OSCE Network

OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions
Mission Statement

Network Meeting
Vienna, 30 October 2013

History of the establishment of the network

1. The OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions is an OSCE-related track II initiative. The network's members are research institutes from across the OSCE area that are engaged in academic research and policy analysis on issues relevant to the OSCE's three dimensions of security.

2. The network is a flexible and informal format, founded by more than a dozen research institutions during the OSCE Security Days on 18 June 2013. Its creation was preceded by in-depth discussions between representatives of the founding institutes, delegations of participating States and OSCE institutions. The network was inspired by a proposal made by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier in his inaugural speech in July 2011.

3. The network is open to think tanks and academic institutions from OSCE participating and partner States that are willing and able to contribute academic expertise and policy analysis on OSCE-relevant issues.

Objectives

4. The network provides expertise, stimulates discussion and raises awareness of the OSCE. It contributes to the ongoing security dialogue within the OSCE framework. It helps to address common threats and challenges and contributes to the efforts supporting the Helsinki+40 process and future OSCE dialogue formats. In a more long-term perspective, the network helps to clarify the substance of and the process towards achieving the participating States' shared vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community. The network is used for the exchange of expertise and the coordination of activities between its members.

Working formats

5. At its own initiative or upon invitation by the OSCE Chairmanship, participating States, the OSCE Secretary General, OSCE Institutions or other OSCE structures, the network – taking into account the areas of expertise represented in it, as well as the available human and financial resources – conducts academic research, provides discussion papers (food for thought, non papers, concept papers), offers recommendations, and makes expert presentations at formal and informal OSCE meetings or other OSCE-related events.

6. Expertise is provided either by the entire network, a group of institutes or a single institution or expert on the basis of a transparent selection process.

Status, management and financing

7. The network is an autonomous OSCE-related track II initiative. It is neither an OSCE structure nor subordinated to the OSCE or its participating States. In view of this status, neither the network nor its members represent the OSCE, and the views expressed by network members are their personal opinions and do not reflect the views of the OSCE. All network publications will carry a disclaimer to this effect.

8. Decisions on activities are taken at network meetings, which are convened as required. Issues that require attention between these meetings are managed by a steering committee of representatives of member institutes. The work of the network is facilitated by a network co-ordinator. The steering committee members and the network co-ordinator are elected at a network meeting for a term of two years.

9. The network co-operates with a point of contact within the OSCE Secretariat, who is responsible for developing the OSCE's relationship with the network, including for the purpose of project development and financial support.

10. In principle, the costs of research and travel are covered by the network's institutes themselves, either through their core budgets or by additional fund raising. However, interested OSCE structures and participating States or independent funding institutions are invited to cover staff and travel costs within the framework of projects or for the network's experts to attend events.