2024 Annual Report on the Implementation of the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Legal and Political Framework

1. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), as a regional arrangement[1] under Chapter VIII of the United Nations (UN) Charter, has a strong mandate to contribute to the global fight against terrorism. Relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) and the Universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments constitute a solid and comprehensive legal basis for combating terrorism on a global scale and provide a clear roadmap for the steps that need to be taken to do so. The role of the OSCE is to assist its participating States, at their request and in close co-ordination with the UN and other relevant international organizations, in fulfilling their international obligations and OSCE commitments, *inter alia*, in the field of combating terrorism. The OSCE also works closely with its Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation[2] to exchange best practices and reinforce inter-regional co-operation. The *OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism*,[3] adopted in 2012, reiterates the OSCE's comprehensive approach and identifies strategic focus areas for the Organization's counter-terrorism efforts. It also confirms the role of the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department (TNTD/ATU) as the focal point, information resource and implementation partner for OSCE counter-terrorism activities.

2. While the annual OSCE Chairpersonship-in-Office Counter-Terrorism Conference did not take place in 2024, TNTD continued contributing to regional and international efforts and dialogue, as exhibited under the thematic paragraphs below. Regarding its formalized co-operation with UN counter-terrorism bodies, the OSCE and UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (2023-2027) and Biennial Action Plan (2024-2025) on 18 September 2023. These documents provide the framework for co-operation between the UNOCT and the OSCE, promoting the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and enhancing the co-ordination of related technical assistance to UN Member States and OSCE participating States.

Programmatic Activities

1. The OSCE assists participating States in addressing the multifaceted and evolving terrorist threat in line with the areas identified in the *OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism* and all relevant Ministerial Council and Permanent Council Decisions and Declarations.

2. One strategic focus area of the OSCE is **promoting the international legal framework against terrorism** among participating States and Partners for Co-

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[1] The Organization comprises 57 participating States that span the globe, encompassing three continents - North America, Europe and Asia - and more than a billion people.

[2] OSCE Partners for Co-operation include: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia.

[3] See https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/7/5/98008.pdf.

operation and facilitating co-operation in related criminal matters. TNTD/ATU, in co-operation with the Organization's field operations and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), promoted and supported the adaptation of national legislation in accordance with international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law, as well as Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations on countering the financing of terrorism specifically.

3. Together with the Government of Albania and Global Community Engagement Fund and Resilience Fund, TNTD/ATU organized a side event at the 2024 UN General Assembly on "Effective Rehabilitation and Reintegration of People Returning from Northeast Syria". The side event highlighted distinct challenges and solutions associated with Foreign Terrorist Fighter (FTF) returnees and affiliated women and children. After years of rehabilitation and reintegration support by the OSCE and other international actors, there are lessons learned and good practices that can be transmitted from one context to another – this side event showcased these efforts.

4. In 2024, TNTD/ATU built upon its prior efforts regarding the issue of FTFs and affiliated women and children, co-organizing a Regional Expert Council meeting in Uzbekistan, jointly with the Government of Uzbekistan, UNOCT as well as UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. The event sought to:
   - Promote the exchange of lessons learned, challenges and promising practices of whole-of-society approaches to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, including civil society-led rehabilitation and reintegration programmes in Central Asia, and
   - Increase awareness among government agencies regarding the role civil society can play in the rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs and affiliated women and children from conflict zones.

5. In 2024, TNTD/ATU carried out two simultaneous regional needs assessments for Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in this domain, including:
   - The prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of the returnees in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and
   - Human rights-compliant prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of returning FTFs and associated women and children in the South-Eastern Europe focusing on the experiences of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and North Macedonia in addressing the multifaceted needs of returnees from conflict zones.

6. In co-operation with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, TNTD/ATU provided training and facilitated information-sharing on the use of tools for co-operation on criminal matters relevant to countering terrorism in general and on the handling of former FTFs in the Middle East and North Africa regions, in particular. The OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia have also addressed FTF-related aspects through their respective lines of effort.

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* All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

7. In the closely related field of **preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (P/CVERLT)**, TNTD/ATU and the OSCE Secretariat's Programme for Gender Issues organized the second in-person meeting for two networks for women P/CVERLT professionals across various sectors in South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia, focusing on topics such as the return, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs and associated family members, and radicalization to violence in the online space and the role of the education sector in addressing it. The OSCE's networks for women P/CVERLT professionals continued to meet virtually throughout 2024.

8. As observed around the world, violent extremist and terrorist groups exploit the internet in order to spread violent content, build support and recruit new members. The COVID-19 pandemic saw a proliferation of violent extremist content online, highlighting the significant need to bolster critical thinking and analysis, as well as media and information literacy skills. To address this, in 2023, TNTD/ATU launched a five-year initiative called "Project INFORMED: Information and Media Literacy in Preventing Violent Extremism: Human Rights and Gender-Sensitive Approaches to Addressing the Digital Information Disorder". In 2024, in the framework of Project INFORMED, TNTD/ATU organized national multi-stakeholder training courses on media and information literacy in the context of P/CVERLT in Albania and Uzbekistan. Building on the OSCE's *Policy Brief on the Linkages between Violent Misogyny and VERLT*[4] (published in 2022), TNTD/ATU also launched a pilot training course on *P/CVERLT: Addressing Challenges in the 'Digital Information Disorder'. Understanding the Linkages between Gender, Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism* in North Macedonia. This included a focus on how to build resilience to online disinformation, raising awareness of the misuse of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, and discussing how gender stereotypes and violent misogyny have been found to play an important role in the process of radicalization to violence.

9. In co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat's Programme for Gender Issues, the Project INFORMED also initiated a follow-up study to map the exploitation of gendered narratives online by violent extremists, with recommendations for policymakers and practitioners expected to be published in 2025.

10. In 2024, the Project INFORMED, together with the National Counter-Terrorism Council of Mongolia, organized the regional expert-level conference *Addressing the Prevailing Digital Information Disorder: Countering the Use of the Internet by Terrorists and Violent Extremists* for Central Asian participating States and Mongolia, initiating the Project's activities in Central Asia. Experts from Central Asian participating States and Mongolia, across sectors, including government agencies, the media, law enforcement, media regulatory agencies, civil society, academia and technology companies discussed how to address these issues effectively in a human rights-based manner.

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[4] See OSCE Policy Brief – Linkages between Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism | OSCE.

11. Project INFORMED has a significant component focusing on youth engagement and empowerment, and also addresses gender-specific challenges related to violent extremism and the digital information disorder. To this end, in 2024, the Project supported a series of workshops for students and young journalists in Uzbekistan, namely in the cities of Fergana, Karshi and Namangan. The workshops examined radicalization to violence online and the role of media and information literacy and critical thinking in prevention of these threats.

12. In co-ordination with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Project INFORMED also supported 'Global Media and Information Literacy Week' in October 2024 by organizing an expert presentation on VERLT manifestations online in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Sarajevo. A study on the role of the education sector and parents in addressing online radicalization to violence with a focus on children and youth was initiated in 2024, with the subsequent policy guidance expected to be published in 2025.

13. Additionally, Project INFORMED responds to emerging trends in the technological development, the use of social network tools as well as the rapid proliferation of generative artificial intelligence seen since 2022. The Project addresses these new challenges in a way that is respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression. In this area, a regional workshop for Central Asian civil society participants on the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the context of P/CVERLT was organized in Uzbekistan, in co-operation with Meta. In 2024, Project INFORMED organized a one-day expert-level seminar in co-operation with the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media and the International Centre for Counter-terrorism in The Hague on *Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities.* Building on findings from this meeting, Project INFOMRED initiated a study on the potential ethical use of artificial intelligence in the context of P/CVERLT with the expectation that the subsequent policy guidance will be published in 2025.

14. In addition, the OSCE's works with participating States and other stakeholders to **counter the use of the internet for terrorist purposes**, considering the abuse of the internet for terrorist recruitment and training, collection and transfer of funds, the planning and execution of terrorist acts, and incitement to violence. The participating States have committed themselves to exchange information about this threat as well as to enhance international co-operation and public-private partnerships to address it. This includes the development of practical measures to counter the use of the internet for terrorist purposes for inciting VERLT or recruiting FTFs.

15. In 2024, TNTD/ATU continued the implementation of the Project "E-VIDENCE on Requesting Electronic Evidence across Borders for Investigating Online Criminal Matters, Including Terrorism". Project E-VIDENCE is aimed at strengthening the capacities of law enforcement and judicial authorities in handling cross-border digital evidence in terrorism-related cases. In 2024, Project E-VIDENCE conducted a needs assessment mission to Uzbekistan, followed by an expert-level meeting which

enabled in-depth discussions on regulatory frameworks, digital forensics and international co-operation mechanisms. A second in-country mission supported the development of standard operating procedures tailored to Uzbekistan's national context, promoting a structured and human rights-based approach to relevant cross-border electronic evidence requests.

16. Complementing these efforts, Project E-VIDENCE organized a train-the-trainer course in Uzbekistan to reinforce national training capacities on human rights and gender-sensitive approaches to investigating online terrorist-related crimes, addressing emerging issues such as encrypted communications, the use of the dark web and artificial intelligence, and digital financial flows. Project E-VIDENCE implemented a training course in Kazakhstan which provided hands-on guidance for drafting various types of electronic evidence requests, encouraging legal harmonization and institutional reform, where needed. Together, these activities supported participating States in navigating the complex legal and technical challenges of accessing electronic evidence across jurisdictions while upholding international human rights standards.

17. Outside the framework of Project E-VIDENCE, TNTD/ATU organized a preparatory meeting and national table-top exercise on preventing and countering the terrorist use of the internet in Bosnia and Herzegovina, fostering interagency co-operation and exploring gender-responsive, as well as human rights-based strategies for countering the online terrorist threats through scenario-based discussions. Furthermore, the OSCE incorporated technical sessions on responsible artificial intelligence and open-source intelligence use during the 2024 OSCE Central Asian Summer Media School in Kyrgyzstan.

18. As exhibited by the efforts above, OSCE participating States are also committed to drawing on the support of the private sector, the media and civil society as a whole. The OSCE involves these stakeholders as much as possible in its counter-terrorism activities and promotes dialogue and co-operation in addressing relevant issues, in particular through **public-private partnerships (PPPs)**, which are mainstreamed in OSCE programmes. Apart from the work on countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, this also includes efforts on countering the financing of terrorism, as well as on vulnerable targets protection.

19. In the area of **countering the financing of terrorism** (CFT), TNTD/ATU, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized eight specialized courses for beneficiary entities on financial investigations as part of counter-terrorism operations including on financial analysis, the use of targeted financial sanctions pertaining to existing CFT sanction regimes, as well as measures to enhance co-operation with the private sector in the field of CFT. The courses were implemented as part of a training programme which aims to enhance the capacities of competent agencies to conduct financial investigations in counter-terrorism efforts and strengthen domestic CFT frameworks. These efforts have led to sustainable results across the OSCE area, including improved interagency co-operation, along with increased knowledge and

skills of participants on intelligence-handling, network analysis and analytical methods related to the financing of terrorism, the allocation of more resources to CFT within national financial intelligence units and the inclusion of CFT material in relevant national training academies. As part of its routine work on CFT, TNTD/ATU also contributed to both working group and plenary meetings of the FATF throughout 2024, drawing on its experience with the implementation of the aforementioned training modules.

20. Closely linked to its work on CFT is the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities' (OCEEA) efforts to combat money laundering. OCEEA serves as the focal point for co-ordinating the Organization's work to combat money laundering. In 2024, OCEEA supported participating States in mitigating money laundering and other financial crime risks related to virtual assets and cryptocurrencies. In 2024, OCEEA, within the framework of the project "Innovative Policy Solutions to Mitigate Money Laundering Risks of Virtual Assets", supported the implementation of 30 activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. These activities included workshops and training courses on regulating, supervising and investigating virtual assets, train-the-trainer workshops, supporting national risk assessments on virtual assets, providing legislative support, and enhancing capacities on specialized topics such as obfuscation techniques, taxation of virtual assets, and confiscation and management of cryptocurrencies. OCEEA worked closely with all relevant authorities including national or central banks, financial intelligence units, ministries of finance, and others. OCEEA, through its interventions, promotes compliance with international standards, including FATF Recommendations 15 and 16.

21. Yet another part of the OSCE's strong commitment to PPPs in a counter-terrorism context derives from its mandate to enhance the **security of critical infrastructure and soft targets** (collectively termed "vulnerable targets") in participating States, initially expressed in OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism (MC.DEC/5/07). The OSCE *Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism* further built the mandate on critical infrastructure protection, as did UNSCR 2341 (2017), UNSCR 2396 (2017) as well as the 2015 UN Security Council Madrid Guiding Principles on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and its 2018 Addendum.

22. In 2023, TNTD/ATU developed a multi-year initiative called "Project PROTECT on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Attacks". In 2024 at national awareness-raising workshops, Project PROTECT launched capacity-building programmes in Kazakhstan and North Macedonia. Additional activities are planned in both participating States. Mindful of the increasing threat posed by ISIS-Khorasan to the OSCE area, in particular Central Asia, TNTD/ATU organized, together with the Law Enforcement Academy under Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan and the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, a Central Asia-wide regional workshop on the protection of soft targets and public spaces from terrorist attacks. The event brought together experts from all five Central Asian participating States as well as representatives of the Czech Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, France, United States of America,

OSCE Programme Office in Astana, ODIHR, UNOCT, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Centre for Sport Security and the Strong Cities Network. Additionally, under this Project, TNTD established an Expert Advisory Group in 2024 designed to support the development of the Project PROTECT *Technical Guide on Physical Security Considerations for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks*. The Group involves several participating State representatives, private sector stakeholders as well as UN entities such as UNOCT, UNCTED, UNICRI and ICAO. The Guide will be released in November 2025.

23. In 2024, OCEEA and TNTD collaborated on topics such as critical infrastructure protection. For example, the Government of Turkmenistan, OCEEA, TNTD and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized a one-day conference on "Critical Infrastructure Protection in Central Asia: Strengthening Resilience, Enhancing Security". Experts and officials responsible for energy security, infrastructure protection, counter-terrorism and climate adaptation from Government, academia, international organizations and the private sector discussed critical infrastructure resilience, such as physical security considerations, long-term climate variability and its impact on energy security, and how to enhance connectivity and international collaboration.

24. Throughout 2024, TNTD's Border Security Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU) launched and continued several initiatives designated to **strengthen border security and management as a critical element in preventing and countering terrorism**. This included hosting the second high-level Forum of the OSCE Secretary General and Central Asia Border Commanders to address cross-border challenges and provide a platform for strategic dialogue and regional co-operation.

25. **To address the risks associated with terrorist travel**, TNTD/BSMU reinforced efforts to promote the collection, processing and analysis of **Advance Passenger Information (API)** in line with the OSCE Ministerial Decision MC.DEC/6/16 and UNSCR 2396 (2017)**.** In 2024, TNTD/BSMU co-organized the first mid-year Meeting of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Informal Working Group (EECA IWG) in Albania, together with UNOCT and the International Organization for Migration. The annual meeting of EECA IWG was organized with UNOCT back-to-back with the OSCE's 8th Passenger Data Seminar in Vienna in November 2024.

26. These events gathered members of the EECA IWG, representatives of border agencies, state security agencies and customs services from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan as well as Israel, and provided a forum for discussions on API systems development and a further exchange on good practices, lessons learned and methodologies for effective data collection. Additionally, a study visit to the Albanian Passenger Information Unit was organized for officials from API-related national authorities from Tajikistan and Ukraine to facilitate peer learning and technical capacity-building in API systems development.

27. Moreover, TNTD/BSMU organized basic and advanced training courses on the **identification of forged documents and impostors** for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. This project strengthens frontline capacity to detect forged documents and impostors, thereby preventing individuals with criminal intent, including suspected FTFs, from crossing borders undetected. By enhancing interoperability and information-sharing with international partners, these efforts support early identification of high-risk travellers and disrupts transnational terrorist networks that rely on false identities to operate.

28. The OSCE-led Mobile Training Team (MTT) continued its work in 2024 by **enhancing the capacity of frontline officers to identify and prevent cross-border threats including the movement of suspected FTFs and high-risk individuals** through ten fully-fledged deployments carried out across the OSCE area, including a dedicated week-long course for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. These deployments covered critical thematic areas such as advancing interviewing techniques, behavioural detection and combatting trafficking in human beings. All MTT activities were conducted in co-operation with Frontex, INTERPOL and UNOCT ensuring alignment with international frameworks including the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Each deployment received multiple follow-up requests from relevant authorities, underscoring the relevance of the training courses and the ongoing need for targeted support in addressing security challenges at borders. Insights gathered from these efforts contributed to the successful finalization of the five-module training curriculum on: (I) Identity Management and Travel Security, (II) Behavioural Analyses and Interviewing Techniques, (III) Crisis Management at Borders, (IV) Identifying and Addressing Trafficking in Small Arms Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition and (V) Combating the Trafficking in Human Beings.

29. In parallel, the MTT's digital footprint also expanded through nine online thematic meetings held within the MTT's Community of Practice framework, alongside a thematic webinar hosted via the OSCE Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management. The latter focused on integrating gender perspectives into crisis management responses at borders, including the identification and referral of at-risk individuals, such as women and children who may be radicalized or trafficked. The year concluded with the MTT's Second Annual Review Meeting, a platform for strategic reflection and planning, coupled with a mentoring programme for the Albanian State Police and Security Academy aimed at embedding segments of the MTT module on behavioural analysis and interviewing techniques into Albania's national training curriculum.

30. Additionally, TNTD/BSMU continued implementation of a project for **supporting Uzbekistan's resilience against cross-border threats stemming from Afghanistan.** Activities focused on strengthening Uzbekistan's custom and border officers' capacity in the detection and prevention of illicit cross-border movement of people and goods, suspected FTFs, illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and explosives, as well as delivering training courses on behavioural detection,

interviewing techniques and gender-sensitive approach in border security and combatting terrorism. Efforts also included canine capacity-building in partnership with the United Kingdom's Metropolitan Police. Uzbekistan's national MTT, established in 2023, delivered three training courses with OSCE mentorship and contributions from Frontex, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the German Police. The project was further supported by the donation of specialized equipment, aligned with a roadmap agreed upon with the Government of Uzbekistan.

31. In 2024, TNTD/BSMU also advanced its work in **combating illicit trafficking in cultural property and its direct linkages to organized crime and terrorist financing** through its Programme to Combat Trafficking in Cultural Property and the OSCE-led Heritage Crime Task Force, comprising 76 experts from 46 participating States from national border management and law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, museums as well as INTERPOL, Europol, UNOCT, UNODC and the International Council of Museums. The Programme focuses on tackling the growing area of cross-border crime and illicit financing through regional operations, simulation training to frontline border and law enforcement officers, forensic and financial investigators and prosecutors.

32. Building on experience gained during the first three years of the Programme (established in 2021), it is now expanding to include long-term law enforcement and border management operations, investigation assistance activities, training and development of cross-agency/cross-border co-operative networks in Ukraine, Central Asia and in regions including the Middle East and North Africa. Under this Programme, additional efforts were launched in 2024 which focused specifically on combatting maritime heritage crime and delivering assistance and capacity-building for investigations, with a particular focus on criminal/terrorist financing stemming from shipwreck looting and use of the maritime cargo stream to transport stolen and looted cultural property.

33. **Promoting gender equality as a strategic enabler of effective border security and management,** TNTD/BSMU continued to support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by strengthening the OSCE's Gender Equality Platform in Border Security and Management. The Platform encompasses now border and custom representatives from 23 participating States and Partners for Co-operation. In 2024, the Platform hosted webinars and workshops on integrating gender and human rights-sensitive perspective into their daily operations, policy planning, preventing and addressing gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the work place, as well raising awareness on the importance of integrating human rights principles and strengthening the protection of vulnerable populations affected by terrorism and cross-border crime. The Network offers capacity-building programmes, promotes leadership roles for women in security, and serves as a conduit for regional collaboration on terrorism prevention and response.

34. In October 2024, TNTD/BSMU initiated the establishment of the Regional Network of Women in Border and Law Enforcement Agencies in Central Asia. The aim of the Regional Network is to promote gender equality and inclusivity in law enforcement and border agencies in Central Asia by encouraging greater inclusion and participation of women. In this way, the effectiveness of law enforcement and border agencies can be enhanced to detect and prevent cross-border crimes, including those stemming from Afghanistan, while also building public trust and contributing to overall safety and security in the region. Notably, women's participation in border and law enforcement are believed to improve the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts through women's ability to engage with communities that male law enforcement officers may not have access to, gaining valuable intelligence to deter terrorist activities. The Regional Network offers capacity-building activities to its members, with the aim of fostering information-sharing networks among women officers across borders and leveraging leaders in counter-terrorism to reinforce the protection of women and girls in counter-terrorism investigations.

35. Additionally, TNTD/BSMU is assisting Moldovan border and law enforcement agencies in **enhancing airport security at Chisinau International Airport** by improving co-operation between all actors mandated with airport security, with the General Inspectorate of Border Police in the lead. The main focus of this endeavour is on airport policing, including preventive and reactive measures for various possible terrorist incidents and attacks. In 2024, TNTD/BSMU organized a series of training courses for Moldovan border and law enforcement agencies aiming at preventing terrorist attacks such as: behavioural detection, the use of canines, responding to severe incidents at an airport, as well as dedicated training courses for airport security managers.

36. All OSCE institutions and structures support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by **promoting the protection of human rights while countering terrorism**. In 2024, the OSCE's ODIHR contributed actively to this effort. In particular, ODIHR provided advice and analysis on key human rights issues in counter-terrorism and promoted dialogue between state and non-state actors to strengthen human rights-compliant responses to terrorism. As part of ODIHR's work on promoting the importance of independent detention monitoring for enhancing the protection of human rights while preventing and countering VERLT in prisons, ODIHR increased the knowledge and skills of detention monitors from across the OSCE area in three tailored regional training workshops. In 2024, based on the *Guide for Detention Monitors*[5] published jointly by ODIHR and Penal Reform International (PRI), ODIHR trained Albanian- and Macedonian-speaking detention monitors in a regional workshop in Skopje, and detention monitors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. Both workshops served as a follow-up to a regional dialogue promotion event for South-Eastern Europe, organized by ODIHR in 2023. Another regional training workshop was held in 2024 in Warsaw for detention monitors from select European states.[6] Furthermore, ODIHR, in partnership with PRI, held a webinar

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[5] The Guidance tool is now available in five languages at: https://www.osce.org/odihr/492934.
[6] Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom.

in 2024 to launch the French translation of the ODIHR-PRI *Guide for Detention Monitors* to increase visibility of the topic among French-speaking OSCE participating States and other stakeholders globally. The Office also published the outcome reports for the thematic regional dialogue promotion events held by ODIHR for Central Asia (2022) and South-Eastern Europe (2023), which contain key findings and recommendations to OSCE participating States and independent detention monitors.[7]

37. ODIHR also supports participating States in strengthening law enforcement capacities to protect human rights while preventing and countering terrorism. In 2024, ODIHR organized training courses for law enforcement authorities in Uzbekistan, in co-operation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan. The training courses in Uzbekistan were held for local branches of law enforcement agencies in two regions of the country and were conducted together with national co-trainers who had previously completed an ODIHR train-the-trainer course. Additionally, in 2024, ODIHR delivered training courses to specialized police and prosecutors, in collaboration with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, as well as to Belgian counter-terrorism police and state intelligence in Brussels.

38. In 2024, ODIHR, in partnership with the non-governmental organization Reprieve, held a side event titled *"Five Years On – Arbitrary Detentions of ISIS-affiliated Individuals in North East Syria and the Responsibility of OSCE Participating States for the Repatriation of their Nationals"* on the margins of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference.[8] In seeking to promote practical human rights-based responses, the event reiterated calls to participating States to take proactive steps for the urgent repatriation of their nationals from the camps and detention centres – not only as a human rights imperative but also as an essential part of any strategy aimed at achieving comprehensive and long-term security in the OSCE area and beyond.

39. Finally, throughout 2024, ODIHR raised awareness in international and OSCE forums, among other issues, on the human rights risks in border security-related counter-terrorism measures, on the basis of the *ODIHR Policy Brief on Border Management and Human Rights*. ODIHR has emphasized the importance of respecting and protecting human rights while countering terrorism, including in the context of armed conflict, based on the *ODIHR Guidelines for Addressing the Threats and Challenges of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" within a Human Rights Framework*.

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[7] See for Central Asia, available in English and Russian: https://www.osce.org/odihr/584652; for South East Europe, available in English, Albanian, Bosnian and Macedonian: https://www.osce.org/odihr/584640.

[8] See https://www.facebook.com/100064703825121/videos/500635016102841.