

# **CHALLENGES AND THE ROLES OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS – NORDIC- BALTIC COOPERATION**

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# **Content, or „no drive“ in fight against trafficking in human beings**

- No drive (except of NGOs):
- Governmental efforts (example of Lithuania)
- National parliaments (example of Lithuania)
- Baltic- Nordic cooperation (example of Baltic Assembly – Nordic Council cooperation)

# Governmental efforts

- The problem raised around 1994; up to 2009 development of legal basis and police forces;
- The last National program (2009-2012) on prevention and control of trafficking in human beings was not fully implemented due to cuts in finances (due to crisis);
- The new national program (2012-2015) was not approved, it was included into the interinstitutional plan of implementation of the national program on crime prevention and control;
- The specialised division of investigation of trafficking in human beings in criminal police was closed;
- Instead of independent rapporteur, the „national“ rapporteur inside of the Ministry of Interior was appointed

## DATA FOR 2013

- 74 pre-trial investigations, out of them – 23 started in 2013;
- In the courts: 7 criminal cases were sent to the courts; 5 investigated; 11 persons sentenced, and 5 – acquitted;
- NGOs (5): assisted 129 persons (96 females and 33 males), -74 victims of trafficking in human beings (10 children out of them); Finances for NGO assistance were cut...
- A lot or a little?

# The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

- It seems that there are almost no problems with legal basis;
- Amendment to add „forced and fictitious marriage“ to the definition of trafficking of human beings.
- The parliamentary group „Parliamentarians against Trafficking in Human Beings“. Established in the beginning of the term of 2012-2016 Seimas, but not active until spring of 2014 when the head of the group was elected. Participation in the conferences, meetings with the foreign experts. Autumn 2014 – meeting with the national rapporteur; the meeting with Commissioner General set to the last week was cancelled due to his appointment. Waiting for the meeting with the new Commissioner General. Very slow developments.

# BALTIC – NORDIC COOPERATION

- Cooperation in the framework of BSPP. Working group on THB (2012-2013). Final Report, 10 recommendations.
- Fight with THB – one of priorities in cooperation of the BA, NC, and the Benelux parliament. Trilateral conferences in 2008 and 2014 (24-25 April, Tallinn). What for the future?
- **Why so few parliamentarians are interested?**