



Statutes

Previous versions of these Statutes of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions were adopted at a Network meeting in Vienna on 30 October 2013 and a meeting of the Steering Committee in Belgrade on 14 October 2019. The present version was adopted at a virtual meeting of the Steering Committee on 4 March 2021.

Objectives

1. The OSCE Network aims to contribute to OSCE-related debates and to support comprehensive and cooperative security. The Network provides academic and policy expertise, stimulates discussion, and raises awareness of the OSCE. Member institutions exchange expertise and coordinate activities.

History

2. The OSCE Network was created by 16 research institutions during the OSCE Security Days on 18 June 2013 at Vienna Hofburg, following discussions among the founding institutions, delegations of participating States, and OSCE institutions.¹
3. The creation of the Network was inspired by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier in his inauguration speech in July 2011.

Status

4. The OSCE Network is an OSCE-related Track II initiative. As an informal and flexible platform for its member institutions, it has no legal personality and is not an OSCE structure or subordinated to the OSCE or its participating States.

Activities

5. The Network members exchange information (on publications, events, calls, job advertisements, etc.), organize and participate in OSCE-related events (including policy briefings, workshops, and conferences), conduct policy-relevant research, publish documents, and offer recommendations.
6. Expertise is provided by the entire Network, a group of member institutions, a single institution, or individuals associated with a member institution.
7. Potential publication formats include but are not limited to OSCE Network Reports, perception and lessons learned papers, briefing notes, conference proceedings, and blog contributions.
8. Network texts published online or in print contain the following standard disclaimer: "This text does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE Network's coordinating institution, other OSCE Network institutions, the OSCE, or any participating State."

¹ The founding institutions were: the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy; the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; the Centre for OSCE Research/IFSH; the CIPI Foundation; Clingendael; the Foreign Policy Research Institute of Ukraine; foraus; Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior; the Geneva Centre for Security Policy; the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences; the International Peace Institute; the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; the OSCE Academy in Bishkek; the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt; the Polish Institute of International Affairs; and the University of Bath.

Network institutions

9. Members are think tanks and academic institutions from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation that are engaged in academic research and policy analysis on OSCE-relevant topics.
10. Member institutions are not obliged to participate in Network activities and can leave the Network at any time.
11. To join the Network, an applicant institution must be endorsed by two existing Network institutions. These endorsements should be emailed to the Network Coordinator (currently Cornelius Friesendorf from CORE/IFSH, friesendorf@ifsh.de).
12. Network institutions are responsible for conducting and administering their own activities, including fundraising and reporting to their donors. They can also draw on the voluntary support of other institutions.
13. Network institutions require the approval of the Steering Committee to present activities as Network activities (see below).
14. Network institutions that commence Network activities must inform all Network members (using the Network email list) about the possibility of participating.

Funding

15. The Network does not have its own budget. OSCE structures, participating States, and independent funding institutions are invited to cover staff and travel costs for Network activities. The costs of Network activities may also be covered by the Network's member institutions themselves.

Management

16. The Network is managed by a Steering Committee and a Network Coordinator.
17. The Network members elect the Network Steering Committee and the Network Coordinator for a term of two years through electronic voting.
18. Members of the Steering Committee come from different subregions of the OSCE area, are well connected with decision-makers and funding institutions, and have OSCE-relevant expertise.

The Steering Committee

19. The Steering Committee comprises the elected Network Coordinator and elected representatives of member institutions.
20. It decides, upon the request of the Network Coordinator, which activities (including the submission of project proposals, the organization of events, and the publication of texts, but excluding the use of the Network email list) can be presented as Network activities, i.e. carry the name "OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions" and the Network logo. Approval from the Steering Committee for a given activity is required at least once a year (multiannual activities must therefore be reconfirmed, based on a report from the project lead).
21. The Steering Committee makes decisions by a majority vote of its members.
22. The Committee supports and advises the Network Coordinator.
23. It usually meets virtually, at least once a year, and holds on-demand meetings throughout the year.

The Coordinator

24. The Coordinator represents the Network vis-à-vis external partners, working together with the Steering Committee; shares information with the Network and facilitates the exchange of information among Network members; advises on potential activities and provides relevant contacts; manages decision-making within the Network; maintains and updates the Network website; and maintains and moderates contributions to the Network email list.
25. The Coordinator decides on (based on two endorsements) and facilitates the inclusion of new member institutions in the Network by adding the new institution and Point of Contact to the Network website and email list.
26. In carrying out these functions, the Coordinator takes account of his/her own and the Steering Committee's capacities, the quality of the proposals received, and the priorities of the OSCE and funding institutions.