

National Monitoring and report Mechanisms to Address THB:

The Role of National Rapporteurs”

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National Rapporteur for THB – Czech Republic

Jakub Švec

Security Policy Department

Ministry of Interior

Czech Republic

Institute of the National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings in the Czech Republic was established in 2003 as a result of the first Czech policy paper on trafficking in human beings, *National Strategy to Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings for sexual exploitation* that was approved by the governmental resolution no. 849 from 3rd September 2003. This document basically implemented provisions of international conventions on trafficking in human beings (especially “Palermo Protocol”) into Czech conditions, including legislation, staff training, prevention and awareness raising, victim care and protection, and also a mechanism for policy coordination and evaluation and data collection.

During the preparation of above mentioned policy paper Ministry of Interior was looking for suitable solution and institutional and organizational structure on National Rapporteur, a body basically responsible for situation analysis, policy making and coordination. Like in some other countries (especially Netherlands, at that time), we were thinking of having a relatively independent body aside the central executive bodies (ministries), that would be responsible directly to the Government. But because of reduction of staff within the Office of the Government of The Czech Republic at that time, and because of some rather bad experiences with similar bodies under the Governmental Office, that also independently coordinated policies in various areas and were “separated” from the real situation (in other words, they had academical view of the situation), were not able to react properly on actual problems, had weak influence on other ministries and had no access to some kinds of information, no new independent office was established.

Therefore, in 2003 The Government decided to delegate the function of the National Rapporteur to Ministry of Interior. Officially, by the Regulation of the minister of interior no. 5/2005, the duty was delegated to Analysis and Strategy Unit, Security Policy Department. This unit is generally responsible for gathering and analyzing information on internal security

risks and threats, monitoring the developments and trends in crime and related areas, producing of government documents dealing with the issue of criminogenous factors, drawing up of the state security policy, proposing measures to be taken within the scope of activity of the Ministry of Interior, the Czech Police and other state bodies, and creating of systemic, legislative and organizational conditions for abatement of criminality. Security Policy Department submits to the Government and to the Parliament number of reports, e.g. on security situation, crime development, corruption, terrorism, organized crime etc.

To conclude, the mechanism of national rapporteur is not an independent body, on the other hand, it has a well-developed system of information gathering and exchange on its disposal, and has also some direct competencies to react on actual situation without delay.

National Rapporteur has 3 main tasks:

1. information gathering, analysis and continuous monitoring
2. coordination of anti-trafficking policy
3. submission of reports and policy papers

Regarding information gathering, we use all possible sources. On one hand, we gather information on state bodies activities, which means reports on criminals cases being solved by law-enforcement agencies, criminal and judicial statistics, reports about controls carried by immigration services and labor inspectors etc. On the other hand, we try also to describe the latent situation (not revealed by competent authorities), where we use mainly NGOs reports, operational police information, intelligence services sources, international information exchange or even open sources. The purpose of information gathering is not only to report regularly on the situation, but also to identify a potential trends or problems and react properly (North Korean Workers example). Beside regular information sources we also submit ad hoc researches on specific issues.

For coordination of anti-trafficking policy, an intra-ministerial task force has been established, where officials from police units, ministries of interior, justice, labor and social affairs, foreign affairs, health and education, deputies from NGOs and IOs and academical institutions are involved. The task force meets officially 3-4 times a year, and checks and evaluates the fulfillment of tasks given by the governmental policy paper (National Strategy), identifies problems and critical gaps and initiates solutions. Beside this task force, there is also National Mechanism to coordinate the program for THB victims care and protection.

The main policy paper, which is approved by the Government, is *National Strategy to Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings*, and it's updated and evaluated every 2 years.

National Strategy contains also detailed description and analysis of the situation. Apart from this document, we also produce annual reports, which are submitted as a part of *Report on Security Situation in Czech Republic*, and ad hoc reports to actual problems.