



## Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region

Trafficking in Children Conference  
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### Task Force activities 2008-2011

- ▶ Training Seminars for diplomatic and consular personnel in cooperation with the IOM
- ▶ Joint Project with the UNODC on NGO-Law Enforcement Cooperation
- ▶ Improved Data Collection and Support to Research
  - ▶ Research Seminar “The Nexus Between Research and Operative Work”
  - ▶ “Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region”

## Why study data collection?

- ▶ Lack of *comparable* and *comprehensive* statistical knowledge on various aspects of human trafficking

## Hard Data: Objectives

- ▶ Identify, systematise and analyse existing information on data collection on human trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region
- ▶ Address existing knowledge gaps and produce a clear overview on how, by whom and which data is currently collected in the 11 Member States
- ▶ Make recommendations for improvements to governmental institutions and NGOs

## Why Improved Data Collection?

- ▶ Need to develop effective and well-targeted prevention and protection mechanisms
- ▶ Create appropriate strategies
- ▶ Launch suitable criminal justice responses
- ▶ Evaluate strategies and policies

## Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region

- ▶ A number of projects recently initiated to address data collection mechanisms on human trafficking, however, as yet, no mapping of data collection mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region

## Guidelines

- ▶ Based on “Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings, including Comparable Indicators“
- ▶ Guidelines provide information about the type of data which should be collected by states on the:
  - ▶ *victims*
  - ▶ *traffickers*
  - ▶ *criminal justice responses*
  - ▶ *trafficking process*

## Example

### VICTIMS

- Gender
- Age
- Nationality/country of birth
- Recruitment country
- Legal status
- Type of exploitation
- Retrafficked

## Hard Data: Methodology

- ▶ Minimum set of data suggested by the Guidelines used to create questionnaires
- ▶ Sent to Task Force delegates to assess *what*, by *whom* and *how* data is collected on the victims, the traffickers, the trafficking process and the criminal justice responses
- ▶ Evaluate how far the national mechanisms on data collection reflect the suggestions from the Guidelines
- ▶ Desk-top studies
- ▶ Interviews

## Findings

- ▶ Enhanced efforts to gather data on various aspects of human trafficking and priority given to this field in NAPs / equivalent national strategies
- ▶ Setting up of specialised databases / systems to address data collection
- ▶ *National Rapporteurs* are not widely established in the Region, but data collection and analysis takes place through other institutions

## Challenges

### Availability of Data:

- ▶ The lack of data categories collected
- ▶ Data being collected unsystematically – only *specific years or periods*
- ▶ Data not being published
- ▶ Most of the data available concerns human trafficking for sexual exploitation
- ▶ Data is collected and published by various actors on a national level – often not compiled in one comprehensive report

## Challenges

### Limited information on:

- ▶ Assistance to victims of human trafficking (refused or declined);
- ▶ Information regarding compensation (*5 out of 11 countries do not collect any information regarding this category*)
- ▶ In contrast: Seven countries out of 11 collect and publish all information on investigations started and completed, another two collect but do not publish all information

## Challenges

### **Transparency of data:**

- ▶ Data on specific aspects is collected, but not published (e.g., data on the trafficking process, victims testifying in court or cooperating with law enforcement)
- ▶ When data is not published in the public domain, it is not always possible to verify whether categories are collected in practice
- ▶ Remaining questions about regulation of exchange of data between actors

## Challenges

### **Comparability of data:**

- ▶ Use of different terms and categories by which data is collected in the CBSS Member States (e.g. victims: presumed victims, victims identified by NGOs or police or during official identification procedures etc.)
- ▶ Different time periods for which data is collected and/or published

## Hard Data: Recommendations

- ▶ Enhance efforts to collect, publish and exchange data on victims, traffickers, trafficking process and criminal justice responses
- ▶ Include qualitative data
- ▶ Establish *National Rapporteurs*
- ▶ Stronger focus on trafficking in human beings for other forms of exploitation
- ▶ Safeguard human and financial resources for data collection
- ▶ Data collection mechanisms should be in line with existing standards to protect the right to data confidentiality

## Hard Data: Concluding Remarks

- ▶ Priority for data collection vs. primary task of service provision and case management – the tyranny of data collection
- ▶ Standardised data collection and comprehensive counter trafficking strategies can only be established with *political will*, with a *long term perspective* and with *adequate human and financial resources*
- ▶ Limitations: Data collection embedded within *political, local and historical* circumstances (concepts/categories differently understood between countries, regions, cultural boundaries)



**Thank you!**

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