the exploitation of the Internet by terrorists, a publicly accessible online course was launched demonstrating how terrorists exploit the Internet for their nefarious aims and explaining how to counter this threat. Seminars on strengthening rule of law-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism were held in Prishtinë/Priština and Astana, based on the



Afghan border troops use the technique of belaying in a bundle, learned at an OSCE-organized training course, Khoja Obigarm, 17 April 2017. (OSCE/Firdavs Kurbanov)

Global Counterterrorism Forum Rabat Memorandum. Training was held for NGOs working in high-risk areas on preventing and countering kidnapping for ransom, as well as for law enforcement officers in charge of resolving such cases. A national seminar on a whole-of-society approach to prevent and counter VERLT was held in Ulaanbaatar.

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT

The OSCE Border Security and Management (BSM) National Focal Point Network continued to promote dialogue and networking through training events, thematic seminars and workshops. The Annual Meeting of the Network, focusing on emerging threats and cross-border co-operation and supported by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, was held in March in Austria.

The OSCE mobile training team comprised of 17 border officers and counter-terrorism officials to identify potential foreign terrorist fighters conducted training courses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The first-ever OSCE-wide seminar on passenger data exchange was held in September, preceded by a series of national workshops on establishing Advance Passenger Information systems organized in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kyrgyzstan.

TNTD developed a guidebook on delimitation and demarcation, which includes a compilation of good practices in the OSCE area, and launched it in November in Belarus.

TNTD established the Mediterranean Points of Contact Network on BSM and organized workshops on combating trafficking in cultural property in Cyprus and Italy.

POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN RESPONDING TO TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

TNTD focused on building law enforcement capacities of the OSCE participating States by assisting in police development and reform and addressing organized crime, counter-terrorism, illicit drugs, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and cybercrime.

It published a guidebook on intelligence-led policing in English, Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian and Russian. Following the launch of the guidebook in Vienna, it organized two regional events in Skopje and Astana.

To respond to the flow of migrants, a particular challenge for countries in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) in recent years, TNTD and the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, together with the IOM and the UNODC, organized a regional seminar on crimes related to migration in SEE.

Training and awareness-raising activities were conducted in Belarus and Uzbekistan on drug-related crimes facilitated by the darknet and cryptocurrencies. The nexus between illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism was addressed at the 2017 OSCE-wide anti-drug conference.

Money is the main incentive and motivation behind serious crime. Crime Should Not Pay was the title of the 2017 OSCE Annual Police Experts meeting, during which participants discussed ways to strengthen measures to identify and trace illicit financial flows and confiscate criminal assets.