

# Information Management to Prevent Trafficking

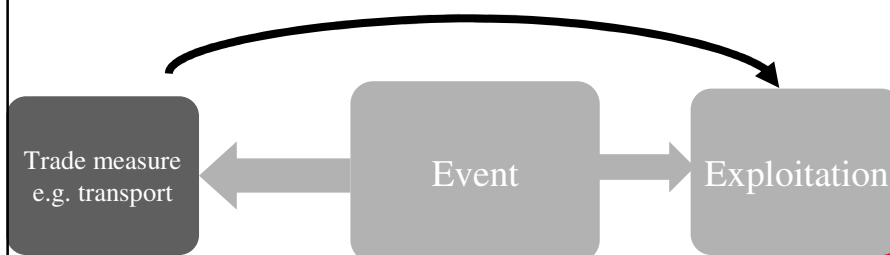
A project carried out by the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, EGCC in Cooperation with Save the Children Denmark, Tartu Child Support Centre in Estonia, Caritas Lithuania

The project was funded by the EU Daphne programme

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## Trafficking – What is it?



## Baltic Sea Region Information Management to Prevent Trafficking – BSR IMPT - 2010

### 1. Project aims:

- a) Identification of
  - i. those that have information on children at risk of trafficking outside of those commonly involved in policy development
  - ii. the kind of information vital to include
  - iii. how this information can be made useful without threatening individual integrity
- b) Map existing information management (IM) efforts in the 9 countries involved
- c) Identify barriers to well functioning IM

### 2. Funding: EU Daphne III programme

- ### 3. Partners: Save the Children Denmark, Caritas Lithuania, Tartu Child Support Centre, Estonia



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## Activities in the project

1. Three expert seminars looking at links between trafficking and other forms of child rights violations and contexts where child protection is weak:
  - a) Young people in prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. Vilnius, 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2010
  - b) Unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Copenhagen, 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2010
  - c) Child labour, begging and children committing crimes in a foreign country. Tallinn, 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2010
2. Report building on expert input from the seminars and interviews in the 9 CBSS member countries targeted in the project (All but Russia and Iceland)
  - Report launched in December 2010



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Available at  
[www.childcentre.info](http://www.childcentre.info)

Baltic Sea Region –  
Information Management  
to Prevent Trafficking  
BSR IMPT

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# BSR IMPT

- Information on children in migration, within countries or across borders, where there are suspicions of violence and/or exploitation.
- What kind of information is there?
- Who has the information?
- Is the information managed, and if so, how?

## Activities in the project

1. Report methodology:
  - a) Use of the discussions and input at the expert seminars
  - b) Consultant carried out approximately 60 interviews in the 9 countries
  - c) Analysis of reports and materials



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## Type of Information

- Generally accepted trends
  - Roma children and young people
  - Unaccompanied Asylum seeking Minors
- Emerging issues
  - Week-end prostitution
  - Girls working as Au pairs
- Incidents and narratives
  - Men marrying Thai and Russian women to gain access to their children



## Level of verification of the information

1. Official data – convictions and police reports
2. Information we have called “maybe-information”: reports from several sources but as yet unsubstantiated
3. Anecdotal evidence - narratives



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## Source of information

1. Official data – convictions, governmental reports and police reports
2. Research reports and articles – few and far between
3. Reports from major IGOs, INGOS and NGOs.
4. Tools and manuals disseminated for training purposes
5. Media and reports disseminated to the wider public
6. Anecdotes and myths



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## Countries in the region and three aspects

1. Is there a national central coordination in place?
2. Are professional networks meeting with children consulted with?
3. Are local and regional levels feeding their information into the national coordination?



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## Countries in the region and three aspects



1. All three aspects present in Denmark and Norway
2. Finland and Poland have central coordination and active professional networks but no local or regional structure
3. Sweden, Estonia, Latvia have a level of central but weak coordination
4. Lithuania and Germany lack central coordination



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	Nat'l co-ordination	Pro'l networks	Local/regional input
DK	X	X	X
EE	(X)	X	-
FI	X	X	-
DE	(X)	X	-
LV	X	(X)	-
LT	(X)	(X)	-
NO	X	X	X
PL	X	X	-
SE	(X)	X	-

## Main issues1

- All work to prevent trafficking must be based on children's right to protection from all forms of violence.
- Young people up to the age of 18 are children.
- A national co-ordination function is vital in order to manage information on children at risk of trafficking.
- It is important to disseminate numbers on children and young people who are
  - identified as victims of trafficking,
  - suspected to be victims of trafficking,
  - considered to be in abusive or exploitative situations or
  - in contexts that may lead to them becoming victims of trafficking.
- Transparency on what the figures are based on is crucial in order to manage the complexities involved.

## Main issues 2

- Regional/local information collation is essential and there should be open lines of communication with the national level.
- When collecting and managing regional/local information, use should be made of existing professional networks organising professionals working with children.
- NGOs should be involved in information collection at the local/regional and national levels.
- The voluntary sector, faith-based organisations, labour organisations and commercial enterprises should be involved at the local level.
- Information collected should be carefully scrutinised to see if it can be validated through e.g. triangulation.
- National co-ordination should be in contact with research institutions and universities in order to encourage as broad an evidence base as possible.



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## Political priority

- National coordination of information on children at risk of being exploited
  - Should build on existing structures
  - Should use local and regional information
  - Should connect to other countries



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