

Meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of Central and South Eastern Europe

30 - 31 March 2015

Meeting Report

On 30 – 31 March 2015, a **Meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of Central and South Eastern Europe** was held in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was organised by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in cooperation with the British Embassy in Vienna (FCO) and Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (BMEIA). The meeting had three interlinked objectives:

- **to facilitate the development of bilateral/multilateral networks;**
- **to discuss common thematic priorities and potential joint initiatives;**
- **to strengthen the regional anti-trafficking response.**

National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators were present from **16 European countries** - Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and the UK .

The composition of the meeting built upon the existing framework of the **meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of South Eastern-Europe**, a regional forum ICMPD acts as Secretariat of that is convened regularly under the auspices of the Brdo Process, a regional cooperation dialogue in the Western Balkan region.

As well as the traditional participants of the Brdo Process meeting, national authorities from Central European countries attended, as well as representatives from the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Home Office (HO) and Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC). Guest speakers during the event included the Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Secretariat of the Convention against Trafficking, *terre des hommes*, and the NSPCC, a UK-based child protection NGO.

Common **priorities** and **challenges** facing National Coordinators from the region were highlighted, as were areas on which to focus future interventions in order to strengthening the response to trafficking in human beings. Priority areas identified included;

- making effective use of **existing mechanisms for information and data exchange** between European countries, such as EUROPOL and EUROJUST, as well as embassy and liaison officer networks;
- **broadening the stakeholder groups** involved in national and transnational referral of trafficking victims beyond law enforcement actors to include “soft” ministries, such as labour and social ministries, as well as civil society actors;
- developing **tailored measures** for the **protection of vulnerable children** on the move;
- encouraging **strategic partnerships** between countries of origin, transit and destination for the development of **transnational referral mechanisms**.

In the first session, the UK’s presentation by Mr. Kevin Hyland, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, alongside the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit set out the UK’s anticipated international response to modern slavery through measures such as the development of embassy action plans in priority countries, improved intelligence sharing practices through the effective use

of EUROPOL, EUROJUST and other cooperation platforms, and through increased use of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) when conducting transnational criminal investigations.

On the topic of data exchange, it was noted that sharing of generic data between countries is currently possible through existing law enforcement coordination mechanisms. National Coordinators stated that the development **of formalised processes for sharing information between non-law enforcement stakeholders would be welcome as a means to strengthening victim care and identifying trends** in countries of origin, in order to prevent future cases of trafficking. It was strongly stressed that protection of individual's personal data was paramount, and any data exchange processes must be established in line with national and international data protection regulations.

The second session focused on the role played by National Coordinators and challenges facing the conduct of their mandate. A tour-de-table of the national coordinators highlighted a diverse range of approaches and frameworks employed across Europe, further emphasising the need to focus on a coordinated transnational approach. The response from a European Migration Network (EMN) ad-hoc query on the implementation of Article 19 of the **EU Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims** was presented. A full summary of responses to the ad-hoc query are attached.

Challenges highlighted by National Coordinators were **lack of financial, technical and human resources**, and **linking a law enforcement response with 'softer' approaches** to prevention and victim care, via labour and social ministries, as well as civil society.

Regional platforms such as the **Brdo Process meeting of National Coordinators of South East Europe (SEE)**, **Council of Europe** and **EU Coordinators meeting** were highlighted as the primary political platforms for developing regional cooperation between countries, and it was recommended that future activity build upon these forums.

A thematic session on trafficking of vulnerable children in Europe was included in the agenda, based on concerns raised during previous meetings of the Brdo Process group of National Coordinators from SEE. Experts from *terre des hommes (tdh)* presented the latest trends of trafficking of vulnerable children in Europe based on research conducted by the Mario Project. The NSPCC and ICMPD complemented this respectively with presentations on current policy and operational challenges to child safeguarding in Europe and an overview of current data collection and usage practices for assessing THB at a European level.

European children are often at risk of falling into gaps between the existing policy and operational frameworks dealing with national children and non-EU third country children. A need for more **adequate services and procedures** catering for the needs of **vulnerable EU children on the move** was identified, as was **greater focus on non-EU children transiting European countries**.

It was recommended that the scope of transnational collaboration between anti-trafficking actors is expanded to reflect the broad range of child safeguarding concerns. This should include the full range of relevant stakeholders involved in **transnational processes for the identification, protection and decision-making processes** for vulnerable children on the move – **for both EU and third country children**.

National Coordinators highlighted the importance of developing **transnational referral mechanisms (TRM)**, which standardise procedures for identification, referral and treatment of all trafficked persons between countries of origin and destination. Several participants also noted the added benefits that TRM development has on refining and complementing **national referral mechanisms** and **facilitating government/NGO partnerships**.

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Secretariat** presented a pilot project proposal jointly developed with ICMPD for the development of a **European Transnational Referral Mechanism**. As a long term

solution, participants also considered whether an additional protocol on standardised victim care requirements could be added to the **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**.

The activities of RAVOT-EUR, a joint initiative to establish a TRM between Belgium, Hungary and the Netherlands was also presented. Ongoing issues that the development of this TRM aims to address include the **unsuccessful reintegration of victims, lack of knowledge among professionals of the respective service providers and institutional/ legal frameworks in partner countries and the natural fluctuation of professionals**.

Finally, it was recommended that strategic '**clusters**' of **countries of origin, transit and destination** are identified in order to develop targeted transnational referral mechanisms in response to existing trafficking trends in order to maximise the impact of interventions.

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Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs Marmorsaal,
Minoritenplatz 8, 1010
Vienna, Austria

List of Participants

No.	Country	Last name	First name	Position	Institution
1	Albania	Hoxha	Elona	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Interior
2	Austria	Tichy-Fisslberger	Elisabeth	Ambassador, National Coordinator on Combating Human Trafficking	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
3	Austria	Ploder	Margareta	Head of Unit	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Rizvo	Samir	Assistant Minister	Ministry of Security
5	Bulgaria	Paunova	Emilia	Senior Expert	National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
6	Croatia	Buksa	Maja	Assistant Director	Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities
7	Czech Republic	Kotrbova	Jana	Security Policy Analyst	Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

No.	Country	Last name	First name	Position	Institution
8	Hungary	Berta	Krisztina	Deputy State Secretary for EU and International Relations	Ministry of Interior
9	Macedonia	Ilieska	Anastasija	State Secretary	Ministry of Interior
10	Macedonia	Aleksova	Ana Burageva	Counsellor in the State Secretary Cabinet	Ministry of Interior
11	Moldova	Berejan	Ecaterina	Head of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Commission for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings	State Chancellery
12	Montenegro	Ulama	Zoran	National Coordinator for Trafficking in Human Beings	Office for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings, General Secretariat of Government of Montenegro
13	Montenegro	Radunovic	Marijana	Independent Advisor	Office for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings, General Secretariat of Government of Montenegro
14	Poland	Mierecki	Piotr	Deputy Director, Migration Policy Department	Ministry of Interior
15	Romania	Petrescu	Adrian George	Head of Monitoring, Research and Victim's Coordination Unit	National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Internal Affairs
16	Serbia	Djuraskovic	Mitar	Head of Department for Suppression of Cross Border Crime	Border Police Directorate, Ministry of Interior
17	Slovakia	Koman	Vladimir	Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention	Ministry of the Interior
18	Slovenia	Curin	Sandi	National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator	Ministry of the Interior
19	United Kingdom	Hyland	Kevin	Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner	Office of the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
20	United Kingdom	Weedon	Tim	Chief of Staff	Office of the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
21	United Kingdom	Currell	Justine	Deputy Head	Modern Slavery Unit, Home Office

No.	Country	Last name	First name	Position	Institution
22	United Kingdom	Townson	Jennifer	Deputy Head of Mission, Director Trade and Investment and Consul General	British Embassy Vienna
23	United Kingdom	Cook	Allan	2nd Secretary Political	British Embassy Vienna
24	United Kingdom	Wiesboeck	Lukas	Communications Section	British Embassy Vienna
25	United Kingdom	Angelova	Violeta	Head of Political Section	British Embassy Sofia
26	United Kingdom	Maretic	Andreja	Senior Political Officer	British Embassy Zagreb
27	United Kingdom	Trochtova	Alexandra	Senior Political Officer	British Embassy Prague
28	United Kingdom	Andrezejczak	Krzysztof	Justice and Home Affairs Policy Officer	British Embassy Warsaw
29	United Kingdom	Motoc	Elena-Corina	Senior Political Officer	British Embassy Bucharest
30	National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)	Gibbens	Keith	NCA-CEOP Police Liaison Officer	Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC), NSPCC
31	National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)	Pande	Swati	Social Worker	Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC), NSPCC
32	Terre des hommes	Cazenave	Pierre	Regional Child Rights Advisor	Terre des hommes
33	Terre des hommes	Tournebize	Camille	Volunteer	Terre des hommes
34	Council of Europe	Nestorova	Petya	Executive Secretary	Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
35	ICMPD	Abado	Gabriela	Acting Director General	ICMPD
36	ICMPD	Zborovianova	Slavka	Head of Unit	Member States and External Relations, ICMPD
37	ICMPD	Rogoz	Madalina	Research Officer	Research Department, ICMPD

No.	Country	Last name	First name	Position	Institution
38	ICMPD	Trossero	Elisa	Programme Manager	Anti-Trafficking Programme, ICMPD
39	ICMPD	Federzoni	Edgar	Programme Assistant	Anti-Trafficking Programme, ICMPD
40	ICMPD	Radeva	Mariyana	Project Manager	Anti-Trafficking Programme, ICMPD
41	ICMPD	Georgieva	Ivanka	Junior Project Officer	Anti-Trafficking Programme, ICMPD
42	ICMPD	Huddleston	William	Junior Project Officer	Anti-Trafficking Programme, ICMPD