CRVS and human rights
The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Participating states
Population registration

an essential component of state framework for ensuring that all citizens can access and enjoy their *social, civil and political rights*.
Guidelines on Population Registration

Benefits of efficiently run population registration system

- Legal identity

- Travel and identification documents

- Voter lists

- Cost-effective public management

- Electronic services provided by public administration
Guidelines on Population Registration

The guidelines focus on the following topics:

- Background information, including the purpose of the guidelines, their suggested audience, and the relevant OSCE commitments and other international standards related to population registration;

- Benefits of a well-run system of population registration;

- Legislative framework for population registration;

- Types of information stored in a population register and how it should be updated;

- Designing population-registration systems; and

- Using technology to share information.
Registration of vital life information and place of residence

Civil register
- Date and place of birth
- Death
- Marriage
- Change of name
- Mother
- Father
- Children

Residency register
- Place of permanent/temporary residence
Passing on the legally valid personal information to other institutions
Passing on the legally valid personal information to other institutions

- Civil register
- Residency register
  - Health institutions
  - Social Services
  - Education
  - Health institutions
  - Local authorities
    - Elections (voter lists)
Deficiencies:

• It takes a lot of effort, time and money for citizens to ensure that a change of personal information is communicated to all other authorities;

• Citizens may obtain legally valid documentation only at the location where it was originally registered. In the case of change of place of residence citizens need to visit one office for deregistration and the other to register at the new location;

• Chances are that not a single database maintains the most accurate and updated personal information as the system entirely depends on the citizens communicating the information. Upon deregistration of place of residence chances are that other local databases will not reflect this change;
Information exchange takes place via computerized secured network.

Public institutions may have permanent or periodic access to view only the information required for fulfilling their function.
Designing a population registration system

- Models of population registration
  - Centralized
  - Decentralized

- Legal Framework
- Planning and division of responsibilities between authorities
- Initial data collection
- Updating and storing information
- Data protection
- Sharing personal information with other public administration authorities
Guidelines on Population Registration

ODIHR assistance programme

- ODIHR assists OSCE participating States in utilizing population registration to develop systems which assures freedom of movement and free choice of place of residence and access to state guaranteed services and rights.

- ODIHR also assist participating States when requested, to support reform of the regulatory framework to address shortcomings identified.
Thank you!