



U.S. Mission to the
OSCE

2A1202M4 26

Session 2: Benefits of Cross-Border Human Contacts and Strengthening of Co-operation among OSCE Participating States in this Field

As prepared for delivery to the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Movement
Vienna, April 26, 2013

Mr./Madam Moderator,

In this session, we reiterate that Freedom of Movement and cross border mobility do not mean that there is any recognized right to enter or remain in any foreign country. Receiving permission to enter another participating State's territory remains a privilege, and, subject to international obligations, all pS have authority to exclude non-nationals seeking entry. The U.S. may limit entry to the U.S. for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, prohibiting entry of those who are believed to have committed serious crimes, including serious human rights violations, and of those who are presumed to intend to stay in the U.S. beyond the period allotted.

That said, the United States believes strongly in the benefits of freer cross border travel, including for people of OSCE participating States who seek to travel to the United States. Travel and tourism bring people and societies together and drive economic growth. In 2011 in the United States, travel and tourism generated \$1.4 trillion in economic activity and supported 7.5 million jobs (exports generated from international visitors supported 1.2 million of those jobs). The considerable scale of this activity, as well as the abundant cultural, social, and other benefits available from it, makes facilitating cross border travel a priority for the U.S. Government.

Apart from the economic benefits, the value of these people-to-people contacts, particularly among youth, is incalculable. Personal connections among citizens build the foundations that help all countries face global challenges together. The Department of State sponsors numerous exchange programs for youth, students, scholars and educators, artists, athletes, and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries. Some examples of programs that encourage contact with the U.S. include the various Fulbright programs, for students and scholars, advice by Education USA, on attending U.S. colleges and universities, Study of the U.S. Institutes, the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX), and the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP).

Over more than 60 years, nearly 420,000 exchange visitors have come to the U.S. from Europe and Central Asia as part of U.S. government exchange programs. A number of now prominent figures from fellow participating States have participated, including Former Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom the late Margaret Thatcher (IVLP 1967), and Tony Blair (IVLP 1986, 1992); Former President of Mongolia Nambaryn Enkhbayar (IVLP 1994); President of Germany Joachim Gauck (IVLP 1993); President of Turkey Abdullah Gül (IVLP 1995); President of Macedonia Gjorge Ivanov (Fulbright 1999); and Prime Minister of Poland Donald Tusk (IVLP 1993).

The United States is working to facilitate greater cross-border mobility in accordance with OSCE commitments, while also enhancing homeland security, using an intelligence-driven, risk-based approach. Executive Order 13597, issued by President Obama on January 19, 2012, authorizes the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security