Paving the Way for the Harmonized Operational Framework in the Baltic Sea Region (HOF-BSR)

HOF-BSR is a transnational project that aims to develop the Baltic Sea Region as a model region in identification and provision of comprehensive and sustainable assistance to victims of human trafficking.

**Specific objectives**

- To maximize the effectiveness and unify practical cooperation among experts involved in the fight against human trafficking by developing a Transnational Referral Mechanism in the Baltic Sea Region.

- To address the gender dimension of human trafficking and victim-blaming stereotypical attitudes by providing mass media with knowledge and tools needed to report on human trafficking cases.

- To strengthen and expand TF-THB cooperation network by establishing contacts with main countries of origin for victims of human trafficking - Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

**Activities**

- National inter-institutional mapping exercises in all CBSS Member States.
- Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM)
- Development of a glossary of terms related to the issue of human trafficking.
- A one-day workshop for local actors with special focus on journalists.
- Development of a manual for journalists reporting on cases of human trafficking.
- Fact finding missions to Bulgaria, Rumania and Ukraine to establish concrete cooperation with relevant state authorities and civil society organisations.
- International workshop to test and validate developed TRM in the Baltic Sea Region.

**Participating countries**

CBSS Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Sweden and Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine

**Partners**

Coordinator of the project: Council of the Baltic Sea States Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (CBSS TF-THB)
**Partners:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark; Ministry of Justice in Estonia; National Assistance System for Victims of THB - Joutseno Reception Centre in Finland; Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs in Germany; Ministry of Justice in Iceland; Ministry of Interior in Latvia; Ministry of the Interior in Lithuania; Ministry of the Interior and Administration in Poland; Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Russia and Saint Petersburg Branch of the Russian Red Cross; Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Sweden.

**Duration:** September 2018 –December 2019

For more information about the project please visit [www.cbss.org/tfthb](http://www.cbss.org/tfthb) or contact project coordinators at the CBSS: Vineta Polatside at Vineta.polatside@cbss.org or Endrit Mujaj at Endrit.mujaj@cbss.org