



ODIHR-DCAF mapping study: Outline and preliminary findings



Background, Purpose and Methodology

- Background: Continuation of the Cooperation between DCAF and ODIHR that resulted in a book *“Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel”* in 2008
- Purpose of the project: identify and clarify the strengths and weaknesses of ombuds-institutions for the armed forces in the OSCE participating states and to share good practices among ombuds-institutions.
- Methodology: ODIHR distributed the questionnaire to 51 OSCE participating states through diplomatic channels. Desk-based research on the legal framework, functions and activities of the ombuds institutions.

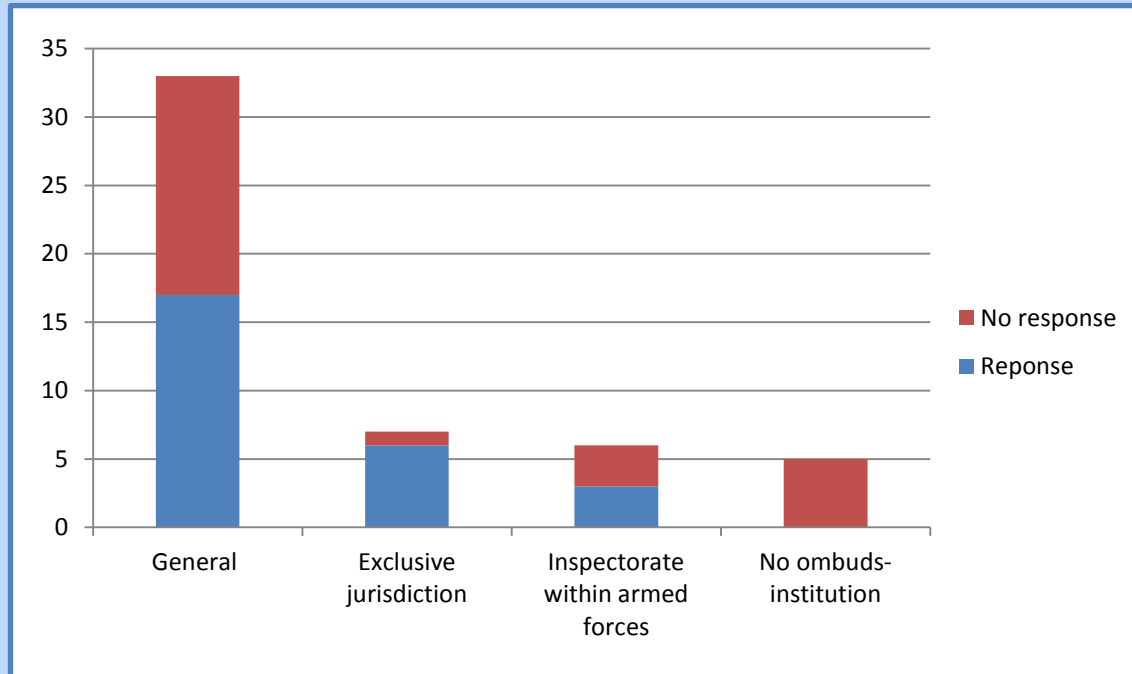


What are different types of ombuds-institutions?

- **General ombuds-institution**
 - Important and powerful actors in society
 - Recommendations difficult to ignore, citizens familiar with the institutions and more likely to approach it
 - Might lack specialized knowledge and credibility within the armed forces
- **Ombuds-institution with exclusive jurisdiction over armed forces**
 - Able to gather specialized knowledge on handling the complaints from the military
 - Independent status gives it credibility in the eyes of the complainants, legislature and public.
 - Too costly with states with small or inactive militaries
- **Inspectorate integrated in the armed forces**
 - More attentive to the operational effectiveness of the armed forces
 - Specialized knowledge and may be more accessible
 - Might lack independence - can reduce their ability to address controversial issues



Types of Ombuds-institutions in the OSCE area





States that have submitted their responses to the ODIHR-DCAF questionnaire

General ombuds-institution	Ombuds-institution exclusive on armed forces	Inspectorate within the chain-of-command
Albania	Bosnia	Belgium
Estonia	Canada	Czech Republic
Finland	Germany	Slovakia
Georgia	Ireland	
Hungary	Norway	
Kyrgyzstan	United Kingdom	
Lithuania		
Malta		
Montenegro		
Poland		
Portugal		
Romania		
Serbia		
Slovenia		
Sweden		
Tajikistan		
Ukraine		



Preliminary Findings

- The most common reasons for complaints: recruitment, maladministration, working conditions and veterans issues.
- The biggest challenges to the work of the ombuds-institutions: insufficient financial and human resources and insufficient powers to investigate complaints.
- The most common way to deal with non-compliance with the investigation is to refer the issue to a supervisor or use other disciplinary means. If its recommendations are not implemented, most ombuds-institutions can issue a special report to the parliament or to the defence minister, or to inform the public.



Thank you for your
attention!