



EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings

9-10 December 2013,
Brussels, Albert Borschette Conference Centre

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Working group 1: Involvement of the civil society in the implementation of the Directive on trafficking in human beings

Member States had to transpose the Directive 2011/36/EU on prevention and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims by 6 April 2013. However, the effective implementation of the Directive is also an indispensable step towards its full efficiency. Following the comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach stated in the Directive and the EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings 2012-2016, every relevant actor should be involved in this implementation. Moreover, the European Commission will submit by 6 April 2015 a report to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union assessing the extent to which the Member States have taken the necessary measures in order to comply with the Directive.

The objective of this working group is to discuss the possible ways for the civil society to be involved in the implementation of the Directive 2011/36/EU.

- **What can civil society do specifically to encourage the governments to swiftly and fully transpose and implement the Directive?**
- **To which extent could the civil society be involved in this process?**
- **On which particular provisions and actions could the civil society work and prioritise over?**
- **How could the civil society and the European Commission work together on progress made on the implementation of the Directive?**

Working group 2: Victims-centred approach (Identification, assistance and protection, National Referral Mechanisms)

The EU legal and policy framework is characterised by a human rights-based and gender specific approach and places victims at its heart. The Directive 2011/36/EU and the EU Strategy which complements the latter cover several aspects of victims' rights.

The Directive includes criminal law provisions, investigation, prosecution of offenders, jurisdiction, vulnerability of children, victims' rights in criminal proceedings, and victims' assistance and support.

Furthermore, it obliges Member States to take necessary measures for the early identification and assistance of victims based on cooperation between law enforcement and civil society organizations.

Against this background, the workshop will reflect on the following questions:

- **What are the key challenges in terms of identification, assistance and protection of victims?**
- **What are the current needs of NGOs in terms of identification, assistance and protection of victims?**
- **How can civil society collaborate and interact with the national administrations in the context of setting up and making full use of the National Referral Mechanisms?**
- **What are the good practices in terms of involvement of the civil society in the National Referral Mechanisms? How best practices could be exchanged?**

Working group 3: Demand reduction

The Directive 2011/36/EU obliges Member States to take appropriate measures to discourage and reduce the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation related to trafficking in human beings. The European Commission will submit a report by 6 April 2016 to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, assessing the impact of existing national law establishing as a criminal offence the use of services of victims with knowledge that they are objects of exploitation of trafficking in human beings, accompanied, if necessary, by adequate proposals.

This working group aims at discussing how civil society can be involved in this aspect of prevention of trafficking in human beings.

- **What are the main issues at the EU level and at the MS level relating to demand reduction?**
- **What are the current challenges on the ground for NGOs to address demand reduction?**
- **How can civil society be involved in demand reduction for all forms of trafficking at the MS and EU levels?**
- **How can the European Commission contribute to encouraging further the MS to curb demand as per art.18 of the EU Directive?**
- **How to measure demand reduction and how to assess the implementation of the obligation of reducing demand?**