

# NORDEM ANNUAL REPORT 2016



NORWEGIAN  
CAPACITY

| NORDEM

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## NORDEM

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Cover photo: A purple inked  
finger indicates that a person  
has voted during an election.  
Chris Allison, 2009

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# Foreword

2016 will be remembered by many for international political events that seemed to challenge the established world order. While the work of NORDEM was not directly affected by either the Brexit referendum or the US presidential elections, these and other political developments, nevertheless, contributed to influence the context of our deployments.

Worldwide, human rights came increasingly under pressure. This was also observed in countries where they are not usually questioned. Shifts in relations between the big international powers influenced the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, where NORDEM deployees constitute a significant contribution to the OSCE's Monitoring Mission (SMM) and the EU's Advisory Mission (EUAM). Deployees in DR Congo worked on stabilization in the East amidst political tension stemming from the continued efforts of the president to prolong his term of office beyond the established constitutional limits – a phenomenon that also affected several other countries in the region.

Against the backdrop of political tension and the shrinking space for human rights, the contributions NORDEM deployments make to international organizations that aim to protect and promote human rights, reinforce democratic principles and build peace, have even greater importance. NORDEM deployees have continued to have a significant impact in their respective areas of work. One of our core contributions has been the deployment of close to 60 election observers that provided support for election missions across four continents. This

Annual Report 2016 highlights some of their results.

2016 was also a year that involved many changes for NORDEM as an organization. In June 2016 it was decided that NORDEM was to become a part of the Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) Expert Deployment/NORCAP department. NORDEM moved to NRC as scheduled, at the close of 2016 – without reducing or disrupting ongoing deployments and other regular activities.

Operating NORDEM from within NRC's Expert Deployment/NORCAP department will strengthen its impact in several ways. For example, NORDEM's receiving agencies will benefit from enhanced recruitment capabilities, a wider access to qualified candidates across rosters and efficient deployment mechanisms. Our deployees will be supported by administrative systems that are even better tailored for their needs. They will also become part of a large professional network of colleagues and may see increased opportunities for deployments and training.

Deploying experts through a roster mechanism covering such a broad range of fields, through NRC's Expert Deployment/NORCAP, may also help to bridge divisions between humanitarian, peacebuilding and development approaches in international aid. Bringing NORDEM, with its partners and thematic knowledge, into the hub of related expertise that exists in the Expert Deployment/NORCAP department, is bound to create exciting new opportunities!



SMM monitors conducting a foot patrol in Kominternove, Donetsk region, 17 February 2016.

PHOTO: OSCE, EVGENIY MALOLETKA

NORDEM's emphasis on providing the best support possible to our partners and deployees will remain despite these organizational changes. We also continue our commitment to sharing the knowledge acquired in the field with policy makers, practitioners and researchers.

We look forward to continuing our strong partnerships with international organizations and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017. Both in familiar geographic and thematic settings, as well as in new contexts, NORDEM

deployments will be an important means to ensure people's human rights, strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, and lay the foundations for peace.

**Lisa Kirkengen,**  
*NORDEM Head of Unit/Project Manager*

The information presented in the NORDEM Annual Report 2016 presents activities implemented while NORDEM was affiliated with the University of Oslo (UiO). NORDEM became a part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) as of 1st of January 2017.

# NORDEM Assignments in 2016

## Long Term Missions 2016:

- DR Congo
- Austria – Vienna
- Belgium – Brussels
- Poland – Warsaw
- US – New York
- Tajikistan
- Kosovo
- Ukraine
- Bosnia and Hercegovina
- Switzerland – Geneva
- Ethiopia – Addis Ababa
- Egypt – Cairo

## Election Observation Missions 2016:

### Africa and the Middle East:

- Burkina Faso
- Ghana
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Jordan

### Europe:

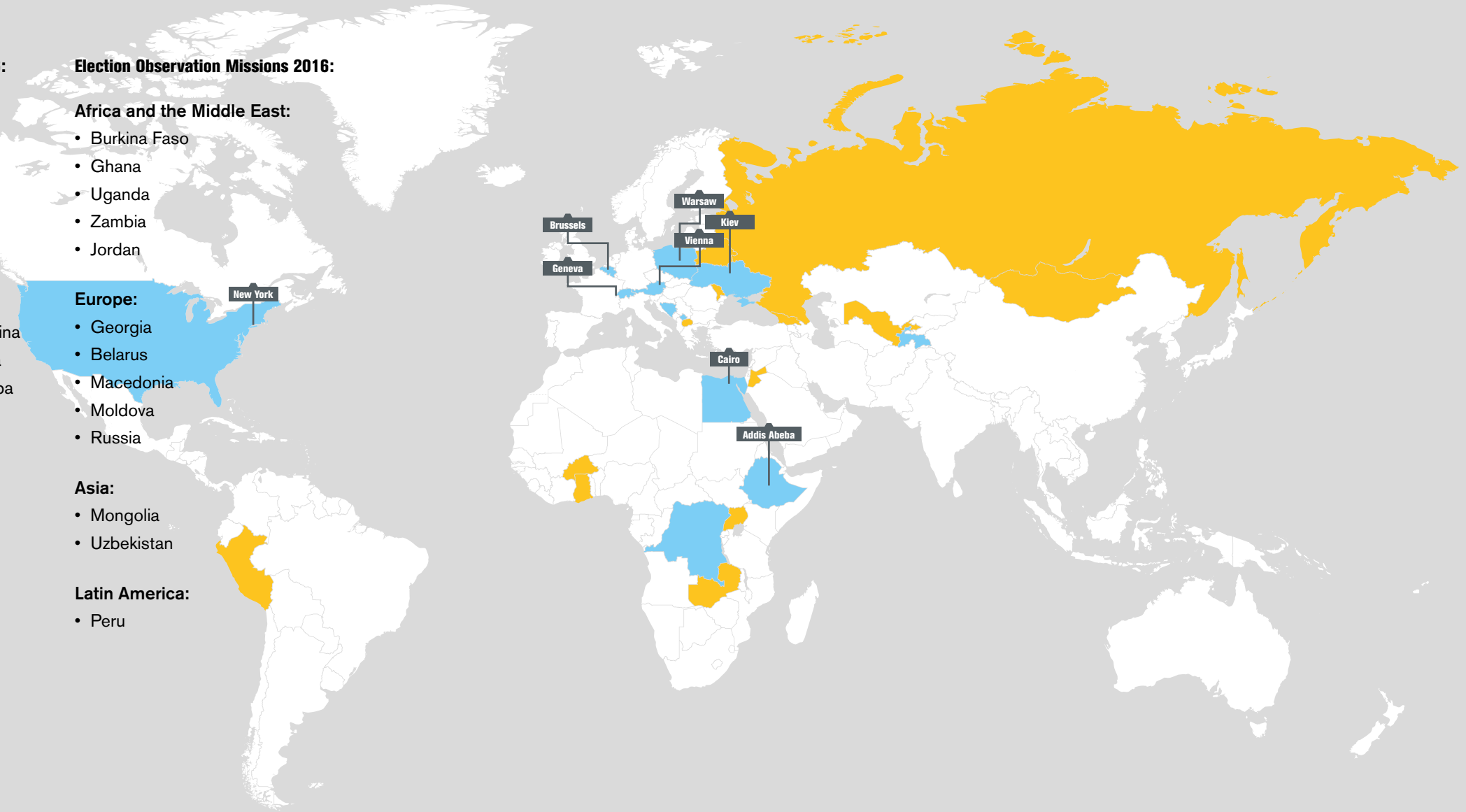
- Georgia
- Belarus
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Russia

### Asia:

- Mongolia
- Uzbekistan

### Latin America:

- Peru



Long Term Missions 2016



Election Observation Missions 2016



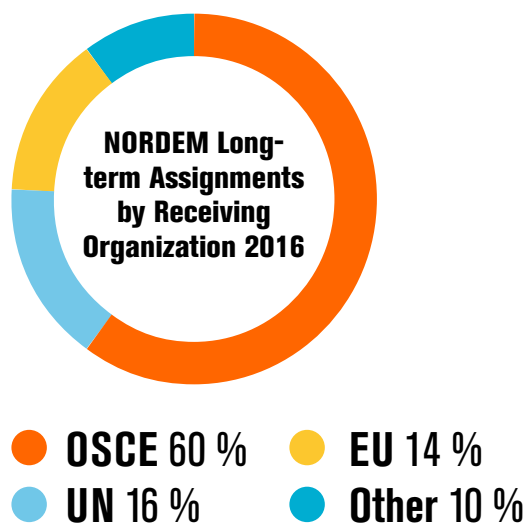
HQ Assignments in 2016





## NORDEM Deployees and Partnerships

# Long-term Assignments



**In 2016, NORDEM had a total of 57 experts on long term missions in the following receiving organizations:**

- European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX)
- Kosovo Property Agency (KPA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- United Nations Stabilization Mission in DR Congo (MONUSCO)
- European Commission
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
- UN Women
- The Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE
- EU External Action Service (EEAS)
- Community of Democracies (CoD)
- The European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Ukraine
- The Norwegian Embassy in Sarajevo

The work of NORDEM deployees is firstly, to be an important asset for their receiving organizations' ability to achieve their aims in their fields of work in cooperation with national authorities. Secondly, through our contribution to international organizations, NORDEM deployees also realize Norwegian foreign policy objectives as expressed in relevant government policies on human rights.

In 2016, NORDEM contributed a range of long-term deployees to our partners such as the UN (16%), the OSCE (60%) and the EU (14%) that helped foster democracy and good governance in their projects. Fields where experts in long-term NORDEM assignments worked included human rights, rule of law, conflict monitoring, local governance, sexual and gender based violence, election observation, electoral assistance, stabilization/peacebuilding, judicial protection, freedom of the media and institution building. Most of the NORDEM deployees work for international organizations that mainly recruit their international personnel through secondments by member states, such as the OSCE and the EU missions. NORDEM also deploys to organizations that use the expert deployments for more specific needs, such as staffing pilot projects or new initiatives, or providing types of expertise not typically provided by the organization's own systems. The deployees were deployed for periods of 6 to 12

months, and several of them continued in their positions from the previous year.

### **A Platform for Knowledge Sharing**

NORDEM personnel, who are on assignments in international field operations, acquire up-to date and hands-on experience with applied human rights and democratization work, and are exposed to continuous learning throughout their missions. NORDEM places great emphasis on sharing this unique insight with relevant stakeholders and partners through in-house presentations and briefings, in larger forums, and by drawing on their experience to produce and share reports on relevant topics.

NORDEM's strong partnerships with receiving organizations and sister organizations in other countries ensure that information and best practices from the deployments reach an audience where they can have an impact. This audience also includes relevant Norwegian actors such as other civilian capacity providers, non-governmental organizations and policy/research institutes working in the field of human rights and international affairs. Researchers and experts from other Norwegian organizations are regularly invited to brief NORDEM personnel and to attend debriefings and seminars where NORDEM deployees present field experience and lessons learned. ♦



# NORDEM Deployments to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

With 57 participating States from Europe, Central Asia and North America, the OSCE is the world's largest security-oriented regional organization. The organization aims to promote democracy and human rights, prevent conflicts and manage crises throughout the OSCE region. The work of the OSCE is carried out through a comprehensive and cross-cutting approach to security, encompassing the politico/military, economic/environmental and human dimensions.

NORDEM has a longstanding partnership with the OSCE and as the main Norwegian seconding agency it deploys Norwegian personnel to the Secretariat in Vienna and to the various OSCE institutions and field missions. In 2016, NORDEM deployed a total of 34 experts to the organization. This not only increased the overall representation of Norwegian staff in the OSCE in important thematic areas, but also strengthened contributions to the organization's strategic and decision making level by deploying the Head of Mission in Kosovo and two managers to the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

## **NORDEM Deployees – Reinforcing the Human Dimension of Security**

NORDEM has for several years contributed one Special Adviser to the Director of the Warszawa based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). For a period of two years this Special Adviser has also been the Director's Representative at the OSCE Headquarter in Vienna, a role that has consolidated ODIHR's ability to connect with participating States and influence decision making, thus placing the organizations' human dimension

higher on the agenda. In addition to providing support at the organization's strategic level, NORDEM deployees in the OSCE worked across the three dimensions on issues ranging from human rights in the security sector, freedom of the media, counter-terrorism, gender mainstreaming, and policy support to the organization's work in Central Asia.

## **The OSCE Forum – Sharing the Knowledge and Raising Awareness**

The OSCE Forum was launched in January 2014 with the aim of bridging the gap between the practitioners, the researchers and policy makers, as well as strengthening visibility and knowledge about the OSCE 'at home'. Since the first seminar on human rights in Central Asia was held, NORDEM has provided a platform for engagement and debate on important OSCE-issues for their deployees, policy makers and other stakeholders. A range of thematic seminars, briefings and events was held throughout the year against the backdrop of the ongoing armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine, increasing political tension and pressure on human rights and civil society in the OSCE region.

## **The OSCE and the Human Dimension of Security – Human Rights as/vs Security Politics?**

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and its Director's visit to Oslo, NORDEM organized an OSCE Forum at Litteraturhuset looking at the Human Dimension of Security. Together with then NORDEM Director Marianne Kvan, Director Michael Link took stock of fundamental freedoms and human rights as integral parts of the OSCE's



OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović advocating for full compliance with the Organization's principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media.

comprehensive concept of security. Director Link also elaborated on increasing tension in the OSCE region, claims about the organization being 'unknown West of Vienna and unloved East of Vienna', and the relevance and added value of the OSCE for Norway.

## **Addressing the Counter Terrorism and Human Rights Dilemma**

After completing a two years assignment with NORDEM in the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ingvil Conradi Andersen was invited to present her experiences and thematic aspects of her work at the OSCE Forum "How to counter terrorism without undermining fundamental human rights". During her

deployment, Conradi Andersen experienced that national counter terrorism measures increasingly put at risk our rights and freedoms such as the right to privacy, to freedom of speech and a fair trial. She also experienced that in today's heightened security environment, the conditions in which journalists in the OSCE region are working are deteriorating. She argued that these challenges have to be recognized in order to uphold the very principles of democracy. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is mandated to observe media developments in the participating States and to advocate and promote full compliance with the Organization's principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media. ♦

## Involving Women and Girls in Countering Terrorism

### Camilla Bognø, Counter Terrorism Officer, OSCE Secretariat in Vienna



PHOTO: NORDEM

Camilla Bognø with the Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE, Ambassador Steffen Kongstad, during a NORDEM gathering in Vienna for the Norwegian OSCE deployees.

#### What is the main focus of your work? What is your typical day at work like?

There is an increased focus on involving women and girls in efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization that can lead to terrorism in the international community. At the moment, my work is focused on how to integrate gender mainstreaming in security sector responses to countering violent extremism. I work in a team that is responsible for coordinating the organization's response to violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism. This includes implementing projects on countering violent extremism, keeping up to date on developments within the participating States, and supporting policy drafting and recommendations. Our team also implements civil society initiatives to counter violent extremism, and we have a successful social media campaign - #UnitedCVE, which gives publicity to all the OSCE efforts within this field. I organize workshops for youth engagement and na-

tional seminars and I work closely with UN entities to streamline efforts and provide support where needed.

#### What do you find most challenging in your assignment?

Tackling the vast amount of available information on violent extremism and terrorism is an enormous task, but this is also very interesting, and I often spend my time studying the topic and following trends on international organized crime. When working on countering violent extremism, I interact with the three dimensions of OSCE security (politico-military, economic/environmental and the human dimension). There is a lot of knowledge and people with vastly different backgrounds and experiences. In one day, I could be considering perspectives from people in the police sector, diplomats, a researcher on human trafficking and a human rights lawyer.

#### Which achievements are you most satisfied with?

The OSCE is doing very well in its efforts to mainstream gender in its initiatives countering violent extremism. In 2016, I organized a technical expert meeting attended by representatives of law enforcement, academia and international organizations from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. There, they discussed gender mainstreaming in operational responses to countering violent extremism. This meeting resulted in excellent recommendations about where to take our work in 2017. It was also the first time such a wide range of high-level experts came together to emphasize discussion of practical gender mainstreaming implementation in efforts to counter violent extremism from a government and security sector perspective, which is quite significant.

#### What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?

I have been impressed by the commitment that exists to continue working for peace and security, and to safeguard communities from the dangers of all types of crime, including violent extremism. Amongst those who have made a particularly strong impression are all the volunteers who are working with very little incentive, other than a wish to contribute to safer communities. ♦



THERE ARE SENSITIVITIES AROUND THE TOPIC OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND AS THE ISSUE IS QUITE HYPED IN THE MEDIA, DECONSTRUCTING STEREOTYPES IS IMPORTANT.



## Advocating for a Gendered Response in the Field of Security

### Ewa Sapiezynska, Human Rights Officer, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)



PHOTO: UNINI MORTENSEN

From the ODIHR seminar “Boosting the reporting on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda” arranged by Ewa Sapiezynska with the support of the Norwegian and Portuguese delegations to the OSCE and the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation (11 October 2016, Vienna): From the left: Ewa Sapiezynska, Major General Kristin Lund, Ana Vale (ODIHR) and Omer Fisher (Acting Head of Human Rights Department, ODIHR).

#### What is the main focus of your work? What is your typical day at work like?

My program at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is called “Human Rights, Gender and Security”. My task is to assist OSCE participating States in ensuring that their security sector is gender responsive and compliant with human rights.

I work towards a more effective and participatory implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) in the OSCE. I strive for gender aspects to be included in the oversight of the States’ security sector and for strengthened responses to gender-based violence in the security sector. I monitor the developments in my field, give expert advice and prepare and deliver trainings. My typical day at work consists of following up on several projects my program is implementing: phone calls and email exchanges with

experts, colleagues from the OSCE Secretariat and field missions, other international organizations we cooperate with, as well as with civil society actors.

#### What do you find most challenging in your assignment?

Certainly, the most challenging aspect is related to the changes in the political landscape in the OSCE region. The status of human rights and gender equality is under pressure and/or deteriorating in numerous participating states. This negative development threatens the progress that has been achieved through longstanding efforts.

#### Which achievements are you most satisfied with?

First of all, I am satisfied with resurfacing ODIHR’s “Human Rights, Gender and Security” program. The program had not been staffed for the past year when I joined ODIHR in 2015. Now, our team of only two experts has managed to do a lot. I am particularly happy to see the positive developments on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in the OSCE region. Ukraine got its first 1325 National Action Plan in 2016, and my program is currently contributing to its implementation. There is also currently a National Action Plan being developed from Montenegro and, together with the field mission there, we have already managed to train all the management level staff of the Montenegrin police on gender and human rights. In 2016 my program also launched the first ever project on the prevention and addressing of sexual and gender based violence in prisons and custodies. The topic is innovative and the problem is challenging to address because of taboos. At the same time, there is strong evidence that it is a widespread issue that needs to be dealt with. All the OSCE participating States have been consulted on the prevalence of the problem and on good practices developed in their national contexts. In the framework of this project, I had a chance to visit two Norwegian prisons and discuss the topic with the representatives of the Norwegian Correctional Service. A compendium on good practices is almost ready now and effective capacity-building tools will be developed subsequently.

#### What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?

Meeting human rights defenders who are ready to lose their jobs, face prison and even risk their lives to stand up for universal rights, diversity, inclusion and equality. ♦



WE ARE WITNESSING A SITUATION WHERE THE SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IS DIMINISHING, LEADING TO A NUMBER OF SETBACKS, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND LGBT-RIGHTS.

## Making Recommendations That Impact Democracy

### Jan Haukaas, Special Adviser and Representative to the Director in Vienna, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)



PHOTO: NATALIE TAVADZE

Jan Haukaas speaking at the annual conference of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna: "Examining the OSCE's specific institutions and its core values in relation to recent authoritarian and nationalist trends in Europe".

#### What is the main focus of your work?

The focus is two-fold. On the one hand, it is to support and assist the Director in all his policy decisions, from their formulation to their implementation. Apart from advising on relevant political developments across the OSCE area, my work includes planning, preparing, drafting, editing and clearing all documents for his signature, from diplomatic correspondence to reports, public statements and other publications. On the other hand, the focus is to effectively represent the Director and ODIHR in liaising with the Permanent Delegations to the OSCE, the OSCE Secretariat and other executive structures as well as other international partner organizations in Vienna.

#### What is your typical day at work like?

The days vary a lot, but all days start with reading the OSCE Daily Morning Briefing before heading to work. When in Vienna most days include several meetings to follow up with Delegations or on behalf of ODIHR, the editing and clearing of reports and checking official ODIHR correspondence for substance and diplomatic protocol. The high number of duty trips per year differs, as they range from official visits to

participating States, international conferences or our own election observation missions. I spend relatively little time in front of a desktop computer, most of my work is done either on a smartphone or tablet.

#### What do you find most challenging in your assignment?

The most challenging part is probably that the workflow is hard to predict, and therefore plan and manage. It is rare that I get to fully focus and concentrate on one issue or one report at time. Consequently, I often prefer clearing more sensitive reports outside of working hours, or during duty travel as inflight work. With a high volume of workload and short deadlines, it's a challenge to let things go when they have reached satisfactory quality, when you know that some additional time probably would have improved the quality further. It is about not letting perfect become the enemy of good.

#### Which achievements are you most satisfied with?

That ODIHR does election observation is much better known than the fact that quite a few countries quietly have changed their constitutions in response to our recommendations. While it is satisfactory to be able to contribute, and add value to the work of others, the main achievement is the absence of any major lapses in political or policy judgement calls.

#### What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?

In my time with the OSCE and ODIHR I have been fortunate to work with hundreds of dedicated and committed colleagues, and I have learned a lot from their areas of expertise. I have been privileged to meet and speak with many inspiring political leaders, from presidents and ministers to local councillors. I have greatly benefited from working with so many outstanding ambassadors, to whom I am indebted for what I may have managed to pick up of diplomatic skills myself. What has made the strongest impression on me during my work is, however, the tireless efforts of so many civil society organizations and some of the human rights defenders I have been honoured to know and work with. That some have ended up in prison on trumped up charges for having worked with us certainly has not lessened my admiration for their brave, selfless sacrifices for the rights of others. ♦



AS AN ORGANIZATION TO PREVENT CONFLICT FROM OCCURRING OR ESCALATING, THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OSCE ARE HARD TO MEASURE AND HAVE LITTLE VISIBILITY TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.



# The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission – “Eyes and ears” of the International Community in Eastern Ukraine

Following the dramatic events in Ukraine in early 2014 and a subsequent request to the OSCE by the Ukrainian Government, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) was established by consensus in Vienna on 21 March 2014.

The SMM, counting more than 1000 mission members, is an unarmed, civilian mission present on the ground 24/7 in the volatile conflict areas in Eastern Ukraine as well as other parts of the country. Monitoring Officers perform a key role in observing and reporting on the situation in the disputed territories and are tasked with monitoring the implementation of the cease fire agreements, the ‘Minsk package of measures’, and the withdrawal of weapons from the line of contact. The mission

also facilitates dialogue and coordinates local ceasefires, monitors the human rights situation, as well as identifies and facilitates responses to humanitarian needs of the local population. In 2016, NORDEM continued to deploy dedicated and skilled personnel to the mission, and over the year a total of 26 Norwegian experts contributed to OSCE’s efforts to de-escalate and mitigate the conflict and help the country to reform and re-build its institutional functions. In the last part of 2016, violence in the East again escalated and so far the armed conflict has claimed nearly 10000 lives. In this context, the SMM has proved an invaluable asset to the international community, who has come to view the mission as the only trustworthy “eyes and ears” on the ground in Eastern Ukraine.



BEING A MONITOR, IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO KEEP THE SPIRIT AND BELIEVE IN WHAT WE ARE DOING. EVEN SMALL ACHIEVEMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED VICTORIES, LIKE WHEN WE AS OSCE MONITORS MEET ORDINARY PEOPLE AND WERE ABLE TO GIVE THEM SOME COMFORT AND A BELIEF THAT THERE ARE BETTER DAYS TO COME.

**BJØRN TORE SALTVIK**, NORDEM deployed patrol leader in SMM, Donetsk, Ukraine



SMM monitors conducting a foot patrol in Zaitseve, Donetsk region

PHOTO: OSCE, EVGENIY MALOLETKA



Monitoring the movement of heavy weaponry in eastern Ukraine

PHOTO: OSCE SMM



## Monitoring the Ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine

# Arne Bård Dalhaug, Deputy Team Leader, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM)

PHOTO: ARNE BÅRD DALHAUG



Arne Bård Dalhaug monitoring the ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine for the OSCE.

### What is the main focus of your work? What is your typical day at work like?

The Luhansk Monitoring Team consists of more than 300 people, including local employees. Our Oblast Headquarters, where I work, is located in Luhansk city itself on Non-Government Controlled Territory. The employees come from all walks of life and the number of nationalities exceeds thirty. Consequently, the diversity is huge and there are many different opinions on what the best ways to proceed on many issues would be. An important part of the mission, included in my job description, is therefore to execute leadership and give guidance, provide management in general and in operations, and security and safety related to all our activities. On a regular basis, I also attend patrols, mainly on the Line of Contact on both sides, the Non-Government Controlled side and the Government Controlled side. The patrols will follow up on all aspects of the Mandate and the Minsk Agreement with the Addendum. Unfortunately, there are on-going cease fire violations most of the time, including use of artillery and mortars. Heavy weapons are continuously observed in

places not allowed by the Minsk Agreement. This, of course, leads to a lot of detailed reports to document that the two sides are not living up to the agreements they have signed themselves. We also visit villages in what is known here as the 'Grey Zone', meaning places between the most forward deployed military units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the so-called "LPR Militia". People living there in particular are exposed to fire from both sides, and their access to even the bare necessities of life is quite often very limited. We direct a lot of our activities to these areas that focus on the human dimension, which includes trying to facilitate deliveries of food, medicine, water, coal for heating, and construction material to repair damaged houses.

### What do you find most challenging in your assignment?

One of the most challenging parts of being a Deputy Team Leader is to prioritize resources to accomplish as many of the tasks given from the Head Office in Kiev as possible. The mandate is a pretty comprehensive one, as it covers a lot of aspects related to both traditional forms of security and the human dimension of security. A second challenge has to do with difficult personnel issues, normally involving more than one monitor. Those issues are, as a rule, very sensitive and time consuming to deal with. The OSCE's guidelines for how to manage personnel are quite comprehensive. Some cases may also involve political considerations related to the deployment authorities of the monitors involved.

### Which achievements were you most satisfied with?

I think it is fair to say that we have put a lot of effort into improving the work climate, an effort which I consider to have been quite a success. Another important achievement has been to streamline our staff and decision-making routines to better ensure that all tasks coming in are subjected to some evaluation, prioritized and then decided upon accordingly.

### What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?

The visits to the 'Grey Zone'. People there are living under extremely harsh circumstances, and many of them are elderly people who do not have any other place to go. Unfortunately, civilian casualties also happen due to heavy shelling and some places have not had electricity since the conflict started. Despite all this, people living there seem to, generally, cope amazingly well. I must admit that I am impressed by their attitude. ♦



WORKING HERE IN LUHANSK OBLAST, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE OF CONTACT, IS VERY REWARDING INDEED, AND SEEN FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, WE ARE ACTUALLY IMPROVING PEOPLE'S EVERYDAY LIFE BY OUR PRESENCE HERE IN EASTERN UKRAINE.

# Crafting a Path for Peace

## – The UN Peacekeeping Operation in DR Congo (MONUSCO)

President Kabila's continued effort to prolong his term in office beyond the constitutional limits, led to increased political tension and unrest in 2016. The government's repressive response to political opposition and public protest decreased the political space and protection of human rights. A political settlement at the end of the year prevented a further descent into political violence, and gave some cause for optimism with regards to a future electoral process. NORDEM deployed seven experts to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in 2016. These deployees filled positions in projects and areas not traditionally covered by peacekeeping organizations, but were, nevertheless, deemed essential for the organization to achieve its objectives related to ending impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity, stabilization and countering sexual violence.

The unresolved political situation also impacted on the work of international actors and stabilization, which is one of the key mandated areas of MONUSCO, and the field of work of the five NORDEM deployees in the Stabilization Support Unit (SSU). SSU coordinates the implementation of the international stabilization plan (ISSSS), which aims at enabling the authorities and populations in prioritized areas to address and mitigate the causes of conflict in their societies. SSU's close cooperation on stabilization efforts with government actors at the provincial level in the Eastern DRC resulted in successful pilot programs. It also allowed the establishment of mechanisms for implementing programs funded through the ISSSS Trust Fund, as well as for aligning programs funded through other sources, with the approach of the ISSSS. The ISSSS pilot

programs created a mechanism to handle conflicts, effectively involved government, and made the communities more expressive of their views and needs towards their authorities.

NORDEM deployed one judicial protection expert to MONUSCO's Joint Human Rights Office, to work on a project that started with a NORDEM deployee, and with United States program funding in 2011. The project has since been supported with national staff, funded by the Team of Experts of the United Nations Secretary General's special representative on sexual violence in conflict, and become integrated into the Joint Human Rights Office, so other staff members are also able to work on judicial protection. There has also been positive cooperation on judicial protection with other parts of MONUSCO. This cooperation has resulted in improved security for an unprecedented number of victims in several important court cases, and an increased willingness of the courts to apply protective measures. National actors now see judicial protection as a crucial precondition for success in the fight against impunity in Eastern DR Congo.

A deployed Woman Protection Advisor continued to provide support to various parts of MONUSCO to ensure that the mission's activities effectively respond to, and prevent, sexual violence. For example, her 'sensitization sessions' prepared MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade to be better able to identify and report on the national army's infringements related to sexual violence. She also supported the provincial authorities in their coordination of actors involved in countering sexual violence. In 2016, the team of Woman Protection Advisors were placed in the Joint Human Rights Office following a consolidation of protection functions. ♦



NORDEM deployee and Woman Protection Advisor, Dominique Vidale-Plaza, to the right together with United Nations Under Secretary for sexual violence in conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, during the Bungura's visit to DRC in 2016.



# Reporting and Outreach

## – Lessons Learned from DR Congo

A seminar and a NORDEM thematic paper on stabilization, prepared by two deployees to MONUSCO's Stabilization Support Unit, presented the new approach to stabilization developed by MONUSCO in DR Congo and provided recommendations for other UN missions and other stabilization actors. The paper, called 'New Strategies for Old Conflicts? Lessons in Stabilization from the Democratic Republic of Congo', and seminar were used by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as input to their strategy on fragile states. The NORDEM thematic paper series provides an outlet for NORDEM deployees to convey lessons learned and give recommendations for alternative approaches and policy measures. Another NORDEM deployee to MONUSCO's Joint Human Rights Office participated in a panel debate in the Human Rights/Human Wrongs film festival and conducted a seminar on countering sexual violence.

# Other partnerships with the UN

## UNDP

A local governance expert deployed to UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) in New York was a key resource in the development of three large, integrated programs within local governance in DR Congo, Central African Republic and Mali, in cooperation with the UN operations in the respective countries and other partners. The position also contributed to developing UNDP policy on early recovery, support to peacebuilding and participatory local governance processes in conflict affected and fragile countries and on urbanization and conflict in relation to the Habitat III process. This local governance expert also provided inputs to the stabilization strategy for Libya.

## UN WOMEN

A human rights and gender mainstreaming expert, deployed to the UN Women's regional office in Cairo, has ensured that UN Women's programs aimed at Syrian women refugees in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan, increase the target groups' economic opportunities and protect their human rights. The programs have provided vocational training to Syrian refugee women, who employed the acquired skills for income generation activities. This, in turn, contributed to strengthening their economic resilience. The programs have also provided training and raised awareness on women's rights and gender based violence, which has resulted in better opportunities to assist affected women. ♦

Representatives from the provincial capital, MONUSCO, and traditional chiefs from the Kinshasa area taking part in a democratic dialogue arranged by the Stabilization Support Unit in North Kivu.



PHOTO: RANDI SOLHJELL



## Nourishing Co-existence in DR Congo

# Randi Solhjell, Stabilization Support Unit, MONUSCO, DR Congo

PHOTO: RANDI SOLHJELL



Randi Solhjell in DR Congo working for the Stabilization Support Unit.

### What was the main focus of your work? What was your typical day at work like?

I worked as an analyst and research specialist in the Stabilization Support Unit in the UN stabilization operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). This unit is tasked with supporting the implementation of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy (ISSSS) in the DRC. In essence, stabilization is about supporting and nourishing “a social contract”, meaning a minimum level of co-existence that includes mutual responsibilities as well as a basic level of trust between political authorities and citizens. My work was to develop simple tools for Congolese researchers, MONUSCO staff and others to analyze why people were fighting (root causes) and what mechanisms could be supported to solve these conflicts.

### What did you find most challenging in your assignment?

The many conflicts in the eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo also have regional and national dimensions, such as cross-border taxations, judicial and traditional ownership of land and illegal trade. The big issues, like land conflicts, remained unsolved and would require a much heavier political engagement at national and international levels beyond the small unit I was a part of in MONUSCO. Also, Congolese politicians have business interests with land and trade in conflict zones and collaborating with them means that MONUSCO implicitly takes sides with the authorities. This was a challenge in terms of representing a facilitator and enabler of peace negotiations, rather than a government support.

### Which achievements were you most satisfied with?

Being a part of and witnessing a local dialogue meeting between government representatives, traditional chiefs and civil society groups in Kitchanga, North Kivu, was very rewarding.

### What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?

Something I always followed was the overall political situation that I found very volatile. The Congolese authorities are very sensitive and afraid of uprisings and protests, and they tend to use oppressive means, such as arresting or even shooting at unarmed civilians. It can be frustrating to watch how the army and the police are used as means of oppression rather than protection. ♦



SINCE MY BACKGROUND IS IN ACADEMIA AND POLICY WORK, I WAS HAPPY TO USE MY ANALYTICAL SKILLS IN SUPPORTING A CONFLICT ANALYSIS GUIDE USED BY PRACTITIONERS IN THE CONGOLESE RESEARCH NETWORK AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT.

# Supporting Human Rights and Democratization with the European Union

The very core of NORDEM's mandate is the ambition to support democratization processes and assisting in establishing solid, democratic and effective national institutions. NORDEM serves as the national focal point for providing civilian experts to the Unions Military and Civilian Missions and Operations, as well as seconded national experts to the core EU institutions.

## **European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Ukraine- Reforming the Security Sector in Ukraine**

EUAM Ukraine is a non-executive advisory mission established in December 2014 following the Maidan events in Ukraine. The task of the mission is to assist relevant Ukrainian authorities in developing a sustainable Civilian Security Sector Reform. Three NORDEM deployees in EUAM use measures, based on EU standards and principles on good governance, to give strategic advice and support for specific reform measures in Ukraine within public administration, the National Police, the Ukraine Anti-terrorist Center's Security Service and for the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU).

## **The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX)**

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) supports Kosovo on its path to greater integration of European rule of law, and aims to assist the authorities in reforming the justice sector in line with internationally recognized standards. NORDEM has shown a long-term commitment to the mission by deploying qualified judges, prosecutors and legal officers since the mission was established in the aftermath of Kosovo's independence in 2008. In 2016, the last remaining NORDEM deployed judge ended his term after serving in the EULEX mission for more than three years. He had been based in Mitrovica in Northern Kosovo and presided over several complex and high-profile cases concerning war crimes.

## **European External Action Service (EEAS)**

The EEAS is the European Union's diplomatic service. It helps the EU's foreign affairs chief – the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – carry out the Union's common



Head of the Western Balkans Investment Framework Stine Andresen in the front at the 15th Meeting WBIF Steering Committee in London, December 2016.

PHOTO: VEGARD BREIE

foreign and security policy. Since 2015, two Norwegian deployed National Experts have strengthened the work of the EEAS within elections, democracy and support for human rights.

A NORDEM deployed policy officer to the EEAS Human Rights Strategy and Policy Implementation Division has contributed to the promotion of human rights in non-EU member states. A major part of this work is mainstreaming and integration of human rights into all aspects of external actions of the EU. The officer has taken part in developing several policies that have been enacted to promote, assess and update the EU's human rights policies, particularly within the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management, gender equality and children affected by armed conflict. The NORDEM deployee had a specific responsibility for following up on policies on the human rights situation in Pakistan and Moldova. She has also been given the lead in developing an EU Human Rights Due Diligence Policy for interaction with security forces in non-EU member states, a commitment stipulated in the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy (2016-2019).

## **Coordinating Investments in the Western Balkans for the European Commission**

Starting in 2016, a new NORDEM deployed national expert has taken over the important task of heading the European Commission's Secretariat to the Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). The Head of Secretariat coordinates the work of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) with the overall aim to contribute to socioeconomic development in Western Balkan countries in preparation for EU membership. This is done through investment grants for infrastructure projects in the environment, energy, social and transport sectors. WBIF has developed a portfolio of priority investments in the accession countries valued at approximately €15 billion. These investments require systematic and comprehensive coordination between all WBIF partners, including bilateral donors. The new Head of Secretariat has also made a large contribution to the increased visibility of the work, function and success of the Secretariat. ♦



I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING A NEW CONCEPT FOR HOW UKRAINE CAN ORGANIZE THEIR POLICE TO EFFECTIVELY FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME.

**BJØRN TORE SALTVIK**, NORDEM deployed patrol leader in SMM, Donetsk, Ukraine



# Providing the Best Tools for Human Rights – NORDEM Training in International Applied Human Rights Work

NORDEM is enabling international organizations to mainstream human rights in their respective field of work by providing a tailored course on applied human rights for our long-term deployees. This is to ensure that all NORDEM long-term deployees possess the tools necessary to integrate and promote human rights in their work for international organizations. In 2016, NORDEM was able to provide this training to almost half of currently deployed long-term personnel, in addition to training of external participants from Norad, the Norwegian Refugee Council's NORCAP roster and various OSCE field officers. The aim of the course is for the participants to gain basic knowledge about the legal and political framework of human rights and learn how to utilize that knowledge in their assignments. The training cover topics such as the distinction between international human rights law and international humanitarian law including their respective areas of application. The training also include human rights monitoring, gender mainstreaming and capacity building as a tool in assisting national stakeholders in improving the human rights situation. Employing varied methodologies adapted to adult learning, the course is an interactive training, and includes lectures, group-work, case studies and plenary discussions. Exchanges of experience is encouraged through these interactive teaching methods. The course also serves as a forum for the participants to identify common issues, challenges and solutions in their work and share experiences across missions. The training is led by the facilitators, long-time NORDEM collaborators William O'Neill and Susanne Ringgaard Pedersen, both prominent human rights consultants and practitioners with vast international experience. ♦



PHOTO: NORDEM

NORDEM deployees and external participants at the NORDEM training in international applied human rights 2016.



## Putting Human Rights in the Center of EU External Action

### Elise Thoen, Human Rights Officer, European External Action Service (EEAS)



PHOTO: ELISE THOEN

Elise Thoen mainstream human rights in the work of the EU External Action Service.

**What is the main focus of your work? What is your typical day at work like?**

As a human rights policy officer in the European External Action Service, my main focus is to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed throughout all EU activities in non-EU countries. As the responsible policy officer for an extensive portfolio this past year - which includes Human Rights in Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management, International Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law, Children and Armed Conflict Gender and Human Rights- my typical day at work is diverse and exiting, but also quite demanding.

**What do you find most challenging in your assignment?**

Working in a thematic division in EU's diplomatic service can be challenging as I must always be ready to provide input to various documents and activities to ensure proper integration of human rights, including in new policies, strategic documents, programming and in multilateral fora, just to mention a few. I also must answer to EU member states in the EU Council and the European Parliament (which is streamed online!) on the implementation of EU policy with regard to the topics that I cover.

**Which achievements are you most satisfied with?**

During my assignment to the EEAS Human Rights Division I have been involved in a number of interesting activities. Last year, I travelled to Pakistan to take part in the EU-Pakistan human rights dialogue. I also participated in the UN Commission of the Status of Women in New York, where I took part in several panel discussions and delivered a statement on behalf of the EU in a UN plenary session. In addition, I worked very closely with EU crisis management missions and operations to conduct a baseline study to take stock on how human rights and gender has been integrated into the planning, reporting as well as the activities of the missions and operations. A report of this baseline study was recently presented to EU member states where we included several recommendations for improvement.

**What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?**

The strongest impression this assignment has given me is how influential the EU is and can be in non-EU countries in promoting and defending human rights. After a year and a half, I am still doing and learning new things every day, which makes this assignment one of the most interesting I have had to date. ♦



WITH THE GROWING DISREGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THESE VALUES CONTINUE TO BE CONVEYED WHENEVER POSSIBLE.



## NORDEM Election Observation



# NORDEM Election Observation

NORDEM is Norway's official mechanism for providing election observers to international election observation missions. Every year NORDEM observers assess elections throughout the world. In 2016, NORDEM deployed 58 election observers to a total of 13 election observation missions, including key presidential elections in Peru and Uganda and the elections for the Duma in the Russian Federation. NORDEM deploys long-term observers (LTOs) for a period of approximately two months and short-term observers (STO) for one to two weeks. The missions are mainly carried out by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the EU. All NORDEM observers are trained in election observation methodology by NORDEM and are thoroughly briefed and de-briefed by country experts and NORDEM staff before and after each mission. The observers write reports from their missions that provide NORDEM, and other interested partners, with valuable analysis of the electoral process and political context regarding the country in question.

## ODIHR Election Observation Missions

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) conducts election observation missions and assessments in all OSCE participating States. The ODIHR is the major recipient of Norwegian election observers, and thus NORDEM provides a valuable, annual contribution to the work of the office in monitoring and enhancing democratic development in the OSCE region.

## Election Observation Missions with the European Union

The EU views genuine elections as an essential basis for sustainable development and a functioning democracy as well as being an important driver for peace, security and conflict prevention. The EU's support for democratic electoral processes takes the form of electoral assistance projects and EU election observation missions, of which NORDEM is a key partner.

## The Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation

As a signatory to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, NORDEM, together with other international actors that have endorsed the Declaration and the accompanying Code of Conduct, continues to pledge its commitment to assuring integrity and transparency in international election observation. Being a signatory allows us to participate in the annual meetings where trends, developments and challenges to international election observation are discussed. ◆

## Short-term Observer

Short-term observers (STO) usually spend about a week in the country, and visit polling stations on Election Day. Their job is to observe the polling, counting and tabulation procedures, and to report their findings. Observers visit, on average, about ten polling stations on Election Day, where they fill out election monitoring forms. Each form contains general questions, as well as questions related to specific issues that are important for that particular election, which results in detailed information about each polling station. Each form contributes to the overall statistical profile of how polling-station procedures are being conducted throughout the country, which the core team analyses and uses to draw conclusions about the Election Day process. This permits the observation mission to determine whether irregularities, when they occur, are of an isolated nature or are systematic.

*(Source: OSCE E-learning for short term observers)*

## Long-term Observer

An essential element of election observation methodology is its long-term comprehensive coverage of the entire election process countrywide. Long-term observers (LTO) arrive 4-6 weeks prior to the elections and cover a specific geographical or administrative area. They meet with all relevant elections related stakeholders and undertake an assessment of a broad range of issues. These issues include election administration, voter registration, candidate registration, campaign, media, human rights, civil society, complaint and appeals and post-election issues. Each LTO team produces a weekly report on the development in their area of responsibility to the mission. In addition, LTOs are responsible for preparing and managing the deployment of STO teams in their area of responsibility.

*(Source: Handbook for European Union election Observation)*

## Representing the First OSCE Mission with Short-term Election Observers to Uzbekistan

### Lisa Knatterud Wold, Short-term election observer to the OSCE, Presidential Election in Uzbekistan

PHOTO: LISA KNATTERUD WOLD.



Lisa Knatterud Wold observed the election in Samarkand, one of the oldest inhabited cities in Central Asia.

#### What was the main focus of your work? What was your typical work like?

As a newly recruited member of the NORDEM roster of election observers, I had the opportunity to be a short-term observer (STO) for the very first time when I participated in the OSCE/ODIHR mission to observe the early presidential election in Uzbekistan. The short-term observers arrived one week before the Election Day, for briefings with members of the core team and the long-term election observers, as well as to get to know the assigned area of observation. My main focus was visiting

polling stations on Election Day, observing the opening, counting and tabulation procedures, and reporting the findings to the core team.

#### What did you find most challenging in your assignment?

The mission was the first fully fledged OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission to send short-term observers to Uzbekistan. We, therefore, had a distinct responsibility to ensure that the Precinct District Commission members at the polling stations knew and understood our role. Another challenge was dealing with the national media who asked us quite a few times during the Election Day about our views of the electoral process. In line with the ODIHR code of conduct we could only make statements about the role of the observers and the methodology that we use, and not provide any general statements.

#### Which achievements are you most satisfied with?

I am pleased with the fact that the whole mission delivered a thorough assessment of the election process to the Uzbek Central Election Commission. As a new observer, I was impressed with the digital reporting of election observation report forms, which made it possible to send the findings from each polling station directly to the core team immediately after each observation. Working with our local driver and interpreter as part of the STO-team was also a very good experience. I am satisfied that our mission acted as a responsible and professional employer for the many local staff employed by the mission.

#### What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?

The members of the Precinct District Commission at each polling station we visited were very hospitable and we could observe the procedures with ease, ask the necessary questions and report our findings to the OSCE core team. At the end of Election Day, however, we were not allowed to observe the procedures of the handover of protocols and the tabulation of results in the District Election Commission properly, but had to observe from a distance. We therefore reported a lack of transparency in our findings to the core team. ♦



REPRESENTING THE OSCE WAS CHALLENGING AS MANY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MET INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR THE FIRST TIME



## Observing the Peculiarities of Local Politics in Peru

### Søren Munch, Long-term Election Observer for the EU Election Observation Mission to Peru



PHOTO: SØREN MUNCH.

Election day/polling station. Voting is compulsory in Peru. Serving as a polling station official is also a civic duty, and the task is often assigned to young people.

#### What is the main focus of your work? What is your typical day at work like?

Working as an LTO, we focus mainly on everything in the lead up to Election Day. We follow and assess the preparations of the election administration, the campaign activities in our area, the financing of parties, the media coverage and the security and human rights situation. We meet with local electoral authorities, candidates, media representatives, political analysts, civil rights groups, national observers and others to get a full view of what's going on in our area in the pre-election period. Typically, I will start my day going out to the local newspaper stand to see the latest on current affairs in our region. During breakfast, my partner and I will discuss the day's agenda: Perhaps we have scheduled a trip to an electoral precinct two hours

away, in which case we will spend a good part of the day in the field, meeting with electoral district coordinators and others. We may also go to a training session for polling station staff. After lunch, we visit the judicial electoral authority to address a series of questions about the possible exclusion of congressional candidates, for example, that we received in the daily brief from the legal analyst of our core team. In the afternoon, we go back to the hotel 'office' to discuss today's findings, compare notes and do some writing for the weekly report. In the evening, we go to observe a rally, a march or a political meeting. At 9 pm, back at the hotel, we fill in a rally report on our phone or computer, and notify the operation's security team about our planned movements for the following day.

#### What did you find most challenging in your assignment?

We covered a vast Andean area in the northernmost part of Peru, where road conditions were variable, distances were long (up to 16 hours from our base) and altitudes reached 4500 meters. Landslides were common, and roads were occasionally blocked by anti-mining demonstrators. All of this made our journeys hard to plan, and it was virtually impossible to visit all 13 provinces in our Area of Responsibility. During the mission, we managed to visit 11 provinces.

#### Which achievements are you most satisfied with?

Despite these and other challenges – and the fact that we did not have a local driver for the first round of elections, we managed to get a very good overview of the political and electoral situation in our region. The information we provided was relevant to the findings and recommendations of the EU preliminary statement and final report of the mission. My Hungarian partner and I had a very good working dynamic, and communications with the core team and with local authorities and other interlocutors went very smoothly.

#### What has made the strongest impression on you during your work?

The peculiarities of local politics. For example: The Governor in the region we covered was in jail during the entire campaign and election period. Yet he ran for president and won 40 percent of the popular vote in our area in the first round! Why? Much of it relates to local issues that mobilize the electorate: Farmer's land rights vs the mining interests of major companies. From the observer point of view, understanding how people think and how they vote is very interesting. I also feel privileged that I got to know a part of Peru largely ignored by most people who visit the country, despite being so rich in history, culture, human and natural resources. ♦



EVERY WORKDAY IS DIFFERENT, AND USUALLY  
SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS

# NORDEM Contribution to Electoral Assistance – Going Beyond Election Observers

NORDEM also contributes to strengthening the capacity of both the EU and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) through deploying personnel with expertise in electoral observation and assistance. Moreover, NORDEM's two decades of experience observing international elections is regarded as a resource in election related activities within Norway. NORDEM develops tuition programs, and hosts various election management body or parliamentary delegations, mainly from countries in political transition.

## Providing Electoral Assistance with IDEA

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) is an inter-governmental organization with a mission to support the development of more sustainable, effective and legitimate democracies and electoral processes worldwide. In 2016, a NORDEM deployed election expert ended her three year assignment to the organization's Africa and West-Asia program, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The expert has coordinated the training of approximately 120 electoral commission staff in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Malawi and Lesotho among others. She has engaged on policy related issues linked to electoral reform and provided strategic advice to the electoral commissions in Lesotho, Zambia and Namibia on developing institutional gender policies. Finally, she published an IDEA policy brief focusing on how electoral management bodies can promote youth participation more effectively. During her assignment, the NORDEM deployee worked closely with a range of partners, with an emphasis on collaborating with the African

Union Department of Political Affairs' Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit.

## Supporting Election Activities of the European External Action Service (EEAS)

A NORDEM policy officer deployed to the Democracy and Electoral Observation Division has contributed to the planning and implementation of the EU's election related activities. The overall aim is to increase the capacity of national electoral management bodies to implement credible, transparent and inclusive elections. The deployed expert has been responsible for the EU's Election Observation Mission to Uganda in 2016, where he assisted in the preparation and finalization of the Preliminary Statement and Final Report. As the Asia focal point, he has followed up on various election related issues relating to that region. In December 2016, he led the Exploratory Mission to Timor-Leste and was responsible for managing the Election Observation Mission to the country. He also participated in an Election Mission to Madagascar, following up on the implementation of the 2013 EU Election Observation Mission recommendations.

## Support to the Community of Democracies

The Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental organization, founded in Warsaw in 2000. CoD was created to bring together governments, civil society and other relevant actors in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world. Norway became a member of the Governing Council in autumn 2015. The Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies expanded its

activities in 2015 by establishing a sub-office in Geneva. The office was headed by a Norwegian diplomat, deployed by NORDEM. The deployee has been responsible for establishing the CoD presence in Geneva and managing relations with the United Nations, other international organizations and civil society. In addition, the NORDEM deployee has followed up and supported the work of the Human Rights Council and democracy-related Special Rapporteurs.

## Providing a Space for Discussion and Learning – NORDEM Training in Election Observation

15 new members of the NORDEM roster participated in the NORDEM full day 'Introductory Course to Election Observation'. The one day training aims to prepare the participants for

assignments as short-term election observers in international election observation missions, by providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to understand the role of a short-term observer. Familiarity with the international standards of election observation is crucial for the validity of election observation reporting. The course, therefore, provides participants with knowledge about the International Declaration of Principles, the recognized international standards for elections, short-term election observation methodology and the code of conduct for election observers. Through interactive exercises, the participants were faced with realistic situations and dilemmas that might occur during a mission as an election observer, which enhanced their election observation skills. ♦



THE ELECTION OBSERVATION COURSE ORGANIZED BY NORDEM WAS ESSENTIAL FOR MY ABILITY TO APPLY THE ELECTION METHODOLOGY IN PRACTICE DURING MY FIRST MISSION AS A SHORT-TERM OBSERVER IN UZBEKISTAN. THE PRACTICAL ELEMENT IN THE COURSE WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL AS I GOT TO KNOW THE OBSERVATION REPORT FORMS, AND DISCUSS WITH THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS HOW WE SHOULD ASSESS THE OBSERVATIONS.



# NORDEM Election Forum: Politics vs Methodology

## – The Dilemmas of Election Observation Missions

The OSCE and their Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODHIR) is said to define the 'Gold Standard' for election observation. During an event hosted by NORDEM, questions were posed to Jan Petersen, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, who acted as Head of the ODHIR Election Observation Mission to Russia in 2016; Geir Jørgen Bekkevold (KrF), Head of the Norwegian Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; and Siri Skåre, Director of NORDEM with extensive experience with OSCE election observation missions. These questions were regarding the extent the different branches of election observers, representing both members from ODHIR and the Parliamentary delegations are able to speak with one voice and reach consensus when presenting their findings and recommendations.

There has been a crucial development in the methodology used for election observation by the OSCE. Jan Petersen explained that elections represent highly complex processes which cannot be assessed in simple terms therefore "the OSCE would today never only use such terms as 'free and fair'". Petersen further emphasized that ODHIR missions are concerned with the process and not the result of the elections they observe. However, methodology is not simply detached from politics. As Petersen noted from his mission experiences, there is sometimes a need to say something about the political background in the country when assessing an election. Election observation should appear as a relevant and important com-

ment on the state of democracy. One way of ensuring this is to make sure that both election observers representing parliamentarians and the ODHIR agree on the conclusions and findings following an election. "In the past there are many examples of how these different branches of election observers have not spoken with one voice, but this is really changing" Geir Jørgen Bekkevold stated. "We as Parliamentarians know that we should be receptive of the conclusions of ODHIR because they have had observers present for a longer period of time. It is in everyone's interest that we speak with one voice" Bekkevold added. ♦



ELECTION OBSERVATION  
SHOULD APPEAR AS A  
RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT  
COMMENT ON THE STATE  
OF DEMOCRACY



From the left: Geir Jørgen Bekkevold (KrF), Head of the Norwegian Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Siri Skåre, Director of NORDEM in 2016 and Jan Petersen, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Head of the ODHIR Election Observation Mission to Russia in 2016.

PHOTO: SUSANNE FLØLØ/NORDEM

# About NORDEM

**NORDEM**, the Norwegian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights, is a civilian capacity provider specialising in human rights and democratization. It was established in 1993 as an initiative of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the purpose of enhancing the capacity of international organizations working to promote democracy and human rights, primarily by providing qualified personnel through recruitment, training and deployment. The NORDEM roster consists of approximately 250 individuals with relevant skills and competencies. Candidates from the roster are recruited to both short assignments and long term missions, and all personnel deployed by NORDEM are thoroughly prepared and scrutinized by the NORDEM secretariat before, during and after their assignment through briefings, reporting regimes and field visits.

**NORDEM** deploys about 60 election observers and experts per year to approximately 15 missions around the world. In addition, NORDEM develops tuition programs and hosts various election management bodies and parliamentary delegations from countries, many in political transition. NORDEM members have extensive experience and knowledge in the field of election observation and international standards regulating democratic elections.

**NORDEM** has established partnerships with numerous international organizations. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Eu-

rope (OSCE), the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) remain NORDEM's most important partners. NORDEM also interacts with international partners to ensure effective recruitment and training of civilian personnel.

**NORDEM** provides introductory courses in human rights and democratization related field work as well as training for roster members and others in election observation methodology. To enhance the capacity of personnel already on missions, NORDEM facilitates participation in specialised trainings offered by other institutions. Furthermore, NORDEM contributes to knowledge exchange and the development of new methodologies in the field of human rights and democratization.

**NORDEM** takes gender perspectives into account in its work, and seeks not only to ensure a gender balanced recruitment to the roster and to missions, but also to integrate and pursue a gender perspective in all its training and capacity development activities. This initiative is in line with the action plan of the Norwegian MFA on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

**NORDEM** was in 2016 organized as a program at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) at the University of Oslo. It is fully financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2016, the NORDEM secretariat consisted of eight staff.