Prevention and detection of trafficking in human beings (THB) along the rail routes

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Outline

✓ OSCE anti-trafficking framework: key principles and approaches
✓ Addressing THB by engaging with travel industry
✓ The role of rail companies in combating THB
OSCE Action Plan to Combat THB: 4 Ps

The Action Plan follows a multidimensional approach and seeks to address the problem comprehensively, covering:

- the Protection of victims;
- the Prevention of THB;
- the Prosecution of those who facilitate or commit the crime.

(PO.CEC/DEC/557, 2003)

★ 2 Addendums to complement the 2003 Action Plan

2005 – Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking
2013 – A Decade Later

★ Partnerships
Victim/survivor-centred approach

Human-rights, needs based, trauma-informed and gender-sensitive, participation and non-discrimination

**Identification**: as soon as there are reasonable grounds to believe that they have been trafficked

**Co-operation**: law enforcement bodies, migration and border services, social protection units, medical institutions, NGOs and other civil society institutions, private sector

**Comprehensive support**: shelter, advice and counselling in a language known by the victim, medical and psychological assistance, reflection, residence and work permits, right to apply for asylum
National Referral Mechanisms

✓ A National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a co-operative framework through which state actors fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of trafficked persons, co-ordinating their efforts in a strategic partnership with civil society.

✓ NRMs should be designed to formalize co-operation among government agencies and non-governmental groups dealing with trafficked persons.

Identification, referral and assistance for VoTs

https://www.osce.org/odihr/13967
https://www.osce.org/odihr/NRM-handbook
Non-punishment principle

Member States shall, in accordance with the basic principles of their legal systems, take the necessary measures to ensure that competent national authorities are entitled **not to prosecute** or **impose penalties on** victims of trafficking in human beings for their involvement in criminal activities which they have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of being subjected to any of the acts [i.e., offences concerning trafficking in human beings]

*EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (Directive 2011/36/EU)*

OSCE documents: travel industry

• Development and introduction of **training programmes** on THB-related issues for **personnel employed by various commercial carriers**, in particular airline attendants and staff working on other means of transportation by land and sea, aimed at the **identification of trafficked persons**, as well as the introduction of **measures designed to prevent THB**, including **co-ordination between commercial carriers and the State law enforcement agencies** or through other appropriate mechanisms.
OSCE documents: travel industry

• Working with the travel and tourism industry, including airlines and other modes of transportation, as well as hotels, the broader hospitality industry, civil society, and relevant international organizations to prevent all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children, and to establish and implement procedures for identifying, reporting and addressing suspected child trafficking.
OSCE documents: travel industry

• Calling on any OSCE participating State which has not already done so to sign the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which requires “states to adopt legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in the commission of offences…”

• Establish national trafficking hotlines and to consider regional trafficking hotlines for reporting potential trafficking victims travelling on regional commercial carriers
The role of rail companies

- Political will
- Co-ordination
- Professional competence
- Public awareness
- Helping THB victims and preventing exploitation
- Resources
Transportation Leaders against Human Trafficking (US)
Transportation Leaders against Human Trafficking (US)
#BeSafe campaign
#BeSafe campaign

Numbers to contact to receive official information and assistance in case of suspicion or when in a trafficking situation

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Example of co-operation

Memorandum of Understanding between the International Civil Aviation Organization and the OSCE on providing a framework for cooperation on air transport facilitation and border security (2019)
Thank you!

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