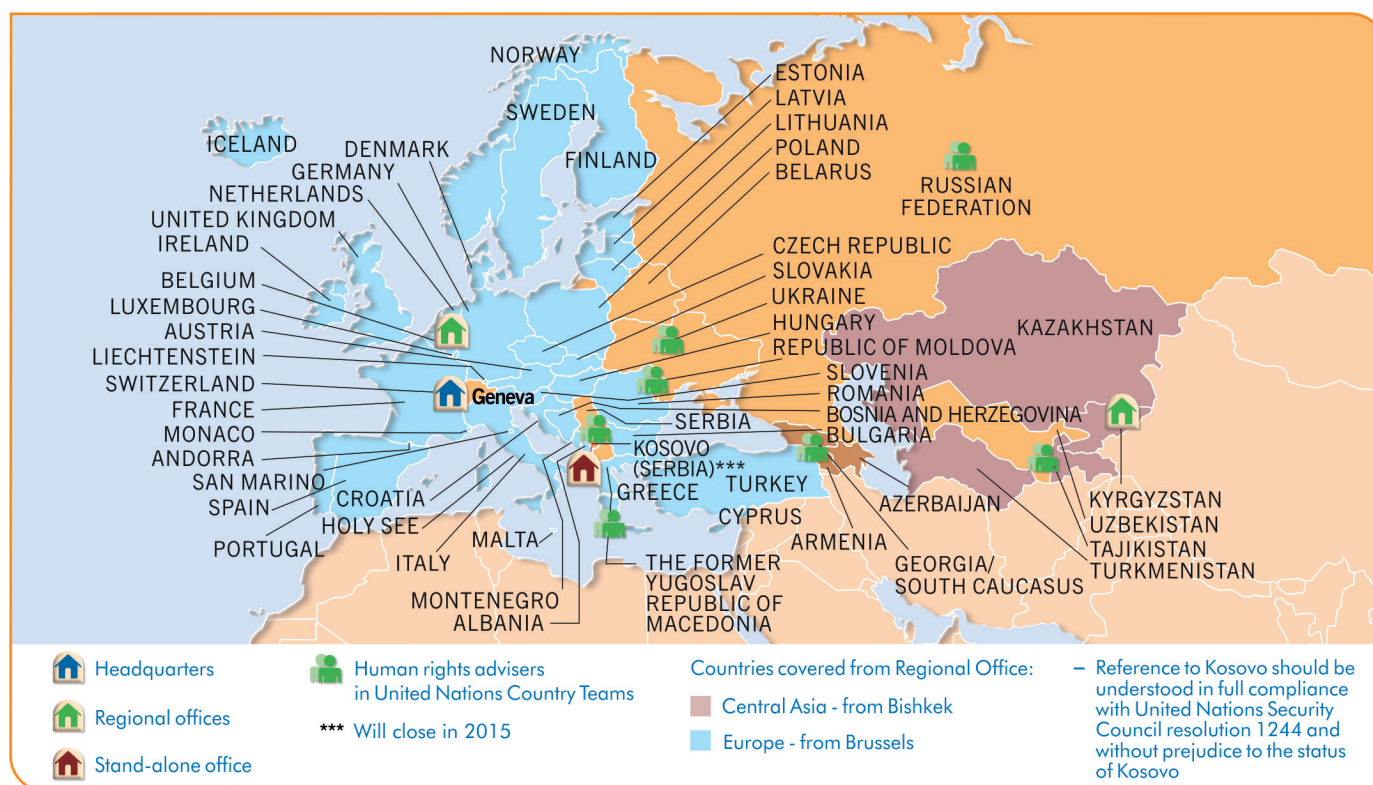


OHCHR in the field: Europe and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Stand-alone office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kosovo¹
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Republic of Moldova Russian Federation Serbia South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) Tajikistan The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Ukraine (Human Rights Mission)

¹ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The region of Europe and Central Asia is comprised of candidate and potential candidate countries and members of the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In 2014, OHCHR supported 10 field presences in the region: two regional offices (for Europe and for Central Asia); one stand-alone office in Kosovo⁵; and seven

human rights advisers (Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Caucasus, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine – later reinforced with the deployment of a human rights monitoring mission). Support was also provided to the human rights expert in the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following the intensification of the crisis in February 2014, a Human Rights Mission in Ukraine was established in mid-March. The Mission issued nine public reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine, with recommendations aimed at more strategic interventions on priority issues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue approach on a range of critical human rights issues. These reports served as reference sources for Member States, UN and human rights mechanisms, civil society and the international media. The Mission also provided expertise to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the development of its strategy to strengthen the capacity of the Government and civil society to advance the human rights and rule of law agenda, as well as social and economic development in Ukraine. The Mission also contributed to the international community's humanitarian response by participating

⁵ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

in developing the UN common strategy on Ukraine and in the emergency response plan, assuming co-leadership of the Protection Sector.

OHCHR maintained a focus on the protracted conflicts in Europe. In May, the High Commissioner visited Georgia to highlight the responsibility of the de facto authorities to ensure the protection of civilians and to offer OHCHR's assistance. The Office reported to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Cyprus and provided support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus.

OHCHR increased its technical assistance for the integration of human rights into UN development programmes, especially in preparation for the implementation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) in 11 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and one territory (Kosovo⁶).

OHCHR supported the efforts of Member States and other stakeholders to address the situation of particularly disadvantaged groups. OHCHR engaged in activities relating to the Roma in Europe, including in France, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Slovakia, with a view to ensuring a greater enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights. The Office also focused on the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers in the EU, particularly those in irregular situations, migrants and asylum-seekers held in detention, and of victims of acts of discrimination and xenophobia in law and practice. OHCHR collaborated with OSCE and in June, signed a joint declaration on the reinforcement of co-operation between OHCHR and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

During the course of 2014, the High Commissioner visited Sweden (April) and Georgia (May); the Deputy High Commissioner visited Germany (March), Belgium (April), the Republic of Moldova (April), Bosnia and Herzegovina (August), Slovenia (September) and Norway (December); and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Ukraine (March, May, August, September and December), the OSCE headquarters in Vienna (May and September) and the EU in Brussels (December).

Stand-alone Office

Kosovo⁷

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2014	8
Expenditure in 2014	US\$762,991

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation related to combating discrimination is adopted and implemented in line with international human rights standards (EA 4)*

Due to the political stalemate in 2014, the Assembly of Kosovo was unable to adopt the revised laws on anti-discrimination, the Ombudsperson Institution and gender equality. The Office substantially contributed to the revisions.

Following advocacy undertaken by the Office, as well as international and civil society organizations, an advisory and coordination group was established within the Prime Minister's Office to address the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. OHCHR participated as an observer and provided advice in line with international standards.

The Office was also instrumental in supporting the Committee of the Assembly of Kosovo tasked with the selection process for the new Ombudsperson. The Office advised the recruitment panel on how to ensure a fair and objective interview process, monitored the interviews and assessed the procedure as fair and transparent. Due to political reasons, however, the Assembly was unable to select a new Ombudsperson.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Fully functioning National Preventive Mechanism against torture is in place and operating in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (EA 3)*

⁶ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

⁷ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Two NGOs working in northern Kosovo, namely Association for Peace Kosovo and Domovik, were trained by OHCHR on the mandate and work of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and the monitoring of detention centres. A partnership was also established with the regional office of the Ombudsperson Institution in Mitrovica which ensured regular communication on the situation of detention facilities.

- ▶ *A transitional justice strategy that conforms to international human rights standards is adopted and implemented (EA 3)*

As a result of advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, in collaboration with UNDP and other international stakeholders, the Inter-ministerial Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation (IMWG) became operational at the end of October 2014. The IMWG was established in 2012 and began working on the development of a transitional justice strategy. The Office provided substantive assistance for the production of awareness-raising materials on missing persons and on the rights to know, justice and reparations. It also contributed to the development of a website that will be used by the IMWG to ensure that all stakeholders have access to relevant documentation on transitional justice and to promote the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned between civil society organizations.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased instances of formal approaches by the international community in relation to specific human rights issues (EA 10)*

The Civil Society Rule of Law Forum was established in northern Kosovo in 2014. This Forum (composed of regional and international organizations as well as civil society) provides a space for the exchange of information and coordination of activities to ensure synergies and prevent overlap. OHCHR supported the establishment and operationalization of the Forum and ensured that it addressed concrete human rights concerns such as the situation in the Mitrovica detention centre.

In compliance with recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2014, IDP profiling was initiated in Kosovo⁸. The Office supported the work of the IDP Inter-Agency Working Group, which was facilitated by UNHCR and is composed of international and civil society

actors. The Working Group assisted the Ministry for Communities and Returns in reviewing the relevant existing legal framework and preparing the IDP profiling exercise. The Working Group also developed individual and household questionnaires for the profiling exercise which will begin in early 2015.

- ▶ *Human rights duly taken into consideration in the drafting process of the new United Nations Kosovo Team Common Development Plan. Human rights accountability of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo/European Union Rule of Law Mission is increased (EA 11)*

The drafting process of the new Common Development Plan 2016-2020 is ongoing and applies a human rights-based approach with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. The Office participated in all strategic preparatory meetings, led the development of one of the priority areas (governance and the rule of law) and contributed to ensuring the integration of a human rights-based approach in two other priority areas. The Office also provided technical support for the identification and development of relevant human rights indicators.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Increased level of meaningful participation of women in selected public processes, notably those related to sexual and gender-based violence (EA 5)*

On 21 March, the Assembly of Kosovo amended the Law on the Status and the Rights of the Martyrs to recognize survivors of conflict-related sexual violence as a special category of civilian victims of war. The Office played a key role in advocating for the adoption of this Law by, among other activities, releasing a study on this issue in 2013. The Office also distributed information to the relevant Assembly Committee on the international standards applicable to this issue. In implementing the Law, the President's Office established the National Council for the Survivors of Sexual Violence during the War, which OHCHR participates in as an observer. In addition, the Office, in collaboration with UN Women, provided technical and financial support to the National Council to assist in the drafting of the by-law that will regulate the work of a commission charged with certifying survivors in order for them to receive reparations. This regulation should be finalized in 2015.

The municipality of Zvečan adopted a municipal economic development strategy that includes the economic rights of women. The Office and women's NGOs advocated for the inclusion of these rights in the strategy.

⁸ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Kosovo⁹: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	575,227
Consultants	-	3,506
Official travel	-	9,500
Contractual services	-	7,706
General operating expenses	-	56,200
Supplies and materials	-	9,060
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	14,014
Subtotal	-	675,213
Programme support costs	-	87,778
GRAND TOTAL	-	762,991

⁹ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



A group of women participate in a seminar on the prevention of domestic violence in Tajikistan, February 2014.

from the Office, the Government held nationwide consultations with civil society prior to the mid-June deadline for stakeholder submissions. The Coordination Council and a local NGO jointly organized the consultations in Bishkek and Osh, representing an encouraging sign of increased partnership between the State and civil society.

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2014	4
Expenditure in 2014	US\$884,351

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment and/or fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (EA 6)*

In Kyrgyzstan, the Coordination Council on Human Rights has a functional secretariat with the capacity to better coordinate the holistic implementation of the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms. As a result of OHCHR's support and technical advice, the Coordination Council also improved its capacity to prepare for the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In addition, following advocacy

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Criminal justice legislative and policy frameworks, including in relation to past human rights violations, significantly improve their compliance with international human rights standards in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)*

In 2014, the following seven laws were drafted in relation to the administration of justice, namely the Criminal Code; the Code on Misdemeanours; the Criminal Procedure Code; the Criminal Executive Code; the Civil Procedure Code; and the laws on enforcement proceedings and State-guaranteed legal aid. Civil society representatives provided input on the draft laws which were submitted to Parliament at the end of December. OHCHR supported the overall drafting process with a specific focus on the Criminal Procedure Code, which is broadly in compliance with international standards. The Code does not, however, address some important issues related to equality of arms, burden of proof and the exclusion of evidence obtained under torture.

- *National Preventive Mechanisms against torture as provided for under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment are fully functioning in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (EA 3)*

In Kazakhstan, the newly established National Preventive Mechanism is located within the

Office of the Ombudsman. Its ability to function improved during the year due in part to OHCHR's capacity-building activities and advice on international standards in relation to NPMs. During the year, all vacant positions in Kyrgyzstan's NPM were filled through competitive recruitment processes. New staff members were both female and male and had different ethnic and professional backgrounds, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and the Paris Principles. OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the NPM, including information technology equipment sent to regional offices. In addition, the Government approved the Action Plan for Combating Torture in October. OHCHR advised on the drafting of the Action Plan and advocated for its approval. While these achievements are indicative of the Government's commitment to combating torture, the NPM is not fully exercising its mandate in accordance with OP-CAT, primarily due to budgetary restrictions.

In Tajikistan, the pilot NPM began functioning under the auspices of the Ombudsman Institution. It monitored six closed institutions in several regions of the country and presented its first report with its findings and recommendations. OHCHR contributed to this result by training NPM staff on human rights monitoring and participating in the coordination meetings of the pilot NPM.

Widening the democratic space

- *Legislative and policy frameworks increasingly preserve and guarantee democratic space in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)*

OHCHR provided consistent advocacy and advice to State authorities to bring national legislation in line with international human rights standards. As a result, the Parliament did not adopt two draft laws that would have reduced the space in which civil society actors work (one aimed at criminalizing the dissemination of information on same-sex relations and the other aimed at granting State authorities with the power to interfere in the internal affairs of national and international NGOs). Together with the United Nations Country Team, the Office submitted two joint letters raising concerns on the above-mentioned draft laws to State authorities.

- *Strengthened and meaningful participation of rights-holders, particularly minorities, in selected*

processes and particularly those related to housing, land and property rights in Kyrgyzstan (EA 5)

Through OHCHR's capacity-building activities, NGOs increased their understanding and awareness about monitoring and protecting human rights, particularly in relation to housing, land and property. This improved capacity was evident during public consultations for the preparation of the second UPR during which NGOs advocated with State authorities for a more transparent and participatory approach to housing issues. Additionally, a Law on Urban Development was amended in July, establishing that urban development plans should be made public. This came about in part as a result of OHCHR's advocacy for increasing public participation and transparency in urban planning processes.

- *Civil society, in particular youth and women's organizations, increasingly advocate for their rights in Tajikistan (EA 5)*

OHCHR supported civil society actors in their advocacy against the adoption of amendments to the Law on Public Associations. If amended, the Law could undermine the financial independence of NGOs by introducing government control over foreign funding of projects. In December, a joint communication addressing this issue was sent to the Government by the special procedures. On 4 December, the Ministry of Justice agreed to hold a public hearing on the draft provisions.

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	488,462	138,212
Consultants	5,460	12,878
Official travel	30,096	6,650
Contractual services	12,400	1,015
General operating expenses	62,910	30,446
Supplies and materials	5,472	2,582
Seminars, grants and contributions	24,162	34,284
Subtotal	628,962	226,067
Programme support costs	-	29,322
GRAND TOTAL	628,962	255,389

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2014	6
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,594,066

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased use of United Nations human rights mechanisms and bodies by diverse rights-holders (especially Roma and migrants), national human rights institutions and civil society organizations acting on their behalf in at least three States in the region (EA 7)*

During the reporting period, diverse rights-holders, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) increased their awareness of and interaction with UN human rights mechanisms. The Regional Office contributed to this outcome through a series of trainings, briefings and meetings with rights-holders, both at the national and European Union levels. As an example, the Office delivered two trainings to NGOs in Turkey on engagement with the special procedures and provided capacity-building to NGOs in Brussels for the preparation of parallel reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) with respect to the EU's initial report to that Committee. The Office also facilitated the submission of written information by a CSO in relation to the CRPD's review of Belgium. The information provided formed the basis for a recommendation adopted by the Committee.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Comprehensive non-discrimination directive aimed at protecting individuals from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in education, health care, social protection and access to goods and services, including housing, is closer to adoption (EA 1)*

The Regional Office increased its advocacy for the adoption of the EU “horizontal directive,” prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in areas other than employment. On several occasions, the Office met with high-level representatives from the two EU member states that had been blocking the adoption of the directive at the Council of the European Union in order to explain the importance of the directive to closing gaps in the protection of human rights. These discussions contributed to the increased awareness by these duty-bearers of the need for harmonized standards and one of the two EU member states has since dropped its objections.

- *NHRIs and equality bodies take concrete measures to address discrimination issues; increase the direct participation of rights-holders from groups at risk (especially Roma and migrants) and involve civil society organizations representing these groups in their activities in at least two States in the region (EA 5)*

Through a series of activities, including the organization of conferences, seminars and other advocacy events, OHCHR contributed to increasing the awareness of NHRIs and rights-holders on issues related to equality and non-discrimination. For instance, the Regional Office participated in the launch of a pioneering project on the human rights of older persons in long-



OHCHR participated at the UN Day in Brussels, October 2014.

term care. The project will be implemented by the European Network of NHRIs and aims to introduce a human rights-based perspective into policies concerning older persons, particularly in institutional care – an area of social and health policy that remains largely outside the influence of the human rights community. In Turkey, the newly established NHRI increased its capacity regarding human rights, including in relation to different areas of equality and non-discrimination. The Office supported this result through its participation at a seminar where it presented the work of the international human rights mechanisms and discussed how the NHRI could engage with them. Awareness of EU officials and CSOs about the rights of migrants was increased due to OHCHR's advocacy and its provision of technical assistance on the promotion of the international human rights mechanisms and OHCHR tools and guidelines.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Increased participation of rights-holders, and the CSOs which represent them, in the design and monitoring of public policies in the region, particularly EU development policies; public policies and budget processes affecting socially excluded ethnic groups (Roma and Travellers) in at least three States of the region; public policies dealing with the right to independent living of persons with disabilities and family or family-type care of children in at least five States of the region (EA 5)*

In cooperation with the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, the Regional Office for Europe contributed to three national seminars in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, which gathered together national and local authorities, NHRIs and approximately 70 CSOs. As a result, rights-holders and CSOs increased their awareness about their roles, rights and responsibilities in decision-making processes. This will in turn enhance their capacity to participate in the design and monitoring of policies.

Progress was also achieved in enhancing the capacity of rights-holders and CSOs to participate in the design and monitoring of EU development policies. The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) elaborated its first toolkit on the practical implementation of a human rights-based approach to EU development programmes. DG DEVCO consulted with OHCHR, which provided inputs, as well as rights-holders and their representative organizations in the preparation of the toolkit.



Former High Commissioner Navi Pillay speaking to the media after her address to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, July 2014.

Some progress has been achieved in enhancing the capacity of the Roma and Travellers to participate in the design and monitoring of public policies. In at least four events held for CSOs, the Regional Office advocated for the human rights of the Roma. In addition, OHCHR organized the second colloquium on Roma inclusion, focused on housing. The event gathered together 105 participants from EU and non-EU member states in the region and increased the capacity of CSOs and duty-bearers to design inclusive housing policies for the Roma by sharing good practices at the regional, national and local levels.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the 2012-2016 Strategy on Trafficking in Human Beings and the 2009 Action Oriented Paper, in accordance with international human rights law in countries in the region (EA 1)*

The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU (Frontex) organized two trainings-of-trainers on combating and preventing trafficking in human beings for border guards in the EU member states, in collaboration with OHCHR, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, IOM, UNHCR and national practitioners. The Regional Office delivered training modules on the development of a legal framework to combat trafficking and on the human rights-based approach to identifying and interviewing victims. Participants increased their awareness and understanding of international and regional human rights standards related to trafficking, including the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive. In addition, the Regional Office contributed to the online training tool targeted towards national trainers to increase their capacity and knowledge about anti-trafficking standards, including by highlighting international human rights obligations.

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	811,769	-
Consultants	-	15,150
Official travel	10,300	34,748
Contractual services	-	49,383
General operating expenses	81,100	201,523
Supplies and materials	8,700	78,745
Seminars, grants and contributions	50,000	179,918
Subtotal	961,869	559,467
Programme support costs	-	72,731
GRAND TOTAL	961,869	632,197

the individual communications procedures of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EA 7)

In relation to OHCHR's work to promote the use of the international human rights mechanisms by civil society actors, as of the end of 2014, six cases were being finalized for their potential submission under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. OHCHR will continue working with various NGOs and lawyers on these cases.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Regulations and official scenarios (such as Pride events or segregated school districts) brought substantially into compliance with non-/anti-discrimination international human rights standards (EA 4)*

On 17 May, the LGBT Equality March took place in Chisinau, organized by the NGO GENDERDOC-M, with the support of OHCHR and without any legal challenge from authorities. Supported by OHCHR, the Ministry of Health established an anti-discrimination panel to examine and decide on complaints of individuals who consider themselves to be victims of discrimination; contribute to education and awareness-raising on discrimination in the health field; and propose solutions for effectively addressing cases identified as discriminatory. In October, the Ministry of Health signed an order establishing an independent service to protect the rights of patients in psychiatric institutions

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Republic of Moldova

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2014	2

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Women and others from marginalized or vulnerable groups, including the Roma, persons with disabilities, older women and persons from the Transnistrian region, make effective use of*



Activities carried out by OHCHR with a network of parents working to achieve inclusive education for children with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova.

and budgeted the measure in accordance with a recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

OHCHR also supported Moldova's Council on Preventing and Combating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality in providing advice to the Parliament for the amendment of hate crime provisions of the Criminal Code and the Contraventional Code, which was subsequently amended.

OHCHR contributed to the creation of a network of parents working to achieve inclusive education for their children with disabilities. The Office held a series of meetings to help formulate advocacy messages and also supported the engagement of parents with relevant authorities on individual cases. As a result of these actions, 22 children were enrolled in mainstream kindergartens and schools.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased number of remedy decisions and decisions in discrimination cases in compliance with international law (EA 1)*

Moldova's Council on Preventing and Combating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality issued 74 decisions from September 2013 to December 2014. OHCHR provided extensive support to the Council, including methodological guidance in a number of cases.

OHCHR continued its efforts to train judges and prosecutors on various elements of anti-discrimination law within the framework of the National Institute of Justice. For instance, in August, the Ministry of Justice issued a manual, produced by OHCHR, as part of the support materials used to train judges in anti-discrimination law. These efforts contributed to some improvements related to jurisprudence, including a decision handed down by the Supreme Court on 10 December to return to the appeals court a request to recognize multiple ethnicities which was previously denied by lower courts.

The Constitutional Court handed down a significant decision on 13 November to uphold the right to effective access to justice for individuals deprived of their legal capacity on the basis of psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. The Constitutional Court ruled that such a prohibition discriminates against people with mental disabilities by failing to ensure respect for their rights guaranteed under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR submitted an amicus curiae brief in the case.

OHCHR's capacity-building efforts in relation to article 12 of the CRPD contributed to a ground-breaking decision handed down by the Cahul Court. In the case, a woman with intellectual disabilities won a legal battle protecting her right to make her own life decisions through supported decision-making instead of being subjected to guardianship. This was the first case in which a court declared incapacitation to be illegal in light of national legislation and called for alternatives of support instead of guardianship. The practice was subsequently extended to other cases in Cahul, as well as to other jurisdictions, including Chisinau.

Russian Federation

Year established	2008, following the adoption of cooperation framework in August 2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	6

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased implementation of recommendations issued by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council relating to human rights institutions, judicial reform, human rights training for law enforcement officials, the rights of children and the rights of women (EA 6)*

In November, OHCHR facilitated a human rights orientation programme in Geneva for 12 civil servants from key ministries. The programme provided participants with comprehensive knowledge of the UN human rights mechanisms and aimed at improving their skills in reporting and implementation of the recommendations issued by the mechanisms.

OHCHR advocated for the adoption of legislation in accordance with recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. A draft law on domestic violence was prepared with inputs from OHCHR.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The national human rights institutions' anti-discrimination programmes significantly improve compliance with international human rights standards (EA 4)*

The Ombudsman of the Russian Federation and regional commissioners for human rights maintained their 'A' status and remained important players in the Russian human rights protection system. OHCHR contributed to the increased capacity of regional ombudspersons to handle discrimination cases in conformity with international human rights standards. OHCHR also conducted workshops, which were attended by commissioners from fifty regions, on the role of national human rights institutions in advancing the rights of indigenous peoples, the Paris principles and promoting equality and combating discrimination.

Widening the democratic space

- *A multidisciplinary Human Rights Programme was integrated into formal higher education and institutionalized in several regions (EA 1)*

With OHCHR support, five universities from Moscow, Perm and Kazan integrated the Human Rights Master Programme into their curricula. Negotiations for the inclusion of the Master Programme are underway with four other universities from Voronezh and Yekaterinburg regions. The core courses include lectures on the UN human rights system, the treaty bodies, international humanitarian and human rights law in conflict and post-conflict situations and the European system of human rights protection.



Participants of the International Forum of Muslim Women: Human Rights in Today's World supported by OHCHR.

In 2014, the International Forum of Muslim Women: Human Rights in Today's World was held for the first time in the Russian Federation, in the city of Kazan. Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, a region which is home to the majority of Russia's Muslim population. The Forum was organized by the Tatarstan Ombudsperson, with the support of

OHCHR, and brought together close to 100 government representatives, Russian Human Rights Commissioners, representatives of international organizations and civil society.

The participants discussed a wide range of issues related to the enjoyment of women's rights in the Republic of Tatarstan and other

regions of the Russian Federation, including combating domestic violence, strengthening the role of women in society and protecting their rights. They also exchanged information about a number of good practices in place across the region to promote and protect human rights at the regional level. One of these was the Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Tatarstan for 2014-2018, which makes specific reference to recommendations issued by international and regional human rights mechanisms.

At the end of the Forum, participants outlined a series of recommendations, including establishing a regional mechanism, to promote the participation of women in public life; undertaking a gender analysis of existing legal provisions; creating a permanent mechanism to promote and protect women's rights; and ensuring that the rights of women with disabilities are recognized and upheld.

Serbia

Year established	Office in 1996 and Human Rights Adviser in 2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating body is in place to report on/reply to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

On 10 December 2014, the Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia launched a national mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms and a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan related to the Strategy for the prevention of and protection against discrimination (2014-2018). The Human Rights Adviser contributed to the establishment of the former mechanism by providing technical assistance for the clustering of recommendations and the identification of the institutions responsible for their implementation.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework and half of UN programmes and projects fully conform to the human rights-based approach and incorporate recommendations from human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

The draft Common Country Assessment (CCA) integrates human rights elements, including the views of UN human rights mechanisms issued in relation to Serbia. The Human Rights Adviser and UNDP co-chaired the Human Rights Theme Group of the United Nations Country Team, drafted the human rights analysis for the CCA and provided inputs to the CCA.

South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	4

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are in place for reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 6)*

In Georgia, OHCHR assisted the Government in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and advised on initiating a process to follow up on recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, which involved establishing thematic groups with the participation of the national human rights institution and NGOs. In addition, OHCHR advised the secretariat of the NHRAP on the creation of a system for integrated reporting to human rights mechanisms.

- *International human rights standards and recommendations of international human rights mechanisms are partially integrated into UN common country programmes in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 11)*

Due to OHCHR's awareness-raising activities, United Nations Country Teams in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia increased their awareness about the UN human rights mechanisms and began to include some of their recommendations into their programmes. In Armenia, UNFPA and UNICEF are using many of the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Committee in their programmes. Following the December 2013 visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to Azerbaijan, UNFPA integrated her recommendations into its activities. In Georgia, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UN Women and OHCHR assisted the Government in the development of the NHRAP, which is partly based on the recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms.



Human Rights Day event in Tbilisi, Georgia, jointly organized by the Human Rights Ombudsman, OHCHR, UNDP and the EU, December 2014.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Institutions in the justice sector show significant improvement in their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
The Georgian Bar Association now recognizes a training provided by OHCHR as one of the courses that can be counted as credit for the continuing education that is required of the members of the Association. OHCHR also organized training seminars on international legal standards for various legal professionals, including judges at the High School of Justice. In addition, the Office worked to have the OHCHR Training Series Manuals included in the training curricula of the High School of Justice and the Georgian Bar Association and provided advice to these institutions on the overall upgrading of their curricula.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Training programmes on human rights institutionalized in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 1)*
The Human Rights Centre of the Free University of Tbilisi (Georgia) offers courses on human rights for law students, conducts a specialized Summer School on the UN human rights mechanisms and holds a number of events focused on the international human rights system. In 2014, OHCHR co-organized the Summer School with the Human Rights Centre, advised on the Centre's activities and plans and contributed publications used in the Centre's activities.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *A government coordination body for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations is functioning in line with effective, transparent and participatory operating modalities (EA 6)*

The Inter-Sectorial Body on Human Rights (ISBHR) was not fully functional between March and December due to the parliamentary elections that were held in April. This led to the delayed appointment of new State Secretaries, all of whom are ex officio ISBHR members. Its secretariat, however, remained active and collaborated with a wider group of State and government actors and civil society to outline a plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued during the second Universal Periodic Review and a proposal for strengthening the ISBHR's capacity. OHCHR contributed technical guidance for the implementation of these key activities.

- ▶ *An increased number of diverse national civil society organizations participate in State reporting and the implementation of recommendations and makes submissions to the UN human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

The Human Rights Adviser provided information and detailed guidance to civil society organizations, independent journalist associations, trade unions and the Ombudsman's Office on how to engage in light of the second UPR in January 2014 and the adoption of the list of issues by the Human Rights Committee on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Several civil society organizations and the Ombudsman's Office made submissions, many of which were taken on board by the Committee. In addition, women's organizations used the recommendations from the second UPR to advocate with the Government for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2013.

Ukraine⁹

Year established	2011 (HRA); Human Rights Mission in 2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	10

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *A permanent interministerial coordination mechanism for integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations issued by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council is in place and functioning (EA 6)*
In the presidential decree of 14 October, the Cabinet of Ministers was tasked with elaborating a human rights strategy by 1 January 2015. The Ministry of Justice, which is the government focal agency for the preparation of the draft strategy, established a working group for the development of the strategy in late November. It remains unclear, however, if the functions of this working group will go beyond the

elaboration of the strategy to create a permanent mechanism for integrated reporting and implementing of the recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms. In its meetings with State officials, OHCHR, through its Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU), repeatedly advocated for the elaboration of a national human rights strategy and a human rights action plan.

- ▶ *At least three UN agencies regularly apply UN guidelines on incorporating a rights-based approach to programming (EA 11)*

On 1 September, the United Nations Country Team drafted a document, *United Nations Strategy for Ukraine*. The document articulates a collective vision for UN partners in Ukraine that is founded on a human rights-based approach and was advocated by the HRMU during a UN workshop in June. During the workshop, the HRMU briefed the UNCT about the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan. The Strategy identified four thematic priorities (improving the administration of justice; equality and non-discrimination; economic and social rights; and fundamental freedoms) for the effective engagement of the UN in Ukraine which are drawn from an OHCHR compilation of clustered recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms. In November and December, steps were taken to integrate these priorities into the programmes of UN agencies

⁹ As of mid-March 2014, a UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) has been deployed, reinforcing the existing Human Rights Adviser based with the UN Country Team.



An OHCHR staff member during a monitoring mission to the Donetsk region, Ukraine.

in 2015 and beyond in order to guide the humanitarian response to the crisis in the East; the recovery, stabilization and rehabilitation efforts; and the support for governance reforms. In addition, as part of the humanitarian response to the crisis in the East, the HRMU co-chaired the Protection Cluster with UNHCR and focused its work on the protection of civilians, non-discriminatory access to services and durable solutions. The HRMU ensured that the initiatives developed by the humanitarian community took human rights aspects into account and functioned in accordance with international human rights norms and standards. This enabled the humanitarian community to identify the most acute vulnerabilities and determine the nature and scope of the interventions that are required to address violations or situations of inequality.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

► *Anti-discrimination legislation is in line with international standards (EA 4)*

On 13 May, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted amendments to the 2012 Law on preventing and countering discrimination, bringing it in closer compliance with international standards. More specifically, the amendments brought the definitions of direct and indirect discrimination in line with Ukraine's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and outlined criminal, civil and administrative liability in cases of discrimination. The amended Law, however, did not reflect the relevant jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee or the European Court of Human Rights on the prevention of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The HRMU contributed to this improvement in compliance by co-organizing a round-table discussion with the Ombudsperson's Office. The round-table involved representatives of different ministries and NGOs, highlighted shortcomings in the existing anti-discrimination Law and called for its alignment with international norms and standards. In addition, a training workshop on international

anti-discrimination norms and standards was organized with UNDP for Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, State ministries, the Ombudsperson's Office and NGOs.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Torture prevention and accountability mechanisms are in place and functioning (EA 3)*

Prior to the establishment of the HRMU, the Human Rights Adviser was in regular contact with the Ombudsperson's Office in relation to human rights violations, including cases of torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and summary executions, which had allegedly occurred during the Maidan demonstrations in January and February 2014. These ongoing discussions helped the Ombudsperson's Office to focus on its role in the prevention of torture as the National Preventive Mechanism, in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Following the establishment of the HRMU in mid-March, cooperation with the Ombudsperson's Office was intensified in the context of the outbreak of the conflict in the East and the launch of a security operation in mid-April. Dozens of people were arrested in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, many of whom were subsequently transferred to pre-trial detention facilities or penitentiary institutions. Lists of arrested persons that were obtained by the HRMU were provided to the NPM. The NPM verified their whereabouts and conducted ad hoc visits to detainees, resulting in the identification of the location of several individuals who were considered to be unaccounted for. Due to the extraordinary circumstances that led to the establishment of the HRMU and a redefinition of OHCHR's priorities in Ukraine, it was not possible to conduct activities to enhance the awareness of the police, prosecutors and the judiciary about international standards applicable to the administration of justice in the context of persons deprived of their liberty.