



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia  
OSCE

**AMB. STEFANO BALDI**

**WELCOMING REMARKS AT INAUGURATION OF ODIHR'S YOUNG POLICY ADVISERS  
(PoIAd) COURSE FOR THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION**

28 marzo 2022

A warm welcome to this edition of ODIHR's young Policy Advisers Course. I am pleased to see a motivated and competent group of young women and men, with a rich and diverse background.

First allow me to thank Poland (current OSCE Chairpersonship in Office and former Chair of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation Group) for proposing last year the idea to organise such course. This was an excellent idea. Italy – together with Cyprus, Malta, Portugal and Greece – were very happy to support it.

We are very grateful to ODIHR for organising it and making it possible for all of you to be here today, albeit only virtually.

As you probably know, the first young Policy Advisers Course specifically dedicated to participants coming from the Mediterranean partner countries was promoted by Italy and took place in 2019 at the European University Institute in Florence.

This project is one of the many initiatives that help ensuring that the OSCE plays a meaningful role in fostering security cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

In the Ministerial Declaration on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean adopted in Milan in 2018, OSCE participating States encouraged *“OSCE initiatives aimed at promoting youth participation and youth engagement, which foster dialogue and co-operation among Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and OSCE participating States.”*

This is exactly one of the aims of the young PoIAd course.

This week you will get to learn more about the OSCE. You will get a deeper understanding of the functioning of democratic governance and institutions. You will learn useful skills, which will help your professional career and personal development.

Most importantly, you will share your experiences and build long-lasting connections and relationships with your mentors and among yourselves.

I encourage you to do that and make the most out of this unique experience.

For five years, before serving as Ambassador to Bulgaria and here at Italy's Permanent representative to the OSCE, I have been Director of the Diplomatic Institute at the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

I have seen first-hand the importance of a life-long training, especially in a career like the one of diplomats – where personal relationships are as important the detailed knowledge of a subject.

To conclude, allow me to wish you a fruitful and successful course.

Thank you.