
“Regional Cooperation for a Better Response to the Trafficking in Human Beings in SEE” (IRC-06-S)

Date 15 - 17 December 2014

Location Ohrid, MK

Background Trafficking in persons increasingly constitutes a problem in the countries of South East Europe. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking where thousands of persons, mostly women and children, fall into the hands of traffickers. Some reports concerning South East Europe (SEE) show new trends, a decrease in the number of foreign victims and an increase in domestic trafficking. The institutional frameworks to prevent and fight this type of crime exist and national action plans to fight trafficking in persons and irregular migration were adopted in all countries of the SEE region. State authorities provide legal protection, temporary stay permits, medical and psychosocial services and housing & shelter to support victims of trafficking in persons but there is still room for a better response in the prevention and suppression of the trafficking in human beings in the SEE region.

This event aims to increase the cooperation and confidence between the relevant country authorities in the region and emphasize the importance of utilizing the effective instruments for a more efficient regional response to these criminal acts through joint activities.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of the workshop is to analyze the current situation in the area of combating trafficking in human beings through real cases, promote regional cooperation in supporting the capacity building of the SEE countries, promote the regional approach as a necessary response to trafficking in human beings, learn lessons from real cases and consider possible common activities.

The main objectives are:

- To exchange information through the national delegations' presentations about the current situation, sharing of experience and promoting of ideas/proposals for further activities in the area of combating trafficking in human beings;
- to discuss and present new trends and modus operandi in the area of sexual and labour exploitation, successes and failures of the national mechanisms, implemented measures and actions;

- to identify issues for promoting regional project(s) and common actions in the area of THB, where the focus is on prevention;
- to bring up ideas concerning the enhancement of regional cooperation and formalize international cooperation as a continuation of already implemented projects (TRM) and provide updates on the outcomes of these projects;
- to stress the importance of a common strategy related to the suppression of human trafficking and provide a synergy between the stakeholders in accordance with the EU standards.

Participants Up to 3 (three) participants from each MARRI & RACVIAC Member State, AL, BA, HR, MK, ME, RO, RS, TR, are invited.
The invitation letter will be delivered by MARRI directly to the relevant institutions and organizations, while it will be RACVIAC responsibility to inform all core and associate members about this activity. Representatives of the other countries and relevant organizations (UNODC, ICMPD and IOM) are also to be invited by MARRI. National delegations are expected to prepare a presentation and participate in Case study discussions.

Methodology The workshop will last two working days and will be conducted as a combination of presentations, a Case study session and discussions. The working language will be English. National Coordinators and members of delegations are kindly asked to deliver their presentations in English. If they wish to use their native language in combination with translation, the English versions of the presentations should be prepared and delivered on time. *(It is the delegations' sole responsibility to provide for translation services and nominate an interpreter as a third member of the delegation).*

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