

Austria and Neighbouring Countries Preventing and Combating all Forms of Trafficking in Women: Improving Transnational Coordination and Cooperation; Developing and Strengthening Networks and Partnerships with Third Countries

Initiative launched by the Austrian Government Minister for Women and Public Administration, with the Austrian Institute for International Affairs/Österreichisches Institut für Internationale Politik (oiiip) as the lead organization, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Master Plan for Implementation Joint Regional Activities for the Period 2011 to 2013

to be implemented by government authorities in cooperation with respective NGOs of the participating countries with the support of the Project Management Team and expert input from International Organizations

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Introduction

The purpose of the *Regional Initiative: Austria and Neighbouring Countries – Preventing and Combating all Forms of Trafficking in Women: Improving Transnational Coordination and Cooperation; Developing and Strengthening Networks and Partnerships with Third Countries*, is to enhance the practical implementation of established norms, instruments and existing good practices within a smaller and thus potentially more manageable and effective group, supporting and complementing the implementation of the larger new European anti-trafficking framework. By enhancing regional understanding of and knowledge about human trafficking in all its forms and improving regional cooperation, coordination and experience exchange, the Initiative can contribute to more effectively preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (THB) for all forms of exploitation.

The focus of the *Regional Initiative* is on the **joint implementation of regional anti-trafficking measures** in the following **key areas**: data/information and know-how sharing, early warning system on THB, early identification, THB partnerships for prevention, research and evaluation/evidence-based policies.

The *Regional Initiative* aims at reinforcing the political commitments and legal obligations of the participating countries to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking in human beings, including trafficking for **labour exploitation and domestic servitude**. It will promote comprehensive and consistent anti-trafficking responses – in line with the main international and EU documents¹ – at national, regional and international levels.

It will follow a **human-rights-based, victim-centered and age-sensitive approach**, taking the **gender perspective** fully into account. Through a higher level of coherence between all direct and indirect anti-trafficking efforts, it will foster **cooperation and coordination** among all relevant stakeholders – including government authorities, international and non-governmental organizations, taking existing good practices and lessons learned into account.

Its overriding objective is the formulation of this **Master Plan** with concrete actions and clear timeframes for the years to come. In order to measure human trafficking, the *Regional Initiative* shall reveal the scale, trends and scope of the problem in the region, and develop a set of clear and **comparable statistics** about victims, prosecutions and convictions, that will enable proper analysis of the nature and extent of the crime. The *Regional Initiative* recognizes the importance of **capacity-building** and shall therefore continue to strengthening the capacity of relevant officials likely to encounter and identify possible victims of trafficking such as law enforcement personnel, labour inspectors, consular/embassy officials, judges, prosecutors, etc.

¹ Notably the Stockholm Programme, the Action Oriented Paper on strengthening the EU external dimension on action against trafficking in human beings, but also the forthcoming 2011 Integrated EU Strategy on the Fight against Human Trafficking. The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Council of Europe Convention on Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings; the UNHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols; the ILO Forced Labour Convention and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the EU/EC Framework Decisions and Directives on Human Trafficking. Please refer to the Background Paper, the Summary Report of the High Level Round Table Discussion of September 2010 as well as the Vienna Declaration.

In order to get more information on human trafficking for labour exploitation, the *Regional Initiative* shall stimulate operational cooperation between law enforcement and labour authorities in and between the countries of the region.

It stresses the role of **education** in raising awareness about preventing human trafficking, and will focus on the provision of appropriate assistance and **protection to child victims of trafficking**, including their education/skills development, rehabilitation and reintegration, in cooperation with existing child protection systems. **Targeted research** shall enable the production of knowledge that is as objective as possible. **Evaluation** of the responses and approaches taken will provide more insight into the effects of counter-trafficking efforts and reveal their impact on our societies.

The envisaged activities shall promote the development of **long term preventive measures**, including the promotion of gender equality, by addressing the social, economic, cultural and other factors, which make people vulnerable to trafficking, by improving the operational cooperation within and between the participating States and third countries.

Proposed Regional Activities:

A. ENHANCING DATA/INFORMATION AND KNOW-HOW SHARING

Human trafficking is for the most part a ‘hidden’ crime. The proportion of identified victims out of the estimated total number of victims is typically estimated to lie somewhere between five and ten per cent. The scarcity and unreliability of data on, and our limited knowledge about human trafficking at national and transnational levels, is attributable to several factors, including the nature of the crime which is largely invisible and clandestine, taking place in the informal sectors of society and, despite intensified efforts in recent years, poor or insufficient documentation and collection, storage, analysis and exchange of data at national, regional and international levels. Our limited knowledge of human trafficking especially for labour exploitation and domestic servitude at national and regional levels results in inadequate policies and inefficient counter measures, in continued low identification rates of victims who are denied assistance, support and redress, but also in low prosecution and poor conviction rates of traffickers, which keep human trafficking crimes extremely lucrative (high-profit and low-risk).

Human trafficking networks operate transnationally and therefore necessitate coordinated regional responses. Policy measures, or police action in one country or region affect others and may i.e. lead to “displacement effects” or following police and/or policy interventions in one country trafficking operations are directed elsewhere in the region in order for the trafficking business ring to remain lucrative. Yet regional cooperation, coordination, exchange of information, data as well as know-how and pooling of expertise are not systematically undertaken.

- **Data Collection**

- Towards Effective Regional Data/Information Collection/Sharing and Analysis**

Despite numerous projects and activities developed on THB data collection, it is still very challenging to exchange reliable data and information on human trafficking situations and trends among countries. Improving the knowledge base on the scale and nature of human trafficking, especially for labour exploitation and domestic servitude at national and regional levels is, therefore, a pre-condition for effective and sound national and regional anti-trafficking policies and measures. The *Regional Initiative* therefore aims at enhancing harmonized, standardized data and information collection and sharing on trafficking in human beings within the region, on the basis of

existing guidelines, and complementing EU efforts.

Activities

The **Regional Initiative** will kick-start a regional mechanism for collecting, analyzing and sharing of standardized data on human trafficking within the region, following the *Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings including Comparable Indicators* and complementary to EU efforts. Accordingly, participating countries will on a bi-annual basis exchange selected data on human trafficking via internet, based on which bi-annual regional summary reports will be elaborated, as will annual *Regional THB Situation Reports*.

To achieve this, the participating countries will regularly submit the collected data as per **Annex 1**. Accordingly, the data sharing should focus on official data on THB (as per the UN Trafficking Protocol definition) including all persons who are presumed victims of trafficking, irrespective of whether they are assisted or not, cooperate with law enforcement investigations or testify against their traffickers at trial. Additionally, data should also be shared on related crimes under which trafficking cases (as per the Protocol definition) may be prosecuted, along with estimates on the extent to which this occurs.

A secure **Internet platform** with limited access to authorized users (national coordinators/focal points) will be established, where the data/information from the region as well as the analytical regional situation reports will be displayed (see also “Regional Internet Clearing House/Platform for Practitioners on THB” below).

It is suggested that the participating countries will designate/nominate national focal points responsible for the data collection (as well as for the provision of information for the “traffic-o-meter” - see next point below) that will form a Steering Group for this exercise. The Steering Group will attend regional meetings and give guidance on the submission of the national input of data and information as well as on the elaboration of the annual *Regional THB Situation Reports* (in cooperation with a data analyst), along with recommendations for further action.

These reports will be communicated to the government representatives, e.g. in the framework of recurring **High Level Ministerial Round Table** meetings, for policy action.

Required input:

Countries: Provide data as per *Annex 1* to the Internet platform. Nominate national focal points responsible for the national data collection its provision. Join the regional Steering Group to give guidance on the coordination of national responses and attend regional meetings for the elaboration of the *Regional THB Situation Reports*.

The Project Management Team will appoint a data analyst; support the organization of and/or organize regional meetings (preferably in conjunction with a host country of the region); maintain the regional Internet platform in cooperation with IT-experts.

- **'Traffic-o-meter' and Early Warning**
Regional Trends, especially on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation/Domestic Servitude

We are in dire need of a better and more realistic picture of the extent and nature of human trafficking and especially of the ‘hidden side’ of the crime. We also need to be able to detect early on existing and emerging trends, including crime “displacement” effects within the region, so as to take preventive or reactive action. This improved understanding of human trafficking in all its forms, including an early warning on THB in the region will facilitate policy planning and the design of targeted and effective counter measures. It can serve as basis for joint regional

comprehensive action.

Activities

It is foreseen to develop a regional mechanism for continuous information sharing and situation assessments on the extent and nature of human trafficking for labour exploitation and domestic servitude, including the hidden side of THB. This “traffic-o-meter” will allow flagging current and emerging regional trends and developing an early warning mechanism on human trafficking.

The participating countries (via their national focal points) will submit twice a year information as per *Annex 2* in line with the “*Operational indicators of human trafficking*” as developed by the *ILO and the European Commission* (2009), as well as with other relevant EU/EUROSTAT initiatives. The participating countries will be requested to provide, nationally consolidated rough estimates on the extent and nature of trafficking for labour exploitation and domestic servitude, including the ‘hidden’ side of the crime.

A secure **Internet platform** with limited access to authorized users will be established, where the data/information from the region as well as the analytical regional situation reports will be displayed.

For the intricate elaboration of nationally consolidated estimates on THB including the hidden sides, it is suggested to utilize the methodology of interactive *Focus Group* Discussions (following a good practice in Czech Republic) with most relevant stakeholders, including NGOs, field workers, law enforcement personnel, health workers, labour inspectors, government officials, prosecutors, but also research institutes/Universities, etc. This approach offers the additional advantage of building a common understanding among participating stakeholders on the issue at hand.

The Steering Group will attend regional meetings to give guidance on the submission of the national input of data and information as well as on the elaboration of the annual *Regional THB Assessment Reports* (in cooperation with a data analyst), including an ‘early warning’ of emerging trends and patterns, along with recommendations for further action.

These reports will be communicated to the government representatives, e.g. in the framework of recurring **High Level Ministerial Round Table** meetings, for policy action.

Required input:

Countries: Provide data/estimates/information as per *Annex 2* to the internet platform; nominate national focal points; join the regional Steering Group to give guidance on the coordination of national responses and to attend regional meetings for the elaboration of the *Regional THB Assessment Reports*.

The Project Management Team will appoint a data analyst; support the organization of and/or organize regional meetings (preferably in conjunction with a host country of the region); maintain the regional Internet platform in cooperation with IT-experts.

- **Regional Internet Clearing House Platform for Practitioners**

There is a wealth of expertise and know-how in the region, which is not or only partly known to practitioners in other countries. Anyways-scarce resources are wasted when states develop policies and practical measures without building upon and learning from good examples of others. The *Regional Initiative* therefore seeks to enhance the continuous sharing of data, information, experiences and know-how in the region and their dissemination among practitioners and

responsible politicians in the participating States. By fostering the pooling of the expertise available in the region, the knowledge base will improve, synergies will be created and coordinated responses and operational cooperation can be enhanced within the region. Overall anti-trafficking measures will be more targeted and to the point.

Activities

An **Internet platform** with limited access to authorized users (national coordinators/focal points) will be established to serve as a regional clearinghouse and platform for practitioners of the region to exchange information on all forms of human trafficking and to be used as means of direct communication on the issue.

It will offer virtual meeting places and thematic discussion fora for the practitioners from participating countries. To support this exchange, the platform will also include the contact details of anti-trafficking practitioners in the region.

Moreover, the Internet platform will support the Regional Research Network (see below) and display information and research reports/findings as well as media reports from the region, as collected via the national focal points. Additional research discussion fora may also be set up.

The national focal points are encouraged to liaise with national THB experts and practitioners (via national round tables or similar) in order to facilitate the provision of relevant national information and reports to the website.

The Regional Internet Clearing House may also be linked to already existing anti-trafficking platforms/websites (i.e. EC, UN.GIFT, etc.).

Required input:

Countries: Submit relevant national information, reports, articles, other relevant material to the Internet platform.

The Project Management Team will support the organization of and/or organize (preferably in conjunction with a host country of the region) a Round Table for experts, national coordinators/focal points to discuss the setting up of the Regional Internet Clearing House; maintain the Internet platform.

B. PREVENTION

- **Capacity-Building Training**

In line with recommendations of the EU and other actors, steps will be taken to step up the early identification of THB cases and victims especially for labour exploitation and domestic servitude by enhancing the capacities of relevant stakeholders to recognize human trafficking and fostering inter-agency and multidisciplinary cooperation.

Regional Train the Trainers (ToT) seminars and meetings will be held involving law enforcement officials, labour inspectors, trade unions, consular services, immigration officials, NGOs and other relevant actors on the detection and identification of cases of trafficking for labour exploitation and domestic servitude.

- Regional Training on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation

In order to improve the understanding of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in the region, a Regional Train the Trainers seminar will be implemented. The objective of the ToT is to raise awareness of the phenomenon; to enhance the capacities of practitioners; as well as to identify and assist persons trafficked for labour exploitation. During the ToT seminar practitioners will

present and discuss existing practices in view of fostering harmonized approaches that will in turn facilitate regional cooperation against THB for forced labour. The ToT seminar will be multidisciplinary bringing together labour inspectors, trade unions, NGOs, and legal advisors experienced on work issues. After the regional ToT seminar a national ToT workshop on trafficking for labour exploitation will be organized in the participating countries of the region. The national ToT workshops will aim at disseminating the knowledge, experiences and contacts gathered, thus having a multiplication effect that will contribute to obtaining sustainable results.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate max. 3 selected participants to attend the regional ToT seminar; organize a follow-up national ToT workshop.

The Project Management Team will support the organization of and/or organize (preferably in conjunction with a host country of the region) the regional ToT seminar; support the participating countries in the organization of the national follow-up ToT workshops.

- **Good Practices**
Exchange and Mainstreaming

- Human Trafficking for Domestic Servitude

The vast majority of victims of domestic servitude are women and girls. Therefore, a gender perspective is needed not only to deal with trafficking for sexual exploitation, but also to deal with trafficking for labour exploitation. In addition to domestic work, women are also severely exploited in other sectors such as agriculture, restaurants and hospitality, food processing and the textile industry. Trafficked domestic workers have been found working in the homes not only of the upper middle class, but also of impoverished families. They are also found in diplomats' households. Typically their documents are confiscated as soon as they arrive; they are forced to work; and they are constantly at the disposal of the exploiter night and day, every day of the week. They are told that they cannot speak to anyone, nor use the phone or leave the house unaccompanied or without authorization; often they have no room for themselves and sleep on the floor or in the kitchen. They are often exposed to ill and degrading treatment including psychological and sexual abuse, and are practically starved, confinement and physical punishment. They may also be held captive with subtle psychological coercion; the exploiter may institute such fear that the person may not reasonably believe that she or he could leave. They often bear for years the consequences of such mistreatment, in terms of physical and psychological health. Many endure these circumstances for years, isolated, unaware of their rights and of the local language. They have no idea where to seek help, or are too afraid to think of escaping and remain entrapped in a web of coercion and of social, cultural, administrative and economic dependencies.

One common pattern that NGOs and law enforcement have observed is that in cases of trafficking for domestic servitude, there is usually a clear intention of exploitation from the very beginning, that is to say at the recruitment stage. Recruitment can be done directly by the individual exploiter, or through intermediaries or placement agencies. Some trafficked domestic workers are forced to borrow money at exorbitant interest rates to pay recruitment and transportation fees. They usually do not know to whom to report the abuse or are afraid of reporting it for fear of deportation and of being unable to pay back their debt, and so they are kept in debt bondage and endure exploitative and coercive working conditions. Another important aspect is that children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for domestic work. Child domestic labour is widespread, and girls under 16 years of age are employed in domestic service more than in any other form of labour (see more OSCE reports, studies, etc.)

Several countries in the region have already experience in addressing domestic servitude and set up effective counter measures. In Austria, for instance, domestic workers have to personally collect their work permit at the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. When they pick it up, an official from the Ministry informs them of their rights as Austrian residents and workers. The official also informs them about the dangers of human trafficking and provides them with contacts of relevant NGOs and police stations. In addition, their employer must comply with several requirements such as providing a proof of the opening of a bank account for the domestic worker at a bank domiciled in Austria.

Activities

A Regional Expert Round Table on domestic servitude will be organized (with expert input from OSCE) in order to discuss major challenges in combating trafficking for the purpose of domestic servitude and to identify good practices to be implemented in the region. National Expert Round Tables in the participating countries shall raise awareness of this hidden crime among authorities and the public (law enforcement, health practitioners, social workers, education staff, hotel staff etc.), raise the capacity to counteract it and facilitate the identification of victims and the detection of the crime.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate max. 3 participants to attend the Regional Expert Round Table on domestic servitude; organize a follow-up national Expert Round Table focussing on the implementation of good practices identified at the Regional Expert Round Table.

The Project Management Team will organize and/or support the organization of the Regional Expert Round Table (preferably in conjunction with a host country of the region); support the participating countries in the organization of the national follow-up Expert Round Tables.

- Education Programmes for Youth

Considering that young people, especially between 14 and 18, are among the principal target groups of traffickers, it is essential to focus the prevention of human trafficking on the youth, as this age, constituting the transition to the adult life and finding one's own place in society, poses high risks of trafficking and exploitation. Good initiatives have been developed in the region such as the awareness raising activities of the Slovenian NGO Ključ for secondary school students (aged from 14 to 18 years old) and importantly involving three target groups: the students, their parents and the teachers.

The students are informed about the risks of being trafficked and especially about the various recruitment methods of traffickers, including the utilization of social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc.), and are taught self-protective behaviour. The parents as well as the teachers are made aware of all forms of human trafficking and are instructed how to recognize signs of trafficking and what to do. To address and inform the three target groups - students, their parents and their teachers - has proven to be an effective way of preventing human trafficking.

Regrettably, such school initiatives have tended to be ad hoc rather than being mainstreamed into school curricula, so that their implementation is sporadic and dependent on the availability of funding as well as on the good will of schools and their administration.

The *Regional Initiative* will therefore foster and promote the implementation and the mainstreaming of effective awareness raising/education programmes for youth, by focusing especially on labour exploitation and domestic servitude, in the participating countries.

Activities

A regional Round Table will be held in one of the participating countries to review and assess existing practices and experiences in the region. Based on this exchange of experiences the Round Table will recommend good practices of education programmes for youth, addressing in particular trafficking for labour exploitation and domestic servitude. The participating states will then ensure the implementation of at least one pilot education programme at national level, and promote its mainstreaming into school curricula. A second regional Round Table may be held to share lessons learnt of the pilot and to adapt the recommended good practices for implementation accordingly.

An exhibition on THB for schools, developed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs in cooperation with the Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools, is available in German upon request. The exhibition includes a Manual for school teachers, which offers practical explanations and examples of THB as well as questions and answers students may have.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate a national focal point (expert on education programmes for youth) to attend the Regional Round Tables; organize a pilot of a national education programme for youth; develop a strategy for its mainstreaming.

The Project Management Team will provide expert input; organize and/or support the organization (preferably in conjunction with a host country of the region) of the Regional Expert Round Tables; support the participating countries in the organization of the national pilot education programmes.

- **Mutually Beneficial Partnerships**

Mutually beneficial multi-stakeholder cooperation within and between countries and regions of origin and destination is a prerequisite for improved prevention, but also combat and redress of all forms of human trafficking, including the successful protection and (re-integration) assistance to trafficked persons. The EU Action Oriented Paper (AOP) therefore recommends the design and implementation of “THB partnership initiatives”.

Since bringing together countries and/or regions of origin, transit and destination as well as IOs, NGOs and private sector actors is of primary importance, such partnership initiatives must tackle human trafficking in a comprehensive way and be tailored to the countries in question, based on a concrete situation analysis and needs assessment. Accordingly, the partnerships must contain tailored measures in the area of prevention (including addressing identified root causes, fostering social inclusion and empowerment of at risk groups, creating legal labour migration schemes, information campaigns etc.), protection (mainstreaming Trans-National Referral Mechanisms – see more ICMPD handbook, reports, studies) for victim identification and prosecution, capacity-building and training measures, as well as measures to enhance coordination and data/information sharing. They will also have to comprise evaluation mechanisms to ensure smooth implementation and continued relevance as well as identification of efficient practices. In line with these recommendations, the *Regional Initiative* will focus on the development/launch of concrete 'THB partnership' initiatives within the region and with third countries.

The participating States have identified countries of common interest and concern, both within the region, such as Slovakia and Hungary or outside the region, such as Bulgaria and Romania, on the one hand, and with third countries such as Nigeria, on the other.

- Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Nigeria

The countries participating in this *Regional Initiative* have identified Nigeria as one of the main countries of origin of trafficking to Europe and the region, thus selecting it to start implementing comprehensive prevention measures, which will go beyond awareness raising, addressing the underlying causes of human trafficking.

It is estimated that some 50.000 to 60.000 Nigerian nationals are victims of trafficking, including for labour exploitation and domestic servitude, within the region and that Nigeria represents therefore a country of concern where concerted efforts will be put to strengthen the dialogue and enforce mutually beneficial partnerships.

Italy (through a joint initiative of experts from the NGO PARSEC in close cooperation with IOM with the support of the Italian Government and with Norway and the Netherlands as partners) has since long researched and applied preventive measures in Nigeria, involving the central and local Nigerian counterparts and institutions. These measures have been assessed as good practice to build on when launching further concrete preventive actions by the *Regional Initiative*.

The methodology for the prevention strategy against trafficking in human beings from Nigeria to Italy/Europe thus implemented, is based on the following rationale and activities:

A preliminary assessment of the project's feasibility was jointly carried out amongst European/Italian and local experts/stakeholders in Nigeria. The project was discussed and developed on the basis of the outcome of the assessment in a win-win approach to reach mutual beneficial partnerships.

A mapping exercise was carried out on the endemic trafficking areas of Benin City where most victims come from. A research-action was implemented in order to assess which are the main factors that expose the Benin City areas and its young population to trafficking in human beings. The findings were discussed in a steering group.

The involvement of the local group leaders, civil society, the institutional agencies (Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other related Matters - NAP TIP) and academia (The Benin City and Lagos University) was encouraged (concept of synergic support) in order to define along each step the common objectives. In particular a focus was put on the interventions in favour of victims returning from Europe and for fostering their reintegration into the Nigerian socio-economic context (long term integration measures after sheltering upon arrival). Local NGO's were chosen through an official selection and contracted to play a major role in the victims' reintegration process. Ad hoc training was performed for its personnel to prepare them to deal with traumatized victims and to respond to their immediate and long term needs.

Building on the outcome of the research on endemic areas of trafficking, small projects were funded to address the local needs and improve the social, economic and educational level of the local community, thus preventing the youth population to fall pray of the organized crime circuits.

Activities

Invite the national coordinators/rapporteurs/focal points and selected experts from NGOs, Academia, community group leaders to take part in a Round Table, hosted by the Italian Government by first half of March 2011.

Provide in-depth information and data on THB from and in Nigeria (recruitment process, pull factors, routes, etc.) and share information and data on trafficked Nigerian nationals in the countries of the region as well as the social services provided to them, etc.

Develop the Terms of Reference for a mission in Nigeria to take an insight on the preventive good practice of the Italian cooperative project in consideration of its longstanding experience and consolidated expertise and assess feasibility of future actions within the *Regional Initiative*.

Establish a steering group of the *Regional Initiative* and further identification of the

implementation sectors for concrete joint actions against human trafficking.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate selected experts and officials to attend the regional networking/experts meetings including the Round Table hosted by Italy; provide data and information on (presumed) trafficked Nigerians in the respective country; nominate a steering group member.

The Project Management Team will support the organization of the initial Round Table (hosted by Italy in March 2011) and regional meetings in cooperation with host countries of the region; expert input.

**- Preventing Child Trafficking
Bulgaria and Romania**

Children are especially vulnerable to human trafficking. According to International Organizations, an estimated 20% of all victims of human trafficking are children and despite great efforts of states, international and nongovernmental organizations and the numerous counter-trafficking projects child trafficking is still on the rise. The identification of child victims of trafficking is difficult and often not being done properly. Consequently they don't receive support and protection and they tend to remain in a cycle of (re-) trafficking and exploitation. Within the *Regional Initiative*, Bulgaria and Romania were identified as the main countries of origin for unaccompanied minors (UAMs)/trafficked minors in the region.

The *Regional Initiative* will therefore focus on the enhancement of regional cooperation and networking to prevent child trafficking and to find durable solutions for trafficked children with due consideration of the well-being of the child. It will reinforce cooperation, as well as information and experience exchange and pooling among especially youth welfare authorities, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations within the region. Such cooperation aims at improving knowledge about child trafficking in the region, through the generation of comprehensive and comparable data on child trafficking in the region, enabling evidence-based trend analysis, the design and implementation of targeted prevention programs, pro-active law-enforcement actions and enhanced (inter-) national prosecution of traffickers. Moreover, it will provide stakeholders with good practices to properly identify potential and presumed victims of child trafficking as well as to avoid re-trafficking with a view of implementing durable solutions, taking into account the best interest of the child. The initiative also aims at fostering improved specialized support services for child victims of trafficking in line with agreed standards of care and support for UAMs / (potentially) trafficked children.

Activities

A regional practitioner's network will be set up comprising relevant actors (law enforcement, youth welfare authorities, civil society organizations, etc.) within and between the participating states and with selected countries of origin (Bulgaria and Romania). The network will focus on sharing and pooling of experiences and know-how. It will foster a harmonized approach for data collection and data/information sharing based on agreed definitions. Based on the data provided, analytical regional situation reports on THB for children in the region will be prepared. Moreover, it will focus on the implementation of joint operational standards for the treatment of unaccompanied minors and the provision of services to trafficked children, taking into consideration existing national good practices, such as the cooperation established with stakeholders by the Viennese Crisis Centre "Drehscheibe", in Austria its neighbouring countries. The network will also engage in supporting the development and implementation of MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) or similar cooperation agreements between countries of origin and destination. In addition, targeted multidisciplinary trainings will be implemented for all involved actors in order to sensitize on child

trafficking and the required special comprehensive counter measures (see more: UNICEF guidelines, reports, studies, etc, and ECPAT).

The data and information collected and provided in the framework of this Initiative will be available via the Regional Internet Clearing House/Platform for Practitioners (see above); thematic discussion fora supporting the experience and know-how exchange on this issue among stakeholders may be established.

For countries lacking specialized institutions, it is recommended to transform one existing social institution for children into a specialized institution for unaccompanied (potentially) trafficked minors who come to the attention of authorities and other relevant actors. Bringing together all possible child trafficking cases into one specialized institution may not only simplify the cooperation and coordination at all levels (national, regional and international) but also the identification process, the generation of data and the provision of cost-efficient comprehensive support for child victims of trafficking. In countries with existing decentralized structures comprising several institutions for UAMs/(potentially) trafficked minors, the national coordinator/focal point should enhance and strengthen the national coordination, cooperation and information / data collection for exchange at regional level.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate a national focal point to attend the regional networking/experts meetings, and to facilitate national coordination and data/information gathering and sharing within the region.

The Project Management Team will support the organization of and/or organize regional meetings in cooperation with host countries of the region; provide expert input; maintain Internet platform.

- Skills Development

Comprehensive Education Programmes for Young Migrants

Young migrants, regardless their status, constitute a group at high risk of potential trafficking either upon return to the country of origin, or when staying in the country of destination, due to the lack of language, social and vocational skills with limited chances of social and economic integration. Along with consideration for ensuring the well-being of the child and the child's universal right to education and in line with Council of Europe recommendations, some European countries have begun implementing schemes for intensified language and vocational/educational training of at least one year duration, independent on the child migrants' prospects for longer term legal residence in the hosting country. The development of child's skills and capacities, regardless of the eventual outcome of asylum proceedings, is in the best interest of the child, since a person with more developed skills and competences possesses better self-motivation and self-confidence and can better integrate into the host country and better re-integrate at home or any other society. It also helps to prevent and/or reduce the risks of child trafficking and exploitation. The **Regional Initiative** therefore seeks to contribute to the enhancement of capacities and capabilities of young migrants.

Activities

A Regional Round Table will be held in one of the participating countries in order to share experiences and expertise in skill development/education programmes for young migrants, and to identify good practices (regional good practice guide). Further, a joint regional education initiative will be identified or developed for subsequent implementation in the participating countries.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate a national focal point (expert on skills development programmes for young migrants) to attend the Regional Round Table; foster implementation of the identified regional skills development programme at national level.

The Project Management Team will provide expert input; support the organization of and/or organize the Regional Expert Round Table (preferably in conjunction with a host country of the region); support the implementation of the national skill development/education programmes.

C. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Towards Evidence-Based Policies and Measures

The scarcity of knowledge about human trafficking, its nature and its true extent, but also about the various factors contributing to and/or determining human trafficking is a serious impediment to the design and implementation of effective policies and programmes to prevent and combat human trafficking, as well as to the evaluation of their longer term impact. Current THB prevention and protection policies and programmes are only partly successful since they tend to not fully reflect the complex reality. This is particularly true with regard to trafficking for labour exploitation and for sectors of exploitation that are predominantly “female”, such as the textile industry or domestic work. In order to fill this knowledge gap, the *Regional Initiative* will embark on regional research on human trafficking into labour exploitation, especially women, in the region. Further, it will establish a regional network of THB researchers in order to foster the continuous exchange and information flow on research in the region and to create synergies and possibly further joint ventures. The resulting enhancement of the insight into the intricacies of human trafficking within the region and beyond, will provide politicians and experts/practitioners with a sound basis for both policy making and designing targeted and effective anti-trafficking interventions.

- **Regional Research**
Trafficking for Labour Exploitation – the Female Sectors

In the framework of the *Regional Initiative* a Regional Study on trafficking for labour exploitation with a focus on the female sectors of exploitation, such as the textile industry and domestic work etc., will be carried out.

Activities

Under the overall lead of a renowned international research institute/researcher, the participating countries will in parallel conduct comparative national research, according to an agreed regional research methodology, through national research institutes and/or Universities in the participating countries. The participating countries will nominate national focal points for the research who will form the Steering Group and attend the regional meetings to kick-start the research, to present the national findings and to give guidance on the elaboration of the regional synthesis report, including policy recommendations, in conjunction with the lead researcher.

The research will be both quantitative and qualitative. It will utilize sampling methods that have previously been used to sample other hard-to-reach populations; such as the *sampling of „hot spots“*, i.e. an intensive search for victims in areas known to have high concentrations of victims; or the methodology of *„double sampling“* which was employed by the ILO when producing estimates of forced labour. Qualitatively, it will rely on in-depth interviews with individual stakeholders, as well as *Focus Group Discussions*, featuring structured interactive discussions with most relevant stakeholders, including NGOs, field workers, law enforcement personnel, health workers, labour inspectors, government officials, prosecutors, etc. This approach offers the additional advantage of building a common understanding among participating stakeholders on the issue at hand.

The regional report along with its policy recommendations will be presented to the government representatives of the participating countries, at a **High Level Ministerial Round Table** discussion, for further policy action.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate a national focal point to attend the regional coordination meetings; conduct national level research as per agreed methodology with the involvement of national researchers/Universities.

The Project Management Team will provide the research lead and methodology; expert input; support the organization of and/or organize regional meetings in cooperation with host countries of the region.

- **Regional Research Network**

A regional network of researchers will be created in order to foster the continuous sharing of enhanced knowledge on human trafficking, to pool it, to create synergies and to trigger additional joint research endeavours. Annual Research Network meetings will be held within the region, and the Internet platform of the Regional Clearing House (see above) will be utilized to facilitate the spreading of information and research (summary) reports/findings and to foster the regular virtual exchange on THB issues, through thematic discussion fora, etc. States will nominate national research focal points, who will also serve as interfaces to their respective national research communities, ensuring information flow from and to the region, including the provision of reports, information on ongoing/concluded research, emerging research questions etc., both at the Regional Research Network meetings and via the Internet platform. In addition, they will also organize regular national research meetings.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate national research focal points to attend the Regional Research Network meetings and ensure continuous information flow from and to the Region, via the Internet platform and via the Regional Research Network meetings; organize regular national Research Round Tables.

The Project Management Team will organize and/or support the organization of the Regional Research Network meetings in cooperation with host countries of the region; provide expert input; maintain the Internet platform.

- **Evidence-Based Policies**

Counter-trafficking measures, especially in the field of prevention and protection, are handicapped by the fact that there is insufficient monitoring and evaluation of the measures undertaken, and especially of the impact – both intended and unintended – of these measures, and of their impact on the human rights of trafficked persons. This is, inter alia, due to the lack of baseline data against which to measure the impact as well as the weaknesses in project design and in the monitoring and evaluation plans. It has also forestalled the development of more targeted, effective anti-trafficking policies and programmes. As a result there have been calls for sound project evaluation, and for the creation of 'evidence-based' policies and measures. Not least due to the difficulties involved, few efforts have been made to work towards an evidence base and to systematically and rigorously assess the success, effectiveness and impact of anti-trafficking measures, including measures that have been declared 'best practices', nor are there any assessments of the transferability of these practices to other contexts.

It is therefore suggested to make a contribution towards the creation of an evidence base and 'good practices' on 'THB partnerships for prevention', with a view to supporting the design,

implementation and impact evaluation of future partnerships.

Activities

It is planned to review the existing evidence base of 'THB partnerships' by way of conducting a systematic review of past and currently implemented THB partnership programmes in the region, whereby the validity of project results and impacts will be assessed. The lead question will be: **What works under which circumstances?** The usefulness and effectiveness of THB partnership programmes and existing practices and their transferability to other contexts will be assessed. Due to the poor data situation all reports, studies, as well as 'best practices' - such as the successful cooperation between Hungary and Switzerland - will be included. The review will be conducted by an experienced evaluator in conjunction with government authorities, IOs, NGOs and other actors, who will be asked to contribute evaluation reports, studies and best practice reports, as well as their expertise in one or more regional expert/review meetings. The evaluation/review will result in the recommendation of 'good practices' for future effective anti-trafficking partnerships, along with an evaluation framework enabling impact assessments – to be henceforth utilized by implementers, with a view of creating a future evidence base.

Required input:

Countries: Nominate national focal points to attend the regional expert meetings and ensure expert input from all national actors/implementers.

The Project Management Team will provide and support the evaluator; implement the review; organize and/or support the organization of regional expert meetings in cooperation with host countries of the region.

Annex 1: Regional Data and Information collection and sharing mechanism on THB – Data to be collected (in line with the *Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings including Comparable Indicators*²):

The data listed below is in line with the recommended minimum set of data that should be collected:³

General Information

Year of registration

Country of registration

Source of information/reporting agency:

- Police
- Prosecutor
- Court
- NGO

1. Data/Information on Victims

Age (below/over 18)

Gender

Nationality

Country of recruitment

Country of destination

2. Data on Traffickers

Gender

Nationality

Member of a network/group

Was the trafficker/exploiter arrested?

Was the trafficker/exploiter convicted?

3. Type of exploitation

Sexual

Labour

- domestic servitude
- agriculture
- textile
- restaurants
- construction
- other

Both – sexual and labour

Other

4. Police Data

Number of persons arrested for/suspected of THB

Breakdown males/female

Breakdown Age (below/over 18)

² IOM/Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior , February 2009, available at: www.iomvienna.at

³ See *Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings including Comparable Indicators*, IOM/Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior , February 2009, p. 18

5. Prosecution Data

Number of persons prosecuted

Breakdown males/female

Breakdown Age (below/over 18)

Additionally, court data could also be shared on related crimes under which trafficking cases (as per the international definition) may be prosecuted, along with estimates on the extent to which this occurs.

By collecting these data and information we can produce the following aggregated statistics:

Total number of victims in the region – disaggregated by age, gender, nationality and type of exploitation; number of victims provided assistance and/or given residence permits; number of victims repatriated; main third countries of origin; nationalities of traffickers/exploiters; number of traffickers/exploiters convicted.

Annex 2: “Traffic-o-meter” – exchanging information on THB in order to assess the extent and forms of trafficking for labour exploitation and domestic servitude.⁴

Please provide your assessment regarding the questions below:

LABOUR EXPLOITATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very low				Medium					Very high

1. Please indicate your estimation of the problem of **trafficking for labour exploitation** in the following industries, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Agriculture _____
 - Construction industry _____
 - Health sector _____
 - Restaurants/Tourism _____
 - Textile/fashion industry _____
 - other: _____
pls. specify: _____

2. Please indicate who are the victims of labour exploitation, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Women _____
 - Under 18 years old _____
 - Men _____
 - Under 18 years old _____
 - Please indicate the country(ies) of origin: _____

3. Please estimate the problem of **coercion/forced labour situations** in the national labour market, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Retention of passport or ID documents _____
 - withholding of wages or refusal of payment _____
 - threat of denunciation to authorities _____
 - restriction of movement and/or confinement to the workplace or to a limited area _____
 - (threat of) physical or sexual violence; this may also include emotional torture like blackmail, condemnation, using abusive language and so on _____

4. Please estimate the problem of **exploitative working conditions**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Excessive working days/hours _____
 - Bad living conditions _____
 - Low or no salary _____
 - Work without contract _____
 - Very bad working conditions _____

⁴ Based on the ILO/EU “Operational indicators of human trafficking” and other relevant EU/EUROSTAT initiatives.

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very low		Medium						Very high	

1. Please indicate your estimation of the problem of trafficking for **domestic servitude**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high): _____
2. Please estimate who are the **victims of trafficking for domestic servitude**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Women _____
 - Under 18 years old _____
 - Men _____
 - Under 18 years old _____
 - Please indicate the country(ies) of origin: _____
3. Please indicate if you have conducted any actions to prevent trafficking for domestic servitude?
4. Are there any NGOs providing assistance to trafficked domestic workers?

CHILD TRAFFICKING

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very low		Medium						Very high	

- Please indicate your estimation of the **problem of child trafficking**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high): _____
- Please indicate who are the **victims of child trafficking**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Girls _____
 - Boys _____
 - Please indicate the country(ies) of origin: _____
- Please indicate your estimation of the problem of, and the extent of trafficking among, **unaccompanied minor migrants**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high): _____
- Please indicate your estimation of the problem of **children working in the street**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Selling items _____
 - Providing services _____
 - Begging _____
 - Cleaning window shields at traffic lights _____
 - Other – pls. specify: _____
- Please indicate your estimation of the extent of **children involved in**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):
 - Prostitution _____
 - Delinquency (theft) _____

REACTION AND SUPPORT OFFERED

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very low				Medium					Very high

1. Please indicate what kind of **reaction/support victims of trafficking** for labour exploitation receive from the authorities if they report the case, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):

- Deportation/Repatriation _____
- Assisted voluntary return _____
- Residence in the country _____
- Work permit _____
- Other – pls. specify: _____

Can you cite any good practices? Yes/No

If yes, which one(s) pls.

specify: _____

2. Please indicate what kind of **reaction/support victims of trafficking for domestic servitude** receive from the authorities if they report the case, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):

- Deportation/Repatriation _____
- Assisted voluntary return _____
- Residence in the country _____
- Work permit _____
- Other – pls. specify: _____

Can you cite any good practices? Yes/No

If yes, which one(s) pls.

specify: _____

3. Please indicate what kind of reaction/support can **child trafficking victims** receive from the authorities if they report the case, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):

- Return/Deportation _____
- Residence in the country _____
- Prospect of permanent residence in country _____
- Other – pls. specify: _____

Can you cite any good practices? Yes/No

If yes, which one(s) pls.

specify: _____

4. Please indicate your estimation of the **quality of services for child victims**, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high): _____

AWARENESS OF THE PHENOMENA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very low				Medium					Very high

1. In your opinion, what is the **public awareness of trafficking** for, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):

- Labour exploitation _____
- Domestic servitude _____
- Child Trafficking _____

2. In your opinion, what is the **awareness of relevant authorities** as regards trafficking for, using a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high):

- Labour exploitation _____
- Domestic servitude _____
- Child Trafficking _____

CHALLENGES/ACHIVEMENTS

2. In your opinion, what are the **main challenges** to combat THB in these areas? Please list at least three:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. What do you consider as your **main recent achievement**?

Pls.

specify: _____

Annex 3: Possible Call for Proposals - Regional Initiative

- **Prevention and fight against crime – ISEC**

ISCE Priorities 2010	Regional Initiative Master Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trafficking in human beings: prevention, protection of victims, prosecution and investigation of offenders, coordination and cooperation mechanisms, as well as the collection of reliable data; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regional mechanism on Data and Information Sharing on THB ➤ Early identification of Victims ➤ Mutually beneficial THB Partnerships for Prevention ➤ Strengthening cooperation between countries of origin and destination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development and implementation of instruments on preventing and fighting sexual exploitation of children and on-line sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including prevention of recidivism, identification of child victims through pornographic materials; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Traffic-o-meter – towards developing a THB index and an early warning system on THB ➤ Regional Internet Clearing House ➤ Research on the Underlying Factors of THB in order to fight the root causes of the crime ➤ Monitoring and Evaluation of best practices in preventing THB among participating countries

Eligibility criteria

Applications must be submitted by bodies and organisations with legal personality established in one of the EU Member States. Entities established in third countries', **international organisations** and **EU Agencies** may participate as Associate Partners but solely on a **non-cost basis** (partners not receiving funding from the Commission), and are **not permitted to submit applications**.

Projects must relate to **one or more** of the **priorities** of this Call under section 2 and **at least one** of the specific **objectives** of the ISEC Programme. **Transnational** projects must involve partners in **at least two Member States**.

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/isec/funding_isec_en.htm

- **EC Thematic Programme: Migration and Asylum**

Thematic Programme of Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum (2009 – 2010)	Regional Initiative Master Plan
Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fighting illegal immigration and facilitating the readmission of illegal immigrants; ➤ Protecting migrants against exploitation and exclusion and supporting the fight against trafficking in human beings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strengthening and reinforcing cooperation between countries of origin and destination in order to prevent THB (i.e. cooperation with Nigeria) ➤ Developing and implementing trainings for all involved actors ➤ Collecting, sharing and analysing gathered data on THB
Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stimulate operational transborder cooperation and capacity building at regional level, especially as regards 	

the fight against THB with full respect for human rights.	
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Eligible countries

All third countries covered under the ENPI, the DCI and the EDF are eligible, which implies that un-eligible are only the countries candidate to or having a perspective of accession to the EU and those included by the OECD in the list of developed countries (except the neighbours of the EU).

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/migration_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/ap/index_en.htm

- **DAPHNE III**

The **general objective** of the Daphne III Programme is to contribute to the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence and to attain a high level of health protection, well being and social cohesion. The programme's **specific objective** is to contribute to the prevention of and the fight against all forms of violence occurring in the public or the private domain against children, young people and women, including sexual exploitation and **trafficking in human beings**, by taking preventive measures and by providing support and protection for victims and groups at risk.

DAPHNE III Priorities for 2011	Regional Initiative Master Plan
➤ Rights of victims of violence	➤ Improved protection for child victims of trafficking in countries of origin and destination, especially girls
➤ Media violence, particularly violence linked to new technology and social networking tools	➤ Education Programmes for minors regarding new internet technologies and how to protect themselves
➤ Children as victims and perpetrators of violence – in particular activities addressing the most vulnerable children such as unaccompanied minors, victims of sexual exploitation , disabled or Roma children , children as victims of violence within family (by siblings, parents, other relatives); children as perpetrators of violence (i.e. bullying, violence within family such as on siblings, on mothers, on elderly family members) and best practices of child friendly justice.	➤ Enhance initiatives regarding language, social and vocational skills for vulnerable children such as unaccompanied minors or victims of trafficking ➤ Foster cooperation programmes on strengthening youth welfare authorities, civil society organizations and law enforcement at the national and regional level in order to provide good care for children at risk

Target groups

The main target groups (or intermediary groups) of the activities shall be, *inter alia*, children, young people and women who are, or at risk of becoming, victims of violence, families, teachers and educational staff, social workers, police and border guards, local, national and military authorities, medical and paramedical staff, judicial staff, NGOs, trade unions and religious communities.

Eligibility criteria

Open to participation by private or public organisations and institutions (local authorities at the appropriate level, university departments and research centres).

Proposals must be submitted by **organisations** which are **legally established** (excluding natural persons) in one of the 27 EU Member States or the EFTA States that are parties to the EEA Agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)⁵ and they must involve **at least two** of these;

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/daphne3/funding_daphne3_en.htm

- **Fundamental Rights and Citizenship**

Thematic priorities for 2011	Regional Initiative Master Plan
<u>Data Protection and Privacy Rights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training and awareness raising on data protection including general information on the fundamental right to the protection of personal data and awareness-raising campaigns, for example on the occasion of the European Data Protection Day (28th January); ➤ Improving practical cooperation between Data Protection Authorities; ➤ Reinforcing children's privacy in the on line environment; ➤ Identifying and tackling the challenges posed by new technologies for the fundamental right to data protection; ➤ Technological and organisational means to improve data protection compliance including, privacy by design, privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs) and privacy seals. 	<u>Regional Mechanism on Data and Information Sharing on THB</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focusing on training and awareness raising regarding data collection ➤ Focusing on data protection mechanisms regarding THB cases ➤ Fostering cooperation among the participating countries regarding data collection, data sharing and data protection ➤ Outlining the protection of children regarding data collection ➤ Focusing on new online platforms (such as Facebook, twitter, chat rooms, etc.) and protection mechanisms for minors (potential VoT) <p><i>Note: Data collection activities would need to be adapted.</i></p>
<u>Fundamental Rights</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of children's rights as enshrined in the Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. 	<u>Strengthening Cooperation in order to Prevent Child Trafficking</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Foster children's rights such as the right for education

Eligibility criteria

Applications must be submitted by eligible applicants of the 27 EU Member States and must involve partner organisations from at least two of these.

Target group

The Programme is targeted at Union citizens, citizens of participating countries or third country nationals residing legally within the European Union territory and civil society associations active in promoting the objectives of this Programme.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/rights/funding_rights_en.htm

⁵ Organisations from candidate countries, accession countries and the Western Balkan countries can only participate if they meet the specific conditions laid down in their respective European Agreements and/or Framework Agreements with the European Union for their participation in EU programmes. **Currently, none of these countries has fulfilled these conditions.**

- **EC Thematic Programme Investing in People Programme (IIP) 2007-2013**

Fighting Child Labour	Regional Initiative Master Plan
<p><u>Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To promote effective policy dialogue aimed at eradicating child labour, bringing victims of child labour, trafficking or violence into full-time quality education/vocational-education training and reintegrating them into society. ➤ To support partnership and networking between key stakeholders, in particular non-State actors, public entities and the private sector, by promoting corporate social responsibility in the area of child labour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education programmes for child victims of trafficking, particularly unaccompanied minors, who constitute a group at high risk of potential VoT. ➤ Strengthening cooperation between countries of origin and destination in order to prevent child trafficking and (re-) integrate trafficked children. ➤ Regional networking among relevant stakeholder in order to early identify child VoT, provide them with the adapted assistance and care.

Eligibility criteria

International (intergovernmental) organizations such as IOM are eligible as partners. Applicants for funding must be legal persons, non-profit making, and be non-State actors (e.g. NGOs, trade unions, teaching organizations). Applicants must further be nationals of an eligible country (Annex H), other developing countries specified in the OECD/DAC list, or from a European Economic Area Member State (EU MS, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/children-youth/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/investing_en.htm