



OSCE/ODIHR Submission of Information for the Universal Periodic Review Process

Slovenia, 20th Session, (Oct-Nov 2014)

Background

Slovenia is a participating State in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and has thus undertaken and reaffirmed a wide range of political commitments in the “human dimension” of security as outlined in relevant OSCE documents.¹ The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) has been mandated by OSCE participating States, including Slovenia to assist them in implementing their human dimension commitments. OSCE/ODIHR assistance includes election observation and assessment activities as well as monitoring and providing assessments, advice and recommendations relating to implementation of commitments in the fields of human rights, democracy, tolerance and non-discrimination, and the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area. The present submission provides publicly available country-specific information that may assist participants in the Universal Periodic Review process in assessing the situation in Slovenia and its implementation of past recommendations, as well as to formulate new recommendations that may be relevant to enhancing the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Overview of this Submission

This submission contains references to the findings and recommendations issued from the Electoral Assessment Mission to the 4 December 2011 early National Assembly election and the 2012 Annual Hate Crime Report compiled by ODIHR. Links to the full reports/reviews/opinions are provided in footnotes

Election-related activities

Following an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, and based on the recommendation of a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), on 23 November 2011 ODIHR deployed an Election Assessment Mission (EAM) for the 4 December 2011 early National Assembly elections. The OSCE/ODIHR EAM was led by Dame Audrey Glover and consisted of a team of six election experts from as many OSCE participating States.

The final report noted that “*The elections took place in context of divisions over the government’s response to the economic crisis and several referenda rejecting measures adopted by the authorities. In addition to the political parties represented in the National Assembly, four parties were formed shortly before the election, with two of them attracting*

¹ Compendium of OSCE Human Dimension Commitments, vol 1 and 2

considerable public interest. Overall, the legislative framework provides a sound basis for the conduct of democratic elections. Particularly noteworthy is the attention given to ensuring the universality of the vote, provided through different means of voting. Certain aspects of the legislation could benefit from further consideration, including the lack of explicit legal provision for international election observation. Nevertheless, the National Election Commission (NEC) and other electoral bodies ensured that the OSCE/ODIHR EAM had full access to the entirety of the electoral process.” The full report, including recommendations is annexed.²

Legislation reviewed by ODIHR

N/A

Tolerance and non-discrimination issues, including incidents of and responses to hate crime

OSCE participating States have made a number of commitments to promote tolerance and non-discrimination and specifically to combat hate crime, and the OSCE/ODIHR supports states in their implementation of those commitments. In this context, the OSCE/ODIHR produces an annual report on hate crime – *Incidents and Responses* – to highlight the prevalence of hate crimes and good practices that participating States, inter-governmental organizations and civil society have adopted to tackle them. It also helps participating States to design and draft legislation that effectively addresses hate crimes; provides training that builds the capacity of participating States’ criminal justice systems and the law-enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges that staff them; raises awareness of hate crimes among governmental officials, civil society and international organizations; and supports the efforts of civil society to monitor and report hate crimes.

The report relies mainly on information and statistics provided by governments, since such data collection is primarily the responsibility of states, as is the responsibility to respond to hate crimes. As of 2012, 55 of the 57 OSCE participating States had appointed National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes, to support ODIHR in its task of serving “as a collection point for information and statistics collected by participating States”. The bulk of information for the report was gathered through the completion of an online questionnaire by National Points of Contact. The questionnaire for 2012 contained questions about the following areas: data-collection methods; legislation; reported hate crime data; and policies and initiatives.

For the 2012 report³, the National Point of Contact from Slovenia did not submit the questionnaire to ODIHR. Additionally, ODIHR sent requests for information on hate crime incidents in Slovenia to inter-governmental organizations and to international and local non-governmental organizations. For the 2012 report, one organization reported one incident of vandalism against a gay-friendly bar the day after a pride event.

² <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/87786>

³ <http://tandis.odihr.pl/hcr2012/>

Roma and Sinti issues

N/A

**Country-specific ODIHR monitoring, assessment, co-operation and assistance activities
(other than elections)**

N/A

**Other assessments and recommendations contained in ODIHR reports on thematic
human issues**

N/A