



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia  
OSCE

**AMB. ANDREA CASCONI**

**INTERVENTO DI SALUTO AL CORSO DI FORMAZIONE OSCE SUL CONTRASTO ALLA TRATTA  
DI ESSERE UMANI**

Vicenza, 11 ottobre 2024

Brigadier General Giuseppe de Magistris,  
OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator on combating trafficking in human  
beings Kari Johnston,  
Italy's Special Envoy on human trafficking issues Stefano Pizzicannella,  
dear participants, ladies and gentlemen,

it is a great honour and privilege to be here in Vicenza and to have observed this very  
first OSCE simulation-based training exercises dedicated to the Mediterranean region.

I would like to express our gratitude to the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police  
Units of the Italian Carabinieri for their renewed hospitality.

I'm also very grateful to Special Envoy Pizzicannella for being here with us and for his  
support to this project initiated by the Italian Mission to the OSCE and supported by the  
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Our sincere thanks to the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator and to her  
team for all their efforts and the excellent coordination we had in the last few months in  
preparation and organization of this simulation. Many thanks to Katharina Thon and in  
particular to Livia Zamporlini – without them and their hard work this week would not have  
been possible!

Last but not least, thank you to all of you – trainers and trainees – for your active  
engagement and commitment. Many thanks also to the students of the University of Padova  
for your invaluable contribution. The partnership between the OSCE and the University of  
Padua is truly remarkable and we are very proud of it.

As you all know, the simulation-based training exercises are a flagship OSCE initiative – which started here in Vicenza in 2016 thanks to the leadership and collaboration between Italy, the CoESPU and the OSCE.

Combating trafficking in human beings requires collaboration at all levels: collaboration among different State institutions; collaboration between anti-trafficking officials and civil society actors; collaboration within countries and among countries.

This is why the OSCE simulation-based training exercises are so successful and make a tangible contribution to anti-trafficking efforts across the OSCE area. They are rooted in the OSCE comprehensive concept of security; they promote a victim-centered approach and they foster multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Over the years, these simulations have been replicated across the whole OSCE region, both at interregional level (more recently in Central Asia and in the Baltic region) and at the national level, within OSCE participating States – from Georgia to Ukraine. For example, in Ukraine alone, also thanks to Italy's financial support, over the past two years the OSCE Support Programme to Ukraine has organized 8 simulations and trained over 240 law enforcers, prosecutors, labour inspectors, social workers and NGO representatives.

Italy is really proud to have contributed to the development of this unique OSCE tool and to continue to support it.

Mixed migration flows in the Mediterranean region continue to represent a key challenge for our countries. While the OSCE continues to “bring Vicenza to the world”, we considered it important to come back here in Vicenza once again and bring together participating States and Partners for Cooperation from across the Mediterranean region.

Although Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation have participated in OSCE simulations in the past, this year initiative is truly unique. It has brought together for the first time representatives of the anti-trafficking communities of six countries from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea (Italy, Malta, Spain, Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia). This is the first regional simulation-based training focused on the Mediterranean region – a remarkable achievement!

Our overall objective was simple. To complement ongoing anti-trafficking efforts both at the multilateral and the bilateral level in the Mediterranean region, by bringing the unique OSCE perspective and added value. To help each of you in your daily work to prevent and prosecute human trafficking cases and to protect the rights of victims and survivors. To promote strong personal bonds among all participants and to strengthen the cooperation among our countries, and to make combating human trafficking in the Mediterranean region more effective.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate all participants once again and to encourage you to put what you have learnt here in Vicenza into practice and to remain in touch - among yourselves, with the OSCE and with us.

We would hope for no better outcome from this week of hard work than to hear back from you on how this simulation has made a real impact in your daily work.

Thank you.