



Police officers attending a training seminar.

Counter-trafficking Capacity Building and Awareness Raising for Officials in the Baltic States

Summary

JOINTLY funded by the US State Department and the British Embassy in Riga, this project aims to prevent and reduce trafficking in human beings in, to, from, and through the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania through targeted capacity building and competence development for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, and civil society representatives. It will have a particular focus on improving the efficiency of the prosecution process in trafficking cases.

The 18-month project consists of a preparation phase involving consultations with relevant stakeholders in order to assess training needs, methodologies, and the available infrastructure for training, and an implementation phase, focusing on:

- research on the problems related to prosecution of trafficking;
- development of training material;
- training for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, consular officials, and civil society representatives;
- a regional seminar (with participation of representatives from the Kaliningrad oblast of the Russian Federation);
- return and reintegration assistance for victims of trafficking from the Baltics.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants.



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Background and Objectives

Trafficking in human beings has evolved into a global, organized business that generates huge profits for traffickers and organized crime syndicates. The crime severely violates the fundamental human rights of victims and destroys their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. According to estimates, the number of victims worldwide varies from less than a million victims to around 4 million victims per year.

Women, men, and children from the Baltic States are trafficked to Western Europe, the Nordic countries, Southern Europe, the United States, and elsewhere. Traffickers profit from non-existent or relatively lax sanctions, insufficient coordination among authorities, and little awareness on the part of potential victims about the dangers of trafficking.

The overall objective of the “Counter-Trafficking Capacity Building and Awareness Raising for Officials in the Baltic States” pilot project is to prevent and curtail trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania through targeted capacity building and competence development for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, consular officials, and civil society representatives, with a specific focus on enhancing the inter-agency and intra-regional cooperation of relevant actors.

Project Activities

A. Preparatory Phase

During this phase the IOM offices in the Baltic States, in cooperation with other project partners, define the needs of relevant stakeholders in the project countries, identify training methods and strategies, and subcontract researchers and counter-trafficking specialists for the development of the training curriculum.

Project Information

Project Category	Counter-Trafficking
Geographical Coverage	Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
Project Management Site	IOM Vilnius, Lithuania
Target Group	Law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, civil society representatives
Funding Source	United States Department of State and the British Embassy in Riga
Project Duration	November 2005-May 2007

B. Implementation Phase

Module 1 involves research in each of the project countries to investigate obstacles in the prosecution of trafficking cases. The research is expected to highlight issues associated with inadequate legislation and protection for witnesses and problems with cooperation between different law enforcement agencies, e.g. police investigators and prosecutors. The research findings will provide material for the training manuals developed in Modules 2 and 3.

Module 2 involves the development and Publication of a training manual for law enforcement authorities in Lithuania. In Module 3 the manual is modified and published for use in Estonia and Latvia.

Module 4 involves the organization of three counter-trafficking training workshops in Latvia and Lithuania and two training workshops in Estonia for law enforcement authorities, prosecutors, judges, consular officials, and civil society representatives. The workshops focus on the development of the skills needed to respond to potential or suspected trafficking cases, outline the prosecution process,

The Baltic States



The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

and contribute to the development of expertise in assessing and supporting trafficking victims returned from abroad.

Module 5 includes a two-day seminar for around 45 law enforcement officials and civil society representatives from the Baltic States and the Kaliningrad oblast of the Russian Federation in order to enhance intra-regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking.

In **Module 6**, in collaboration with local, regional, and international partners, IOM provides voluntary return and reintegration assistance to around 20 victims of all forms of trafficking. The assistance includes transportation, psychological and medical counseling, and a reintegration component.

Sponsors and Partners

The project is supported by the United States Department of State and the British Embassy in Riga.

Project partners in participating countries are the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs, National Police, Border Guards, Migration Offices, and civil society representatives working with counter-trafficking.

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