



Ministry of the Interior
Republic of Latvia

Latvia's Efforts to Assist Victims of Human Trafficking – New National Policy Planning Documents

Tallinn, April 24, 2014

Knowledge Forum I

Trafficking in Human Beings

Recruitment, Identification, Victim Support

National Policy Planning Documents related to THB

- National Strategy for the Development of Social Services 2014-2020 (December 4, 2013)
- National Strategy for the Children Crime Prevention and the Children Protection from Criminal Offences 2013-2019 (August 21, 2013)
- National Strategy for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings 2014-2020 (January 21, 2014)

National Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Mechanism

Inter-institutional working group
(National Task-Force) established by
a Prime Minister, organized by the
Ministry of the Interior



National THB Coordinator
(Ministry of the Interior)



- Implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Policy
- Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Training



National Referral
Mechanism

National Referral Mechanism

1st stage

First responders: police, border guard, consular officials, social services, LV and foreign NGOs (and other specialists who have attended relevant training and have understanding about recognition of human trafficking cases and victims)

2nd stage

Mandated NGO (Cabinet Regulations No 889 Regulations on Criteria for the Recognition of Victims of Human Trafficking and Procedures for the Administration of Social Rehabilitation Services to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings)

Identification:

- by a decision of the performer of the criminal procedure;
- by a statement of a law enforcement institution (LV and foreign);
- by the assessment report of the Commission of experts.

State funded social rehabilitation services:

- social rehabilitation services for victims of human trafficking not exceeding 180 days;
- 5 specialists' consultations after rehabilitation course;
- support within criminal proceeding not exceeding 150 hours;
- 5 specialists' consultations for family members of minor victim.

3rd stage

Reintegration:

social services of local municipalities assess an amount of necessary assistance (public utilities payments, medical care, food etc.);

State Employment Agency assists victim to access labour market, occupational training

During reintegration social services of municipalities and State Employment Agency are consulted on needs of a victim by the **mandated NGO**.

State Funded Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking

- **Social Rehabilitation Services** - return of a victim of human trafficking from foreign country, meeting of a victim of human trafficking and the first interview to gather information about urgent needs, development of a client rehabilitation plan, psycho-social assistance and individual specialist consultations (for example, social worker, psychologist, lawyer, medical practitioners) in conformity with the rehabilitation plan, support for the client during criminal proceedings, material assistance to develop and improve social skills, improvement of self-care and self-service skills, etc.
- **Legal Aid**
- **Compensation**
- **Education** - the equal rights to acquire education
- **Access to Labour Market** – support for persons seeking employment, including occupational training; a third-country national is entitled to work with any employer in the Republic of Latvia, if he or she has received a temporary residence permit as a victim of human trafficking

State Funded Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking

- **Medical Treatment** - the right to receive emergency medical care
- **Residence Permits for Third Countries Nationals** - if a third-country national has been recognised a victim of trafficking in human beings, a competent State institution shall present his or her valid travel document for the request of a residence permit and submit the documents, as well as a decision of a competent institution regarding recognition of the third-country national as the victim of trafficking in human beings and a statement regarding the necessity to receive a residence permit.
- **Reflection Period** - the reflection period shall be 30 days.
- **Special Protection** - the protection of the life, health and other legal interests of such persons who are testifying in criminal proceedings or who participate in the uncovering, investigation or adjudication of a serious or especially serious crime.

Thank you for your attention!

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