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BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERES

IOM • OIM

COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN / MINORS

Project description:

The Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Vienna is implementing the project “**Comprehensive Training for Law Enforcement Authorities responsible for Child Trafficking / Minors**”, which is financially supported by the European Commission 2005 AGIS Programme, as well as by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The partners of this project are the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the Belgian Federal Police, Europol and the OSCE.

Within the Austrian EU Presidency, the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior strongly focuses on the area of human trafficking and trafficking in children and minors in particular. The project is therefore placed under the activities of the **Austrian Presidency of the European Union** and contributes to EU efforts mentioned in the Hague Programme as well as in the EU Plan on Best Practices, Standards, and Procedures for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings.

This Project was developed in accordance with the recommendations identified during the Workshop for Law Enforcement on Exchange of Information, Best Practices, Lessons Learned on Trafficking in Minors (May 2004) of the project “Victim assistance for minors in the EU, candidate and third countries”, organized and implemented by IOM Vienna in the framework of the AGIS Programme 2003.

The **aim of the project** is to provide law enforcement authorities dealing with child victims of trafficking with specific skills in combating trafficking in children, to identify good practices on combating child trafficking to be presented in a Resource Book, as well as to strengthen regional and international cooperation among the participating countries.

The main **activities** consist of a rapid assessment, the elaboration of a Resource Book via working groups of experts and an International Training Seminar.

The **Resource Book on Good Practices for Law Enforcement Officers on Combating Child Trafficking** contains practical examples covering the following specific topics:

- interviewing techniques,
- investigative methods,
- cooperation between the law enforcement and NGOs/ social services,
- as well as age assessment/ identification of the child.

Experts from countries of origin, transit and destination were tasked to identify good practices based on experience and lessons learned in their home country on each specific topic. Further, the experts drafting written contributions on the topics of investigative methods and interviewing techniques had been given the possibility to attend a working group meeting and discuss their papers in September 2005. On the results of this meeting and on the basis of the written contributions, IOM Vienna compiled the Resource Book together with two lead writers. A selected Advisory Board with members from other participating countries as well as international organizations and NGOs commented on the Resource Book and further improved its quality.

On the basis of international and European standards, the **chapter on background information on child trafficking** introduces the definitions of “child” and “trafficking”. Furthermore, this chapter

describes trends in child trafficking, as well as consequences of trafficking for child victims and the role of law enforcement authorities in combating this crime.

The chapter on age assessment/identification presents advantages and disadvantages of different methods of age assessment: psychosocial assessment, dental examination, bone X-ray, combination of methods.

The chapter on investigative methods focuses on risk assessment, investigative methods, as well as bilateral and international cooperation.

The chapter on interviewing techniques describes the first contact, first intake and indicators for the identification of children as victims of trafficking, the evidential interview, witness protection and training of all actors involved.

After a general introduction on general standards and incentives for cooperation, **the chapter on cooperation between law enforcement authorities and NGOs/social service providers** presents practical examples of cooperation in countries of destination and of origin regarding: identification and referrals of child victims, direct assistance to child victims, model protocols of cooperation, assistance in countries of origin in preparation of return and upon return.

The **International Training Seminar for Law Enforcement Officers on Combating Child Trafficking** gathers 110 participants from the law enforcement authorities from **39 countries** - European Union Member States, candidate countries and third countries (the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Morocco, Nigeria and Switzerland). The Resource Book has been distributed and used for the first time as training material during the training seminar.

On the first day, all participants attended a general introduction to trafficking in children followed by presentations on the topics of age assessment and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and social service providers/ NGOs. On the second and third day, participants split into 6 small working groups receiving an intensive training either on interviewing techniques or on investigative methods. Professional trainers and experts developed an interactive and detailed training session. Exchanging their own working experience, all participants intensively looked into the topic of child trafficking.

The international training seminar culminates in the high-level conference “**Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children: prevention – protection – prosecution**”, which is hosted by the OSCE. Key note speeches by Karel De Gucht, Minister of Belgian Affairs of Belgium, OSCE Chairman in Office; Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General OSCE; Liese Prokop, Austrian Federal Minister of the Interior; Maria Rauch-Kallat, Austrian Federal Minister of Health and Women’s Affairs; Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy; Ndioro Ndiaye, IOM Deputy Director General; Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director UNODC; Helga Konrad, OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Within the framework of the project, IOM Vienna developed recommendations together with all experts and participants involved, which will be distributed together with an executive summary containing further results of the project to all attendees, OSCE delegations and representatives of other international and non governmental organizations.

The Resource Book, together with the recommendations and summary of the results of the project is available online on the IOM Vienna webpage (www.iomvienna.at).