OSCE Border Management Staff College
Factsheet

What is the BMSC?

Designed as a comprehensive training centre, the BMSC aims to enhance the knowledge of present and prospective senior managers of border security and management agencies of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation and to promote greater co-operation and information exchange among them.

The College brings together knowledge and experience from across the OSCE region and beyond. Utilizing the OSCE network to collect and disseminate best practices and lessons learned, it offers opportunities for in-depth analysis of international standards in border management, as well as the challenges of modernization in a world much focused on security matters.

Comprehensive Border Security and Management – The Dialogue of the College

Since 2009, the College has conducted over 120 specialized training courses and thematic events for more than 2,500 officials from border guards, border police, customs, drug control and transnational crime agencies from OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation.

The primary activities of the College designed for current and future senior border security managers are a one-month intensive Border Management Staff Course offered three times per year and a one-year blended learning programme on Border Security and Management for Senior Leadership (BSMSL).

To date, the Staff Course has been attended by more than 350 commanders and managers of captain to colonel rank, or civilian equivalent. By focusing on senior officials, this course fills an existing gap, complementing the work of other organizations which typically train junior-level staff. Since 2014, a Staff Course has been organized once a year for Women Leaders only.

The course curriculum addresses border security and
management across the three OSCE dimensions. Its aim is to consolidate the participants’ knowledge about border-related challenges across the OSCE area; the global impact of transnational threats, middle- and senior-management techniques, operational planning, organizational modernization, the difficulties and critical roles of human capital development as well as intra-agency, inter-agency and international co-operation. The course includes study visits to the nearby borders with Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

The BSMSL aims to enhance the professional skills to international standards of current and future border security officers. It combines knowledge from various disciplines to achieve inter-operability and harmonization in securing and managing borders. Participants learn and research important features of the contemporary security environment, different aspects of threats, the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, conflict-solving methods, strategic thinking, as well as management and leadership.

Thematic seminars and outreach events focus on topics such as national border management strategies, delimitation and demarcation, false travel documents, hazardous waste movement, terrorism and human rights issues, regional cross-border interdiction, anticorruption, and border conflict management. These events promote and support cross-border dialogue and inter-agency co-operation through the exchange of information and lessons learned, as well as through the identification and development of best practices.

The College continues to offer a wide range of thematic seminars, in addition to seminars organized and delivered in co-operation with its partners, with the aim of helping partners and participating States meet their staff training needs, and are in line with the OSCE Border Security Management Concept.

Participating States and Partners for Co-operation also provide materials for the reference and training library of the College, which is rapidly growing. The development of the library, the outreach work of the network of alumni and friends of the College, as well as enhanced research opportunities for course participants and interested researchers, completes the comprehensive offering.

The Wisdom of Others – Our Affiliates

The College has a number of affiliated organizations and institutions sharing their expertise during the BMSC courses and thematic seminars. They also serve on the Academic Advisory Board. The affiliates include the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies; the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD); the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL; the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC); the Border Troops Commanders’ Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (SKPV); the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); the Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the World Customs Organization (WCO); the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF); and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF).

The Generosity of Others – Our Donors

The College works under an extra-budgetary project implemented with the financial support of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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