

# Security and Co-operation in Europe

The next generation's  
perspective

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## The next generation's perspective



# Foreword



## Building bridges to the future

A core task of politicians is to create good prospects for future generations. Politics is not just about today. It is also, and most importantly, about tomorrow.

During Switzerland's OSCE Chairmanship year in 2014, we sought to involve young people as often as possible in our activities. We wanted to learn about their hopes and concerns and to give them an opportunity to get to know the OSCE.

In the many meetings I have had with pupils, students and apprentices across the length and breadth of the OSCE area, I have come to sense very strongly that young people have enormous energy and creative skills, and that in order to work for a sustainable future we have to do more to tap into this great potential.

It is our responsibility to pave the way for young people to participate in political, social and economic life, and to create conditions and access to resources that will enable them to play their role as bridge-builders to the future of our societies.

The Model OSCE 2014 developed by the Swiss Chairmanship is to my mind a pioneer in this respect: we wanted to give 57 young women and men from the OSCE participating States a voice and a stake in OSCE matters. We wanted to create a framework in which their voices would be heard loud and clear.

I was impressed to see how in less than one year, the 57 Youth Ambassadors developed their own Model OSCE Youth Action Plan. The plan set out in this book is more than an exercise. It contains specific recommendations directed to the OSCE and its participating States and identifies the challenges young people think we ought to address. I strongly recommend that the OSCE and associated

governments, structures and institutions draw inspiration from the thoughts, ideas and concerns formulated in the Model OSCE Youth Action Plan. I also encourage the OSCE to develop its own Youth Action Plan and facilitate regular exchanges with young people.

What has become clear to me from reading the Model OSCE Youth Action Plan and from the many discussions I have had with young women and men this past year is that irrespective of their origin, cultural context and social upbringing, what most young people want above all are good prospects in life.

Young women and men want to live in peace, security and dignity, receive solid education and training, and engage in meaningful and gainful work. Switzerland will continue to support young people in their commitment to equal and better opportunities.

Didier Burkhalter  
Swiss Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office 2014

# The Model OSCE

## Involving Young People in the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship 2014 -the Model OSCE Project

### Background

The Swiss and the following Serbian Chairmanships placed youth high on their agenda. For their consecutive Chairmanships, the two countries mention youth in the Joint Workplan which was established to guide their co-operation in 2014 and 2015. To give young people a voice within the OSCE, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship set up the Model OSCE project whose objectives were twofold: to familiarize young people with the activities of the OSCE and to enable the OSCE and its participating States to better understand the hopes and expectations of young people. The 57 participating Youth Ambassadors were involved in the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship throughout the entire year: by means of simulations of two specific OSCE decision-making bodies—the Permanent Council and the Ministerial Council—the Youth Ambassadors became familiar with the OSCE structures and developed their Model OSCE Youth Action Plan.

### Main Stages of the Model OSCE

The 57 Youth Ambassadors were selected in close co-operation with and through the networks of the Swiss National Youth Council, the implementing partner of the Swiss Chairmanship in this project. To ensure broad ownership of the project by the selected Youth Ambassadors, they were asked prior to the first gathering in Vienna to give input on issues that should be covered by a Youth Action Plan of the Model OSCE. The answers provided were compiled in a basic document which followed the format of OSCE action plans and which was structured along the three broad areas of youth protection, youth promotion and youth participation.

The first event, the simulation of the OSCE Permanent Council, was held in Vienna from 15-17 January 2014 to coincide with the official start of the Swiss Chairmanship. The Youth Ambassadors kicked off their negotiations on their Model OSCE Youth Action Plan in various formats—the informal meetings were held in small groups while the preparatory committees took place in plenary sessions. The methodology of the simulation corresponded with the standard practices of the UN-Model simulations: the Model OSCE Youth Ambassadors did not represent their own countries but simulated another to which they were allocated by lots. The Vienna negotiations were closed through the adoption of a Decision on the Model OSCE Youth Action Plan in which they decided to continue their negotiations and to adopt a finalized Model OSCE Youth Action Plan during the second simulation round.

In addition to the negotiation process of the Model OSCE Youth Action Plan, the Youth Ambassadors met the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Didier Burkhalter, and discussed issues that affect young people. Moreover they met Secretary-General Lamberto Zannier, then Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Janez Lenarčič, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Adam Kobieracki, and the Director of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, as well as various heads of OSCE field operations.

As more than two negotiation rounds where the Youth Ambassadors were physically present were required in order to finalize the Model OSCE Youth Action Plan, online negotiations were also introduced. By means of a web platform that was set up for the Model OSCE project, the Youth Ambassadors had the possibility to further negotiate their Model OSCE Youth Action Plan. The online negotiation rounds took place in the form of amendment phases and a silence procedure in which the Youth Ambassadors further consolidated their document.

In view of the consecutive Chairmanship with Serbia, the second event—the simulation of the Ministerial Council—was held in Belgrade from 8-10 July 2014. The Youth Ambassadors continued their negotiations which they finalized with the adoption of the Model OSCE Youth Action Plan by consensus.

The last stage of the project coincides with the 21st Ministerial Council in Basel. OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter invited the Youth Ambassadors to come to Basel and to present their Model OSCE Youth Action Plan to the foreign ministers of the OSCE participating States and partners for co-operation.

### The Model OSCE Youth Action Plan

The Model OSCE Youth Action Plan should serve as an inspiration for the further incorporation of a youth perspective in the work of the OSCE. The document consists of 144 points—136 of them are formulated as recommendations to the participating States and the OSCE executive structures. The 136 recommendations touch on various topics in which, according to the Youth Ambassadors, the OSCE and its participating States should be more active. Although having negotiated a broad-based document, there are certain topics on which the Youth Ambassadors place their focus, for example education, employment and entrepreneurship, human trafficking, security issues, discrimination, violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism, environment, peace, conflict and reconciliation, and the responsible use of media. Moreover, the Youth Ambassadors recommend institutionalizing youth participation in the OSCE.

### Swiss National Youth Council (SAJV/CSAJ)

The Swiss National Youth Council (SAJV/CSAJ) is the umbrella organization of the youth associations of Switzerland. Its mission is to generate possibilities for young people to participate in society as a whole and to develop into socially conscious and participatory citizens. Therefore, SAJV/CSAJ is particularly active in the national and international political process, to guarantee the effective integration of the youth interests and needs.

Based on its experience in the United Nations and the Council of Europe, SAJV/CSAJ was assigned by the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship as a partner in the development and management of the Model OSCE, to ensure a greater involvement of young people and their priorities in this international organization.

### International Relations and Security Network (ISN)

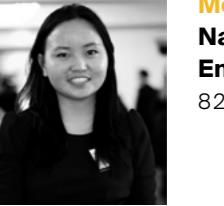
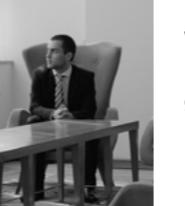
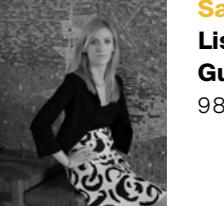
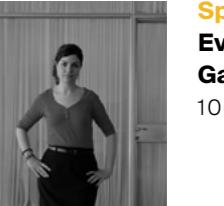
Since 1994, the International Relations and Security Network (ISN) has been a leading provider of open source information on international relations and global security. It is an independent and politically neutral service funded by the Swiss government and is part of ETH Zurich's Center for Security Studies. The majority of the content and materials the ISN provides its users come from a network of 247 think tanks and organizations located throughout the world.

As a Model OSCE partner, ISN built and maintained the project's website; conceptualized and sustained its social media presence; and supported the Youth Ambassadors with educational resources, tools and materials.



# The Model OSCE Partners

# Portraits

	<b>Country of origin</b> <b>Name</b> <b>Surname</b> PAGES	<b>Albania</b> <b>Luis</b> <b>Bekteshi</b> 14		<b>Andorra</b> <b>Conrad</b> <b>Chorlton</b> 16		<b>Armenia</b> <b>Narek</b> <b>Beglaryan</b> 18		<b>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <b>Marko</b> <b>Pankovski</b> 76		<b>Malta</b> <b>Hillary</b> <b>Briffa</b> 78		<b>Moldova</b> <b>Adrian</b> <b>Balutel</b> 80	
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	<b>Cyprus</b> <b>Ioanna</b> <b>Demosthenous</b> 36	<b>Czech Republic</b> <b>Marketa</b> <b>Studena</b> 38		<b>Denmark</b> <b>Madeeha</b> <b>Mehmood</b> 40		<b>Estonia</b> <b>Johann</b> <b>Vootele</b> <b>Mäevere</b> 42		<b>Serbia</b> <b>Milena</b> <b>Stošić</b> 100		<b>Slovakia</b> <b>Lenka</b> <b>Curillova</b> 102		<b>Slovenia</b> <b>Blaž</b> <b>Grilj</b> 104	
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**What does security mean to you?**

In my personal opinion I would say that security means how safe we feel when we are in a public space, at any time of the day.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Important factors that are a must for good living conditions, I would say, are security, employment opportunities, salaries that would allow people to live a simple but good life and not just survive, good education, free healthcare, etc.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE for me is the golden mean, in terms of security, conflict resolution, development policies and approaches to reconciliation. I strongly believe that including young people in the OSCE structure and its strategies will increase its effectiveness at the local and international levels.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security within society allows you to call it your home, a safe place to raise a family and have a social life. Nevertheless, while it is important for the collective, it is dangerous for the individual. Humans are meant to be adventurous, face challenges and leave their comfort zones to travel into the unknown to gain new experiences and grow as human beings (life is a paradox).

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Factors for good living conditions would be: a warm house with a fast internet connection, a nice steak and foie gras on the dining table, a plasma TV and the achievement of all your material whims.

Factors for right living conditions would be: clean water, healthy meals full of fruit and vegetables, clothes to keep you warm, a place to sleep, a world that doesn't put obstacles in your path to following your dreams and, the most important of all, love - love from friends, family and your partner.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

Like everyone else, it means: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The title says it all - a group with participating States as members that discuss topics of security and co-operation amongst themselves. Nevertheless, I believe they can discuss as much as they want, but true change happens on a smaller level, starting with the individuals that make up society. It is the small details in life that make the biggest changes.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is peace and happiness.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The factors are sufficient food and a comfortable house for myself and my neighbours.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE for me is a platform of negotiations and peace for a secure environment.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

In our society, security is multifaceted and has to be dealt with at multiple levels, starting at the grassroots between individuals, through local entities, States and up to the international community. Combating trafficking of human beings is one of my personal concerns regarding security; legal security and the rule of law are closely interlinked with it, too. Liberty and security have to go hand in hand; security should not be an argument to restrict fundamental rights and freedoms in an inappropriate way.

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Enabling self-fulfillment for individuals and harmonic collective dwelling, within a community and cross-regionally.  
Covering basic needs through adequate infrastructure in a healthy environment: A nice detail of the official opening event of the Swiss Chairmanship was the miniature train carrying containers with the labels “peace”, “governance” and “benefit”, a wooden cow and a Toblerone chocolate bar.  
Equal treatment and anti-discrimination, with a particular focus on gender equality.  
Culture: I will always fondly remember the musical performance of the opening event with Alphorns, the Wiener Sängerknaben and the flying piano.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The motto “A security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok” depicts well the organization’s broad territorial mandate. Next to formal negotiations within the Permanent Council (in the architectonically quite distinctive Neuer Saal) and the Ministerial Council (for Basel 2014, the city’s bridges are a good metaphor to see the organization as a bridge between the participating States), it’s the OSCE’s field presence that can more easily have a positive impact on the local communities.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

Of course, security is a basic entitlement guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but for me personally security is a more abstract concept. It is all about living, working, breathing in and out with peace, prosperity and confidence – as necessary and important as the air in this world.

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

I always say that if you have bread to eat, water to drink and a place to live, you already have a lot in this world. However, to look more extensively at this issue, good living conditions are such kinds of values like democracy, security, respect of human rights and the rule of law. It might seem obvious, but for today I don't know which other factors could really make the world better.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

To me the meaning of the OSCE is divided into two parts: before the Vienna meeting of the Model OSCE Youth Ambassadors and after it. Before January 2014, the OSCE was just the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe that I had learnt about from books and classes. But now it's such a personal and warm place, like a second home. Now it's a place where I know that I can express myself and be sure that my voice is being heard.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is such a state where there is no real or potential threat (or no real conditions) to any social phenomenon or any person (as a human being). Also, it is a feeling of constant confidence in being protected from someone or something.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are those that could satisfy people's basic needs according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

I associate the OSCE with three baskets (three dimensions). Also, for me it is a regional organization (in terms of the UN Charter) that works closely together with the UN and is responsible for maintaining peace and security.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is all about knowing that the rule of law is present in every aspect of our lives. This means that everybody abides by the same rules, and it's vital that any investment we make as an individual or as a society is secure in that knowledge.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are dependent on the country one lives in. They can be understood as being the bare minimum to facilitate social promotion through education and merit.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a regional organization which has greatly contributed to making co-operation possible between rival factions during the Cold War and during conflicts in its aftermath. To me personally it symbolizes the ability to work together on non-contentious issues within a regional framework. As such its regional role will only continue to grow in the future.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security for me means that my children will be born into a world in which they will not be woken up by the whistling of bullets and shells and explosions that were the lullabies of my generation. The ability to provide my children with the basis for them not to worry about their own future and the future of their children. The ability to provide them with the basis to not worry about their lives being threatened by others.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions by my standards go far beyond an income and economic factors. They are the ability for each and every citizen to fulfill their full potential, which is reflected clearly when you ask yourself: "Would I want, without any patriotic or national feelings, my children to grow up in this country, and spend all their life here?"

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE for me means the future, a future where NATO and the UN and similar organizations do not need to exist to enforce security and peace; a future where peace and security is a matter of consensus. A future where the OSCE will fulfill its goal of bringing security not only to its participating States but the world, a future where gradually we will lose the need to have any security organization.



### **What does security mean to you?**

Security in its most basic meaning refers to Maslow's lowest level in the hierarchy of needs pyramid. But it is much more than a roof over one's head. Security implies the knowledge that tomorrow when you make your way to school, work or a café, you can rest assured that the State, the police and your fellow citizens will protect and/or help you if need be. It is also the reverse side of this—the knowledge that your state will not invade your personal space, the police will not violate your basic human rights and your fellow citizens will not harm you. In an international sense, this is the knowledge that the world is no longer dominated by the harsh "laws of nature" but is regulated by internationally accepted and/or enforced rules and values. It is the knowledge, more precisely, that you will feel as protected and secure and maybe even accepted abroad as you are in your homeland.

### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

If I am allowed to copy a bit from and paraphrase Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the three "S's" of safety, security and sustainability (individual, not environmental or otherwise) are key factors and form the basis of good living conditions. In a chronologically or hierarchically ordered system of factors that determine good living conditions, next would come basic human rights (according to the Universal Declaration); the need to belong (friendship and love); and the need to express one's individuality which I put at the top not necessarily because it is impeded by external conditions but because, even if all predisposing circumstances are present, it is difficult for individuals to achieve this and realize their full potential. Unlike the original hierarchy pyramid, though, it is sometimes possible to fulfill one higher-level need without fulfilling a lower-level one, but the ideal state to define "good living conditions" would be a combination of all.

### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

My impression of the OSCE has changed throughout the years: from a university paper topic through to a short-term employer, and finally to an organization whose goals and values I can identify with. For me the OSCE is a unique political creation that covers a mandate often disregarded by intergovernmental and international organizations. Although it is highly structured and formalized, it is an organization founded upon values as a priority and goals as a means of fulfilling those values. As such, the OSCE fulfills needs and covers mandates that are often overlooked by similar organizational bodies, which more often than not prioritize the technical aspects of their work and do not take the human factor much into account. And that is what the OSCE includes in its three dimensions, the role that humans have played and can potentially play in policy-making and the development of global processes as a whole.



**What does security mean to you?**

In concrete terms, for me, security means the protection of the individual from harm. In a different light, I also see security as the preservation of happiness. This means then that it is important to invest in development initiatives, healthcare, education, our children and youth, the environment, democracy, and so forth. Investments in these key areas will undoubtedly help to preserve our happiness and maintain human security.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

I believe that both comfort and happiness are relevant in determining good living conditions. This is broad, but should encompass certain things like a good healthcare system, opportunities for people to succeed, proper housing, access to social services, technological development and innovation, media freedom, right to privacy, effective educational institutions, and so forth. All these things are also contingent on the concept of security and how safe we feel living in our respective communities.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

To me the OSCE is a forum of dialogue, as well as a platform for action where people from very different backgrounds come together with the intention to maintain peace, democracy and stability in the region.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, security means a feeling of peace and serenity. This implies that people are not afraid of war, conflicts, terrorist attacks etc. At the same time, it means I can walk by myself at night down the street without fear.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The first requirement for good living conditions is that there is no war. Moreover, it implies social security, health insurance for all and a minimum wage sufficient to cover basic living expenses. It also includes a society without any form of discrimination or violence.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE for me represents security, peace-building and conflict prevention. I view it as a guarantor of a better future for my children that will ensure the horrors of war which we have witnessed will not happen again.



**What does security mean to you?**

Peace, prosperity, safety, democracy, respect for human rights.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Shelter for everyone, access to clean water, access to health treatment, proper food for all, democracy.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

An effort to bring countries to the table of discussion in order to reach consensus and bring peace and security from Vancouver to Vladivostok. The OSCE is all about consensus in a fragile era for security, trust and co-operation.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

The word security for me as an individual and as a citizen of my country has two dimensions. Firstly, every person has the right to feel safe as a human being, which means that they do not feel they are threatened physically or that their way of life is threatened. Secondly, security is for me the external security of the country a person lives in, meaning this person does not feel threatened that there will be a war with the neighboring country the next morning when they wake up.

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Very much as in the first question, I believe there are two basic categories determining good living conditions. Firstly, there are the basic needs for a life of a human being as an individual - food, shelter, access to healthcare, personal safety, access to education, possibilities to get a job, a sense of belonging to one's family, among one's friends and in the society of one's country. Secondly, this individual has to be provided with opportunities to influence the society he lives in - possibilities for being actively involved in the decision-making processes, determining these living conditions so he does not have to live in a country where he cannot trust the public administration offices or security forces because of corruption, where children and youth are endangered by drug abuse and criminality and are radicalized to join extremist political parties, movements, or even terrorist organizations, and where minorities are threatened because of non-tolerance, discrimination and hate speech in the society.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

I see the OSCE as an important part of the international community with a complementing role to other organizations such as NATO and the EU though not all three organizations have the same membership. I believe that the OSCE should profile itself in the future even more in the directions

that these organizations do not pursue - such as human security and good governance - while at the same time fostering inter-organizational co-operation among them. For me personally coming from a post-communist country, the most important role of the OSCE is to promote and assist in building a healthy democratic society free of corruption, discrimination, and indifference to get involved, especially among today's youth.



**What does security mean to you?**

It can be divided up in several categories, but for me “human security” is the most important one. For us, as human beings to feel safe, in a State where we are not losing sleep over worries from not having fulfilled our basic human rights, like not having a roof over our head, food to eat and an environment where our thoughts can develop in a healthy way.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are, referring to Maslow's pyramid, when you are at the top of the pyramid and have the time and energy to focus on “high” conditions such as personal development, fulfilling a dream or a bucket list and actually living rather than “getting by, day by day”.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE finds diplomatic solutions and is able to solve problems that no other international institution can do in the same way. Its history and goals makes it unique on the world politics platform and it manages to deal with very specific problems in the modern world – it keeps developing positively and for me it is a tool for working hard to stop problems that are not a priority in the same way in other places, especially human trafficking.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security for me means certainty, that I will never be alone in this world. It means knowledge, that I will always have someone or somewhere to turn to in case of need – it is something that fills me with confidence, warmth and faith in other people.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions for me are very much tied with security: besides material well-being, possibilities for self-fulfillment and a safe living environment, one also needs care and love. For me, the cornerstone of good living conditions is an environment in which people care about each other.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is for me an organization that is determined to improve people's lives with positive measures. The OSCE does not impose sanctions or penalties; it rather gets all parties around one table to tackle the core of the problem. It is important because ideally – and I believe it is so – one cannot get something essentially positive out of something negative.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, security means freedom from coercion and violence, and the freedom to decide how to best seize the opportunities one has been given. In a word, security is certainty about tomorrow; the predictability that is needed in order to be able to plan for the future.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are based on security, justice and predictability, all of which must also be legitimate and based on human rights obligations. Social justice and order must both be addressed equally in order to create a society where people can strive to realize their own potential.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a valuable forum for nations to address a wide spectrum of security issues, which otherwise could be left untended because of a more limited approach to security by other organizations. One of the OSCE's strengths is also the non-binding nature of its documents, since binding sanctions can easily lead to a strong politicization of the organization, thus preventing fruitful communication between parties with opposing ideas. For me personally, the OSCE's history shows us that international consensus can be found even during the hardest of times.



### **What does security mean to you?**

Security is about being able to feel safe in everyday life and knowing that everyone else, regardless of their background, feels the same way.

### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are linked to the ability to live life fully. One should have a possibility to choose, an impact on what is happening around them and a trust that although one's status would change, for instance by an injury, the basic living conditions are secured. States together with the assistance of international organizations, such as the OSCE, must provide education, healthcare, social welfare, and environmental safety among other things, and in this process they bear the responsibility to listen to the people who are affected the most by deficiencies in good living conditions.

### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE means for me co-operation to find solutions to the security challenges experienced by the people in the region. It means constant and dedicated work, because the insecurities people face are wide, ranging from environmental to human rights concerns, and there are no clear solutions to them.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security means for me the freedom for anyone or any community to develop themselves in the direction they want and need, without being fearful of anything (danger, risk, care, basic needs).

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are different and relative to everyone. To me, the most relevant are the achievement of and access to basic human needs (food, water, housing, communication) and freedoms (movement, expression, education, justice, security). Both freedoms and needs are so linked it's difficult to differentiate them. They are all necessary to the development of human beings, which I consider the normal result of good living conditions.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a very unique organization evoking several key ideas: co-operation and solidarity first, and engaging discussions in bringing together 57 participant countries from Europe to Asia to America. Facing a damaged and sometimes senseless world, it shows unity and stands for peace and reconciliation. In face of conflicts and chaos, it calls for dialogue and understanding. In the more and more complex societies we live in, the OSCE also stands, for me, for hope.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, security is the state of uninterrupted peace where every individual regardless of their place of origin, age, political preferences, religious or ethnic background, and sexual orientation, is able to harness the fundamental rights and opportunities that intrinsically belong to him.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The degree of economic development is the most important factor for determining what good living conditions are; no individual and no society can thrive in a setting where standards of basic economic well-being are not upheld.

Another important factor is an enabling environment or combination of legal, political and social frameworks that enhance both the physical and psychological well-being of individuals.

One more important factor is the application of democratic practices: a full range of political rights, free and professional media and rule of law are all necessary prerequisites for the advancement of individuals and the societies they live in.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

What immediately comes to my mind when I think of the OSCE are the two words: security and democracy.

The OSCE is an instrumental mechanism that advances the process of reconciliation between conflicting nations and peoples in the region. It provides a unique forum for dialogue on matters of peace and strives for an arrangement where countries cooperate rather than compete.

Apart from that, I hold the OSCE in high regard because of its deep commitment to matters of democratization and governance; along with setting the overarching standards for a variety of democracy-related fields, the OSCE is simultaneously capable of bringing its ideas on country-specific practices to an array of countries across the Eurasian continent.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security means to me not having to worry when going out in the middle of the night.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Free education, freedom of speech, employment possibilities.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE to me is an enabler of democracy.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security touches on many aspects of the way we live. To me security means all aspects: from financial security (having or keeping a job), to social security (participating in society), to physical security (having a house, being healthy and safe), to environmental security, cyber security etc.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

In my point of view, a good quality of life is determined by many factors such as good jobs, good physical health, high standard of education, living in a clean environment and enough free time to enjoy one's life.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is the world's largest security organization with 57 participating States and is working to ensure peace, democracy and stability for individuals and communities.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, the first part of security is the security of my physical health, i.e. a low crime rate, no terror etc. It means I can walk through the streets without fear.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Security is a great part of it. But also healthcare, school systems and political stability.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE has an important security function between the participating States. It's also important for the exchange of information and helps to manage international problems.



**What does security mean to you?**

In my view security is one of those abstract concepts that cannot be fully realized, yet it is important to work for it. Security is not an absolute, but a relative state of affairs and state of mind.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions include basics such as water, food, and housing. Nevertheless, I believe that human dignity and the right to live a meaningful life according to one's beliefs should also be an important part of a catalogue of living conditions that looks beyond biopolitics.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

Based on the history of the organization, it is a symbol of dialogue that reaches across cultural, linguistic and political divides.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security for me is a feeling that you are safe and do not have to worry about your life or well-being or that of those who you love. It's a state where you feel at peace.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good healthcare, a good labor market, financial stability, equality and peace.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

Co-operation of different countries with the mission of peace, human rights and security for all.



**What does security mean to you?**

In my opinion, security means stability, safety and well-being.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The factors that are relevant to determine good living conditions are shelter, food, water, employment, resources, health and friendships.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

To me, the OSCE means an organization that facilitates co-operation between countries in order to obtain and uphold security in conjunction with human rights.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is the condition which allows people to live in peace, free from danger and fear. The dangers to security might consist of actions which jeopardize our physical, psychological, social and economic needs. Threats to security are not only represented by armed conflicts; human rights violations, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber-attacks, piracy, and environmental degradation might likewise endanger security.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The relevant factors which determine good living conditions consist of all the economic, social and environmental elements which allow people to live free from need and fear. Of particular relevance is an income which allows people to live in dignity, in particular to fulfill their essential needs; a political system which enables the enjoyment of political, civil and economic rights; and a high standard of health which reflects a high environmental standard.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is an international organization for co-operation between countries of Europe, North America, North and Central Asia. Conceived with the aim of ensuring the coexistence and the co-operation between countries that were politically opposed, the OSCE membership is nowadays based on sharing political values including respect for human rights and a high environmental standard.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is an inherent property and purpose of any system (State - man - environment). The conception of security has a complex and systemic nature. All systems and subsystems experience interference, both positive and negative. I understand security as a condition of protection of vital interests of the individual, society and the State from internal and external threats.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Standard of living – it is a multifaceted phenomenon depending on a variety of reasons ranging from the territory where the population lives, i.e. geographical factors, and ending with the general socio-economic and environmental situation and the state of political affairs in the country. The relevant factors to me that determine a good living environment, first of all, are: political and economic ones, factors of social development, scientific and technological progress and ecological environment.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

In today's world, standing on the threshold of a new millennium, security issues are more important than ever. In my opinion, it will be the most relevant for the coming century in conjunction with environmental issues, the fight against international crime and economic issues.

To me, the OSCE is the most extensive of all the existing organizations to support security, it is the youngest and has the greatest potential to maintain stability and devise solutions in the field of security.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is an inevitable component of a prosperous society; it is a fundamental principle for the peaceful coexistence of all of us around the world.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Equal access to education and healthcare; transparent, just laws and rules; economic prosperity and social welfare; freedom of choice; secure and stable society are factors that determine good living conditions.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a peaceful tool of participating States to reach a common understanding and vision of the world.



**What does security mean to you?**

The term security for me means the peaceful functioning of society, which is achieved by taking into account such elements as human rights, the rule of law, democratic values, non-violent forms of conflict resolution and general well-being of the world's population. Security is the means by which the general progress of humankind can be achieved in a constructive and positive environment. Therefore, security is also the main goal of every society in today's globalized world.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are provided when every individual living in the State can feel safe and protected from violence, can feel the benefit of a strong and coherent socioeconomic policy, and can exercise his individual freedoms in a free and democratic State.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

OSCE - The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe means to me a strong and stable regional organization, which is determined to provide general peace and security in its sphere of influence. The OSCE is based on three fundamental dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental, and human, which in my opinion makes it highly effective in dealing with various and highly diverse international conflicts in today's globalized world. The OSCE is also the organization that has managed to unite actors with highly different national interests into one political entity, which makes it widely represented across most of the world's northern hemisphere.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security means for me to lead a life without fear (in a very comprehensive sense): not only no fear of armed conflicts, but also no fear of poverty or other forms of social exclusion caused by e.g. low education, disabilities, unemployment, sexual orientation, gender, age etc.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions can't be measured on an individual level but have to be evaluated on a social (macro-) level. Good living conditions therefore involve not only individual freedom in its various forms but a society without discrimination and with little social inequality.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE means to me a good opportunity for countries to work together on various issues. This is important because most of the biggest problems of our time can only be solved across States on an international level. Therefore it is a good symbol for co-operation but at the same time also a symbol for the small influence of international networks on individual countries' policies.



**What does security mean to you?**

Nowadays, individual security should be highlighted in the international community. In my opinion, human security is inseparable from the preservation of human rights, freedom from fear, conflict and violence.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Improvement of global quality of life means the implementation of a people-centered approach. Values are an intrinsic component of proper living conditions because they help countries define national interests and therefore leaders need to uphold the values of the citizens whose lives they must defend. Secondly, we need innovative solutions to the challenges we face today i.e. testing alternative approaches to security policy and prospective missions.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE strives to improve our lives and provides citizens with a sense of happiness. This international actor tests the fundamental concepts of cross-cultural dialogue on security flashpoints around the globe where attempts at co-operation have failed. The most important aspect is that the organization seeks to speak with one global voice for, with, and on behalf of participating States.



**What does security mean to you?**

According to me, security is an abstract state of social behavior that excludes violent actions between actors in societies as well as allowing a sound basis for the further development of their relations. Such conditions should contribute to the development of overall well-being in societies, improve relations between actors and, finally, result in long-lasting and inclusive development.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The most important factor to determine good living conditions is pretty wide and consists in the opportunities that exist in a society for its people to express and achieve their life goals and objectives. In order to achieve this, additional factors such as equality, justice and good environmental conditions should be realized.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is an organization that tries to approach security with different means other than those of traditional security organizations. The genuineness of the OSCE is in its inclusive approach towards the participating States; the OSCE connects them for mutual dialogue no matter what the political and the social differences are. Most importantly, the OSCE tends to create dialogue instead of interest groups.



**What does security mean to you?**

Personally I perceive security to be in line with the United Nations' vision of "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want". The former protects against such threats as armed conflict, despotism, criminality and violence, whilst the latter encompasses the human security aspects of safeguarding against poverty, hunger, and disease. Securitization has transformed from a narrow, state-centric approach to the broader remit of human dignity and only by working to secure both ends can peace and tolerance be assured.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

There are a range of qualities which contribute towards a high standard of living, however I would personally prioritize the availability of food and shelter, safety, healthcare, economic growth, cultural tolerance, education, and democratic representation as the foundations of a stable, attractive society. In an ideal world, every individual would have the support requisite in climbing Maslow's hierarchy of needs to achieve their version of self-actualization.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

I believe the OSCE is a unique forum for the provision of regional security: the fact that it has "no carrots and no sticks" means it is up to the participating States themselves to come to the table with a readiness to cooperate and an inherent desire to bridge divides in the pursuit of peace. From my experience as a "Youth Ambassador" I have gained a glimpse of the inherent complexities involved in achieving mutually beneficial agreements, however I firmly believe that where there is a will, it is indeed possible for the OSCE to secure a future through the use of words rather than weapons.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is the state in a region, country or of an individual in which the subject feels free and safe to develop any actions or activities within a legal framework and can rely on common rules and protection of the law.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The most important factors are free access to education, an adequate salary (and job conditions), accessible and good healthcare, a strong social and judicial system.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is an umbrella that aims to ensure that everyone who is under this umbrella will live in a peaceful and prosperous society.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is the absence of hunger and anger. If people are out of a job and hungry, they will be angry. Angry people cause instability.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

I am living in one of the most polluted cities in the world with the worst air quality; the most relevant factor to determine my good living conditions is clean air for our children to live longer and healthier in the future.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

When we seek for security, the OSCE gives us the opportunity to build it ourselves.

Narantsatsral Enkhbat was not present during the simulation of the Model OSCE Ministerial Council in Belgrade. Therefore, there is no picture of Narantsatsral from the photograph series of Beat Schweizer. A small portrait photo of her can be seen in the index of the OSCE Youth Ambassadors on page 13.

**What does security mean to you?**

Security is one word that brings together all important things. We are secure when we know that we have freedom of movement, thought and speech.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

From my point of view a good health and social system, developed infrastructure, and a political system that works in the interest of the people are factors that determine good living conditions.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

To me the OSCE means the key that opens the door to security and relations between States.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is the means by which one protects itself from threats and harm.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Degree of freedom, possibilities, living standards.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a large organization, capable of choosing its own path and priorities. Due to its broad mandate and objectives, the organization can be a meaningful force in contributing to the further development of living standards.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

Security can be a matter of both States and humans. To be secure means that the State survives, that humans are not subject to violence beyond that of a legitimate and just State monopoly, the absence of poverty and the presence of a healthy and safe living environment. Complete security requires that there is an absence of actual and perceived threats to any of these conditions.

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions entail the freedom to act and pursue your own aspirations and dreams in a society marked by security, social cohesion and trust. A certain economic independence of the individual is a requirement for such freedom, and widespread individual economic independence is built upon a base collective safety-net. Representative governments must ensure stability and predictability by establishing a credible rule of law, and the appropriate distribution of resources, be they scarce or abundant.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is the necessary but sometimes painstakingly slow process of legitimizing security solutions across divided views and perspectives with consensus-driven compromises. It is the best available bridge of the so-called East-West divide, but nowadays it is too often paralyzed by its participating States instead of fulfilling that role.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

The basic understanding of security refers to peace and stability in a particular country or region. However, security also includes financial, social and environmental dimensions. To me, it is the possibility for citizens to lead a decent life and to be treated equally by law, regardless of gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic group or beliefs.

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

In my opinion, the most relevant factors determining good living conditions are peace and stability, a good economic situation and the financial well-being of a person, which includes a decent income, long-term contracts and job opportunities. One of the prerequisites of any advantaged society should also be access to free education and a democratic, welfare State. Finally, it is also an inclusive society, with respect for human rights and equality in terms of gender, ethnic group, religion or sexual orientation.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is for me a platform that still has an important role to play in the region, even though there is no iron curtain any more. Human rights, democracy and security are values that should be always pursued, even if it seems they have been achieved to a certain extent. For me, one of the most successful and visible activities of the OSCE are election observation missions. I appreciate the actions of the organization very much, however, I still feel the OSCE does not fully realize its potential. The biggest obstacle for a more efficient functioning of the organization is the fact that decisions are taken by consensus.

I have very high expectations regarding the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships; I am impressed by putting youth policy on the agenda and creating the Youth Ambassadors' program. I hope that the Youth Action Plan will have an impact on the OSCE's youth policy and that the participation of young people within the OSCE will continue.



**What does security mean to you?**

Like the OSCE, I also believe that security touches on many aspects of the way we live and are governed. That is why I strongly believe that security refers and leads to the security of the person as a citizen. It means the right to liberty and security of a person that every human being should have as foreseen in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

It is a hard question, but the factors that I consider to be the most important in order to determine good living conditions are safety, environmental quality, health, educational facilities and public transparency. Living in a society that shares values of civic commitment could also contribute to achieving good living conditions.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE means a struggle to achieve a world in which human rights are respected to their fullest extent. Therefore, the OSCE means a world that shares the vision of freedom of the media, gender equality, minority rights, free and democratic elections, and a world in which the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms are not called into question.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

To me, security is a prerequisite for a life lived at its full potential. It is a term that extends not only to security for a space free of war or conflict, but a term that refers to securing a decent life: access to services that meet basic needs (health, education, food, clothing), living in a peaceful context - free of conflict, but also free of any kind of violence - and access to civic and democratic rights. In my opinion security is a fundamental right, or a term that is at the core of meeting fundamental rights.

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Access to basic needs, social justice, access to civic and democratic rights and a society that implements a sustainable model of economic development.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

A space for dialogue - which I consider fundamental in building diplomatic relations. And also an organization with great potential to deal with global challenges and to answer some of the needs that other organizations and institutions are not able to do. Also, I consider the OSCE is ready to open itself to young people and to include them more in the decision-making process, as they will become the future leaders of the organization and should be prepared to face a world that is constantly changing.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

To me, security is a puzzle of the following, to be resolved by the joint efforts of the State, the international community and the people:

Safe social environment

Equality

Conditions for a good life

UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Response to breaches of the law and accountability

Integration and social mobility

Tolerance

Youth as actors of change

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions for me are where everybody can develop with their own independent choices and have a decent future - no matter if it is a choice of education, job, lifestyle, partner etc., and where there are efficient systems to provide special care to those who need it. Good living conditions are based on open opportunities for people to enjoy education, healthcare, a job market, a safe environment, and benefit from the national economy.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

Years ago for me the OSCE was an abstract notion of the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organization. Now, after I got to see the results of the work carried out in the field missions and the progressive steps to involve young people as actors of change at the policy level, for me the OSCE has become a symbol of hope, an umbrella for positive changes that will provide young people around the world with a recognized framework for participation and better life conditions in their countries.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is the combination of several conditions that guarantee good living conditions for human beings. Its meaning is interconnected with a wide range of society's aspects from military to environmental issues. In other words, for me security means to live in the present and think about the future without threats or fear.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

In my opinion, some of the most relevant factors that determine good living conditions are: economic development, democratic institutions, respect for human rights and freedoms, universal access to education and healthcare.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a community where every country has the same status and weight. It is the place where the participating States work in order to guarantee security, tackling it as a common and important issue to be reached through co-operation and diplomacy.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security means freedom. To speak up, to act, to participate, to oppose, to endorse. To walk the dog in the evening without fear. To date a Croatian. To wear a short skirt without being labeled as "she asked for it". It means to have a right to health treatment. To vote and be voted for. Security means that my essential human rights are met and that I am entitled to a dignified life free of bombs and hiding in basements, free of oppression, free of corruption, free of unsanctioned violence. Security means peace. Without security no society can prosper, therefore this is the basic stepping stone for development and a fundamental precondition for people to truly LIVE within society.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions are not reflected in the number of square meters in our home, leather in our car, nor in the figure we earn that enables us to start a family. It is not about comfort or social status or a bank account. Good living conditions are determined by the opportunity to reach our full potential. The high point is the very environment in which one is able to make choices and strive towards them with certainty that investment in education is worthwhile, that rule of law is in place, that some are not more equal than others, that being gay or Roma or a woman is not a weakness, that the media is serving its citizens instead of shaping them to be good servants of partisanship. Good living conditions depend on how deep democracy has taken root in our minds and our societies and how uncomfortable pulling out those roots would make us. Because without democracy, freedom and equality of chances for all are illusive and without them one can hardly become the best version of oneself and create good living conditions of one's own choosing.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a significant platform for international co-operation, dialogue, assurance of peace and the building/strengthening of democratic principles. It brings hope for peaceful conflict resolution in Ukraine, protection of the media in Serbia, and fair elections in North Kosovo. The OSCE means continuous efforts for security on different levels and in different political arenas. Beyond the EU. Beyond Europe. Beyond one-sided political will.



**What does security mean to you?**

Is there some security in today's world? The wars in another region rage on and none of these places are too far away or too foreign. Someone could fly a plane through your building, could rape you on the streets, you could lose your job and be homeless tomorrow, get sick and no help will be available for you owing to a lack of money, or a tsunami could rise up from the sea. In fact, security is for me essentially elusive and impossible.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

No war, no violence, no poverty, shelter, air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, care for our health - so little. Nevertheless, for a lot of people an unattainable goal.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

I consider the OSCE as an impartial forum which plays a crucial role in conflict prevention and resolution, peaceful transformation and an overarching framework for co-operation. However, major shortcomings of the OSCE in my opinion include unused opportunities of its power, good reputation, neutrality and knowledge of the region, and with this related challenges - the non-binding character of decisions, there being no mechanism of sanction, and the reluctance of some countries.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, security means the lack of fear. The lack of any kind of threat towards me or the people I care about. Security means that you are able to live your life in a way you choose; it means having control over your life.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

I believe that in order to ensure good living conditions we must strive towards attaining different aspect of security and well-being. Good living conditions mean safe, healthy and affordable living conditions. They are firstly provided through adequate infrastructure and a safe environment, but nevertheless the social dimension of good living conditions is as important as well - if one wishes to truly fulfill their potential, good living conditions must ensure adequate educational, social, economic and other opportunities.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

While there are many positive contributions of the OSCE, in my opinion the most significant achievement of the organization is the number of different countries, cultures and traditions it brings together. Over the years it has proven to be an actor for peace and reconciliation, bringing nations together and helping those in conflict. The OSCE means for me a promise for a better future; it is giving me hope that we are able to communicate and overcome the gaps between our cultures.



#### **What does security mean to you?**

Security implies protection from potential dangers and confidence building in a broad social sense. Therefore it represents a parachute that cushions our falls and a harness that secures us to climb up in life. Rather than a military concept, security is a right to guarantee political, economic, environmental and social welfare, so it means protection from direct violence but also, for example, access to housing and medical care or protection against the effects of global warming.

#### **Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Health and basic needs directly related to physiological well-being, such as access to food, housing, clothing, hygiene and medical care, must be covered to ensure individuals' dignity. At the same time, a peaceful, stable, ecologically sustainable and stimulating environment is required at all levels -from the household to the state level- in order to foster individuals' independence, self-development and integration in society. Access to education and employment, justice and the rule of law must be guaranteed to ensure that all citizens, endowed with rights and freedoms, are able to live securely with a minimum welfare standard.

#### **What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE represents a commitment to common interests, peace and international security, and a decision-making forum to strengthen co-operation between all participating States. In addition, it plays the role of a mediator and serves as a diplomatic tool for democratization. Participating States should not forget that the rule of consensus empowers OSCE decisions with an added moral value and makes them politically -even if not legally- binding.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security can only be addressed through the respect of fundamental democratic principles and, most importantly, the safeguarding of fundamental rights and social equality, regardless of an individual's race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or any other social or personal circumstances.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

I'm fully convinced that equal access to education and youth employment opportunities are the two pillars for the prosperity and development of societies, bearing in mind the dramatic effects of the financial crisis, together with the budget cuts on education, which undermine future prospects for young people.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

It is not only an international platform to enhance co-operation between States and share good democratic practices but it could also be an effective mechanism to respond to people's immediate necessities, mediate on armed conflicts and face any other mutual challenges so as to ensure peace and security for all the OSCE's citizens.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is for me military preparedness towards threats that vary depending on the context.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Social security (education, social services, livelihood), housing and social relationships.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a coordinating organ where issues related to border security and relationships between States are raised and discussed in a dynamic environment.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, security means protection from dangers. Physical violence, bad environmental conditions or lack of housing are sources of material dangers. There are some non-material dangers such as psychological violence, disrespect for human rights, or poverty, which are intrinsically connected to the former ones.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The first factor concerns social environment: a reliable family, friends respecting my choices. The second factor is about income: I should have a minimal income allowing me to have my own room and privacy, healthy food, and allowing me to practice activities contributing to the development of my capacities.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a very modern and ambitious organization because of its three-dimensional concept of security. The OSCE constitutes an opportunity for discrete backyard diplomacy—a place where stakeholders meet and discuss everything—thus enabling more stability in the international system.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, security is a condition in which I independently, sovereignly, and without interference or pressure from the outside, freely choose and implement actions and achieve my goals. Security is the belief that my rights are protected in all life circumstances. Security is my freedom.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

To determine good living conditions, in my opinion, the following factors are relevant: opportunity to receive high-quality food, the availability of health and quality of care, the ability to receive a quality education, the availability of high-paid and favorable work, protected rights and freedom from negative phenomena, the presence of stable and harmonious family relations, the presence of like-minded and sensible people around and having a supportive environment, favorable conditions for self-realization, satisfaction with cultural and spiritual needs and psychological comfort.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

Seven years ago, the OSCE was for me an organization that taught me civic education and contributed to the creation of our initiative group and then youth organization; when I became a Youth Ambassador and attended the Model OSCE in Vienna, the OSCE became the great hope for hundreds of thousands of young people to be heard.

The OSCE, by providing an opportunity to develop an international youth policy, gave us a feeling of the responsibility, experience and pride felt by the decision-makers. The OSCE gave me hope to answer to your first and second questions.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security means protection from violence and oppression.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The most important factor is being free from fear of the future. Having stable employment, access to health and education are basic needs for all.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is a unique regional organization that encompasses very different countries and regions. Diversity as well as the ambition to create a security community from this diversity define the OSCE.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security to me is something that makes me feel confident about tomorrow: from financial security to physical security. It is the right to make choices, live free of fear and be sure that my voice is heard and will be heard and taken into account.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

First of all, it is good health and access to a quality health-care system. State of the surrounding environment and economic stability.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is one of the main organizations to look to and rely on when it comes to stability and international security. It is the organization to foster peace, prevent conflicts and promote stability.



**What does security mean to you?**

That is such a painful question at the moment. After more than 80 people have died, more than 1,000 have been injured and tortured, and more than 200 are still missing – what is security? That the people of my country do not die in politically-motivated conflicts. That they do not fight for one or another political power. That they are not threatened for having a certain position or political view. And most importantly, that people's opinions are not influenced by foreign countries. Moreover, emotionally, security for me is to be able to speak a language freely – whether Russian or Ukrainian – because of personal will, not public opinion. Security means I can walk out with the national flag, and people around will not look at me angrily thinking I am a bad nationalist, if I can sing along with the national anthem. I now fail to explain rationally what security is to me. But I know that security is primordial, and sustained collectively by people. Therefore, we must be regularly reminded not to forget what price we have to pay when we forget to maintain our personal and collective security.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Presence of structured dialogue and joint strategy of government and civil society in all spheres of life. Legitimacy of all governmental bodies. Rule of law applied equally to every citizen of the country. No inner or outer threat to statehood and people. Maintaining reasonable standards of living for people.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

I believe the OSCE is firstly a monitoring body which should raise awareness about the norms of security and situations when security is in danger in any State or region in general. The OSCE to me is also a mediator and representative of a joint position in the region in the event of conflicts.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security is like baking bread, the margin between perfection and failure can be very slim but the need to get it right is absolute. With security we need to strive for perfection creating a State that protects us, keeps us free, and keeps us safe and importantly free from fear. Too much and we are oppressed, too little and we are vulnerable, getting it just perfect is what security really is.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Living conditions are not just about the house you live in, the TV you have or the food you eat. It's about the society you live in, the freedom you have and the ability to enjoy your life. If we work towards a peaceful, free, tolerant society where you can enjoy life to the fullest, then that is what good living conditions are truly about.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

The OSCE is hope, hope for a future where countries work together to create a region that is better for everyone. It's about preventing conflict, saving lives, creating stability and building lasting friendships between different communities. The OSCE means a better future for us all.



**What does security mean to you?**

To me, security means justice, liberty and freedom from fear.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

The relevant factors to determine good living conditions are civil liberties, economic opportunity and human security.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

To me, the OSCE is a group of States and peoples that share common values and endeavor to secure their collective space and futures using comprehensive methods and promoting governance that respond to the will of the people.



**What does security mean to you?**

Security has several meanings describing different spheres of human life. In a broad sense, security creates the conditions for developing the potential and creativity of an individual. Since creativity is a driver of positive change, social development and economic advancement, security is paramount for the development of any society.

**Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?**

Good living conditions provide the necessary basis for human existence and development. They include a number of factors, the most important of which are economic prosperity, a strong social policy, ensuring security at all levels, and environmental conditions. This provides the time and resources for the personal and harmonious development of individuals, uncovering their potential to contribute to the development of society.

**What does the OSCE mean to you?**

First of all, the OSCE is a regional political organization uniting the nations of Europe, Central Asia and North America. It provides a platform for constructive dialogue on and a pragmatic approach to issues related to different dimensions of security. The OSCE encourages the sustainable and stable development of its participating States, based on mutual respect and open dialogue.



## Overview

### What does security mean to you?

#### Thematic occurrences in the Youth Ambassadors' answers.

physical security:  
peace, absence of violence and crime



self-actualization:  
freedom of choice and lack of prejudice



social security:  
social equity, political stability, healthcare and education



economic and financial security:  
job security, infrastructure and economic prosperity



legal security:  
rule of law, accountability, democracy and equality in treatment



### Which factors do you think are relevant in determining good living conditions?

socioeconomic security:  
social welfare, economic prosperity, health insurance and minimum wage



self-actualization:  
freedom of choice and lack of prejudice



legal security:  
rule of law, accountability, democracy and equality in treatment



physiological security:  
housing and food



physical security:  
peace, absence of violence and crime



social environment:  
sense of belonging, love and friendship



**What does the OSCE  
mean to you?**

common objectives:  
co-operation, peace and security



platform for international co-operation  
and dialogue



membership based on the same political values  
and commitments



unique political mandate:  
resolves specific issues disregarded  
by other organizations



hope for a better future



youth policy and political participation  
of young people

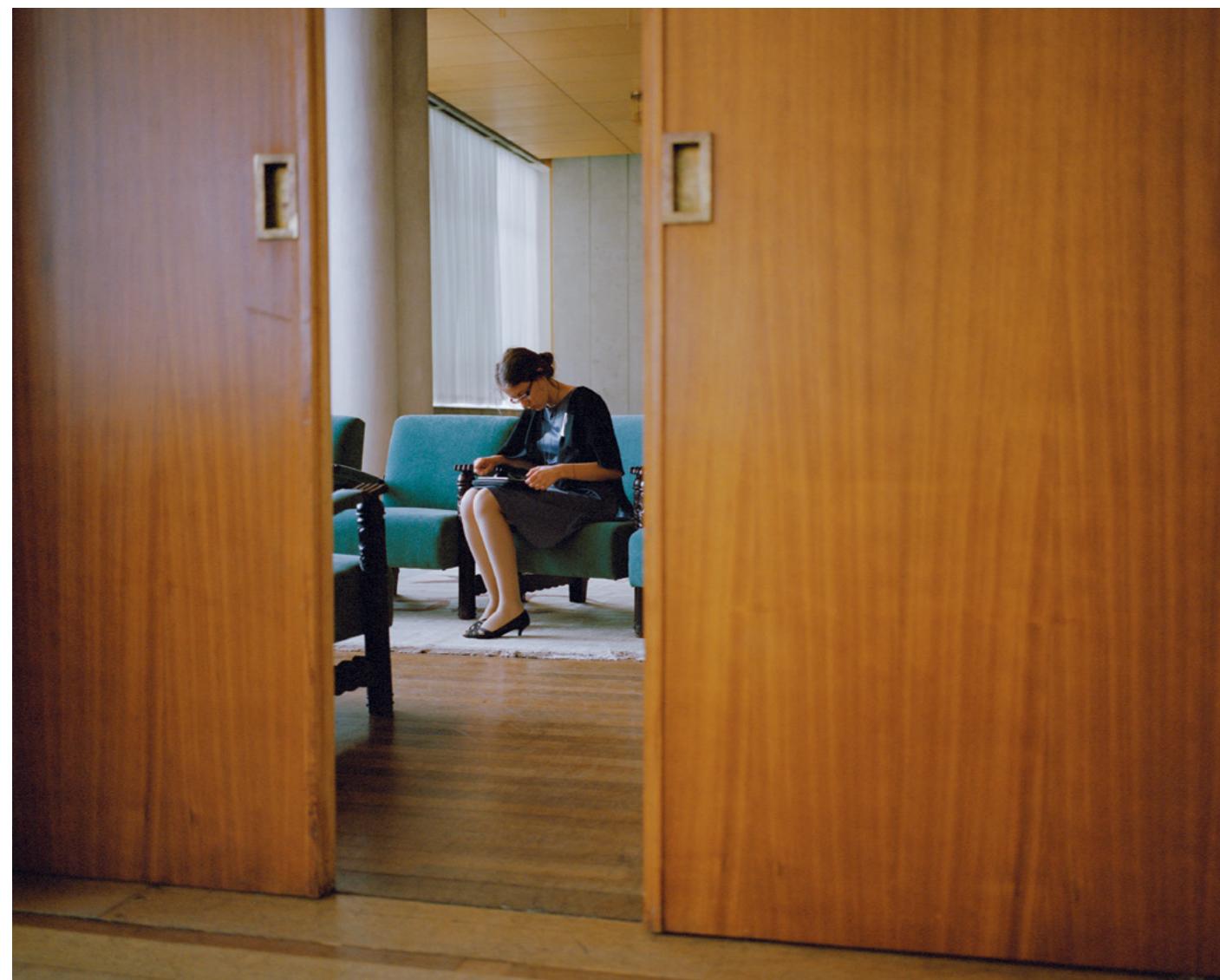


politically rather than legally binding  
commitments

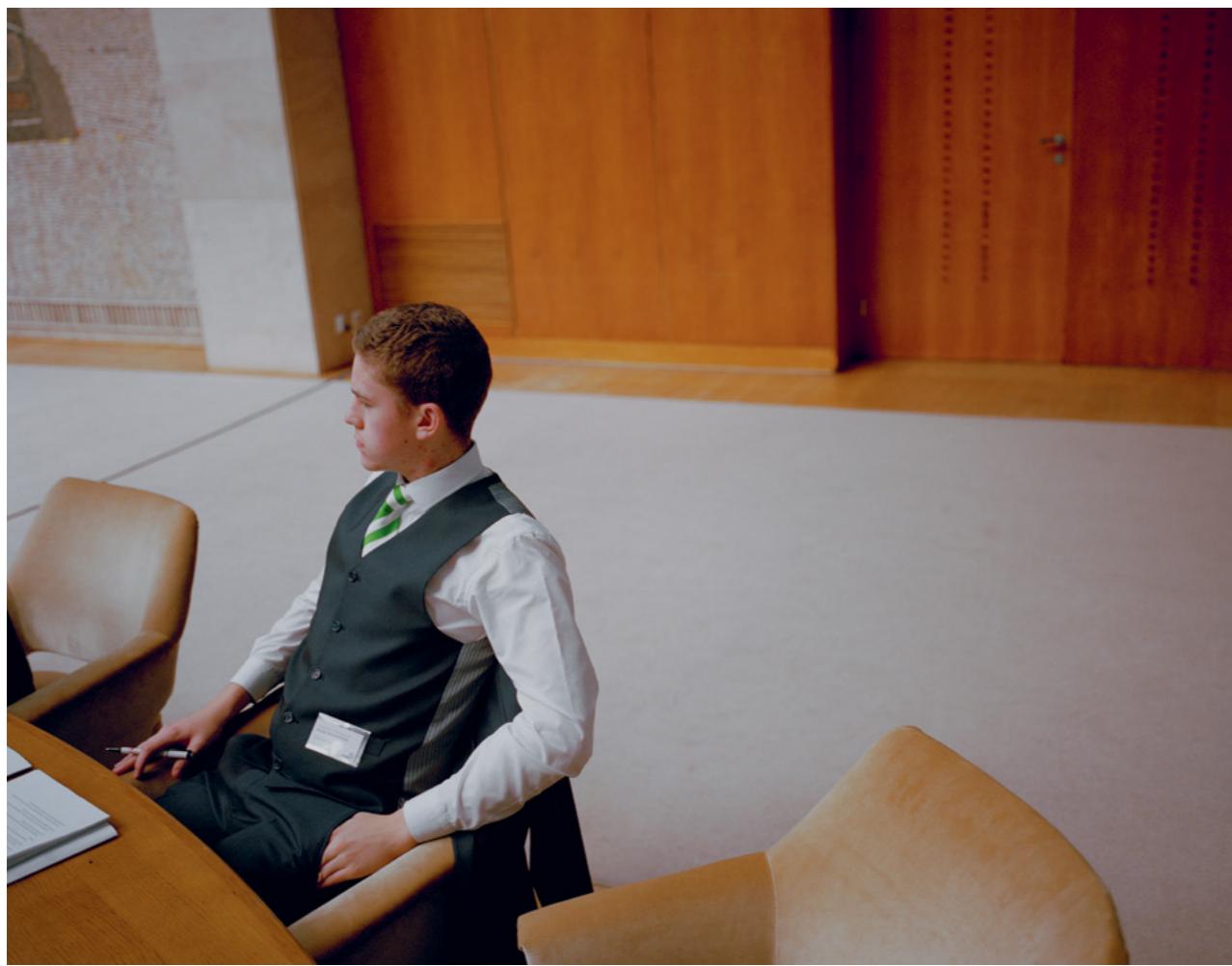






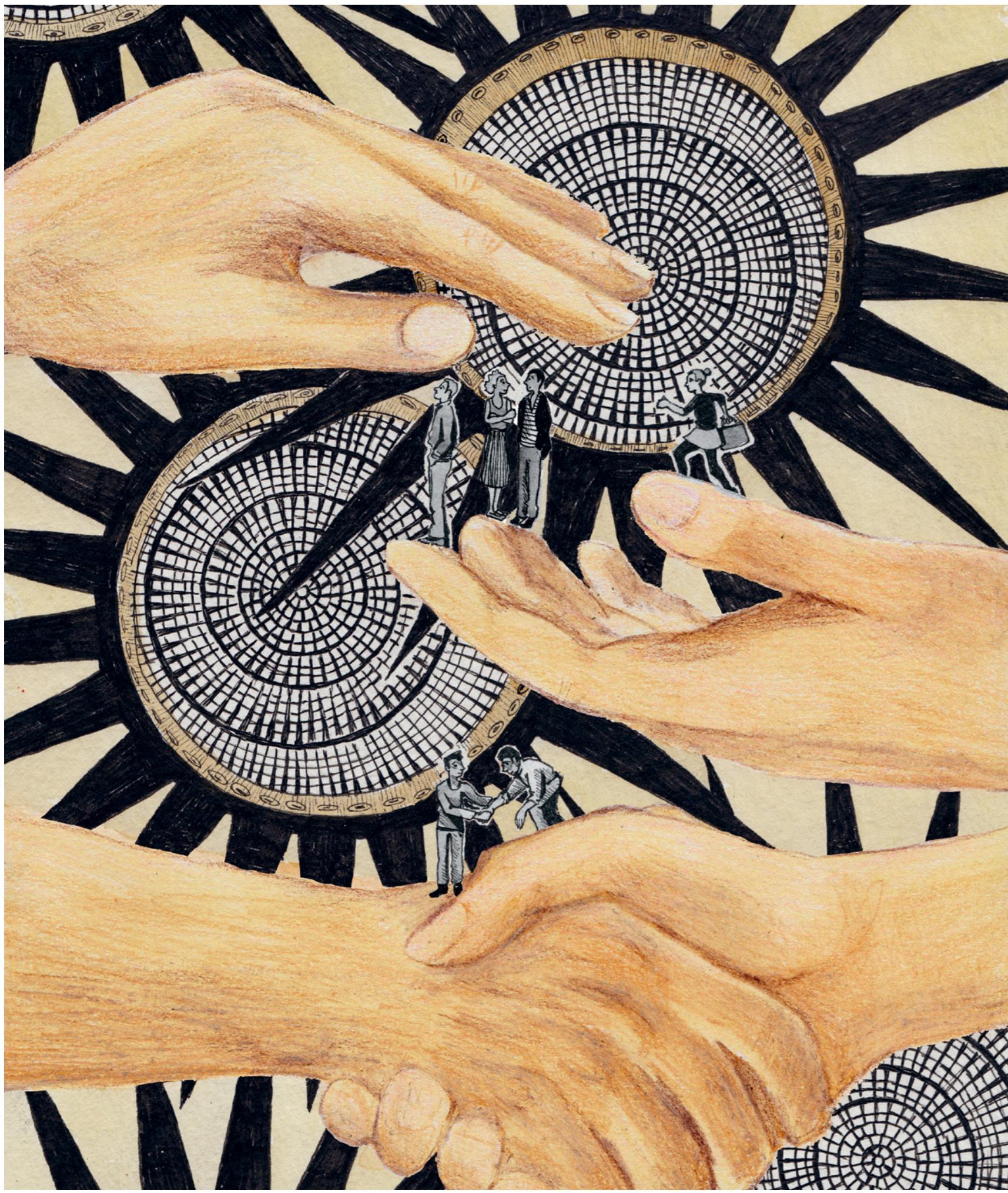








# The Model OSCE Youth Action Plan



### I. Scope and Objectives

- 1 The Model OSCE Youth Action Plan aims at contributing to the development of a youth strategy of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
- 2 Youth corresponds to those persons between 15 and 30 years of age.
- 3 The Model OSCE Youth Action Plan follows the guidelines of the UN World Programme of Action for Youth, and identifies its own priorities focusing particularly on youth policies which may foster security, co-operation and stability in the OSCE region in the politico-military, economic and environmental as well as the human dimension. It also takes into account existing best practices of individual States and regional organizations, notably in the field of education, employment and entrepreneurship.
- 4 It takes into account the Madrid Declaration drawn up under the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship as well as the resolution adopted by the participants of the OSCE Youth Summit organized by the Ukrainian Chairmanship in 2013.

### II. Guiding Principles and Structure

- 5 **The structure of the Youth Action Plan follows three axes: youth protection, promotion and participation.**
- 6 We understand protection as measures aimed at avoiding or fighting threats to children and young people, originating from various influences in their environment such as abuse, exploitation, violence, health risks, harmful influences, etc.
- 7 We understand promotion as measures aimed at fostering young people to grow into responsible social human beings, being able to become socially, culturally and politically integrated.
- 8 We understand participation as the set of actions and activities taken to empower youth to actively participate in society and to enjoy individual and collective opportunities to shape and take part in decisions.

### III. Youth Protection

*Education, including human rights education and training, and respect for the rule of law*  
Recommended actions by participating States:

- 9 Enhance the enjoyment of all human rights of young people without distinction based on any grounds;
- 10 Take appropriate measures to reduce the early school-leaving and absence rate to a minimum by identifying and addressing social and economic causes of early school leaving;
- 11 Design tailored programmes to reintegrate early school leavers in order to develop their work-related skills and improve their employability;
- 12 Ensure equal access to education and address the educational needs of young people, whilst paying special attention to groups at risk of social exclusion;



- 13 Improve the quality of education and combat illiteracy among youth;
- 14 With the aim of having a functioning democracy, establish and support formal and non-formal educational programmes based on the rule of law, democracy, human rights, non-discrimination and tolerance.
- Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:***
- 15 Assist participating States in setting up training modules and elaborate guidelines both in formal and non-formal education to increase the awareness of young people on rule of law, democracy and human rights;
- 16 Support state and regional investment in fundamental public services such as education, health, housing, social services or first job programmes, with a special focus on youth;
- 17 Support awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and combat physical, psychological and online violence and discrimination among youth and targeted towards youth;
- 18 Support grassroots programmes designed to combat education challenges faced by vulnerable groups.
- Human trafficking and other crimes***  
***Recommended actions by participating States:***
- 19 Refrain from executing capital punishment on young convicts;
- 20 Prevent and manage youth delinquency by establishing programmes that increase social inclusion for young people—in particular those coming from vulnerable and marginalised groups, both at the educational and professional level;
- 21 Promote and support youth campaigns aimed at crime reduction;
- 22 Develop and implement programmes that protect, assist and empower youth belonging to vulnerable and marginalized minorities;
- 23 Educate young people on online safety to prevent them from becoming victims and/or perpetrators of cyber-crimes.
- Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:***
- 24 Support measures specifically relating to youth mentioned in the “OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings” and promote the reinforcement of existing initiatives;
- 25 Prioritise and address the impact that human trafficking has on youth.
- Security sector***  
***Recommended actions by participating States:***
- 26 Adopt transparency laws and mechanisms to combat abuses and ensure the application of the rule of law in the army for young people;
- 27 Establish equal opportunities for young women and men to

enter and advance within the security sector by reinforcing the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to achieve gender balance within the security sector, recognising their role in assisting victims particularly in post-conflict countries;

- 28 Take concrete steps in favour of securing human rights and rule of law in centres for migrants and asylum seekers, especially towards young migrants and refugees;

29 Work towards a responsible asylum policy, especially for young asylum seekers. In particular, denied asylum seekers must not be returned to their country of origin in case there may be a risk of persecution or inhumane treatment as defined in the UN Convention relating to the status of refugees;

- 30 Provide and enable access to alternative civilian service in those OSCE participating States where military service is obligatory for young people.

***Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:***

- 31 Support the prevention of forced recruitment particularly of young people for use in armed conflicts by non-state actors;

32 **Organize campaigns which focus on the disarmament of civilian populations in post-conflict environments, with a particular emphasis on young people and the dangers that weapons and munitions pose;**

- 33 Assist participating States in the recovery and reintegration of young people associated with and/or affected by armed forces, armed groups and/or armed conflict.

#### ***Discrimination***

***Recommended actions by participating States:***

- 34 Undertake measures to fight against all forms of discrimination and ensure equal opportunities for all young people at all levels;

35 Encourage the media broadcast of more foreign language programmes, particularly on topics that youth will find engaging and informative;

- 36 Provide inclusive and economic policies for youth from minorities, especially the Roma and Sinti communities, and raise awareness of hate crimes and the situation of these groups in society;

37 Encourage and ensure the full participation of youth from all minorities and vulnerable groups, raise awareness on their rights and take measures for their social, economic and political inclusion;

38 Promote the involvement of youth belonging to minorities in youth organizations;

39 Promote non-formal educational activities dealing with culture, arts and sports for youth with varied backgrounds to strengthen tolerance, mutual understanding and non-discrimination;

- 40 Implement measures such as town twinning/sister cities and foreign university partnerships to generate interest, foster ties and combat the ‘mono-cultural’ mind-set;

- 41 Raise awareness about the harmful effects of online hate speech and cyber-bullying on youth. Adopt or expand state legislation and/or other measures combating hate speech including hate speech online.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 42 Support local, national and regional initiatives aiming to inform and include youth in anti-discrimination measures;
- 43 Encourage and support states to fight against all forms of discrimination against young people especially those belonging to marginalized and vulnerable groups;
- 44 Support the protection of LGBT rights and the political pressure placed on participating States which do not respect these.

**Violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism (VERLT)**

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 45 Take preventive measures to fight VERLT by providing alternatives to young people whilst safeguarding against discrimination based on any grounds;
- 46 Promote training of teaching staff in schools and universities to be more active in preventing VERLT by offering specific modules to equip students with knowledge and skills to understand and reject VERLT narratives;
- 47 Ensure that law enforcement and security forces treat all groups of society respectfully in order to prevent radicalization and provide a safe environment for young people;
- 48 Promote and support campaigns against intolerance, discrimination and that raise awareness among youth on VERLT.

**Health and well-being of youth**

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 49 Promote formal and non-formal health education and good health practices among youth in accordance with the standards and principles of the World Health Organization (WHO), including sexual and reproductive health education programmes with special focus on the reduction of the rate of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among youth;
- 50 Identify legal and illegal drug abuse among young people as a social problem and undertake educational and awareness-raising measures to address it;
- 51 Ensure that all young people have access to and receive essential health services, especially those living in marginalized areas and belonging to vulnerable groups;
- 52 Take measures to raise awareness in society of the potential critical effects of underage marriage and underage pregnancy, concerning in particular health issues and future opportunities for young parents and their children.



*Recommended actions by the OSCE executive structures:*

- 53 Assist participating States in launching educational initiatives to help youth fully utilize available health services;
- 54 Develop activities such as information campaigns, workshops for youth groups and panel discussions open to the young public to raise awareness about the effects of consuming legal and illegal drugs and other harmful substances;
- 55 Encourage the exchange of best practices in terms of the treatment of substance abuse and rehabilitation of youth.

**IV. Youth Promotion**

***Education, employment and entrepreneurship***

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 56 Increase employment opportunities for youth by facilitating access to public sector jobs, further developing career guidance and by providing tax incentives for companies who are willing to hire and train young people with no or limited work experience;
- 57 Encourage the employment of young people in rapidly evolving fields such as the green economy and innovative technologies;
- 58 Ensure that public service job vacancies for young people are allocated on a competitive basis and publicized so as to guarantee professionalism and to combat politicization and corruption;
- 59 Ensure the standardization and recognition of internships and traineeships as a transition period between academic institutions and active life. As such, promote equality of chances for all young people in ensuring a just and standardized remuneration for these internships, and the recognition of these in the retirement scheme at the national level;
- 60 Provide vocational training in rural and impoverished urban areas to improve economic opportunities for young people coming from these areas;
- 61 **Expand state grants for students to study abroad as a tool to increase academic mobility;**
- 62 Promote increased foreign language acquisition in schools;
- 63 Promote studying subject fields in which there is a lack of workforce and simultaneously combat and reduce unemployment among youth through vocational training;
- 64 Encourage the establishment of student think tanks at university level to enable youth to conduct research and advocacy on matters of importance to them, and to create policy papers for the deliberation of national authorities;
- 65 Strengthen IT literacy among youth through formal and non-formal education;
- 66 Encourage technological and educational resource transfer, and support the mobility of researchers and professors in educational establishments;



- 67 Support young parents in finishing their education or returning to work, for example by offering cheaper day care facilities;
- 68 Create conditions for a dignified and safe working environment free from abuse for young people;
- 69 Reinforce consultation of unions and worker representatives in political decision-making, and promote youth involvement within these bodies;
- 70 Adopt and implement legislation and mechanisms that safeguard the right to be integrated in the labour market and education system free from prejudice and discrimination for:
  - a. Youth with disabilities,
  - b. Youth with mental and/or physical health issues;
- 71 Take effective measures to streamline procedures and provide financial incentives to promote youth entrepreneurship, taking into account the needs of youth coming from marginalized and vulnerable groups;
- 72 Build bridges between education and labour markets by offering programmes such as remunerated internships, traineeships or work placements.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 73 Promote equal rights of youth from marginalized and vulnerable groups for internships, trainings and exchange programmes;
- 74 Recommend that participating States introduce vocational education and training systems and assist them in stimulating entrepreneurship among young people;
- 75 Remunerate interns fairly in order to maintain the potential of highly qualified candidates who would not apply for internships due to economic reasons;
- 76 Promote the recognition of formal education by establishing a system of equivalence of academic degrees, and non-formal education by establishing a system of certification within the OSCE region;
- 77 Recommend that participating States develop sustainable measures to fight youth unemployment and brain drain trends;
- 78 Provide a platform to promote the exchange of best practices between participating States in order to enhance the quality of education;
- 79 Encourage visa liberalization among participating States as a tool to increase youth mobility, better integration and life choices through exchange of experiences among youth from the OSCE area.

**Peace, conflict and reconciliation**

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 80 Educate young people, especially those living in divided societies, on peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution in formal and non-formal education;

- 81 Implement reconciliation and mediation programmes between young people with the help of expert mediators;
- 82 Support and promote peer-to-peer initiatives and intergenerational dialogue in confidence building, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction processes.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 83 Encourage dialogue and reconciliation processes through youth contacts and provide the support of expert mediators;
- 84 Organize OSCE educational programmes in the fields of peacebuilding, conflict management, reconciliation and mediation for young people;
- 85 Support the development of new tools of mediation in unavoidable conflicts and identify how young people can successfully contribute to peace and justice;
- 86 Involve young people, especially from conflict areas, in the observation of and participation in peace negotiations;
- 87 Ensure adequate and meaningful representation of internally displaced young people and refugees in OSCE structures dealing with conflicts;

**Environment**

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 90 Raise environmental awareness and encourage active involvement of young people through formal and non-formal education, in particular with regard to climate change;
- 91 Support and promote youth research, development and innovation in the field of environmental sustainability;
- 92 Facilitate private sector-youth partnerships in the economic and environmental fields within the framework of corporate social responsibility, for instance with tax incentives;
- 93 Ensure access to clean water and basic sanitation.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 94 Involve youth in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process and promote their role by creating specific working groups on environmental issues;
- 95 Encourage and support youth organizations and informal groups of young people to create environmental projects through calls at the local, national and international level, and through the provision of grants and expertise;





- 96 Create OSCE fellowships to support young researchers in the field of environmental research, focusing on cross-border co-operation;
- 97 Encourage field operations to engage youth through awareness-raising projects and activities within their host countries and abroad;
- 98 Support the creation of a green fund for environmental NGOs and cooperatives, environmental entrepreneurs and environment-friendly companies led by young people.

**Promoting cultural co-operation**

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 99 Establish and promote educational youth programmes that raise awareness about different cultures within their own societies;
- 100 Promote intercultural dialogue between young people through programmes such as youth camps, youth exchange programmes, youth festivals and intellectual youth competitions;
- 101 Ensure access to cultural and multicultural goods for youth, paying particular attention to youth from marginalized and vulnerable groups, through the inclusion of cultural visits as part of the public education curriculum, and the access to free/reduced price cultural goods for youth.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 102 Promote intercultural co-operation programmes involving youth as an important measure for conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

**Responsible use of media**

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 103 Promote the role of new and social media for the participation of youth in political and public life;
- 104 Ensure a secure, free and open web and protect access to the internet;
- 105 Take initiatives to support the positive image of young people particularly from vulnerable and marginalized groups in the media as a tool for social cohesion.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 106 Involve the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in the development of a curriculum for journalism education, on the promotion of freedom of the media and freedom of expression;
- 107 Enhance the effective use of media to raise youth awareness on environmental issues, amongst others through targeted trainings for journalists;
- 108 Develop new programmes in order to create awareness among young people about the responsible use of media in fighting discrimination within societies, taking into consideration existing initiatives;

- 109** Initiate and support workshops on media ethics and responsible use of social networks and new media.

**V. Youth Participation**

**Decision-making**

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 110** Inform young people about the possibility of participating in decision-making activities;
- 111** Encourage young people to get involved not only with their peers but also in local communities;
- 112** Implement structured dialogue between governmental bodies and youth stakeholders and thereby encourage civic engagement by involving youth in designing, implementing and evaluating policies and plans affecting their concerns at all levels of society;
- 113** Ensure that political parties are sufficiently inclusive for all young people at required age;
- 114** Review existing policies to enable the implementation of measures that bring youth issues to the forefront of the national agenda;
- 115** Provide and facilitate a legal framework for youth participation in decision-making processes at the local, regional and national levels.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 116** Facilitate mainstreaming of youth issues in all participating States, in particular through the media;
- 117** Facilitate regular consultations with youth organizations and include young people in decision-making processes concerning programme design, development, implementation and evaluation in the field of youth affairs at the OSCE level;
- 118** Prioritize the field of youth affairs not only as a cross-dimensional policy issue but also an autonomous programmatic area;
- 119** Issue an annual OSCE Report on Youth, highlighting the progress that participating States/OSCE have experienced, challenges that the organization faces and ways of solving these problems;
- 120** Organize an annual implementation meeting of the Youth Action Plan where youth organizations, academia, the OSCE Secretariat and participating States can evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan;
- 121** Develop and promote programmes that promote youth political participation and active citizenship, especially youth belonging to vulnerable communities;
- 122** Ensure the permanent participation of youth within OSCE structures through the establishment of an “OSCE Youth Council”.





### ***Institutions***

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 123 Establish and support the formation and work of youth organizations, in accordance with recognized international standards, as independent representative bodies of youth;
- 124 Encourage and support youth organizations working in accordance with OSCE values;
- 125 Promote the setting-up of youth networks to share knowledge, skills and opportunities.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 126 Strengthen co-operation with international and regional organizations such as, but not limited to, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union in order to provide synergies and avoid duplication;
- 127 Institutionalize youth participation and consultation in the OSCE structures through the establishment of the following organs:
  - a. OSCE Youth Council comprised of one Youth Ambassador selected by each participating State, who would meet at the annual OSCE Youth Conference intended as a platform for the exchange of best practices between young leaders and the evaluation of progress achieved by participating States in the field of OSCE youth policies;
  - b. OSCE Special Representative on Youth who would serve as a permanent liaison within OSCE structures and between the young people and the OSCE, and a youth co-ordination unit that would advise, promote and monitor youth issues in the work of the institutional structures;

- 128 Institutionalize youth participation and consultation in the OSCE structures through the standardization of job openings and paid traineeships open to young people;
- 129 Encourage and provide support for the creation of OSCE national youth associations in each OSCE participating State;
- 130 Organize a youth day to enhance the visibility of the OSCE;
- 131 Considering the current OSCE institutional structure, empower existing bodies to include competences related to youth policies, in parallel to their current mandate;
- 132 Assist participating States in developing measures ensuring the participation of young people at all levels of decision-making bodies;
- 133 Promote the effective and meaningful participation of young people in politics.

### ***Politics and democracy***

*Recommended actions by participating States:*

- 134 Promote the rule of law and good governance to encourage youth participation in politics and in government structures;
- 135 Strive to open up decision-making processes to all citizens, especially youth, by promoting digital participation, consulta-

tion mechanisms and direct democracy tools, such as popular legislative initiatives, binding referendums and local participation programmes;

- 136 Examine the possibility and potential effects of and encourage public debates among all stakeholders on lowering the voting age;

- 137 Open local political meetings for participation and observation by youth representatives and encourage further discussions e.g. in educational institutions;

- 138 Establish a roster of young election observers to be seconded to ODIHR for election observations;

- 139 Promote the involvement of young people in election observation missions with ODIHR, by institutionalizing the participation of young people as election observers.

*Recommended actions by OSCE executive structures:*

- 140 Conduct campaigns and activities to promote the political involvement and political knowledge of young people in democratic decision-making processes;
- 141 Promote the involvement of young people in election observation missions with ODIHR, by registration of young qualified experts to the ODIHR expert database;
- 142 Encourage OSCE field operations to work with youth bodies in their respective host countries and engage in youth initiatives.

### ***VI. Final Provision***

- 143 Recommend OSCE participating States allocate funds to OSCE institutions, programmes and initiatives concerning youth issues.

# Contributors

## Photographs

Beat Schweizer was born in 1982 in Bern, Switzerland. He started an apprenticeship as a photographer and received his diploma in 2007. From 2008 until 2009 he worked for a Swiss daily newspaper.

Since 2009, Beat has been working as a freelance photographer focusing on editorial and corporate photography. He has also followed his own personal projects, which have taken him to Kosovo, Ukraine and Russia amongst others.

Beat's work has been exhibited in Switzerland, France, Russia and Great Britain. In recent years, he self-published his personal work and was awarded a grant from the Canton of Bern to continue with these projects. In addition to other awards, Beat has also received the third prize at the EWZ Selection Swiss Photo Award.

## Illustrations

Dora Formica was born in 1987 in Lausanne, Switzerland. She began to draw at a young age but abandoned drawing during her adolescence, returning to it at the age of 23 when she spent four months in Brussels devoting her full time to illustration.

Self-taught, she practiced mainly by drawing people in public places. She also attended classes at art schools in Brussels (La Cambre) and London (Central Saint Martins), gaining invaluable complements to her practical skills.

During a year out traveling the world she confirmed her interest in illustration, and produced a plethora of work illustrating in anecdotal form the countries she had visited.

Her first book was published in May 2013 by Editions Hélice Hélas, comprising an illustrated account of her trip, entitled "Curry, kiwis and caipirinha – an illustrated trip around the world".

She is currently working as a freelance illustrator.

**Model OSCE  
OSCE Chairmanship Task Force**

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## **Security and Co-operation in Europe**

The next generation's perspective

At the outset of the Model OSCE 2014 project there was the firm conviction that young people need to have a stake in their own future. Eventually, it is the young generation that has to live tomorrow with the decisions made today.

Under the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship in 2014, 57 young men and women from the OSCE participating States simulated the Permanent Council and the Ministerial Council of the OSCE and negotiated their own Model OSCE Youth Action Plan. By discussing and exchanging views and knowledge in various formats, the 57 Youth Ambassadors went through a genuine political process and finally reached consensus on a document which indicates where the Youth Ambassadors place their focus. The Model OSCE Youth Action plan reflects their hopes and concerns and at the same time gives guidance to the OSCE and its participating States and partners in which areas to engage more in order to take the next generation's perspective into account.

This book brings to a wider audience the work of the Youth Ambassadors and the main stages of the Model OSCE 2014. It illustrates the outcome of the co-operation of young men and women from different cultural and social backgrounds, prepared to defend their positions and opinions, and to do what it takes to reach consensus.

Their Model OSCE Youth Action Plan is published in this book. Moreover, the book introduces the 57 Youth Ambassadors and their individual understanding of security, good living conditions and the OSCE. Two young Swiss people were in charge of the artistic representation of the Model OSCE 2014 - the photographer Beat Schweizer created portraits of the Youth Ambassadors and the artist Dora Formica depicted the Model OSCE Youth Action Plan from her own young perspective.