



Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)

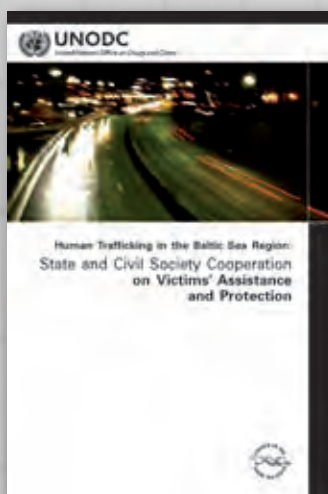
*Enhancing counter trafficking capacity through
hands-on, operative work and projects with
a focus on prevention and protection*



The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings has over the last few years cast a wide net over the Region and beyond making every effort to engage with numerous actors from a variety of fields in order to enhance the counter trafficking work in the CBSS Member States. Here are some of the projects.



As the TF-THB is housed under the roof of the Council of the Baltic Sea States it was logical that our first focus would be close to home – our very own consular and diplomatic corps. Between 2008-2010, 12 training seminars were held to increase the awareness of human trafficking amongst the diplomatic corps and consular officials in the CBSS region and to provide them with tools to act in cases of suspected human trafficking. The seminars were held jointly with the International Organization for Migration over the course of 25 months and trained more than 550 individuals from 94 countries and 5 continents. The outcome was a practical, illustrated **Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on How to Assist and Protect Victims of Human Trafficking (CBSS TF-THB - IOM)**



Outreach further afield was needed to increase formalised cooperation between law enforcement and service providers in cases of human trafficking in order to improve assistance to victims of human trafficking in the Region. For this exercise the TF-THB teamed up with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A commissioned investigation looked specifically at how state actors and civil society cooperate. The information was gathered on national study trips and a conference where actors gave input to the study. The final report **Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region: State and Civil Society Cooperation on Victims' Assistance and Protection (CBSS TF-THB - UNODC)** provides a number of key recommendations for future actions in the Region and for the work of the TF-THB in order to improve the assistance given to victims in our Member States.



One of the main recommendations from the joint assessment study with the UNODC was to develop a **Model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to be adapted by each country. This project was funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and enabled the TF-THB to gather over 40 experts in Oslo in March 2011 to discuss how formalised cooperation agreements can enhance the provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. The experts engaged in productive discussions concerning the implementation of the Model MoU in national groupings and drew upon the international and regional knowledge of the UNODC and TF-THB, as well as the experience of Germany and Lithuania where similar MoUs are already in place. The Member States supported the piloting of local and regional initiatives upon return to their respective capitals.

The TF-THB has also conducted an assessment study on the current data collection mechanisms to map identify, systematise and analyse existing information on data collection on human trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region. This study addresses existing knowledge gaps and produces a clear overview of what type, how and by whom data is currently collected in the 11 CBSS Member States. It makes recommendations for improvements to governmental institutions and NGOs in the Region and proposes 21 key data indicators which should be collected as a minimum. The study is entitled **HARD DATA: Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region (CBSS TF-THB)**



Safe Trip was launched on the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, 18 October 2010, by the TF-THB jointly with the County Administrative Board of Stockholm, the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence against Women (NCK) and the Swedish National Support Operations Team against Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings (NMT). It was initially to be a pilot information campaign targeting female victims of trafficking mainly for sexual exploitation in the Stockholm area but has since been developed into a national programme via the County Administrative Boards and other actors in Sweden and it will potentially become regional. The campaign Safe Trip uses the national support line for women who have been exposed to threats, violence or sexual assault, Kvinnofridslinjen, 020 50 50 50. www.safetrip.se



To further enhance research in this field an international research seminar entitled **Human Trafficking: the Nexus between Research and Operative Work** was organised jointly with Uppsala University, Center for Police Research and the Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies. The seminar brought together international academics, researchers and practitioners. It was divided into four panels: Legal Definition and Implementing Policies, Victim Support and Protection, Existing Cooperation Models and Knowledge Tools, Towards Better Synergy between Research and Operative Work to Improve Counter Trafficking Efforts.



New for 2011 is the **Data and Education on Forced Labour Exploitation and Counter Trafficking (DEFLECT)** project, implemented in partnership with The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI). Human trafficking for forced labour is a significant but under-researched topic in the Region and DEFLECT project aims to address this. The overall aim of the project will be to increase the identification capacity through education and awareness and thus improve assistance to victims of human trafficking for forced labour exploitation. The project was launched at a conference in June 2011, where international experts exchanged knowledge with operative actors throughout the Region.



The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings works against all forms of trafficking in human beings by strategic actions and activities:

- Training Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on assistance to victims of human trafficking and providing them with tools to act confidently and responsibly
- Fostering NGO and Law Enforcement cooperation by assessing the situation on the ground with the actors concerned and then developing a Model Memorandum of Understanding
- Raising general public awareness of human trafficking and initiating outreach to victims
- Supporting research by bringing different leaders in their respective academic and operative fields together in a cross-disciplinary group with the view to fostering new ideas to investigate this complex topic
- Assessing data collection mechanisms in the Region and proposing improvements and ways forward
- Building capacity in the Region in the field of human trafficking for forced labour by bringing together existing expertise and linking that with international perspectives and practices

Our partners are national experts from government ministries and agencies responsible for counter trafficking policy in the 11 CBSS Member States and the European Commission. We partner with other international, governmental as well as non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and networks depending on the project at hand.

All of the publications mentioned overleaf can be downloaded here
<http://www.cbss.org/Civil-Security-and-the-Human-Dimension/publications>