

Meeting on strengthening national co-ordination and international co-operation in the fight against trafficking in human beings

21 - 22 June 2016

Room G.1 of the Agora Building of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Draft agenda

Day 1 - Tuesday, 21 June 2016 (14:30 - 18:00)

Co-ordination of anti-trafficking policies and actions at national and local level

Article 29(2) of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings requires States Parties to ensure co-ordination of the policies and actions of government departments and other public agencies against trafficking in human beings, where appropriate, through the setting up of co-ordinating bodies. Under other paragraphs of Article 29, Parties have to adopt measures to promote the specialisation of persons or entities in anti-trafficking action and victim protection, and to provide appropriate training to relevant officials.

Further, Article 5(1) of the Convention requires States Parties to take measures to establish or strengthen national co-ordination between the various bodies responsible for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

Pursuant to Article 35 of the Convention, Parties “shall encourage state authorities and public officials to co-operate with non-governmental organisations, other relevant organisations and members of civil society, in establishing strategic partnerships with the aim of achieving the purpose of the Convention”. According to the Explanatory Report on the Convention, “strategic partnership” means the setting up of co-operation frameworks through which state actors fulfil their obligations under the Convention, by co-ordinating their efforts with civil society.

Co-ordination and co-operation are of particular relevance when it comes to the identification of victims of trafficking, their referral to assistance and the implementation of other measures to protect and promote victims' rights. According to Article 10 of the Convention, victim identification is a collaborative process between the authorities and relevant victim support organisations. In a number of countries the setting up of a National Referral Mechanism provides a co-operative framework through which state actors fulfill their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of trafficked persons, in partnership with civil society. Further, Article 12 of the Convention specifies that Parties are to co-operate with non-governmental organisations and other civil society actors in the provision of assistance.

Specific objectives:

- Discuss ways in which States Parties meet their obligations under Articles 5(1), 29 and 35 of the Convention, identify different approaches and good practices in the co-ordination at national and local level, and analyse their implications for policy development and implementation.
- Discuss different approaches to National Referral Mechanisms and their impact on the identification of victims of trafficking.
- Identify ways to strengthen co-ordination at national/local level and multi-agency collaboration aimed at the protection and promotion of the rights of victims of human trafficking and improved prosecution of human trafficking offences.

Tuesday, 21 June 2016

14:30	Welcome and opening remarks
	Council of Europe Secretariat
14:45 – 16:00	Round-table discussion on mechanisms for co-ordination of anti-trafficking policies at national and local level
	Moderator: Nicolas Le Coz, President of GRETA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Tichy Fisslberger, National Co-ordinator on Combating Human Trafficking, Austria • Manuel Albano, National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Portugal • Ecaterina Berejan, Head of the Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Republic of Moldova • Lāsma Stabiņa, Senior Desk Officer, Ministry of the Interior, Latvia
	Discussion session
	<p><i>Participants in this round-table session will discuss the mandate, composition and procedures of anti-trafficking co-ordination bodies at the national and local levels; decision-making powers; frequency of meetings; budget; involvement of relevant civil society organisations; partnerships with other organisations, including trade unions and business associations; training and specialisation; preparation of materials for relevant actors in charge of prevention, identification and protection of victims, and prosecution of traffickers.</i></p>

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

Round-table discussion on multi-agency collaboration in the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking

Moderator: Jan van Dijk, Second Vice-President of GRETA

16:30 – 18:00

- Elona Gjebrea Hoxha, National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Albania
- Mitar Djurasković, National Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Serbia
- Maarit Virenius-Varela, Modern Slavery Unit, Home Office, United Kingdom (tbc)
- Jean-Francois Minet, Attaché, Ministry of Justice, Belgium
- Ketevan Khutsishvili, Co-ordination Council for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Georgia

Participants in this round-table session will discuss models of multi-agency collaboration in the identification, assistance and protection of victims of human trafficking; experiences with the setting up and reviewing of National Referral Mechanisms; functioning of mobile identification teams; level and type of involvement of civil society actors in the identification process.

19.30

Dinner at “Le Jardin de l’Orangerie” restaurant
In the Orangerie park, just across the canal from the Agora building

Day 2 - Wednesday, 22 June 2016 (9:00 - 16:00)

Transnational co-operation in the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings

This meeting will provide the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and the Permanent Representations of Council of Europe Member States with information on the proposed project on transnational co-operation in the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings, included in the Council of Europe Programme and Budget 2016-2017.

The idea to launch this project has been developed jointly by the Council of Europe and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The objectives are to facilitate the identification, referral, safe return, re-integration and long-term support of trafficked persons, in particular among vulnerable groups, by: i) implementing and further developing transnational referral mechanisms (TRM), and ii) strengthening the capacity of participating countries for efficient transnational co-operation and exchange of information between responsible authorities, including civil society organisations and private sector stakeholders. The meeting will be an occasion to present the proposal and get feedback from interested countries on shared priority areas, discuss current challenges and new priorities, and identify ways to increase co-operation and possible financial contributions.

Specific objectives:

- Present the initiative and get feedback from the interested countries on shared priority areas and possible financial contributions;
- Discuss current challenges in the identification and protection of trafficked persons, in particular among vulnerable groups considering the current migration crisis;
- Identify ways to increase co-operation between countries of origin, transit and destination in the referral of trafficked persons and implementation of harmonised transnational procedures according to the GRETA reports' recommendations.

Wednesday, 22 June 2016

Opening remarks

9:00 – 9:30

- Marja Ruotanen, Director, Directorate of Human Dignity and Equality, DG-II, Council of Europe
 - Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator (tbc)
 - Anti-Trafficking Competence Centre, ICMPD
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Experiences of developing and using transnational referral mechanisms

9:30 – 10:45

- Patrik Cederlöf, National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator, County Administrative Board of Stockholm, Sweden
 - Samir Rizvo, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Q&A
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National Co-ordinators from Sweden and Bosnia and Herzegovina will briefly present their experiences of developing TRM Standard Operating Procedures in their own country (20 minutes each). Presentations will consider the impact of TRM development on the capacity of national responsible authorities to participate in transnational co-operation and exchange information, resolve existing challenges and improve victim referral processes. Following this, 20 minutes will be dedicated to questions from the floor.

10:45 – 11:00

Coffee break

TRMs at the EU level

11:00 – 12:00

- Mátyás Hegyaljai, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior of Hungary, and Maj van den Heuvel, Ministry of Security and Justice of the Netherlands, RAVOT-EUR Project
 - Sandi Čurin, National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator, Slovenia
 - Q&A
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The representatives of Hungary and the Netherlands will present the outcomes of the RAVOT-EUR project involving Belgium, the Netherlands and Hungary, as an example of a project developing a TRM between these three countries.

Sandi Čurin, on behalf of the BRDO Process Network of South East European Co-ordinators, will discuss the need of a TRM from a regional perspective.

Following this, 20 minutes will be dedicated to questions from the floor.

Presentation of the Council of Europe/ ICMPD proposal for a project on transnational co-operation in the identification and referral to assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings

12:00 – 12:30

- ICMPD and Council of Europe
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12:30 – 14:00

Lunch – a buffet luncheon will be served in front of the meeting room

14:00 – 15:00 Tour-de-table (3 minutes per speaker)

The tour-de-table will provide participants an opportunity to reflect on the role a TRM may play in enhancing the anti-trafficking response in their country. A detailed technical note will be distributed prior to the event with preparatory questions to assist participants reflect on the following points:

- *What do you consider to be the top challenges and gaps in the anti-trafficking response in your country, specifically with reference to international co-operation with other countries, and emerging threats and trends?*
 - *What processes, structures or agreements are currently in place for supporting transnational co-operation between countries of origin and destination?*
 - *What processes, structures or agreements would you welcome the development of that are not currently in place?*
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15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 – 16:00 Discussion session, jointly moderated by Council of Europe and ICMPD

The final session of the day will be dedicated to moderated discussion to allow participants to debate and question the material presented during the day, pledge political or financial support to the proposed action, and agree on follow up actions, conclusions and recommendations for further development of the action.