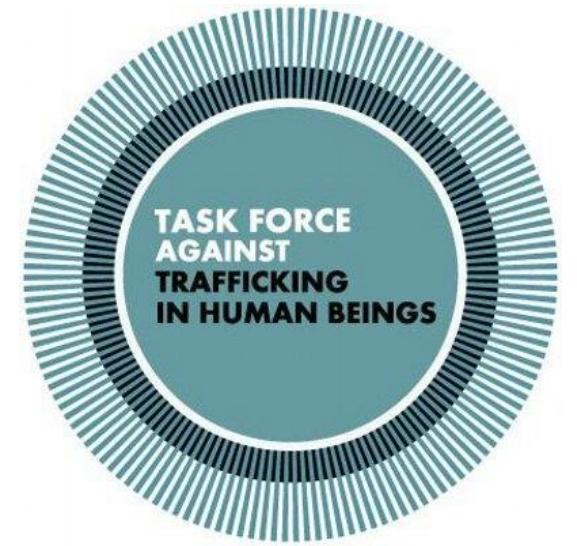




Vineta Polatside,
Council of the
Baltic Sea States

Stepping up local action against human trafficking

Strengthening the capacity and role of municipalities in work against trafficking in human beings in the Baltic Sea Region



— THE **STROM** PROJECT —

Why involve municipalities?

1

Human trafficking is relevant for both urban and rural areas and cases of human trafficking are detected less frequently in small towns.

2

Local authorities could be the first to come into contact with both victims and traffickers.

3

Lack of focus on local approaches to identify and assist victims and to prevent people from becoming victims of trafficking.

4

Early re/integration does not take place at the state level, social capital and trust is built in the local communities and neighbourhoods.

Main challenges in the Baltic Sea Region

Lack of cooperation
at the local and also
national level

Lack of mandate.
Roles of
municipalities are
not defined by the
legislation

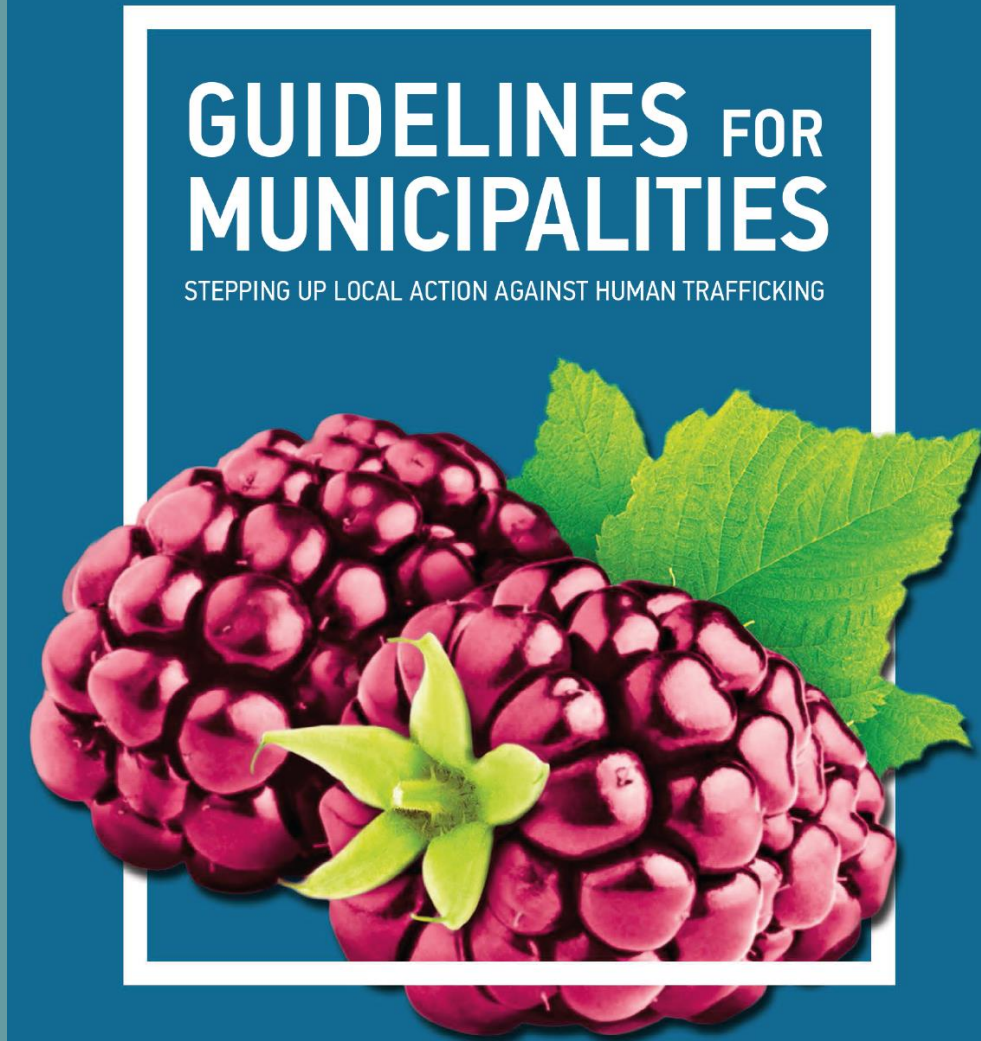
Prevention and
assistance to victims
is not a priority for
municipal actors

Lack of regular
trainings at the
national and local
level, especially on
identification of
victims

Lack of publicly
funded, long-term
support to victims

Implemented activities

- Developed practically oriented Guidelines for Municipalities “Stepping up local action against Human Trafficking”



Implemented activities

Facilitated the implementation of the guidelines for municipality work on counteracting trafficking in human beings in 8 municipalities in the Baltic countries and North-West Russia.



Developed specific implementation models in the participating municipalities that are also relevant to the further dissemination among other municipalities in the participating countries.



Improved preventive work in the selected municipalities specifically targeting the groups at risk to be trafficked.

Lessons learned and recommendations

- Importance to minimise isolation of used strategies and methods to fight human trafficking at the local level.
- Developed local referral mechanisms should be integrated in the national and transnational referral mechanisms.
- The commitment of representatives at the higher decision-making levels should be ensured.
- Efforts to address victim-blaming attitudes should be taken into consideration when planning future cooperation with municipal actors – regular awareness raising.
- Future training sessions at the municipal level should include interactive learning methods.
- Municipalities should play a much larger role in rehabilitation and reintegration assistance and in providing a long-term support than they currently do.





Thank you for
your attention!

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