

**OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2007**  
**The working session 12**

**Intervention of the Republic of Lithuania**  
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Problems concerning trafficking in human beings exist all over the world despite social-economical, political development of countries, size of population or geographical location of states. The difference is that in some countries the problem is bigger in others small.

The Government of Republic of Lithuania is implementing second national Program for the prevention and control of trafficking in human beings for 2005–2008. The Programme is a consistent continuation of the Programme for the Control and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution for 2002-2004. Both of the programmes are financed from the budget of the Government. 1 800 000 euro are devoted for second National action plan. The purpose of the Programme is to develop and implement a target orientated, long-term and complex system of measures to prevent and control trafficking in human beings.

To combat and prevent trafficking there was developed systematical approach to the problem:

- The system of law enforcement agencies was created – there are specialized police offices and prosecutors working in the country to investigate THB cases and providing legal assistance to the victims;
- The network of NGO's which provide social, psychological, medical and legal assistance is supported (there are over 13 NGO's working in the field of trafficking);
- Lithuanian legal acts concerning traffic in human beings comply with the legal acts adopted by the European Union and international organisations. Moreover, this year Lithuania is going to join the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings.

There are strict responsibilities provided in the penal code for trafficking in persons: separate penalty is provided for selling child and separate one for abusing person for forced labour. It is important to notice that both – physical and juridical persons can be punished for this crime.

Labour trafficking in Lithuania is treated as one of the most dangerous forms of trafficking in human beings – “the one who force someone to work in conditions of slavery or in other inhuman conditions is punished up to 8 years of imprisonment” – article 147 (1) of the Penal Code of Republic of Lithuania.

This problem can be internal or international. Therefore it is important to fight with it on the national, regional and global level.

Combating this crime on the national level different financial, economic and law enforcement agencies are involved. First of all, it is important to identify fields where

labour can be forced (e. g. agricultural works, construction, domestic work etc.). The same importance has identifying the vulnerable groups in the society. It is also important to stress that particular responsibility should be declared for employers who exploit people or at least know about such exploitation in there companies.

Concluding, let me inform you about the Vilnius Conference “Preventing Trafficking in Human beings: Challenges and Solutions” jointly organized by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the framework of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking which will take place in Vilnius (Lithuania) 25-26 October 2007. There will be three sessions, one of them will focus on private and public partnership in the prevention of trafficking for all forms of exploitation where we can continue this important discussion.

Thank you for your attention!