

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe **Mission to Serbia**



Who we are

The Mission to Serbia is an OSCE field operation based in Belgrade, with two field outlets – in Bujanovac, south Serbia and in Novi Pazar, southwest Serbia.

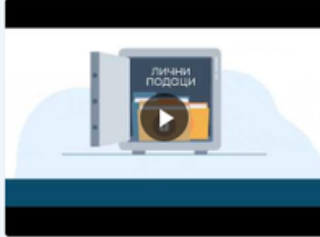
The Mission was established on 11 January 2001 at the invitation of the Government of the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Its mandate sets out the key areas of activity: Assisting the host country and Serbia's society in promoting and strengthening democratic institutions, fostering the rule of law, reforming the police force into a police service and supporting the development of free media and professional journalism at the service of the citizens.

The Mission, originally named 'OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia', was renamed 'OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro' in 2003. With the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in 2006, the Mission changed its name to the 'OSCE Mission to Serbia'.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Mission works in close co-ordination and partnership with other international organizations.



The Role of Data Protection Officers
Campaign To Keep the Personal SafeThe Mission has been working with the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection to...



The Importance of Safeguarding Personal Data by Competent Authorities and Private Entities
The Mission has been working with the Commissioner for Information of



The OSCE Mission assists the host country's police in transitioning to a more effective, representative and accountable police service.



The Mission has been supporting Serbia's Cybersecurity Network Foundation in organizing the national cybersecurity competition for youth as part of its commitment to engaging youth with cybersecurity topics and empowering young girls to challenge the stereotype that cybersecurity is a profession reserved for men.



A tree-planting ceremony, organized as part of the official opening of the Aarhus Centre Sombor. The Mission supports promotion of the Aarhus Convention.



Youth engagement is one of the areas the OSCE Mission is devoted to. Through various regional forums and workshops, the Mission supports dialogue and co-operation contributing to regional reconciliation and enhanced security.

The Mission has been working with the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection to strengthen the legal framework, enhance institutional capacities, and promote public dialogue on personal data protection.

What we do

Based on the ownership and engagement of the Serbian authorities and institutions, the Mission provides assistance and expertise to Serbia towards the country's goal of further developing a fully functioning democratic system with solid accountability mechanisms, including an independent, free, professional, and responsible media. The Mission's and Government's shared objective is a system rooted in the separation of powers, governed by a well-harmonized set of rules, and enforced by a fair and equitable justice system, with no room for discrimination or privilege.

Rule of Law and Human Rights

The Mission promotes an independent, accountable and efficient judiciary, a human rights-based criminal justice system, and the implementation of OSCE Commitments, international rule of law and human rights standards, by:

- Contributing to the effective implementation of judicial reforms, with a focus on judicial independence, prosecutorial autonomy, institutional integrity and public trust in the justice system;
- Strengthening the capacity

of the criminal justice system to conduct effective investigations and proceedings, including through forensic and digital evidence, while promoting respect for human rights standards;

- Supporting more effective prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption, economic crime, money laundering and other serious offences;
- Promoting judicial effectiveness, accountability and transparency through the monitoring of organized crime and corruption proceedings;

Security co-operation

The Mission assists the host country in achieving a sustainable and accountable security sector, able to address serious threats and crimes, ensure public safety and protect the human rights of citizens by focusing on the following areas:

- Supporting the implementation of the community policing strategy and development of a sustainable community-policing model across the country;
- Stimulating regional co-operation in combating transnational organized and serious crime, including human smuggling and trafficking in human beings;
- Enhancing inter-agency co-operation to increase and improve the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, economic crimes, including money-laundering through cybercrime cases;
- Developing a holistic approach in dealing with combating terrorism and prevention of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT);
- Supporting the implementation of the Strategy for the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW);
- Ensuring long-term cybersecurity resilience through strengthening public-private partnerships and initiatives contributing to the development of cybersecurity professionals;
- Fighting climate security threats by supporting national authorities to address current environmental challenges;
- Promoting the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security that includes a variety of stakeholders;
- Fostering police transparency and accountability by supporting the Ministry of Interior in the implementation of reforms

and enhancing the effectiveness in combating crime;

- Supporting inclusive, community-responsive police recruitment practices, including gender responsive security sector;
- Supporting the development of an effective case management system in the Criminal Investigation Directorate – Criminal Analytics and International Operational Police Co-operation, to establish a credible track record in criminal investigations;

Democratization

The Mission works to strengthen democratic processes, partnering with national and local legislative, governmental and independent institutions, national minority representatives, civil society and academia. The Mission's work focuses on building strong, inclusive institutions that foster public trust and social cohesion as foundations of comprehensive security by:

- Serving as a trusted and impartial partner connecting institutions, civil society, academia, and international organizations; including as the key international partner of the National Assembly on democratic oversight, transparency, and citizen-centred governance;
- Strengthening democratic institutions, participation, accountability, and public trust;
- Advancing human rights, non-discrimination, minority rights, gender equality, and youth participation, including by supporting National Minority Councils and assisting authorities in implementing national strategies to ensure the effective exercise of rights in culture, education, and language;
- Supporting national and local authorities in aligning policies and practices with international standards;
- Promoting good governance and environmental governance as foundations of security and resilience;

What we do

- Fostering co-operation among institutions, civil society, academia, and international partners;
- Contributing to regional security through programmes on reconciliation, hate crime prevention, parliamentary co-operation, and inclusion;
- Providing policy advice, technical assistance, capacity-building, and multi-stakeholder engagement;
- Safeguarding inclusive spaces for dialogue and support nationally owned democratic reform processes;

Media

The Mission supports the development of a regulatory framework and media environment in which citizens are informed on issues of

public importance in a timely, professional and objective manner, by:

- Assisting the relevant institutions in adopting and implementing policies and legislation that contribute to developing unbiased media;
- Protecting the personal safety of journalists and their sources, strengthening the resilience of citizens against disinformation and buttressing the journalistic profession's self-regulatory efforts against hate speech;
- Supporting quality and ethical journalism capable of reporting objectively on issues of public interest;
- Promoting digital and media literacy to empower all to deal with violations of media freedom and freedom of

expression;

- Fostering the right to freedom of information and media diversity in national minority languages;

- Promoting media freedom and freedom of expression in line with 2018 Milan MC Decision No. 3 on safety of journalists;



The Mission supports the development of a regulatory framework and safe media environment.



The Victor monument, the most recognizable symbol of Belgrade.



The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, in Belgrade.

Head of Mission

Ambassador Marcel Peško (Slovakia)

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