



FACT SHEET ARMENIA

Security sector reform – Austrian activities within the framework of the OSCE

DEFINITION

Security sector reform (SSR) is understood as the transformation of the security sector/system “which includes all the actors, their roles, responsibilities and actions – working together to manage and operate the system in a manner that is more consistent with democratic norms and sound principles of good governance, and thus contributes to a well-functioning security framework”. (OECD-DAC, Security System Reform and Governance, DAC Guidelines and Reference Series, OECD: Paris, 2005, p.20)

FACTS & FIGURES

Territory: 29,743 km²
Population: 2,991,000 (2018)
Official Language: Armenian
Capital: Yerevan 1,073,700 inh. (2016)
Form of Government: Parliamentary Republic
Religion: Orthodox/Armenian Apostolic 92%
Gross Domestic Product: 12.4 billion USD (2018)
Currency: 1 Dram (AMD) = 100 Luma
Defence spending: 412 million USD (2015), percentage of GDP: 4.2%
Total strength: approx. 43,000 (Army 42,000, Air Force 1,000, plus 18,900 conscripts) and 4,300 paramilitary troops (2016)
Troops serving abroad: NATO: Resolute Support 121, KFOR 41, United Nations: UNIFIL 33 (as of March 2019)
Foreign troops stationed in Armenia: 102nd Military Base of the Group of Russian Forces in Transcaucasia in Gyumri 3,300, Russian fighter squadron (18 MiG 29) in Yerevan and 3 anti-aircraft batteries equipped with ground-to-air-missiles.

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

2013: SSR Level 1 Training and High-Level Sensitisation Briefing (11 to 14 June), under Austrian/MoD project lead in Armenia
2014: Workshop on the OSCE Code of Conduct Implementation, the Austrian Ministry of Defence supported in providing a lecturer for the Panel on Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R) (16 to 17 October)
2015: Expert talks with an Armenian delegation on the subject of human resources in Vienna (May 2015), and Workshop SSR from Theory to Practice under Austrian/MoD project-lead in Armenia (10 to 13 November)
2016: SSR Workshop at the OSCE Office in Yerevan/internal (03 to 04 November) and Regional Workshop SSR from Theory to Practice (08 to 11 November)
2017: During the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship (exactly as during the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016), Austria chaired the OSCE High-Level Planning Group and from March 2016 until its closure in August 2017 sent a politico-military officer to the OSCE Office in Yerevan

BACKGROUND & FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMITMENT

2012: Request for assistance by Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister to Austria's Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
Coordination between the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Development Agency; general consent to initiate such a project - since 2011 Armenia has been a priority country for the Austrian Foreign and Security Policy and for the Austrian Development Cooperation. The Austrian MoD is responsible for project implementation, which has been done within the framework of the OSCE and the OSCE Office in Yerevan until it was closed down in August 2017.



2018: Continuation of the Austrian engagement in cooperation with the OSCE Secretariat and participation of an Austrian MoD expert in the OSCE Needs Assessment Visit in March 2018
2019: Presentation of the OSCE Needs Assessment results to the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Planning Meeting of the Austrian MoD with the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Armenian Ministry of Defence (January 2019) and participation in the presentation of the results of the OSCE Needs Assessment to Armenian stakeholders (February 2019)



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SOURCES: Media Analysis; **LAYOUT:** Sect III/Media, Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management, Institute of Military Geography

OSCE ARMENIA COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ACP)

- The Republic of Armenia and the OSCE agreed in 2018 to set up the Armenia Cooperation Programme.
- Content: Project-based cooperation in all three dimensions of the OSCE (political-military, economic and environmental, human).
- The focus is on the politico-military dimension: **strengthening democratic control and oversight of the security sector**

PRINCIPLES FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE MOD

- OSCE Armenia Cooperation Programme as the applying framework
- Project will last several years (Phase 1 from 2019 to 2021)
- National Ownership Principle, taking into account local needs, gender sensitivity and sustainability

BENEFIT FOR AUSTRIA AND THE MOD

- Strengthening security, rule of law and the relations as a partner in the EU's security environment
- Strengthening the OSCE's capacity to act as an international organisation and supporting Austria's interests as a host state of the OSCE
- Continuing security policy contributions to promote stability and security in the Southern Caucasus
- Gaining general experience in planning and implementing strategic SSR projects as a contribution to conflict prevention and post-crisis rehabilitation
- Gaining experience specifically in security sector reform projects in the Caucasus
- Involved offices of the Austrian Armed Forces, e.g. the Psychological Service, are to expand their networks and gain in experience

PLANNED CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUSTRIAN MOD

2019 the following activities will be started:

1. Support for Armenian MoD's **Human Rights and Integrity Building Centre** in the fields of **hotline service** and **effective, transparent and gender-sensitive handling of complaints** as well as partnership and cooperation with external oversight actors.

Project implementation: Military Policy Division at the strategic level, National Defence Academy and Armed Forces Psychological Service at the operational level

2. **Awareness-raising** and **exchange of expertise** with Armenian members of oversight actors through participation in the European Security and Defence College Core Course on SSR in Stadtschlainging in autumn 2019 and 2020 (1 participant).

Project implementation: Military Policy Division at the strategic level, Office for Arms Control and International Stabilisation Measures and Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution at the operational level.

To be started in **2020:**

Aftercare and **prevention of complaints** through exchange of experience with the Armenian Human Rights Defender (Ombudsperson) in Austria within the scope of the Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna.

Project implementation: Parliamentary Commission on the Austrian Armed Forces

POSSIBLE SENSITIVITY

Latent conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, which may possibly be instrumentalised at the bilateral or multilateral level.

TIMELINE 2019



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Videoblog „Feichtinger kompakt“
<http://bit.ly/2mvOhgD>