

# Everyone has a Role: How to make a difference together

An efficient cooperation between  
prosecutors and their partners in the fight  
against THB: the Belgian network of  
expertise and the reference magistrates

# Introduction

- Interdepartmental coordination Cel against THB
- Network of expertise – Board of general Prosecutors

# Networks of expertise

- Board of General Prosecutors
- Each criminal field (drugs, organized crimes, cyber crimes, family-related crimes, ..., and **THB**)
- Made up prosecutors especially appointed → reference magistrates in these fields

# Reference magistrates in THB

- In each judicial district (King's Prosecutor's offices, Labour Law Prosecutor's offices, General Prosecutor's offices, Labour Law General Prosecutor's offices)
  - 55 specialized prosecutors
- Investigate and prosecute cases of THB
- Implement the criminal policy

## Reference magistrates in THB (2)

- Local coordination meetings
  - Interlocutors of partners (other prosecutors, Police, Social Inspections, NGO's, Alien's Office)
  - Specific trainings on THB
- Members *ex officio* of the network of expertise on THB



# Network of expertise on THB

- Since 2001
- Made up all the reference magistrates + Federal Prosecutor + Service of criminal policy + Legislation department + statistical analysts
- Link together the reference magistrates
- Collection and dissemination of case law

## Network of expertise on THB (2)

- Contribution to *ad hoc* working groups
- Point of contact for all issues on THB at the judicial level
- Plenary meetings every 2 years
- Coordinated by a coordination team

# The coordination team

- Made up reference magistrates of the General Prosecutor's offices, Federal Prosecutor, representatives of the King's Prosecutor's offices and the Labour Law Prosecutors' offices + service of criminal policy + Legislation Department + statistical analyst
- 17 members
- Headed by a head coordinator



## The coordination team (2)

- Several meetings a year
- Organizes plenary meetings of the network of expertise
- Prepares the training programmes
- Considers issues coming from the judicial field

# The coordination team (3)

- Makes recommendations on criminal policy
  - Draft the criminal policy guidelines on THB (to be approved by the Board of General Prosecutors)
- Link between the field and the Board of General Prosecutors

# Plenary meetings

- Every 2 years
- Gathers all the reference magistrates + relevant partners: NGO's, Police, Social Inspections, Alien's Office, National Rapporteur
- Internal evaluation of the implementation of criminal policy (prosecutors only)

# Plenary meetings (2)

- Presentation of topical subjects
  - Workshops on case law
- prosecutors and partners together around the table



# Local coordination meetings

- Level of judicial district
- 2 meetings minimum per year
- Reference magistrates of the district, police, social inspections, + youth prosecution services and experts invited
- Operational issues
- New trends

# Conclusion

Network of expertise on THB + reference magistrates

= horizontal and vertical communication

= improving contacts and confidence with/of external partners

→ Efficient contribution to a multidisciplinary approach