



## **Council of the Baltic Sea States Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings**

### **Strategic plan 2012-2014<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Background and context**

The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) is an expert group composed of national experts on human trafficking from ministries in the eleven CBSS Member State. It falls under the CBSS long term priority on Civil Security and the Human Dimension and works to counteract trafficking in human beings, with a focus on persons over the age of 18, in the Baltic Sea Region and its near vicinity through preventative and protective activities. The Task Force provides an intergovernmental platform for regional cooperation and a forum for transfer of knowledge and best practices. The Task Force aims to strengthen, build upon and improve current policies and operative work in the region through joint collaborative projects. Those projects include research and analysis, data collection, trainings and facilitation of cooperation among stakeholders at the national level in CBSS Member States.

The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) was established by a decision of the Heads of Government at the Baltic Sea States Summit in 2006 where they tasked the CBSS to integrate the Nordic Baltic Task Force into the CBSS and create the TF-THB in order to initiate activities to combat trafficking in human beings in the whole Baltic Sea Region.

#### **Overall strategic objectives and goals**

In line with the overall objectives of the TF-THB to:

- counteract trafficking in human beings in the Baltic Sea Region through preventative and protective activities by means of practical work and
- facilitate and promote coordination, exchange of knowledge, results and best practices between countries in the Baltic Sea Region and to propose and support additional efforts to counter trafficking in human beings.

The TF-THB sets as its particular objectives to:

- Ensure sustainability of projects implemented during 2008-2011 and build upon the achievements already made by supporting implementation at the national level in all CBSS Member States upon their request.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships and increase cooperation with local, regional and international organizations working against trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region.

Facilitate transfer of knowledge and experience to partners outside of the region through sharing of knowledge and providing strategic support.

#### **Sustainability of achievements**

In order to consolidate common TF-THB projects and activities at the national level in each of the Member States, support and facilitate the implementation of such projects upon their request.

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<sup>1</sup> This strategic plan is a living document and will be updated when relevant, in particular with regards to strategic activities and projects.

Support the negotiations of Memoranda of Understanding on Counter Trafficking in Human Beings in CBSS Member States as needed.

Ensure continuity of data collection and analysis started with the Hard Data study by regularly collecting and publishing updated data on and analysis of developments in trafficking in human beings in the region.

Continuously advocate for the use of the Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel in trainings for this target group in the Member States and outside of the region. Explore ways to increase the longevity and distribution of the training material in the Handbook and develop it further to meet the needs of other professional groups.

### **Strategic partnerships and Cooperation**

Increase cooperation with other units and affiliated bodies of the CBSS, in particular those falling under the Civil Security and Human Dimension such as the Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC), the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC) and the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) to counter trafficking in human beings in the region.

Increase cooperation with CBSS observer states in their counter trafficking activities by exchange of experience, expertise knowledge and material.

To avoid duplication of efforts and maximise on the use of resources and expertise, strengthen cooperation with CBSS strategic partners, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Nordic Council of Ministers and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regional office for the Baltic Sea Region in their counter-trafficking activities.

Continue cooperation and exchange of information with international and regional actors such as the United Nations Anti Trafficking Coordinator, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Special Rapporteur in Trafficking in Persons, UN Group of Friends against Human Trafficking, OSCE Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings and the Alliance Expert Coordination Team, the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking (GRETA).

### **Thematic focus**

The TF-THB works against all forms of trafficking in human beings, however during the current strategic period, its main focus will be on actions and activities that can increase the capacity of key actors in the region to identify instances of trafficking for labour exploitation and to develop strategies to address exploitative labour situations. Other thematic activities will be considered as the need arises.

The Task Force follows closely developments in trends in trafficking in human beings and aims to respond to new trends and changes based on information gathered by its experts in the Member States and regional and international cooperation partners.

### **Strategic activities and projects to be implemented**

- DEFLECT study on current form of cooperation of stakeholders at the national level to address trafficking for labour exploitation.
- ADSTRINGO – A region wide project to address trafficking for labour exploitation through improved partnerships, enhanced diagnostics and intensified organizational approach.

### **Other projects under discussion**

- A region wide research project on the nexus between trafficking for labour exploitation and migration into situations of precarious labour.
- Biennially publish a report on the State of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Region.
- Other projects