

IOI Workshop for NPMs: “Implementing a preventive mandate”

17 – 19 June 2015, Riga, Latvia

The IOI is pleased to inform its members about a new training cooperation established with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), which will result in a first IOI workshop with a substantive focus on the topic of National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

The workshop for NPMs under the title “Implementing a preventive mandate” is directed specifically towards Ombudsman staff of institutions acting as National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in their respective countries. It aims at promoting a better understanding of the comprehensive nature of the preventive approach to fighting torture. Renowned experts from the APT will lead through the workshop and help participants to explore consequences for the working methods of Ombudsman institutions and to develop a way forward in identifying possible methods and themes of capacity-building. Another focus will be on public relations including issues on how to work with the media. For more information, please see the tentative program; a more detailed version will follow mid-April.

This three-day workshop will be hosted by the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia and held in **Riga** (Latvia) from **17 – 19 June 2015**. The training will be conducted in English; workshop participants are therefore required to have a high level of English proficiency. Participation is limited to a maximum of 30 people; in order to allowing the attendance of as many member institutions as possible, participation will also be limited to two representatives per member institution.

The workshop as such is offered to IOI member institutions in good standing free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs must be covered by the participants. Hotel options recommended by the workshop host as well as general information (e.g. venue, meals, travel arrangements etc.) can be found in the practical information attached. Since Latvia will hold the Presidency of the EU-Council in the first half of 2015, the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia recommends to book hotels as soon as possible!

In order to ensure a smooth organisation and efficient planning of the event, the IOI General Secretariat also asks you to register by returning the completed registration form (see attached) to the IOI General Secretariat by Email (ioi@volksanw.gv.at) or fax (+43 1 512 93 88 200) as soon as possible but no later than **15 May 2015**.

Once again, the IOI is able to provide a certain budget to fund scholarships for institutions with limited resources. Scholarships will be awarded by the IOI Executive Committee and include refund for economy airfares as well as accommodation costs. Expressions of interest and/or scholarship applications should be forwarded to the IOI General Secretariat no later than **30 April 2015**.

If you have any further questions on scholarships or other training details, please do not hesitate to contact the IOI General Secretariat (ioi@volksanw.gv.at).

The IOI is looking forward to an active participation, a fruitful discussion and exchange of ideas on a subject which is becoming more and more relevant to Ombudsman institutions worldwide.



Dr. Günther Kräuter
IOI Secretary General