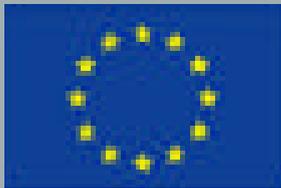




International
Labour Office

DONOR AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



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European Commission
Directorate General
Justice, Freedom and
Security



International Center
for Migration Policy
Development



Department for
Work and Pensions



Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Technische
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
GmbH

Combating the Forced Labour Outcomes of Human Trafficking

*United Kingdom, Germany, Portugal
Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Moldova*

Background and Justification

EU member states, accession, and third countries have made significant progress in implementing anti-trafficking initiatives and incorporating the provisions of the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Human Beings, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime into national legislation. However, lessons learnt from these initial efforts point to the need for a more integrated approach to trafficking in human beings emphasising the human rights of victims and more effective prevention. This has also been underlined by the recently published Report of the European Commission Experts Group of Trafficking in Human Beings.

ILO research on the forced labour outcomes of human trafficking in ten European source and destination countries revealed that whereas most female victims are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, approximately one quarter of the trafficking victims experience coercion in other sectors such as domestic services, agriculture or construction. Trafficking for forced labour exploitation has so far been insufficiently addressed. Weak regulations and enforcement mechanisms on the activities of intermediaries in the trafficking cycle have contributed to the persistent abuse against mainly irregular migrant workers. These intermediaries who include private recruitment agencies play an important role in facilitating labour market exchanges within and between different countries. Some of these agencies provide a legal cover for criminal trafficking activities. Effective administrative and criminal sanctions are needed to monitor the activities of these agencies. Furthermore, cooperation between labour inspectorates and police officers across source and destination countries will have to be strengthened.

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Because most mainstream business does not engage in trafficking nor forced labour practices, participation of employers' organisations in National Action Plans against Trafficking has been minimal. ILO research has revealed however, that employer demand for cheap and exploitable migrant labour provides a ready market for traffickers. In addition, different sector operations may inadvertently encourage trafficking indirectly through the subcontracting chain or by using informal channels of recruitment. Thus there is scope for employer involvement in anti-trafficking initiatives, particularly in initiating self-regulation in certain industries. Some of the participating countries in this project, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and Romania, have already started to address this issue. Noteworthy is the government funded UK Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), which has spear headed the adoption of Codes of Conduct by various industries including the private recruiters in agriculture. Such initiatives often remain isolated at the national level. It is hoped that they can be replicated in other countries, thus enabling the social partners to play an active role in preventing trafficking and forced labour.

Objectives

The project aims to contribute to the prevention and progressive elimination of human trafficking into forced labour, including sexual exploitation throughout Europe. Its main focus is to strengthen administrative controls with regard to the detection of forced labour as well as cover activities of private recruitment agencies, including travel, bridal, model and other agencies that are part of the modus operandi of the trafficking crime.

The project has three immediate objectives:

- enhance the understanding among governments, law enforcement officials, (police and labour inspectors) from countries of origin and destination on the forced labour outcomes of human trafficking;
- strengthen the capacity of government and law enforcement to improve the monitoring of private employment agencies in order to detect and prevent trafficking for forced labour;
- stimulate self-regulation mechanisms of private recruitment agencies and their business associations

Activities

PHASE 1 - PREPARATION

The project began in December 2004 and is expected to run until April 2006. The ILO is implementing it in close cooperation with its partners, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the Department for Work and Pension (DWP), United Kingdom, and Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Germany. Preparatory activities will start with a consultation meeting of the project steering committee to outline project priorities. The ILO training manual on the monitoring of private recruitment agencies, ILO guidelines on human trafficking and forced labour, ICMPD best practice guidelines for the development and implementation of a comprehensive national anti-trafficking response will be translated, the ILO employers' handbook on trafficking and forced labour will be drafted and background papers for seminars and conferences will be prepared.

PHASE 2 - IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND POLICY DIALOGUE

A seminar on the forced labour outcomes of human trafficking will be organised to identify the real nature of the problem and to discuss strategies with representatives from the government and law enforcement agencies. A tripartite seminar on the monitoring of private recruitment agencies will be held next. This will be followed by train-

ing seminars at the national level where the focus will either be on monitoring of private employment agencies or providing technical assistance to business associations on drafting codes of conduct. A workshop will be organised bringing together private recruitment agencies and employers' organisations to stimulate more active business involvement in national programmes against human trafficking.

PHASE 3 - EVALUATION

Pending additional funding, the project will end with a tripartite conference where delegations from each country will evaluate the results, exchange good practice, and identify priorities for follow up activities. The results will be disseminated through the www.anti-trafficking.net website developed by ICMPD, and other relevant channels. ILO and ICMPD will prepare a final report according to specific donor requirements.

Expected results

- Law and policy recommendations published and endorsed at national level
- ILO training manual on the monitoring of private recruitment agencies and the detection of forced labour translated into 6 languages
- Law enforcement officials trained on the monitoring of private recruitment agencies and where appropriate training modules implemented in national training institutions
- Codes of conduct for private employment agencies and business associations adopted and monitoring mechanisms in place
- Guide on legislation, administrative controls and self regulation concerning private employment agencies published and disseminated
- ILO employers' handbook on trafficking and forced labour published and disseminated
- Dissemination of project results through ICMPD anti-trafficking website as well as through relevant ILO websites

For more information please contact:

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