

OSCE and the Aarhus Centres: a tool for raising awareness and supporting promotion of legislation on lead in paint

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Outline of the presentation

- The OSCE's mandate and approach to environment and security challenges
- How the OSCE addresses the linkages between environment and security, including hazardous chemicals
- OSCE and Aarhus Centres, including potential to help address lead in paint issues

Structures

57 Participation States

Decision-making bodies

Summits/Ministerial Councils
Permanent Council
Forum for Security Co-operation

16 Field operations in

South- Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia

Executive

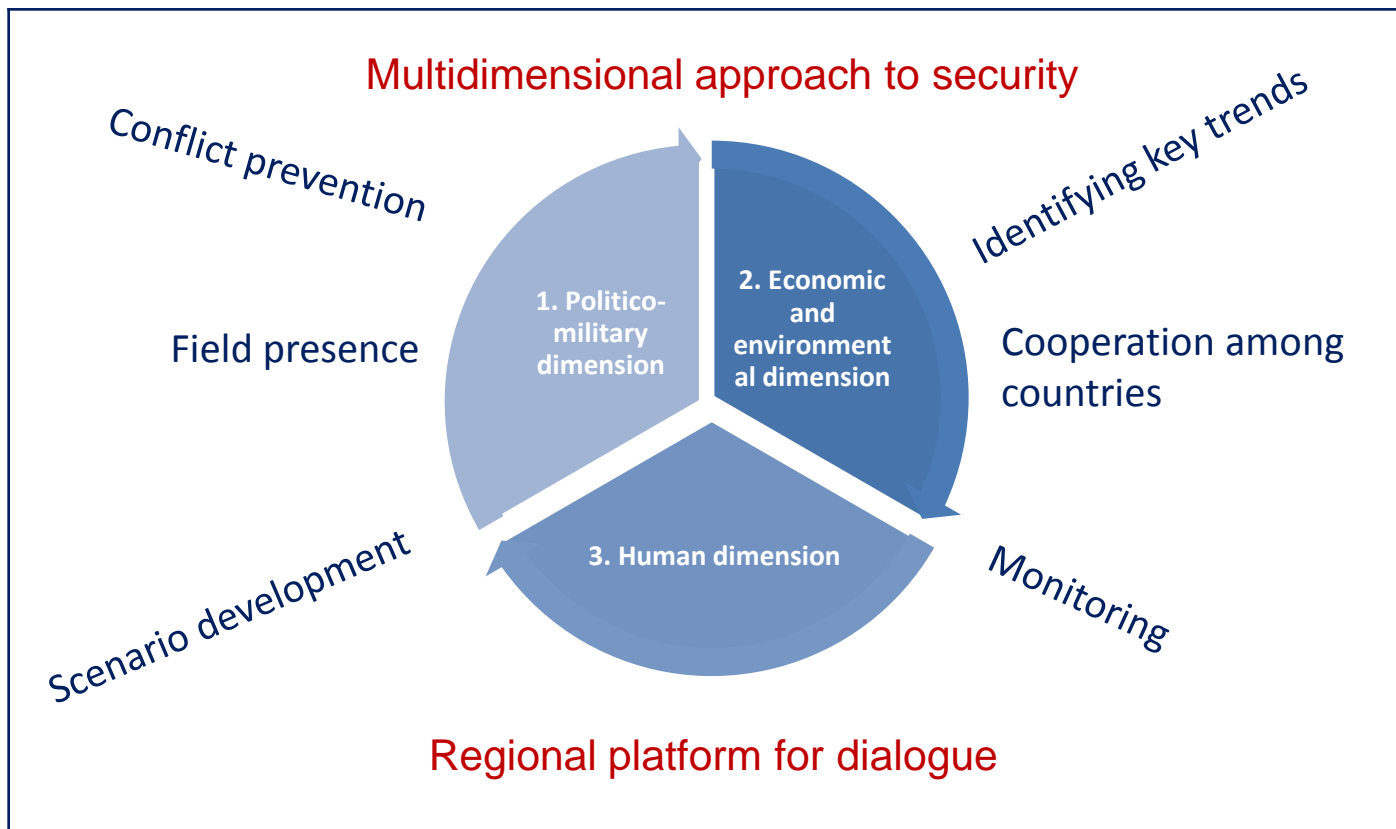
3 Institutions Secretary General

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
High Commissioner on National Minorities
Representative on Freedom of the Media

Secretariat

Conflict Prevention Centre
[Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities](#)
Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking and Human Beings
Transnational Threats Departments

The OSCE's comprehensive concept of security



Economic and Environmental Dimension

To contribute to strengthening of security and stability in the OSCE region by promoting international co-operation on economic and environmental issues.



Environmental activities

- Transboundary water co-operation
- Climate change and security
- Disaster risk reduction
- Hazardous waste management
- Environmental good governance



Main partnership mechanism



The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)



More than a decade of partnership to address environment and security challenges in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus

Examples of OSCE projects on hazardous chemicals

Disposal of melange, a rocket fuel oxidizer formerly used by the Warsaw Pact countries. Melange is a corrosive, highly toxic, and reactive substance which represents a serious threat to the environment and public health due to

- Its chemical composition
- the progressive deterioration of the storage containers and active decomposition of melange itself





DISPOSAL OF OUTDATED PESTICIDES

Ribnitsa Region, Moldova/TD

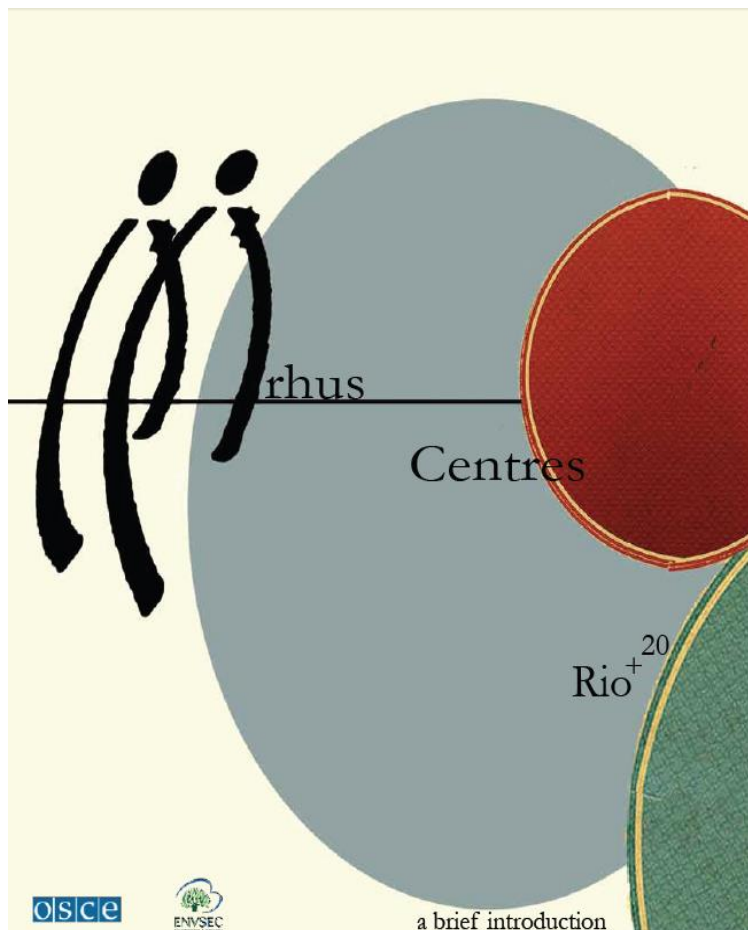


Prevention of Illegal Cross-border Transport of Hazardous Waste and Other Cross-border Environmental Crimes

10 Training Workshops for over 300 people from Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia



Aarhus Centres



- **60 Aarhus Centres** in 14 countries

South Eastern Europe:

Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Montenegro (3) and Serbia (5)

Central Asia:

Kazakhstan (15), Kyrgyzstan (2), Tajikistan (7), Turkmenistan (1)

Southern Caucasus:

Armenia (15), Azerbaijan (1), Georgia (1)

Eastern Europe:

Belarus (1), Moldova (2), Ukraine (1)

Growing network of Aarhus Centres

- Since 2002, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the OSCE field presences, mostly within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative, have been supporting the establishment and functioning of Aarhus Centres in the countries of South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia.
- As of 2016 the network consists of 60 Aarhus Centres in 14 countries.
Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

Aarhus Centres

- Provide the public with practical resources to exercise their **environmental rights** under the Aarhus Convention.
- Strengthen **environmental governance** by providing a venue where members of the public can meet to discuss environmental concerns.
- Assist the public with participating in **environmental decision-making**.
- Facilitate access to **justice** on environmental matters.
- Link **environment** and **security** to **sustainable development** and act as a **bridge** between governments and civil society.

Aarhus Centres' activities

- Raising **awareness** of specific environmental challenges (incl. on hazardous substances)
- **Public hearings/consultations** in the context of **EIA** and new legislation
- Promoting **dialogue with businesses** (e.g. oil and mining sectors)
- Educating **legal professionals** about the requirements of the Aarhus Convention and other relevant legislation
- Increased capacity of the Aarhus Centres to help address concrete **environmental challenges.**

Networking among the Aarhus Centres

Networking among the ACs within and across regions -

- Sub-regional gatherings
- Annual meetings in Vienna (2016 Annual Meeting with a focus on **green economy and resource efficiency**, estimate time – Oct/November)
- Exchange of best practices and lessons learnt on various topics & capacity building
- Signing of a Joint Declaration for Co-operation among the Aarhus Centres of South-Eastern Europe

Project examples: Aarhus Centres and Disaster Risk Reduction

- Strengthen the capacities of civilians in Disaster Risk Reduction through the Aarhus Centres
- Promoting community-based efforts to reduce disaster risk and the security-related impacts of natural hazards.
- The project has been implemented in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan.
- Capacity assessment of the Aarhus Centres and needs assessment for DRR project

Project examples: South Eastern Europe transboundary water cooperation

- On 25-26 March, the OCEEA with the active support of the field operations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, organised a regional roundtable on public participation transboundary water management and environmental impact assessments in Tirana, Albania.
- It gathered more than 40 representatives of central and local governments, Aarhus Centres and civil society from the four countries as well as international experts.



- The AC representatives expressed the need, interest and commitment to co-operate at national and regional levels in addressing common environmental challenges.
- The participants developed recommendations for ACs to improve public participation in transboundary water management and environmental impact assessments in transboundary context.

Project examples (cont'd): Uranium legacy remediation project in Central Asia

The project aims to:

- The objective of the project is to engage and inform stakeholders concerning remediation of uranium tailings in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in order to maximize its benefit.
- This objective will be achieved with ensuring public consultation and participation, as well as involvement of relevant governmental agencies and local stakeholders.

Project Results:

- Stakeholder risk perceptions and capacities concerning remediation of uranium tailings assessed
- Public awareness raised and outreach facilitated for transparency, uptake and informed decision-making.
- Capacities developed in key areas to ensure sustainable stakeholder engagement in feasibility studies and Environmental Impact Assessments

New project: Strengthening the Role of the Aarhus Centres in Addressing Environmental Challenges in Eastern Europe

To promote good environmental governance and regional co-operation in Eastern Europe.

To enhance the Aarhus Centres' capacity to help address environmental challenges in Eastern Europe, including through fostering partnerships with the private sector.

Response to the request for a regional project from the Aarhus Centers and Aarhus Convention Focal Points at the 2015 Annual Aarhus Centres Meeting (June 2015, Vienna)

Two project activities dedicated to chemicals:

- **lead in paint**
- **illegal pesticides.**

New project: Strengthening the Role of the Aarhus Centres in Addressing Environmental Challenges in Eastern Europe (cont'd)

Activity 4.2: Conduct awareness raising activities with a focus on manufacturers of paint, regulators and public to support promotion of legislation on lead in paint

- Develop and disseminate materials on impacts of lead on health and the need for legal limits on lead in paint
- Support further promotion of the draft legislation on lead in paint e.g. through working with consumer rights authorities and associations as well as paint producers to raise awareness on such legislation and its enforcement

Established involvement of the Aarhus Centres in addressing lead in paint issues in the EE region can pave the way for replicating this experience in other countries in the OSCE region through the OSCE-supported network of Aarhus Centres

Questions?
