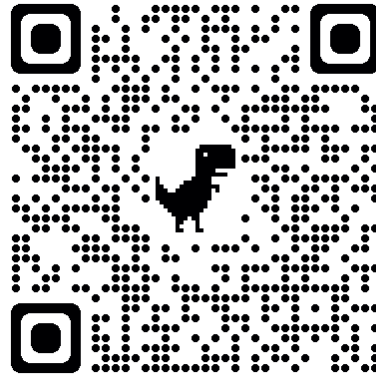
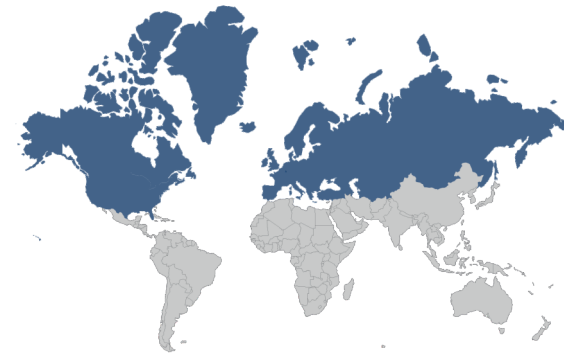


QR Code do: OSCE  
Parliamentary Assembly's Helsinki  
+40 Project 2014-2015



QR Code do:  
Corfu Process (OSCE)



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**FROM VANCOUVER TO VLADIVOSTOK**  
WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

# INTRODUCTION



Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Poland



Public task "Poland's regional position  
in times of global tensions and rivalry:  
challenges for Euro-Atlantic security"  
financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Poland within the  
"Public Diplomacy 2022" competition.

# FROM VANCOUVER TO VLADIVOSTOK

## WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) continues the process of bringing together countries from different regions and with different political systems and values, which was initiated in the 1970s as part of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). At that time, the goal was to de-escalate political and military tensions in Europe divided between democratic states and countries under the influence of the Soviet Union.

The rivalry between the two military-defense blocs: NATO and the Warsaw Pact was of additional importance; therefore the United States and Canada were involved in the process from its very beginning. The Helsinki Final Act regulated the issues of cooperation in Europe in three basic areas divided into the so-called baskets: political and security, economic and human. Cooperation as part of review conferences was also announced to be continued. In the 1990s, when the old bipolar balance of power in Europe collapsed, a decision was made to partially institutionalize the existing cooperation and to transform CSCE into the OSCE. Over time, as a result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the breakup of Yugoslavia, the number of members of the Organization increased – with its current number: 57 countries from three continents: Europe, North America and Asia. That is why, the OSCE is the most inclusive organization operating at the junction of two large political sub-regions: Eurasian and Euro-Atlantic.

In the nearly 50-year history of cooperation, a number of principles have been developed to enable the peaceful coexistence of countries with diverse political systems and often conflicting interests, as well as to develop an organizational structure to facilitate this cooperation. However, the hopes and expectations set on the OSCE to ensure peace and security in the area “from Vancouver to Vladivostok” failed to materialize. The first test was the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, which the OSCE neither prevented nor was able to manage in an effective manner. As a result, security management was taken over by other organizations, including NATO, the European Union and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the initiator and main subject of which is Russia. The fragmentation of the OSCE area exacerbated previous problems with its effectiveness. However, taking account of the achievements of the CSCE/OSCE process, especially in the context of the current situation and the increase in tensions in the international environment, a thorough reform of the Organization should be considered so that it becomes an effective forum for dialogue between the countries again. The Organization itself, recognizing its weaknesses, launched a debate upon this topic twice in recent years.

The first attempt took place in 2008, during the Finnish presidency and generated a dialogue which was continued under the Greek Presidency under the name of the Corfu Process. Russia believed that the unipolar system that had developed after the collapse of the Soviet Union had to give way to a new polycentric model of international cooperation. At the same time, it pointed to the weaknesses of the OSCE system, including new non-state security threats, and therefore more difficult to identify and combat, as well as excessive dispersion within the Organization itself involving the constantly increasing number of regional agreements between selected OSCE participants, which causes their involvement in various projects.

The purpose of the Corfu process was to prepare the OSCE reform so that it would become more functional and capable of responding to emerging challenges. At the Astana Summit in 2010, the leaders of the OSCE states agreed upon a mandate for further work on the reform. The Ministerial Council identified eight areas for the Corfu Process to work on:

1. Implementation of all OSCE standards, principles, and commitments
2. The role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction
3. The role of arms control systems and confidence and security building systems in building trust in a changing security environment
4. Transnational and multidimensional threats and challenges
5. Economic and environmental challenges
6. Human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as democracy and the rule of law
7. Increasing the OSCE effectiveness
8. Cooperation with other organizations and institutions based on the Platform for Co-operative Security dated 1999.

The second attempt was to be symbolic and was related to the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, hence the name **Helsinki +40**. Consultations to which selected think tanks were invited took place in 2014-2015. The recommendations covered the following issues:

1. to modify the OSCE's consensus-based decision-making process to accelerate action, such as deployment of surveillance or fact-finding missions in crisis situations
2. to increase investment, both political and financial, in the field of OSCE presence, where most of the critical work is done
3. to address issues related to human rights and the human dimension by holding regular open information sessions to review countries' achievements in implementing commitments
4. to intensify arms control efforts, including by agreeing on a new Code of Conduct for the OSCE participating states in the most problematic areas
5. to strengthen the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the Organization in order to make better use of its direct links with the citizens of the OSCE area
6. to strengthen the OSCE democratic legitimacy by allowing the Parliamentary Assembly to oversee its budget, elect the Secretary General and approve high-level appointments
7. to make real progress towards becoming a legal entity, which would facilitate the work of its field missions, as well as strengthen international agreements concluded by the OSCE and ensure better protection of its personnel.

So far, neither of these recommendations has been implemented, which is largely due to the deepening polarization within the OSCE structures. The increasingly visible inefficiency of the Organization calls its continued existence into question. The opportunity for the OSCE renaissance is a deep organizational and material reform that would meet the challenges of cooperation between 57 states in the 21st century.