

Factsheet: Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes

The Context

The OSCE region is witnessing **massive movements of people** triggered by on-going conflicts, general instability and a lack of economic opportunity in neighboring regions. These mixed-migration flows are comprised of refugees and economic migrants who are **highly vulnerable to exploitation** and human trafficking.

The OSCE Response

In an effort to adequately face the current situation and translate relevant commitments into practice, the OSCE has developed an ambitious **project on “Combating Trafficking along Migration Routes”**. The goal is to enhance the capacity of affected OSCE participating States to identify victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) in a timely fashion and effectively prosecute traffickers, thereby **strengthening the overall criminal justice and civil society response** along migration routes. In November 2016, the first **simulation-based training** for 55 participants was conducted, with two other simulation exercises to be conducted in 2017 for approx. 150 participants.

The Context

Over **1 million refugees and migrants** came to Europe by sea alone in 2015 (Source: UNHCR).

Around **10,000 migrant children** are missing in Europe, and feared to have been trafficked (Source: EUROPOL).

Goal of the OSCE Response

To enhance the criminal justice response against THB along migration routes, thus mitigating the risks to vulnerable people on the move.

Expected Outputs

An increased capacity of national stakeholders to identify cases of sexual and labour exploitation and prosecute human traffickers operating along migration routes.

Targeted Beneficiaries

Law enforcement, prosecutors, labour inspectors, lawyers, financial investigators, public social services providers and NGOs from the most affected OSCE sub-regions.

Project Facts & Timeline

- Project Budget: 647,684.67 EUR
- Project Duration: January 2016 - April 2018
- Launch Event: 17 June 2016 in Vicenza, Italy.
- 1st Simulation (for 50 beneficiaries): 14-18 November 2016
- 2nd and 3rd Simulations (for 75 beneficiaries each): June and September 2017
- Handbook & Final Event: 2017-2018

Donors

Andorra, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Monaco, Switzerland

Based on realistic **criminal scenarios to simulate cases of labour and sexual exploitation** among migrants, including child victims, for the first time, participants will also be exposed to the links between terrorism and trafficking. During the sessions, participants have to identify victims and traffickers, paying attention both to the **effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution** on the one hand, and to the **protection of human rights through a victim-centered approach** on the other. An important goal of the simulations is also to promote the use of **financial investigations**.

The trainings are conducted at the **Centre of Excellence for the Stability Police Units (CoESPU)** in Vicenza, Italy, while **OSCE Field Operations** and **key international actors** such as IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and CEPOL are also involved in the project.

Sustainability

For the duration of the project, the OSCE will continue to thoroughly monitor and refine the training activities and aims to publish a **practical handbook** on how best to conduct simulation-based trainings on THB, thereby contributing to the project's sustainability. The project results and possible follow-up action will be discussed at a **final event** in Vienna.

