OSCE Network

OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions

Statutes

This document is a revised and merged version of two papers (Mission Statement and Working Instruments) adopted at a Network meeting in Vienna on 30 October 2013. The present document was adopted by the OSCE Network's Steering Committee at a meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, on 14 October 2019.

Objectives

1. The Network aims to contribute to the ongoing security dialogue within the OSCE framework and to address common problems and challenges. The Network provides academic and policy expertise, stimulates discussion and raises awareness of the OSCE. Within the Network, member institutions exchange expertise and co-ordinate activities.

History of the Network

2. The OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions was created by 16 research institutions during the OSCE Security Days on 18 June 2013 at Vienna Hofburg, following discussions among the founding institutions, delegations of participating States, and OSCE institutions.[1]

3. The creation of the Network was inspired by a suggestion made by then-OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier in his inauguration speech in July 2011.

Status

4. The OSCE Network is an autonomous OSCE-related Track II initiative. It is an informal platform for the collective efforts of its member institutions and as such has no legal personality. The OSCE Network is neither an OSCE structure nor subordinated to the OSCE or its participating States. Neither the Network nor its members represent the OSCE, and the views expressed by Network members within and on behalf of the Network are their personal opinions that do not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE. Network publications carry a disclaimer to this effect.

---

[1] The founding institutions were: Belgrade Centre for Security Policy; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Centre for OSCE Research, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg; CIPI Foundation; Clingendael; Foreign Policy Research Institute of Ukraine; foraus; Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior; Geneva Centre for Security Policy; Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences; International Peace Institute; Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; OSCE Academy in Bishkek; Peace Research Institute Frankfurt; Polish Institute of International Affairs; University of Bath.

Activities

5. On its own initiative or upon invitation by the OSCE Chairmanship, participating States, the OSCE Secretary General, OSCE institutions or other OSCE structures, and taking into account its members' expertise and resources, the Network conducts academic and policy research, publishes documents (such as OSCE Network Reports, food for thought papers, concept papers, and non-papers), offers recommendations, and presents its findings at formal and informal OSCE meetings or other OSCE-related events.

6. Expertise can be provided by the entire Network, a group of member institutions, or a single institution. Network projects usually bring together a limited number of Network institutions with relevant expertise that contribute to an OSCE Network Report co-ordinated by a project leader.

7. The conduct of activities or the publication of documents or statements under the label or on behalf of the OSCE Network requires approval by the Steering Committee.

Membership

8. The Network's members are think tanks and academic institutions from OSCE participating and partner States that are engaged in academic research and policy analysis on issues relevant to the OSCE's three dimensions of security. Member institutions are willing and able to contribute to OSCE-related debates and to increase the OSCE's visibility and impact. Member institutions are free to decide on how they would like to participate in Network activities.

9. To join the Network, an applicant institution needs recommendations from two existing Network institutions and needs to express a commitment to the work of the Network. These recommendations are to be submitted to the Network Coordinator(s).

Funding

10. As an informal Track II initiative, the Network does not have its own budget. OSCE structures, participating States, and independent funding institutions are invited to commission projects and to cover staff and travel costs for Network activities. The costs for Network activities may also be covered by the Network's institutes themselves, including through third-party funding.

Management and Governance

11. As a flexible and informal platform, the Network has lean and cost-effective management and governance structures.

12. The Network is governed by the Network members and a Steering Committee. It also has a Network Coordinator or Network Coordinators and project leaders.

13. The Network members elect the Network Steering Committee and the Network Coordinator for a term of two years through electronic voting. The Network Steering Committee, together with the Network Coordinator(s), decide over Network activities.

14. The Network preferably has a Point of Contact within the OSCE Secretariat to facilitate cooperation between the OSCE and the Network, including for the purpose of developing projects and procuring funding.

The Steering Committee

15. Comprises representatives of member institutions preferably representing different sub-regions of the OSCE area and seeking diversity;

16. Comprises representatives of member institutions who are well-connected with political decision-makers in their countries and funding institutions, and who have OSCE-relevant expertise;

17. Decides on the conduct of new Network activities taking into account the capacities of the Network, and the publication of documents or statements under the label or on behalf of the OSCE Network;

18. Takes decisions by an absolute majority of its members;

19. Supports and advises the Network Coordinator(s), including through fundraising;

20. Meets in person if funding is available and also communicates electronically.

The Network Coordinator(s)

21. Represent(s) the OSCE Network, working together with the Steering Committee;

22. Facilitate(s) the work and outreach of the Network, including by fundraising, managing the process of new institutions joining the Network, and implementing projects together with the project leaders;

23. Is a member/are members of the Steering Committee;

24. Serve(s) as the Point of Contact for the Network's member institutions, the OSCE Chairmanship, the Point of Contact in the OSCE Secretariat and the national delegations to the OSCE in Vienna, and steer(s) the consultation process with these institutions;

25. Should have the necessary institutional capacities, in particular dedicated staff, to provide logistical and administrative support to the Network.

Project leaders

26. Are appointed by the Steering Committee to run specific Network projects;

27. Lead specific Network projects in cooperation with the Network Coordinator(s).