Athens, 8-9 June 2011

International Roundtable
"Combating human trafficking in SE Europe and the Black Sea Region
Identification of trafficked persons – NRMs – Migration"

Ariadne
network
Against Trafficking in Human Beings
in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΠΡΟΑΣΠΙΣΗΣ
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HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENCE CENTER

BSM
program

"Program of cooperation in the Black Sea Region
in the areas of migration and human trafficking
between countries of origin, transit and destination"

EVENT DESCRIPTION

A two-day, international round-table entitled "Combating human trafficking in SE Europe and the Black Sea Region: Identification of trafficked persons–National Referral Mechanisms – Migration" was held in Athens, Greece on 8-9 June 2011. The Roundtable was organised in within the "ARIADNE Network- Human Trafficking and Migration in SE and Eastern Europe" project funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the "Program of Cooperation in the Black Sea Region in the Area of Migration between countries of Origin, Transit and Destination" (Black Sea Migration Project) funded by the European Union.

From the third month of project implementation (January 2011 onwards) KEPAD started preparing for the organization of this international roundtable on issues of human trafficking and migration in order to secure participation from civil society and governmental experts from as many countries as possible from SE and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region. Preparation included regular and targeted communication with possible participants and partner organizations from the region, research and consultation with international experts regarding topics and emerging issues to be discussed, consultation with project partners regarding their input and contribution to the meeting, organizational aspects. In order to facilitate the participation of experts and the exchange of information and to maximize benefits from discussions, a questionnaire on issues of victim identification was developed and circulated to participants prior to the roundtable.

The roundtable took place on 8-9 June 2011 in Athens, Greece with the aim to: i) critically assess existing identification models and NRMs, with the aim to form part of a future joint initiatives for developing effective NRMs in the region; ii) detect and analyse good practices, gaps, needs, strengths and weaknesses in the identification process of trafficked persons, as well as propose effective models of identification; iii) formulate recommendations on the improvement of the identification procedure; iv) explore new trends in TiP and possible links between migration and human trafficking, exchange experiences and discuss the needs of participating countries and the region as a whole.

The two days were structured in sessions aiming to examine the above-mentioned themes, with particular emphasis on issues of THB victim identification. The RT brought together 30 participants from 11 countries from the Black Sea region and SE Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, Greece, and Montenegro). Participants were representatives of NGO members of ARIADNE Network and other civil society organizations active in this field in the region, independent experts and governmental representatives of the Greek Ministry of Citizens' Protection/Hellenic Police- Anti-Trafficking Unit; the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior- Juvenile Police Department.

Participants presented their extensive experience on the implementation of National Referral Mechanisms in their countries, and discussed extensively conceptual, methodological and practical aspects of victim identification in the region with the aim to draft a common tool of analysis based on their expertise and experience. Experts had also the opportunity to exchange views on new trends and challenges of the human trafficking phenomenon and the trafficking of children and in particular to examine the effect of migration as a precursor and push-factor to the human trafficking phenomenon. To achieve maximum efficiency on counteracting human trafficking, best practices and experiences from National Referral Mechanisms at regional level were presented and discussed extensively.

In order to evaluate and revise existing identification standards for victims of trafficking, a questionnaire was drafted and circulated to participants prior to the RT, in order to obtain specific information and recommendations and to use as a reference point for more structured discussions. The questionnaire as well as a draft research concept note was discussed

extensively by all participants in order to conclude to the final forms of these documents, which will be the basis for the upcoming publication of the ARIADNE Network. The roundtable concluded with the agreement of all participants to continue working together on issues of victim identification with the aim to produce in 2012 a regional manual for the identification of trafficked persons assessing national systems, detailing good practices and making recommendations for improving the identification process in the Black Sea and SE Europe region. Last but not least, the roundtable provided an excellent opportunity for networking and informal exchange of information between NGOs from the region, allowing them to explore topics of mutual interest and forge links for future co-operation.

Results of this activity:
- Regional dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders from countries of origin, transit and destination in SE and Eastern Europe in the area of combating trafficking in human beings was encouraged; participating regional organisations had the opportunity to establish contacts and expand their cooperation with NGOs and state actors from the Black Sea region with the view to undertake coordinated action in the future;
- Countries of origin, transit and destination from the Black Sea and SE Europe region had the possibility to exchange experiences in the implementation of national referral mechanisms and the identification of trafficked persons, as well as exchange necessary information concerning new trends of the trafficking phenomenon and the impact of migration thereto;
- Development of a research tool /questionnaire with the aim to document and evaluate the identification process of trafficked persons in the region;
- Conceptual and methodological analysis and evaluation of main aspects of victim identification process with the aim to develop regional models of identification and collect good practices from the region to be included in a regional Manual for the Identification of Trafficked Persons in SE and Eastern Europe
- Publication and circulation of RT materials to participants and other interested stakeholders. Materials can be accessed electronically at: http://www.ariadnet.net/migration.php?Id=71&