



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CHILDREN,
EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Trafficking in children

A criminal act calling for a child protection response

20–21 June 2011
Oslo, Norway
Conference Report



Children's vulnerability to trafficking is recognised in the Baltic Sea Region. National Contact Points for unaccompanied and trafficked children are functional in almost all countries in the region and police and law enforcement regularly investigate on suspected cases of child trafficking. Legislation has moved forward so as to protect child victims and prosecute those exploiting them.

Ensuring a high level of preventive actions will necessitate further use of knowledge from all actors meeting with children.

The conference was organised as a part of the Norwegian presidency to the Council of the Baltic Sea States 2010–2011. Fight against trafficking in human beings was one of the priorities of the presidency and the Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion invited to this conference in cooperation with the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, EGCC. The EGCC was responsible for the organisation and the content of the conference.



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Introduction



Fight against trafficking in human beings was one of the specific priorities of the Norwegian presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) during the year July 2010 to June 2011. Some important outputs include the production of the Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on How to Assist and Protect Victims of Human Trafficking; and two major activities focused on information management: BSR IMPT project (Baltic Sea Region – Information Management to Prevent Trafficking) which mapped the existing holders of information and channels of information distribution with focus on children, and the study on Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region: “Hard Data”.

All these activities informed the Conference “Trafficking in Children – A Criminal Act Calling for a Child Protection Response” held in Oslo, Norway, on 20–21 June 2011. The conference was organised by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion together with the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC). The event attracted over 100 experts from all over the region with backgrounds in law enforcement, prosecution, child protection, outreach work, research, as well as governmental and non-governmental services aimed specifically at supporting child victims of trafficking. The results and conclusions of the conference will guide further work within the CBSS EGCC in this challenging field.

*Royal Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion
CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC)*

The EGCC implements the programme Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children in the Baltic Sea Region since 2003. To date, EGCC has established National Contact Points in all CBSS countries, each of them serving as a first point of cross-border contact able to assist directly or to forward the case of (potential) child trafficking to authorities with the required capacity. A series of 5 consecutive seminars for 50 professionals working with child victims of trafficking as well as expert seminars on emerging trends has been held. Information management has been addressed through a project focused specifically on identifying sources and credibility of information, holders of information and its management.

Summary¹



The conference gave an opportunity to critically consider the information gathered on child victims of trafficking both nationally and internationally as well as take a closer look at the scope of assistance provided to the victims. Previously understated forms of exploitation or risks thereof, such as begging, drug dealing, forced marriage or being a child to a trafficked person, have been properly put on the agenda.

It was emphasised that a child trafficking case is not necessarily a single event or an uninterrupted process. It is valuable to look at the trafficking situation in broader terms and accept, for example, that during travel a young person can experience periods of exploitation or that a case of someone moving away from home to look for better economic opportunities, flee or join parents, can turn into a trafficking situation later. It may also be the case that a child experienced abuse well before the trafficking situation started.

Since a trafficking case may be difficult to establish and fully describe at once, it is crucial that both confirmed and potential child victims are treated similarly and receive full assistance. Evidence may not be enough to identify the trafficker and press charges but sufficient to recognise the involved child or young person as a victim.

Amendments of the legal framework and/or practices may be necessary across the region in order to fully respond to the states' responsibilities to protect children: for example, Denmark is currently requiring the trafficking situation to have taken place in Denmark in order for the case to be verified as a case of trafficking, thus disregarding the possibility that any parts of the trafficking (e.g. exploitation) may have occurred en route. The Norwegian Government is soon going to present new amendments to the Child Welfare act in order to

have better tools to protect victims of trafficking, also in cases when the children do not present themselves as such. The proposals entail the possibility to place restrictions on the child including measures taken against his or her will in order to protect the child. In Norway, it is not necessary for a person to be a verified victim of trafficking in order to receive assistance.

Since various indicators and identification practices have previously been discussed in different forums, the conference focused on the weakest points in the process of identification of child victims.

It is known that the majority of trafficking cases are identified by the police. However, even duly trained with regards to trafficking, police officers may be unable to act. An unlawful act which would draw the attention of the police may never occur, or a criminal act may have occurred outside the country. The former possibility has been mentioned by many participants of the conference with regard to begging or prostitution, as these activities are not illegal in many countries making those involved in these activities difficult to identify. The latter has been mentioned above – trafficking may occur en route, or a person may have escaped a trafficking situation in another country.

Hence, it is simply not reasonable to fully rely on the police. Likewise, it is not possible to rely on children themselves – few of them recognise themselves as victims, even fewer would be able to or have the capacity to contact authorities.

Awareness raising among the public and enhanced knowledge among professionals working in a wide range of fields seems to be the only way forward. Identification and protection of child victims of trafficking or suspected child victims should be integrated in all welfare work and beyond. People working in child protection, reception centres for asylum seekers, law enforcement, legal assistance, healthcare, consular services, specific services such

¹ This chapter summarises the views expressed by participants of the conference in their own capacity. Any views reproduced in the summary do not necessarily reflect those of the organisers.

as hotels, as well as employers, consumers, and civil society, should have enough knowledge and be aware of a safe way to refer a suspected case to the relevant agencies. Agencies need to work in close partnerships both on a case-by-case basis and when drawing up strategies and action plans. Private, non-governmental and public actors should recognise their role and build up strong cooperation in order to optimise the services in general as well as to avoid secondary victimisation.

Increased knowledge will enable a more flexible handling of each case, allowing taking into consideration the different reasons for moving away from home, the different events that triggered the trafficking situation, the different patterns of vulnerability and exploitation. It will also inform the design of target-oriented prevention strategies.

The versatility of trafficking situations should, however, not overshadow the fact that child victims do have the same rights to protection and assistance regardless of the form of exploitation or acts they may be involved in as a part of the trafficking chain. When not identified as victims, potential child victims are denied their fundamental rights. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) proclaims that the best interest of the child is to be a primary consideration in all cases concerning the welfare of the child. Admittedly, the concept of "best interest" is not clearly defined. Nevertheless, the very idea of attending to the best interest of the child in the first place provides guidance when balancing between the interest of the immigration authorities, the interest of police and the interest of the child victim. UNICEF and other child-centred organisations play an important role in identifying gaps in state systems to recognise and prioritise the best interest of the child. Furthermore, no cases of discrimination against children may be justified by the perceived cultural expressions of a certain society.

Participants at the conference agreed that the official number of confirmed victims is very low. In order to obtain a more realistic picture countries would need to account for potential victims as well, make more use of qualitative data and specialised databases. Information exchange between agencies needs to be better facilitated by clarifying the data confidentiality policies and reviewing them when necessary. Gathering of sta-

tistical data should be coordinated on the international or regional level so that it would become possible to make more viable transnational comparisons and see the trends. Some guidelines on data collection are already in place and need to be taken into account. In addition, other sources of information need to be considered, and information that is less verifiable, anecdotes, cases of disappearing children need to be critically considered in order for such information to be assessed, triangulated and compared with information from other sources. This, however, needs to be done with clear reference to the original source and without distorting the information.

Welcome addresses²



20 June 2011

Introduction: *Mr Oddbjørn Hauge, Director General, Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion*

Mr Hauge welcomed all participants to the conference. He explained that during the Norwegian CBSS presidency fight against trafficking has been one of the three specified priorities. The scope of activities has recently been expanded responding to the emerging trends: trafficking for labour exploitation, begging, theft and drug dealing. These factors are reflected both in the path chosen for this conference, and also in the Norwegian plan of action against trafficking in human beings (2011–2014). The conference is important in allowing us to address these issues properly and look for adequate responses on the regional level. Mr Hauge wished all the participants a fruitful conference.

Welcome address: *Ms Henriette Westhrin, Deputy Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion*

Ms Westhrin welcomed participants to the conference emphasising that all the experts gathered here have one important goal – to protect children from a terrible crime that can not be tolerated. Contrary to the previous years when trafficking for sexual exploitation was mainly in focus, it is now trafficking for labour exploitation that draws more and more attention of the authorities.

Collapsed economics and broken social bonds in the countries of origin are often triggering the trafficking situation. However, it is important to have a deeper understanding of the trafficking process taking into consideration the individual circumstances, community factors as well as national and international economic situation. Children may have different reasons to migrate: they may wish to join their parents, they may be forced to flee or they may try to find better eco-

nomical opportunities. In any of these situations one has to consider the possibility that an abusive situation took place or started already before the travel. Children that suffered abuse are at a greater risk to be trafficked, as are those from a disadvantaged background or children on the move. UNICEF encourages states to identify failings in their systems to prevent trafficking as well as to respond to the trafficking situations including assistance provision for victims.

In Norway it is the responsibility of everyone to identify victims and inform the authorities. Some victims are able to identify themselves, however children rarely do so and therefore their identification is even more crucial. It is also of immense importance to guarantee that officials who become first contact persons for victims have enough knowledge and capacity to respond in a way that will ensure victim's protection and enable further assistance. Verification is not needed in order to set in motion the process of assistance provision. The Norwegian Child Protection Act was recently amended, specifically in order to put this practice into the legal framework.

At the moment, there are two specific programmes aimed at improving the work of authorities concerning the identification and protection of child victims:

- Programme about data collection and information management which will inform the process of assistance provision
- Programme about minor asylum seekers enabling a smoother process of their referral to child protection services. The Norwegian Welfare Act applies to all children that are present on the Norwegian territory.

Finally, Ms Westhrin presented the main activity lines that are prioritised by Norway concerning prevention and protection of victims, and where Norway seeks to cooperate. These are:

- Awareness raising
- Improving the legal framework and providing guidelines to all relevant authorities
- Improving methods of identification and registration.

² Full text of speeches as well as power point presentations are available at <http://www.childcentre.info/presentations-for-the-conference-trafficking-in-children-a-criminal-act-calling-for-a-child-protection-response/>

Fighting Child Trafficking: the Work of the European Commission, Ms Myria Vassiliadou, European Commission, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

Ms Vassiliadou thanked the Ministry and the CBSS for the organisation of this important event. She stated that fight against trafficking is a priority for the EU for the upcoming years. The newly adopted Directive on Trafficking in Human Beings will serve as the main guiding instrument for this work. Some of the important points highlighted in the Directive include provisions for protection from secondary victimisation and greater attention to the new forms of exploitation, such as exploitation for criminal activities (begging, petty crime, robbery, etc).

EUROPOL has recently reported an increase in the exploitation of young persons in organised crime, especially of persons from South East Europe. Children aged 5 and above are being systematically trained and also tortured. Trafficking in children for exploitation in crime is a very lucrative business, children are being resold many times by their traffickers. Between 10 and 100 children may form a gang operating at the outskirts of a big city. Traffickers are often fully aware that young people are under the age of criminal responsibility. Children are intimidated by their traffickers and refuse to talk to the authorities voluntarily.

EC has recently concluded a study on the Roma community. The study has shown that some of the reasons leading to a high proportion of trafficked persons among Roma people are poverty and ethnic and gender discrimination.

Ms Vassiliadou emphasised that the political will to combat trafficking is there, it is the lack of coherence in the region that impedes the progress. The Anti-trafficking Day organised by the Commission is one of the tools to consolidate efforts around most acute problems. This year the Anti-trafficking Day will focus on the protection of victims and especially partnerships to protect victims. The EU Anti-trafficking Policy Website³ is another tool for all stakeholders to coordinate their actions.

In the year 2012 a new Communication will be published outlining new tools to improve international and regional cooperation concerning assistance to victims.

A serious challenge to an effective international cooperation is the lack of statistics. There is currently no statistics on the EU level. The process of statistics collection has however been started, and the criteria have been selected.

Other currently implemented projects include:

- A study on typology and policy response to children's begging
- A project to develop correct interview and support provisions with focus on protection and prevention of secondary victimisation
- Operation GOLF (EUROPOL) which has already rescued a number of children, provided some hard evidence and demonstrated a model of how to tackle transnational organised crime.

To conclude, Ms Vassiliadou stressed once again the importance of partnerships between public and private actors, NGOs and the civil society. She also suggested that more stakeholders need to be identified across societies, including employers, law enforcement, lawyers, consumers, hotels, healthcare services and so on. Regional organisations and non-European member states need to be included into the counter-trafficking work. At the moment, traffickers are often ahead of our attempts to combat this terrible crime simply because states and other stakeholders do not communicate enough.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/index.action>



Conference overview and the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, Mr Lars Lööf, Head of Children's Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Secretariat

On behalf of the CBSS and the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, Mr Lööf welcomed all participants to the conference. He explained that the CBSS and the Expert Group launched its work on child victims of trafficking back in 2003 when a decision was taken to establish a specialised network of National Contact Points (NCP) that can be contacted on case-by-case basis as well as with the aim to obtain general information available on the country level. Taking into account law enforcement practices in the region as well as the child protection concern, the NCP's goal is to establish an interface on the regional level where the police and protection priorities can be combined. According to the 2nd Plan of Action on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children (2008) several activities have been implemented including a series of training seminars for professionals providing assistance for child victims of trafficking and a project focused on information management.

Mr Lööf provided a brief conference overview emphasising some of the focus points for the two upcoming days: trafficking for labour exploitation and exploitation in criminal activities, migration and trafficking, status of the victim and assistance provision, and information management. He wished all participants a meaningful and inspiring meeting and invited everyone to make use of the diverse expertise present in the audience.

Session 1



Children exploited via begging and in criminality – Interface between prosecution and protection

Minor Migrants in Need of Care and Protection: How Can We Identify Vulnerable Children and How Can We Make the System Meet Their Needs, Ms Line Ruud Vollebæk, Norway, Chairperson of the Board, Norwegian Association for Outreach Work with Youth

Ms Vollebæk presented the situation of minor migrants in need of care and protection from a perspective of an outreach social worker focusing on the problems of identification of vulnerable children and how the system can be improved in order to meet their needs.

Minor migrants in the streets of Oslo may fall under the following intersected categories: asylum seekers – with adults or unaccompanied, “Dubliners”⁴, minors in and out of legal status: migrants without papers, EU citizens who are migrant workers, Roma children involved in begging and street sales, etc. Some of these persons are potential victims of trafficking.

Oslo drug market is controlled by different ethnic groups who share the market between them and recruit sellers from e.g. reception centres. Typical characteristics of street minor drug dealers are roughly the following: 15–18 year old boys from Northern Africa who came to Norway without parents or legal guardians either from Tunisia, Algeria or Morocco and are suspected to have been street children in Europe for some years. They often speak a little Italian, Spanish or French. When approached by the police or social workers they are not able to present legal documents. In order to offer shelter and protection the authorities place the youngsters in reception centres even though they are not actually asylum seekers.

Some of these young people may be victims of human trafficking. They might be part of an organised sales force immediately after arrival, many are drug addicts themselves. Some of them are protected or controlled by adult drug dealers: if social workers try to reach out to them, adults intervene. There are many concerns about these young drug dealers: physical and mental health; affiliation with substance abuse and

criminal activities; housing conditions (crowded apartments); insufficient adult supervision; vulnerability to exploitation.

Social workers exercise the following activities in relation to minor drug dealers in the streets: mapping of street environments, groups and subcultures; establishing contact with groups and individuals; mapping individual situation of the child; investigating history and background; identifying possible victims of trafficking; follow up work – informing the child and trying to motivate him/her to accept help; referring the child to the protection services and other agencies.

Social workers face many challenges when working with these children: most challenging is to establish trust with migrant children, mutual understanding and realistic expectations since they are reluctant to contact authorities and accept help. Another challenge is that there is a tendency among authorities to see these cases as criminal or immigration related cases. This problem reveals distortion between regulations and the real life – these young people often become victims of the gaps in the system. There is a need for special child protection system, because the existing system is not prepared or equipped to suit potential victims of trafficking.

Ms Vollebæk proceeded to describe measures needed to be taken in order to improve the child protection system.

- Specialised Child Protection Team needs to be established which will deal with all child protection cases involving separated children and which will have expertise in human trafficking and migration-related issues
- Cooperation between the child protection services, outreach services, police and immigration authorities has to be strengthened
- Child protection law needs to be updated to make it easier to place potential victims of trafficking in adequate care. There is a need in more specialised institutions for minor victims of trafficking which focus specifically on safety, rehabilitation, information to victims and establishing coordination with the police, the child’s lawyer, the legal guardian, immigration authorities and other relevant parties.

⁴The Dublin II Regulation determines which of the EU member states that is responsible to examine the application for asylum from the asylum-seeker. For more information please go to: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/l33153_en.htm

Whether young migrants fit into an 'asylum box' or a 'human trafficking box', they still need care and protection. First of all, vulnerable and/or exploited children are in need of care from the child protection services taking into consideration their individual needs.

A UK Case Study – Trafficking of Roma Children to the UK for Exploitation, Mr Vince Dean, United Kingdom, Tactical Adviser, UK Human Trafficking Centre

The UK Human Trafficking Centre is a partnership working to combat human trafficking. UKHTC was created in 2006 and became part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency in 2010. UKHTC has certain important functions: collating and disseminating intelligence (feeding into Europol); identifying current trends; co-ordinating operations; tactical advice and support; assistance with victim care and support. UKHTC is one of the two UK Competent Authorities for National Referral Mechanism. UKHTC deals with all types of trafficking including sexual exploitation, forced labour (including begging which is an offense in the UK), domestic servitude, illegal organ harvesting. The organisation is responsible for cases of trafficking into, within and out of the UK and of trafficking of UK nationals within the UK.

Strategic Partners of UKHTC are:

- All UK Police Forces
- Crown Prosecution Service
- UK Border Agency
- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- Local Social Services/Children's Services
- Non Government Organisations/Charities
- International Law Enforcement Agencies.

UK Stance to Child Trafficking Victims states that trafficking causes significant harm to children in both the short and long term; it constitutes physical and emotional abuse of children. The safety and welfare of the child is paramount, i.e. the nationality or immigration status of the child is secondary and should be addressed only after the child's safety is ensured. Trafficked children are provided with the same

standard of care that is available to any other child in the UK. All decisions or plans for the children should be based on good quality assessments and supported by easily accessible multiagency services. All agencies should work in partnership with members of local communities, to empower individuals and groups to develop support networks and education programmes.

UK Government document – 'Human Trafficking: The Government's Strategy' including 'Human Trafficking Strategy Actions'

CPS – (Crown Prosecution Service) – Policy for Prosecuting Victims of Trafficking (May 2011)

LSCB – (London Safeguarding Children's Board) – Trafficked Children Toolkit (Feb 2011)

UKBA – (UK Border Agency) – Every Child Matters (2009)

ACPO – (Association of Chief Police Officers) – Guidance on Child Trafficking Victims

ECPAT – Child Trafficking – Begging and Organised Crime

NSPCC – (National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children) – Various documents

Operation GOLF

Romania entered the European Union in 2007 and the Romanian citizens were given freedom of travel and migration within the EU. In 2007 the level of begging and theft crimes increased dramatically. Most arrested criminals were young Romanian 'Roma' children. When the police noticed that hundreds of arrested young people used a small circle of 'appropriate adults' when interviewed, it led to setting up of Operation GOLF. Operation GOLF was a first police led EU Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on Human Trafficking in Europe. Strategic partners in this operation were UKHTC, CPS, Europol and Eurojust. The operation focused on child trafficking by an organised crime group based in Tanderei region, Romania. Large numbers of children from the region are trafficked into England and Wales for exploitation; they are forced to beg and commit theft and are used for benefit fraud. Romanians identified over 1000 children believed trafficked out of country in 4 year period; approximately 3/4 of them are

transported by drivers connected to the crime group. UKHTC established that over 1/3 of these children were or have been to the UK, nearly 500 addresses in UK were linked to these children and their associates and over 1300 crimes were identified as linked to those children. In general, nearly every police force in England and Wales was affected by these crimes.

Results of the operation GOLF include over 130

arrests based on offences including trafficking, child neglect, money laundering, fraud, theft, forgery. It resulted in first convictions in the UK for child trafficking involving forced criminality. In Romania, 26 males were charged with trafficking 181 children to the UK for exploitation. UKHTC referred nearly 200 children to local police for consideration under child protection procedures.

Case Study – Operation ‘L’

In 2010 Operation GOLF identified ‘Ani’, a 14 year old girl who was trafficked from Romania in 2004. She was living with a Romanian couple, Leticia and Alex, and their own four children (from 9 months to 14 years). A warrant executed on their house revealed that Ani was sharing a room with Leticia and Alex’s 14 year old son as a couple. Operation focused on care and movement of Ani, she was believed to be trafficked and exploited for crime and servitude. Leticia and Alex were arrested on suspicion of trafficking, Ani and the children were taken into care. The earliest record on Ani found was from 2008 when Ani’s mother reported loss of her birth certificate to the police in London. In mid 2009 Ani was examined at a London hospital. It was believed that Ani joined Leticia and Alex in late 2009 in Liverpool. Two Romanian notary documents were found at the house authorising care of Ani due to her mother’s ill health. Ani first came to notice of police one week after joining the family – she was arrested for fraud. In the next four months she was arrested 13 times, committed 18 offences, including begging, fraud, burglary, theft, collecting for

charity and possessing false documents. She was also arrested with several associates, including the son of Leticia and Alex. When arrested, she used several false identities and gave details of Leticia/Alex to be notified and act as ‘appropriate adult’. Her associates gave same notification details; all of them carried the phone number of Alex, although few knew his full name. There is evidence that Ani was under control of others on occasions, including children of the family. Arrests were made over a large geographical area, covering several police force jurisdictions and local authorities. Leticia and Alex claimed to have looked after Ani whilst her mother was recovering from illness, but enquiries showed that her mother was reported as being in full health when in the UK and was now living in France, in good health. Leticia and Alex claimed that they met Ani’s mother by chance, on a visit to Romania, although enquiries revealed extensive telecommunication indicating pre-planning. Leticia and Alex’s own children received state education while Ani was never registered with a school or with a doctor.



Operation 'L' was set up to investigate Ani's case and uncovered offences of deception and exploitation. Ani is believed to be a 'child bride'. Ani first came to notice at London Hospital which she visited for a virginity test. It is part of Roma culture that girls marry at 13 –14 years and virginity is very important at this time. Dowry is usually paid by the boy's family to the girl's family. After dowry is paid, the bride will carry the debt, often forced to commit crimes in order to recoup the debt. Once 'married', the girl usually has children soon after. Ani had a baby in 2011 with Alex's son as the father. Leticia and Alex were charged with child trafficking, fraud by false representation and conspiracy to commit crimes (carried out by Ani); they are currently awaiting trial. Ani remains in care of a UK local authority children's service.

The case of Ani demonstrated certain investigative challenges when it comes to trafficking.

- There is a general lack of knowledge about human trafficking and insufficient understanding of the victim's status as both the offender and the victim
- Offences are committed over a large area – several police forces and even more local authorities need to be involved
- Knowledge by offenders of UK systems and processes is another challenge of human trafficking. This allows them to exploit loopholes to further their trafficking exploits
- Misplaced trust of victim(s) undermines the investigation process
- When children are interviewed as a suspect they have to be supported by an 'appropriate adult'. It often happens that, through proper checks not being made, those responsible for 'trafficking' them are used as the 'appropriate adult', which undermines the investigation.

Begging – A Way to Provide or a Form of Exploitation? *Ms Christina Voigt, Sweden, Senior Public Prosecutor, International Public Prosecution Office, Stockholm*

Ms Voigt has worked as a Public prosecutor in Sweden for about 20 years and has firsthand experience with organised cross border crime. She named a number of common problems related to trafficking cases. Making the victims open up to the prosecutors and talk about what happened to them is challenging. Another problem comes from difficulties with collecting evidence for a trafficking case due to the frequent lack of proof that the child has indeed been exploited during a period of time and that there was a plan or a business scheme behind the exploitation. Cases involving trafficking for other purposes than sexual exploitation are very rare and difficult to handle due to lack of knowledge and established procedures. It is also challenging to prosecute when the victim is involved and believed to be exploited in an activity which in itself is not considered illegal. For example, begging is not considered a crime in Sweden. It is then extremely hard to prove that the child involved in begging is actually exploited, which is a prerequisite for the crime of trafficking.

Ms Voigt presented a case study about a Roma girl, Zina, who was brought to Sweden from Romania.

Case study – Zina

Zina has 7 siblings and lived in Romania with her grandmother and other family members. 17 people lived in the same apartment, none of them having a job. Zina went to school for 3 days in her whole life. She was a child bride at 12 and divorced at the age of 14, so her family had to pay back the dowry to the family of her ex-husband. In order to collect the necessary amount of money, Zina's family exploited her in begging in Sweden. At some point she was caught while begging and sent home in a bus. Later she returned and stayed in Stockholm for few weeks with her parents. She lived in a crowded apartment and the money she 'earned' was taken from her by her family. It is worth mentioning that Zina did not feel unhappy in this situation, she felt she is taking care of her family and was

proud of it. Eventually Zina's parents were arrested for exploiting their daughter and Zina was taken into social protection. Prosecution made a case against her parents, accusing them of child exploitation, which breaks the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). Although the prosecution believed that all the legal prerequisites were fulfilled, the verdict came back as 'not guilty'. Prosecution was convinced that there was a chance for the case to be contested and took it all the way to the Court of Appeal, but the prosecution's argument didn't convince the courts and the "not guilty" verdict was upheld. The Court of Appeal argued that Zina's life in Sweden was not worse than it was in Romania, from Zina's point of view it was the way she was used to living and she was content.

Undoubtedly, the Court's decision was greatly influenced by the fact that Zina was 17 at that time and was regarded as at least partially responsible for her own choices and actions. It is a common challenge in child trafficking cases and in broader child abuse cases – to remember that young persons are by law considered children until they are 18 years old and are in the need of all support and protection that can be given to them until that age. The UN CRC should guide the authorities in their decisionmaking.

The Invisible People – You Don't See it Until You Believe It *Mr Rudolf Christoffersen, Prosecutor and Mr Jarle Bjørke, Police Superintendent, Hordaland Police Department, EXIT Unit, Bergen, Norway*

Mr Christoffersen and Mr Bjørke emphasised an important question of whether any considerations about cultural specifics may justify our acceptance of trafficking and exploitation within certain ethnic groups. May trafficking be considered as a part of a culture or is it always an organised crime?



Operation Cinderella

In Bergen, an anti-trafficking police operation “Cinderella” took place, similar to the operation Golf, described earlier by Vince Dean. The operation started in October 2010 with a case of two teenage Roma girls, 15 and 17 years old who were arrested for selling fake gold. The child protection service was alerted but the same day a person who claimed to be their mother came to pick them up and the girls were then released into her custody. The next day these two girls were arrested again, this time for stealing. When two adults came for the girls, the police arrested these people as well. The situation repeated itself the next

day, when two other people came to claim the girls and the police arrested them too. It turned out that the arrested people belonged to the same criminal group. As a result, four people were taken to court and charged with human trafficking; the court responded that the evidence was unsubstantial but gave the police two weeks for more investigations. When the police started looking into this criminal group, they found that its members have been conducting crimes in Norway and Sweden for many years. They have also been involved in cases of sexual violence and forced marriages of minors.

Mr Christoffersen and Mr Bjørke provided another example, a case of a 15-year old Roma girl who has been arrested 28 times during one year in the Norwegian cities of Oslo, Kristiansand, Bergen, and Trondheim but the police never investigated if she was a victim of child trafficking. This case highlighted the real problem underneath – that up until now police did not react to cases of child abuse among Roma people believing it to be part of their culture. Cases of trafficking have not been identified. Trafficking was recognised as a serious problem only quite recently.

Mr Christoffersen shared his experience from a trip to Romania in connection with the child trafficking case involving the two girls described above. The girl, a victim of trafficking who used to be cared for by child protection, turned 18 and she chose to go back home. She now lives in Romania in horrible conditions, in a house owned by one of the persons arrested in Norway in relation to her exploitation. In connection with this, Mr Bjørke raised the issue of whether we should take into consideration what we send the child back to.

Mr Christoffersen and Mr Bjørke emphasised that taking cultural differences into consideration should not lead to a situation when child trafficking cases are ignored on the grounds of being part of traditional

culture. It is time to admit that this type of crime has been allowed to continue for years right in front of the authorities’ eyes. Why have the authorities and the police not reacted earlier? Where is social responsibility and why hasn’t it mattered in relation to Roma children? These Roma children, when in Norway, have the same rights as Norwegian children – do we accept this to happen our own children? How many stories must we hear before we act?

Outreach work for children’s protection – Social Workers in the Streets of Stockholm, Ms Karin Norlin Bogren, Sweden, Head of Maria Youth Outreach Unit, Stockholm

The mission of the social services outreach unit in the municipality of Stockholm is to engage in social outreach work with children and adolescents right where they are at all times of the day and week. The mission is also to prevent children and young people from getting into addiction, crime, prostitution or other socially destructive or self-destructive behaviour, and to ensure that children and adolescents and their families have access to appropriate support and assistance.

The unit carries out two types of outreach work. The first one is work with young offenders conducted by social workers who are specifically trained to do this. They cooperate with police and prosecutors: they also work with young people in custody. The second is social outreach work with children and adolescents in high-risk environments in the streets of Stockholm, conducted by social workers in the city.

Ms Bogren presented a project they launched at Maria Youth Outreach Unit after they realised that new approaches were needed for the identification of exploited children. In 2010 they applied for funding from the County Administrative Board of Stockholm. The project aimed at describing children that are exploited in the streets of Stockholm, the forms of exploitation and its purposes. The work took place between May and November 2010.

The unit did a lot of planning before going out into the streets. They planned schedules, arranged weekly meetings, compiled glossary, produced flyers, and designed a map of the area with marked streets where children suspected to have been exploited have been seen. They also had two social workers dedicated to this work, and made a checklist for the operational work guiding them how to act if they detect a child who is possibly a victim of exploitation. Meetings with other social workers in the organisation were held.

The unit did not discover any children until after the summer. In the fall, social workers found three children from Romania earning money by playing music or begging. The unit had 12 pins on their map marking observations of children, possibly the same children seen multiple times. They sent a report to the police with the information they discovered. They also wrote three reports to social workers with the results of the project. In the project they found very few children in the streets but they learned a lot, and developed effective cooperation with other professionals.

There are a few conclusions to share as a result of this work. One of the problems in dealing with victims of trafficking is that social workers need to act immediately in order to respond adequately, however, for the police it often takes much longer to process the case. It is also a problem to make the authorities understand that trafficking may not always be related to sexual

exploitation, trafficking cases involving forced begging and committing crimes need to be taken equally seriously with a focus on victim protection and the best interest of the child.

Maria Youth Outreach Unit decided to learn from the 'Zina case' presented above by Christina Voigt. A detailed analysis has been made and a lot of discussions have been held. The important questions to be constantly asked are simple: What happened? Could we have done better? How should we work in the future?

Exploitation via begging as a form of child trafficking – problems with identification, Ms Aneta Suda, Poland, Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration

Ms Suda's presentation focused on the question of borderline between culture and organised crime in relation to Roma community, particularly the problem of identifying exploitation for begging as a form of child trafficking. She suggested that understanding of the problem is already there, now it is time to provide an adequate response. Roma culture is for most outsiders a closed society and the challenge of identification is even harder. Rarely do victims identify themselves and contact the authorities. If they do, they are most probably adults. Those involved in begging never contact the authorities themselves.

Generally, it is difficult to identify victims of trafficking due to a number of factors:

- it is a complex crime, committed in a hermetic environment leading to a fear of the police and public institutions by the victims
- unawareness of the fact of committing a crime and its consequences, particularly in case of child exploitation
- cultural and language barriers
- insufficient knowledge of the identification mechanisms.

Begging is a complex crime which is challenging to process. Within the legal framework, begging can be



referred to as a violation which leads to a fine or a custodial punishment of up to 30 days, or it can be referred to as an act of trafficking in human beings which can lead to 15 years of imprisonment. Conviction is a long and complicated process.

The Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration came up with a list of indicators helping to identify a child as a victim of trafficking involved in an illegal activity. A child may be a victim of trafficking if he/she is swindling money from people in public places or is under control of the 'boss' – an adult who controls the child's illegal activities and appears very soon if the child gets arrested or is approached by social services. The child who is a potential victim of trafficking works for rewards or a promise of such following unclear rules, with established minimal rates (time, money). The child is most likely a victim of abuse. The child is unaware of the real goals and plans of the 'boss' and works for him/her in order to repay the debt or return the family obligation.

The child recognised as a victim has to be taken out of this situation, he/she needs a legal representative. Responsible services must focus on establishing an as normal a life as possible for the child victim of trafficking. First line officers might not have enough evidence to press charges but they have enough information to treat the child as a victim and invite child protection services to cooperate.

Questions and Discussion

The discussion which followed session 1 mostly concerned child protection and the role of childcare services during police investigations and police operations. Representative of an agency to combat organised crime explained that during anti-trafficking police operations there is an extensive involvement of social services which deal with children identified as victims. There is still work to be done to make sure that children, who are sent back to their home countries as a result of anti-trafficking investigations, are guaranteed assistance and acceptable conditions of life. Representatives of the police forces agreed that participation of child protection services in the police operations and ensuring children's safety during investigations are complicated issues. Representative of social services added that social services are doing the best they can, for example, in Sweden, social workers never send children back to the country of origin without investigating the conditions in that country.

The discussion then turned to children's possibility to remain in the county where they were identified if they were willing to stay. Representatives of police forces and ministry of interior agreed that it is complicated to arrange a child's stay in the country of destination, the legislation often lacks provisions for this kind of arrangement. Although few in number, there are cases when children can stay, for example by attaining a refugee status: (Poland) by applying for asylum or a reflection period (Norway).

Session 2



Children in migration and vulnerability to exploitation

Identifying the trafficking victims and examining the child's best interest in the Dublin procedure: Current state of affairs and future challenges in Finland, Ms Venla Roth, Finland, Senior Officer, Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities, Finland

Trafficking in human beings was politically recognised as a problem in Finland only five years ago, in 2005. Finland was identified as a transit and to some extent as a destination country for hundreds of trafficking victims every year. The Ombudsman for Minorities has acted as a National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings since the beginning of 2009. The competence of the Rapporteur includes both human trafficking and related phenomena, which gives a wide mandate. The National Rapporteur has a mandate to report to the Government annually and once in four years to the Parliament on his or her observations, and to give recommendations.

In June 2010, the Finnish National Rapporteur issued her first report to the Parliament. In her first report, the Rapporteur evaluated adopted anti-trafficking measures looking at how the rights of trafficked persons are upheld and what types of obstacles can be identified within the Finnish system.

The most important observation of the report was that human trafficking and related phenomena of serious exploitation are more common than we often realise. However, victims are not being identified: they are not necessarily identified at all, or they are not identified as victims of trafficking in human beings. As a consequence of this failure, victims are denied their fundamental human rights as well as statutory rights, such as services of the system for victim assistance. Non-identification also means that prosecution is denied.

Since 2005, a little more than 20 child victims of trafficking have received assistance and protection from the system of victim assistance. Most of the victims regarded Finland as a transit country. The authorities detained them in Finland on suspicion that they might become victims of human trafficking in the country of destination. The first case was about transporting three young Chinese persons to the UK via Finland. The pre-trial investigation discovered that

the journey had been financed with a loan taken out by their parents, and the victims intended to pay back this debt by working in the country of destination. The nature of work they were intended to do in the UK remained unclear, but the authorities believed that the victims could have been forced to prostitution.

The second similar case concerned young people from Russia, who apparently were being transported to Norway and Germany via Finland. The pretrial investigation discovered that one of the minors was intended to end up with her husband. The marriage had been organised between the families, and the authorities suspected a forced marriage.

Not all suspected victims of human trafficking have been included in the system of victim assistance because cases have not been regarded as meeting the statutory definition of human trafficking in the Penal Code.

The risk of non-identification is further complicated by Finland's and other countries' adherence to the Dublin procedure. The Dublin Regulation is about sharing responsibility between the EU Member States for examining asylum-seekers' applications. The Dublin procedure makes it possible to refuse entry to asylum seekers and return them to the country in which the original application was submitted. The risk that the Dublin procedure introduces is that potential victims may be returned to the country where their victimisation occurred and stand a high risk of secondary victimisation. The National Rapporteur analysed cases under the Dublin procedure and came to the conclusion that the best interest of the child is not always evaluated sufficiently. Children are treated primarily as asylum seekers and only in the second place as children in need of protection. Possibility of family reunion is seldom assessed properly.

It is important to note that trafficking in human beings can take place internally within a country. In 2010, Finnish National Rapporteur held a meeting with NGOs where NGOs shared a lot of valuable information concerning minors and other vulnerable groups of people and risks of their exploitation. One should also remember that trafficking is not necessarily connected to organised crime: victims can be exploited by ordinary employers, family members, boyfriends, etc.

Trafficking, as it is determined today, is a rather novel concept and the anti-trafficking framework is an outcome of joint efforts of the international community. Time is required to transform it into operational and functional anti-trafficking strategies and activities on the national level. The Finnish anti-trafficking work is still at the stage of development. However, trafficking can be counteracted by taking small steps. Assistance and protection of trafficking victims cannot be dependent on whether the traffickers are identified and convicted. Under the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, state parties must offer support to each victim of human trafficking on their territory. It is important to include child protection measures in the assistance to the victims of trafficking. Minor victims of human trafficking are children who should receive all the assistance from child protection services as would normally be expected for children in need. It should also be remembered that trafficked persons can have own children who are in need of intervention by the child protection services. An important step forward in combating trafficking could be appointing a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism in every country with a wide and independent mandate and sufficient resources, who will be able to increase and spread information on child trafficking. Child trafficking should no longer be an invisible phenomenon.

Vulnerability to Child Trafficking: A conceptual discussion of risk and resilience from a holistic and rights-based perspective, Ms Daja Wenke, Italy, Independent Researcher on Child Rights and Child Protection

The notion of vulnerability is complex and has never been clearly defined. Vulnerability refers to the potential physical or emotional injury caused by certain facts or life situations. Vulnerability is closely connected to the concepts of risk and resilience factors which both can be individual, family-related or environmental. Resilience provides options for managing risks and adverse events.

Child trafficking is a multifaceted crime which may involve children's participation in criminal activities, exploitation in begging, sexual exploitation, child labour, etc. Is it possible to detect common patterns of vulnerability? Are there common preventive measures? Are there common protection needs? Answers to those questions are yet unknown. It is however clear that child victims of trafficking do have common rights.

A study by World Bank in 2001 concluded that vulnerability is a dynamic concept, it changes over time and space. Vulnerability refers to the probability of future outcomes but does not allow generalised conclusions about present situation. This means that adverse circumstances may impact on the child's future even though he or she appears to be content and happy at present. The concept of vulnerability is discussed in relation to various sectors including socio-economic sector, health and child protection. Within the socio-economic sector vulnerability is understood in relation to poverty reduction and social protection.

Vulnerability is characterised by conceptual duality since it is connected to concepts of risk and resilience. Reduction of risk factors strengthens resilience and reduces vulnerability. Strategies to address vulnerability include prevention, protection and empowerment. The future adverse outcomes prevent a child from fully exercising his or her rights provided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children's rights approach is a frame of reference in the discussion on children's vulnerability.

The ecological model has been used to analyse risk factors and resilience to violence of children. According to the ecological model, risk and resilience need to be understood as a dynamic model shaped by the material and social environment of a person. Development of a child depends on the social context, interaction with family, friends, peers, the community, and broader social environment in social-economic, cultural and historic context. Applied to analysis of risk and resilience factors, ecological model shows how the multiplicity of factors on many levels is shaping a child's life. The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) has adapted the ecological systems theory to a concept of 'child rights ecology' and emphasises that different levels of a person's life, from

the level of an individual child to the level of a state need to be connected.

The combination of multi-sectoral, ecological and child rights based approaches provide a profound ground for the concept of vulnerability. Applied to trafficking, this approach means that vulnerability to trafficking should be addressed from a child rights based perspective. As was demonstrated in the presentation, all rights of the child are interrelated and inseparable. Risk and resilience factors are connected to the child's individual characteristics, family relationships, his or her social and political environment. The UN CRC general principles and measures of implementation create a framework for analysing the components of a national child rights system in relation to trafficking. Awareness of the rights in general should precede awareness of trafficking.

Youth, migration and trafficking: Rights and challenges, Ms Cecilie Øien, Norway, Research Coordinator, Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies

There are many types of child migrants: children migrating with their biological, foster or social parents, or other carers; unaccompanied minors; asylum-seeking families or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; children of labour migrants or youth travelling for work; young people overstaying their visas.

Different aspects of children's migration should be taken into consideration. Migration is not always a choice, but often an act based on coincidences. Migration leads to a deep change in children's relationships with their families: children often experience that there is no going back after migration. It can be related to problematic relations, having done or experienced things not understood or accepted by family, losing touch with family or disappointing them economically. Some negative experiences can occur while still at home, others are accumulated en route. New relationships evolve while migrating. Ms Øien presented a project on child migration which

was conducted by Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies for the Ministry of Justice. They tried to understand the underlying causes and motives for why the unaccompanied minors migrate; why do they come to Norway; who (e.g. the youth, their family or the smuggler) decides on the destination. They also aimed to find out what factors were decisive as to which country unaccompanied minors end up in.

Empirical data of the research was composed of a qualitative study based on interviews with unaccompanied asylum seeking minors and professionals working with minors. Interviews were conducted in three reception centres and with youth settled in two municipalities (January – April 2010); 30 interviews with unaccompanied minors between 15–18 years of age were conducted. Among unaccompanied minors there were 22 Afghan boys, 4 Somali girls, 1 Iraqi boy and 3 Eritreans – 2 girls and a boy. They also conducted 14 interviews with professionals working in reception centres and employees at care centres. Another part of the empirical data was conversations with guardians and other professionals who identify municipalities where youth can settle.

As a result of the study, a variety of reasons for unaccompanied minors to migrate was revealed, including war and armed conflicts; family situation and threats or perceived danger within social/local networks; very limited opportunities for education and work in the country of origin; migration to neighbouring countries that better meet their needs or expectations. Beyond mere survival, migration is also an active strategy to achieve the goals and dreams in the lives of youth and their families.

Migration is as much a way to get away from a severely difficult situation as it is about getting to Europe in search for a better quality of life. It is not uncommon that unaccompanied asylum seeking minors who migrate to Europe have experiences of migrating to neighbouring countries. Migration is both a means for achieving social mobility and a survival strategy.

Beyond acute need for protection, migration potentially provides opportunities for a better life that makes Europe an attractive destination for unaccompanied minors. In the process of migration, however, young people are dependent on help from adults and



often face risk of finding themselves in a trafficking situation.

There are a number of questions to address when talking about youth in vulnerable situations: How do long migration routes transform the social networks of young people? What steps should be taken to protect young people in reception centres and after? How to deal with gender aspect of vulnerability when vulnerability in girls is far more accepted than that in boys? What happens to people who are rejected asylum, are they at a higher risk of trafficking? Further research is needed in order to be able to better protect young victims of trafficking as well as respond to the needs of young people more effectively before their lives and development becomes threatened by trafficking.

Protection measures and interventions for unaccompanied minors victims of trafficking housed within open shelters, Mr Casper Smidt, Denmark, Project Manager, Red Cross Denmark

According to the International Labour Organisation and Trafficking in Persons Overseas 2010 report, there are 12.3 million adults and children in forced labour, bonded labour, slavery and forced prostitution around the world. Out of the 12.3 million in forced labour, there are an estimated 2.45 million trafficked persons. According to the same report, in 2009 there were 4.166 successful trafficking prosecutions, while the number of victims identified was 49,105. The report estimates the ratio of identified victims to be 0.4% and the ratio of convicted offenders to victims identified 8.5%. According to the Danish statistical data, in 2008 there were 4 children identified as victims of trafficking and 5 children were identified in years 2009 and 2010 respectively. Other Danish sources provide the following statistics: from 1st of August 2007 to 30th of September 2010 the total number of verified victims of trafficking was 127 persons, among them 2 men and 2 children; all except one had connection to the sex industry.

There are many challenges in identifying child victims of trafficking. Children are rarely able to provide full information about the situation they are in due to fear or difficulty to identify him/herself as a victim of exploi-

tation. Children are also frequently reluctant to ask for help or turn to any kinds of authorities.

There are indicators of child victims of trafficking which can assist professionals working with potential victims. Some of these indicators are adopted in the anti-trafficking project of Red Cross which deals with protection of suspected unaccompanied minors in open shelters. They are:

- low income families
- single parents
- few years of school
- earning money abroad
- little or suspicious relations in the country of destination
- the child is aware of or had an agreement to work under exploitative conditions in the country of destination
- accompanied by an adult who claims to be his/her guardian
- the child takes all the blame if he/she is arrested and his/her child's story is changing continuously or appears to be unlikely or rehearsed
- the child belongs to a marginalised or minority group which is internationally documented as being at risk of trafficking
- the child gives false information about his/her home.

Identification of victims may be further complicated by the fact that the Palermo protocol definition of trafficking⁵ is interpreted differently by different countries. In Denmark, trafficking needs to occur on the Danish territory in order to be identified as such. Considering that victims of trafficking often have a long history of migration, this may seriously jeopardise their interests.

Children who are victims of exploitation are often disappearing from asylum centres. Therefore, Red Cross open shelters established 3 levels of security aimed at

⁵ According to Article 3 (a): "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

preventing children from running away and increasing protection system. Security level 3 ensures that the child is followed with increased observation by round the clock staff. List of indicators for victims of trafficking is used for the observation of the child and these observations can result in decisions to implement security level 2 or 1. If indicators of human trafficking are observed, the municipality is informed and decisions of special actions or sanctions may be taken. In case of disappearance, police is contacted according to the fixed procedure for all unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

Security level 2 secures that the child is closely followed at the asylum centre by round the clock staff and there are special procedures that describe the extent to which observations must be done so that the child is regularly checked for his/her presence at the centre. The child and youth commission of the municipality may decide to monitor the child's communication. If the child does not show up at the external school, there is feedback to the centre and in case the child can not be located elsewhere, the police are notified. A professional legal guardian is appointed to the child.

Security level 1 is used when the child and youth commission of the municipality decide to monitor their child's communication. A special effort in terms of round the clock staff is assigned to the individual in order to ensure that the child does not disappear. This is done in cooperation with the municipality and if needed, the police. It may be decided to accommodate the child at another address outside of the asylum centre. A professional legal guardian is appointed to the child. The Governmental Anti-trafficking Agency (CMM) is notified and the case is assessed in collaboration with them. They can offer their help in case of special needs. The municipality and / or representative are asked to give their consent to circulate picture and description of the child to other NGOs and local police in case of the child's disappearance. The local police district and relevant partners are notified that the asylum centre is accommodating a victim of trafficking, and asked to pay special attention if contacted in case of the child's disappearance.

21 June 2011

Systemic Responses to Child Trafficking – UNICEF Global Perspective, Ms Jasmina Byrne, Italy, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

Ms Byrne started by outlining some of the critical issues related to combating child trafficking. Firstly, she mentioned the lack of reliable data and evidence. Data is only being collected on the identified victims and the diversity of data collection practices contribute to further disorientation. Few countries systematically collect qualitative data. All of this significantly diminishes the capacity to evaluate the intervention programmes as trends are very hard to identify.

Secondly, prevention efforts are not always being informed by the underlying root causes of the problem, such as e.g. financial hardship, early and/or forced marriage, family breakdown. Moreover, the demand for children exploited in labour or sex (including child brides) is not decreasing and it is still unclear how to design actions specifically addressing demand.

New forms of exploitation are becoming more and more widespread requiring new efforts to understand the nature of exploitation and to suggest measures to prevent and counteract it. At the same time it is important not to pull all the resources away from the work related to sexual exploitation. Professionals should not emphasise a certain type of victim drawing attention away from the others.

Trafficking is not to be understood in isolation, trafficking is a manifestation of other, deeper, problems. We need to apply a systemic approach when searching for an adequate response to the challenge of trafficking – an approach that will take into consideration the underlying causes and deliver coordinated child-friendly services. Measures to raise awareness, to improve data management and to provide appropriate services should go hand in hand.

Systems of child protection may be constructed differently in different countries bringing social, educational, legislative or security issues to the fore. However, all systems must strive to include the most vulnerable and respond to the most hidden problems.



Vertical, centralised systems are not flexible enough to reach everyone who is in need. A truly responsive system is a system of partnership between GOs, NGOs and other actors; it is a system that is accessible for everyone in all places. There are, however, numerous challenges to this systemic approach:

- Lack of human and budget resources leading to non-action or non-systemic interventions that are not sustainable
- Lack of coordination between agencies and their action plans
- Insufficient level of integration of trafficking-related issues into the day-to-day work of all welfare institutions
- Lack of conceptual clarity having a strong impact on the international work. The Palermo protocol, the UN CRC and other international legislative documents are interpreted differently across the world. On the other hand, there is a risk of being carried away from the real problems by focusing too much on definitions
- Lack of mechanisms for complaints and opportunities for children to be heard
- Children exploited in criminality are still often seen as criminals rather than victims.

A number of positive examples have shown that it is possible to address those challenges. Some of the examples will be thoroughly presented at this conference, such as:

- Danish Centre against Human Trafficking, offering expertise to the authorities and at the same time providing direct assistance to the victims all over the country
- Outreach social work in Norway
- The Children's House in Iceland – a one stop centre for child victims allowing to avoid secondary victimisation.

UNICEF, as a global actor, is contributing to the work by raising capacity of the national child protection systems, engaging in policy and advocacy work across the world, as well as monitoring and researching the situation of children at risk of trafficking.

Session 3



Romeo and Juliet didn't die of broken hearts – They died of lack of information

Coordinated Case and Information Management as a Tool to Protect Victims of Trafficking – the Danish Example, Ms Hanne Mainz, Denmark, Danish Centre against Human Trafficking

Ms Mainz informed the audience about the work of the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking focusing on how information can be used across different agencies and how effective information management can change the lives of young people. She emphasised that one of the prerequisites for effective prevention and assistance provision is to allocate the right responsibility to the right agency.

The Centre is a governmental project and all activities are based on the national Danish Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. The Centre takes care of all victims of trafficking irrespective of age, gender and the type of trafficking. It also provides all types of assistance including victim identification (with the help of the Red Cross), rehabilitation, reintegration, harm reduction, legal aid. Indicators used to identify victims are constantly reviewed and adjusted. All agencies participating in the work of the Centre have to fill in forms every time a victim is identified or only suspected. The Centre is responsible for conducting trainings, issuing guidelines and publications, leading campaigns, and conducting its own research.

The Centre has six regional/local groups and one national group. Professionals in each group have a very diverse background covering all aspects of identification, assistance provision, law and policy. Each group meets approximately every three months. The Centre coordinates nationwide social outreach work including mobile health units, medical drop-in centres and around 16 social workers who are directly in contact with the victims of trafficking. All the information collected from the social workers, through own research and experience, is immediately distributed through trainings and printed materials addressing professionals, general public and victims. The dissemination of data helps to achieve important goals, such as:

- Experience: helps to become better in identifying new victims
- Flexible case management: the more knowledge is being accumulated the better and more flexible case management will the Centre be able to provide every time a victim is (tentatively) identified. Differentiated counselling and nuanced dialogues with the victims help to achieve a higher quality of assistance provision
- Reliable data: a good motivation for action.

Ms Mainz presented a case which illustrated both an existing gap in the current system and a way in which the Centre can make a difference:

A 16 year old girl from Slovakia arrived to a small town in Denmark. She crossed the border legally and also resided legally in Denmark. However, the girl was involved in street prostitution. Both the local municipality and the Centre were notified about this case but the municipality originally ignored it. The local branch of the Centre rendered assistance to the girl since the municipality and the police did not get involved and the girl was eventually left alone. The Centre did not have the power to force her away from the streets. The gap in assistance provision is now being addressed making clearer the responsibilities of local authorities particularly with regard to the persons legally residing on their territory.

The main challenges identified by Ms Mainz included:

- Inadequate legal provisions (example – the above case involving a young legal resident)
- Implementation of the already defined procedures on the local level
- Focus on assistance above all other matters
- Adequate knowledge of secrecy and confidentiality procedures.

Information Management to Prevent Trafficking: *Mr Lars Lööf, Head of Children's Unit, CBSS Secretariat*

Mr Lööf drew the attention of the participants to the necessity to deal not only with confirmed cases but also look at a wider pool of children at risk. Exploitation often includes acts that are not illegal but form a part in the trafficking chain.

Information helps us to understand and recognise both the risks of trafficking and the risks of exploitation. Where do we find the information?

The BSR IMPT project implemented by the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) in 2010 has revealed some new trends but also looked critically at the available sources of information. New data about emerging trends often become available not as a result of the analysis of official information but from other sources of information which are less verifiable. Sources of information, when considered in a broader array, include official data, independent research, information from NGO, INGOs, IGOs, media, anecdotes. Some of the new facts identified this way by the project included weekend prostitution, cases of au-pair where exploitation is suspected, marriages arranged with the purpose to gain access to children. While the identification of these incidents did not yet allow to talk about emerging trends, high number of Roma children and asylum-seekers (both accompanied and unaccompanied) among the victim population proved to be stable trends during the recent years.

In 2003, the CBSS EGCC established a network of National Contact Points for child victims of trafficking. This network is one of a kind in the world and consists of representatives of relevant authorities in each participating country. The network should enable professionals and officials to seek assistance on the case-by-case basis as well as to access relevant country-level information. However, the BSR IMPT project has identified that the international as well as national cooperation to assist child victims of trafficking is often failing. Information is badly coordinated and seldom collected and analysed centrally.

It is also problematic that some attempts to estimate the number of victims appear without verification or even without a clear identification of the information

source. These estimates are often reproduced leading to a situation when professionals do not have reliable data. The process of collecting and distributing information needs to be far more transparent.

Understanding the Phenomenon of Child Begging in Europe, *Ms Claire Healy, Austria, Research Officer, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)*

Ms Healy underlined that begging in itself is a violation of children's rights. From this point of view, it does not matter whether begging is legal or illegal in a given country.

ICMPD has initiated an international project which aims to study the phenomenon of child begging in 15 European countries. The project will attempt both to summarise the available information about the nature of begging, to analyse the national policy responses to child begging and to understand the broad public debate about this issue. The relevant case law, legal definitions as well as media "events", public campaigns and data from the relevant helplines and children's shelters will be taken into account.

The composition of the project's partnership will allow the study of begging in both old and new EU member states. What is interesting from the perspective of trafficking is that participants of the project also represent countries considered to be countries of origin, transit and destination when talking about trafficking. The scope of the project will allow to cover contextual national information, statistics, and geographical distribution. Interviews with stakeholders will be conducted. Reports on the EU and national legislation and policies will be published. The project will provide a typology of the child begging situation in Europe and formulate policy recommendations.

Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region, Mr Jan Austad, Norway, Chairperson, CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr Austad informed the audience about the work of the Task Force – a working body of the CBSS focusing on trafficking in adults. With regard to information management, he especially mentioned the newly published report on Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region “Hard Data”. The lack of comparable and comprehensive data on trafficking in the region demanded a coordinated response. This comprehensive report provides a very detailed overview of the current information collection practices in all the CBSS countries. The report informs the reader both about the kind of information collected and the national agency responsible for this activity. The work on the report has been largely based on the guidelines issued by the IOM and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria in 2009 detailing the kind of information needed on victims, traffickers, criminal justice response and the trafficking process.

Based on the results of the study, following recommendations have been given:

- Specialised databases need to be established and coordinated across borders
- National rapporteurs need to be introduced in all countries
- Collected data is not always being published by agencies, information remains inaccessible – this situation needs to be changed
- Information about support systems for victims of trafficking is often unavailable across borders – more cooperation on investigations and support provision is needed
- Qualitative data needs to be collected and shared
- Stronger focus on other forms of exploitation than sexual exploitation
- Both budget and human resources need to be adequate to provide for effective prevention, identification and support systems

- Law concerning data confidentiality and data exchange regulations need to be carefully looked at and where possible improved and clarified for all stakeholders.

What are Lithuanian Children Doing in Norway? Ms Kristina Misiniene, Caritas Lithuania

Ms Misiniene informed that Caritas Lithuania provides support services for victims of trafficking and prostitution. 40% of victims supported by Caritas are children. These children have been involved in various types of activities, such as stealing, drug dealing, selling sex. However, it is vitally important to remember that stories of these young people do not start when they cross the border and do not end when they are sent back. Poverty and difficult family circumstances at home often provoke the process of trafficking, and the situation does not become better when young people are home again. The situation of abuse or neglect continues. Assistance to families on the local level is therefore vitally important. Lithuania started local roundtables with participation of police, prosecution, child protection services and other authorities.

The ultimate aim of all prevention work is to change the local situation in the countries of origin. It is meaningless to shift the responsibility to the victims pointing to their perceived specific culture allowing exploitation of children. However, elimination of poverty in a given country is often too big of a task for a local authority. National and international cooperation plays therefore a significant role.



Questions and discussion

During the last discussion session, participants shared some of their thoughts and comments on the best interest of the child during the identification and investigation processes, as well as the necessity of data collection. A representative of an international organisation reflected on the importance of guaranteeing that the best interest of the child is prioritised over the integrity of the national immigration systems or the efficiency of police investigations.

The risk of non-identification is still quite substantial. For example, a Norwegian police representative pointed out that the number of identified trafficking cases is small while there are hundreds or thousands of drug dealing cases: is it possible that trafficking is simply not recognised?

Moreover, it was underlined that trafficking cases can not be discarded as belonging to a certain culture (e.g. Roma), poverty is the main underlining push factor drawing people into becoming victims of trafficking. It was also discussed that the cost of support for one child is extremely high and it might be more reasonable to invest in poverty elimination and prevention.

Representative of the Finnish Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities added that it is very important to clearly define the purpose of data collection, the responsible agency, and the main criteria of collection. Moreover, national agencies need to provide analyses of the data, both quantitative and qualitative.

Conclusions and End of the conference



Conclusions, recommendations and gaps identified, Mr Lars Lööf, Head of Children's Unit, CBSS Secretariat

Mr Lööf noted that the conference participants have enjoyed rich discussions and a broad approach to the topic.

Providing an overview of the main issues, Mr Lööf specifically highlighted some of the conclusions:

1. It is necessary to always keep the best interest of the child in mind and prioritise child protection over other aspects of handling a trafficking case by police and migration authorities. This is not yet the case.
2. Professionals working to protect children need to be mindful of the diverse ways in which children are exploited.
3. When children are exploited in criminality they need to be guaranteed protection and assistance. However, nowadays, there are still significant obstacles for such children to be recognised as victims when they are involved in heavy criminality.
4. Agencies need to establish better coordination so that children suspected to be victims of trafficking will be met with consistent messages.
5. Adolescents are often actively engaged in activity enforced upon them and do not necessarily see their situation as exploitative. However, their seemingly "voluntary" participation should not prevent the authorities from identifying them as victims of trafficking. The complicity may in fact be a psychological reaction to many years of having to fend for yourself in a hostile and violent context.
6. Some forms of exploitation are at times viewed not as exploitation but as a historically developed practice in which children in marginalised ethnic groups have participated in the family survival. In line with this, such practices are then argued as not being a part of a trafficking crime. This argument ignores the fact that in a trafficking situation the rights of the child are not upheld and children are discriminated against, no matter what historical or ethnic norms they live by.
7. All countries need to further develop their identification practices, including being able to look at cases of suspected trafficking when there is no criminal case and where the police are not involved. Exploitation en route, outside the country

where a young person has been identified, needs also to be taken into consideration.

8. Are some parts of international legislation actually working against trafficked children? Is the problem in the legislation or its interpretation and implementation?
9. It is necessary to understand more about young people's vulnerability and resilience strategies and how these may influence the child's behaviour and willingness to cooperate with law enforcement and child protection.
10. Assistance to suspected victims of trafficking needs to be provided in the same manner as to verified victims. Children in migration are vulnerable also when no trafficking situation has taken place.
11. More systemised data and analytical reports are needed.

Mr Lööf explained that conclusions from the conference will feed into the next meeting of the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk. The Group will identify specific issues that need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Ms Eli Grut, Deputy Director General, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Ms Eli Grut thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions.

Reflecting on the reasons for many young people becoming victims of this horrible crime, she emphasised the importance of education. Young people participating in education are by far more protected than those falling out of the educational system. They are more selfconfident, realise their life chances, have a better capacity to judge their options and have a protective network of people around them. However, in order for this network to be a valid safety net which is strong enough to keep young people out of trafficking situations, professionals, the public and parents should all in their turn be educated about risks, identification and consequences of being a young victim of trafficking.



Henriette Westhrin

Deputy Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Henriette Westhrin (born 1973) is a Norwegian politician for the Socialist Left Party. She served as a deputy representative to the Parliament of Norway from Telemark during the terms 1993–1997 and 2001–2005. When the Socialist Left Party entered Stoltenberg's Second Cabinet in 2005, Westhrin was appointed State Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment. After the cabinet reshuffle in October 2007, Westhrin became State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. After the last election in 2009 Westhrin became State Secretary (Deputy Minister) in the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion.

Myria Vassiliadou

EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator

Myria Vassiliadou was appointed EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator in March 2011. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Sociology and Social Research and a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK.

She has further been a Research Fellow at the Solomon Asch centre for Study of Ethnopolitical conflict, at the University of Pennsylvania. Ms Vassiliadou has served as Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby, the largest network of women's associations across the EU. She was further a founding member of the think tank Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies and served as its Director for seven years and subsequently as the Chair of the Board of Administration. For over a decade, Myria worked as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Nicosia and taught undergraduate and graduate classes in Sociology.

Ms Vassiliadou has worked in the European Commission as a Detached National Expert in the Directorate General for Research. Further, she has served as a member of various Advisory Boards, Expert Groups and acted as a consultant at the national and international level. She has worked extensively in the area of fundamental rights, as these relate to questions of gender, trafficking in human beings, migration, ethno-political conflict, and the media.

She has published in several books and journals, conducted workshops and seminars, and has been actively involved in various think tanks, EU wide research

projects and national/international non-governmental organisations. She has trained as a counsellor on interpersonal violence against women and also as a facilitator/mediator on conflict transformation and negotiations, and has lived and worked in various countries both in Europe and beyond.

Line Ruud Vollebæk

Chairperson of the Board, Norwegian Association for Outreach Work with Youth

Line Ruud Vollebæk is the chairperson of the Norwegian Association for Outreach Work With Youth (LOSU). She has been working as a street social worker in Oslo (in Uteseksjonen) since 1999, with a special focus on unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and other young migrants. Her experience from working with these cases is summarised in the guidebook "Oppsøkende sosialt arbeid i et internasjonalt gatemiljø. Arbeid med unge asylsøkere, irregulære migranter og mulige ofre for menneskehandel" (Social Outreach Work in an International Street Environment – Working with young asylum seekers, irregular migrants and possible victims of human trafficking), published by Kompetansesenter rus – Oslo in April 2010.

Vince Dean

Operational Tactical Adviser, UK Human Trafficking Centre

Vince Dean is an Operational Tactical Adviser for the UK Human Trafficking Centre, having joined it in March 2009. The centre is now part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and is, amongst its other roles, the UK central repository for all intelligence involving human trafficking in the UK.

Vince was previously a senior Manager within SOCA, where, as a Branch Commander for its Trent Enforcement Branch, he lead and oversaw over fifteen investigations into national and international organised immigration crime and human trafficking.

Prior to SOCA, Vince spent 30 years in West Midlands Police and the National Crime Squad (NCS), attaining the rank of Detective Chief Inspector. Roles included Senior Investigating Officer of investigations into murder, international drugs trafficking as well as kidnap and extortion and firearms investigations. Latterly, he played a key management role in the creation of a multi-agency investigation team within the NCS, set up

to exclusively tackle international organised immigration crime, focusing on human trafficking.

In his current role he engages regularly with law enforcement and other agencies tasked with investigating cases of human trafficking, nationally and internationally. Victims in these cases involve both migrants to the UK and UK nationals.

Christina Voigt

Senior Public Prosecutor, International Public Prosecution Office

My name is Christina Voigt. I have worked as a Public Prosecutor for about 20 years. For the last eight years I have worked mostly with domestic violence; that is women and child abuses, rapes and other sexual crimes against woman and children and crimes within the family like murders and threats. That includes the problem with different cultures and honour crimes. I have a great deal of interest in this kind of crimes and I have always felt that I, as a prosecutor, can make a difference. One and half year ago I felt that I can't get stuck with this kind of crimes the rest of my life and I got an opportunity to work in the International Public Prosecution Office. I now handle organised crimes over the borders, that is mostly drugs and trafficking. One big difference between my former work and the work in the international prosecution office is that in my former work I could only start a prosecution when I was convinced that I would get a verdict of guilty in court. Now I can also start a case when the judicial interpretation is not clear in an important question, when we need new legal cases to guide the future application of the law. The importance is not if someone is guilty or not, the importance is that the reasoning in support of the judgment is of high quality. This is a small part of my work but, nevertheless, a very exciting part. I really love my work and think the best part is when I am in court. Everything can happen. And that is a challenge I can't resist.

Rudolf Christoffersen

Hordaland Police Department

Rudolf Christoffersen is 42 yrs old. He is working as a prosecutor in Bergen. For the last 4 years he has been working with organised crime and trafficking in human beings. He has been a prosecutor in several trafficking cases in Bergen.

Jarle Bjørke

Police Superintendent, Hordaland Police Department

Karin Norlin Bogren

Head of Maria Youth Outreach Unit, Stockholm, Sweden

Aneta Suda

Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration

Aneta Suda – a representative of the Migration Policy Department in the Ministry of Interior and Administration in Poland; since 2007 an expert in the Unit for Trafficking in Human Beings responsible for initiating and supervising the tasks envisaged in the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings with regards to the system of protection and support of victims of THB in Poland.

Under the Working Group established in the Ministry she coordinates the assignment of developing the concept of comprehensive care and protection for victims trafficked in Poland. In this aspect she closely cooperates with the La Strada Foundation that carries out the public task assigned by the Ministry called the National Consulting and Intervention Center for Victims of Trafficking.

Since 2008 she also coordinates the pilot project "Programme for Support and Protection of Minor Victims of Trafficking". The main aim of this project is to create a comprehensive and coherent system of proceedings with minor victims especially with the unaccompanied minors exploited in Poland.

Venla Roth

Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings

Dr. Venla Roth serves as an expert at the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings of Finland. Roth is the drafter of the first Finnish report on human trafficking which sought to evaluate the anti-trafficking measures and their impacts in Finland. The Report was issued to the Parliament one year ago. Roth holds a doctorate in law. Her dissertation dealing with the human rights implications of the anti-trafficking strategies and activities will be published this year by Brill Publishers.



Daja Wenke

Independent Researcher on Child Rights and Child Protection

An independent researcher on child rights and child protection, Daja Wenke has long-standing professional experience working with UNICEF and with regional organisations in Europe. She has specialised in law and policy analysis and applied research to contribute to evidence informed and rights-based policy making, programming and advocacy. A guiding interest in her work is to promote systemic approaches to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a thematic specialisation on the prevention and response to the exploitation of children, including in the context of trafficking, and safeguarding children's rights in the context of migration. During 2010 and 2011, she conducted a study on child trafficking in the Nordic countries for the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and in collaboration with the UNICEF offices in the Nordic countries.

Cecilie Øien

Research Coordinator, Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies

Cecilie Øien has a PhD in social anthropology from the University of Manchester, and is the research coordinator for Fafo's research on international migration. Her research areas are mainly gender, care, transnational families, and different forms of adult and child migration. She has been a coordinator for the research programme *Informal Child Migration in Europe* since 2007 (N-ICME) (2006–2011), and is also a partner in the NORFACE programme *Effects of Transnational Child Raising Arrangements on Life-Chances of Children, Migrant Parents and Caregivers between Africa and Europe* (TCRAF-Eu) (2010–2012). This latter project deals with the upbringing of children in transnational families where parents have migrated to Europe from Africa. Øien has published on child migration in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (Øien 2006), and in *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* (2010). In 2010 she published a report about unaccompanied minors in Norway, entitled *Underveis. En studie av enslige mindreårige asylsøkere* funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Police.

Casper Smidt

Project Coordinator, Danish Red Cross Society

Mr Smidt has 11 years of experience in the Red Cross Society working with asylum seeking children and youth. The last 6 of these in the Anti-trafficking project of the RC Asylum department, targeting unaccompanied minors.

Mr Smidt is actively collaborating with the National Board of Social Services regarding the Danish Governmental action plan to combat Trafficking in Human beings.

He is an international guest lecturer and expert speaker, seminar facilitator, consultant and trainer of project-related professionals and volunteers and an active member of the International Federation Red Cross Anti-Trafficking network and various Danish network.

Mr Smidt has 18 years of total experience as a social educator in various positions in GO's and NGO's. Planning and establishing projects related to social services with a focus on empowerment, behavioral guidance and support primarily to vulnerable children and youth.

Mr Smidt has alternative experience from a long range of fields including textile business, new circus training and performance, organic farming, café management and co-owner of a contemporary art gallery.

Mr Smidt's has an educational background in business, social education, Vedic philosophy, psychology and sports.

Jasmina Byrne

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

Jasmina Byrne is the Child Protection Specialist working in UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre responsible for research related to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, including trafficking. Her current trafficking portfolio includes management of research into systemic responses and government policies and practices including the forthcoming study on Child Trafficking in the Nordic Countries. Prior to joining Innocenti Ms. Byrne was Head of Child Protection in UNICEF Indonesia where she developed some key policy and programme initiatives to strengthen protection of children from exploitation and trafficking and promote systemic responses to child protection. She has extensive experience as an independent consultant providing technical support, research and programme development to governments, donors, the UN and civil society across

Southern Africa, South East Asia and South East Europe primarily in relation to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, children in care and child protection in emergencies. Ms. Byrne holds MA in International Relations and European Studies from Central European University (CEU).

Hanne Mainz

Danish Centre Against Human Trafficking

Hanne Mainz, social consultant in The Danish Centre against Human Trafficking. The national centre undertakes the social dimensions of the Danish government's action plan against Human Trafficking and is coordinated by the Department for Gender Equality.

My primary tasks in the centre are to organise, develop and coordinate the social dimensions in the fight against human trafficking of children. Also I coordinate collaboration between social organisations and authorities nationally regarding trafficking in general, with focus on collaboration between social workers and law enforcement.

My educational background is public school teacher, but since 1991 I have worked as social worker and project manager and initiated various projects targeting different social disadvantaged groups such as homeless people, unemployed and vulnerable young women, drug and alcohol addicts, including 9 years of work with female prostitutes. Since 2005 my focus entirely has been on victims of Human Trafficking.

Lars Lööf

Head of Children's Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat

Lars joined the CBSS Secretariat in June 2002. He is a qualified clinical psychologist and psychotherapist with specialisation in the fields of assessment and treatment of children and adolescents. Lars has worked in the field of clinical psychology mainly with children and adolescents with extreme and abusive experiences from exploitation but also with children suffering the effects of war and torture. Until June 2002 Lars worked for Save the Children Sweden's unit specialising in psychological and psychosocial treatment of children suffering the effects of severe traumas. He was the initiator of Save the Children Sweden's Hotline, fighting child abusive Internet content, a Hotline he administrated until June 2002. He has written a number

of articles on the subject of children, exploitation and psychological survival, and has been contributing author to several books and reports. He is co-author of the Background paper on child exploitation in Internet settings, developed for the 3rd World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. Lars has co-ordinated several Europe wide projects where sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children in the different European countries have been addressed. Lars has also worked extensively with lectures and training seminars all across Europe and has contributed as panellist and speaker at the 2nd and 3rd World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2001 and in 2008.

Claire Healy

Research Officer, ICMPD

Claire Healy is Research Officer at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Austria and is coordinating projects in the areas of child begging and visa regulations. She recently published a research study on naturalisation in Portugal. Claire ran Summer camps for children of asylum seekers in Hamburg, Germany and set up and ran a youth club for children of asylum seekers in Galway, Ireland. She also worked on after-school programmes for ethnic minority children in Lisbon. During 2007–2009, she worked as Advisor at the Portuguese Government's High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI, IP). From 2005 to 2007, Claire worked in Dublin as a Research Consultant for a number of NGOs in the field of migration, refugees and separated children, authoring two reports for the Immigrant Council of Ireland, on language programmes for migrants and on state coordination of migration policy. She also co-authored a report on immigrants in Ireland whose status is based on their Irish-born children. She has taught on migration at Summer schools at Lisbon University Institute and at an international seminar in Poland. Claire has also worked as a translator and speaks German, Portuguese, Spanish, Irish, French, Cape Verdean Creole and basic Croatian. Claire holds a B.A. (International) in History and German from the National University of Ireland and conducted Masters research in Latin American History and Spanish at the University of Hamburg. She has a PhD (2006) in Migration History from the National University of Ireland on nineteenth-century migration from Ireland to Argentina.



Jan Austad

Senior Adviser, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police

Jan Austad is a senior adviser at the Ministry of Justice and the Police in Norway. His main responsibilities are issues of Trafficking in Human Beings. He is responsible for developing and implementing the Norwegian Action Plan against Trafficking.

Mr. Austad worked as a prosecutor in the Norwegian Police for several years, specialising in investigations on sexual crimes and crimes against children. He was posted to the Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon for three years in the Trafficking in Human Beings unit. Before starting work at the Ministry of Justice in 2006, he was responsible for providing training for the police prosecutors in Oslo Police Department. He is currently chair of the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and member of the EU expert group on Trafficking.

Kristina Misiniene

Caritas, Lithuania

Kristina Misiniene has been the coordinator of Caritas Lithuania project "Aid to the victims of trafficking and prostitution" since 2001. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social sciences.



The Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk

The Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, EGCC, is a group of senior officials from the ministries responsible for children's issues in the member countries to the CBSS and the European Commission.

Member countries are: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

The EGCC identifies, supports and implements cooperation on children at risk between countries and organisations in the region. It also examines and reviews areas of concern with regard to children, as identified by its network of National Coordinators and experts. Based on these findings the EGCC adopts programmes and implements actions within areas of concern. Activities and programmes are carried out together with national authorities, agencies and organisations in cooperation with regional and international organisations.

Prioritised areas for the EGCC are:

- The protection of children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse
- Ensuring the rights to protection of children in migration and the protection of children that are trafficked
- Early intervention as a means to ensuring children's right to protection from all forms of abuse, violence and neglect
- The rights of children in residential care and in other forms of out of home care.