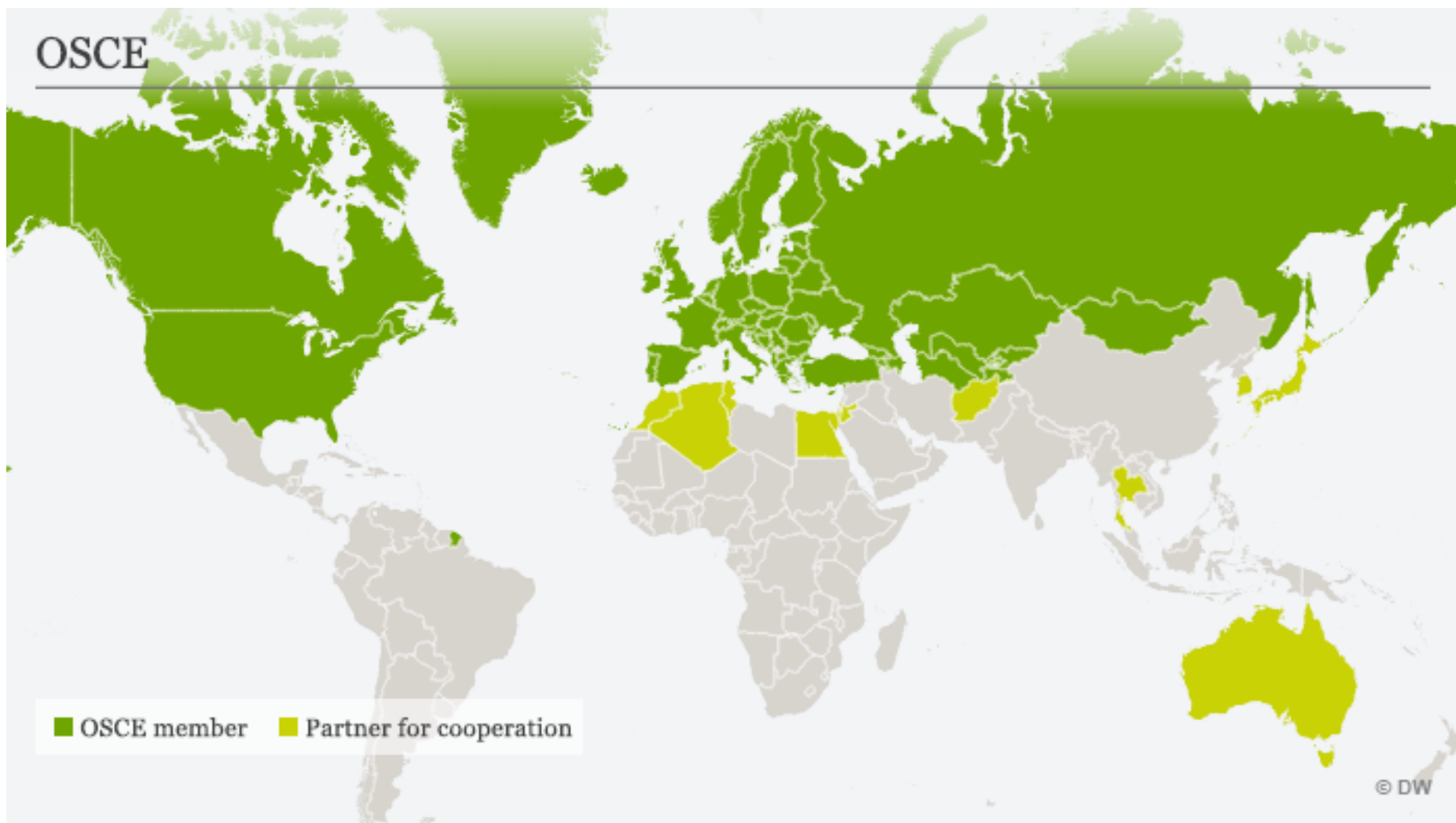# OSCE CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Fall 2017

OSCE

- definition of **civilian actor**, no military capacities
- 57 member states, largest security org.
- approximately **3500** international staff in the field and HQ
- CSCE transformation through the 1990s 1995, perceived impartiality is a strong positive
- **focus on**:
  - *preventing crises and providing security solutions in ongoing crises to fill security deficit areas and support arms control*

OSCE

OSCE member   Partner for cooperation

© DW

CSCE/OSCE – three dimensions/baskets

- **Security**
  - Arms control, conflict prevention, military reform, border management, monitoring
- **Rule of law**
  - Democratization, anti-trafficking, election monitoring, media freedom, gender
- **Economy and environment**
  - Energy security, development and ecology

OSCE crisis management instruments

- **<u>Multidimentional</u>**
- 3 dominant dimensions of OSCE CM:
- **Security (Political-Military)**
  - Preventive diplomacy, confidence and trust building measures, impartial analysis, arms control
- **Human rights**
  - Promotion of HR, tolerance, rule of law, democratization, development, monitoring elections, supporting free press
- **Economic**
  - Supporting development, security, good governance, cooperation, post-conflict rehabilitation

OSCE crisis management

- Emphasis on prevention and early political engagement in the conflict cycle
- **1990 - Conflict Prevention Centre**
  - first of its kind
  - provides early warning, but also negotiation, mediation, cooperation support and impartial resolution capacities
  - civilian experts deployed in earliest phases of crises (security provided by stature)
  - also serves as DPKO

OSCE crisis management

- Gets "invited" due to perceived **impartiality and multidimensional nature**
- Focused purely internally – distinct "**local advantage**"
- Wavering focus, dependent upon chairmanship and topic-of-the-year
- **Lacks the power to impose solutions**
    - Non-binding resolutions
    - Processes are voluntary
    - Missions require constant consensus
    - Declining budget (151mil USD)

OSCE field operations

- Approximately **800 personnel** deployed outside of permanent field workers, highly fluctuates
- **Southeastern Europe**
  - Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, Skopje, BiH
- **Eastern Europe**
  - Moldova, Ukraine
- **South Caucasus**
  - Baku, Yerevan
- **Central Asia**
  - Ashgabat, Astana, Bishkek, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

2017: http://www.osce.org/cpc/74783?download=true

OSCE Ukraine example

- **Special monitoring mission**
  - *Independent fact-based monitoring and reporting, implementation of Minsk agreements*

- **Project coordinator**
  - *Government assistance in crisis management, stabilization, and continuation of democratization*

- **Observer mission at Russian checkpoints**
  - *at Russia's request not on Russian border*

- **Freedom of media representative, Minorities commissioner, ODIHR election monitoring, OSCE Secretary general mediation**

CURRENT CHALLENGES

CRISIS MANAGEMENT POST-2017

Fall 2017

UN

- **Will UN transform its approach to peacekeeping? How?**

  - declining budget (by 1/8 next year)
  - changing main players
    - China – testing deployment and following interests?
    - US – reading week arguments
    - Canada – shying away from commitment
  - ever more demanding deployments
  - increasing death toll
  - prosecution threat

NATO

- **Any room left for out-of-area?**

  - reuniting internal threat to the east
  - Afghanistan/Libya unresolved nails in the coffin?
    - especially compared to previous missions
  - US reluctance to bankroll or risk
    - question of administration change?
  - new defense expenditures (cyber)
  - challenges increasingly in the "European theatre"

EU

- **Will / should the EU step up as a military/complex crisis management actor?**

  - Brexit opens new avenues
  - MENA region as well as eastern flank + Turkey proving less stable
  - Sofia mission
    - first inwardly directed MCMO – model?
  - PESCO inward or outward
    - defense or crisis management?

AU

- **Can the AU replace UN/EU/NATO involvement?**
  - political roadblocks
  - money issues
    - many donors drawing back
    - China not investing in AU other than buildings
    - self-funding?
  - military solutions alone do not work?
  - lack of post-conflict/complex capabilities for peacebuilding and sustainability

Crisis management in general

- **who should be doing crisis management?**
  - for example in Lebanon/Algeria/Armenia

- **pragmatic approach resistance**
  - inherent inflexibility of financial and political backers to adjust mandates and benchmarks
  - collaboration still one of the hardest issues

- **local ownership discussion**
  - who reconstructs? who nation-builds?