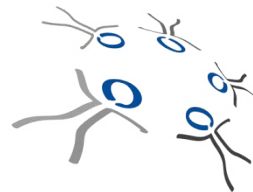


PROTECT Children on the Move

By Turid Heiberg, Head of the Children's Unit

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat



CHILD CENTRE

Expert Group for Cooperation on
Children at Risk, EGCC

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) - lead partner

- **Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)** established in 1992 and includes **11 member states** from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden as well as EU
- The **Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC)** founded in 1999, a working group in CBSS from 2002, senior officials appointed by the ministries for children
- The **Children's Unit** at the CBSS implements decisions made by EGCC and initiates projects and cooperation activities
- **Priorities**; CRC (child rights) incl child-friendly justice, comprehensive/ sustainable child protection, early intervention/ prevention, **sexual abuse/exploitation, migrant children/child victims of trafficking** and alternative care

The PROTECT project

- **2013 - 2015**, CBSS coordinates the "PROTECT Children on the Move" project, funded by CBSS/ European Return Fund
- **Cooperation between CBSS, the Central Board of the State Border Guards in Latvia, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service in Lithuania, and the Stockholm Social Emergency Authority in Sweden**
- 5 Expert meetings involving **nearly 250 experts** from member states, UN agencies, organisations in Europe/ beyond
- **The aim** is to identify child rights standards, good practices and key agencies responsible for protecting children
- Outcome: **Guidelines, report and a WIKI -online tool** outlining relevant laws, policies, tools, contacts and projects
- Follow up with **Nordic Council of Ministers** - training

5 expert meetings

- 1. **Procedures** in transnational cases of children exposed to exploitation, trafficking and children at risk. January 2014, Stockholm
- 2. Returns and Transfers: International and European **standards**, procedures and safeguards for children. May, Riga
- 3. **Case examples** of children exposed to exploitation and trafficking and children at risk. September, Vilnius
- 4. **Transnational Child Protection**: The role of judges, social services and central authorities. November, Riga
- 5. **Reflections** from the Expert Meetings, children's participation and discussing **way forward**. March, Stockholm

Background: exploitation/trafficking

- **90'ies** – the world became aware of the massive dimensions of exploitation, abuse and trafficking of children
- Horrific exploitation of children in **brothels and other labour**
- The **First World Congress** on Sexual Exploitation, 1996
- Children exploited in **begging and criminality**
- Europol: **live streaming** of child sexual abuse (2015 report)
- Exploitation of children - at **any point** in the migration cycle
- Many initiatives to prevent exploitation of children; national rapporteurs/action plans, Lanzarote Convention, UN/EU/CoE/HAAG system
- **Return of children or young people** turning 18 – a challenge
- Still many **protection gaps** connected to return

Guidelines, report and Wiki

- The learning will be transformed into **Guidelines/training manual** – translated into **several languages**
- **All the expert meetings extensively documented** – the basis for an extensive reference report
- All previous reports available on: www.childcentre.info
- **A Wiki on transnational child protection** will be established owned by the community of engaged stakeholders
- Wiki – **identified gap to trace the learning** from the many projects/research/tools and good practices
- The Wiki - **part of the Wikipedia** with a strategy/communication plan
- The **structure and content** of the Wiki to be discussed
- Funded by **private sources**

Follow-up with NCM



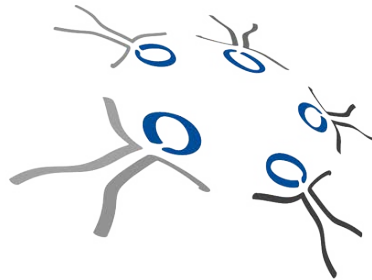
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- **Purpose:** Training of stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, (St. Petersburg), Oslo and ?
- The training will be based on “**train the trainers**”
- **Participants;** migration services, social authorities, police, prosecutors, judges, border guards, NGOs etc
- Participants will discuss **risks** of child trafficking in migration cases and use the Guidelines
- Participants will train in the **referral system** using the Guidelines and the Wiki
- Establishment of an expert group to define needs and format with the NCM country offices and government contacts
- Project period: 2015 - 2016

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