



STRENGTHENING LAWYERS LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AND COOPERATION WITH PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES, TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING RIGHTS IN THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

JUST/2015/JTRA/AG/EJTR/8686 - Financed by the Justice Programme of the European Union

FINAL CONFERENCE
8 May 2018
Bucharest, Romania

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1. Presentation of ECPAT International as a global network and ECPAT Germany – Ending the Sexual Exploitation of Children
2. Cooperation between ECPAT, civil society actors and the government
3. The National Cooperation Strategy as a means for a stronger cooperation for child victims of trafficking

Background Information: The Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) is currently working on the publication of the National Cooperation Strategy (NCS) on Protecting and Supporting Child Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation, which was jointly developed by the BMFSFJ and ECPAT Germany with input from experts and practitioners.

Objectives: The National Cooperation Strategy is designed as a nation-wide set of recommendations for the development of a new cooperation mechanism or for use in expanding existing Länder-level cooperation mechanisms. It provides a framework for a cooperation mechanism and enables alignment with the prevailing requirements and structures in a given Land. The cooperation strategy contains action-oriented measures and recommendations for organisational and communicative structures, which enable ongoing, person-independent cooperation and collaboration at local level. It provides an insight into definition-based distinctions, legal and policy frameworks, looks at all forms of human trafficking for the purpose of exploitation, names potential cooperation partners and provides information on their responsibilities and work processes. The strategy also lists contact data and service points in the various Länder, and illustrates how identification of child victims can be promoted, including using a list of child trafficking indicators.

Process: In Federal-Länder talks held in Berlin on 20 September 2017, the National Cooperation Strategy on Protecting and Supporting Child Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation was presented to representatives of ministries from nine different Länder.

From 13 to 14 March 2018, a Federal-Länder-NGO conference took place. 75 representatives from the BMFSFJ, Länder Ministries, law enforcement, public prosecutors (Berlin), youth welfare services, the health care system, and civil society organization followed the invitation to come together in Berlin in order to discuss the draft of the NCS and possible ways of its implementation in Germany. 15 Bundesländer were present (Ministries and/or State Criminal Police LKA), only the Saarland was absent, however, a specialized counselling service from Saarbrücken participated



on its own initiative. Ms Helga Gayer, GRETA representative, opened the conference with a key note and participated during both days. A highly useful example and insight on the development and implementation process of mechanisms against child trafficking in Austria, a country with a similar Länder structure as Germany, was given by two members of the Austrian Task Force Human Trafficking (Dr. Filler, Federal Chancellery and Leader of the working group on child trafficking in the Task Force, and Ms Julia Prummer, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs). The intense exchange of all participants among each other as well as with the BMFSFJ during those two days succeeded in soothing initial hesitation and fear of the Länder. They understood that the BMFSFJ has no interest in imposing an already made concept on them, but rather pursues a joint development of tailor-made solutions for each Land.

Next steps of implementation: ECPAT offers support measures through its multi-profession regional networking workshops for professionals from the child welfare services, specialised counselling centres, BAMF, the police and staff from other childcare organisations on the topic of trafficking in and exploitation of children (two days) and specialist training seminars on the topic of trafficking in and exploitation of children (one day). There are also plans at the beginning of 2018 to provide the Länder with a promotional package, which includes informational flyers and fact sheets, to aid implementation of the cooperation strategy. Opportunities for online learning, such as webinars, two animation videos on trafficking in children, and one promotion video of the NCS with the involvement of the public prosecutor of Berlin, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), the Federal Criminal Police (BKA), a specialized counselling service for victims of trafficking, the German NGO Network against Human Trafficking and a youth welfare service already have been developed and are freely available for all stakeholders and the public.

In 2018 and 2019, four regional conferences will be held in four Länder to discuss planning for the implementation of the cooperation strategy in the regions. Probably by the end of 2019, a Federal-Länder conference will be held to enable exchange of initial views and experience.