



Network of Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of South-East Europe

Report

The Way Ahead: After the 10th Anniversary of the NATC SEE and the 20th Anniversary of UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol

The meeting was held virtually on the KUDO platform from 26 until 28 January 2021. The meeting was hosted by the Romanian Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) with support from The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in its role as the Network's Secretariat.

The regional meeting marked and celebrate two important anniversaries, 20th Anniversary of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol and 10th Anniversary of the Network of Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of South-East Europe (NATC SEE), in order to take stock of the achievements of the previous two decades and set the way ahead for the next years. The event brought together anti-trafficking practitioners from the SEE and beyond, as well as criminal justice practitioners (investigators, prosecutors and judges) tasked with investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons and organized crime in the NATC SEE members.

The Agenda of the meeting was be divided into the following sessions:

- Day 1: (i) High-level marking of the two anniversaries and address by each NATC SEE with focus on the way forward;
- Day 2: Reflecting on the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through the state of play in prosecution, by nominated national criminal justice panellists from each participating member of the NATC SEE;
- Day 3: The impact of COVID-19 to trafficking in human beings in the SEE region.

The opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Bogdan Despescu, State Secretary and Coordinator of the Committee for Monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Romania, Ambassador Xavier Sticker, Permanent Representative of France to the UN and the International Organisations in Vienna, Mr. Ilias Chatzis, Head of Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC, and Mr. Martijn Pluim, Director, Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD.

This was followed by a short recap of the work over the past 10 years of the NATC SEE presented by Ms. Melita Gruevska Graham, Head of the Anti-Trafficking Programme, ICMPD. The High level Panel that followed reflected on the key achievements and vision of the future. The panellists were Mr. Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director-General Migration and Home Affairs and EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission, Mr. Valiant Richey, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of



the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and Ms. Elisabeth Moiron-Braus, Secretary General of the inter-ministerial Mission for the Protection of Violence against Women and the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (MIPROF), France.

The final session of the first day between the Anti Trafficking Coordinators from the NATC SEE, Mr. Heracles Moskoff, National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Greece and Ms. Elisabeth Moiron-Braus focused on the added value of the Anti-Trafficking Coordinators in the Implementation of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

The main topic of discussion during the second day was the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Criminal Justice Response in the SEE. The respective criminal justice practitioners (investigators, prosecutors, judges), from the SEE, tasked with investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons and organized crime spoke about the Investigation and Prosecution of Trafficking in Human Beings and the Victim Centred Approach. The discussion relied on continuous support and cooperation of police liaisons, liaison magistrates and other professionals based in France and the diplomatic representations of France in SEE, Mr. Pierre de Monte, French Liaison Magistrate in Romania and Moldova and it was moderated by Mr. Erwann Tor, Regional Expert on Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and Related Crimes, Permanent Mission of France to the UN and the International Organisations in Vienna

During the last panel of the day, Ms. Suzanne Hoff, International Coordinator at La Strada International and Ms. Geneviève Colas, Secours Catholique - Caritas France - Coordinator of the NGOs' National Network for combating THB spoke about the Role of the NGOs in the Criminal Justice Response.

The last day, the participants discussed about the impact of COVID-19 to trafficking in human beings in the SEE region. They worked in groups, discussing whether COVID-19 will lead to increased occurrence of trafficking in human beings and what were the main challenges during the lockdown.