

Transnational Threats Department Border Security and Management Unit



Who we are

The Border Security and Management Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department supports OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to address emerging border security risks and challenges.

The Border Security and Management Unit works to enhance standards in border services by facilitating the exchange of and promoting best practices through workshops and training courses, co-ordinating a national focal points network on border security and management, and supporting the capacity-building activities of OSCE field operations on the ground. The Unit also works closely with other regional and international organizations.

Border Security and Management Concept

The Unit's work is guided by the Border Security and Management Concept, adopted by OSCE participating States in 2005.

The Concept's central theme is a "commitment to promoting the open and secure borders in a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines."

The Concept covers all three areas of the OSCE's work in the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, and addresses transnational threats such as:

- Terrorism;
- Organized Crime;
- Trafficking in Human Beings;
- Smuggling of Weapons and Drugs;
- Corruption.



Given the range of security challenges emanating from the Mediterranean region, the Unit encourages information sharing and risk analysis between OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation through joint workshops such as this field activity in Malta.



The Unit works with border services across the OSCE area to build their capacities both through workshops and by supporting field offices' projects such as the Winter Search and Rescue Training Course for border officers of Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

What we do

The Border Security and Management Unit assists border services in OSCE participating States through workshops, capacity development training and expert advice.

The Unit supports activities in the following areas:

Identifying potential Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Foreign Terrorist Fighters now constitute a major threat to regional and international security. Through the establishment of an OSCE Mobile Training Team to deliver training on identifying and interviewing potential Foreign Terrorist Fighters at the borders in the OSCE area, the Unit supports and assists

OSCE participating States to better address this threat.

Enhancing Travel Document Security

Through specially designed capacity-building activities the Unit works to increase membership in International Civil Aviation Organization's Public Key Directory, increase the use of Advance Passenger Information, better detect forged travel documents, and improve identity management systems.

Anti-corruption

Through the delivery of an interactive anti-corruption Train-the-Trainer programme, the Unit strives to improve the capacities of border guards, customs services and anti-corruption authorities to prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption-related cases, with emphasis on the cross-border related aspects of such cases.

Gender mainstreaming

The Unit's Women Leadership and Empowerment Initiative established an OSCE-wide platform on gender equality within border security and management. This project provides OSCE participating States with sustainable mechanisms to expand the role of women at all levels of border security and management.

Delimitation and demarcation

Workshops supporting the boundary commissions of OSCE participating States are conducted by the Unit, providing a platform for the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on the demarcation and delimitation of borders.

Illicit trafficking in cultural property

The Unit provides participating States with new and innovative ways to better address the cross-border dimension of this emerging transnational threat.

Addressing migration-related challenges

The increasing flow of migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa is a serious challenge for the OSCE, and the Unit works closely with its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in this area. The Unit assists the border security and management services of the Partners to strengthen their overall capacities, helping them to launch new mechanisms for co-operation, information sharing and risk analysis.



The Unit raises awareness and promotes good practice in addressing new and emerging challenges to the work of border services such as the illicit trafficking in cultural property.

How we work

The Border Security and Management Unit brings innovation to the forefront of capacity development and training, introducing new teaching methodologies while integrating emerging technologies.

Among the tools and methodologies used by the Unit to build the capacities of border security and management professionals are:

- **Table Top Exercises**, an interactive teaching tool using specially designed scenarios to maximize the effectiveness of the learning experience;
- **Mobile Training Teams** to deliver on-site training to border security and management officials to help them better identify and interview potential Foreign Terrorist Fighters in full compliance with international human rights standards;
- **Real-time Electronic Polling**, an IT-based teaching tool, which helps to foster thoughtful and interactive discussion on a variety of border-related subjects ranging from anti-corruption to gender mainstreaming;
- **Multimedia** that includes short films and animation clips are incorporated into the Unit's projects to educate, guide and inspire individuals working in the border security and management services.

National Focal Points Network

The Unit works closely with its Border Security and Management National Focal Points Network, which brings together more than 100 official representatives from 52 OSCE participating States. The Network's annual meetings and participation in OSCE border-related activities creates a forum for the exchange of information, experience and best practices, and allows for technical dialogue between national border services and relevant national structures.

OSCE Border Management Staff College

The OSCE Border Management Staff College, which is supported by the Unit and operates within the Office in Tajikistan, is a unique educational institution integrating all three OSCE dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions. Opened in Dushanbe in 2009, the College is open to representatives of all border security and management services of participating States and Partners for Co-operation. In its educational programme, it offers:

- The Border Management Staff Course;
- The Border Security and Management Senior Leadership Course;
- Thematic seminars, workshops and conferences promoting international and cross-border co-operation.

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