



Law Enforcement Best Practice Manual For Fighting Against Trafficking of Human Beings



MINUTES

ROUND TABLE ON THE OVERALL POLICE TRAINING MODULES ON FIGHTING AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS

Sinaia, Romania

19 and 23 May, 2003

Participants to the Training of Trainers Seminar organized under UNDP project ROM/01/009 (http://www.undp.ro/governance/law_enforcement.htm) in Sinaia, Romania, 18-25 May 2003, identified this meeting as a good opportunity to discuss issues related to overall policy of anti-trafficking police training in SEE. On 19 May 2003, UNDP initiated and facilitated a round table on overall police training. Discussions were substantive and vivid and since the time initially allocated proved to be insufficient, and based on participants' joint agreement, the round table was continued on 23 May 2003. The outcome consists in the attached Recommendations.

Objective

Drafting recommendations on overall police training in combating trafficking of human beings (THB)

Inputs from the International Organizations

Dan Dionisie - UNDP - presented the background of project ROM/01/009, focusing on: the regional validation of the Manual in November 2002, translation, new design, development of training package, and the training of trainers' seminar. UNDP's Manual is targeting specialist investigators, i.e. police officers and prosecutors involved in fighting THB. The Manual should be included in the regular training of police in SEE, but only to the specialized classrooms of the Police Academy and/or Post-university Police Training Schools. The main concern is the roll-out of the pilot training in beneficiary countries by the end of September of this year.

It is important to have a homogenous view on the overall police training and to integrate the Manual into a comprehensive training package. There has been important progress on coordination of regional initiatives, materialized in a joint Stability Pact ICMPD/UNDP Romania

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position paper, however beneficiary countries' commitment and involvement is also key in this respect. Meantime, UNDP seeks to identify additional resources for ensuring long-term sustainability of the results achieved under project ROM01/009, which will include support to in-country training roll-out at the pilot stage and beyond, maintenance of the Manual with regular updates (specially in what the Legislative Compendium and the Contact Directory are concerned), and dissemination of the national versions of the Manual.

Stephen Warnath – SPTF on THB – emphasized the importance given by the Stability Pact to police training and presented SP's initiatives in this respect. The role of the Stability Pact Task Force (SPTF) on THB is to coordinate the various initiatives in this field, in order to avoid overlapping and waste of resources. The SPTF views training not as an end in itself, but as a tool in the fight against trafficking of human beings. Three levels of training have been identified: for local police, for specialist investigators, and for judges and prosecutors; all of these levels should become part of a comprehensive training package.

Gerda Theuermann – ICMPD – The training programme developed by ICMPD under the SPTF/THB project addresses all non-specialist police officers. It seeks to support recruit and front line law enforcement officers to better understand human trafficking and to adequately and professionally deal with victims of this crime, including their identification and better initial measures to protect the victims. By way of joint delivery of the training by police officers and NGOs the programme also aims at enhancing the cooperation with NGOs. Following a regional validation seminar as well as the roll-out of pilot training sessions at the national level, the 13 participating countries have agreed on a regional standard for anti-trafficking training for non-specialist police of all ranks, human rights based and victim-centered, of three-day duration and to be delivered with NGO input. This standard manual will henceforth be the basis for sustained national level implementation and will be included into the regular training curriculum for all the target groups mentioned above.

The two training programmes developed by ICMPD and by UNDP respectively are complementary. This fact is reflected in their different content and target groups. While the ICMPD-led training targets general police forces of all ranks and aims to achieve a regional standard of recruit and continuity training for front line police patrol officer, the UNDP-led training targets specialist investigators who hold specific responsibility for dealing with the crime and aims to develop a regional standard of specialized investigation and law enforcement co-operation within the SEE region.

Martin Vrancic – SECI Center – emphasized the importance of international cooperation, which means international training and international investigation. The SECI Center's Task Force on Antitrafficking of Human Beings is very active, and facilitates training of specialists. SECI Regional Center can offer an adequate venue for regional training.

Terry Lord – US Embassy in Bucharest – presented recent developments of USA efforts on THB. He underlined the importance of the overall process from prevention, criminalization, and investigation to victims' protection. From a prosecutor's perspective, the most important thing is to obtain convictions and to use all the available provisions of national legislation to convict and stop the traffickers. It is critical to enhance cooperation between investigators and prosecutors by developing a task-force approach in both training and operations, as the only solution to overcome existing obstacles. Experts should jointly develop recommendations to address the problems that need to be solved, and promote best practices agreed upon.

Inputs from beneficiary countries

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Stipica Kuna – Croatia - They have already done training on ICMPD's Manual on illegal migration. He emphasized the importance of introducing the problem of THB in terms of how to make a contact, how to recognize if it is a trafficking problem, how to talk with the victims, what agencies have to be involved for helping the victims. In view of the above, UNDP's Manual is very useful and should be included in regular training of law enforcement agencies which are involved in trafficking and illegal migration. It is very important for a police officer to know how to make the difference between a trafficked person and an illegal migrant (recognize the victim status of the former).

Peter Szivoczka – Hungary – Pledged to organize training for police officers, custom officers and prosecutors based on UNDP's Manual, and emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation between transit countries and origin countries for human trafficking.

Akbar Khan – UN Kosovo – agreed with Hungary's point of view. The Police school is the best venue for training roll-out. Every country should commit on a timeframe for pilot national training seminars. He stressed the importance of regional cooperation between all countries involved in the project, and mentioned the constraints faced by beneficiary countries, such as training costs.

Tuna Saylan – Turkey – concluded that UNDP and ICMPD initiatives are convergent and complementary. He stressed the difference between illegal migration, THB and people smuggling, and the importance of being aware of these interfering sometimes.

Mustafa Acikgoz – Turkey – they were helped by different international agencies and now they have 3 pilots rolling on the same topic. The education has its importance and has to be done in an "educational place with an educational policy". The "students" – police officers have to be taken out from their daily work environment, which makes it difficult to gather 30 police officers in the Police Academy.

Anca Somandriou – Romania – Romanian Ministry of Interior commits to implement UNDP's Manual in the Police Academy, terminal years, and also to make maximum use of the information contained in the Manual.

Savica Pureber – Slovenia – praised the quality of the Manual and compared it to a Bible for police officers. By using this Manual they can become more careful with the victim and more efficient in their work. She said that any prosecutor should be free to take the decision on whether to use UNDP's Manual in his/her work.

Hristo Ivanov - Bulgaria – they can organize a 5 day pilot training in the Police Academy and include UNDP's the Manual into the regular continuous training of law enforcement agencies. The Manual promotes a common language between law enforcement officers both at national and international level. The aim is to develop cooperation between all the law enforcement agencies, and promote the active participation of NGO representatives in law enforcement seminars.

Valentin Vdovii – Moldova – Moldova is a country of origin for THB and has to fight against this scourge with officers and prosecutors who don't have a broader view of the trafficking phenomena. External assistance is needed in this respect. He welcomed UNDP's Manual as a state-of-the-art tool, which they will try to implement in the Police Academy or the School for continuous training.

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Daniel Klyuchnikov – Ukraine – has a good experience in this field, and recommended for the future to assess the skills of the individuals prior to the training. The Ministry of Interior of Ukraine is proposing a meeting with IOM and NGOs to discuss about UNDP's Manual and its implementation (with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The police officers who are involved in THB Task Forces need to be trained in special courses.

Theodore Chronopoulos – Greece – The transfer of knowledge should be done in a proper way, so that training for police add value to their operational work. The UNDP Manual will be translated and adapted to the Greek national legislation to become a tool for police officers. It is highly important to have a unified form of the Manual for all the countries, in spite of language barriers, so that police can speak the "same language" and communicate more efficiently. Not to forget that the objective is to protect victims' rights and not criminals' rights.

Facilitator's Conclusions

Overall police training is a multi-dimensional topic. It should be considered at national, regional, and international levels. It involves actors from different law enforcement agencies and should be a tool to develop cooperation between all those involved in fighting THB. It should have style and should be done professionally. There is a strong correlation between economic situation and the level of training, which raises the issue of efficiency.

The countries involved in UNDP project ROM/01/009 have made a remarkable contribution to the development of an international Manual. They have provided inputs, tested the Manual and supported its formulation. Without their direct contribution, the project would not have succeeded.

The overall Comprehensive Training Package, as designed by the Stability Pact, includes at present two manuals with specific target audiences, covering stakeholders from NGOs to prosecutors, and treating subjects from prevention to witness protection systems. However, this is still an unfinished business and there is a sense of duty to continue efforts in this direction. UNDP and ICMPD, the developers of the manuals, have committed to work together in identifying the best possible ways to continue their joint endeavors.

The participants to the round table have drafted a set of recommendations, attached to these Minutes, and which will be disseminated to the Governments and International Organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the participants at the Roundtable on overall police training in the field of fighting against trafficking of human beings, organized in Sinaia, Romania, 18-25 May 2003,

Declaring that effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach that covers the countries of origin, transit and destination and includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights,

Recalling article 27 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, by which States Parties are recommended to cooperate closely with one another, consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement actions to combat the offences covered by the Convention,

Taking into account the fact that, in spite of a variety of international, regional and national instruments containing rules and practical measures to combat the exploitation of persons, especially women and children, there is a lack of training, coordinated and comprehensive, both at national and international level,

Convinced that the following recommendations will be useful in preventing and combating the trafficking of human beings,

Recommend

1. To use the comprehensive training package developed jointly by ICMPD and UNDP in the police continuous training process. The manual developed by ICMPD should be delivered to all law enforcement officers and jointly with NGO representatives. The manual developed by UNDP should be used in advanced training for specialist investigators and prosecutors.
2. To understand by the term "law enforcement officer" any officer that may get in direct contact with a victim irrespective of the law enforcement agency he/she works for, as per European acquis.
3. To the prosecutors to carefully look to UNDP's Manual and feel free to use it as needed, according to the national legislation.

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4. To involve in the training process the national competent authorities for fighting against money laundering.
5. To include in the future training of trainers activities a section dedicated to development of training skills, as it was practically demonstrated to be a best practice at the Sinaia regional ToT seminar.
6. To consider regional training as a practical tool for strengthening law enforcement cooperation.
7. SECI Regional Centre for Combating Organized Crime should be involved in facilitating regional training on combating trafficking of human beings, with a view to enhance cooperation within the Regional Task Force on THB.
8. Training on fighting against trafficking of human beings should be on the agenda of the Ministerial level meetings, in order to identify the needed funds for efficient dissemination of the Manuals and the related training.
9. To create the position of "Victim-Witness Liaison Officer" in each institution involved who should liaise with similar in other countries, on a permanent basis, for sharing information and experience.
10. To organize the in-country pilot trainings and provide feed-back for allowing the fine-tuning and finalization of the Manuals in due time.
11. To identify the resources for national adaptation of the Manuals, printing, and proper dissemination at national level.
12. To make available both Manuals (UNDP's and ICMPD's) to other interested parties at international level.
13. To make available both Manuals in electronic format, including website dissemination.

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